

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
March 16, 2017

Though not an all-nighter, I am certainly burning the midnight oil to bring you this edition of the Parent E-News – so let me be the first to wish you a Happy early St. Patrick’s Day! Just like for your students, this certainly is a busy time on campus with much going on so check out and share the Upcoming Events section below for fun activities occurring this weekend for St. Pat’s and March Madness as we cheer on the Mountaineers!

My last greeting of flip flops and shorts in February has again been replaced by winter coats and hats from chilly Morgantown. Winter is back but summer will be here before we know it and students seem aware as they begin various countdowns around this time of the semester:

- 51 Days - Residence halls will close officially for the semester on Saturday, May 6 at 5 p.m., though students should move out of their residence hall 24 hours after their last final: <http://bit.ly/1MZdaIV>.
- 57 Days - No doubt many of our seniors have their own countdown to commencement weekend going on. Details on campus lodging options and ads you can place in the student newspaper, the DA, are included below for those interested.
- 152 Days - For the parents incoming freshmen, and rising sophomores, juniors and soon-to-be seniors, the countdown currently stands at 152 days until the Fall 2017 semester classes begin at WVU on Wednesday, August 16! President Gee met up with some prospective students and families who may be part of the newest incoming class for his latest editions of Gee Mail – Trivia Edition. Check it out and see how you do: <http://bit.ly/2myb7Q8>. Also details follow for a new Live and Learn Community for First Generation students so read on!

Though March Madness is underway (Let’s Go Mountaineers – see below for game watch info for both the Women’s and Men’s teams!), remind students not to lose focus. Now is the time to look ahead to class registration, take care of any holds, and review how academic progress may impact financial aid and scholarships. Read on for details on these topics and more. Think spring everyone! In this edition:

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Upcoming Events

March Madness Headquarters – March 17-19

March Madness can certainly be a fun time on a college campus! With both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams in the NCAA Tournament, encourage your students to join in with our designated game watches on both campus and support WVU in the NCAA Tournaments. Presented by WVU All Night and the Mountaineer Maniacs, students are encouraged to come out to the Mountainlair Gluck Theater on Friday for the Women's game and Saturday for the next Men's game, to catch the games with all their friends!

In between classes? All Mountainlair TV's (in the Gluck Theatre, Food Court, TV Lounge, Games Area and Side Pocket) will be tuned into games for our students to enjoy. On Evansdale? On Friday, students can head to the Rec Center to join in on some March Madness, Rec Center style with the big screen up to catch the Women's game and other March Madness viewing pleasure from noon-10:00pm. Let's Goooo Mountaineers! <http://bit.ly/2mVe7t9>

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations – March 17

We have a host of activities planned to celebrate St. Patrick's Day Friday in a safe, fun way from Mountaineer Midway to extra WVU All Night events. A few of these activities are highlighted below with the full list of events for the week found here: <http://bit.ly/2mVe7t9>. Check out the happenings and remind your students to be safe, cheer on the Mountaineers and celebrate responsibly.

MOUNTAINEER MIDWAY: ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION - Mountaineer Midway will be back and better than ever Friday for St. Patrick's Day! Students should stop by the Mountainlair Plaza (inclement weather Lair First Floor) between 5-9 p.m. for:

- dueling mechanical bulls;
- a giant rock wall;
- face painting and balloon animals;
- a euro bungee;
- carnival games;
- hot dogs on the grill;
- a giant bungee run;
- a photo booth;
- t – shirt decorating;
- a special lounge with a DJ.

WVUP ALL NIGHT ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS

- *WVUAN Extended - Evansdale* - Offering FREE pizza, March Madness Basketball, and St. Patrick's Day crafts, 7:00pm – 10:00pm, at the Towers Blue/Gold Room
- *Space Jam* - To coincide with WVUp All Night's "*Outta This World Weekend*", the movie *Space Jam* will be shown twice on Friday and Saturday nights. 7:00pm and 9:00pm showings both nights in the Mountainlair Shenandoah Room
- *St. Patty's Day Bowling* - Discounted prices will be offered for this special holiday event. Anyone who knocks down the green head pin will win a free game of bowling. Join us, 9:00 pm – midnight at the Mountainlair Games Area
- *Space Laser Tag* - To coincide with WVUp All Night's "*Outta This World Weekend*", this first time Space Laser Tag attraction includes an inflatable space ship battle arena, 1,000 square feet with five different rooms, round doors, and places to hide. 9:00pm – 1:00am in the Mountainlair Food Court.

Professional Development Conference and Eaton Etiquette Dinner designed to set students apart from the competition – March 22

All WVU students are encouraged to attend the Inaugural Professional Development Conference and Eaton Etiquette Dinner being hosted by the College of Business and Economics Center for Career Development and the Career Services Center. Both events will be held on March 22 at the Waterfront Place Hotel from 1:00 to 5:15 p.m. and 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., respectively.

During the Conference, industry experts will teach students how to polish their professional image and differentiate themselves during the job search process. The Etiquette Dinner will include an employer mocktail reception, professional attire fashion show, etiquette tips for business dinners and interview scenarios, and a variety of prize drawings to finish off the evening.

Registration for both events is open in MountaineerTRAK and the Conference is free of charge. The multi-course Etiquette Dinner has a variable fee based on each student's academic college, and payment can be processed via MountaineerTRAK: <http://bit.ly/2mykVJQ>

Sustainability offers a *Give and Get Clothing Swap* - March 23

Does your student want to freshen up their closet, but also save some money? Encourage them to bring some clothes to the Give and Get Clothing Swap on Thursday, March 23rd from 6-9 pm in the Vandalia Lounge of the Mountainlair as part of WVUpAllNight. Here's how it works: bring in your gently-used clothing and accessories, take turns browsing the racks, and go home with new-to-you items. All extra clothing will be donated to local charities.

Important Reminders

Advising, Holds, and Course Registration Dates

Fall course registration priority dates will open up for current students to select classes at the end of March: <http://bit.ly/1tFoLjE>. PLEASE NOTE: new incoming students will register for classes at New Student Orientation this summer – information will be forthcoming. As a reminder, students will not be able to register for classes if they have holds on their account for any reason. Currently we have over 2000 students with a payment hold of more than \$200 (excluding those in current payment plans) that will prevent their summer/fall registration. Be sure to have your student check their holds and students accounts now so they are ready to register for classes on their priority registration date.

Also, students are required to meet each term with their academic adviser to discuss progress and courses needed for upcoming terms and to have their term advising hold removed. Students can also monitor DegreeWorks to track their progress online: <http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO>. The schedule of courses is now available for both summer and fall classes: <http://bit.ly/1Ecgsa5>. If a student wishes to take summer school classes elsewhere, he or she should consult with their academic adviser to make sure the courses will transfer to WVU.

Financial Aid and Academic Progress

As we have passed the midpoint of the spring semester, we want to remind you that students must maintain certain academic progress standards to receive financial aid. Academic progress is measured at the conclusion of each spring semester. Students are evaluated on the “attempted versus earned credit hours” and overall grade point average (GPA). Those not making satisfactory academic progress at the end of the spring semester will immediately be suspended from aid. They will have the option to submit an Academic Progress Appeal if they can demonstrate extenuating circumstances and a detailed plan of action for academic success.

Students can view their academic progress status by logging on to the STAR system after spring grades are released. If your student thinks he or she may be in danger of financial aid suspension, we strongly encourage them to stop by or contact the Mountaineer HUB – WVUHUB@mail.wvu.edu, 304-293-1988. More information regarding satisfactory academic progress can be found at <http://bit.ly/1b2zSOP>.

Mountie Bounty deposit system changing week of March 20 – Deposit now

Information Technology Services recommends that you add funds to your students' Mountie Bounty accounts this weekend (March 17-19) as we prepare for a critical software upgrade to the MyMountaineerCard website: <http://bit.ly/1rrdX5R> the week of March 20. There is a possibility the service may be unavailable for guest deposits while we are completing this upgrade. When the work is complete, parents will visit a new WVU Card website to make deposits and choose the "Parent/Guest Add Mountie Bounty" button. After that, the system will have a different look and feel. While you will still see a drop-down menu for choosing the appropriate account, the options in the left-hand column will be gone, along with the "Email for Receipt" box. The system will automatically generate an email. You will also see a "Choose a credit card on file" box with the option to save your information in the system. ITS must make this change because the vendor is retiring our current software on March 31. We apologize for any inconvenience this may create. Please direct questions or concerns to wvucard@mail.wvu.edu.

Parents Club Updates

Southern NJ Easter Bus Option

The local Southern NJ Mountaineer Parents Club is considering running a bus for Easter since it is a three-day weekend (no class on Friday, 4/14/2017). That allows 4 weeks to see if there is enough interest to run it. The Easter Weekend bus will leave WVU on Thursday, 4/13/2017 at 3:15 p.m. and will return to WVU on Easter Sunday, 4/16/2017 departing around 2 p.m. from New Jersey. There are no classes on Friday (4/14/2017); however there are classes on Monday (4/17/2017). Before you sign up, please make sure your student can use this bus home on Thursday (4/13/2017) with no academic implication. There is a minimum of 40 riders and in the event, we don't get to that number the bus will be cancelled and everyone will receive a full refund, so sign up today. The final determination will be made on Friday 4/7/2017: <http://bit.ly/2nLeaoO>. Please note, no other Parents Club buses are scheduled to run on these dates but other transportation options can be found here under Regional Transit: <http://bit.ly/1yaMoRz>.

Question of the Month

The February Question of the Month results are here. In response to our question about how your students would be spending Spring Break, those we heard from noted that over 64% of our students chose to spend Spring Break at home with you with another 11% of you all travelling as a family together! 22% spent break with friends and 3% embarked on Study Abroad trips. If you are not already following us on Facebook, visit our page "WVU Mountaineer Parent Club" soon for all the latest information. Also, if you have not already, be sure to answer the March Question of the Month: <http://bit.ly/2m7IX3a>.

Parents of May Graduates:

Graduation Celebration Ads – Due by April 14

Parents, the WVU student-run newspaper, The DA, has a great way to help you show your student how happy and proud you are. You can place a celebration ad in our graduation edition that will commemorate the past four years and will be mailed to each senior and will be available on campus

during graduation. We offer three sizes and will help design your special message to your senior. Please submit senior's name, message and pictures by April 14, 2017 to DA-Ads@mail.wvu.edu. Our promotional flyer with ad samples can be viewed at the following URL: <http://bit.ly/2mONuUV>

Accommodations for Families of May 2017 Graduates

If you are traveling to town to see your student graduate in May, lodging is available on-campus from Friday, May 12 through Monday, May 15, 2017, at one of WVU's finest Residence Halls, Lincoln Hall: <http://bit.ly/2nL2mmx>. Lincoln Hall provides accommodations that are both comfortable and affordable and is located on the Evansdale Campus next to the Evansdale Residential Complex. It is also within walking distance of a variety of restaurants. Suite-style rooms with semi-private baths are offered in Lincoln Hall. This type of room houses two individuals on each side of a bathroom. The beds are extra-long twin (36"X 80" mattress). Rooms are air-conditioned. Linen service, continental breakfast, afternoon refreshments, and free parking will be provided. The front desk is staffed 24 hours a day for your convenience. Rooms are \$70.64 per night (price includes tax). Each room sleeps two people. If you would like to make reservations, please call 304-293-2790, or you may request via e-mail at Conferences@mail.wvu.edu.

Parents of Incoming Students:

Live and Learn Community - Will your student be FIRST?

Special Invitation: Incoming freshman who will be the first in their families to earn a four-year degree are eligible to apply for a new Fall 2017 housing opportunity in Dadisman Hall designed just for them - the FirstGen Living and Learning Community. FirstGen is designed to help ease the transition from high school to the university environment, and to provide the support system needed to be successful. Spaces are limited.

Students are considered first generation if neither parent has earned a four-year degree (Bachelor's degree), or if students regularly lived with, and received support from, only one parent/legal guardian who did not complete a four-year degree. If students have a sibling, or another relative, who has already completed a degree, they still qualify for this unique opportunity. Priority will be given to students who are advised through the Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS), and those who are members of TRIO-funded programs like Upward Bound and Student Support Services. Students are eligible to apply even if they have already received a housing assignment.

How do students sign up?

- Please complete this short survey (should take less than 2 minutes) <http://bit.ly/2mVeijP>
- If they have not already, complete the housing application: <http://bit.ly/2mV1jTM>. Please note that there is not an option on the housing application to choose the FirstGen community; you must complete the FirstGen survey to indicate interest. If you have already completed your housing application, be sure to fill out the survey above for consideration.

We encourage students to let us know today if they would like to join the FirstGen community. Students will be notified prior to May 1 if they have been selected to participate. If you have questions, or need assistance, please send us an email.

Scholarships and Funding 102

As a follow-up to the last Parent E-newsletter article, whether you are the parent of an incoming or current student, there are always questions about scholarships and funding. Below are a few tips that can help your students be savvy when it comes to funding their education.

1. Leadership organizations and involvement payoff: Was your student involved in leadership roles with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, Civil Air Patrol or Boys and Girls Nation? WVU awards Leadership Scholarships for students with outstanding achievement in these organizations: <http://bit.ly/1E6p9Kl>. Other opportunities might exist from groups such as the WVU Extension Service: <http://bit.ly/1EclpcB>. The WVU Alumni Association awards scholarships through the Loyalty Permanent Endowment Fund to deserving scholars who have shown exceptional academics, service and leadership to their communities. Applications can be downloaded online at <http://bit.ly/2mOOlVK>. WVU alumni chapters often provide scholarship opportunities, including academic and athletic-related scholarships. Visit <http://bit.ly/2nxYR8H> to reach out to a chapter in your area.
2. WVU organizations such as Army and Air Force ROTC also offer scholarships: See <http://bit.ly/1HE5rZX> and <http://bit.ly/1wv3EVS>. Each year, students apply to become Residence Assistants in the residence halls and can receive room and board waivers: <http://bit.ly/2m713ne>. Student groups and programs may provide funding, such as the McNair Scholars program, which works with students interested in doctoral studies <http://bit.ly/1OrYVpF>. Employment opportunities are also available on and off campus for all students through the WVU Office of Student Employment <http://bit.ly/1sv3eN8>.
3. Parental connections: Check with your place of work to see if they offer funding opportunities for students attending college. Were you in the military? Your military educational benefits might be transferrable to your student as a dependent: <http://bit.ly/2nKUfXg>. WVU is also a Yellow-Ribbon School, providing discounts: <http://bit.ly/18cw2kp>. Philanthropic or service organizations often sponsor student scholarships. If you are a WVU alumnus, the WVU Alumni Association provides a limited number of legacy scholarships to children, grandchildren or siblings of alumni. Visit <http://bit.ly/2ntjhpp>.
4. External searches: Students should think broadly and explore other opportunities. A lot of money is given away by organizations across the country and globe. Perhaps a business or corporation affiliated with the field of study your student has chosen has a scholarship available. Perhaps a national branch of a student organization they are involved in provides funding. A list of free search sites for external scholarships can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1HE6l3b>.

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