

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
October 21, 2016

As we often say when we speak with parents, October is a long month for your students as they have no days off! If the phone calls and texts home have increased this month, know that this is normal. Keep in mind that though midterms are over, *Advising* for spring classes are underway, and the last day to drop a class, if necessary, is next Wednesday, October 26. *Class Registration* for spring (and summer) classes will start November 1 so students should check for and resolve any *Holds* in advance. This is also the time students start having *Housing Conversations* as they think about where to live next year and it is time to complete the 2017-18 FAFSA (do so by October 31 and your student will be entered to win a \$1000 scholarship – see below!) So as you can see there is a lot going on...

It is also an exciting time on campus with several athletic teams ranked including Women's Soccer ranked #1 <http://www.msnsportsnet.com/page.cfm?story=31016&cat=exclusives> and the Mountaineers ranked #12 in football! President Gee recently visited the football team for the latest Gee-SPN edition of Gee-Mail: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b3TA2f0hc8>. With our next Big 12 football match up scheduled for tomorrow on campus, see the important *Game Day Reminders* below and touch base with your student. In this edition:

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CAMPUS NEWS

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Bus reminder and cancelation deadline – November 3

Seats on the Parents Club University Break Buses are going fast for the Thanksgiving holiday. If you are interested in using this service, make your reservations soon! Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; Philadelphia, PA and new this year Highland, NY, to service the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. The deadline to cancel a reservation for one of these destinations is November 3, 2016.

The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey, Long Island, NY and Central Maryland local Mountaineer Parents Club chapters also offer buses to their areas. For information on making reservations or to review the schedules and details, please go to <http://parentsclub.wvu.edu/schedules>. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Tickets are not issued. Students names will be added to the boarding list for each bus.

Game Day Reminders

As your students make their way to Milan Puskar Stadium on Saturday to cheer on the #12 Mountaineers, please remind them of a few things.

- All students are welcome and encouraged to attend the Student LOT in the University Park courtyard from 12:30 – 3:00pm. Lots of free food, fun and music to get them into the Mountaineer spirit! <http://studentlot.wvu.edu/>
- Remember the High Five rules of the game!
http://studenttickets.wvu.edu/respect_the_high_five_rules_of_the_game
- Game time is at 3:30pm and students will want to make their way into the stadium early to see the Pride of West Virginia!
- Win or lose, remind your students to be respectful of each other and of all fans. We don't want to take the spotlight off our great student athletes.

Let's Go!

Volunteers Needed for Make a Difference Day – October 23

Join the Mountaineer Maniacs Sunday (Oct. 23) for the featured Make a Difference Day project, and help show what it means to "Be the Difference." Volunteers from across the country will unite for Make A Difference Day, one of the largest annual single days of service nationwide. Volunteers can get more information and sign up in iServe by clicking here: https://iserve.wvu.edu/event/detail/?event_id=32289 Registration will begin at 2 p.m. on the Mountainlair Green Sunday, October 23 and teams led by leaders from the Mountaineer Maniacs will depart at 3 p.m. for beautification projects across the Morgantown area. All WVU students, faculty, & staff are welcome and encouraged to participate!

Flu Shots and Remaining Flu Clinics – October 25, 27, and November 1

As a reminder, flu shots are available on campus. Students can go in to Student Health during normal business hours (8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday) to receive a flu shot without an appointment. Students need to bring their student ID and insurance card: <http://wvumedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/SH-Flu-Clinic.pdf>. Three outreach Flu Shot Clinics remain where Student Health will be in mobile locations across campus:

- Tuesday, October 25, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Evansdale Crossing
- Thursday, October 27, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Law School
- Tuesday, November 1, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Mountainlair

Join Mountaineer Nation Day – October 29

Parents – Join Mountaineers around the world on October 29 to cheer on the gold and blue as we take on Oklahoma State during Mountaineer Nation Day. #WVUMND is a 24-hour period dedicated to fans and their pride and passion for WVU. We are hoping to register watch parties in all 50 states and around the world and we are well on our way, so log on today and register yours! When you register your watch party for the game at <http://mountaineernationday.wvu.edu/> you will be entered to win a WVU prize pack including an exclusive Mountaineer Nation Day shirt and headwear from Top of the World. You'll also receive a 15% discount at <http://ShopWVU.com> and 50% off your Papa John's order at participating stores: <http://mountaineernationday.wvu.edu/mnd-deals>. Follow us on Twitter (@WestVirginiaU) and Facebook (WVU Mountaineers) on Mountaineer Nation Day for chances to win more WVU Swag. Use #WVUMND to share photos and enter to win!

Students can win a \$1000 Scholarship for filing 2017-18 FAFSA by October 31

Why should you file your 2017-2018 FAFSA now for next fall?

#1: You will automatically be entered for a chance to win up to \$1,000 of scholarship money!

#2: You can complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov> for the 2017-2018 academic year NOW using your 2015 tax information.

#3: You may be eligible to automatically pull your and your student's tax information into the FAFSA from the IRS, making it easier than ever.

#4: You will receive the best financial aid package available to you!

#5: You can get your financial aid award offer as early as February.

Want to know more about the scholarship? Students who submit their 2017-2018 FAFSA to WVU or one of its divisional campuses between Oct. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2016 will be entered to win. Apply by October 31st for three chances!

- File between Oct. 1 – Oct. 31 = \$1,000 scholarship drawing
- File between Oct. 1 – Nov. 30 = \$500 scholarship drawing
- File between Oct. 1 - Dec. 31 = \$250 scholarship drawing

If you need assistance, contact Financial Aid at the Mountaineer HUB! We are here to help. 304-293-1988.

Next Wellness Workshop – November 1

The Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services is offering monthly Wellness Workshops around mental health topics, in order to raise awareness and provide students with tools for managing different concerns. The next workshop is *Healthy Relationships and Coping with Break-Ups* and will take place November 1 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in CPASS Room 101.

Workshops are free and open to all students: <http://well.wvu.edu/ccpps/wellness-workshop-series>

Though finding romantic connection is a big part of the college experience, forming and maintaining healthy relationships can be hard work. Do you feel comfortable asking for what you need from your partner? How do you know if things are moving too fast? How do you move beyond "Netflix and Chill?" And sometimes when relationships end, we find ourselves overwhelmed with intense emotions, feeling unsure of how to move on. This workshop is designed to help students learn to recognize and form healthy relationships, and cope with the hurt of breaking up.

A note on Honoraries

We often get questions from parents and students regarding invitations to join national honoraries they get in the mail. Here are a few helpful notes when considering what to join and how students might best spend their time and resources.

- Is there an active chapter of the national honorary on our campus? Students can check our Student Activities website and look under "Honorary" to see if a local chapter exists and determine if it is active: <https://studentorgs.wvu.edu/>.

- There are many honor societies and honoraries available ranging from the more general Golden Key National Honor Society to major-specific honor societies such as Psi Chi (Psychology Honorary.) Perhaps one makes more sense than another to join depending on your student's area of emphasis or interests.
- Students should join organizations they plan to participate in actively. Putting something on a resume means they may be asked about it in an interview and they need to be able to speak about their involvement.
Our Office of Student Engagement and Leadership oversees all student organizations and can help guide students with additional questions: 304-293-4397.

HOUSING CONVERSATIONS

Leasing 101 – Helpful Tips and Reminders

While 2017-18 leasing season in Morgantown begins during the fall semester, staff members from WVU Student Legal Services and the Off-Campus Housing Office http://campuslife.wvu.edu/off_campus_housing would like to remind students and parents of the risks of signing a lease too early. Here are some helpful reminders and tips to review with your student before he or she signs on the dotted line to avoid common pitfalls:

- **Plenty of Inventory:** While many landlords and property managers will tell students that they must sign early, in reality there is a healthy supply of housing. Students should wait until they and their roommates have at least one semester of grades and experience before signing a lease for next year.
- **Legally Binding:** Leases are legally binding contracts. After signing a lease – no matter what happens to their status as a student (not returning, academic suspension, etc.)– students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period. Thus, students should not sign leases unless they are certain they and their roommates are returning to WVU next year.
- **Roommates Matter:** Consider a roommate's progress, too. Also, will you still be best friends in ten months when your new lease starts? Many leases in the Morgantown area are joint leases, so a potential pitfall is signing a lease with a student who will not return for next year or who you don't know very well. What are your rights? You might also ask about roommate matching options and how that works.
- **What are the terms of the lease? Read the Fine Print:** It is boring but important! What are the lease start and end dates? What is the early termination clause? For those graduating in May or December, or those considering study abroad or co-ops, are short term leases available? Check if there is an option for early termination and what this entails.

- **Have Your Lease Reviewed:** Before they sign, all students can have a lease review performed by Student Legal Services. It is important for them to understand the legal document they are about to sign. To schedule a review, call 304-293-4897 for an appointment. (<http://studentlegalservices.wvu.edu/>).
- **Attend an Off-Campus Housing Fair:** Not sure where to start or what is available? Students can drop in to meet landlords, check out housing options, ask questions, and educate themselves about the process. Encourage your student to mark their calendars:
 - o Downtown Housing Fair: Wednesday, November 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms
 - o Evansdale Housing Fair: Saturday, January 21, noon to 3 p.m., ERC Blue and Gold Rooms

University Apartments

As your students begin exploring living options for next academic year, keep in mind that University Apartments offers four properties managed and operated by WVU: University Place, University Park, College Park and Vandalia. These properties offer a secure and independent living environment with the freedom of 24-hour access all-year long. At University Apartments, there are no resident assistants. Instead, our community assistants and property managers are available to the residents when needed and help create a live-learn environment for our WVU students.

Open leasing will begin November 1st and staff members will be on-site at all the properties to provide tours and answer any leasing questions or concerns you or your student may have. For more information, visit our website <http://universityapartments.wvu.edu/> or contact us at 304-293-5840. We will also be available at the WVU Off Campus Housing Fairs scheduled for November 16, 2016, and January 21, 2017.

A limited number of short-term leases are also available through University Apartments. Students should inquire about these options prior to signing any leases. In conjunction with the WVU Offices of Off-Campus Housing and Student Legal Services, we remind students and parents that all leases are legally binding contracts and after signing a lease, students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period.

University Apartments are also currently offering parking in our University Place garage to ALL WVU students. You can purchase monthly passes at \$75/mo. The garage is located close to the downtown campus in Sunnyside and is covered, secure and safe for your student. Call 304-293-5840.

Returning Student Residence Hall Housing

Housing and Residence Life anticipates a limited number of upperclassmen spaces available for returning students in our residence halls. Information and updates will be sent to students in November to explain how to apply, pay their deposit online, and choose their room in the selection process: http://housing.wvu.edu/residence_halls.

SPRING REGISTRATION AND BILLING

Advising

With spring registration dates quickly approaching, this is a good time to touch base with your students to make that sure they have scheduled or, better yet, already had their advising appointment. During this time they will meet with their academic adviser to plan spring (and summer, if necessary) classes. Students must complete this meeting before their advising hold will be removed so they will be able to register for spring classes on their STAR Registration Priority Date listed below.

Holds

In addition to the advising hold that will be lifted after the student's advising appointment, students also should check the WVU Portal to ensure they do not have any other holds pending. Holds can prevent students from registering for classes on time. Holds can exist for a variety of reasons so allowing enough time to check this and resolve any matters in advance of their course registration date is important. NOTE: If a balance over \$200 is due on their account, they cannot register until this is paid in full.

Class Registration (spring/summer)

Registration classifications are based on total earned hours and hours currently in progress for fall 2016. Students should check their individual classification and be prepared to register on time: http://registrar.wvu.edu/pre_reg_dates. Students will be able to log on to register beginning at 8 a.m. each day. New this year, students can register for both spring and summer classes at the same time. Registration access dates follow:

- **November 1:** Professional, Graduate, Honors-SR, and Exceptions, Law-L3
- **November 2:** Honors-JR, Law-L2
- **November 3:** Honors-SO, Law-L1
- **November 4:** Honors-FR
- **November 7:** Seniors (89+ hours)
- **November 9:** Juniors (59 – 88 hours)
- **November 11:** Sophomores (29 – 58 hours)
- **November 14:** Freshmen (0 – 28 hours)

Spring Bills

Spring bills will be posted online on Wednesday, November 16 and will be due by Monday, December 19. NOTE: If a student has not yet registered for spring classes by the time spring bills post, tuition and fee charges will not show. Students should check back after making any changes. If they have not already done so, students who anticipate a spring refund (<http://studentaccounts.wvu.edu/refunds>) should log on today and submit current banking information to receive an electronic refund. This can be done until December 31. Supplying a bank account for refund deposit is the absolute fastest way to receive these funds. If not completed, it could take up to two weeks to receive a refund via a paper check, so log on today!

CAMPUS NEWS

State of the University

In his annual address to the Faculty Assembly, President Gordon Gee touted the institution's whirlwind of accomplishments – from student, faculty and staff successes to its outreach efforts in the face of turbulent times:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXgLOoS7wDQ&feature=youtu.be>

Campus heating/cooling transition

Facilities Management is preparing to change over the heating and cooling system for the campus. Twice a year the system is adjusted to coincide with the appropriate season because these systems are designed to operate in one mode at a time. The transition will take place over the next few weeks in switching from building cooling to heating. During this time, some buildings may experience temperature swings due to weather conditions. Facilities Management will monitor temperatures and prioritize the building switch-over to minimize impact on building occupants during this time.

WVU ranked among best study abroad programs

WVU's education abroad programs were ranked 19th in College Rank's list of "Top 25 Best Study Abroad Programs," and third overall among public universities. The education abroad program, under the Office of Global Affairs, offers students opportunities to participate in a wide variety of programs in more than 50 countries. <https://studyabroad.wvu.edu/>

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