

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
November 3, 2016

Parents - The survey will be closing soon! Even if you were unable to join us for Fall Family Weekend this year, please take a minute to share your thoughts about the weekend. It is important for us to hear from you as we plan for future events: <http://bit.ly/2eNR78n>.

In two weeks your students will be heading home for Thanksgiving Break. Residence halls are scheduled to close Friday, November 18 at 7 p.m. and reopen Sunday, November 27 at noon. These and other *Important Dates* are below for easy reference. If you have not already, be sure your student has a ride home squared away. The *Transportation* section below gives options for both Thanksgiving and the upcoming Winter break buses (reservations will start towards the end of next week) as well as a new air service coming to Morgantown in time for winter break as you plan ahead. In your Turkey day plans, be sure to tune in to see The Pride of West Virginia – the Mountaineer Marching Band – head down the streets of New York City as part of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade (see more *In the News* below.)

Campus Read events have been going on throughout the fall term but Monday night author, Bryan Stevenson, will be on campus to speak about his book *Just Mercy*. See below for ways both you and your students can join in! Spring registration is underway now and *Spring Bills* will be coming out November 16. There are also some *Timely Reminders and Events* you might want to browse and share with your student. As you prepare to fall back this weekend with daylight savings time please also know that on Tuesday, WVU will be closed for *Election Day Recess*. There will be no classes and offices will be closed but hours for other student services follow. In this edition...

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UPCOMING DATES

- Daylight Savings Time (fall back): Sunday, November 6
 - Election Day Recess: Tuesday, November 8 (no classes, residence halls remain open)
 - Spring Bills will be posted online: Wednesday, November 16
 - University Housing Closes for Thanksgiving Break: Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.
 - University Housing Reopens: Sunday, November 27, noon
 - Finals Week: Thursday, December 8-Wednesday, December 14 <http://bit.ly/1MZdaIV>
 - University Housing Closes for Winter Break: Thursday, December 15, noon
 - December Commencement: Friday, December 16, 1:30 p.m. <http://bit.ly/2eiJKFF>
 - Spring Bills are due: Monday, December 19
 - University Housing Reopens: Saturday, January 7, noon
 - First Day of Spring Classes: Monday, January 9
- All residence hall opening/closing dates can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1EjuamX>

The Academic Calendar can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2e69da7>

CAMPUS READ AUTHOR VISIT

Campus Read Author to Visit Campus – November 7

WVU will be hosting Bryan Stevenson, author of the Campus Read book, *Just Mercy*, on Monday, November 7 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. This lecture is FREE and open to the public. Due to expected demand, this will be a ticketed event. Tickets can be picked up at the box office in the Mountainlair and at the Creative Arts Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 4 and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7. Tickets are limited to one per person. Parents if you can't make it to campus, we encourage you to join in as well as this event will be streamed live: <http://bit.ly/2eslMLm>. For more on this event: <http://bit.ly/2fgMvtb>.

Engage with THE QUESTION during Campus Read Author Visit

Parents if you and your student read the Campus Read, *Just Mercy*, this summer, THE QUESTION will provide an outlet for interesting discussion related to the author, Bryan Stevenson's, upcoming visit as part of WVU's Campus Read and the WVU David Hardesty's Festival of Ideas. THE QUESTION is an ongoing project through the Philosophy Department devoted to sparking interesting and meaningful discussion on issues that make a difference. If you are interested in discussing this book you are encouraged to use THE QUESTION as a way of engaging with others from the WVU community. We have a blog where you can share ideas. Details are posted now, so log on and share with your student to get the conversations started: <http://bit.ly/2esfLyj>

TRANSPORTATION

Parents Club Thanksgiving Break Buses Home

Seats remain for the Parents Club Thanksgiving Break buses to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA; and Highland, NY (for anyone in NY, CT or MA). *As a reminder, today November 3, 2016, is the last day to cancel a reservation and still receive a refund for these buses. E-mail requests must be received at ParentsClub@mail.wvu.edu by midnight for consideration.*

The Long Island and Central Maryland local Mountaineer Parents Club chapters are also offering buses to their areas and space remains. Northern Virginia Parents Club Chapter bus is full but a waitlist is underway for a second. Both Southern New Jersey Parents Club Chapter buses are now full – you might explore the King of Prussia or Secaucus options noted above, if needed.

For information on making online reservations or to review the complete schedule and details, please go to <http://bit.ly/1vStQFj>. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Also, no tickets are issued; student names are added to the boarding list once a seat is purchased.

Please note: While we do our best to accommodate viable departure and safe arrival times for all students and parents, we realize that some students may have classes that meet after the scheduled departure time. All professors give students a syllabus at the beginning of the semester that outlines their attendance policy. Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to discuss

missing class with their professors. The University Break buses are provided as a service for those able to work within these time constraints.

Transportation home for the holidays

With Residence Halls scheduled to close Friday night, November 18th at 7 p.m. and reopen Sunday, November 27th at noon for Thanksgiving Break, and winter Break just around the corner, here are some transportation reminders to get to and from campus.

The Mountaineer Parents Club and some of your local Parents Club chapters charter buses to regional area including stops in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and New York. See the section above on [Parents Club Thanksgiving Break Buses Home](#) for more on these options that remain.

Also note that reservations and details for the [Parents Club Winter Break Buses](#) are scheduled to go live towards the end of next week. As a reminder, Finals Week will run from December 8th to the 14th. Winter Break Buses will leave campus mid-morning on Thursday, December 15th. They will be returning to campus on Saturday, January 7th. Check back next week for details and to make reservations for Winter Break: <http://bit.ly/1vStQFj>.

Other Regional Bus Services – Other options also exist for trips to and from the Pittsburgh Airport, Amtrak and Greyhound Stations via the [Mountain Line GreyLine](#) (with additional trips added for University Breaks called *WVU Send Off and Return Trips*.) The [I-Ride79 daily bus](#) to Charleston, WV may also be helpful to cut your drive time clear to campus. National bus carriers [Megabus](#) and [Greyhound](#) also offers daily trips from Morgantown connecting to various destinations to the east through Washington, DC. For more on these options: <http://bit.ly/1yaMoRz>.

Also, in time for winter break, Morgantown Airport (MGW) will soon begin offering daily flight connections to Pittsburgh International Airport as well as Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. Beginning on November 30, 2016 [Morgantown Airport welcomes Southern Airways Express](#): <http://bit.ly/2fgMxB0>. For students flying home through Pittsburgh, this might offer another connection option to PIT in addition to the Mountainline Grey Line.

Information on other alternative modes of transportation including rideshares, car service, limo and other air service options can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1zyVSdE>.

FINANCES

Spring Bills to post November 16

As a reminder, students are currently registering for spring classes according to their priority registration dates: <http://bit.ly/1ycPaJz>. After these dates have passed, spring bills will be posted on student's STAR accounts on Wednesday, November 16. Bills 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 until they do so. Students should remember to review their bill after making any changes as new charges may result.

If they have not already done so, students who anticipate a spring refund should log on today and submit current banking information to receive an electronic refund: <http://bit.ly/1WzCXLy>. 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 once refunds generate to receive a refund via a paper check, so log on today!

Have you completed the FAFSA for next year yet?

If you have completed the 2016-17 FAFSA, your student's aid should already be set for the upcoming spring semester and similar to that from the fall semester. However, now is also the time to begin filing the 2017-18 FAFSA for next fall. Complete the 2017-18 FAFSA by the end of November for a chance for your student to be entered to win a \$500 scholarship: <http://bit.ly/2e6a4Y4>

Article of Interest – FAFSA filing

Occasionally we come across national articles that are relevant to parents and like to share these. This one speaks about filling out the FAFSA from a Federal Student Aid worker who is also a mom of a soon-to-be college student. She offers some great insight and helpful tips: <http://bit.ly/2eZ51XG>.

TIMELY REMINDERS AND EVENTS

Game Day Reminders – November 5

As your students make their way to Milan Puskar Stadium on Saturday to cheer on the #15 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 4:00pm – 6:30pm. At this Lot students will have the opportunity to win an iPad. They must be present to win! Plus, lots of free food, fun and music to get them into the Mountaineer spirit! <http://bit.ly/VR5bUF>
- Remind your students about the *High Five rules of the game!* <http://bit.ly/2eiIPoq>
- Game time is at 7:00pm and students will want to make their way into the stadium early to *see the Pride of West Virginia!*
- Saturday is also Mountaineer Day which means *at half-time Mr. & Ms. Mountaineer will be announced.* Students won't want to miss!
- 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.

M-LEAD Calling all sophomores, juniors, and seniors – Apply by November 6

A new Freshman Leadership Program is seeking upperclassmen mentors! Are you a sophomore, junior or senior? Do you consider yourself a leader? Do you love WVU? From the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, Mountaineer Leadership Education, Action, and Development (M-LEAD) will be holding the Freshman Leadership Program for selected freshman during the Spring semester. Each group of freshman will have a mentor to guide their leadership development through team-building exercises, introspective activities, and thought-provoking conversations. This is where we need you! Apply to be a mentor for the Freshman Leadership Program! Link: <http://bit.ly/2eEkhat>. The deadline to apply is Nov. 6.

Election Day Recess Special Campus Service Hours – November 8

Students are reminded that Tuesday, November 8 is Election Day. Residence halls remain open but there are no classes on campus that day. Some campus services will also be modifying their hours as well. The PRT will not be running Tuesday but Mountainline buses will be running on their normal schedule. The Mountainlair will be open from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., Evansdale Crossing restaurants will be open from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.. For all Dining Services locations, hours can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1tWs6JP>. The WVU Bookstore will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Libraries from 1p.m. – 10 p.m. and Student Rec Center from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. WVU Student Health will be open normal hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. If your student hasn't yet gotten their flu shot, this is a great day to drop in to Student Health and cross that off the list!

For students who will be voting in West Virginia and may need assistance finding their polling place, this website may be helpful: <http://bit.ly/2flWLzb>. Others should contact the County Clerk's office in the location they are registered to vote.

LAUNCHLAB Taking Applications for Entrepreneur Pitch Contest – Deadline, November 11

Does your student have an idea for a new product or service? Encourage them to apply to pitch to a panel of judges to win funding for their idea creation. A nicer version of Shark Tank is designed to encourage students to keep working on new ideas. The event will be held in the LaunchLab at 6 p.m. Nov. 16. *Applications are due by noon Nov. 11.* Six applicants will be selected to pitch. For more information or to request a Pitch application, click here: <http://bit.ly/2fIxkvP>.

McNair Scholars Program now recruiting

The WVU McNair Scholars Program is taking applications for the 2017 Paid Summer Research Internship. Students who are:

1. First-generation college students who demonstrate a financial need OR students from groups that are under-represented in higher education, i.e., African American, Hispanic, Native American, or Native Hawaiian/U.S. Pacific Islander
2. Currently a full-time sophomore, junior or senior not graduating in May 2017 who have a Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
3. Interested in learning about research and pursuing a Ph.D or Ed.D.

4. Highly motivated and self-disciplined
5. U.S. citizens or permanent residents

may download application from via <http://bit.ly/1OrYVpF>. E-mail McNair@mail.wvu.edu or call 304-293-4316 for questions. Application deadline is January 15, 2017.

Weekly and Weekend Events

Curious what is happening on campus each week? Check out Student Life Events for a quick overview: <http://bit.ly/2fzzj6p>. Events are updated weekly!

IN THE NEWS

WVU Senior named a Rhodes Scholarship Finalist

Dillon Muhly-Alexander, an international studies major, has been selected as a finalist for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for his outstanding academic achievements and his work for the common good, especially in the area of food security. <http://bit.ly/2e6dXw4>

Pride of West Virginia to March in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade this month

Be sure tune in to watch the Pride of West Virginia as they make their way down the streets of New York City performing in the 2016 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. As one of ten bands out of 175 applicants, they will be the only college band participating this year, and there is a good chance they could even lead off the parade! #MountaineersGoFirst: <http://bit.ly/2fzApz8>

Davis College kicks off 150th anniversary celebration with a sweet competition – Contest closes November 11

Appalachian Apple Crumble, Boot Tracks and Land Grant Crunch. They sound tasty, but one of these ice cream flavors also will serve as the signature dessert for the year-long celebration of the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design's 150th anniversary. Vote today! <http://bit.ly/2fjmBW4>

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University