

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
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What are your student's plans for summer? Be sure to answer our April Question of the Month and let us know: <http://bit.ly/2ouJLzH>. Read on for *Summer Session Updates* including details about summer housing, dining, billing, jobs, internships, Mountaineer Alumni vacation opportunities and summer classes. Also, if you are looking for summer reading, check out *Hidden Figures*, the 2017-18 WVU Campus Read that was just announced: [http://bit.ly/2ovcIv3!](http://bit.ly/2ovcIv3)

Now is also time to glance ahead to fall. Class registration is under way, with rising seniors registering for classes today. Be sure your student has checked their account for any holds before registration to ensure there is no delay. May graduates should definitely check, since diplomas cannot be mailed if any holds remain. Parents of new students should read to learn about New Student Orientation and the ALEKS placement exams that students should take prior to coming for Orientation, if their major requires it. Orientation is when your students will register for fall classes! Also, review the *Upcoming Events and Announcements* section for details on items such as the annual Student insurance waiver process for 2017-18 that will open June 5, and a list of other *Important Upcoming Dates* that can be found at the end of this e-mail.

Last week President Gee gave our State of the University Address; you can see a video review at <http://go.wvu.edu/2no8aFL>. And finally, help WVU celebrate 150 years by voting for your favorite shirt, once a day through April 10: <http://bit.ly/2ouHcgX>.

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FALL FINANCIAL AID AND BILLING

2017-2018 Award Notifications and Updates

If your student has not done so yet, it's time for them to accept their aid for next year. If your student filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 1 priority deadline, their financial aid award should already be on their STAR account. Financial aid award offer email notifications have started going out to continuing students, and new incoming students should have started receiving these as early as last November for 2017-18. Here are some things to consider and next steps:

- Information on how to access and review the aid offer can be found at <http://bit.ly/1PUauam>.
- Students can view through STAR unsatisfied requirements that can delay the financial aid offer.
- Encourage your student to log on today and accept their aid!

- If your student filed a FAFSA after March 1, we will start awarding them soon.
- NEW THIS YEAR: Please note the PLUS loan will not show on students' awards until the PLUS application is received. A new application must be completed at <http://bit.ly/29tyjKU> each academic year the borrower is interested in using this option.
- If you have questions, contact the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988 or WVUHub@mail.wvu.edu. Our peak call hours are from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Calling outside of those hours will typically result in reduced wait times.

Monthly Payments Plans Available

Worried there may be a balance due for summer classes or next fall and spring? Interested in monthly payments to help spread institutional charges over several months? Our Higher One Tuition Payment Plans for summer 2017, fall 2017 and/or spring 2018 are now available. Visit <http://bit.ly/2nCj1JB> for more info on monthly payments. You can sign up early with estimates, then adjust the plan once charges are officially posted (this will be in July for fall/spring). The earlier you enroll, the smaller monthly payments can be since you have more months to spread out your balance. There is a nominal registration fee, but no interest is charged for this service. See <http://bit.ly/2nQcZpr> for additional options on how to help fund educational expenses. If you have any questions about the plan, please call Higher One at 800-635-0120.

PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS: New Student Orientation Registration Open

Registration for New Student Orientation is now open. All first-time freshmen should register for NSO, which is held every weekday throughout June. Freshmen will sit down with their academic advisor, register for classes, have their photo taken for their official Mountaineer ID card, meet their residence hall leadership team and get to know other Mountaineers. Students may bring up to two guests for no additional charge. Check out the website (<http://bit.ly/1bmgcFa>) and have your student register for either the NSO One Day, *NSO Overnight, or NSO Overnight Basecamp. * PLEASE NOTE: Students who need to take the ALEKS math and chemistry placement assessment should attend the NSO Overnight program. Not sure if your student should take ALEKS? Check here: <http://bit.ly/2nCmHuE>. We will offer Honors-only NSO sessions on June 1, 2, 7, and 22. These sessions are specifically for students who have been admitted into the Honors College.

SUMMER SESSION UPDATES

Summer Class Registration, Dining, Housing and Billing

WVU Summer Session is ideal for students needing to focus on challenging courses, catch up/get ahead in their major, add a minor, or take GEFs. With a flexible course schedule, classes

are offered in 3, 6, 9, and 12-week increments. WVU Summer Session makes graduating in four years a reality. Students should talk to their advisors and use DegreeWorks to see how they can benefit from taking summer courses. Registration is open, and students can continue to add classes as space remains. Summer priority registration is now open, along with spring term registration in November, making it easier for parents and students to plan ahead. If a student has previously registered for summer classes but no longer wishes to attend, they need to drop the course by May 15 to avoid charges. <http://bit.ly/1yHNGni>

Summer Dining Plans: Starting May 1, students can sign up for a Summer Dining Plan. A Summer Dining Plan can keep your student fed while they are in town with a variety of options including Summer 20, 40 or 80 plans. These plans start May 15 and end August 4 (campus will be closed Memorial Day and Independence Day). For more information, visit our Summer Dining Plans page <http://bit.ly/2nxkS1u>, and to sign up on May 1, have your student visit <http://bit.ly/1rrdX5R>. Call us with any questions at 304-293-2096, or email us at dining@mail.wvu.edu.

Summer Housing Options: If your student will be enrolled in summer classes and needs a flexible and convenient place to stay, WVU Housing and Residence Life offers short-term options. Check out all on-campus summer housing options and find the application process at <http://bit.ly/2oCKv2w>.

University Apartments <http://bit.ly/1DUWA5f> also have some limited summer leases available. Students should e-mail Nathan.Barkley@mail.wvu.edu with the dates they will need summer housing to receive a list of available properties, options and details on how to sign a summer lease.

Summer Bills: Students have been able to register for summer classes since November, and summer bills are now posted via the WVU Portal for those who have registered. Parents with billing access via the Parent/Guest Portal can view bills and pay at <http://bit.ly/1I9XiAm>. Summer bills are due by the first day of classes or families can enroll in a summer monthly payment plan: <http://bit.ly/2nCj1JB>. If students have registered for summer classes and no longer intend to attend, they must log on to STAR and drop their classes or risk charges.

Extra Support for Students this Summer Through Summer BOOST Program

Students who may have hit an academic road bump this year can apply for this special program designed to get them back on track. By enrolling in on-campus courses this summer, participants will have access to dedicated tutors, success coaches and academic skills workshops. Those who successfully complete their courses will be eligible for a summer stipend valued up to the 30 percent of University tuition. For eligibility and program details, visit <http://bit.ly/2kY4jyc>.

WVU Mountaineer Family and Adventure Camps Offered this Summer

Are you a WVU alumni? Looking for a great summer vacation opportunity? As part of the Mountaineer family, we invite you, your WVU student and other future Mountaineers you have at home to join us this summer for a great family vacation! The WVU Alumni Association and

Adventure WV announced a partnership with Snowshoe Mountain Resort to bring a series of WVU Mountaineer Camps to the resort this summer. The Mountaineer Family Camps are a seven-day, all-inclusive package for parents and children. It is limited to 80 participating families and will take place July 2-9 and August 6-13. The package includes mountaintop lodging, chef-prepared meals, kids' activities guided by Adventure WV staff and unlimited outdoor resort activities, including golf, mountain biking, horseback rides, fishing, lake activities, yoga, arts and crafts, sporting clays, guided hikes and more.

While Mountaineer Family Camps are geared toward families, Mountaineer Adventure Camps are intended for new WVU alumni. The four-day camp is limited 300 participants and will be held July 9-13. It consists of more adrenaline-focused outdoor activities, such as Polaris RZR tours, mountain bike clinics, sporting clays, disc golf, craft beer sampling and live evening concerts.

For more details, visit <http://bit.ly/2n5sTPE> and make plans to join us this summer in wild, wonderful West Virginia.

Summer Internships or Full-Time Jobs

If you are anxiously waiting for your student to lock in their summer internship or first full-time job after graduation, WVU Career Services is here to help. It's not too late, but time is of the essence. Help them get started by sharing this quick "top five" list.

Top Five Steps to Land a Job by June

- 1) Have your resume reviewed by a career counselor *before* sending it to employers—you cannot undo a bad first impression.
 - a. Download Resume Templates: <http://bit.ly/2nUp4LS> or View Resume Checklist: <http://bit.ly/2nUrHxv>
- 2) Schedule a mock interview and job search strategy session with a career counselor.
- 3) Update your MountaineerTRAK profile: <http://bit.ly/1oGa9zh>, and download the app for job searching on the go (search: Careers by Symplicity).
- 4) Create an attention-grabbing LinkedIn account and start reaching out to WVU alumni and HR reps in your target companies: <http://bit.ly/2nUvsmA>
- 5) Leverage your personal network—ask your friends, family and faculty if they are aware of job openings that align with your skills and interests.

For more information and resources on launching a successful internship or job search, contact the WVU Career Services Center: 304-293-2221, careerservices@mail.wvu.edu, <http://bit.ly/1oGa9zh>, Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

GRADUATION REMINDERS

Holds: Any graduating senior with a hold will not be able to receive their diploma or transcripts if payments are due on their accounts. Please remind students to log on to the WVU Portal and review any holds and take action to ensure they are ready for graduation.

Diploma Mailing Addresses: Diplomas will be mailed to the address students included on their Application for Graduation after all grades are finalized and certified by the Office of the University Registrar. Should students need to update this mailing address, they can e-mail the Registrar prior to May 14: Registrar@mail.wvu.edu.

Accessibility Needs: Guests who may require accessibility services (accessible seating or interpreting) for May Commencement should complete the Accessibility Reservations Request Form: <http://bit.ly/2n5tUY0>. Questions? Contact WVU's Office of Accessibility Services: 304-293-6700.

Finally, be sure to review the schedule of events for the various ceremonies throughout the weekend: <http://bit.ly/1MTCP6u>.

PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

Spring Family Days

Are you considering visiting campus in April to spend time with your student? Let the Mountaineer Parents Club help. We have pulled together some great suggestions for spending time on campus with your student the weekends of April 7-9 and April 21-23. Enjoy some of our suggested events and let your student show you some of their favorite spots. <http://bit.ly/2mgiz6B>

Southern NJ Easter Bus – Seats Remain

The Southern NJ Mountaineer Parents Club is running an Easter weekend bus home on Thursday, April 13, since it is a three-day weekend (no classes on Friday). The bus heads back to WVU on Easter Sunday in the afternoon because there are classes on Monday. Please make sure your student can use this bus home on Thursday with no academic implications. For costs, pick-up and drop-off locations (there are some adjustments for this bus) and to register, go to: <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 March Question of the Month asked which day of the week you were MOST likely to talk with your student on the phone. In this day of readily available technology, it is likely not

surprising that “Everyday” topped the list at 34%. Sundays came in a close second at 27%, as perhaps a throwback to when folks would call family to check in and catch up once a week, likely on a weekend. Thursday came in third (11%) and the other days of the week, perhaps busier for both you and your student rounded out the list at roughly 5-6% each day. Communication is probably one of the more difficult balancing acts in college – especially when your student is facing a challenge or going through a tough time. Striking the right balance to foster independence and autonomy is essential to growth, but continuing to give a sense of connectedness and support are also important. Our April Question of the Month asks you to let us know what your student will be doing over the summer: <http://bit.ly/2ouJLzH>.

UPCOMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pioneer Sessions April 6 and 12

Is your student interested in connecting and networking with WVU Alumni? Encourage them to check out an upcoming Pioneer Session to network. The 45-minute session opens with the speakers reflecting on their industry and how students should prepare for post-graduation. The last 15 minutes are open for Q&A. <http://bit.ly/2o3fh74>

Wellness Workshops – April 11 and 25

Two Wellness Workshops remain. The April 11 workshop will focus on pop culture and self-care, for those who use gaming, movies, books, etc. as an escape from the stress of daily life. The Coping with Finals and the End of the Semester session (April 25) will help students prep for not only finals but other common stressors and adjustments such as summer plans and moving home. Workshops are held from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in CPASS Room G06 and are free to any WVU student. <http://bit.ly/2cQXqZ9>.

2017 Week of Engagement – April 22-29

Each year during National Volunteer Week, the Center for Service and Learning hosts a weeklong celebration that includes volunteer opportunities, special events and the CSL's annual Excellence in Engagement Awards. This year, Week of Engagement will take place from April 22nd-29th. Check the event schedule at <http://bit.ly/2oCGBH5> for updates. For questions or to get involved, contact the CSL at serveandlearn@mail.wvu.edu.

Blue and Gold Mine Sale – Collections May 1-10; Sale May 13

As we approach the end of the school year, students often have items that they no longer need. Or perhaps students are looking to find some goods to help outfit that new apartment. The collection period runs from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., May 1 -10, and donations can be dropped off at designated trailers located around Morgantown and campus. See <http://bit.ly/1MTBaxy> for details. The Blue and Gold Mine sale will take place at Milan Puskar Stadium on Saturday, May 13, 2017, from 7:00 a.m. – noon: <http://bit.ly/1MHxKwW>

Fall 2017 WVU Student Health Insurance Waiver Opens June 5

The annual student health insurance waiver for fall 2017 will be available beginning June 5 at <http://bit.ly/119XdfW>. All domestic WVU students enrolled in 6 or more credit hours, and all international students enrolled in 1 or more credit hour must be covered by adequate health insurance, as noted here: <http://bit.ly/2o3fITZ>. Students who are already covered by an adequate health insurance plan, as a dependent under a parent's plan or on their own, may opt out of the WVU Aetna plan by completing the insurance waiver application at the link above each academic year. The waiver application typically takes between 3-5 minutes to complete using information generally available on the student's health insurance ID card.

Eligible students without an approved waiver on file for the 2017-2018 academic year by the deadline of July 26 will be automatically enrolled in the WVU-sponsored Aetna plan at a cost of \$912 per semester, assessed to the student's account. The WVU Aetna plan offers excellent, nationwide coverage with low out-of-pocket costs. Additional information about the 2017-2018 WVU Aetna plan will be available at <http://bit.ly/119XdfW>, also beginning in June. Please contact the WVU Student Insurance Office at sio@mail.wvu.edu with questions about the student health insurance requirement, the waiver process or the Aetna student health insurance plan.

University Apartments – Space Available

University Apartments has units available at two of our four properties; University Park on Evansdale and College Park downtown. Have your student enjoy independent apartment living in our fully-furnished apartments. We offer individual leasing, roommate matching and on-site management and maintenance. We also have your student pay rent through their student account, which allows them to apply financial aid or scholarships, should they choose to do so. Feel free to contact the properties directly to speak with a property manager who can answer all your questions. <http://bit.ly/1DUWA5f>

Planning Ahead ... Important Dates

May 1 - 5 – Final Exam Week

May 6 – Residence Halls Close at 5:00 p.m.

May 12 - 14 – Commencement

May 15 – First Summer Session Begins

June 1-30 – New Student Orientation

June 5 – Student Insurance Waiver Site Opens <http://bit.ly/119XdfW>

July 5 – Fall Bills Out

July 26 – Fall Bills and Student Insurance Waivers Due

August 12 – On-Campus Move-in Day

August 16 – First Day of Classes

September 4 – Labor Day Recess

September 22-24 – Fall Family Weekend

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University