

West Virginia University  
Parent Electronic News  
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Students have returned to campus this week rested and renewed from spring break. As the warmer weather encourages folks to get out and about, however, we realize the sprint is on to the end of the term, with roughly four short weeks remaining until finals week. And that, of course, signifies the start yet again of another student break ... ah... the college years!

For those parents who are just joining us with an incoming student on the way, welcome aboard! Be sure to read the welcome and "Tips from the Trenches" articles at the end of this newsletter directed especially to you. For those veteran parents (perhaps those with a soon-to-be-graduate), help us by reminding your students to keep their eyes on their academics and noses in the books, as these last weeks can often have quite an impact. There are a lot of activities to help positively harness end-of-the-term energies as well as honor those who have stuck to it academically over the year, so read on for suggestions!

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### **STUDENT HEALTH CHANGES UNDER WAY**

In response to student concerns, the WVU Student Health Service will be undergoing some changes in operations and will move to a larger and more convenient space by next fall. "During our public forums in the fall, and in follow-up focus groups with students, we encountered some frustration with the operations and the facilities in Student Health," said WVU President Mike Garrison. "Students have pointed out the need for change," Garrison noted. "We will make some changes immediately-and by fall, we hope to have the clinic out of the basement in Health Sciences and in a location that is accessible and convenient." Effective immediately, the student clinic will stay open through the lunch hour and will no longer close for staff meetings. Appointment hours will be extended beyond the current closing time, and more walk-in services will be provided.

WVU is also in the process of hiring a clinical director for mental health and counseling services to strengthen the connection between Student Health and the Carruth Center for Counseling. “We need to make sure that our services in this important area are coordinated,” Garrison said.

To continue to gather further ideas and suggestions, WVU President Mike Garrison also hosted a student health forum Tuesday, April 1 to continue the discussion about their needs and concerns regarding student health care at WVU.

### **WVU TO HIGHLIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS DURING WEEKEND OF HONORS**

WVU will highlight the outstanding achievements and awards of members of the University community during the annual Weekend of Honors, April 10-13. Activities include awards ceremonies held by many of WVU’s colleges and schools. The individual events provide an opportunity for the contributions and accomplishments of each program’s students, faculty, and staff to be formally recognized in front of peers and family members. Other events include guest lectures, receptions, and open houses hosted by the schools and colleges, musical performances, and the Ring Day ceremony. Several key student and faculty awards traditionally presented during the Weekend of Honors will now be part of Commencement weekend programming in May. The change will enable WVU to highlight those honors in front of a larger, University-wide audience during the Honors Convocation on May 16. For more on all of these activities, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=869>.

### **WVU AND MOUNTAINLINE PILOTING NEW ROUTE TO BETTER SERVE OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS**

WVU students living in the highly populated, off-campus student housing area of Valley View will be better served by a new demonstration bus route that will run every 15 minutes between Sunnyside and the football stadium. The route began March 31 and will run through May 9. As this partnership continues, other standing and new routes are constantly being reviewed and considered.

### **FESTIVAL OF IDEAS LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES**

During Parents Club Winter Weekend, we kicked off the 2008 Festival of Ideas Lecture Series with Arianna Huffington, nationally syndicated columnist, author, and editor of the Huffington Post. If you missed this presentation, a video of her talk is available online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=870> (under “WVU Video” on left side of page). The Festival lecture series resumed this week with a presentation from Marcus Rediker, a professor of history and chair of the history department at the University of Pittsburgh.

This Thursday, April 3, the series continues with a panel discussion titled, “Digital Media and the 2008 Presidential Election.” This discussion will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Mountainlair ballrooms. Remaining Festival speakers and presentations include Jared Fogle, who lost 245 pounds using what he calls “The Subway Diet” and Laurie Santos, an assistant professor in the department of psychology at Yale University. For more on the speakers,

presentations, and schedule, go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=871>. All lectures are free and open to the University community and general public, so encourage your student to drop in and join the conversations.

### **CAREER CORNER-JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR TALENTED YOUTH**

Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth runs two 3-week residential academic programs for highly talented elementary, middle, and high school students from across the country and around the world. The residential sites are located in faraway places like Los Angeles, Hawaii, China, and Mexico. There are also sites in areas a bit more accessible to West Virginia, like Maryland and Pennsylvania. They are looking for staff to work these summer programs as instructors, teaching assistants, resident assistants and for some other administrative positions. The pay is good (room and board included), and the program has a long history of providing quality education to talented students.

If your student is looking for a job opportunity, encourage them to apply! For more information about positions, pay, and other benefits, check out <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=872>.

### **SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR EVENTS TO PASS ALONG TO YOUR STUDENT:**

#### **EVENT 1 - MOUNTAINEER MYSTERY TRIP - April 4-6, 2008**

Did your student not get to go on a trip for spring break? Are they simply looking for a chance to meet new friends or find a little adventure? If so, they are in luck. There are still seats on the bus for the Mountaineer Mystery Trip! If interested, students should sign up now (first-come gets a seat on the bus). On April 4-6, students can embark on a trip to who knows where? The cost will be \$50 (which can be billed to the student's account) and covers the bus trip, dinner the first night, breakfast the first morning, lodging, prizes, and snacks to and from the mystery destination! Interested students should e-mail [kelli.eisentroutrout@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:kelli.eisentroutrout@mail.wvu.edu) to sign up as soon as possible or call 304-293-5811.

#### **EVENT 2 - PROVOST LANG PRESENTS ... Tuesday, April 8, 2008**

Encourage your student to sign up now to hear Provost Gerald Lang present "Walking the Talk-Life's Lessons Learned Through Hiking." As part of the Faculty Dinner Series, Provost Lang will present on April 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Hatfields Main dining area. Students attending will receive a great dinner and gift as part of the evening. If interested, encourage your student to RSVP to [kelli.eisentroutrout@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:kelli.eisentroutrout@mail.wvu.edu) as soon as possible because seating is limited. The Faculty Dinner Series is a part of the Sophomore/Junior Year Experience.

### **SENIOR EVENTS TO PASS ALONG TO YOUR STUDENT:**

#### **EVENT 1 - SENIOR SEND-OFF - Thursday, April 24, 2008**

If your student is an upcoming graduate, remind them to mark their calendar for their first Alumni Event. The Senior Send-Off Luau will be held Thursday, April 24 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center. The event will feature free food, beverages, gifts, prizes,

and entertainment! If students have questions, they can call Andrea Waters or Sheila Powell at 304-293-5811.

**EVENT 2 - SENIOR YEAR PITTSBURGH PIRATES GAME TRIP** - Friday, April 25, 2008

Seniors are encouraged to sign up now to enjoy a trip to Pittsburgh to see the Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Philadelphia Phillies on Friday, April 25 at 7:05. For just \$10 (billed to your student account) students get to enjoy the game in the Pirates Cove section, receive a Pirates T-Shirt, a \$10 food/beverage voucher, and see a fabulous fireworks show! Buses will depart from the WVU Coliseum at 4:30 p.m. and will return after the fireworks display later that evening. Sign-up sheets are in 206 E. Moore Hall or students can contact Andrea Waters at 304-293-5811 or [andrea.waters@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:andrea.waters@mail.wvu.edu) for any questions.

**WELCOME TO THE PARENTS OF NEW INCOMING STUDENTS!**

As we reach the end of the spring term, we realize many parents of our new incoming students for fall 2008 have already joined our ranks, while many more will do so in the coming months. My name is Katie Utterback and as the author of these Parent E-Newsletters, I would like to formally welcome each of you to this correspondence listserv! While I work closely with the Mountaineer Parents Club, I am not actually part of that office but rather part of the Office of the President. I also answer the 1-800-988-0096 Parent Helpline and parent e-mails and look forward to meeting most of you during the parent sessions at New Student Orientation this summer (more to come on this in upcoming parent e-newsletters).

These Parent E-newsletters are generally sent twice a month to help keep you in touch and informed so you can, in turn, help us to keep your student on track and successful! We try to pack these with "just-in-time tips," upcoming events or important dates on campus, and other pertinent information you may find useful, or to relay on to your students. The "Tips from the Trenches" pieces reach out to some of our many experts on campus to provide an up-close view of certain aspects of campus life and/or services we provide. Again, we hope that this information is both useful and informative as you begin this journey with your new Mountaineer. Welcome to you all!

**TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES: THE LIBRARIES AT WVU ARE INTERESTED IN STUDENT SUCCESS!**

As one school year is coming to an end, another is just around the corner! As we gear up for New Student Orientation, we wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you into the WVU community. We will of course be present at Orientation as well but feel this message is important: we need your help!

All of us here in the Libraries of WVU are happy to see another class of first-year students coming to campus. We know this is a big transition for you and your student, and it is only beginning. All of us know you want to see your son or daughter succeed in college. And we want the same thing. We are very interested in student success, and we know how important the first-year experience is in achieving overall success in University life.

We think the Libraries have a lot to offer when it comes to resources for success. But sometimes students don't realize just how much help we can give. Especially during the important first year, we know how much is going on in their lives. So this article is written for you, the parents, to clue you in, so in turn, you can help us reach your student.

Use of the Libraries on all three campuses (Downtown, Evansdale, and Health Sciences) offers the chance, over time, to develop critical skills that will encourage academic success. Engagement with the Libraries just might lead to what is now being called "information literacy." Broadly speaking, that means the ability to know when information is needed, to be able to find it, and to know how to apply it appropriately. Here are a few examples of what we offer:

- Comfortable study spaces of all descriptions at the Evansdale Library, at the Health Sciences Library, and at the Downtown Campus Library
- A critical and central learning environment for undergraduate education
- Long hours of service (morning, afternoons, and evenings until 2: 00 a.m.), seven days a week
- A dynamic, ever-changing, center of student learning
- Expert help in person, over the phone, by IM, and e-mail
- Two term paper clinics (one downtown and one on the Evansdale campus)
- Hundreds of licensed databases that connect to academic information Internet search engines can't find
- Courses that teach what is now called "information literacy"
- At the Downtown Campus Library, Eliza's, an appealing coffee shop with current newspapers and recent timely books
- Convenient wireless environments ... and
- Many, many state-of-the-art computers and laptops for student use

Our libraries at WVU are wonderlands of academic help and support. We want WVU parents to know we're here in case this comes in handy when your student lets you know college is a little more of a challenge than expected. Visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=873> to find out more about us. In closing, I invite you to visit us in person when you come to town. At Evansdale, Health Sciences, and at the Downtown Campus Library, we love visitors with questions! We know information isn't power until it is understood. And that's where we want to help.

Feel free to contact me or have your student do so at any time via e-mail at [cwilkins@wvu.edu](mailto:cwilkins@wvu.edu) or by phone at 304-293-0308 if you want further information. Best wishes to you and your students for a year of success in learning.

Cordially,

Carroll Wetzel Wilkinson  
Director of Instruction and Information Literacy