

West Virginia University  
Parent Electronic News  
November 30, 2007

Hello again from Morgantown, Mountaineer Parents! From bowl game information to finals schedules, there is a lot of information to convey in this E-Newsletter, so please be sure to review all of the sections!

That said, what an exciting time to be a Mountaineer! Not only are our women's and men's soccer teams making a national name for themselves, but our football team last week won the Big East title and secured a BCS bowl berth and tomorrow we are posed to close out the regular season with the 100th anniversary of the Backyard Brawl! In addition to this, next week students have their last regular week of classes before finals week creeps in December 10-15 and Winter Break soon to follow so learning centers and the libraries are bustling in preparation. There certainly is anticipation and excitement in the air on campus! Because we want all students to finish out the term successfully, some directives have been issued for this weekends festivities that I want to be sure you, as parents, are aware of so you can help us reiterate these messages to your students.

Students have been e-mailed a modified visitation policy that will be in effect in the residence halls for the weekend. Consequences have also been made abundantly clear for unlawful actions relating to fan behavior. Vice President for Student Affairs Ken Grey reminded students in an e-mail this week to "treat Morgantown as you would your home - after all, it is. You can be a part of our extraordinarily successful team by representing them with pride and by celebrating responsibly."

Please remind your students to revel in the excitement and cheer on the Mounties in a respectful and responsible way and note that unlawful behavior, which includes rushing the field and unauthorized fires, will not be tolerated. The "Tips from the Trenches" article in this issue is written by a WVU senior who reminds all fans that we have a chance to write the Sunday morning national headlines this weekend as WVU heads to a BCS or national title bowl game (this may be a good thing to forward on to your student). So as the end of the term approaches quickly, best wishes on finals to all. Here's to a big win over Pitt this weekend! In this edition:

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**WINTER WEEKEND ANNOUNCED**

The Mountaineer Parents Club Winter Weekend will be held February 29-March 2, 2008. Many activities are in the works including the annual pre-game pizza party which will be held

in the Shell Building prior to the women's basketball game on March 1. That's right, this year we will be supporting our Lady Mountaineers as they take on the Louisville Cardinals in a Big East match up! The pizza party will be held from noon-1:30 p.m., and tip-off is at 2:00 p.m. Ticket order forms will be mailed to you in early January from the Mountaineer Ticket Office. Tickets can also be purchased online through the Ticket Office by using the password and ID information that will be included on the flyer. A special ticket price of \$6 includes the pre-game pizza party. More details will be coming soon on all the festivities of the weekend on the Mountaineer Parents Club Web Site at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=815> so be sure to check back as the date gets closer!

### **MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB WINTER BREAK BUS UPDATE**

Please remember that the last day to cancel reservations for the Philadelphia and Hagerstown, Allentown, and Secaucus buses for Christmas break is today, Friday, November 30. Seats still remain on both of these bus routes as well as the other three routes - Central Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Long Island - which are all sponsored by local Parents Club chapters. For more on these bus routes and reservations, please go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=816>.

### **END-OF-THE-SEMESTER DETAILS**

Winter Break is just around the corner. Your students should be wrapping up their semester with visions of finals and studying. Finals week will be December 10-15. For your reference, the finals schedule follows: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=817>. Please be sure to reference the residence hall opening and closing dates for breaks as well: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=818>.

### **DECEMBER CONVOCATION**

December Graduates Convocation is quickly approaching! The event will take place on Sunday, December 9 at 1:30 p.m. Please visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=819> for details. Parents, please remind your graduates to RSVP on the website if they plan to participate.

### **BOWL GAME POSSIBILITIES**

While information is still quite preliminary, let me offer some history of what has happened in the past and anticipated options. First, the final bowl game designation (BCS or national title game) is not yet set as we still have a final showdown against Pitt this weekend (in the 100th anniversary of the Backyard Brawl nonetheless), and official bowl offers will not be made until the outcome of this game is known. When WVU has traveled to bowl games in the past, there have traditionally been a few avenues for ticket distribution for bowl games:

- 1) Concerning student options, any information about procurement of student tickets will be released from the Mountaineer Ticket Office directly to the student body via MIX. Also, concerning questions of travel plans, if any student groups were to make travel arrangements,

such as the Mountaineer Maniacs for example, these again would still not be known yet. Students should watch for communication from those offices for further information.

2) Following past protocol, the Mountaineer Ticket Office has already sent out preliminary forms to season ticket holders and Mountaineer Athletic Club (MAC) contributors to request bowl game tickets. Pending the allotment the school receives (which can vary according to which bowl we attend), it is my understanding that these tickets will be distributed to a few key groups - students, the band, season ticket holders according to MAC giving level, etc. Beyond this, the Mountaineer Ticket Office typically does not have additional tickets for sale to the general public.

3) Each year WVU has traveled to a bowl game, the Alumni Association has offered a bowl travel package through an outside travel company for general alumni and fans. This company procures ticket allotments and hotels and combines these with land or air options. They began offering preregistration for these bowl packages earlier this week, but due to an overwhelming response from alumni and friends, National Travel has halted deposit pre-registrations for its travel packages. Once the bowl game has been announced, National Travel may accept additional registrations, subject to availability. Those interested in participating can request to be placed on a waiting list by contacting National Travel at 1-800-642-3603 or you may register by visiting <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=820>.

Final travel package information, as well as information about the Fan Center and other WVU-related bowl programs, will be announced as soon as details can be finalized. All information will be posted on the Alumni Association's Web site - <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=821>.

4) As always, there are online venues (Stub Hub, etc.) that have tickets for sale. Most of the tickets you will see listed are from folks who have secured these seats through sponsorships, professional ticketing agencies, etc., thus they can be expensive. Please be sure to check the refund policies and legitimacy of these companies to ensure your investment.

5) You may also wish to check with other outside travel agencies, as they often have complete travel packages available. Please be sure to check the refund policies and legitimacy of these companies to ensure your investment.

6) While the WVU Mountaineer Parents Club does not coordinate a trip, many of our clubs across the country have used bowl games as an opportunity to host a game-watch party as their WinterFest. Students will still be home for Winter Break, so this is a great family-wide activity for local Mountaineer Parents clubs! You may wish to contact your local Parents Club chair (<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=822>) if you are interested in this option.

7) Parents may also wish to team up with one of our many local WVU Alumni chapters across the country to join their game-watch parties. The Alumni Association has an avid fan base, and chapters across the nation hold game-watching parties throughout the year. Of course we realize that many of our parents are alumni as well, but alumni or not, you are welcome to join in with our nationwide Mountaineer Family. As information for the bowl-game-watches

are finalized, information will be posted at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=821> under "Upcoming Events," so be sure to check back periodically.

Whatever your plans, enjoy. And more importantly, Let's Go Mountaineers ... Beat Pitt!!

### **TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES - "Be a True Mountaineer"**

By Matt Delligatti, WVU senior and Truman Scholar

For too long West Virginia and WVU have been marred by stereotypes we all know are untrue. Unfortunately the rest of the nation believes the labels we often receive in the media. Opportunities to change these perceptions are few and far between, but the 100th edition of the "Backyard Brawl" and the national title implications of the game provide us the chance to show our true colors to the whole nation.

Growing up just south of Morgantown in Fairmont, WV, I have been an avid Mountaineer fan my entire life. I remember going to my first "Backyard Brawl" with my cousin in the early 90s. Of course we won the game, but more importantly, my brothers and I learned a chant that we thought was cool. Unfortunately, our mother didn't think the chant that included a four-letter word that rhymed with Pitt was all that funny. As kids often do, I thought my mom was just outdated and didn't realize how awesome this was. A few years later, I was able to attend the 2003 Virginia Tech game where we beat the #3 Hokies 28-7. After the victory, students stormed the field, and couches were burnt around town. As a senior in high school who was going to enter WVU the next fall, I thought this was amazing. The next day my outlook completely changed.

I woke up the following day excited to see stories on ESPN of Grant Wiley and Quincy Wilson dominating the Hokies. Instead, I saw fires on Grant Street and heard nothing but bad things about WVU on ESPN, CNN, MSNBC, and in other national venues. This changed me. I began to realize why my mother was not flattered by the chant her sons were reciting a few years earlier. Simply put, it was CLASSLESS, as were the activities that ensued after the Virginia Tech game. The headlines should always be about the team, not a few selfish fans.

Now as a WVU senior, I have become a bit wiser and through experience have realized the implications of these types of events. WVU and the Morgantown Police Department make us all accountable for our actions, as well as safer. Just a few things that your student has been informed can happen if he or she chooses to act out include:

- Expulsion: West Virginia University students can be expelled from college for unlawful behavior.
- No ride home: if your child is arrested and transported to the regional jail in Doddridge County, WVU does NOT provide a pick-up service from the jail, which is 75 miles away from Morgantown.
- Loss of football tickets: there is a no-admittance policy at the stadium for intoxicated fans, and violators may have their season tickets or student ticket privileges revoked and face fines and arrest.

Beyond the legal ramifications, rushing the field and burning couches destroys the reputation of OUR university and state. Last year, I was fortunate enough to win the Harry S. Truman Scholarship. Upon meeting my fellow Truman Scholars, I was disappointed to notice that many of them saw WVU as “the school that parties and burns objects.” For the entire week we assembled, I was forced to defend the state and university I love. By the end of the week, I was able to change their preconceived notions through my actions and words. My fellow scholars are just a microcosm of what the nation thinks as a whole.

Which brings me to how I started this article; we have a unique opportunity to modify the reputation of our state and university on Saturday. We have the chance to decide what we want the media to report. It can be, “White’s Ten TDs Lead the Mountaineers to BCS Title Game” or “Students Burn Way to BCS Title Game: 40 Arrested.” In the end, the headline should be about the team.

Remember to remind your students how fortunate they are to be at WVU to witness what so many Mountaineers have been waiting for our whole lives. Finally, please have your students consider that they have a chance to show the nation what we are all about. We can not only demonstrate the pride and respect we have at West Virginia University, but the passion and class of all of the hard-working people of West Virginia.

LET’S GO MOUNTAINEERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Parent Advocate Office  
West Virginia University

WVU Parents Club Helpline  
1-800-WVU-0096