“Alma, our Alma Mater…the home of Mountaineers…” During Commencement Weekend, we sent forth over 4,000 graduates to join the WVU alumni ranks. See below for some graduation wrap up details including a video commemorating all the ‘Sights and Sounds,’ as well as many stories, posts and pictures from our graduates themselves during the 146th Commencement!

As our graduates head on to the next chapter of their lives, we also want to congratulate you, the parents of the Class of 2015, and thank you for all you have done throughout the years to support and encourage from a distance! Before we say goodbye, if you wish to now be removed from the Parent E-News listserv, see the Housekeeping section below for details on how to do this. Congratulations again to all our graduates and their families!

Also in the past few weeks, official spring grades are now in the books and the Spring 2015 Dean’s and President’s Lists will soon be online. Check back here in the coming month: http://bit.ly/1l9WRG9. This is also a good time to remind students they can access the DegreeWorks system to see how their progress this term assists them on their road to graduation, or play around with how a major change might impact this progress through the “What if” function: http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO. Also, should your student need another class to accelerate their plan to graduation through summer school, read on - it is not too late!

For those whose students are preparing for high school graduations and the start of the freshman year instead, I have included some info on computer specs from our Technology Services Center below as I often get questions this time of the year from parents regarding this subject. More information on other important topics will be disseminated through New Student Orientation which begins and runs throughout the month of June: http://bit.ly/1bmgcFa. We look forward to meeting you and your students there!

Finally, please remind all students to be checking their MIX accounts frequently over the summer to be sure that they receive information in a timely fashion, such as notice when the annual student insurance waiver form goes live on June 8 or notice once fall bills come out in early July. Deadlines for both are in early August prior to students returning to campus! If you, as parents, have questions or if we can be of assistance, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us as we are here throughout the summer as well: 1-800-988-0096 or ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu. And with that, onward and upward to 2015-16! In this edition:

GRADUATION:

- Commencement Sights and Sounds

- Commencement Survey

- Bookstore offers Diploma Frames
- WVU Alumni Association

SPRING WRAP UP:

- Spring grades are now out!
- Summer School Underway – students can still register!

SUMMER NOTICES:

- Fall Student Insurance Waiver site to open June 8 – Annual process
- Thinking ahead for fall bills
- Computer Purchases

HOUSEKEEPING:

- Removal from the Listserv and the Parents Club

GRADUATION:

Commencement Sights and Sounds

The last of nearly 4,500 diplomas have been handed out. The tassels have all been switched and the speeches in 17 ceremonies have all been made. WVU’s Class of 2015 is duly launched into the world. The four days of activities that began on Thursday with the International Student Reception and Mountaineer Send-off concluded Sunday afternoon with University College’s first-ever stand-alone commencement. We invite you to relive occasion through the Sights and Sounds video compilation from the weekend: http://bit.ly/1EvJxnK or check out other stories of our grads as well as videos, tweets and pictures directly from your students in the Class of 2015 at the Chronicles website: http://bit.ly/1RlnQjm.

Commencement Survey

If you were able to join us for Commencement Weekend, please take a moment to provide feedback we can use to shape future events: http://bit.ly/1KxVyS1. Thank you in advance for your time!

Bookstore offers Diploma Frames

Now that your students have that diploma they worked so hard for, check out the options for diploma frames so they can proudly display this for all to see! For more, go to: http://bit.ly/1HuHUZG.
WVU Alumni Association

As our new graduates enter this new phase in their lives, they will no doubt want to also stay involved and engaged with WVU. Whether moving to a new town to start a career, chances are there are other WVU alumni close by! From Texas to Minnesota or Washington to Florida our alumni are 190,000 strong. As they make this transition, graduates are granted the first year's membership for free! After this, annual or lifetime memberships are available. Our Alumni Association provides wonderful opportunities for students to connect and network with others alums through the country and world. Encourage your student to reach out and connect other alums: [http://bit.ly/1esCOWT](http://bit.ly/1esCOWT).

SPRING WRAP UP:

Spring grades are now out!

Final grades for the spring 2015 term are now posted on our student’s STAR accounts. Students can share their grades with parents through the Parent/Guest Portal: [http://bit.ly/1I9XIAm](http://bit.ly/1I9XIAm). Students with questions regarding a grade can reference the University Catalog grading policy or contact their instructor: [http://bit.ly/1GBp3jz](http://bit.ly/1GBp3jz). Appeal guidelines are noted in the University Catalog: [http://bit.ly/1HJ2iM3](http://bit.ly/1HJ2iM3). Again, students can also take this opportunity to log onto DegreeWorks to see how their progress this term assists them on their road to graduation or play around with how a major change might impact this progress through the “What if” function: [http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO](http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO).

Summer School Underway – students can still register!

Last Monday, we started summer session at WVU! More than 10,000 students have registered for classes so far this summer, and the number is expected to increase as more classes begin throughout the coming months. With classes starting at various times throughout the summer and running for a variety of times from 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12, week courses and everything in between, it is not too late for your student to enroll! If they need to get back on track after seeing spring grades or simply want to get ahead by getting a tough class out of the way, encourage them to check out summer offerings and register online. A number of classes are available online and can be completed from home or wherever else the summer months take them! If students will be in Morgantown, housing and dining options are also available for summer: [http://bit.ly/1KloSrzd](http://bit.ly/1KloSrzd). For more on summer offerings, go to: [http://bit.ly/1yHNGni](http://bit.ly/1yHNGni).
SUMMER NOTICES:

Fall Student Insurance Waiver site to open June 8 – Annual process

As a reminder, all domestic students enrolled in 6 or more credit hours and international students enrolled in 1 or more credit hours are required to carry health insurance coverage. Any student who is already covered by another health insurance plan that meets the requirements as noted here [http://bit.ly/1J3djGD](http://bit.ly/1J3djGD) should complete the ANNUAL online insurance waiver application between June 8 and August 3 to opt out of the WVU-sponsored student health insurance plan. Have a quick question for the Student Insurance Office? Try their new Live Chat option at [http://bit.ly/1GBpBpn](http://bit.ly/1GBpBpn), call 304-293-6815 or e-mail SIO@mail.wvu.edu

Thinking ahead for fall bills

To help you plan ahead, WVU's Office of Student Accounts wants to remind students and their families that it is never too early to be thinking about how to pay for education costs. As a convenience, WVU offers several payment plan options: [http://bit.ly/1rXS7m7r](http://bit.ly/1rXS7m7r). This includes both the 60/40 plan and the option to make payments on a monthly basis through Higher One’s Tuition Payment Plan. The TuitionPay Plan is an interest-free alternative to lump-sum payments, spreading charges into a more manageable monthly payment. TuitionPay Plans for the 2015-2016 academic year are currently available and the sooner you enroll, the smaller your monthly payments will be as you will have a longer time over which to spread your payments. Please visit this website [http://bit.ly/1ItYeLK](http://bit.ly/1ItYeLK) for more information or to enroll. If you have any questions on TuitionPay, please call Higher One at 800-635-0120. WVU fall bills will become available to students via their online STAR system in early July and the 60% payment deadline (time by which at least 60% of the fall balance is due) is Friday, August 7. Questions can be directed to the Office of Student Accounts 304-293-4006 or OSA@mail.wvu.edu. Students should monitor their MIX e-mail for notices throughout the summer.

Computer Purchases

I often get calls from parents of incoming students this time of the year about what, if any, recommendations or suggestions WVU has for computers. You can find these and other helpful information including recommendations by schools and colleges (and even discounts!) through our Technology Support Center. Be sure to review the Computer Buying Guide also found on their site: [http://bit.ly/1HJsq6G](http://bit.ly/1HJsq6G). If you need additional assistance, you may contact the TSC by e-mailing tsc@mail.wvu.edu or calling 304-293-6201.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Removal from the Listserv and the Parents Club
With the end of the year upon us, for many of our parents it is time to say goodbye! Thank you for all you have done supporting your student during their time at WVU. As you move on to the next chapter of your life, many of you have become Mountaineers-at-heart and we value that bond with our WVU parents! While we welcome you to stay on with us for another year if you wish, we want to invite those of you who wish to relinquish your membership in the Mountaineer Parents Club that choice as well. To do so, simply reply to this e-mail with the following information:

Parent Name(s):

Student Name:

Other Comments/Farewell Messages/Etc. (We love to hear where your graduate is off to in this next stage of their life!):

If you would rather, you may also call the Mountaineer Parents Club Office directly at 304-293-2506. Again, thank you again for all you do to support your students' success!

\

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University