

West Virginia University
Parents Electronic News
December 5, 2008

Well it is the time of year again when libraries are packed with study groups, the computer labs are overflowing as last minute papers get written and students are anxiously studying as they anticipate the end of their fall classes. Ah yes, it must be final week! With Winter Break just around the corner, next week students will begin the journeys over the river and through the woods to their homes near and far. As some get ready to embark on their first week of finals, nearly 1,400 of graduating seniors will be celebrating as they take their very last exams and are then recognized during December Convocation to be held Sunday, December 14! For more all the details on this ceremony, go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=964> and congratulations to all of our graduates as they join the ranks of the 170,000 plus Mountaineer Alumni!

This Parent E-Newsletter has a ton of information from across campus and various units so you, the parents, are aware of all the happenings, opportunities, and pertinent information to help you support your students. Details are included about residence hall closing and opening dates, job opportunities for graduates, meals plans for spring term, and what to expect after final grades come out - among other important items. So if you don't have time to peruse this article right now, hit print and read at your leisure! Also, as we wrap up one semester don't forget to look ahead for important dates in the upcoming spring term at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=965>. As your students prepare to conclude their fall term on campus, here's to good luck on finals and wishes for a successful finish to the semester! In this edition:

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by Regan Bruni - Assistant Dean for Retention and Research

CLOSING UP '08:

ONLINE JOB SEARCH RESOURCE NOW AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

Do you know a senior who will be graduating soon? The WVU Career Services Center through the Office of Student Affairs is now offering free access to CareerShift to all graduating seniors. CareerShift is the most comprehensive online resource available to help students in their job search. Its set of tools and applications provides a unique opportunity to job hunters. While other Web services offer bits and pieces of the job hunt process, only CareerShift provides an easy-to-use approach for bringing all these parts together to crack the hidden job market and for managing the job hunt all in one place. Please encourage seniors to use this job search tool in addition to the Career Services Center's MountaineerTRAK. Details and registration instructions are available online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=966>, by phone at 293-2221 or e-mail at careerservices@mail.wvu.edu.

HOLIDAY BUSES FOR WINTER BREAK

The end of the semester is almost here so be sure your student has a ride home for the semester break! The WVU Mountaineer Parents Club Holiday Bus Schedules are available online. Spaces are still available to Secaucus, NJ; Allentown, PA; Hagerstown, MD and Philadelphia, PA. For more information, please log on to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=967>.

Three individual Parents Clubs - Long Island, Northern Virginia and Central Maryland - have also planned buses home for the holiday break, and spaces are still available. For more information and details on how to make these reservations, visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=967>.

As a reminder, the daily Grey Line shuttle to the Pittsburgh Airport and Pittsburgh Greyhound Station will be running the normal 10:00 a.m. run all week. NOTE: There is no 4 p.m. run for Winter Break. For information on the daily schedule and details, or to make a reservation, call 304-296-3869 or visit: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=968>.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for refunds for Winter Break buses was December 3rd and has now passed. Also, students who may be on academic probation should check the

time of the returning bus because the earliest probation workshops (information to be sent once final grades are posted) will begin at 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 11, 2009.

RESIDENCE HALL WINTER BREAK CLOSING/OPENING INFO

The residence halls will officially close at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13. All students must be out of their rooms by 5:00 p.m. This affects students in University-owned or supervised residence halls and apartments including parts of College Park - The Ridge. Students are welcome to leave their belongings in their room over break. However, we encourage students to take any valuables home with them, along with items they will need over the break. During Winter Break, students will not be permitted in their rooms nor have access to their mailboxes. Be sure to remind your students to empty their trash cans, close windows, and lock their room doors as they leave.

University Housing will reopen at noon on Saturday, January 10. Dining Services for the Evansdale Residential Complex and Boreman Hall on the downtown campus will begin with dinner on Saturday, January 10, 2009. The rest of the dining facilities will begin service on the first day of classes, Monday, January 12, 2009. Again the complete list of all residence hall opening and closing dates and times for 2008-2009 can be found online at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=969>.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING WINTER BREAK TIPS - BATTENING THE HATCHES

If your students live off campus, remind them to prepare their apartments for being away for this extended break. Unfortunately crime tends to increase around the holidays. Tips to pass along include putting lights on a timer, having their mail temporarily held by the US Post Office to give their place the "someone's-home" look, or if they subscribe to a newspaper, contact their carrier to stop the delivery temporarily. It's a good idea to take out their trash and clean up before leaving as well as dirty apartments over a period of time can attract unwelcome visitors. They should also take valuable items with them when they leave town and because of the cold weather, although they may lower their heat they should not turn this off completely because pipes might freeze if temperatures drop. Of course the obvious reminder is to close and lock all windows and doors as they leave town. Here's to a safe and restful break!

UPCOMING DEADLINES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY TO LIVE IN WVU HOUSING FOR 2009 - 2010

If your student is a current WVU student interested in living on-campus next year, now is the time to complete a WVU housing application and submit the deposit. Remember, there is a limited number of housing applications from current students that will be accepted for the 2009-2010 academic year. As long as space is available, the deadline for current WVU students to submit the housing application and \$225 deposit is Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 11:59 p.m.

Applications and deposit payment can be made on-line through the STAR Information System accessible through MIX. Whether a student is currently living on-campus or off-

campus, they are encouraged to go to this web site to for information about how to apply for University housing: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=970>. Students should contact the Housing Assignments Office at 304-293-2811 if they have any questions.

COMMUTER DINING PLANS AVAILABLE FOR SPRING TERM

Looking for a holiday gift for your student? Give your commuting student one less thing to worry about by giving them a dining plan from WVU Dining Services. Benefits of most plans include:

- Access to our Staff Dietitian for advice and counsel
- Peace of mind: knowing you have set aside dollars specifically for food and snacks.
- All-you-care-to-eat entrees (including vegan/vegetarian), vegetables, fruit, salad, soup, dessert, hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza
- All-you-care-to-drink sodas, milk and juices
- Special Events featuring entrees such as Prime Rib and Grilled Salmon
- Free samples of new products featured in our mini-food shows
- Convenient locations on three campuses
- Healthy "U": an award winning program designed to make eating healthier both convenient and accessible
- Value-added (no charge) "Meals Plus Bonus Bucks" to spend at any Dining Services location

Prior to the beginning of the spring semester, dining plans from WVU Dining Services are available by calling 304-293-2096 ext 4 or by visiting us on the Web at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=971>.

Commuting students may choose from both residential and commuter dining plan options. Just click on the contract link, print, complete, sign and mail the order form. For more details on billing, costs, and other details of these plans, please visit the web link above.

MOUNTAINEER ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

After a successful first semester, the Office of Disability Services under the Presidents Office of Social Justice is pleased to announce the continuation of the Mountaineer Academic Program (MAP) to assist students with disabilities. Newly created this term, MAP provides supplemental academic services for students with disabilities. These services included academic tutoring and coaching. Academic tutoring is provided to students on a one-on-one basis and provides tutoring in both specific content areas and in basic study skills. Academic coaching provides students with one-on-one support with an academic coach to assist in acquiring academic and time management skills needed to be successful in the college environment. In order to best serve your student's needs the MAP program has varying options and levels of service.

MAP is currently accepting applications for both the spring 2009 and the fall 2009 semesters. Space in this program is limited and students are accepted on a first-come,

first-served basis. If you are interested in finding out about MAP services or how MAP services can help your student please feel free to contact us at 304-293-7752 daily between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

REMINDER: IMMUNIZATION FORMS REQUIRED

Remember if your son/daughter has not submitted proof of immunization to the Office of Admissions and Records, he/she needs to do so as soon as possible. The immunization form can be found online at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=972>.

NOTICES:

CREATIVE ARTS CENTER ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTTERY SALE

The faculty, staff and students of the West Virginia University Ceramics Department cordially invite you and your students to the Annual Holiday Pottery Sale. This year's sale will be held in the Douglas O. Blaney Lobby of the Creative Arts Center and will feature work from the WVU-Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute in China. The remaining dates and times follow:

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

If you have any questions about the sale you may contact Christopher Brown at 304-293-2140 Ext.3208

ONLY ONLINE WINTER 2008 MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

The Mountaineer Parents Club is happy to announce that the Winter 2008 newsletter can be found online! As part of the University-wide effort to "Go Green", this issue of the Mountaineer Parents Club Newsletter will be available on our website ONLY. Also, on our web site go to the Question of the Month and let us know what you think of the new format. Please go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=956> to read the newsletter.

ANOTHER GREEN INITIATIVE - MAGAZINE CONNECTS WITH WIND ENERGY

Eberly, the magazine showcasing the people and programs of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences has undergone a complete redesign. It is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved, recycled paper, using wind energy. It is the first fully FSC recycled publication at WVU. Parents interested in receiving the biannual publication can send their names and addresses to rebecca.herod@mail.wvu.edu. The magazine is available online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=973>. To learn more about the Forest Stewardship Council go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=974>.

TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES:

WRAPPING UP THE SEMESTER...ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

By: Regan Bruni - Assistant Dean of Retention and Research

As many of you know final exams are right around the corner. For many students the anticipation of grades will be the well-deserved reward for spending countless hours in the library, reviewing class notes on a nightly basis, or getting extra help from a tutor at the Academic Resource Center. For others it will be a reality check that study habits need to change or the realization of needing extra help. General information follows about the academic probation process if students feel this may be an impact. We know your students turn to you for support, so we would like to share with you this information as well as some of WVU's services and resources to help your students be even more academically successful:

Academic Resource Centers - These centers offer free, walk-in tutoring on many WVU subjects. The Academic Resource Centers will be open during Finals Week and we're adding more days at our location in the Downtown Library. For more information about locations and hours visit: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=975>.

Chemistry Learning Center - This Center offers free tutoring on general chemistry classes. This center is promoted during classes to all entry level Chemistry students. For more information visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=977>.

Math Learning Center - Students can drop in for free help in a variety of math classes. For more information visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=978>.

Term Paper Clinic - Need help with research papers? Check out this Clinic! For more information visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=979>.

Writing Center - The Writing Center focuses on helping students become better writers. For more information visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=980>.

Emotional Support - Carruth Center for Counseling and Psychological Services - Student can often feel overwhelmed or stressed when it comes to grades or other personal issues they may be encountering. The Carruth Center for Counseling offers individual counseling, group sessions, and classes to support your student. They also offer daily walk-in hours. See the help your student can receive at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=981>.

- Academic Probation

Students are placed on academic probation if their cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0. First-year students on academic probation will need to attend a workshop on Sunday, January 11th. During the workshop, students will learn more about WVU's support services and classes to help get them back on track as well as the D/F Repeat Policy, Academic Suspension guidelines, and Financial Aid policies. If this applies to your student, more details will be mailed during the semester break. We encourage students on academic probation to take EDP 101 or MDS 293 to help improve their study skills and repeat any courses in which a D or F was earned. For more information on WVU's D/F Repeat Policy visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=982>. The Office of Retention and

Research also offers a workshop series throughout the spring semester on topics such as time management, study skills, career planning, and test anxiety.

UNSUBSCRIBE OR UPDATE:

If you wish to no longer be a member of the Mountaineer Parents Club and not receive Parent Electronic Newsletter messages, please reply to this e-mail noting this wish and your membership will be canceled.

If your e-mail has changed and you wish this to be updated for Parent E-Newsletter distribution, please reply to this e-mail with the updated address that you would like used with your name and this will be completed.

Katie Utterback
Parent Advocate