September 23 officially marks the first day of Fall signaling one of the most beautiful times of the year in the Mountain State! We hope that many of you are planning to come and take in the wonder of West Virginia in autumn during Fall Family Weekend, October 2-4. There are many activities planned so check out the schedule below (which is being updated daily) and sign up for events where necessary!  
http://bit.ly/1NRMNnF

For those seniors looking forward to December Graduation (note the October 2 deadline to apply) details on these applications, the ceremony, lodging options, and attire follow. Details on May Graduation will be forthcoming in early spring and we’ll send those out to you as soon as they are finalized. Info on buses home for University breaks are also noted below and some are beginning to fill so be sure to log on to check out those details. There is a lot going on and under the Did You Know and Get Involved sections you’ll find some helpful tips, highlights, upcoming activities and resources you can share with your students, so read on! In this edition:

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**Fall Family Weekend is right around the corner!**

Fall Family Weekend is coming up October 2-4 and we are excited to welcome WVU families on campus! Plan to kick-off your weekend at the Mountaineer Family Welcome Reception on Friday evening in the Mountainlair. We have food, music, signature giveaways and lots of WVU units ready to welcome you. Saturday, you won’t want to miss "Pancakes, Parents and the President," so join us for breakfast with our favorite bow tie guy. Later that day, join us at “Fans & Franks - The Mountaineer Parents Club tailgate as part of Mountaineer Nation Day.” The game time has now been set for a noon kickoff and doors will open at 11 a.m. There will be lots of additional activities happening throughout the weekend so be sure to check out the complete schedule. Families can also enjoy WVUp All Night, the student recreation center and more! Don’t worry if you don’t make it into town on Friday night because you can check-in throughout the day on Saturday. On Sunday before you head out of town, be sure to have breakfast with your student in one of our dining halls across campus and meet with the residential education teams. Stay tuned to the Mountaineer Parents Club Facebook page and check out the Fall Family Weekend website for the details: [http://bit.ly/1C3wE6T](http://bit.ly/1C3wE6T). Safe travels and we look forward to seeing you on campus!

**Parents Club Buses Home for the Holidays – Reservations Now Open**

The Parents Club offers holiday buses home during the breaks when WVU residence halls close: Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks. Currently buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; and King of Prussia, PA. We are also planning a bus to Ohio and Indiana. *(PLEASE NOTE: We will need to have 30 riders for the Ohio/Indiana bus. If we do not have 30 riders by October 30, you will be notified via email that this route is no longer available. At this time, we need more reservations for this to be available.)* Also, no tickets are issued. Rather students names are added to the boarding list once a seat is purchased.

The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey and Central Maryland Mountaineer Parents Club Chapters are also offering buses to their areas. Online reservations for all buses can be made through the Parents Club website. For information on making reservations or to review the complete schedule and details, please go to [http://bit.ly/1vStQFj](http://bit.ly/1vStQFj). No phone reservations for the buses will be taken.
Please note: while we do our best to accommodate viable departure and safe arrival times for all students and parents, we realize that some students may have classes that meet after the scheduled departure time. All professors give students a syllabus at the beginning of the semester that details their attendance policy and how many days the student can miss. Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to discuss missing class with their professors. The holiday buses are provided as a service for those able to work within these time constraints.

**Mountain Line Buses offer Send Off Services for Breaks**

Parents: I have had a few questions recently regarding the extra Mountain Line Grey Line buses over breaks to accommodate extra traffic to and from the Pittsburgh Airport and Pittsburgh Greyhound Station. These are offered by Mountain Line for Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Breaks. They call these their WVU Send Off Service and info can be found here: [http://bit.ly/1FkaooK](http://bit.ly/1FkaooK).

**2015 December Commencement Details**

Students who are preparing to graduate in December will need to ensure that their Application to Graduate is processed by the deadline established by the Office of the University Registrar which is **Friday, October 2nd**. Students should also log on to their DegreeWorks account to review their progress and ensure that they have completed all requirements needed and/or meet with their advisor to confirm their progress: [http://bit.ly/1nXhJln](http://bit.ly/1nXhJln).

The December Commencement ceremony will be held Friday, December 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the WVU Coliseum. Students are required to register to participate in the graduation ceremony: [http://bit.ly/1V8Yqpf](http://bit.ly/1V8Yqpf). Tickets are not required for the December Commencement, and there are no restrictions on the number of guests a graduate may bring. The ceremony will last approximately two hours. For more details, including lodging options for December Commencement, please go to [http://bit.ly/1qEeNjg](http://bit.ly/1qEeNjg).

Official academic regalia is required to participate in the ceremony and students can either purchase this online through Herff Jones by November 6th to have it delivered to the WVU Bookstore (no fee and students can pick up December 2nd), by November 20th to have it shipped to their home address ($15.95 fee) [http://bit.ly/1LuzSpZ](http://bit.ly/1LuzSpZ), or stop into the WVU Bookstore starting November 9 to purchase their caps and gowns in person.

Parents of May graduates – May ceremonies will take place May 15-17, 2015. Details are still being finalized for the May ceremonies and will likely be published in early spring. We will alert you once these are finalized: [http://bit.ly/1AtnbGN](http://bit.ly/1AtnbGN).
DID YOU KNOW?

It’s not time to sign a lease yet!

Our Campus and Community Life’s Off-Campus Housing office has been getting some early calls this year! If your students are already thinking about moving off-campus next year, please encourage them to hold off until (at least) the beginning of the spring semester before signing a lease. They should wait until they have at least one semester's grades under their belts. The majority of leases for students in the Morgantown area involve joint and several liability, meaning that if a student does not come back to campus, the landlord will likely look to the remaining tenants to make up the remainder of rent due.

If your students express an interest in moving off-campus for Fall 2016, please encourage them to go to the Off-Campus Housing Fairs. These will be held on the Downtown campus on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Mountainlair Ballrooms, and a second housing fair will take place on the Evansdale campus, on Saturday, January 23, 2016, from noon to 3 PM in the Lyon Tower Blue and Gold Room. Students can make one stop to gain useful information, meet landlords, and collect information about possible rentals.

http://bit.ly/1xKgZYV

Flu Shot Mania - get your shot!

Flu shots are here and in advance of cold and flu season, WVU Student Health Services wants to remind and encourage all WVU students that they can simply drop-in to WVU Student Health to get their flu shot at their convenience during business hours: Monday — Friday, 8 am - 8 pm and Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Shots are given with no appointment necessary – students simply walk in: http://bit.ly/1Fspfmi!

Student Health is also sponsoring two other Flu Shot Mania events! Parents, one event is being held during Fall Family Weekend and is open to both students and their families. This is a great way to go check out our new Student Health facility and everyone can get their shots together! A final clinic will be held at the Mountainlair in November to coincide with Mountaineer Week festivities. Be sure to bring your insurance card and students will also need their WVU ID:

- Saturday, October 3rd – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm – Student Health Services, WVU Health and Education Building – Families and students welcome!
- Tuesday, November 3rd – 8:00 am – 2:00 pm – WVU Mountainlair, Vandalia Lounge

GRE/GMAT Prep Courses Available

Is your student considering graduate school? Graduate school is a great investment for your student’s future and we are pleased to offer GRE and GMAT prep courses to help students prepare! GMAT prep courses will run Monday and Wednesday evenings and the GRE prep
courses will run Tuesday and Thursday evenings. These non-credit courses will run for 6 weeks, beginning the week of September 28. Taught by experienced professionals and faculty members, the cost of each course is $200 and some scholarships are available. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/1L4jA8G. Space is limited so please encourage your student to sign-up soon!

Student Stories

Whether building a house with students from Italy as part of the 2015 Solar Decathlon http://bit.ly/1V8Zbia or making University history by earning both the prestigious Udall and Goldwater scholarships as Hannah Clipp did this year, our students are pretty amazing. As parents, many of you know this as these passions generally started when they were kids in your homes! Hannah’s fascination with wildlife stems back to a day at the National Zoo when she stopped long enough to admire ducks swimming in a fountain that her parents briefly lost sight of her. Along the journey of discovery and exploring these passions, you as parents are there to support and cheer on your students! Check out Hannah’s story and those of other student’s through our new website, Project ME: http://bit.ly/1JnMKrV. Is you student passionate about something? We'd love to feature them on this site. Complete the form on the Project ME website to let us know who you think we should feature!

GET INVOLVED

What’s happening this weekend?

The Office of Student Life has developed a new website that compiles a range of events going on each weekend in one location for easy reference for students. Encourage your students to check back every Thursday for the upcoming weekend events: http://bit.ly/1NK0vFI.

Student Tailgate Activities at the Student LOT – Sept 26

Again this weekend the Student LOT will welcome students prior to the WVU vs. Maryland football game on Saturday (September 26). The Student LOT is located at the new University Park Courtyard on the Evansdale campus, within easy walking distance of the stadium. Sponsored this week by the Student Rec Center, the LOT which is the official student pregame tailgating event, offers great fun, free food, music, giveaways and guest appearances. This is a great opportunity for your student to hang out with friends and meet other student fans in a safe, alcohol-free environment. The LOT will open at noon and festivities will wrap up by 2:30 p.m. for the 3:00 p.m. kickoff. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/VR5bUF.

Diversity Week – Sept 27-Oct3

Activities that celebrate the diversity of our campus and community will be featured during WVU Diversity Week, September 27-October 3. Students can check out the complete schedule here http://bit.ly/1rwAEJ5.
Good Neighbor Day offers Student Organization Fair and Volunteering

As part of Diversity Week, Good Neighbor Day will be sponsored by the Student Government Association on September 28. Good Neighbor Day will host a Student Organization Fair from 12-3pm at the Mountainlair where students can find groups to connect with here at WVU. Then, from 3:30-6:30pm students can join in to fan out across Morgantown for a Day of Service and giving back to our community. Students can sign up on iServe here: http://bit.ly/1K5csX5.

Night Serve - Every Friday at WVUp All Night starting at 8 p.m.

Each Friday night, students have the opportunity to meet in the Mountainlair at 8 p.m. to complete approximately three hours of service that include volunteering at nonprofit agencies or on site services projects, among other programs. This provides a unique time frame for students who want to volunteer but don't have time during the week: http://bit.ly/1Kz1tSw.

Group Counseling

The WELLWVU Carruth Center for Counseling offers students support through walk-in sessions and appointments, but also through group counseling sessions. The fall 2015 group session topics can be found here: http://bit.ly/1BG0GML.

The Rec Center – not just a place to work out!

For many of our students, sports and after school creative activities played a big role in their lives and daily routines as high school students. The Rec Center offers students many ways to connect here at WVU and fill that void from Club Sports to the Craft Center!

For those just interested in working out, students can receive help from our certified personal trainers to develop personalized fitness programs, learn new techniques or find ways to better utilize equipment and resources.

Registration for several Intramural Sport leagues is ongoing throughout the year. Individual and team sports are both available and if students don’t have a group of friends interested in forming a team, they can register as a “free agent” and meet a whole new group of folks with similar interests: http://bit.ly/1MoOTbq. Intramurals offers different leagues that allow students and faculty to compete at a high level, or join for recreational activity.

Our Club Sports teams provide a great opportunity for those who played competitive sports in High School to continue on into college as well as opportunities for those who've never played before. WVU boasts a Club Sports program ranked within the top three in the nation for number of clubs represented. Are ice hockey, rugby or lacrosse of interest? Want to strap on some skates for a roller derby match? Can you find the snitch in a Quiddich game? Check out one or more of nearly 60 club sports: http://bit.ly/1FspCor (the “Contacts” link on this page gives a full listing!)
Across the way at the **Craft Center**, students can throw clay on the wheels, craft a stain-glassed window, or try their hand at tie-dye and jewelry making. It’s a great creative outlet and stress reliever for many students whether they have extensive, past experience or none at all: [http://bit.ly/1j7Llkj](http://bit.ly/1j7Llkj).

**Jobs** at the Rec Center are among those sought after by many people. Students wishing to become a member of our team, particularly those who want to find out about careers in Campus Recreation, are encouraged to submit a resume and cover letter describing their interest. Jobs open up throughout the year and opportunities may be available.

*Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman*

Office of Parent Relations