It was great to see so many of you during Fall Family Weekend! Don’t forget to send us pictures from the weekend and please also take a moment to give us your feedback via a brief survey below so we can continue to improve for next year. In honor of our wonderful WVU Parents, President Gee’s newest Gee-Mail video is aimed at you: http://bit.ly/1ZdH4wb. Perhaps these topics can help guide some discussions during Fall Break this weekend!

This Friday, October 9th, midterms grades will be coming out for students who may be struggling at the midsemester mark. Remember, at midsemester only Ds or Fs are reported, so no news is good news. A host of information and support resources on this topic can be found below so if your student needs assistance, please see the Parents and Midterms and Tips from the Trenches articles below. This is also a great time to remind students to revisit those goals for the fall term of Dean’s and President’s Lists: http://bit.ly/1FTPCI. Something to aim for is never a bad idea!

If your students are headed home for Fall Break this weekend (remember no classes Monday and Tuesday but residence halls and dining halls will remain open), you might also want to check in with them about transportation home for Thanksgiving Break, as our holiday buses are filling quickly. As a reminder we will need at least 30 riders signed up by October 30th to offer the Ohio/Indiana bus, so see below. We have so many more exciting things happening on campus so be sure to read on! In this edition:

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Fall Family Weekend – we want your feedback!

Parents – Please take a minute to fill out this survey to share your thoughts about Fall Family Weekend: [http://bit.ly/1ZdHh2s](http://bit.ly/1ZdHh2s)

Thanksgiving Break Bus Transportation Available

The Parents Club offers 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/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.)*

The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey, Long Island 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. Also, no tickets are issued, rather students names are added to the boarding list once a seat is purchased.

*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.

Bookstore Sale – Oct 7 and 8

This evening and tomorrow only – October 7 and 8 – the WVU Bookstore has announced a 25% OFF Hoodies and Pants sale through their WVU Bookstore website: [http://bit.ly/1OZ6dHB](http://bit.ly/1OZ6dHB). For more on upcoming sales and promotions, follow the WVU Bookstore on Twitter and Instagram - [@WVUBookstore](http://bit.ly/1OZ6dHB).
What’s happening this weekend – Oct 9-10

In addition to Homecoming activities, new planetarium shows are available and men’s soccer is at home this weekend! Curious what else is going on on-campus this weekend? Check out the student life listing here: http://bit.ly/1NKOvFI.

Tent City among Homecoming Highlights – Oct 5-10

This weekend we will welcome a host of alumni back to campus to celebrate WVU Homecoming. On campus this week hundreds of students have moved back into Tent City on the Mountainlair Plaza starting a new tradition for Homecoming Week: http://bit.ly/1Nomyp7. Students have been camping out since 8 a.m. Monday (Oct. 5) and will remain on the green until noon on Friday (Oct. 9) in anticipation of the 2015 Homecoming parade and football weekend. In Tent City you can find campaigning by the Homecoming Court as voting is now underway for the 2015 Homecoming King and Queen: http://bit.ly/1OZ6wlH. Activities will formally kick off Friday evening with the annual Homecoming Parade on High Street. On Saturday students are encouraged to stop by the Student Lot prior to the WVU-Oklahoma State game to enjoy free food and entertainment beginning at 4pm: http://bit.ly/VR5bUF. If you will be heading to town for the game, details for this and all games days can be found here: http://bit.ly/1N0CDyc.

Reminder: Fall Break is this Monday and Tuesday – Oct 12-13

Fall Break will take place October 12-13th. This is an opportunity for students to refuel, decompress, and get back on track. During this break, there will be no classes, but residence and dining halls WILL REMAIN OPEN and students are welcome to stay on campus. With no classes in session, there will be some services and resources such as the Rec Center, Mountainlair, PRT and buses, and libraries that will run with altered/varied hours while some services will be closed during this time as well. We encourage students to check relevant websites for amended schedules/hours of operation for various services across campus.

Again, students are encouraged to use this time to catch up - perhaps on class work, perhaps on laundry! Maybe this is a chance to try something new - head down to the Rail Trail for a walk with friends, check out a new restaurant they’ve been wanting to try, or take the bus to shopping centers or movie theaters and relax with friends. This is also a great time to reassess where they are academically by logging on to DegreeWorks http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO to plan out spring classes in advance of their advising appointment, explore study abroad or exchange opportunities, or get paperwork in place for their upcoming grad school applications! Fall break provides a wealth of opportunities.
Student Financial Wellness Updates

This fall WVU launched a personal financial education program with its incoming freshman and select transfer students. Students were asked to complete an online education program called "Transit" as part of their First Year Seminar course. Part 2 of the Transit course opened October 1st and students are expected to provide proof of completion of the full course to their First Year Seminar instructor by December 1st: [http://bit.ly/1EbgpXS](http://bit.ly/1EbgpXS).

As part of financial program, students also have the opportunity to participate in a workshop on *Managing Debt* that can fulfill an “Out of Classroom Experience” for their First Year Seminar. This workshop will be offered on October 20 in the CPASS Building, Room 115 and again on December 3 in the Mountainlair, Gluck Theatre with both beginning at 5 p.m.

Also, as part of the national *Get Smart About Credit Day* on October 15th, representatives from PNC Bank and WVU's Personal Financial Education Program will be on hand in the Mountainlair from 10-2 with information and giveaways. Encourage your student stop by the booth!

Campus Safety Training Opportunities

With the recent campus shooting tragedy in Oregon, the University Police Department reached out to remind our students of training resources that are available including two courses – Flash Point and Shots Fired. When taking the on-line training, students are encouraged you to take Flash Point first and then Shots Fired. To take the courses, students can simply follow the instructions from the UPD website: [http://bit.ly/1vPyHYz](http://bit.ly/1vPyHYz). Two other valuable website links are: Emergency Management (Flip Chart) [http://bit.ly/1ZdJ6N5](http://bit.ly/1ZdJ6N5) and Threat Assessment [http://bit.ly/1R0bGeJ](http://bit.ly/1R0bGeJ) that provides a violence reduction manual and how to report a threat. On-site training can also be provided by Sergeant Phil Lemon of the UPD Training Unit by calling UPD at 304-293-2677. While there appears to be no real way to prevent these incidents, we believe to reduce the chances of these incidents occurring, it takes everyone in the community acting together and we know that with training and knowledge that we can all work together to keep our campus and community safe.

State of the University

In his second State of the University address since returning to Morgantown in 2014, WVU President Gordon Gee outlined a bold vision for the Mountaineer community. “The problems facing our state and world are too big for any one person, department, institution or sector to solve alone,” Gee said Monday (Oct. 5) to the Faculty Assembly before its regular monthly meeting. “Boundaries within the University must not be boundaries on our ingenuity.” Gee’s call for outreach comes on the heels of a summer fire that ravaged part of historic Harpers Ferry’s downtown business district. Shortly after the fire, Gee telephoned Harpers Ferry Mayor Greg Vaughn to offer the University’s time and resources to help rebuild the town.

To read more, go to [http://bit.ly/1OmQTod](http://bit.ly/1OmQTod).
Fifty Years of Arts and Humanities

Fifty years ago in the White House Rose Garden 200 guests stood shoulder to shoulder to witness President Lyndon B. Johnson’s signing of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act into law. Last week, the University commemorated that historic day with celebrations, recognizing the important work of the arts and humanities on the University campus and beyond. These events kicked off the University’s yearlong celebration of the creation of the National Endowment of the Arts and the National Endowment of the Humanities: http://bit.ly/1L7kxaQ.

Parents and Midterms

The calls and e-mails have been revving up with parents asking how they can check on their student's grades or help their student get back on track. While in high school many parents had daily electronic access to grades and student progress, this is not the case in a college setting. The best way to know your student's progress is to check with him or her directly. Remember, they have been given a syllabus that breaks down the grading structure for each class. These also often include study resources or assistance for the class, so encourage them to reach out. If they have been recording grades for tests, quizzes, attendance, and assignments, they should have a pretty good grasp on where they stand. Midterm grades should typically not come as a surprise.

The Grades: Midterms will officially become available to students in the University's STAR system on October 9. Please note that only Ds and Fs will be reflected, so no news is good news! For progress in all classes, students may check with their instructors (typically during office hours is the best) or use their syllabus to tally and track their progress for each class. Midterm grade reports are simply a courtesy to allow students who may be in jeopardy to know their status in order to make appropriate adjustments. The last day to drop individual classes is October 23, but students should always inquire with an advisor before doing so because it could impact their academic progress. There are many resources students can reach out to for assistance, as noted in the Tips from the Trenches article below.

Parent/Guest Portal: If your student has granted you access to their midterm grade information through the Parent/Guest Portal, you may log on to view midterm grades after October 9. If your student granted you access but you have not yet logged on, they will likely need to reset your access, as the link is only good for five days. Detailed instructions for both you and your student can be found here: http://bit.ly/1l9XiAm.

Options: If your students end up with a midterm grade or two, it is not the end of the world, but it is time to tune back in. What they have been doing so far is apparently not working. Learning to study for college courses can be a very different structure than what they have experienced in the past. Students can certainly turn around their grades with a concerted effort so it is not too late – that is why we give midterms at the eight-week mark. Be encouraging. Often students feel like they have messed up so badly there are no options and they will just fail. There are always options! Talk with them about what they are doing. Suggest a different approach. Tell them to take that leap of faith and go to an instructor’s office hours or a tutoring session – it could make
all the difference. Truly, I have seen a student go from multiple midterms to pulling out a 3.0+ GPA. It is possible if the commitment is there. Be sure to check out the tips below and if you have further questions, we are here to help. Just call or e-mail us at the Parent Helpline at 1-800-988-0096 or parenthelpline@mail.wvu.edu.

Tips from the Trenches – Midterms and Support Services

On October 9, faculty will post midsemester D and F grades in STAR. If your student is earning a D or F grade in any of his or her courses, that information will be available via the Parent/Guest Portal. For information about accessing the Parent/Guest Portal, please visit: http://bit.ly/1l9XiAm. If your student has a midsemester D or F grade, please encourage him or her to use the resources listed below. We also hope you talk with your student about all of his or her courses. Faculty are only required to post grades of a D or F, but some may choose to post other grades. It is terrific to hear how well your student is doing in a particular class. As we approach the midpoint of the fall semester, we want to remind you about the many academic and other support services WVU provides. Listed below are free resources that can be beneficial to your student. Please encourage your student to use these resources!

- **Instructors** – If your student is struggling in a course or just has questions about the course material, encourage them to meet with the instructor. All instructors hold office hours so students can meet with them, share their concerns about the course material, and get their questions answered. Office hours and locations should be listed on your student’s course syllabi.

- **Tutoring** – Outside of class, academic support is available for many courses and subjects including biology, chemistry, mathematics, statistics, etc. For more information about free tutoring, please visit: http://bit.ly/1N0CVFf.

- **Departmental Learning Centers** – Many departments have learning centers where students can access free tutoring and other subject-specific academic support. These Departmental Learning Centers include:
  - SpeakWrite: http://bit.ly/1t5p2z9
  - testWELL Tutoring http://bit.ly/1GwQo2P

- **Student Success Coaching** – Your student can meet with one of our success coaches on an individual basis. Coaches can help with time management, note-taking and study skills – as well as provide information about other campus resources. To set up an appointment, students should call 304-293-5804. Additional information can be found at: http://bit.ly/1uDzhrR.

- **SORTS (Students on the Road to Success) Seminars** – These workshops offer tips on academic success in a group setting. Topics include classroom success, time management, discovering one’s learning style, and reading comprehension. Presentations
are interactive, and students receive giveaways that aid in student success. For a list of future seminars, please visit: http://bit.ly/1rAODPx.

- **Resident Faculty Leaders** – Resident Faculty Leaders live in or adjacent to your on-campus student’s residence hall. Please encourage your student to participate in programs the Resident Faculty Leader facilitates. Examples include dinner at the RFL’s home with faculty members and key staff contacts; ice cream socials; and other get-togethers that promote academic success and social engagement in our on-campus living learning communities: http://bit.ly/1L7lrnL.

- **Residence Hall Coordinators and Resident Assistants (RAs)** – Your on-campus student can also reach out to his or her Residence Hall Coordinator or RA. These Residential Education staff members are often your student’s most immediately available sources of information, and facilitate fun, informative, and engaging floor and residence hall programs and activities:.

- **Student Life** – Numerous support programs are available to help students achieve success throughout their time at WVU. Initiatives include special programming for off-campus, commuter students as well as services provided by the Student Advocacy Center. For more information, please see: http://bit.ly/1sh685W.

- **WELLWVU** – Student Health, the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services, and Wellness and Health Promotion strive to meet all of your student’s health and wellness needs. Online assessment tools are available to help your student with issues relating to healthy lifestyles, including physical fitness and nutrition, stress, anxiety and depression, and alcohol and drugs. Encourage your student to visit: http://bit.ly/1prNoiE.

- **Advisors** – Your student’s advisor can connect your student to important services on campus and help create a spring 2016 schedule that meets your student’s needs. Registration for spring 2016 is right around the corner, and students cannot register for classes without meeting with an advisor. Please encourage your student to meet with his or her advisor SOON! To learn when your student will be registering, please visit: http://bit.ly/1tFoLjE.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations