Parents - even if you were unable to join us for Fall Family Weekend this year, please take a minute to fill out this survey to share your thoughts about the weekend. It is important for us to hear from you as we plan for future events: http://bit.ly/1ZdHh2s. The survey will be closing soon!

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Autumn is in full glory with colorful leaves now covering the ground while others still linger in the trees above. But leaves aren’t the only things falling from the sky. As part of our autumn traditions, today the Statler College of Engineering hosted the annual Pumpkin Drop competition with a record number of pumpkins being dropped more than 100 feet from atop Engineering Sciences! This yearly event makes teaching and learning hands-on (and fun) as over 350 teams test whether the apparatus they built to protect their pumpkins actually works: http://bit.ly/1LLHaBZ. For parents with STEM majors, check out the section below on a new WVUteach program for students who may be interested in both their discipline as well as teaching.

This Parent E-News is full of important information and upcoming deadlines including details on holiday buses, a reminder on the parent discount for the Texas Tech football game, spring class scheduling (gets underway next week – make sure your student doesn’t have any holds on their account!), flu shots, 2016-17 housing options and tips to consider and pitfalls to avoid, and much more. Read on and feel free to share pertinent items with your student. I hope you are all enjoying the gorgeous fall weather we are having here in Morgantown! In this edition:

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PARENTS CLUB NEWS

Parents Club Thanksgiving Buses

There are still a few spots available for the Parents Club Thanksgiving Break buses. We currently travel to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; and King of Prussia, PA. For these locations, November 5, 2015, is the last day to cancel a reservation and still receive a refund.

Regarding the Ohio/Indiana Bus, we need to have 30 riders and we are currently at 11 reservations. This is the last request for interested folks to make reservations. If you know students or parents who would like to reserve spots on this bus, please encourage them to reserve by October 30. This bus is scheduled to make stops in Cambridge, Columbus, and New Paris, OH, and Indianapolis, IN. While this might not be door-to-door service it could cut part of your drive to pick up/drop off your student for break if you are from the Midwest. If we do not have 30 riders by October 30, those registered will be notified via email that this route will not be available.

The Northern Virginia*, Southern New Jersey, Long Island and Central Maryland local 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. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Also, no tickets are issued; student names are added to the boarding list once a seat is purchased. (*The Northern Virginia Club is hoping for an additional 10 riders to secure a second bus. If you are interested, please make your reservation soon.)

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 outlines their attendance policy. 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.

Parents Club Football Ticket Discount and Men’s Basketball Game Option

As a reminder, the Mountaineer Parents Club and the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics have teamed up to make available to Mountaineer Parents Club members a special ticket offer for WVU’s Big 12 Conference matchup vs Texas Tech on Saturday, November 7. By clicking on the link below and entering the promo code WVUPARENTS, Parents Club members will receive a $15 discount off of tickets and be able to get Texas Tech tickets for just $45 each, while supplies last. To order: http://bit.ly/1opr2Qx.
Also, the night prior to the WVU vs Texas Tech Football game, WVU Men’s Basketball will be opening their season with an exhibition game against Glenville State at 7 p.m. in the Coliseum on Friday, November 6. Tickets are $10 each and can be purchased at http://bit.ly/1IRSDmx or by calling the Mountaineer Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU GAME. Come get an early look at Coach Huggins’ 2015-16 team!

HOUSING CONVERSATIONS

Leasing Details

While leasing season in Morgantown begins during the fall semester, staff members from Student Legal Services and the Off-Campus Housing Office would like to remind students and parents of the risks of signing a lease many months prior to moving into an apartment. Leases are legally binding contracts, and after signing a lease – no matter what happens to your status as a student – students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period. While many landlords and property managers will tell students that they must sign early, in reality there is a healthy supply of housing. Students should not sign leases unless they are certain they are returning to WVU next year. Furthermore, since so many leases in the Morgantown area are joint leases, a potential pitfall is signing a lease with a student who will not return for next year. Students should also be sure to read the fine print and consider their personal situation in regards to the lease such as, what is the last day on the lease regarding graduation for those graduating in May or is there an option for early termination for those graduating in December? It’s a great idea for students to have a lease review performed by Student Legal Services prior to signing a lease. Services are free for students, and it is important for them to understand the legal document they are about to sign. Call 304-293-4897 for an appointment (http://bit.ly/1DUWwCr).

There also will be two Off-Campus Housing Fairs. Please encourage your students to attend to educate themselves about the process and explore all housing options:

- Downtown Housing Fair: Wednesday, November 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mountainlair Blue and Gold Ballrooms
- Evansdale Housing Fair: Saturday, January 23, noon to 3 p.m., ERC Blue and Gold Rooms

University Apartments

As your students begin exploring living options for next academic year, University Apartments offers four properties managed and operated by WVU. These properties offer a secure and comfortable living environment with the freedom of 24-hour access all-year long. At University Apartments, there are no resident assistants. Instead, our community assistants are available to the residents when needed, help create a learning environment, and host events for the students.

Our lease signing period opened on October 1. There are staff members on-site to provide tours of our model units and answer any leasing questions or concerns. Leases are 12 months in duration, with Vandalia and University Place offering limited short-term leasing. All properties currently have availability for January move-ins. For more information, visit our website at http://bit.ly/1DUWA5f or contact us at 304-293-5840. We will also be available at the WVU Housing Fairs scheduled for November 18, 2015, and January 23, 2016. In conjunction with the WVU Offices of Off-Campus Housing and Student Legal Services, we remind students and parents that all leases are legally binding contracts and after signing a lease – no matter what happens – students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period.
Returning Student Residence Hall Housing

A limited number of upperclassmen spaces are held for returning students. If interested, students can apply and pay their deposit online now and choose their room in the January selection process: http://bit.ly/1xW0Z4v.

Partial-Year Housing Options

As students begin looking ahead for housing for the 2016-17 school year, remind them to look at all the details and consider their circumstances. If your student is graduating or leaving the area for study abroad, co-ops, internships, student teaching, National Student Exchange or other similar programs next year, residence hall housing options could make sense because of their flexibility. Students in these circumstances may be released from a WVU Residence Hall Room and Meal Plan contract for that period, with proper documentation. Students living in University Apartments, privately owned apartments, or privately owned houses should check their leases for early termination information, penalties or release/sublet options prior to signing. Check lease end-dates for graduates against pertinent graduation dates. Leases are legally binding contracts, and students should be sure to note these details. Students who have questions about leases or would like someone to review their leases are encouraged to visit WVU Student Legal Services in E. Moore Hall. An attorney is available, free of charge, to review legal documents.

SPRING REGISTRATION

Advising, Holds and Spring Scheduling

With spring registration dates quickly approaching next week, this is a good time to touch base with your students to make sure they have scheduled or hopefully already had their advising appointment. During this time they will meet with their academic adviser to plan spring classes. Students must complete this meeting before their advising hold will be removed so they will be able to register for spring classes on their STAR Registration Priority Date listed below.

Classifications are based on total hours earned and hours currently in progress for the fall 2015 term. Students should check their individual classification and be prepared to register at the appropriate time. Students also should check their student account to ensure they do not have any other holds that might prevent them from registering for classes on time. NOTE: If a balance is due on their account, they cannot register until this is paid in full. Students will be able to log on to register beginning at 8 a.m. each day. Registration access dates follow:

- **October 27**: Professional, Graduate, Honors-SR, and Exceptions, Law-L3
- **October 28**: Honors-JR, Law-L2
- **October 29**: Honors-SO, Law-L1
- **October 30**: Honors-FR
- **November 2**: Seniors (89+ hours)
- **November 4**: Juniors (59 – 88 hours)
- **November 6**: Sophomores (29 – 58 hours)
- **November 9**: Freshmen (0 – 28 hours)

Classifications are based on hours earned and hours in progress for the fall 2015 term.

*Exception groups will be notified by their department.*
New Schedule Builder Tool Available

For spring class scheduling, students will be using a new tool called Schedule Builder to create customized class schedules faster and easier, with less guesswork and risk of making a mistake. The tool also improves their chances of getting a full schedule and graduating on time. Schedule Builder lets students pick the classes they want to take in the coming semester and enter “breaks” when other obligations prevent them from taking classes. Schedule Builder automatically generates every possible combination of classes and shows schedules in a grid view with times, locations and instructors. http://bit.ly/1OWROKO.

HEALTH UPDATES

Wait Time App Available for Student Health

WVU Urgent Care recently released a wait time app for iPhone and Androids. The WVU Urgent Care mobile app shows wait times for both the Student Health/Evansdale Urgent Care and the Suncrest Towne Centre locations. To download the app, students can visit the iPhone App Store or the Android Google Play Store: http://bit.ly/1GZNzrh.

Flu Updates from the State

Last year, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission announced a partnership in education efforts to fight the flu in our state’s colleges and universities. They released a “Dear Student” letter; we would appreciate you sharing this info with your student. Other details about the flu from WVU Student Health can be found here: http://bit.ly/1LrY8ax

They are asking every student to take a pledge of good hygiene to prevent the spread of flu. Even healthy people can get the flu, and it can be serious. As a college student, your students are even more likely to catch the flu! College students live in close quarters with their roommates, share bathrooms and participate in social activities that make them more prone to catching the flu. Please note the following preventive measures:

- Get a flu shot now (see below). It takes about two weeks after vaccination for protection to set in. A flu vaccine is your best defense against getting the flu. The flu shot was updated this season and should offer better protection.

- Wash your hands frequently, cover your cough, and sneeze into your sleeve if you do not have a tissue.

- Wipe down frequently touched surfaces with a disinfectant.

- STAY HOME when you are sick. Note: students should refer to their syllabus for absence policies and communicate with faculty in advance of absences, when possible.

Student Flu Clinic – November 3 in Mountainlair

Help fight the flu! If your student has not yet gotten their flu shot, WVU Student Health will be coming to the Mountainlair for a mobile Flu Clinic on November 3 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. This will be a drop-in clinic – no appointment necessary – set up in the Vandalia Lounge on the first floor of the Mountainlair. Students should bring their student ID and insurance cards if they will be billing insurance. A cash option is also available for $30. Those who cannot make the mobile clinic can go to Student Health in the Health Education Building during their other Saturday Flu Shot Clinics to obtain a flu shot, while supplies last http://bit.ly/2041jgo.
What’s Happening this Weekend?

Curious what is happening this weekend? Encourage your students to check out the upcoming weekend events: http://bit.ly/1NKOvF1.

WVUteach is Recruiting STEM Majors Who Want to Make a Difference

WVUteach invites STEM students to take teaching for a test drive! We are now recruiting students in chemistry, physics, mathematics, biology, engineering, pre-med and other STEM majors who are interested in teaching math or science. Through WVUteach, STEM majors at least five semesters away from graduation can graduate in four years with a bachelor’s degree and a teaching certificate. WVUteach degree plans are rigorous enough for graduate or medical school and do not take longer to complete. Want to learn more? Contact us at WVUteach@mail.wvu.edu, call 304-293-5030 or visit http://bit.ly/1GwpVHO.

Help Us Cut through Red Tape

This fall we have launched a website called Bureaucracy Busters. We know that parents bring a different perspective and often see systems/portals/programs through a different eye. We would like to get your helpful feedback. While we are regulated by some processes, guidelines and laws, there are areas where we might be able to streamline our efforts or cut through red tape. We welcome parents to submit suggestions and ideas for our Bureaucracy Busters committee to review. We also ask that you remind your students that they would love to hear from them as well: http://bit.ly/1LrYDl7.

Transportation and PRT Tips

For transportation news and status updates at WVU, you and your student can follow WVUDOT on Facebook or Twitter @WVUDOT. Each day, real-time PRT status updates, busing changes, road closures and other valuable information are posted here. If your student is not following these pages or Tweets, encourage them to do so for the most up-to-date info! This and other helpful information can be found at: http://bit.ly/1BG2ntD.

The Mountain Line Buses (students can ride for free with their student ID) offer a free mobile app that highlights real-time bus tracking. This can be downloaded for Apple or Android phones by searching “Mountain Line Transit” in their app store.

Finally, please note that the PRT will be closing on the following Saturdays for system upgrades as part of the ongoing PRT modernization: October 31, November 21, December 5 and 12. WVU Bus service will be available while the PRT is not in service, in addition to the daily Mountain Line buses. http://bit.ly/1LrYMou.

Campus Safety – Live Safe App

At this time of year as the nights get longer, we encourage you to remind your students to download and use the LiveSafe safety app. Call or text them now: "download the LiveSafe app," and you can walk them home from class this evening. The SafeWalk feature of this app allows students to have a friend or family member virtually “walk” with them. If they have late classes or study sessions, this is a great way to “buddy-up.”

http://bit.ly/1XoTTBX.

Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations