

West Virginia University
Parent Advocate Office
January 8, 2009

Happy New Year everyone! After ushering in the New Year, we are now busy preparing for the spring term. Remind your students that this is a chance to start anew as they head back to campus this weekend. Check out the "Tips from the Trenches" article at the end of this edition for a list of resolutions that students may wish to consider. Pertinent information about the start of the spring term related to weather advisories, housing move-in, and dining schedules follows. Once back on campus activities will get off to a quick start. The Off-Campus Housing Fair will be held next Wednesday so read on for more on this and other activities. A few important deadlines are also nearing so be sure to scan the articles below and note these important dates.

Also, I am happy to announce a new edition to the Parent E-Newsletters. These standing segments will be found under the heading "Live from Stewart Hall" in future editions and will each include a brief video message from President Peter Magrath. These messages serve as a great chance to get to know our interim President as he addresses timely topics of relevance to WVU parents, students and other constituencies. His first message, recorded at the end of the fall term can be viewed now by going to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=987>. We hope you enjoy these segments! So as I now sign off from the Office of the President in Stewart Hall, here's to a safe, successful, and prosperous New Year! In this edition:

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WEATHER ADVISORY - STUDENTS URGED TO USE GOOD JUDGMENT

Students, faculty, and staff were e-mailed on December 4, 2008, to alert them to procedures concerning possible inclement weather as we all prepare to face winter's wrath. Students should note that it is quite a rare occasion when a university will close entirely. If a closing or delays do occur at WVU, a "Weather Alert" will be sent to those who have subscribed to this alert type through the WVU Text Alert System. If they have not yet done so, students may still sign up at:

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=988>. Notifications will also be posted on MIX and broadcast through local media venues.

It is important to remind your students that they should treat classes as they would a job. If they feel it is unsafe, they should be proactive and try to contact the instructor to let them know why they will be missing or running late. Also remind your students to plan ahead. If inclement weather is in the forecast, they should get started earlier.

On wintry days, it is likely there will be delays, so students should plan to leave early to allow extra time to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances.

The beginning of the semester is also a good time to remind students that there are absences built in to nearly every syllabus. However, they should remember that these absences are there as a courtesy and should be used sparingly. We encourage students to be safe as they are out and about; safety should come first. Just as in any other situation, if they feel unsafe, they should use their best judgment and follow up as needed concerning the circumstances.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING REOPENS FOR SPRING TERM THIS WEEKEND - January 10, 2009

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. We're looking forward to the return of your students to campus!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES:

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING FAIR TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK - January 14, 2009

The Office of Student Life, along with Student Legal Services and Student Government Association, is pleased to present the 2009 Off-Campus Housing Fair, which will take place on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. In attendance will be more than 40 area landlords and property managers; representatives from Mountain Line Transit; the Morgantown Fire Department; the City of Morgantown Code Enforcement Office; WVU Student Legal Services; and the WVU Off-Campus Housing Office. The fair provides students and

parents with a one-stop shopping opportunity to begin seeking off-campus housing, along with giving students the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns. Additionally, landlords are not permitted to sign leases during the fair, creating a relaxed environment. Last year, more than 1,100 students took part in the Off-Campus Housing Fair, and we hope to have even more students this year. Students may register for door prizes during the fair, which will be given out at 15-minute intervals. Please direct questions to Brian Walker at Brian.Walker@mail.wvu.edu.

BODY FOR BREAK 2009 KICKOFF APPROACHING - January 14, 2009

In a race to the finish line, students can join their classmates in a competition to slim down and get healthier. The third annual Body for Break contest and exercise program, which encourages students to compete for better health is offered through the West Virginia University Student Recreation Center. Kickoff for the contest will be held on Wednesday, January 14, with a formal event planned from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the center on the Evansdale Campus. Students are encouraged to register for the program online beginning Monday, January 12 at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=989>. All participants must be full-time WVU students registered for a minimum of 12 undergraduate credit hours or nine graduate credit hours. A \$10 registration fee is due at the time of registration. Through the program, students will be provided with personal training, nutritional consultations, group support sessions, weekly articles, and prizes. For more details, students should visit the website or may contact Colleen Harshbarger at 304-293-5054 or e-mail colleen.harshbarger@mail.wvu.edu.

WESTERN EUROPE STUDY TRIP - Deadline January 16, 2009

Is your student looking for an international experience to add to his or her resume for summer '09? If so, the Western Europe Study Trip will visit Belgium, The Netherlands, and France from May 18-May 31, 2009. The trip will explore a number of cities and sights with an emphasis on environmental concerns and public gardens and parks. Students interested in going on this study trip have to take ORIN 175 during the spring semester to prepare them for the study abroad experience. ORIN 175 is a three-credit course that fulfills objective eight of the General Education Curriculum (GEC). ORIN 175 should easily fit in the academic schedule of most students as it is offered on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The trip itself will earn students another three credit hours in AFCS 493 or LARC 493 (assigned topics).

The trip will be guided by Dr. Sven Verlinden, a Belgian native, and associate professor in the Division of Plant and Soil Sciences. The study trip costs \$2,900 and includes airfare, all transportation, lodging (with breakfast), credit hours for the summer semester, insurance, entrance fees, and several dinners. The application for the trip is due shortly on Friday, January 16. If your student is interested, he or she should contact Dr. Verlinden at Sven.Verlinden@mail.wvu.edu or 304 293-6023.

**2009-2010 ON-CAMPUS HOUSING PRIORITY DATE NEARING –
Deadline January 20, 2009**

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

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=990>.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT FAIR - January 21,
2009**

Is your student interested in getting some On-Campus Leadership experience and getting paid? The Office of Student Employment encourages them to check out the first annual Student Leadership On-Campus Employment Fair on January 21 from 11:00-2:00 in the Vandalia Lounge of the Mountainlair. Representatives will be on hand from a variety of student leadership oriented positions to help students learn more about on-campus jobs that provide a leadership component, salaries, and other great perks ranging from free housing and board to a \$1,000 educational voucher to be used toward tuition. Students can learn about positions as resident assistants, Visitor Resource Center tour leaders, Energy Express summer mentors, Learning Center tutors, Arts and Entertainment interns, tutor positions, Mountainlair supervisors, 4-H Extension Camp instructors, and more. Encourage your student to stop by to begin to build his or her resume!

**STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OFFER EXPERIENCE AND
EARNING POTENTIAL**

In an effort to continue to educate and assist students in their quests for employment, the Office of Student Employment announces an exciting early spring lineup of events. Below is a list of initial activities, workshops and fairs. In addition, students and parents are encouraged to sign up on the Web at

<http://simpleforms.scripts.wvu.edu/sf/studentjobssignup/> to get the most up-to-date information regarding hot jobs on campus. For more information, please check out the Office of Student Employment website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=991> or contact the office by calling 304-293-9270 or e-mailing studentjobs@mail.wvu.edu.

Employment Workshops:

January 22 - "Tips on Finding a Part-Time Job"

January 29 - "How to Get a Graduate Assistantship"

Employment Fairs and Opportunities:

February 6 - Students with disabilities are encouraged to sign up for an appointment to meet with a representative from the Federal Workforce Recruitment Program through the U.S. Department of Labor.

February 16-17 - Students are invited to participate in the Summer Jobs Expo being held on-campus.

FIGHT LIKE A GIRL SELF-DEFENSE CLASS OPPORTUNITY

“Fight Like a Girl” is a three-hour self-defense class for women designed to teach them practical skills to prevent sexual assault. Given that a woman is attacked every two minutes in the United States, these are good skills to know. WVU would like to offer this course on a regular basis at the Student Recreation Center. We are encouraging parents to encourage their daughters to get this training. Their lives and safety could depend on it. For information on this specific class, check out the website, <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=992>. Classes at the Student Recreation Center will be scheduled based on student interest and availability. The fee is \$40. For information contact Colleen Harshbarger at 304-293-5054 or colleen.harshbarger@mail.wvu.edu.

SAVE THE DATE:

MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB WINTER WEEKEND - February 27-28, 2009

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to visit your WVU student. The Mountaineer Parents Club has planned special events for you, your student, and the entire family. Enjoy faculty and staff lectures, state-of-the-art facilities like the Student Rec Center, and enjoy a great pre-game pizza party and pep rally before the women's basketball game. In addition, local hotels are offering discounted room rates. For more information, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=993>.

TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES:

RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR STUDENT TO RING IN A SUCCESSFUL 2009

As parents you want to help your students be successful. Back by popular demand, here is a quick list of tips to pass along as students prepare to start out this semester!

1. Read ahead for classes. This can really help make lectures much more interesting and relevant.
2. Visit professors during office hours. Establishing a relationship from the beginning of the term can be invaluable.
3. Form study groups. Often classmates can help to decipher information that you may not understand.
4. Don't wait until you get behind to ask for assistance. If you anticipate that you will have issues in a class, head to the learning centers now.
5. Take care of yourself. Make it a priority to get enough sleep, eat healthy, and work out.
6. Work on time management. By planning ahead and budgeting time for all aspects of a well-balanced life, a lot of stress and anxiety can be avoided.
7. Be prepared. Look ahead so you know what needs to be accomplished ahead of time. Outline your 2009 planner with tests, quizzes, and other important dates and review it frequently.
8. Get involved in University and community life. Engage in activities that interest you. This is a great opportunity to give back and meet others with similar interests.

9. Broaden your horizons. Take advantage of all the opportunities available to you as a University student from cultural or athletic events to adventure or study abroad trips - the choices are endless!

10. And of course the cardinal rule: DON'T MISS CLASS! I always hear students say "I will just read the book or get the notes." I invite them to think of this as job/career training. That is, after all, why most people come to college - to obtain the training needed for a good career. Getting the notes from a colleague later in life likely won't go over well either. So foster good habits now and get to class!

Katie Utterback
Parent Advocate