

West Virginia University  
Parent Advocate Office  
January 23, 2009

With February quickly approaching, the spring semester will be over before we know it. Indeed, there is no doubt that life on campus often moves at a quick pace, but for a moment this week, it seemed as if time stood still in Morgantown. Students, faculty, and staff across campus paused from their usual routines to catch a glimpse at a historic moment in U.S. history as Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States. More than 100 people packed the Mountainlair TV lounge to witness the swearing-in of President Obama. A video of students sharing their thoughts about Obama and his inauguration can be found at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=994>.

In addition to the inauguration, scroll down to find information concerning the Dean's and President's lists, Spring 2009 commencement, the Mountaineer Parents Club Winter Weekend, and the deadline to file the FAFSA. Also in this edition:

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**MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB WINTER WEEKEND APPROACHES - Feb. 27-28, 2009**

Winter Weekend is a great time to visit your student and be on campus! The Mountaineer Parents Club has planned an exciting weekend for you and your family. On Saturday morning, be sure to take in an informative lecture: learn how to help your kid get a job or hear important information about Financial Aid or WVU's Entrepreneur Center. Sign up online now at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=996>.

Following the lectures, come to the Shell Building adjacent to the WVU Coliseum for the pre-game pizza party and pep rally. Special guest appearances will be made by the women's basketball team, head coach Mike Carey, the cheerleaders, pep band, dance team, and Mountaineer Mascot. Don't miss the chance to take in all this action and lunch prior to the women's basketball game. No tickets are required for this event, but be sure to purchase your discounted women's basketball tickets at

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=997>. Ordering instructions can be found at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=998>. WVU students with a valid ID do not need to purchase tickets. Don't miss great Big East action!

Hotel discounts are available as well, so go to the Winter Weekend website for all the details: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=999>. Hope to see you on campus!

### **LIVE FROM STEWART HALL - PRESIDENT MAGRATH'S VIDEO ADDRESS**

WVU President Peter Magrath's latest video message focuses on the importance of the new digital health information system. The video can be found at

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=995>.

### **ACADEMIC ADVISING GOES RESIDENTIAL**

New this semester, a variety of academic advising services will be provided on the Evansdale campus at the Fieldcrest, Evansdale Residential Complex (ERC), and Lincoln residence halls, in addition to the advising services offered at the Undergraduate Advising Services Center downtown. Parents, refer your student(s) to the appropriate residence hall for any of the following throughout the semester:

- information on courses, majors, and minors, including a spotlight on two minors each week and continuous coverage of various majors
- academic requirements and policies
- goal-setting and planning, including GPA calculating and the semester calendar
- scheduling an advising workshop appointment
- advice on adding or dropping current courses (and referral to next-semester schedule planning in workshops or a one-to-one advising appointment)
- referring and connecting students to campus resources

Afternoon and evening hours of operation follow:

Fieldcrest Hall library, Mondays 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. (beginning the third week of spring semester)

ERC sample dorm room, Tuesdays 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. (beginning the second week)

Lincoln front office, Wednesdays 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. (beginning the second week)

### **ENERGY EXPRESS ACCEPTING POSITIONS FOR SUMMER 2009**

Energy Express is a great opportunity to gain valuable experience, earn money, and help the community, and it's a great resume builder.

One of the top-fifty AmeriCorps programs in the country, Energy Express is a summer reading and nutrition program targeting low-income and rural West Virginia children. Currently, Energy Express is recruiting more than 500 AmeriCorps members to serve as mentors and volunteer coordinators from June 15 through August 7, 2009. Energy Express AmeriCorps members receive a \$1,600 living allowance and a \$1,000

educational award that can be used to help pay off student loans or to finance college, graduate school, or vocational training.

Mentors work with a small group of children to make reading meaningful in their lives by creating an enriching environment. Volunteer coordinators connect parents and community members to the site. They recruit, train, and supervise community and teen volunteers who help with various site activities.

Energy Express AmeriCorps mentors must be full-time college students (undergraduate, graduate, or post-secondary education) or college-bound graduating high school seniors who will be 18 years of age by June 15, 2009. To find out more, visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1000> or call 304-293-3855. Applications are currently available for download on the website. The deadline for applications is March 2, 2009. For other AmeriCorps and national service opportunities visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1001>.

Energy Express is under the leadership of the WVU Extension Service 4-H Youth Development Program, and is funded in part by grants from the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts and the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service. The Commission encourages West Virginians of all ages to be involved in service to their community.

### **FAFSA DEADLINE APPROACHING, FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS WEEK TO HELP**

With the March 1 deadline just around the corner, the Financial Aid Office will be hosting its annual Financial Aid Awareness Week from February 9-13. As part of this week, they will be hosting an information booth on the first floor of the Mountainlair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. It is imperative that students file their FAFSA no later than the March 1 deadline to be eligible for maximum financial aid consideration for the upcoming school year.

If you need assistance completing the application you can obtain information from the experts at the Federal Student Aid Programs (1-800-4FED-AID), or you can call the WVU Financial Aid Office at 304-293-5242.

### **TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING INFORMATION**

Park-n-Ride: Mountain Line is offering Park-n-Ride for nontraditional students living off campus. Park-n-Ride is located in Westover and also in Granville. Students will be able to park their cars during the day at either of these locations for free, and Mountain Line busses will take them to their desired destination.

Parking tickets: students are strongly encouraged to pay their parking tickets online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1002>. Over-the-phone payments will be accepted only under certain circumstances. Students who do not pay their parking tickets are subject to

receive holds on their accounts. Financial holds preclude students from receiving University services, including registration, dropping and/or adding classes, grades, transcript requests, and graduation.

PRT closings will be listed online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1003>. Also listed here will be the operation schedule, which will list closings and hours of operation for January through May 2009.

### **SPRING 2009 COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE RELEASED**

The Spring 2009 Commencement schedule has been released and can be found online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1004>. For those expecting to join us in Morgantown for Commencement weekend, please refer to the schedule of events for planning purposes and be sure to bookmark it and continue to check back, as our event staff will be adding information to the website as the time approaches.

### **DEADLINE FOR RETURNING TO WVU RESIDENCE HALLS FOR 2009-2010 EXTENDED**

January 20 was the priority deadline for current WVU students to apply for on-campus housing for the 2009-10 academic year. If your student missed this first priority deadline, please let them know that they will have another chance. Beginning February 1, current WVU students will once again be permitted to apply for University housing for next academic year. Returning students who apply on or after February 1 will have fewer room choices than those who applied by January 20 because they will be selecting rooms the same time new freshman and transfer students will be. Returning students who applied by the priority deadline January 20 will select rooms before new freshman and transfer students.

The online housing application/contract can be completed by logging on to the STAR system. If you or your students have any questions, the staff in the Housing Assignments Office will be happy to help. They may be reached by calling 304-293-2811.

### **TRAVEL TO NEW YORK FOR THE BIG EAST CAREER FAIR**

Friday, March 13, 2009  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Madison Square Garden  
New York City

The Career Services Center is offering travel arrangements to New York City for West Virginia University students who would like to attend the Big East Career Fair. This trip includes round-trip bus transportation and hotel costs for two nights. (Rooms will be shared - four persons per room.) Students will depart Morgantown on Thursday afternoon and depart from New York City on Saturday evening. The cost of transportation to and from New York City and two nights of hotel accommodations is only \$100 per student.

Student should submit their reservations NOW! Charges will automatically be posted to a student's account. Seating is limited; first-come, first-served. The deadline to submit reservations for travel assistance is Monday, February 23, 2009.

Students can RSVP by signing up for a Big East Career Fair mandatory meeting on their MountaineerTRAK account under Career Events. They should go to:

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1005> and click on the MountaineerTRAK link. This is not just for seniors! Recruiters will be hiring for full-time, entry-level, as well as for internships and cooperative education opportunities.

### **5,000-PLUS STUDENTS MAKE FALL 2008 DEAN'S, PRESIDENT'S LISTS**

Nearly 5,300 undergraduate students made the Dean's List, including more than 1,600 who received President's List honors for getting all As. Students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher in 12 credit hours of graded courses with no incompletes or withdrawals to be named to the Dean's List.

The lists are available online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1006>. To find your student, click on your home state. West Virginia students are searchable by county. Congrats to all Fall 2008 Dean's and President's List students!

Katie Utterback  
Parent Advocate