

West Virginia University  
Parent Electronic News  
February 10, 2009

Although we are experiencing a slight warmup this week we have had our fair share of snow and cold temperatures. Thus, it's no surprise the world's most famous groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter last week. Regardless of what Punxsutawney Phil said about the weather, we hope the information in this edition keeps you warm and informed wherever you may be.

Be sure to check out important information regarding 1098-T tax forms, financial aid (remember the March 1 FAFSA deadline), spring break, graduation, and the new online room selection process, among other items. In this edition:

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LIVE FROM STEWART HALL

If you want to stay up to date on current news and events affecting campus, check out the latest video message from Interim President C. Peter Magrath, in which he accepts and responds to a report from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers on Tuesday (Feb. 2). To view the video, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1007>.

RESIDENCE HALL CLOSING EARLY REMINDER - SPRING BREAK

Though several weeks away, please discuss with your students their plans for leaving town during Spring Break. If your students are living in University Housing, their plans

should take into consideration that the dining halls will close at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13. In addition, University Housing will close and doors will be locked for Spring Break beginning at 7:00 p.m. Students living in University Housing must leave the residence halls by this time. University Housing will reopen at noon on Sunday, March 22.

#### SPRING BREAK BUSES - NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS

Spring Break is approaching and if your student is planning a trip home, the Mountaineer Parents Club can help. The WVU Mountaineer Parents Club Holiday Bus Schedules are available online. Spaces are available to Secaucus, NJ, Allentown, PA, Hagerstown, MD, and Philadelphia, PA. For more information, please log on to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1008>.

Three local Parents Clubs have also planned buses home for Spring Break. For more information and details on how to make these reservations, visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1008>.

As a reminder, the daily Grey Line shuttle to the Pittsburgh Airport and Pittsburgh Greyhound Station will be running the normal 10:00 a.m. run all week. For information on the schedule and details, or to make a reservation, call 304-296-3869 or visit: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1009>.

#### GRADUATION ONE-STOP SHOP

If your student is graduating in May, encourage him or her to stop by the Graduate One-Stop Shop., where upcoming graduates can:

- Purchase official University regalia
- Obtain information on Commencement
- Pay the graduation fee of \$39 to Student Accounts
- Pick up graduation application information from the student's individual college
- Order official WVU class rings from Herff-Jones
- Get tips on resume writing and job hunting from Career Services
- Sign on with the Alumni Association and the Athletic Department to stay connected with WVU and the Mountaineers after graduation
- Contribute to the Class Gift and Mountaineer Mark

Graduation One-Stop Shops will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following date at the following locations - EVANSDALE: Engineering Mineral Resources Atrium, February 23, 2009, and DOWNTOWN: Mountainlair Commons Area, February 24-25, 2009.

If a student contributes to the Glass Gift, his or her name will be listed on the Class of 2008-2009 Mountaineer Mark plaque that will be located on Mountaineer Walk in Mountaineer Heritage Park.

Other University departments will also be on hand to provide upcoming graduates with the assistance needed to be prepared for graduation and beyond. Students can also sign up to win giveaways such as a WVU Bookstore diploma frame or a gift certificate worth \$100!

#### WVU SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, AND SENIOR HONORARIES APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Exceptional West Virginia University students who want to give back to their campus and community through service initiatives and projects are encouraged to apply online for the Helvetia (sophomore), Chimes (junior) or Mortar Board (national senior) honoraries. Selection is based on a combination of academics, honors and awards, campus activities, community service and contributions to the student's major field of study or academic department. To be considered, students must have at least a 3.3 GPA for Helvetia and Chimes and a 3.4 GPA for Mortar Board. In addition, Mortar Board requires two recommendations - one from a faculty member and another from an extracurricular adviser. Applicants' work activities and difficulty of class schedule may also play a factor.

WVU has created special Web pages, linked to the Weekend of Honors Web site, where students can view the specific criteria and apply online. Log onto <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1010> and click on "honoraries" to get started. The application deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 25. Students inducted into these honoraries will be recognized during the University's annual Weekend of Honors activities April 3-5.

#### WVU OFFERING HELP TO CHEMISTRY STUDENTS

Is your student having problems figuring out that tough chemistry problem? Check out all of the chemistry help they can get on campus:

**Chemistry Learning Center (CLC):** The Chemistry Learning Center provides free tutoring to students enrolled in Chemistry 110/111/112/115/116 classes. The CLC is open every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening from 7:00-10:00 p.m. in Clark Hall, Rooms 408 and 410. Faculty volunteers and advanced undergraduate students offer free chemistry tutoring on a variety of topics as well as advice on academic issues (e.g., time management, study skills, peer advising).

**Extra Lecture Support Instruction (ELSI):** ELSI sessions are offered for students enrolled in Chemistry 110. Additional tutoring, retest quizzing (one chance per week), and help with chemistry homework are offered during each ELSI session. ELSI sessions are held every Monday and Tuesday 1:00-3:00 p.m., Wednesday 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Thursday 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, Rooms 408 and 410. Chemistry faculty members and graduate students offer chemistry help and advice to Chemistry 110 students during these sessions.

Peer Led Team Learning (PLTL): PLTL sessions are offered for students enrolled in Chemistry 112/115/116. During PLTL sessions, small groups of students work through a series of worksheets on chemistry content relevant to their course work. PLTL sessions are offered at various times throughout the week. More information on PLTL can be found at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1011>.

#### FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS WEEK GOING ON NOW!

The WVU Financial Aid Office is sponsoring the annual Financial Aid Awareness Week this week, February 9-13, to remind students and families about the submission of the 2009-10 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the important deadline date of March 1, 2009, for on-time filing.

Financial aid staff are readily available at the “Financial Aid Booth” in the Mountainlair Food Court area during the week and as always, are available in the office, located on the 2nd floor of the Mountainlair.

In addition to information on filing the FAFSA, students may also obtain materials on financial literacy and money management. The WVU Financial Aid Office has recently linked to “CashCourse” from <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1012> and are pleased to provide students with this very helpful information.

The 2009-10 FAFSA is available online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1013>. Remember that you can file the FAFSA using estimated income figures if you have not yet filed your 2008 income tax information. Estimated figures can be corrected later if necessary. Filing the FAFSA annually is necessary in order to be considered for student/parent loans and student employment as well as grants and some scholarships.

Families who are experiencing circumstances that result in reduced income in 2009 are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office after initially submitting the FAFSA with 2008 income information. In some instances, there can be a re-evaluation of eligibility.

**FINANCIAL AID INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR TO BE HELD THIS WEEKEND**  
WVU's Financial Aid Office will be offering an informational webinar for current WVU students and their families. This will be held this Sunday, February 15 at 5:00 p.m. Further details, registration/logon information will be posted on the WVU Financial Aid website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1012> this week. Be sure to check back to register for this informative session!

#### IRS FORM 1098-T NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The WVU Tax Services department would like you to know that tax forms used by students or their parents to obtain tax credits under the federal Hope and Lifetime Learning Credit programs are available electronically. There are advantages of receiving your form electronically, such as faster receipt as compared to it being mailed, being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the ability to reprint the form if it becomes

misplaced, and no need to be concerned whether your mailing address is correct. The website also has FAQs to help you with questions, informative links to Internal Revenue Service publications and forms, and a summary of the Hope and Lifetime Learning Credit programs. The website is at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1014>.

#### ROOM SELECTION PROCESS GOES ONLINE

The WVU Office of Housing and University Apartments are pleased to announce the opening of the new online Housing Management System (HMS) that allows your students to select their own rooms, submit a request for a residential college, and even create a personal profile for selection of a roommate and then invite a student to share a room.

Beginning in February, incoming WVU students will be sent an e-mail directly to their MIX account from HMS informing them of their priority period for room selection. Also starting in February, room selection priority periods will begin to open. These priority periods were established based on the dates of the student's housing application and deposit payment. A link in the e-mail will take students to HMS, where they can use their MIX user ID and password to log in, select from available rooms, and invite a roommate.

All room assignment information made through HMS will be delivered electronically by e-mail to students' MIX accounts. As in the past, students will also be able to view their room assignment and roommate information in STAR.

WVU SPONSORS RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK - February 9-14, 2009  
West Virginia University has again joined with the United Way to sponsor Random Acts of Kindness Week this week from February 9-14, 2009. During this special week, members of the WVU family are encouraged to practice kindness around campus. Special events will take place that highlight the generosity of our University and the students, faculty, and staff that make it so unique. The Center for Civic Engagement is coordinating efforts across campus. Be sure to encourage your student to get in on the kindness and check out the list of happenings at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1015>.

#### SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR EXPERIENCE TO HOST FREE DINNER AND FREE ICE SKATING PARTY

Is your student a sophomore or junior? If so, encourage them to get some free food and have some fun through the Sophomore/Junior Experience events such as the Faculty Dinner Series and Ice Skating and Pizza Party. Students can also stay in touch through the JSE Newsletter online at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1016>. Read on for more on each of these items:

- The February Faculty Dinner Series is now open for the first 25 students who R.S.V.P. The FREE dinner and presentation is tonight, February 10 in the Mountaineer Room (2nd

floor) of the Mountainlair from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Dr. David Stewart (the Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs) will be presenting works of poetry. He presented last year, and the students who attended the dinner loved his presentation. The dinner will feature stuffed shells, salad, rolls, and dessert. Encourage your student(s) to R.S.V.P. to Kelli Eisentrout at [kelli.eisentrout@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:kelli.eisentrout@mail.wvu.edu) to attend.

- SJE will also be hosting a FREE Ice Skating and Pizza Party on March 5 at the Morgantown Skating Rink in White Park. There will be a bus to the park around 6:00 p.m. (details to be on the website next week). Tell your student(s) to R.S.V.P. to Vicky Oster at [victoria.oster@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:victoria.oster@mail.wvu.edu) to attend.

#### ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS TO KICK OFF NEXT WEEK WITH CORNEL WEST

A speaker series is at the heart of what a university represents—the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, and the discovery of new and exciting ideas and possibilities. Each year since 1996, the Festival of Ideas has brought key figures from the fields of sports, politics, business, entertainment, research, scholarship and culture to Morgantown. The presentations are free and open to the public.

This year's "evolution"-themed lineup - inspired by the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles Darwin and his profound impact on culture – includes best-selling author Walter Isaacson, professor and public intellectual Cornel West, PBS anchor Gwen Ifill, and renowned paleontologist Meave Leakey, among others.

Encourage your students not to miss out on seeing a diverse cast of national experts discussing the latest ideas about their respective fields with a nod to Darwinian principles, or join us yourselves if you find yourselves in town during one of these events! February speakers and the dates of their lectures are as follows:

- Cornel West: “The Evolution of Street Knowledge: Hip Hop’s Influence on Law and Culture”     Friday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m., Mountainlair ballrooms

- Leroy Hood: “Darwin, Complexity, Systems Biology, and P4 Medicine”/DarwinFest lecture     Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., Ming Hsieh Hall, Room G21

For more on these and other upcoming speakers, visit the Festival of Ideas website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1017>.

Parent Advocate Office  
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