

West Virginia University
Parent Electronic News
February 19, 2009

Can you believe we are at the end of the sixth week of a sixteen week semester? This means in two more quick weeks and your students will find themselves at the mid-semester mark. With that said this is a perfect time for a visit to campus to check in with your student and conveniently enough, Mountaineer Parents Club Winter Weekend is next weekend - February 27-28, 2009! So pack your bags and make plans to head to Morgantown to visit with your student and enjoy a weekend on campus. More details follow including links to the official Winter Weekend web site.

With mid-semester soon upon us we have included some helpful information to pass along to your students as they plan ahead for midterms. We also encourage you as parents to look ahead...so this is your final notice for the FAFSA deadline of March 1. Also spring break buses are filling so be sure to be making plans with your students for transportation home noting residence halls will close, Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Finally, the ever important advising appointments are getting underway now for summer/fall scheduling. Read on for more on all these items as well as the 2009 summer/fall STAR registration dates, important info on summer sessions, and great opportunities for current freshmen through WVU's SOAR program! In this edition:

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PARENTS CLUB WINTER WEEKEND NEXT WEEKEND!

Mountaineer Parents Club Winter Weekend - February 27-28, 2009

Have you made your plans to come to Morgantown next weekend to spend time with your student on campus? If not, its not too late! The Mountaineer Parents Club has planned great events for you and your family. Saturday morning be sure to take advantage of the FREE lectures including, "The Building Blocks of Financial Aid," "How to help get your kid a part-time job, summer job, internships and graduate assistantship," and "Learn more about WVU's Entrepreneurship Center." Simply register for these lectures by going to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1018>In addition, you won't want to miss the pre-game pizza party and pep rally in the Shell Building prior to the Women's basketball game. The party is complete with the pep band, cheerleaders, dance team,

Mountaineer Mascot, Coach Mike Carey, the women's team and more! No ticket is required for this event, but you are encouraged to purchase tickets to the women's game at 2:00 p.m. They are offered to you at a great rate! To order go to the official Winter Weekend web site at

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1019>. Check out the site for hotel discounts, driving directions, and more. Take advantage of a great weekend on campus visiting your student, going to the nationally acclaimed WVUp All Night program, working out at the Rec Center and much, much more. We look forward to seeing you on campus next weekend!

FIGHT LIKE A GIRL OFFERED FOR FAMILIES DURING WINTER WEEKEND

February 28 and March 1 from 12-3 p.m. (choose whichever date is best for you) Fight Like A Girl is a three hour self defense class for women designed to teach them practical skills to prevent sexual assault. WVU Student Wellness program will be offering this class at the Student Recreation Center. For information and to register, check out the website, <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1020>. Future classes will be scheduled based on student interest and availability. Fee is \$40. For information contact Colleen Harshbarger at 304-293-5054 or colleen.harshbarger@mail.wvu.edu.

MID-SEMESTER HELP JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The mid-semester point is right around the corner. This can be a stressful time for your students as it tends to be a time when several exams take place as well as deadlines for projects and papers. Please remind your student of the various support services that are available such as free tutoring, the Term Paper Clinic, and the Writing Center. Visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1021> for more information. Also, the Office of Retention and Research is sponsoring a workshop on Test Anxiety on Tuesday, February 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Rhododendron Room. If your student is dealing with issues of anxiety or struggles with test taking, suggest they drop by this free session.

Mid-term grades will be available to students via the STAR system on March 6th. Remember only mid-term grades of a "D" or "F" are posted so no news is good news! If assistance is needed, the Mid-Semester Help Center will again take place on Monday, March 9th. More details on mid-term grades and the Mid-Semester Help Center will be available in the next edition of Parent E-News.

FINAL REMINDER NOTICE: FAFSA DEADLINE IS MARCH 1 FOR ON-TIME CONSIDERATION

The filing deadline date is a little over a week away. You can file the 2009-10 FAFSA online at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1022>. If you have not yet finalized your federal tax information, use estimated figures on the FAFSA and make corrections, if necessary, after completion of the 1040 income tax form.

Remember, PIN numbers are needed to electronically sign the FAFSA. Information on PIN numbers is available at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1023>. If you need

assistance in filing the FAFSA, you can contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4 FED AID or the WVU Financial Aid Office at 304-293-5242.

SPRING BREAK BUSES - ONLINE RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE

With Spring Break approaching fast (March 14-21), plans are well under way to get your student home. The Mountaineer Parents Club Spring Break buses are still accepting reservations on a first come, first served basis. Visit our website for complete details, schedules, and to make these reservations at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1024>. These buses run to the Philadelphia area as well as to Hagerstown, MD, Allentown, PA, and Secaucus, NJ. The last day to request a refund is next Thursday, February 26, 2009 - NO EXCEPTIONS.

Three individual clubs - Northern Virginia, Central Maryland, and Long Island, NY - are also hosting Spring Break buses again this year. Information and details on how to make these reservations can be found at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1024>.

2009 FALL/SUMMER ADVISING

Encourage your student to inquire about/schedule advising appointments now! Believe it or not, summer and fall online registration are only weeks away! Encourage your students to schedule their appointments for advising and/or advising workshops now so they are ready when their registration dates come along. Appointments fill up more quickly as the registration dates approach, so students are encouraged to call and schedule early. STAR priority registration dates are:

Graduate/Professional/Honors/Disability Services/Athlete Students - Tuesday, March 24th

Seniors (89+ hours) - Tuesday, March 31st

Juniors (58-88 hours) - Tuesday, April 7th

Sophomores (29-58 hours) - Tuesday, April 14th

Freshmen (0-28 hours) - Tuesday, April 21st

These classifications are based on previously earned hours plus those being attempted in spring 2009. For example, if your student is a first-year student who has 18 earned hours after fall 2008 and they are attempting 15 hours now, they would register as a sophomore.

SUMMER@WVU

WVU offers thousands of summer classes. While most classes are offered in six week segments, there are also many classes which are 1, 3, 9 and or 12 weeks long allowing students a lot of flexibility with their summer schedule. There are many online classes available which enable students to continue their education without the hassle of transferring credits. The official schedule will be available in mid-March but students can get a sneak peak at the schedule at a series of Summer Session information tables.

Encourage your student to drop by one of the following information sessions for more details and check out the summer session website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1025!>

- Tuesday, February 24: Towers Cafeteria 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Recreation Center 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 25: Oglebay Hall 9-10:45 a.m.; Mountainlair 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 3: Armstrong Hall 9-11 a.m.; Mountainlair 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 4: Ag Science Lobby 9-11 a.m.; Percival Hall 1-3 p.m.

SEND YOUR CURRENT FRESHMAN ON THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME - SOAR!

The Sophomore Outdoor Adventure Re-orientation (SOAR) program is an innovative course that WVU is offering to current freshmen. SOAR students will leave the day after final exams (May 9th) on a 14-day adventure trip to camp, hike, and backpack through the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and the deserts and canyons of Utah, visiting five national parks along the way. Past students have found SOAR to be a great way to decompress after their first year of college. More than just an adventure, SOAR students will also be reflecting on their freshman years, identifying personal strengths and values, setting goals for a successful sophomore year, and learning how to live happy and fulfilling lives. Detailed information, including how to apply, can be found at the SOAR website <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1026> and additional pictures of the trip can be viewed at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1027>.

An informational slideshow will be presented on Monday, March 2nd, at 8 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. Applications will be accepted March 2nd through March 9th (or later if spots remain available) and there are only 19 spaces available, so encourage your student to act quickly. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dr. Ian Kellems, SOAR lead instructor (304-293-4431; Ian.Kellems@mail.wvu.edu). SOAR is administered by Adventure West Virginia and the Carruth Center for Counseling and Psychological Services.

Parent Advocate Office
West Virginia University