

West Virginia University  
Parent Electronic News  
March 6, 2009

As promised in yesterday's Parent E-Newsletter, we have had a busy day on campus and wanted to bring you some exciting updates and key announcements from Morgantown. In this edition:

- CLEMENTS NAMED WVU'S 23rd PRESIDENT
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#### CLEMENTS NAMED WVU'S 23rd PRESIDENT

We are excited to welcome James P. Clement who was named late this afternoon as WVU's president-elect and will become the University's 23<sup>rd</sup> president effective June 30, 2009. Below are excerpts of a press release. For the complete release, comments from state and University leaders, photos, video, curriculum vitae and more, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1033>. To send a congratulatory message to President-elect Clements, e-mail [president-elect@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:president-elect@mail.wvu.edu).

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. - James P. Clements, current provost and vice president for academic affairs at Towson University in Maryland, was named president-elect of West Virginia University today (March 6) and will become the University's 23rd president, effective June 30, 2009. A respected higher education leader, Clements, 44, was elected by members of the WVU Board of Governors with the consent of the Higher Education Policy Commission.

The appointment concludes a national search, launched last fall and involving consultation with faculty, students, staff, alumni, parents and others. BOG Chairwoman Carolyn Long, who also served on the search committee, announced the appointment.

"This is certainly a wonderful day for West Virginia University," Long said. "Today we welcome a new University leader who is ready to embark on some exciting initiatives and take on the challenges before us.

"Jim Clements is an accomplished and stellar higher education leader...and just a wonderful person," she said. "He has grown to love WVU and the Mountaineers in a very short time, and he shares the Board's vision of maintaining and growing academic and research excellence as well as expanding our extraordinary service mission to the state, nation and the world.

Clements will take over the post from C. Peter Magrath, who has been serving in an interim capacity since last July.

“Beth and I - and our family - are excited and honored by today’s decision,” Clements, a native of Arlington, Va., told a crowd of faculty, staff, students and others who gathered at Erickson Alumni Center for the announcement.

“I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the Board of Governors for the confidence you have shown in me, and I look forward to putting my background to work for this University as we continue the goals of the 2010 strategic plan and start building toward a 2020 plan,” Clements said.

During campus forums Thursday, Clements talked about being a first-generation college graduate from a working class family, whose parents put aside savings so that he and his brother and two sisters could attend college.

“I know how college transforms lives,” he said, “and I never want a lack of finances to prevent a student who wants to go to college from doing so.”

In describing himself, Clements said people know and trust him, stating, “I’m a team builder who works well with everybody.”

Speaking of the pride and passion alumni and others have for WVU, he said, “People I’ve met who either go to WVU or went to WVU are crazy about this place...they care deeply about it,” adding that he wasn’t looking for another position, but when the WVU opening came along, he couldn’t pass up the opportunity.

“This is a place we truly want to be,” he said, noting WVU’s rich history and academic reputation.

He is married to Beth Clements, and they have four children - Tyler, 16; twin daughters Hannah and Maggie, 13; and Grace, 8.

#### 2009 FALL FAMILY WEEKEND DATES ANNOUNCED -- SAVE THE DATE!

We are happy to announce that Fall Family Weekend will be held October 2-4, 2009, so be sure to mark your calendars now!

We will be working over the coming months to finalize the schedule of events and details of the weekend. As these become available, they will be posted on the Mountaineer Parents Club website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1034> so be sure to check back in the coming months. We are also working with local hotels to secure discounts for parents and will let you know as soon as we have this information finalized so you can begin making your arrangements. As this is a non-home football weekend we anticipate it will be easier to find close, affordable hotel rooms than in past years. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

## FALL 2009 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The Mountaineer Ticket Office recently announced the 2009 football schedule. This can be found at the following link: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1035>.

All ticket questions and requests should be directed to the Mountaineer Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU-GAME. They anticipate the following schedule for 2009 football ticket distribution:

The Mountaineer Ticket Office will be mailing renewal forms to 2008 season ticket holders in late March. For information on new season ticket orders, please contact the Mountaineer Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU-GAME. Single game ticket sales, if available, will begin in mid-August. An exact date will be released later. For more information on WVU student football tickets, please direct your student to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1036>. Let's Go Mountaineers!

## THE VALUE OF AN EDUCATION...A LETTER FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT PETER MAGRATH

Parents - This coming week, Interim President Peter Magrath will be sending a letter to your students. We feel it is also important to send this message out to you. In light of the economy, please know that we know how hard you and your students work to make a WVU education possible. At WVU, we are also committed to doing all we can to help your students continue on this journey. Please take a moment to read this letter and make yourselves familiar with standing programs, goals, and some new initiatives we hope help you as your students continue toward their college graduation. And now a word from President Magrath:

"In this time of economic uncertainty, we know that many students and their families are worrying about paying educational costs. At the same time, a college degree is more important than ever and is an investment in a student's future-in a tight job market, having a four-year college degree from a nationally recognized institution is a major advantage. For these reasons, West Virginia University is committed to doing everything possible to keep our students enrolled and progressing toward graduation. WVU has often been recognized as one of the nation's best educational values, and we offer many resources to make it easier to pay for college.

Many WVU students rely on financial assistance to pay for some or all of their educational expenses. We want to assure you that federal, state and institutional student aid programs continue to be strong, and there is no reason to believe the availability of these funds will be disrupted.

As a participant in the federally insured Stafford Direct Student Loan Program, WVU has not had any interruption in the flow of funding to students. The same is true for Direct PLUS Loans, which are specifically for parents of undergraduate students. With both loan types, repayment can be postponed until after the student is no longer

enrolled in higher education. These federally insured Stafford Direct student and parent loans offer interest rates that are better than those available through other credit-based educational loans from private sources.

We are also taking the current economic climate into consideration as we plan tuition increases for the 2009-2010 academic year. With increasing costs, we will need to implement a slight increase to help us fund the current level of programs and services we provide to our students. However, we do not anticipate the increase to be greater than 5%.

The University is establishing the Mountaineer Economic Assistance Program, to be used in conjunction with other available sources of aid, to assist main campus students whose families face economic situations dramatically weakened by job loss as a result of the economic downturn. Students should initially submit the 2009-10 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), available at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1037>, and then contact the Financial Aid Office through written or electronic communication at [finaid@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:finaid@mail.wvu.edu), summarizing the situation for a case-by-case review.

Some families may want to explore tuition payment plans. WVU's Office of Student Accounts offers the option to spread tuition payment through as few as two and as many as twelve payments over the academic year. For more information, see <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1038> or call 304-293-4006.

Despite the national recession, Morgantown's economy continues to fare well and has the lowest unemployment rate - 2.7 percent - of all U.S. metropolitan areas. Part-time employment can help offset day-to-day expenses. In addition to need based Federal Work Study job opportunities, WVU's Office of Student Employment can help students find part-time, flexible jobs that can assist in offsetting costs. Since September 2008, they have helped WVU students earn more than two million dollars in extra income. For more information, visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1039> or call 304-293-9270.

For more than 140 years, WVU has opened the doors of opportunity to young people from around the world. During this economic crisis, we will do everything possible to help our students stay on course to a successful future.

Katie Utterback  
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Office of the President