

West Virginia University  
Parent Electronic News  
March 26, 2009

Whether they're returning from sandy beaches or home, students have once again filled Morgantown after spring break. And as the weather warms up and encourages folks to get out and about, it's important to remind your student that they are approaching the home stretch of the semester. With roughly five short weeks remaining until finals week then summer break, remind your students to keep working hard to acquire the shining GPA everyone wants.

For those parents who are concerned about their students' plans after graduation, be sure to read the "Tips from the Trenches" article for information about the Career Services Center. Also, make sure to check out important information about account holds and the final day of the semester to drop classes. Also in this edition:

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**HELP US IDENTIFY OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY MOUNTAINEERS**

Is your student currently deployed overseas in the US Military or will they be deploying in the coming months? The WVU Veterans Committee is searching for current faculty, staff or students who are in the military and deployed or soon-to-be-deployed overseas. The group would like to send WVU care packages to those serving the country toward the end of this term. Anyone who knows of a deployed Mountaineer is asked to complete an online form by May 1, 2009. This form and more information on the WVU Veterans Committee can be found online at

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1031> under the link for Deployed Military Mountaineers. Any questions can be directed to Rebecca Berger at 304-293-6700 or [Rebecca.Berger@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Berger@mail.wvu.edu).

#### LOOK OUT FOR HOLDS ON STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Parents, keep in mind that on the Wednesday before each priority class registration date e-mails will be sent to all students for that period informing them to check for holds and reminding them to have these holds resolved prior to their pre-registration week. Students are directed to their STAR account to identify any holds and find contact information to follow up if any exist. Remind your student that not addressing these concerns in a timely fashion can cause delays when students attempt to register for classes.

LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES FOR SPRING 2009 IS TOMORROW, March 27  
The last day to drop a class with a “W” for the spring semester is this Friday, March 27, 2009. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss with an advisor prior to dropping a class, especially for those students who will drop below 12 credits (financial aid, health insurance, and housing may be affected.)

#### STAY ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

Parents of Graduating Seniors, as Commencement approaches we urge you to work with your student to ensure he or she is prepared for the big day. Have they confirmed their graduation status with their advisor? Have they paid any outstanding University fees (parking tickets, library fees, etc.)? For complete information regarding Commencement, please visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1041>. The site is continually updated as information becomes available and plans are confirmed.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR FAMILIES of 2009 GRADUATES

Will you be heading to town for Commencement weekend but have yet to make lodging arrangements? WVU offers on-campus lodging from Friday, May 15 through Monday, May 18, 2009, at one of WVU’s residence halls - Lincoln Hall. Lincoln Hall, built in 2006, is the newest residence hall on campus. Lincoln Hall provides accommodations that are both comfortable and affordable. Lincoln Hall is located on the Evansdale Campus next to the Evansdale Residential Complex. It is also within walking distance of a variety of restaurants.

Suite-style rooms with semi-private baths are offered at Lincoln Hall. This type of room houses two individuals on each side of a bathroom. The beds are extra-long twin (36" X 80" mattress). Rooms are air-conditioned and include telephones with free local calling. Linen service and free parking will be provided. The front desk is staffed 24 hours a day for your convenience.

If you would like to make reservations, please call 304-293-2790, or you may request via e-mail at [Conferences@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Conferences@mail.wvu.edu). Single rooms are \$56.70 per night, plus tax. Double rooms are \$28.30 per person per night, plus tax. Payment is required prior to arrival.

#### WVU TO HIGHLIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS DURING WEEKEND OF HONORS April 3-5, 2009

Weekend of Honors 2009 is scheduled for Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 5. This weekend is a time to showcase the exceptional achievement of members of the University Community as West Virginia University honors those who have excelled in the complex and competitive academic world. More information, including a calendar of events, can be found at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1042>.

#### UPPERCLASSMAN HOUSING--CONSIDER PIERPONT APARTMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR

Is your student still searching for a place to live next year? Encourage them to consider Pierpont Apartments, a sophomore-junior-senior residence hall that is part of the Residential Learning Communities at West Virginia University. Given that your student will spend a large percentage of their time outside the classroom, it is important for their residence to be a place where they feel comfortable and enjoy spending time. The Pierpont staff strives to provide services, programs, and an atmosphere that will enhance educational growth and experiences.

Pierpont Hall's features include:

- Fully-furnished apartment-style living right on campus
- Individually keyed bedrooms
- Fabulous location
- Spacious 2 & 3 bedroom floor plans
- Fully-equipped kitchens with dishwashers & microwaves
- Utilities included: heat, water, electric, trash removal plus FREE

#### BASIC CABLE

- High speed internet access
- Incredible closet space
- Individual climate control for heat and air conditioning

Resident Faculty Leaders, Dr. Ann Richards and Brian Knight are assigned to WVU Pierpont residence hall. Dr. Richards and Mr. Knight, along with the hall staff, provide academic support and guidance, plan special activities and trips, host social events in their on-campus home, and serve as mentors for academic and social growth of the hall students.

Specific emphasis at Pierpont Hall is on the special needs of the upper class student, including the development of the student's academic and career goals and assisting them

with advising, internship guidance, and educational evaluation and tutoring. Special attention is given to the needs of these students to support them in choosing a major course of study as well as educational leadership.

Pierpont Hall is within easy walking distance of the Evansdale campus and the Personal Rapid Transit System (PRT). It is located across the street from the Evansdale Residential Complex, which is home to Bennett, Braxton, Brooke, and Lyon Towers. Pierpont is right at the heart of Evansdale being surrounded by Towers, the Students Recreation Center, a 24-hour McDonald's, and Milan Puskar Stadium is less than a 5 minute walk away. To reserve for fall 2009, students should contact the WVU Housing Office at: [WVUhousing@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:WVUhousing@mail.wvu.edu)

#### ON-CAMPUS HOUSING STILL ACCEPTING CURRENT STUDENTS' APPLICATIONS

WVU's Office of Housing and University Apartments is continuing to accept applications from current students who want to live on-campus next year. WVU offers many housing options and meal plans. Students will enjoy trips, programs, and support from Resident Faculty Leaders.

No need to worry about multiple bills as all utilities are included in the housing charges. Will your student need a place to live in Morgantown only during the fall semester because of a spring semester study abroad trip, internship, coop experience, student teaching, or is your student graduating in December? No problem. Your student will be released from the housing contract--no 12 month lease to worry about!

Application and deposit payment can be made on-line through the STAR Information System. Whether your student is currently living on-campus or off-campus, please have your student go to this web site to for information about how to apply for University housing: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1043>. Please contact the Housing Assignments Office at 304-293-2811 if you or your student have any questions.

#### MORGANTOWN AND WVU--ECONOMIC SAFE HAVENS

Recently, Morgantown and WVU have received a lot of national attention, including from the Wall Street Journal, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, CNN, NPR and other national media outlets. In these tough economic times, Morgantown and WVU have provided an economic oasis of sorts, boasting low unemployment rates, and the nation has taken notice. We here at WVU are very proud of both our town's accomplishments and our university's success, and we encourage you to check out the stories.

Wall Street Journal: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1044>  
NBC Nightly News: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1045>  
CNN: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1046>

TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES - A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
CAREER  
SERVICES CENTER

Dear Parents,

My name is David Durham, and I am the director of the WVU Career Services Center (CSC). With two WVU students of my own, I recognize and greatly appreciate the value of parental involvement during a student's college career, and more importantly, their commitment to helping their child realize their fullest potential after graduation. We find that students who share their career aspirations with and seek guidance and support from their parents fare better during their education process and during the job search process. We also find that students whose parents encourage an early start to career planning are able to take advantage of the networking opportunities made available during their early years as well as permanent employment opportunities with employers that prefer to recruit in the fall semester. The significant number of employers search for summer interns and full-time employees in September and October, and the student who has their resume polished and has mastered their interview skills can definitely get ahead of the game in terms of networking and interviewing with potential employers.

The CSC provides WVU students with the necessary skills and tools to develop a career plan and to be successful in the job search process. We help students tailor their resumes to their respective fields, fine tune their interview skills, and develop a search strategy. On a more basic level, our counselors can also help students identify their interests and abilities in order to determine potential career paths. Beyond building the foundation for a great job search, we bring literally thousands of job postings and on-campus interview opportunities right to the students. Additionally, we hold two campus-wide and several program- and college-specific career fairs annually. These events alone are attended by more than 600 employers annually. Whether your student is looking for a career-related internship or the perfect entry-level position, we are here to provide that direct link between student and employer.

Students can schedule private sessions with our career counselors by calling 304-293-2221. They can also view all of our jobs postings and learn about on-campus interviews, career fairs, and other Career Services sponsored events on MountaineerTRAK, our online career assistance software. In fact, they already have an account! All they have to do is go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1047> and select \*Click here to register!\* All of our services are free for WVU students.

Toward this goal, I ask that you take some time in the next few weeks to talk to your student about their career goals and encourage them to utilize the services that the Career

Services Center provides. If you have any questions about our services or our mission, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Dave Durham  
Director, WVU Career Services Center

Katie Utterback  
Parent Advocate  
Office of the President