

West Virginia University
Parent Electronic News
April 30, 2009

Where has the time gone?! Tomorrow marks the official last day of classes at WVU. This means that next week finals begin (a schedule can be found here: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1058>) meaning that summer is right around the corner.

A few items of interest to you as parents - you may be aware that the swine flu has been getting much attention recently in the national media. While no cases have been reported in West Virginia, please read the information included below as to the University response and tips to pass along to your students as we encourage increased preventative measures on campus. With graduation just a few short weeks away, we would also like to congratulate any upcoming graduates as they take their last finals a march on toward Commencement Weekend - May 15-17!

Families of graduates, be sure to check back to the Commencement website for the most current updates and information: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1059>. As we end another school year be sure to read on for instructions for those moving out of residence halls, traffic alerts as you head to town, information about storage units and the Blue and Gold Mine Sale, how to donate to the 2008-2009 Senior Class Gift fund, and other exciting opportunities, classes for students, and happenings on campus! In this edition:

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SWINE FLU INFORMATION

Parents - As many of you are aware from media reports, the outbreak of swine flu in Mexico has spread to several U.S. states. The CDC has declared a public health emergency to allow officials to mobilize resources to control the spread of disease and respond to new outbreaks.

As of today, there have not been any cases reported in West Virginia however the numbers are changing by the minute. While it is felt that there is no reason to panic or to change daily routines, WVU officials have joined with health officials and are strongly suggesting students, faculty, and staff be vigilant of preventative measures. As parents, we ask that you please help us to remind your students of the following simple - but crucial - pieces of information:

- Anyone who develops flu symptoms (fever, headache, muscle aches, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and extreme fatigue) is advised to avoid large groups to limit possible exposure to others and contact a physician. If fever and cough present:
 - a. wear a mask
 - b. contain your cough by coughing or sneezing into the crook (inside elbow) of your arm so as not to transfer germs to your hands and every object you touch - flu droplets are known to transfer up to 6 feet
 - c. wash hands frequently for 20+ seconds with soap and water, or an approved alcohol based cleanser
 - d. don't share drinks or utensils with others

- It is suggested to call ahead before going to a doctor's office to make sure that you follow that office's procedures for people with possible flu. All WVU outpatient areas (including the Emergency Department, Student Health, and the Physician Office Center) will begin asking patients who are displaying flu symptoms to wear face masks.

- Any student with an acute febrile (100.5) respiratory illness should be evaluated with a rapid influenza test. This testing is available at Student Health Service at no additional cost (\$10 copay only). Other medical facilities in the community will also be testing. Patients who test positive and who have symptoms for less than 72 hours will be offered antiviral medication to try to decrease the severity of the illness. A positive influenza test does not mean swine flu, but any positive influenza test will be sent for analysis for swine flu.

- The incubation period (time from exposure to symptoms) is 2-5 days, so if there is travel to Mexico within the week prior to symptoms, or exposure to someone else with an acute respiratory illness, the diagnosis of swine flu should be considered.

- The World Health Organization has declared this a phase 4 pandemic alert, which means that there is a significant increase in risk of a pandemic but does not necessarily mean a pandemic is a forgone conclusion. The WHO has also advised against any unnecessary travel to Mexico.

- WVU related international travel and exchange programs are being heavily monitored and appropriate steps are being taken as advised.

- Current national updates are available at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1060> . The most up-to-date information and other helpful links concerning the swine flu as it relates to the WVU campus can be found online at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1061> .

MOVE-OUT INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY HOUSING

As the semester and academic year wind down, we know many of you are planning to return to Morgantown to help your students move-out of University Housing. You'll notice that move-out is much calmer and more relaxed than the hectic pace of move-in. None the less, University Police will be on hand again to help direct traffic.

Over the past few weeks Resident Assistants (RAs) have met with all students in University Housing. Students were given a brochure with information on how to make move-out go smoothly. The brochure explains that rooms, kitchens, closets, and other space inside the student rooms must be cleaned prior to leaving. Nothing should be left in the room except the WVU furniture. Students can obtain trash bags at their main desk. A limited amount and some cleaning supplies are also available at the main desks.

During their meetings with RAs, students were given the opportunity to identify any damaged or missing items so the appropriate student can be billed.

When students move out, their last step will be a quick stop at their main desk to check out. When checking out, the student must turn in all keys and provide a mail forwarding address.

Dining Services will provide study snacks during finals week. Regular dining hall meal service will end on Saturday, May 9 at 2:00 p.m. University Housing closes and the outside doors will lock for the academic year at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9.

If you have any move out questions, have your students show you the move out information that was distributed by the RAs or click on this link: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1062>. Should you have any questions when you are on campus feel free to stop by any Housing main desk.

Move-out tip: When you come to Morgantown to help your student move-out, be sure to bring a dolly to help roll out heavy items and boxes.

TRAFFIC ALERT - WESTOVER ROAD WORK ON HOLLAND AVENUE CONTINUES

After a collapse of a portion of roadway in Westover several weeks ago, traffic patterns continue to be impacted. West Virginia University Police want to warn parents to avoid using the I-79 Westover Exit (Exit 152). Traffic congestion caused by road work being conducted by the West Virginia Department of Highways on Holland Avenue just across the Westover Bridge may result in delays due to traffic congestion and traffic being reduced to one lane in the area. At higher traffic periods, residual effects can be felt on not only on Holland Avenue but also High Street, Walnut and Beechurst Aves near the Westover Bridge.

STORAGE UNITS AND THE BLUE AND GOLD MINE SALE

Many of you inquire this time of the year about finding storage facilities here in Morgantown. The quickest way to track down a facility that is right for you (size, location, price, etc.) is by searching via <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1063> for "self-storage" in "Morgantown, WV" or zip code "26505." This will provide a complete and current list with locations and contact information for each unit.

If you are just looking to unload some unwanted items, one of the ways WVU creates impact in the community is by recycling materials that would otherwise be thrown away. The 5th Annual Blue and Gold Mine Sale will be on Saturday, May 23, 2009. Collections begin Monday, May 4! WE CAN, in conjunction with WVU's Center for Civic Engagement and the United Way of Monongalia and Preston counties, holds the Blue and Gold Mine Sale each May. On-campus collections are done during the week of finals, and the City of Morgantown continues to collect off-campus for another week after finals.

In 2007, over 30 tons of clothing, shoes, housewares, electronics, gardening equipment, sports equipment, appliances, furniture, rugs, lamps, etc. were collected and sold, raising \$9,000 for the United Way. In 2008, the sale raised \$14,000!

Drop off any clothing, shoes, furniture, housewares, kitchen items, books, sports equipment, or bedding at the following locations:

- All WVU residence halls
- Student Recreation Center
- Chateau Royale
- Area 81 parking lot
- Grant and 2nd avenues (Summit Hall)
- Prospect Street (near DA Building)
- Stadium East Gate

For more information, visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1064>.

SENIOR CLASS GIFT

The 2008-2009 Class Gift will be a gift in part for the entryway into the Mountaineer Heritage Park. Donate to the Class Gift and your name will be inscribed on the Class of 2008-2009 Mountaineer Mark Plaque (donations must be received by August 31, 2009) which will be displayed on the Mountaineer Walk located in Mountaineer Heritage Park along The Waterfront between the Jeep dealership and Exxon station. Learn more by calling 304-293-5811 or make donations by going to:

<http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1065>.

ADVENTURE WV FOR NEW INCOMING FRESHMEN

Attention parents - consider signing up your son or daughter for one of WVU's award-winning Adventure WV programs! Before they unpack their dorm rooms, hundreds of

students begin their journey through college by embarking on a journey of personal growth. Each Adventure WV Program course brings together 20-plus strangers for a week full of challenges and adventures; more than 1,900 freshmen have started WVU this way. The program connects students to other incoming freshmen, upperclassmen, and faculty. Students see West Virginia's most beautiful places and learn about their new home - WVU. Students whitewater raft the New River; backpack to West Virginia's highest point - Spruce Knob; summit the 50-foot tall WVU challenge course; and build homes with Habitat for Humanity. The confidence gained, the connections formed with new friends and WVU are invaluable to students and last throughout college.

Why participate in Adventure WV?

To meet other WVU freshmen, upperclassmen, faculty, and staff. To learn about WVU traditions and campus programs and resources. To earn 3 college credits before stepping into a college classroom Adventure WV programs provide an alternative to University 101, a 1-credit course all freshmen must take their first semester. To have fun!!

There are limited spots available for this wonderful experience as the trips are nearly full so register soon before it's too late!! Come see why everyone is talking about this incredible program!! For more information and registration, visit our website at <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1066>. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at: adventurewv@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-5221.

COUNSELING 483C COURSE - "DECIDING ON A MAJOR/CAREER"

Is your student uncertain what major they want to pursue? Are they currently a declared pre-major but are considering changing majors or perhaps are worried about getting into a major that is competitive and in need of a back up plan? If so, COUN 483C could offer support and guidance!

Coordinated by the Carruth Center for Counseling and Psychological Services coordinates with assistance from the Undergraduate Advising Services Center, the Office for Civic Engagement, Career Services Center, and the Counseling Psychology department, this one-credit course explores personal interests, values, skills, majors, and careers, and encourages appropriate and timely major selection through the following mechanisms:

- Self-assessment inventories - "Strong" and "Myers Briggs" - are taken, and the results are discussed.
- Internet exploration on sites that focus on majors, careers, and finding of self: Occupational Outlook Handbook, O-Net, major- to- career converter, my majors, WVU academic majors link, advising homepage, Career Services' SIGI and "What can I do with this major?", WVU civic engagement and international programs, etc.
- Shadowing of an employer at a job organization of interest, which is in association with the Office of Civic Engagement. Student then reports on the shadow experience.
- Class content also covers communication skills, internships, goal setting, and bridges and barriers to reaching goals.

- Research paper reflecting information found on academic majors.

More than half of the total class grade is based on attendance points. Two sections are currently offered for Fall 09. Students should log on to STAR to register for this class if interested.

CREATIVE ARTS CENTER TURNS 40 - SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

The WVU Creative Arts Center turned 40 years old this past week on Saturday, April 25, and the College of Creative Arts is inviting everyone to share their memories, stories and comments about the CAC on its website. Are you an alum? Is your student a Creative Arts graduate who spent time at the CAC? Let us know about your experiences with the CAC at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1067>.

2009 SPRING POTTERY SALE

Starting tomorrow, May 1st, the WVU Ceramics Department's 2009 Spring Pottery Sale gets underway and continues throughout the weekend. This year's sale will be held in the Douglas O. Blaney Lobby of the Creative Arts Center. Work by visiting artist, Jennifer Allen, will be featured alongside pottery from the studio at the Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute in China. The Morgantown Rotary will be selling coffee and textiles from Guatemala. Students and parents headed to town this weekend are encouraged to stop by and support the Ceramics Department and take home some wonderful keepsakes! Dates and time follow:

- Friday, May 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 3, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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