Clements named WVU’s 23rd president

Says he “can’t wait to call Morgantown, WVU home”

“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.

“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.

He said he will, in the coming months, begin the transition process by listening, learning and team building with WVU’s faculty, staff, administrators, students, community and state and congressional leaders.

“We will all need to work together to keep enrollment healthy, build on our scholarship and financial aid support, offer additional international and service experiences, continue our focus on research, and make sure state and private funding is a priority,” Clements said.

“WVU is one of the great land-grants,” he added. “We have enormous potential. I welcome the challenges before us and seek your support and guidance.”

Clements has been provost at Towson University, the second largest public university in Maryland, since 2007. Under his leadership, Towson has developed scholarship and student support programs that have led to an impressive 7 percent increase in minority student applicants and 16 percent increase in minority students admitted; an 83 percent freshman retention rate; a 65 percent six-year graduation rate; and a total increase of 36 percent in externally funded research in the past two years.

Prior to becoming provost, he was vice president for economic and community outreach at Towson from 2004-07 and executive director for the Center for Applied Information Technology from 1999-2003. He also chaired the Department of Computer and Information Sciences from 1997-99, where he has been a faculty member since 1989.

As vice president for economic and community outreach, he forged stronger links between the university and community, ultimately securing more than $50 million in external funding during a four-year period.

Clements has a bachelor’s degree in computer science and master’s and doctoral degrees in operations analysis from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, as well as a master’s degree in computer science from Johns Hopkins University. His project management textbook, in its fourth edition, is used in more than 20 countries and is published in four languages.

He and his wife, Beth, have four children – Tyler, 16; twin daughters Hannah and Maggie, 13; and Grace, 8.

Continued on page 5
Dear Mountaineer Parents Club Members,

Can you believe that the 2008-2009 academic year has come to a close? Some of you may be preparing for your student’s upcoming graduation while others have a student who has a few years to go. All WVU parents should congratulate themselves for making it this far!

As we put one academic year behind us we are certainly looking ahead. Like the rest of the world, we are closely watching what happens with the economy. Parents at all income levels expect economic conditions to affect their ability to finance college. At WVU we continue to look for ways to partner with our students and their families to create the best possible outcome for success. A college education is a valuable investment, and a West Virginia University degree is a key to success.

We are a compassionate partner in helping handle financial issues. Our Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships not only works with students but also their families. They will assist in directing students toward additional sources of funding. The staff can also provide advice on family and student budgeting for college life. Their website is http://www.finaid.wvu.edu/.

Other University units that are here to assist you are the Office of Student Accounts and the Office of Student Employment. The Office of Student Accounts offers several payment options. I encourage you to check out their website for more information at http://finance.wvu.edu/OSA.

In addition, the Student Employment Office is available to assist students who are interested in getting part-time, on- and off-campus work to augment their living and educational expenses. You can stay up to date on opportunities by signing up on their listserv at http://simpleformscripts.wvu.edu/sf/studentjobssignup. Their website can be found at http://studentjobs.wvu.edu/.

As always, we will continue to share information that is valuable to both you and your student. You are an important link to student success!

I want to remind you all to be looking for your invitations to your hometown Summer Send-Off. We invite all WVU students and their families to these events, and it is a great way for your whole family to network and meet other Mountaineers. Also, mark your calendars for Fall Family Weekend, October 2-4, 2009. It is a wonderful time to experience campus life with your student. We are working on a great schedule of events!

Sincerely,

Sabrina M. Cave
Executive Director
“Parents Club founder reflects on program’s history, success”
/Lauren Eakins

What began as an idea in 1995 is now a key unit in Student Affairs and a model used by other colleges and universities. The Mountaineer Parents Club is part of the legacy left by former WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr. and his wife Susan, who founded the program.

Almost everywhere I go, I will hear of a parent who was helped in some way by the efforts of the Mountaineer Parents Club...

“I am comforted in knowing that David and I realized in 1995 that parents wanted to be involved in their children’s college experiences and that we did something about it,” Mrs. Hardesty said. “Almost everywhere I go, I will hear of a parent who was helped in some way by the efforts of the Mountaineer Parents Club staff or by connections they made with their local club. Those comments warm my heart. What gives me the most sense of pride is seeing the Mountaineer Parents Club continue to grow and thrive under the leadership of Sabrina Cave and Lisa Hanselman.”

Formed to help parents support their students while enrolled at WVU, the Parents Club established several innovative and effective connecting links for parents, including a parent advocate, a professional staff to support parent programming, a network of local clubs, parent newsletters, Fall Family Weekend, a free Parents Club helpline, parent e-news, winter fests, winter weekends, and numerous other service-oriented and educational programs.

Mrs. Hardesty’s fondest memories are ones associated with the more than 100 visits she has made to local parents clubs.

“Meeting in the homes of parents, in their churches, their schools, or their hometown restaurants gave me a unique picture of our student body and gave me the opportunity to truly connect with the families,” she said. “I met many wonderful parents who eagerly volunteered to accept a leadership role in their local club because they felt it was important to connect with other WVU parents in their area, and because they wanted to be a part of the Mountaineer experience. Their enthusiasm kept me going, mile after mile.”

Since her husband retired as WVU president, Mrs. Hardesty has joined a book club, taken several opera classes, a finance for women class, and a West Virginia history class all at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She is taking pilates and yoga at the WVU Recreation Center and is playing tennis again—after 12 years away from the game.

While she is enjoying her time away from the spotlight at WVU, Mrs. Hardesty said the University will always remain near and dear to her heart.

“I miss our WVU life, but have always found that each new stage in life has its own rewards,” she said. “David and I now have time to read the morning paper together, travel together, and have more time to be with our family.”

In 2007, Mrs. Hardesty was inducted into the Order of Vandalia, the highest recognition for service awarded by WVU. She also has been honored by the West Virginia Society of Washington D.C., the West Virginia Education Alliance, and the WVU College of Human Resources and Education. She has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential citizens in her community.

Currently, she is on the board of directors of her local United Way, the Metropolitan Theater Foundation board in Morgantown, the West Virginia Education Alliance, and the WVU College of Creative Arts-Pittsburgh Symphony board.

The WVU Alumni Association’s new Erickson Alumni Center is open, and graduates and friends now have a wonderful opportunity to leave their mark on this one-of-a-kind facility.

Through a special campaign, commemorative bricks can be purchased that will line the Ware Family Alumni Walk leading into the new building.

These commemorative bricks make great gifts, especially for upcoming graduates, and are a unique opportunity to honor loved ones or celebrate special occasions.

Any WVU alumnus or friend can have their name engraved on one of the pavers. Officially recognized alumni groups such as WVU Alumni Association chapters, societies, and alumni interest groups can also have their name on a paver or post.

Options Available:
• 4 x 8 paver with text only - $300
  (3 lines/18 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation)

• 8 x 8 Flying WV paver with text only - $1,000
  (3 lines/18 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation)

• Column with bronze plaque - $3,000
  (Can be paid over three years. Columns are the brick columns that connect the iron fence that surrounds the Mountaineer Courtyard and the entrance to the terrace. Each column is 4-5 ft. high and will include a bronze plaque commemorating alumni and friends.)

Order your gift today online at www.wvuaf.org or contact the WVU Foundation, 304-284-4059, for more information.
Despite tough economic times, employers have shown up in large numbers at WVU job fairs this year. More than 100 employers participated in a campuswide job fair in September, Durham said, and an engineering job fair in October drew about 150 employers.

“I am often asked how we manage to attract so many high-quality employers to campus, and my answer is always the same,” Durham said. “Getting them here the first time is easy. The reputation of our graduates is our best recruiting tool. Once an employer hires a WVU grad, he is anxious to return to hire more.”

WVU has an 85-90 percent job placement rate, when comparing the number of students who look for jobs prior to graduation and the number of students who have job offers at the time of graduation, Durham said. In many cases, programs such as nursing and pharmacy have 100 percent placement rates.

Employers have also been lining up for graduates with degrees in physical therapy, dentistry and general medicine.

“We can’t graduate enough of them,” Durham said.

Graduates with degrees in many engineering disciplines are in high demand as well, and according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, engineers are the highest paid graduates with a four-year degree.

The Career Services Center offers a variety of tools for students looking to begin their careers after college.

Durham strongly encourages every WVU student to register on the University’s online career assistance software, MountaineerTRAK. MountaineerTRAK job kiosks are located in key areas across campus and allow students to access employment information related to their major simply by swiping their Mountaineer Card.

A seminar series is held every semester for students interested in learning more about resume writing, interview skills and the job search process. The seminars are available every Wednesday at 4 p.m. at the Career Services Center.

Students who prefer one-on-one time can meet with a career counselor to talk about resume writing, interview skills, job searching and other career-related concerns. Career counselors can also assist students by editing their resumes and performing mock interviews.

To schedule an appointment, students can call 304-293-2221, e-mail CareerServices@mail.wvu.edu or stop by the Career Services Center in Room 133 of the Mountainlair.

The WVU Alumni Association and WVU’s Career Services are working together to recruit potential mentors for students and alumni.

The mentoring program is a unique opportunity to connect alumni and friends of WVU with other graduates and students who are looking for assistance with real-life issues, including career choices, networking, internships, resume building, and much more.

“We often hear that our alumni want to give back, and one of the ways they want to do that is through mentoring,” says Steve Douglas, president and CEO, WVU Alumni Association. “This is a wonderful opportunity for our graduates to share their knowledge and expertise with future alumni, as well as current graduates who may be changing jobs or moving to a new city.”

Through MountaineerTRAK, you can sign up to become a mentor. It’s simple. Go to: https://www.myinterface.com/wvu/mentor and complete the information.

How can you help?
• Talk to a student or alumnus(a) about career choices
• Offer advice on how to get a career started
• Review resumes, cover letters or portfolios
• Conduct mock interviews
• Assist with networking opportunities that can assist them in getting their career(s) off the ground
• Share tips on beginning a new job
• Provide relocation information and advice
• Be supportive

“MountaineerTRAK allows alumni to be as involved as they want to be,” says Dave Durham, Director, WVU Career Services. “The program allows you to determine how many students you want to mentor, how often you want to be contacted, and how you want to be contacted, so it’s very flexible for those who are participating in the mentor program.”

We hope you will consider giving your time to mentor the next generation of Mountaineers. For more information, contact WVU’s Office of Career Services at 304-293-2221 or e-mail CareerServices@mail.wvu.edu.
Taylor Jones

Clemson named WVU's 23rd president (cont. from cover)

During campus forums, Clements talked about being a first-generation college graduate from a working-class family who's 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.

"I'm a team builder who works well with everybody," he said.

As an example, he was asked by the chancellor to co-direct the last presidential search at Towson when the former president resigned after only nine months on the job. He also led the presidential transition team and Towson's 2010 strategic plan.

Speaking of the pride and passion people 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.

Describing his decision-making style, Clements said his job is "not to make popular decisions, but to make the right decisions" with the proper input and then communicate why those decisions were made.

He stressed the need to drive down the student-to-faculty ratio at WVU by making an investment in more faculty and providing more flexibility in their classroom workload that allows for more research, service and grant writing. These are "serious strategic decisions" that will need further discussion, he said.

For comments from state and University leaders, photos, curriculum vita and more, go to http://presidentelect.wvu.edu/.

WVU introduces online housing, roommate-matching system / Colleen Wright

West Virginia University is putting campus housing and roommate selection at students' fingertips.

After three years of designing and testing, WVU's Housing and University Apartments online selection system was recently unveiled to students.

"The system ultimately puts housing assignments and roommate selection directly in the hands of the students," said Corey Farris, director of Housing and University Apartments at WVU.

In the past, students would fill out paper forms indicating their first and second choice of housing and if they had a roommate in mind, they would list the student on their application. They would also answer a few questions about neatness, sleeping habits and other personal preferences, and then housing officials would try to match up students.

With the new online system, students receive an e-mail shortly after paying their housing deposits indicating when they can log into the roommate-matching system. Once in the system, they can view housing options and select a room.

If a student has a roommate in mind, an e-mail is sent to the potential roommate for approval. If students do not know who they will room with, they are asked to complete a 15-question personality survey.

Students answer questions related to smoking, sleeping habits, music preference and study habits, among others. The system then matches students with similar responses. This allows students to choose roommates based on the features that matter most to them.

If a student is applying for a residential college or has special needs, the system will provide specific housing options.

"It is a really exciting and very user-friendly system," Farris said.

The online system was designed by WVU's Student Systems Management and Student Affairs Administrative Technology Development offices.

For more information, visit us at http://housing.wvu.edu/apply/returningstudeintentroomprocess.htm.

Faculty, students benefit from Widmeyer gifts

Generous donations from WVU alumnus Scott Widmeyer, his parents, Douglas and Ruth Ann Widmeyer, and Widmeyer Communications are funding one of the country’s first endowed professorships in public relations, as well as an endowed scholarship.

Perley Isaac Reed, School of Journalism Dean Maryanne Reed said the gifts will enhance the educational experience for students now and well into the future.

"We are so fortunate to have friends like Scott and his wonderful parents," Reed said. "Scott's loyalty to WVU and his continued history of giving back to his alma mater make him an exemplary role model. Scott has achieved great success in his work and done good deeds in his life."

Scott Widmeyer, who earned his bachelor's degree from the WVU School of Journalism, is chairman and CEO of Widmeyer Communications. He has a 30-year record of providing strategic thinking to scores of decision-makers, including presidents, governors, CEOs and union leaders. He is one of the latest inductees into the WVU Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

"The School of Journalism at WVU is the training ground for tomorrow's communicators," he said. "On behalf of Widmeyer Communications and my great parents, we are so pleased to support the P.I. Reed School of Journalism and its students and faculty through the endowed professorship and the scholarship program."

Douglas and Ruth Ann Widmeyer contributed to both the Widmeyer Professorship in Public Relations and the Douglas and Ruth Ann Widmeyer Endowed Journalism Scholarship for undergraduate students. They are natives of West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle.

Previously, Widmeyer established two scholarship funds to benefit black and first-generation West Virginians who are seeking degrees in journalism.
So often, my bi-weekly Parent E-Newsletters to members of the Mountaineer Parents Club are focused on updates, important reminders and campus happenings aimed at the parents of our currently enrolled WVU students. That said, every spring we also start to hear from those parents of our new Mountaineers-to-be as you inquire about financial aid timelines, housing processes, New Student Orientation and all other facets of enrollment at WVU.

The truth is, the typical college campus evolution involves a great deal of overlapping transitions each year...congratulating and escorting out our graduates, continuing to assist and matriculate our current students, while at the same time beginning to usher in the next class of freshmen. While I do my best to keep up with each group, I recognize that my E-Newsletters have a slight bias through the end of the spring term each year. So instead, parents of our Mountaineers-to-be, this article is for you! This will get you up to date and give you a guide of what to expect over the next five months until your student arrives on campus to begin classes!

In early March, the Office of Financial Aid began the financial aid notification process in which students are informed of eligibility for specific forms of assistance, which can include loans, grants, and scholarships. These notifications, which continue throughout the awarding cycle, require a response within 30 days to confirm acceptance. Be sure that your student reviews and responds in a timely fashion.

New Student Orientation is scheduled to take place May 2 for local students (by invitation) and then day sessions will be held during the month of June for the remainder of the incoming freshman class. New Student Organization is the time students and parents are invited to campus to finalize their enrollment including their fall class schedules. Students will meet with advisors, their resident faculty leaders and hall coordinators, they can purchase textbooks through the pack and hold program, and tie up any other loose ends during this one-day program. Parents have a program that runs concurrent throughout the day and will include information from the Financial Aid Office, Office of Student Accounts, and a Parent UNIV 101 session that will pick up where this article leaves off and take you through what to expect in your student’s upcoming fall semester. Information on this program and registration details began going out to students who had paid their academic deposits in mid-March.

In July and August, we encourage our new parents and students to keep an eye out for invitations to Mountaineer Parents Club Summer Send-Offs. These picnics will take place in your local areas hosted by your Parents Club Chair – a parent of a current WVU student from your region. A WVU representative will attend, and this is a great chance to get any last-minute questions answered as well as meet other Mountaineers from close to home!

In the home stretch, fall invoices will be available toward the end of July. These will be available and may be paid through your student’s online STAR account. They are due by the Friday before the first day of classes, August 21. There are payment plans available through the Office of Student Accounts so be sure to check these out in advance on their website: http://finance.wvu.edu/osa/.

Then just that quickly, it is back to Morgantown for Move-In Day – Friday, August 21! More information will be given at New Student Orientation about this process and as the time approaches, I will also be sending additional reminders and details through the Parent E-Newsletters.
Did you know?

• Future nursing students at Potomac State College of WVU will benefit from the school’s largest single gift ever. The contribution comes from Ruth Ann Davis, professor emeriti of biology and chemistry who retired in 2001 after 18 years of service. Dr. Davis’ income-producing gift totals nearly $1 million, and the funds will be endowed at a future time to support nursing scholarships in memory of her late mother, Mrs. Ruth Ward Davis.

• Parents and families can stay in WVU’s finest Residence Hall, Lincoln Hall, during Commencement Weekend -- Friday, May 15 through Monday, May 18, 2009. The rooms are suite-style with semi-private baths and houses two individuals on each side of a bathroom. The beds are extra-long twin-size. Linen service and free parking will be provided. The front desk is staffed 24 hours a day for your convenience.

For more information or to make reservations, please call 304-293-2790. Or email us at Conferences@mail.wvu.edu.

• In February, 2009, several WVU students had the opportunity to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University, a meeting for students, national youth organizations, and university officials to discuss solutions to pressing global issues. CGI U is a growing community to discuss solutions to pressing global organizations and university officials to discuss solutions to pressing global issues. CGI U is a growing community for students, national youth organizations, and university officials to discuss solutions to pressing global issues. The title is the first for the WVU rifle program since 1998 and its 14th national championship overall.

• Students who love sports now have a new opportunity to get in on the action. Beginning this summer, the School of Journalism and the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences are launching a minor in sport communication. The minor prepares WVU students to understand the business of sports and to work with athletes, the media, corporate sponsors and the public. Students will gain practical skills as professional communicators in the multibillion-dollar sports industry, job areas associated with sport communication include sports information, media sales, sponsorships and endorsements, and community relations.

• 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. The David C. Hardesty Jr. Festival of Ideas lecture series was revived shortly after former WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr. took office in 1993. It was inspired by events he organized as WVU student body president in the 1960s.

Each year since, 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. For more information visit http://festivalofideas.wvu.edu/.

The West Virginia University Class Ring tells the world that you are a part of the proud tradition that is West Virginia University. The one-of-a-kind design symbolizes the spirit and academic excellence of West Virginia’s flagship institution of higher learning. Any student of junior status or higher is eligible to purchase the class ring either from the WVU Bookstore downtown or online from Herff Jones. For more information visit our website at http://classring.wvu.edu/.

Students receiving a ring will be invited to participate in a Ring Day Ceremony held each semester to share this proud moment with family and friends.

Gymnastics coach Linda Burdette earned her 600th win on January 31, 2009. She is the first WVU coach to earn 600 wins with a Mountaineer team.

West Virginia University’s #3 ranked rifle team are the 2009 NCAA national champions. The title is the first for the WVU rifle program since 1998 and its 14th national championship overall.

• The new season of WVU Baseball has begun. Visit their website for more information at http://www.msnports.com/teams.cfm/sport=baseball.

• WVU has a new Mountaineer. Point Pleasant native Rebecca Durst will soon don the buckskins as the second female West Virginia University Mountaineer mascot. Durst, a sophomore pre-nursing major, has grown up with the Mountaineers and developed a spirit for the University that she plans to share with the WVU community during the 2009-10 school year. Durst will officially begin serving as the Mountaineer mascot at the April 18 Gold-Blue game.
Reverend Alexander Martin, WVU’s first president, designed the University seal, and it was officially adopted by the WVU Board of Regents on June 16, 1869.

The center of the seal includes an outline of the campus (then only Woodburn Circle), hills behind the buildings to reflect the institution’s stability and a rising sun to indicate its prosperity.

The motto in the inner circle Greek translates to: “Add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge” (from 2 Peter 1:5 in the King James Bible). The outer circle in Latin translates to: “Seal of the West Virginia University Established 7 February 1867.”

The seal is used on numerous items and can be found outside of the Life Sciences Building on WVU’s Downtown Campus. Most recently, a gift of the seal was made to the new Erickson Alumni Center in memory of WVU alumnus Jim Samuel who was one of several graduates who perished in the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center. The seal is located in the circular drive of the new facility.

The Regent’s original, handwritten resolution adopting the seal is located in the University archives in the WVU Wise Library.