

West Virginia University
Parent Electronic News
June 30, 2009

As the Parent E-Newsletter returns from its brief summer vacation, I do hope your students are enjoying theirs — to think that this week marks the half way point in your student's summer! I want to welcome back our upperclassmen parents and greet for the first time the many new parents we welcomed into the Mountaineer family in June during New Student Orientation! We are also excited today to welcome President Jim Clements and his family to our Mountaineer family as he officially begins his service here at WVU.

Below is a message from President Clements to parents on this, his first day in office, that we wanted to share with each of you as we embark on this exciting journey together! For more on President Clements, go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1077>.

For those new to the Parent E-News, know that I will be in touch in the coming weeks with important details and timely updates as the fall term quickly approaches. Until that time, I hope you are all enjoying the summer months and at least a bit of quality time with your students. Just think, it won't be long until they are making their way down those Country Roads back to Morgantown and WVU!

Dear Mountaineer Parents:

As I begin my service as West Virginia University's 23rd president, I feel honored and excited about leading one of America's great land-grant universities. I feel proud to be part of the Mountaineer family. I feel grateful that people like you are active members of that family, too.

Throughout my career in higher education, I've seen that parents play an important role in promoting student success. For that reason, I've been deeply impressed by the membership and scope of the Mountaineer Parents Club.

As the father of a high school senior, I understand fully what it means for parents to place their trust in a college or university. You expect us to look out for your children's well being, to help them grow intellectually and personally, and to prepare them for a successful career.

As I've become acquainted with WVU faculty and staff, I've witnessed their amazing commitment to making a positive difference every day for our students.

Our faculty are people like Dr. Ruth Kershner, who exemplify WVU's commitment to changing lives and expanding minds.

She is an award-winning teacher and a health educator whose work reaches well beyond the classroom, into the state, into the region and, literally, across the globe. Her work demonstrates that WVU can attract and nurture some of the nation's best educators - educators who are dedicated to both scholarship and mentorship.

She is very dedicated to her students and a great mentor. She inspires her students and, like many, she has a global impact. It's not just about West Virginia, it's not just about the East Coast, it's not just about the United States. She's served as an international health mentor for students in Honduras, Tanzania and Guatemala, to name just a few.

Our advisers are people like Jan Boyles, director of advising for Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism, who recently won an award for guiding hundreds of students through an enriching educational experience and onward to successful media careers.

Our administration and staff include people like Dr. Tom Sloane, senior associate dean of students, who has spent more than four decades reaching out to students and their families, sharing and guiding their success, and assisting them during some fragile moments in their lives.

He also travels the globe recruiting international students and connecting with WVU's alumni worldwide, sharing his friendship and exchanging ideas and information with them.

These are just a few examples. There are hundreds more like them, who appreciate that parents entrust WVU to care for their children and to help make sure those students are successful.

In the days ahead, I will work with students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends to build on WVU's strengths. Together, we will work to increase our student support services and our scholarship and financial aid programs to be sure that students can take full advantage of our excellent academic offerings. We will position ourselves on the leading edge of technology and find more efficient and effective ways to apply that technology to everything we do on campus. We will increase our learning community's diversity and develop an even broader global focus to better prepare students for new and emerging international opportunities.

I appreciate the ideas, enthusiasm, and energy that Mountaineer parents bring to our University. I know that, in partnership, we can help your student grow in knowledge, confidence, and enthusiasm, and we will launch them on a successful career path.

Jim Clements, President

Katie Utterback

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