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, and have long admired Susan Hardesty’s innovative vision in partnering with parents to ensure that students succeed and that parents are offered a voice and a role in that success.

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 include people like Dr. Ruth Kershner, who exemplifies 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 committed to her students and is a great mentor. She inspires her students and, like many of our faculty, she has a global impact. She’s served as an international health mentor for students in Honduras, Tanzania, and Guatemala.

Our advisors are people like Jan Boyles, director of advising for the Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism. She recently won an award for mentoring and guiding students through an enriching educational experience – one that includes challenging course work, meaningful internships, and substantive career counseling to prepare them for 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, energy, and direction that Mountaineer parents bring to their students and 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.

James P. Clemente

Fall 2009
Dear Mountaineer Parents,

Welcome to the start of the fall semester. While many of you are still enjoying the summer, we are already thinking ahead.

Many students will be moving back to Morgantown to wrap up their senior year and prepare to graduate, while others are moving into the residence halls to begin their first year on campus. No matter what category your student falls into, the Mountaineer Parents Club is here for you.

We provide valuable information so that you can help your student be successful. This summer, I had the opportunity to meet many new families on campus at New Student Orientation and at Summer Send-Offs. Parents often tell me that they have had children who attended other colleges and universities, but WVU was the best at sharing valuable news with them. Parents are amazed at our level of communication. We pride ourselves on that fact. We constantly strive to provide you with the latest news and opportunities to connect to our University.

One of the many ways to connect is through on-campus events. Fall Family Weekend will be held this year on October 2-4, 2009—it is a great event for you and your whole family. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate on campus with your student. Walk their new walk!

Seven weeks into the semester, first-year students will be so proud to show you what they have learned. Upper-class students will be anxious to share with you the place that is now home to them. The schedule for the weekend continues to grow! Planned events include a welcome reception, an opportunity to experience Hatfield’s Drive-In, a women’s soccer game, Mountaineer Idol, WVUp All Night, and various school and college events. Be sure to check out the complete schedule of events on the official Fall Family Weekend website, http://fallfamilyweekend.wvu.edu/.

In addition, RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles, will be performing at the College of Creative Arts. They look like and sound just like them! All of the music and vocals are performed totally live, and this is a great show for the whole family. To order tickets to RAIN, visit www.events.wvu.edu or call the box office at 304-293-SHOW (7469).

This fall, at whatever point you are with your student’s journey through college, remember that it is important for you to be part of it. You provide invaluable support to your student, so stay involved. Go to local club events, and perhaps even volunteer to be an officer; Read your newsletters, Parent Electronic News messages, and go to the Mountaineer Parents Club website at http://parents.wvu.edu.

I look forward to joining you on this exciting adventure. See you at Fall Family Weekend.

Sincerely,

Sabrina M. Cave, Executive Director
**WVU’S NEW OPT-IN EREFUND PROGRAM**

**OFFERS QUICKER REFUND, OPTIONAL CARD SERVICES**

*PNC Bank to provide personal banking services to students*

West Virginia University and PNC bank have teamed to bring WVU students a faster, more convenient way to access their refunds from financial aid or other sources on their student account. PNC will also be opening a bank branch in the Mountainlair with full service in August, along with ATMs around campus.

ERefund is a new, opt-in program that allows students to electronically receive financial aid refunds after tuition, fees, and housing costs have been paid. Traditionally, these refunds were processed by check and mailed to recipients. Students may choose to continue to receive a paper check or pick one of three new refund options: they can have money directly deposited into a free PNC checking account (which includes a Visa debit card), have money electronically transferred to a non-PNC account, or receive a prepaid Visa card. The prepaid card does not require the student to have a bank account, and it can be disposed of once its funds have been used. They can make their eRefund choices by logging in to the PNC Payment Portal (www.pnc.com/wvu), a new online tool that administers payments and refunds and also addresses frequently asked questions. Opting in to eRefund means students will receive their money in 24-48 hours. Checks usually arrive in 7-10 days.

PNC will also offer a co-branded Visa check card with the WVU logo, and autoalerts to help students monitor spending and account balances and avoid fees. At www.pnc.com/wvu, students can complete account applications, manage their finances, and find financial and educational information on a variety of topics including identity protection.

Additional information about the eRefund program will be posted on the Mountaineer Information Xpress (mix@mail.wvu.edu) and announced through other campus communication vehicles.

The PNC branch in the Mountainlair is scheduled to open in early August. Seven advanced function ATMs, including two at the branch in the Mountainlair, will begin opening at several points around campus in July.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The WVU Foundation has redesigned its website. Learn how you can support WVU: Visit: http://www.wvu.org


The WVU Office of Social Justice will host Diversity Week October 18 - 24 in collaboration with the City of Morgantown and the Monongalia County School System as part of an ongoing effort to “Build an Inclusive Community.”

Students at WVU now have a unique opportunity. WVU is currently the only university in the United States to offer a group fitness instructor minor; and is one of three universities to offer a personal training minor through the College of Physical Activity and Sports Sciences. The minors complement many majors and allow students to graduate with several national certifications. Students in these minors take classes, have hands-on fieldwork experience and take the national certification exam. For more information, visit http://www.wvu.edu/~physedu/

West Virginia University’s College of Business and Economics recently began offering a new elective course. The Hotel/Hospitality Management course capitalizes on tourism, one of the state’s leading industries. The course is an upper-level management elective open to business majors. Students meet weekly at the Waterfront Place Hotel, where they listen to lectures and take tours of the various hotel departments. For more information, visit: http://www.be.wvu.edu/

WVU offers bus rides home for students during holiday breaks to Hagerstown, MD: Allentown, PA; Secaucus, NJ; and Philadelphia, PA. In addition, some local Mountaineer Parents Club chapters sponsor their own buses to Columbia, MD: Northern VA, and Long Island, NY. Visit our website for all the details, times and destinations: http://parentsclub.wvu.edu/schedules.

Dean and Gina Dubbés established the Everett C. Dubbés Research Scholarship in honor of Dean’s late father, “Bud,” who taught electrical engineering to three generations of WVU students over 34 years. The $100,000 gift will be submitted for matching funds through the West Virginia Research Trust Fund (RTF), established by the state Legislature to support research and economic development, bringing the total gift to $200,000. The Dubbés also made the gift to express their enthusiasm at the appointment of James P. Clements as WVU’s 23rd president, whose academic and teaching background is in computer engineering and information sciences.

Morgantown, WV., was named one of Top College Towns for Jobs by Forbes Magazine. Forbes.com ranked Morgantown as the number-two college town for jobs on its list of 20. According to Forbes, 19.7 percent of Morgantown’s job force is employed by or related to employment with the university. While the nation as a whole has experienced a 3.5 percent decrease in job growth, Morgantown has sustained a 2.9 percent job growth rate. Other towns that ranked near the top were Provo-Orem, Utah (Brigham Young University) and Durham, NC (Duke University).

The WVU Veterans Committee recently sent care packages to WVU students and employees deployed overseas. The packages are to remind the students and employees that WVU is thinking about them and their exemplary service to the country. The committee hopes to be able to continue the project in future semesters, and any WVU student, faculty or staff member who is deployed overseas can request a care package at http://simpleforms.scripts.wvu.edu/socjust/DeployedMilitaryMountaineers/.

The Office of Student Employment, under the division of Human Resources, assists students in finding part-time and seasonal employment while they are in college. Whether students are interested in supplementing their financial aid, or keeping themselves in pizza money, this office can help with the job hunt. The office sends out information on the Student Jobs List, offers one-on-one counseling and is available for job search assistance. To sign up or find out more, check out their website at: http://studentjobs.wvu.edu.

**Mountaineer Parents Club / 3**
NEW WVU HONORS DORM TO OPEN THIS MONTH

Honors College dean to be RFL By Colleen Wright

Students in West Virginia University’s Honors College will have an enhanced learning experience both in and out of the classroom.

Soon, many students in the Honors College will move into a new $20 million, 91,600-square-foot residence hall. And, to make the learning experience more involved – the Honors College Dean Keith Garbutt and his wife, Christine, will be moving into the hall with them.

The 362-bed residence hall sits adjacent to WVU’s Summit Hall on Grant Avenue, near WVU’s downtown campus. The facility has five floors, each with study and TV lounges. Students will live in suite-style rooms (two beds per room; two rooms connected by a shared bathroom make up a suite). Apartments within the hall will house the Garbutts – who will serve as the dorm’s resident faculty leaders – and a residence hall coordinator.

A courtyard and other amenities enhance the facility, including a state-of-the-art multimedia room with screen and projector, a laundry facility, Internet access and office space.

The new facility will serve as a residential college, which is designed to mix formal learning with life outside of the classroom. The students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of residence hall activities, and they will be encouraged to become engaged members of the University community.

Faculty and student mentors will also be on hand to assist students with any academic or personal concerns that they may have throughout the year.

As dean, a position which he has held since 2006 when the college was created, Garbutt feels that it is important that the RFLs be associated with the Honors College.

“That linking is very important,” he said “We want the residence hall to be a close-knit academic living and learning community, and hope our home will be the heart of that community.”

Prior to being dean, Garbutt served as director of the University Honors Program. He is also the dean of students for the Governor’s School for Math and Science and runs the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Program.

Before Garbutt was appointed director, he served as chair of the WVU Department of Biology, where he was named Eberly Family Professor of Outstanding Teaching. Garbutt received his doctorate from the University of Wales (Bangor).

Christine, who spent many years working full time homeschooling her sons, now spends much of her time volunteering for various groups, including the Monongalia County Parents Club, of which she is currently chair; the Morgantown Panto Club and Women Across Cultures.

The WVU Honors College includes about 400 freshmen, 300 sophomores, 300 juniors and 500 seniors, totaling more than 1,500 students. For more information, visit http://honors.wvu.edu/.

Massey Energy contributes $500K to WVU, WVU Tech engineering programs

By Bill Nevin

Massey Energy has pledged $500,000 to the mining and civil engineering programs at WVU and WVU Institute of Technology at Montgomery. The funds will be used to provide scholarships and other academic enhancements.

“We hope our donation will help West Virginia University attract the best and brightest engineering students from throughout Central Appalachia,” said Don Blankenship, Massey Energy chairman and CEO. “We believe this donation will have a lasting positive impact on improving educational opportunities in our state. It is the best investment we can make in the future of West Virginia.”

The Massey Energy Scholarship Fund in Mining and Civil Engineering for WVU and WVU Tech will provide $36,000 annually for five years ($180,000) for scholarships for students enrolled in WVU’s College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (CEMR), and $12,000 ($60,000) for students enrolled in the Leonard C. Nelson College of Engineering and Sciences at WVU Tech.

“Energy and civil infrastructure are two areas in which there is a great need for well-educated engineers,” said Gene Cilento, Glen Hiner Dean of the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources. “This gift will therefore not only benefit the students who receive these scholarships, but will contribute to the economic development of our state and nation by helping to fill that need.”

Massey is providing an additional $260,000 over five years for outreach programs and academic enhancements. The Massey Energy Activity Fund will support outreach to high school and middle school students who may have an interest in the mining and civil engineering fields. It also will support academic enhancements, Massey Energy on-campus activities including internships, and participation in the CEMR Career Fair and the CEMR speaker series.
As newly-appointed registrar of West Virginia University, it is Steve Robinson’s duty to maintain the accuracy and integrity of all academic records.

The establishment of this position signals the development of a centralized system of records management, intended to standardize and strengthen degree-granting practices and policies University-wide, said interim Provost E. Jane Martin.

Robinson, who formerly held the position of registrar at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC), began his duties at WVU on June 30.

The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), an independent record management consulting group, recommended in February that WVU establish a permanent University registrar who would serve as the official custodian of all students’ academic records.

“We are delighted that Dr. Robinson is joining the WVU family,” Martin said.

“We had an exceptionally strong pool of applicants and finalists, but Steve’s extensive background as a registrar and leader in academic regulations and certification practices stood out. We also felt he was just an all-around good fit for WVU.”

At UMBC, Robinson refined the degree audit and graduation processes to increase efficiency and student services, re-engineered the transcript and documentation ordering process, facilitated the overhaul of the undergraduate catalog and introduced new communication tools to enhance customer service, among other things.

“Maintaining the integrity of the University’s academic records is an incredible responsibility, but it is also one that I am honored to accept. I look forward to building upon the significant work that has already been accomplished in implementing the recommendations of the AACRAO task force. We will meet and exceed the gold standard in these matters that WVU expects and deserves,” Robinson said.

A WVU alumnus, he earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and political science and a master’s degree in higher education administration in 1992 and 1995, respectively. He also received a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Alabama.

Prior to serving as registrar at UMBC, he was associate registrar at the University of Alabama. He also served for a time as director of student services, Office of Nursing, at Alabama as well as coordinator and advisor of student services, College of Nursing, at East Tennessee State University.

He has delivered numerous presentations and workshops on record keeping, enrollment management, change management, FERPA, advising and other related topics.

JAMES PATRICK CLEMENTS BIO

Full Name: James Patrick Clements
Age: 45
Hometown: Born in Arlington, VA; but lived in Baltimore, MD, area for majority of life -- most recently, West Friendship, MD.
Family: Wife, Beth; children - Tyler, 17; Hannah and Maggie, 14; Grace, 9
Education: B.S., Computer Science, M.S., Operations Analysis, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; M.S., Computer Science, Johns Hopkins University; Ph.D., Operations Analysis, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Sports, Clubs and/or Activities in High School: Football, Baseball

General Questions -
What hobbies do you enjoy? Golf, Tennis, Running, Working Out, Reading
What do you like to do on a night out? Attend dinner or a ballgame with friends
Where in the world would you most want to visit and why? The Greek Isles are appealing because of their beauty, history and culture

Favorites -
Sport and professional team: Historically, the Baltimore Ravens and Orioles, although the Pirates, Steelers and Penguins are my new favorites
Subject(s) in school: Philosophy, Logic, Math
Color: blue
Food: I love all foods; I’m not picky
Movie: Indiana Jones Raiders of the Lost Ark
TV show: News and Sports
Cartoon: I watch Sponge Bob Square Pants with Grace; that’s her favorite show
Musical artist/group: I love all music, but especially country music -- Brad Paisley, Kenny Chesney, Martina McBride
Book or movie: The Speed of Trust, by Stephen M.R. Covey
Ocean or Mountains: I grew up spending time at the shore -- Ocean City, MD, but I also love the beauty of the mountains

Mountaineer Parents Club / 5
TRANSITIONING TO FALL

As the roads leading to Morgantown begin again to fill with Mountaineers heading to campus, the signs that fall term is upon us are undeniable. This all means that parents are realizing that like so many things in life, this transition is coming, like it or not. Move-in day is just around the corner!

Every June at New Student Orientation I have the privilege to meet the parents of all incoming freshmen. During the Parent UNIV 101 class, we spend time preparing for what is in store in the coming months and talk about the rapid period of transition that will occur this summer. As students prepare to leave home, some for the first time, this period can be marked with growth in responsibility, taking a more integral role in life decisions to even the basics of perhaps learning to do their own laundry, balance their account or manage their time wisely.

While the student growth is substantial, we also realize that for parents this period is also one of great transition as students move from a high school graduate to a college adult. That said, more and more we often see that this transition is as, if not more, difficult for parents than students. As an example, during this session I asked a classroom of 300+ parents how many saw their students as adults? Each day I was hard pressed to find 30 parents who felt comfortable with this new title. I joked with each group that this is part of their homework assignment for summer and promised to be ready to check their progress when they returned to drop their student off this fall. With move-in day just around the corner, it may be time for an all-nighter to complete that homework assignment!

When talking about transitioning I also mentioned something that often goes hand-in-hand with the discussion of maturation to adulthood – FERPA – the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. FERPA is a federal act that is designed to protect the privacy of a student’s educational records. While often parents view this as a non-optional part of the weaning process and perhaps are not always happy about this adjustment, I am quick to remind folks that the “F” here should stand for “Federal” as this is not simply a WVU rule. Please remember that once admitted to WVU your students are viewed in the eyes of the University as adults and per this policy their educational records are theirs to share. So as a reminder, now is the time for those last-minute conversations if you have not already had them.

WVU has recently launched a new website focused on FEPRA that may help with some of these conversations: http://ferpa.wvu.edu. The FAQ section is designed to address some of the more general questions regarding FERPA. Working with parents, one of the main questions I hear is, “I pay the bills, why can’t I have access to my child’s record?” I always leave parents with the story one father shared with me regarding his approach to FERPA and bill payment. He noted that he conveyed to his son that while he invested in the stock market, he expected quarterly reports. He drew the correlation that while he will be investing in his son’s education, he also expected a semestery update with grades. For him a FERPA waiver was not necessary as his son agreed to share this directly with his father after each term via his STAR/MIX account. In the end, the majority of information protected by FERPA is readily accessible to each student online and they can choose to share this information with individuals on their own. So again determine what will work best for your family.

Remember; FERPA waivers are available should a student wish to grant access to his or her records. Perhaps if parents will be paying bills or dealing with the financial aid process, this may be helpful. Many students completed and submitted the main consolidated FERPA form during summer Orientation with their photo ID granting access to these and perhaps other main offices. This form will remain in effect until the student graduates, leaves school for six months or revokes access. They can access this form, as well as several others, online at the website above and submit them once they return to campus.

I will leave you with one last piece of information as it relates to student privacy and FERPA. Also on the FERPA website, persons will find detailed information about Directory Information policies at WVU. Directory Information may be disclosed by West Virginia University for any purpose, at its discretion. Each year WVU follows protocol to make students aware of this and other FERPA related policies through the Annual Notice process. As budding adults, students should be reminded to make themselves familiar with this process and all other processes as they relate to their records, and what each entails.

As this summer of transition wraps up with parents working to let go and students working to rein in their new title of adult, please remember to leave them with the reminder that with this title also comes great responsibility. This new chapter holds many new opportunities and chances for growth. They are on their way to becoming the independent adults you have raised them to be. Congratulations parents on 18 good years of work! Welcome to campus…your homework is now due!

GOLDRUSH 2009

WVU is looking forward to the second annual Gold Rush, which benefits the WVU United Way Campaign. During the October 1st home football game, the entire stadium is encouraged to wear gold and support the United Way cause. Student Government members will be selling limited edition T-shirts across campus and Morgantown from August 31-October 1. All proceeds from the sales go directly to the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties.

As a special incentive, parents are able to order a T-shirt for their son/daughter and mail payment. Your student can stop by one of the many booths and just pick up their shirt. The shirts are $10.00. It is an excellent opportunity for them to get involved in the campus and show their school spirit during the Gold Rush. You won’t want them to miss out on the opportunity.

For more information or to download the order form, please visit http://unitedway.wvu.edu.
MCgee GIFT TO ENHANCE WVU’S NEW ART MUSEUM

John and Ruth McGee of Charleston, through the McGee Foundation, have pledged $1 million to the new art museum at WVU.

Their gift is in addition to a collection of acclaimed Shona (Zimbabwean) stone sculptures that will be displayed at the museum, as well as in other buildings on the WVU campus.

WVU’s art museum will be a new, three-level building adjacent to the former Erickson Alumni Center. Plans call for it to be completed by 2012.

One of the exhibit galleries in the new building will be named for the McGees, said Dean of the College of Creative Arts Bernie Schultz.

“They are the most gracious and engaging people, and their philanthropic activities, literally, extend across our world. John and Ruth’s exceedingly generous gift is a cornerstone of the Art Museum at WVU, and it is difficult to find the words to express our heartfelt gratitude to them.”

The McGees are avid art collectors with diverse artistic interests, and through this became interested in the art museum at WVU.

The College of Creative Arts has committed to raising $9 million for the art museum project, which will serve both the community and the region.

The museum will contain approximately 5,300 square feet of exhibition space, including gallery space for the WVU Art Collection and also for changing exhibitions. There will be outdoor sculpture courts, museum offices, conference and education rooms, a lecture and performance hall, lounge, café and museum shop.

The museum will allow students and visitors to engage in visual literacy, develop personal relationships with art, and understand cultural and historical perspectives about the world.

Outreach and community projects will enrich the quality of education for students in grades K through 12 and will foster appreciation of the arts for future generations of students and local residents.

For a list of WVU helpful numbers, visit here
http://parentsclub.wvu.edu/phoneNumbers

Calendar of Events

- August 21 - Move-in Day
- August 24 - Fall Semester Begins
- September 7 - Labor Day Recess
- September 9 - Last Day To Change a Meal Plan and still get a refund
- October 2 - 4 - Fall Family Weekend
- November 20 - Residence Hall Close @ 7:00 pm
- November 21-29 - Thanksgiving Recess
- November 29 - Residence Halls Re-open @ 12:00 pm
- December 13 - December Convocation
- December 14-19 - Finals Week
- December 19 - Residence Hall Close @ 5:00 pm
- January 9, 2010 - Residence Hall Re-open at 12:00pm
LANE PARK: A NEW GATHERING PLACE ON THE EVANSDALE CAMPUS  By Caroline Wilson

Students, parents, alumni and other visitors will soon be able to enjoy a beautiful park on WVU’s Evansdale Campus. Construction of Lane Park is scheduled to begin this fall with an anticipated completion in spring 2010.

Woolpert Inc., nationally recognized for its park design, has been chosen to construct the park just off University Avenue and Van Voorhis Road near the entrance to WVU’s Erickson Alumni Center. The park will include open grass lawns, benches, landscaping, native vegetation, walkways and a pedestrian bridge.

Lane Park will be a visible campus element that not only will provide the foreground for the Alumni Center, but will serve as a vital piece of the University landscape. The park will enhance the appearance of the area, and improve safety by providing walking paths and lighting.

“I see students using the area now. I can only imagine what a great gathering place Lane Park will provide for students and families once it is completed,” said Steve Douglas, president and CEO, WVU Alumni Association. “Now, students, alumni and visitors will be able to enjoy the luxury of having the green space that has been available on the downtown campus for so long.”

Lane Park is named in the honor of alumnus Raymond Lane who donated $1 million to the park and an additional $500,000 to the Alumni Association’s building campaign. The area housing the Erickson Alumni Center and Lane Park is a part of Statler Wilson Commons, named in honor of Ben and Jo Statler for their $2 million gift to the Alumni Association.