

West Virginia University
Parent Electronic News
October 15, 2009

We hope everyone arrived home safely after a wonderful time on campus during Fall Family Weekend! Please be sure to complete a short survey to provide us feedback as we begin planning for next year's event: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1153>.

Mid-semester has now arrived. This is an important time for your student to build upon his or her personal foundation of success and is one of the busiest times of the year at the University for students both in and out of the classroom. Midterm grades will be coming out at the end of this week for students who currently have a D or an F in a class, so no news is good news. If an abrupt reality sets in and some help is needed, remind your students of the Mid-Semester Help Center being held Monday, October 19. This serves as a one-stop shop where students can receive a variety of assistance. See below for more on the center, including dates, times, and locations. Also, the process of registering for spring classes begins before long, so remind your students that they need to check their accounts for any hold as well as schedule and complete their advising appointments in the near future! Lastly, with the seasons changing and cold and flu season ramping up, we have included the most recent Influenza-Like Illness update from our health care professionals, so be sure to read on. For more on these items and a variety of other happenings on campus! In this edition:

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MIDTERM GRADES ARE OUT on Friday, October 16th

The calls and e-mails have been revving up with parents asking how they can check on their student's grades. The best way to know your student's progress is to, of course,

check with your student directly. Remember, they have been given a syllabus that breaks down the grading structure for each class. If they have been recording grades for tests, quizzes, and assignments, they should have a pretty good grasp on where they stand.

Midterm grades will officially become available in the University's STAR system this Friday. Please note that only Ds and Fs will be reflected, so no news is good news! If your student has granted you access to his or her educational records account via a signed FERPA waiver, you should have a five-digit code to identify yourself. If you have your code, you may call the Office of the University Registrar at 304-293-2124 to check for any midterm grades as of this Friday, October 16.

For progress in all other classes, students may check with their instructors (typically during office hours is the best) or again use their syllabus to tally and track their progress for each class. Midterm grade reports are simply a courtesy to allow students who may be in jeopardy to know their current status in order to make appropriate adjustments.

MID-SEMESTER HELP CENTER AVAILABLE Monday, October 19th

The mid-semester time frame is a critical point for student success at West Virginia University. This can be a stressful time for your students as it tends to be a time when several exams take place as well as deadlines for projects and papers. Please remind your student of the various support services that are available such as free tutoring, Term Paper Clinic, and the Writing Center. Visit

http://retention.wvu.edu/academic_resource_centers for more information.

If you anticipate that your students may need assistance or is encountering difficulties at midterm, encourage them to go to the Mid-Semester Help Center. The Help Center will be held this coming Monday, October 19th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the WVU Mountainlair and from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. The Mid-Semester Help Center provides a one-stop shop where students can add and drop classes, speak with a Financial Aid Counselor, meet with an advisor from the Undergraduate Academic Services Center, or get information on tutoring. Other offices will include Well WVU, Office of Disability Services, and several other support services. Students may simply drop by to ask questions and seek assistance or make follow up appointments.

HEALTH UPDATES FROM CAMPUS

Please see below for some health updates provided by our WELL WVU health professional staff:

Influenza-Like Illness Update:

As of 10/14/09, we have diagnosed 497 cases of Influenza-Like Illness that we are treating as if they are H1N1, although confirmatory testing is no longer available. This is the case throughout the country as only community surveillance testing is being done, not individual diagnoses. So far at WVU, the cases of Influenza-Like Illness have all been minor and the patients have recovered without hospitalization.

So far all students, staff, and faculty have been very cooperative with our efforts to minimize the spread of influenza and to minimize disruption to campus life. Please know that students living in WVU residence halls have been given updates through floor meetings on H1N1, steps to take to minimize chances for infection in close living quarters, identifying symptoms, how to protect themselves, and services available if they become ill.

At WVU, like most institutions of higher education, isolation housing is not available. The recommendations are for students with Influenza-Like Illness to isolate themselves, either by going home (if close and convenient) or isolating themselves in their Morgantown housing. In an effort to minimize infecting others, they should not attend classes or go to any public places, until their fever has resolved for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. If their roommate, or anyone else must come within 6 feet of them, then the person with the illness should wear a mask. For residence hall students who are ill, masks and disposable thermometers are available. Also, depending on what stage of the flu and how the student is feeling, a couple of meal options are available for delivery from Dining Services as recommended by WVU's Dining Services dietician/nutritionist. Options range from clear soups to more substantial foods and plenty of liquids. Hand sanitizer stations are up in all residence halls, and public areas are being routinely cleaned with disinfectant and antibacterial cleaning solutions.

For off-campus students, earlier this week distribution of Flu Buddy Kits at the Rec Center's front desk began. Students may stop by to pick one up for a sick friend, if needed. Please encourage your student to continue best practices, including frequent hand washing for prevention, and if sick to report it online for tracking purposes at: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1155>.

For students (and the general public), CDC guidelines still recommend that patients should self diagnose I.L.I. if they have fever >100.4 , sudden onset of illness and sore throat/cough, and should not go to a health care provider, unless they have an underlying health care problem, or persistence of the illness past 7 days, or develop more serious symptoms such as shortness of breath or difficulty eating or breathing. If any of these are present, then the patient should call their health care provider (304-293-2311 for Student Health Service) to get advice as to how they should get into the health care system without exposing others. Antiviral medications are only recommended for patients who have underlying health issues, or prolonged or severe symptoms. They are contraindicated for people with usual symptoms without underlying health problems.

Flu Vaccination Updates:

WELL WVU put on a very successful seasonal influenza vaccine program. We have administered over 2,500 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine to WVU students, staff, and faculty. This has all been free of charge for WVU students. That said, Student Health Service has no more seasonal flu vaccines. While supplies can change daily, vaccines are still available at other locations throughout Morgantown. As of today, locations

include local pharmacies and urgent care and specifically the WVU Urgent Care and Monongalia County Board of Health.

Our next big campaign will be to administer H1N1 influenza vaccine to the WVU community. We have everything in place to start that process as soon as the vaccine becomes available. A few doses have been released by the federal government last week, but are only going to health care providers. Some doses of H1N1 influenza vaccine MAY be available for WVU use by mid-November or early December, although we are doing everything we can to make sure we get it out to everyone as soon as it is released by the manufacturers and the federal government. We will be sure to let both students and parents know as we have updates on the availability. We certainly encourage the WVU community, including students, staff, faculty, parents, and families, to get both their seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations as soon as they can, at any location they can find them available.

Health Care Access Reminders:

WELL WVU administrators have been working with WVU Urgent Care to help improve health care for all WVU students. Since WELL WVU is primarily a prepaid service for all WVU students and offers many services, including Urgent Care, General Medicine, Women's Health and Family Planning, Psychology, Psychiatry, Health Education and Promotion, International Travel Consultation and Vaccinations, this should be the first choice for students seeking health care. Most of these services are free with a \$10 copayment that can also be charged to their student account with a WVU ID. Nursing advice is available to students over the phone from 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, by calling 304-293-2311 and asking to speak with a nurse. Payment for services either by insurance or self-pay is necessary at WVU Urgent Care. Hours for WVU Urgent Care are 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., seven days a week.

PRESIDENT CLEMENTS DELIVERS FIRST STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

This week, President Clements shared a collective vision for West Virginia University in his first State of the University address as he began to outline WVU's path for the next decade. Among other things, the President highlighted seven key areas of emphasis: academic and faculty quality, research, undergraduate experience and education, graduate education, collaboration and impact on the state, health care and multiculturalism and globalization. Remarking on the "Share the Vision" survey that many parents participated in, he stated, "Remember the words you used to describe this University: life-changing, innovative, visionary, affordable, resilient, capable, committed, empowering. These words should remind all of us that we are united in a spirit of dedication and optimism and stand together on a solid foundation of success." To watch the entire address, please visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1154>.

LET IT SHINE: DIVERSITY WEEK 2009

Diversity week consists of events and activities where participants can celebrate the diversity that benefits all and learn of traditions and customs from near and far. Over 40

events are scheduled, including lectures, workshops, wellness activities, and musical performances. This year, Diversity Week is focused on "Building an Inclusive Community" and is collaboratively planned by the WVU President's Office for Social Justice, the Monongalia County School System, and the City of Morgantown. For more information about Diversity Week and upcoming events please visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1156>.

CORRECTION: NOTE REGISTRATION PRIORITY TIMES FOR HONORS STUDENTS

Right around the corner, your students will begin registering for spring 2010 classes. Please note their priority date; they should have met with their academic advisor by this time!

In the last Parent E-Newsletter we noted the wrong registration priority times for spring term 2010 for *Junior, *Sophomore, and *Freshmen Honors students. The list below includes these corrections as well as all other times and dates for spring 2010 course registration. Classifications include current fall 2009 term hours. Students should check their individual classification and register at the appropriate time. For more on this process, go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1157>.

Graduates/Professional	Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 a.m.
WVU Honors Seniors	Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 a.m.
WVU Honors Juniors	Wednesday, October 21 at *8:00 a.m.
WVU Honors Sophomores	Thursday, October 22 at *8:00 a.m.
WVU Honors Freshmen	Friday, October 23 at *8:00 a.m.
Seniors (89+ hrs.)	Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 a.m.
Juniors (59-88 hrs.)	Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 a.m.
Sophomores (29-58 hrs.)	Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 a.m.
Freshmen (0-28 hrs.)	Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 a.m.

DATE CHANGE: SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR FAIR

The date of the Sophomore/Junior Fair has been changed to November 5 from noon-5:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Commons area. Please encourage your students to participate. This event is a place for sophomores and juniors to see what is available for them, such as resources and/or activities. They will also be able to talk with representatives from following groups:

Center for Civic Engagement, Mountaineer Adventure Program, Career Services, Center for Black Culture and Research, Child Development and Family Support Services, Student Organizations, Scholarship Information, Student Employment Center, Academic Advising, SGA, Intramurals and Outdoor Recreation, Student Affairs Study Abroad, Off-Campus Housing, Carruth Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Academic Resource Center, Student Advocate, Veterans Services, Health Education, and the Daily Athenaeum.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

The Center for Civic Engagement and the United Way are looking for volunteers to participate in the annual Make a Difference Day project. It will take place on Saturday, Oct. 31 from noon to 4:00 p.m. There will be 15 different sites around the community. All volunteers will receive lunch provided by the Boston Beanery and a commemorative gift. This event is an excellent opportunity for groups and organizations to volunteer together. If your student is looking for a way to get involved in their community here at WVU, encourage them to sign up to participate by visiting <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1158>. For more information, contact the Center for Civic Engagement at 304-293-8761 or by e-mail at brett.white@mail.wvu.edu.

CAMPUS CONSERVATION COMPETITION - ECO-FRIENDLY BATTLE UNDER WAY!

Is your student into recycling and conservation efforts? Ecolympics is the competition for them! Currently under way on campus through October 30, the WE CAN Ecolympics has three competitions between residence halls and campus buildings, and a second competition among residence halls to see which facility continues with the recycling and energy conservation efforts after the competition is over. During last year's Ecolympics, occupants in 52 WVU buildings recycled, and 30 tons of materials were collected.

Occupants of residence halls and facilities compete each week during Ecolympics to see which building accumulates the most aluminum cans, #1 plastic bottles, and paper products in their facility's indoor recycling bins. Facilities Management staff collect and help keep track of each building's recyclables. Energy use from Oct. 5-30 will also be compared to historical data for each residence hall and facility. The team with the highest percentage of reduction of energy use over the four-week period will be awarded point totals to be combined with points earned from their recycling efforts. So be sure to encourage your student to do his or her part. For more information about WE CAN Ecolympics events and a list of items that can be recycled, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1159>.

HOW TO APPLY TO LAW SCHOOL PRESENTATION

A presentation by Assistant Dean Janet Armistead of the WVU College of Law will explore how to apply to law school. The event will take place on Tuesday, October 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Room 154 at the WVU Law Center. The presentation will examine strategies for applying: GPA, letters of recommendation, the LSAT, a personal essay, and financial aid. The presentation will conclude with a question and answer session. All are welcome to attend. For more information on the presentation, please call 304-293-5304. For general information about the WVU College of Law, please visit <http://www.wvu.edu/Redirect/?id=1160>.

FREESTYLE DANCE COMPETITION

For WVU All Night on Friday (Oct. 16), we have a unique program. It is a Freestyle Dance Competition. We really need your help in identifying contestants and judges. We

need 20 judges. The competition will begin shortly after Mountaineer Idol. It will be a lot of fun, and the winner will receive \$300 in cash and a nice trophy. The judges can be either faculty/staff or students.

Katie Utterback - Parent Advocate
Tommy Napier - Graduate Assistant

Parent Advocate Office
West Virginia University
Parent Helpline: 1-800-988-0096