Parents of freshmen, today marks one month since move in and the start of Welcome Week 2019 – take a look back with this quick video! Hopefully over these past four weeks all of our students have been meeting lots of new friends, such as our 66th Mountaineer, Timothy Eads. Maybe you will also have the chance to meet him on campus during Fall Family Weekend! Some events have been added to the weekend schedule and sign-ups for various events are underway, so be sure to check out the FFW Schedule of Events below and make plans now. Letters from Home were sent last week as a nice check in for students who attended New Student Orientation this summer – remind students to check their mailboxes. Week four is also a great time to check back in with all students academically – check out the Academic Check In Tips below.

In addition to some Upcoming Events and Reminders from campus, two much anticipated items are also included in this edition: 1. the Thanksgiving Parents Club Holiday Bus details and reservations are available (as well as other helpful Tips and options for Getting Home) and 2. December and May Graduation schedules are set! Scan below and share with your students and please let me know if you have any questions. We all look forward to seeing you soon at Fall Family Weekend! In this edition:

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PARENTS CLUB UPDATES
Fall Family Weekend is almost here - have you made your plans?
We have many family-friendly events for you to attend during Fall Family Weekend September 27-29. Be sure to check out the whole schedule and sign up (where indicated on the schedule), as some sessions do have limited capacity and are beginning to fill.
Again, signature events begin on Friday evening, September 27, with the **Mountaineer Welcome Stop** at our Student Recreation Center on the Evansdale Campus. It's a great place to meet up, get a fun family photo taken and have the opportunity to talk to WVU representatives from across campus. [RSVP to join us at the Welcome Stop](#).

On Saturday, join us in the morning for an opportunity to hear from President Gee and national speaker, Morris Morrison. Mr. Morrison, raised in WV and a WVU alumnae, will inspire students and parents at his **Saturday Speaker** event to "Finish the Race" at WVU, no matter what!

Then join us for a Taste of Morgantown and our surrounding areas for a **Fall Family FoodFest**! You and your family can pick up a FREE meal from an assortment of vendors and relax with your student in the shadow of picturesque Woodburn Hall. President Gee will be on hand for some selfies and there will be plenty of Fun on hand for the whole family in this block party atmosphere! [Sign up for Fall Family FoodFest here](#).

You can wrap up your weekend with **Brunch with your Students** on Sunday at Café Evansdale, Hatfield’s or Summit Café before heading home. Be sure to get your ticket for this when you visit the Welcome Stop or the Saturday check in.

Don't miss our other great events – there is something for everyone!
**Adventure:** From ziplining, canopy tours and rock climbing, to a simple visit to Cooper’s Rock to take a hike on your own – get outdoors!

**Athletic:** Check out a men and women’s soccer game, a women’s volleyball game or enjoy the Rec Center for free. Campus Recreation is sponsoring the Fall Family 5K! Registration costs $20, and includes a t-shirt and benefits development for students.

**Academic:** Learn outside the classroom at a planetarium show, Academic Speed dating sessions (How to sign a lease; Financial Literacy; Midterm Madness, and more); tours of the University Apartment properties; a visit to our special library collections or our various museums.

**Entertainment:** From the downtown Arts Walk Friday night, to a variety of theatre or music events or even WVUp All Night where families can compete for big prizes during Bingo!

Check out the full [FFW Schedule of Events](#) featuring all these and many more things to do on and off campus throughout the weekend. [Specific Parking and Transportation details](#) for Fall Family Weekend can also be found online. We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Thanksgiving Break Mountaineer Parents Club buses**
Reservations for the WVU Parents Club Thanksgiving Break Buses are being taken now! These buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA; and one to Highland, NY, for those in the Connecticut, New York and New England areas.

The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey, Central Maryland and Long Island local Mountaineer Parents Clubs also organize and offer buses to their areas. **PLEASE NOTE:** This year, the New England Mountaineer Parents Club are also planning a bus to Springfield, MA. More info will be available on the website soon.
For online reservations or to review the schedules and details, please visit the [MPC Holiday Bus website](#). No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Thanks for your patience.

**WVU Bookstore Discounts – Specials for Fall Family Weekend**

Parents – whether shopping from home or during your visit to campus, the WVU Bookstore has some great sales coming up!

Save 25% OFF all Red Shirt items! - 9/16 - 9/20 *(available in store and online)*

Save 25% OFF all Nike items! 9/23 - 9/27 - *(available in store and online)*

Save 25% OFF all Cold Weather/Fleece Outerwear! 10/14 - 10/18 - *(available in store and online)*

**Fall Family Weekend - 9/27 - 9/29 - Get 10% OFF your clothing and gift purchases**

during Fall Family Weekend at the WVU Bookstore.

- Mountainlair Store – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm, Saturday, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Sunday closed.
- Evansdale Crossing store – Friday, 8:00am – 6:00pm, Saturday and Sunday closed.

* This discount is available in store only, cannot be combined with other discounts, and not available on clearance items.

**Academic Check-In Tips**

With end of the 4th week of classes upon us, we are a quarter of the way through the semester. This also tends to be the time for the first round of tests or big assignments. While official midterm grades will not be posted on the Parent/Guest Portal until Week 8 (October 11), this is a great time for you to check in with your students to see how they are doing. If the answer to how are classes going doesn’t give you much of a response, encourage your student to pull back out and review the syllabi that they got the first day of class with you. This gives a schedule of assignments and grade breakdown of how much each exam, quiz, paper, or other assignment is worth so they can tell where they stand currently. Aside from handing assignments and tests back, some faculty members may also be sending formal Progress Reports to students in the next few weeks. Faculty office hours are also listed on the syllabus where students can go meet with the faculty member one-on-one if they have any questions, or just to introduce themselves. If your student is struggling or would simply like to get ahead in a course, also remind them we have numerous free tutoring resources on campus. Students should constantly be tracking their progress so they know how they are doing in each class and what they need to do to stay on track! Remember, the Dean’s and President’s Lists are awarded after each semester for students who achieve a 3.5 or above, or a 4.0 – so remind students to set that goal and keep working toward it!

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS**

**WVU Alert test planned** for Wednesday, Sept. 18

To ensure proper communication during an emergency, West Virginia University will conduct a test of the WVU Alert system on Wednesday (Sept. 18) at 11 a.m. Students are automatically added to the Alert system but should check and update their information prior to the test. They may also manually register parents for the emergency messaging system. Please encourage your student to update review and update any information and ensure it is correct prior to the test.
**Diversity Week Underway – Sept. 15-21**

Diversity Week began Sunday (Sept. 15) and continues through Saturday (Sept. 21). Diversity Week is designed to create an atmosphere that provides the WVU community, including students, faculty and staff, the opportunity to explore different cultures, engage in discussions that bring new perspectives, and celebrate the presence of, and contributions made by, people of all identities and experiences.

**JC Penney Suit-Up Night – Discounts on Career and Professional Attire – Sept. 22**

On Sunday (Sept. 22) from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., JC Penney, in the Morgantown Mall will open their doors exclusively for WVU students and provide deep discounts on career and professional attire. Make sure your student checks out the professional wear, such as suits, ties, pants, blouses, etc. that will be marked down from original prices — ensuring students will be dressed to impress at upcoming interviews and career fairs. Students can check in to the event with their valid student ID and receive a special coupon for the evening for 40% savings. The coupon can be used on regularly priced and sale items in the store, which can result in an overall savings of up to 70% off professional attire. While the event offers discounts on professional wear for students, parents are welcome to accompany them as a style consultant. Everyone needs to have clothes to interview in, so encourage your student to take advantage. [http://bit.ly/CSCSuitUp](http://bit.ly/CSCSuitUp)

WVU Career Services will randomly select five lucky Mountaineer shoppers to receive a $50 JC Penney gift card to apply to their purchase.

**Major Match Fair – Sept. 24 and 30**

Students who are still undecided about their major or minor have two chances to explore what all WVU offers at our upcoming Major Match Fairs. One will be held on each campus and will showcase over 130 majors. These are open to all students and

- Tuesday, September 24 from 12-4:30 p.m. in the Mounatinlair Vandalia Lounge and Commons Area.
- Monday, September 30 from 12-4:30 p.m. in the Evansdale Residential Complex Blue and Gold Room in Lyon Tower.

**More Career Fairs coming up – Sept. 25, Oct. 16 and Nov. 13**

No matter their rank — freshman to senior; your student should be preparing for and attending upcoming career fairs. Check out the [Resume Reviews and Career Fair Prep Events](#) and encourage them to prepare now so they can stand out from the crowd. Attending on-campus career fairs provides students with the unique chance to practice their networking skills as they meet face-to-face with potential employers, distribute their resumes, and gather information about which companies are hiring and interested in their specific skillset.

- Wednesday, September 25: [WVU Career & Internship Fair](#) 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Mountainlair Ballrooms
  - Over 70 nationwide employers from diverse industries, government agencies, and non-profits will be recruiting for internships and full-time job opportunities across all majors.
- Wednesday, October 16: [Agriculture and Natural Sciences Career and Internship Fair](#) 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Agricultural Sciences Building
- Wednesday, November 13: [Fashion Design Networking Event](#) 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Erickson Alumni Center
All WVU students are welcome to attend. **Professional attire is required.** Our career development specialists are a great resource to help your student launch a successful internship or job search. Encourage them to make an appointment by calling 304-293-2221. For a full list of events and more information on how Career Services can help prepare your student for a career, visit the [Career Services website](#).

**Education Abroad Fair – Oct. 1, 10-4, Mountainlair Ballrooms**

WVU Education Abroad has developed an [Education Abroad Parent Page](#) to help you know more about studying abroad, offer advice for when your student is off on an educational adventure, and remind you (so you can help remind your student) of important dates and events. Education Abroad offers all students, regardless of their major, the chance the explore the world, make new friends, and learn in new and exciting ways. Welcome to the Parent Page – be sure to drop back by as content will be updated and changing in the months ahead!

*Featured this month - Site visits:* Did you know that many international programs or universities are vetted by the Education Abroad team? When possible, our WVU staff will visit schools that could potentially host WVU students before sending students abroad. These trips made by staff are called site visits. Curious about this process? Check out our Q&A with Program Coordinator Michael Bloom who recently made site visits to three European universities. If your student is considering studying abroad, encourage then to check out a weekly Info Session and save the date for the Study Abroad Fair, October 1! For more on these and other topics for parents, be sure to check out the [Education Abroad Parent Page](#).

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Tips and Options for Getting Home**

Now that your students are here, there have been some questions coming in about how to get them home whether for a long weekend (Fall Break is coming up October 10-13) or the upcoming week-long holidays such as Thanksgiving. Here are some helpful tips and points to consider:

- Be sure to explore all options below first before simply booking a flight. We are not located in a major city so though we have a number of ways to connect to various airports, it is important to make sure your students check their schedules, the available connectors and can get there for the flights first.
- The Pittsburgh Amtrak station is our closest and located just across the street from the Pittsburgh Greyhound Station. Students can ride GreyLine to reach both locations and Pittsburgh International Airport.
- Beyond, Pittsburgh (PIT), did you know we have a local airport (MGW) and regional airport (CKB) that have some great connecting flights?
- ZipCars are located on campus and are a versatile mode of transportation, not just around town, but also to get students home or to airports. Available for students 18 and older to rent for a flat rate that includes gas and insurance, students have gotten creative and paid for a roommate to rent these and drive them midway to meet parents and then return with the car or having a roommate drive them to the airport and then return with the car. Thinking outside the box can help!
Bus Services

Parents Club Holiday Buses – As noted above, reservations for WVU Parents Club holiday buses for Thanksgiving went live this week and travel to various east coast towns for major University Breaks.

MegaBus – regional bus carrier picks up on campus daily and connects through DC and beyond.

I-Ride 79 Bus – regional bus carrier picks up on campus daily and connects through Charleston, WV and beyond.

Airports

Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) – our closest international airport with hundreds of flights daily located 1 hour and 15 minutes north of campus.

Morgantown Airport (MGW) – multiple daily regional flights out of Morgantown (MGW) Airport located 10 minutes from campus. Southern Airways connects through Pittsburgh (PIT) or (BWI) in Baltimore and is partnered with American Airlines for any connections.

North Central Airport (CKB) – multiple daily flights out of Clarksburg, WV located 45 minutes south of Morgantown. Direct flights on Allegiant Airlines and United Airlines head to a variety of locations including direct to Chicago, Daytona/Orlando and Myrtle Beach. (Students would need to find a ride to CKB – see airport shuttle services below for options.)

Airport Shuttle Services

Grey Line Bus – regional bus carrier picks up on campus two to three times per day and connects to Pittsburgh International (PIT) and Pittsburgh Amtrak/Greyhound stations, among other locations.

Limo and car services are available to the various airports.

Uber provides transportation to the various airports.

Cab Services provide transportation to the various airports.

Other Options

ZipCar – hourly/weekend rentals for students age 18 or older located on campus. Costs include insurance and gas.

ZimRide – If you or your student will be heading to and from campus, Zimride is the ridesharing board of the 2000’s. Have your student post or look for rides here.

Parents Club local Facebook pages – many parents have also utilized local Parents Club Facebook pages to inquire about carpooling for students heading home.

GRADUATION NEWS

December and May Graduation Dates Announced

The December 2019 and May 2020 Commencement schedules have been announced. August and December graduates will celebrate their achievements at the WVU Coliseum on Saturday, December 21, in two ceremonies. Commencement exercises for May 2019 graduates are planned for the weekend of May 15-17, 2020, and specific schedules for individual school and college ceremony dates are now set.
December Graduation Application Available – Due by October 4
For students looking to graduate in December, the official graduation application is now open via the Office of the University Registrar and must be completed by October 4. Those anticipating a May 2019 graduation will apply to graduate in the spring term. Stay tuned.

/Katie Gallagher
Office of Parent Relations
West Virginia University