From single degrees last week to 60 degrees today, winter is keeping us on our toes in Morgantown! We hope your students are off to a good start to the spring term and are excited to announce the release of the Dean’s and President’s Lists for fall 2017 below – congrats to all!

Some timely reminders also follow on spring billing (make sure accounts are at zero by February 1), 2018-19 FAFSAs and important tax prep details about 1098-Ts and W-2 forms for students who worked in 2017.

For Parents of May 2018 Graduates, commencement is also just around the corner and the application for graduation is now open. Details on this and a Graduation One-Stop Shop follow. Also, we also want to highlight some scholarship extensions and visit opportunities coming up for Parents of Incoming Mountaineers.

Spring also means Spring Break Parents Club Bus information is now posted; break will be here before we know it (March 9!). Basketball season is also in full swing! President Gee recently had a chance to visit our top 10 ranked men’s team and record his latest Gee-Mail titled “Gee-SPN” http://bit.ly/2Druzax. More on student ticketing, College Game Day and game watches for the upcoming WVU vs Kentucky matchup, follows, along with other upcoming events under Current Campus Happenings. Lots happening on campus so read on and share with your students! In this edition:

Billing, Aid and Tax Items
- Does Your Student Have New Charges? January 13 eBills sent, Due February 1
- March 1 2018-19 FAFSA priority deadline approaching
- 2017 Year-End W-2 Tax Information
- WVU Student 1098-T Tax Forms Available

Updates and Reminders
- Fall 2017 President’s and Dean’s Lists
- Winter Edition of the Parents Club Newsletter
- Spring Break Parents Club Buses and Housing Options
- Valentine’s Day is Coming – Fill a Heart with How you Feel – Submit by January 31

- Current Campus Happenings
- Parents of Incoming Mountaineers – Scholarship Extension to May 1 and Visit Opportunities
- Parents of May 2018 Graduates – Graduation Spring 2018 One-Stop Shop February 12, 13 and 14
- Spring 2018 Calendar

Billing, Aid and Tax Items

Does Your Student Have New charges? January 13 eBills sent, Due February 1

Does your student have an outstanding bill or a new charge since you paid the initial spring charges? If so, they were sent the monthly e-bill January 13 to their MIX account, and payment is due in full by February 1.

Adjustments to charges could result if your student has made recent changes to their class registration, major, meal plan, room location, received library or other fines, had new charges added due to WELLWVU copays, etc. Students receive eBills to their MIX accounts in the middle of the month, with a due date of the first of the following month. If you do not pay or enroll in a monthly payment plan by the due date, you are considered past due and subject to a variety of consequences, including removal from classes, late fees, holds, collection agency referral and denied access to transcripts or diploma. Learn more at http://bit.ly/2CLBuyh.

Encourage your student to log on today and review their account to ensure they are at a zero balance. They can make payments online through STAR or stop by or call the Mountaineer Hub (304-293-1988) to make any necessary payments. If granted access by your student, you can also review and pay any outstanding charges via the Parent/Guest Portal. http://bit.ly/2BbqdDg

March 1 2018-19 FAFSA priority deadline approaching

Have you filed the 2018-19 FAFSA yet? It is not too late but March 1 is quickly approaching. Log on and complete this form before March 1 to be considered on time for consideration for maximum aid: http://1.usa.gov/146X9ep

2017 Year-End W-2 Tax Information

As part of the 2017 payroll transition, WVU Tax Services will be issuing the 2017 Form W-2 to all WVU employees, including students, starting today, January 22, 2018, online through their MyHR tab on the MyAccess portal at http://bit.ly/2DsBkst. A paper copy of all W-2 forms will be mailed to the employee’s home address on or before January 31, 2018.

To protect personal information, employees should not access either their pay stub or W-2 from a public computer. For their security, when accessing either the pay stub or W-2 form from an off-campus computer, please use WVU’s Master Apps at http://bit.ly/2n4qxxw. Once logged into
Master Apps, select the Internet Explorer icon and then access the MyAccess portal at http://bit.ly/2DsBkst.

Questions and requests for prior-year W-2 forms should be directed to WVU’s ITS Help Desk at 304-293-4444 or itshelp@mail.wvu.edu. Please do not provide your Social Security number via e-mail when requesting W-2 info. Provide your name, contact telephone number, month and year of birth and either your WVU ID or your employee number for verification purposes.

WVU Student 1098-T Tax Forms Available

WVU Tax Services has partnered with a new business processing vendor, ECSI Heartland, in preparation of Form 1098-T Tuition Statement for use by either the students or their parents in the filing of their 1040 personal tax return. Each year Form 1098-T for the recently completed calendar tax year will be available on-line starting mid to late January through ECSI Heartland at http://bit.ly/2BjTAm7. Hard copies will be mailed by January 31st to the student’s permanent mailing address as listed in the student’s Star account.

As a note to students, you will be unable to access your Form 1098-T on the ECSI Heartland website until we have completed the upload of the data file for the current year. Please continue to check back with the ECSI Heartland website. Once the information is available the system will allow you to view and download your information at that time.

Prior year Form 1098-T for the calendar year 2016 are available on-line through ECSI Heartland at http://bit.ly/2BjTAm7. If you need a Form 1098-T for the calendar year 2015 or prior, please contact the WVU Tax Services unit directly at tax@mail.wvu.edu or at (304) 293-3379 extension 3.

Form 1098-T will not be issued to our International students unless requested by the student. An International student considered a Non-Resident Alien (NRA) for income tax purposes generally is not eligible for the various educational tax credits and/or deductions. The IRS therefore does not require WVU to issue Form 1098-T to International students. If you are an International student and have questions concerning this situation, please contact WVU Tax Services.

Feel free to contact ECSI Heartland with questions concerning your Form 1098-T through on-line chat at http://bit.ly/2E0OXjV or at 866-428-1098.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Fall 2017 President’s and Dean’s Lists Released

WVU has announced its Dean’s and President’s Lists for the 2017 fall semester. Students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher in 12 credit hours of graded courses with no incompletes or
withdrawals to be named to the Dean’s List: [http://bit.ly/29wxWRp](http://bit.ly/29wxWRp). The President’s List recognizes students who achieve a perfect 4.0 GPA in 12 credit hours of graded courses with no incompletes or withdrawals: [http://bit.ly/2kCfVn0](http://bit.ly/2kCfVn0). We would like to congratulate all who have achieved such great academic success this past semester! Achievement of these honors is noted on each student’s academic transcript. A press release template is on the top of these pages for parents wishing to publish this honor in their local newspapers.

**Winter Edition of the Parents Club Newsletter**

The winter edition of the Mountaineer Parents Club Newsletter is now available on our website. Be sure to check out the “online only” edition that features preparing students for college fairs, study abroad opportunities and more: [http://bit.ly/2DYaaLa](http://bit.ly/2DYaaLa).

**Spring Break Parents Club Buses and Housing Options**

Is your student looking for a ride home for spring break? Residence halls will close for spring break Friday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. and reopen on Sunday, March 18 at noon. The Mountaineer Parents Club offers spring break buses. Confirmed destinations include Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; Philadelphia, PA, and Highland, NY (which serves the Connecticut, New York and New England areas): [http://bit.ly/2yGUzii](http://bit.ly/2yGUzii). The last day to cancel a reservation and still receive a refund is Thursday, February 22, 2018.

Local clubs are also sponsoring buses to Central Maryland, Northern Virginia, Long Island and Southern New Jersey/Delaware and details on these trips can also be found online here: [http://bit.ly/2yGUzii](http://bit.ly/2yGUzii).

WVU’s residence halls officially close three times throughout the school year, including spring break. Because some students might still need a place to stay during these breaks, Housing and Residence Life is offering a solution – staying in town and on campus. Registration for housing during spring break will be available February 1. For more details, see [http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0](http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0).

**Parents: Fill a Heart with How You Feel**

With Valentine’s Day coming, send out your wishes by filling a heart with how you feel! The student newspaper, the Daily Athenaeum, is running a page full of hearts and you can fill one out for FREE. Send your student your sentiment. Hearts will run in the first four February editions on February 1, 5, 8 and 12. Individual messages will only run once. Email your heart message to DA-ADS@mail.wvu.edu by January 31. [http://bit.ly/2DAkM64](http://bit.ly/2DAkM64)

**Current Campus Happenings**

Did you know students are e-mailed the UNEWS twice a week? It’s a weekly digest of what is happening on campus: [http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR](http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR).
Here are some highlights to share with your students:


- From free, professional headshots to career fairs, mark your calendars: [http://bit.ly/2BTwFCu](http://bit.ly/2BTwFCu)

- Wellness Workshops on “Balance and Time Management” and “Academic Self-Confidence” are coming up: [http://bit.ly/2n0OJ4c](http://bit.ly/2n0OJ4c)


- **Gee-SPN and WVU Men’s Basketball**

  You may have heard that our men’s basketball team is having a good season so far with a steady top 10 ranking. President Gee had a chance to stop by and visit with some of the players and recorded his newest Gee-Mail. Check out this Gee-SPN episode if you haven’t seen it already: [http://bit.ly/2Druzax](http://bit.ly/2Druzax). As the season moves forward, the Mountaineers play tonight on the road before heading home Saturday for a much talked about matchup with the University of Kentucky. The “real” ESPN College Game Day group will be broadcasting live from campus. Today and tomorrow, students can request a ticket for the WVU-Kentucky game. With excitement building, this game has had the highest student ticket demand we have ever had for a basketball game under the student ticketing system: [http://bit.ly/2DsoVVk](http://bit.ly/2DsoVVk). For students who are not selected in the ticket lottery on Wednesday, any unclaimed tickets will become available at 9 a.m. on Friday on first-come, first-serve basis and will likely go fast. Students should stay tuned to UNEWS and students.wvu.edu because there will be several game-watch parties located throughout campus where they can also cheer on the Mountaineers. Let’s Go Mountaineers!

**Parents of Incoming Mountaineers – Scholarship Extension to May 1 and Visit Opportunities**

WVU has extended our scholarship award deadline to May 1. Students simply need to send new academic credentials in the form of an updated transcript or standardized test scores to Admissions for additional scholarship review. This is not applicable for students wishing to be eligible for Foundation and Bucklew Scholarships: that deadline remains February 1. [http://bit.ly/2DyYXmp](http://bit.ly/2DyYXmp)
Spring is a great time for incoming and interested students to visit campus! Between open houses for admitted students and special tours for juniors, there are many opportunities. Decide WVU Open Houses are a visit experience specifically for admitted high school senior students.

Decide WVU Days will be held on March 24 and April 14 and provide an opportunity to explore WVU one last time prior to committing to the University. Students can meet with academic departments, learn about clubs and organizations, financial aid and scholarships and even explore housing opportunities. Registration opens soon, so be on the lookout for an invitation.  

Parents of May 2018 Graduates – Graduation Spring 2018 One-Stop Shop and Graduation Application Deadline

Is your student planning to graduate in May 2018? Have them mark the date to join us for our Spring 2018 Graduation One-Stop Shop, scheduled for February 12 and 13 (Mountainlair Commons Area) and February 14 (Evansdale Crossing, fifth floor lobby), 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Students will have the chance to purchase regalia, graduation announcements, class rings and much more.

Students must apply to graduate in the semester in which they intend to complete their studies and graduate. The application is now open and will close March 2. Details can be found here: http://bit.ly/2DDuN1x.


Spring 2018 Calendar

Tuesday, February 27 at noon – Midterm reports due

Friday, March 2 – Deadline to apply for May 2018 graduation: http://bit.ly/2DDuN1x

Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. – Residence halls close for Spring Break (Spring break housing available – must register in advance – $25/night)

Sunday, March 18 at noon – Residence halls reopen from Spring Break

March 26-April 9 – Online Fall Course Registration Dates according to class rank (advising meetings for fall should be completed by these dates)
Friday, March 30 – University Holiday – Friday before Easter – no classes/offices closed/residence halls remain open

*Monday, April 30 – Friday, May 4 – Finals Week

*Saturday, May 5 at noon – Residence halls officially close for the spring term (students must vacate rooms 24 hours after their last final)

Tuesday, May 8 – University Holiday – Election Day – offices closed


*Note please be sure you have these dates noted as they are adjustments from the original academic http://bit.ly/2qvmf7r and residence hall opening/closing calendars http://bit.ly/2zRNiut.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman
Office of Parent Relations
West Virginia University