

Parent Electronic News  
West Virginia University  
August 31, 2017

Students had a great time during Welcome Week as you can see here <http://bit.ly/2wVyyvAs> (you might even see your student or yourself!) With just over two weeks now under their belts, students are starting to find the shortcuts to classes and realize that much of college is repetition and establishing good routines early. This upcoming long weekend is a great time to get caught up whether on laundry, class work or checking out free tutoring options (see Announcements below.) Our freshmen are beginning to see themselves through a new adult lens, while many of our upperclassmen are facing internship and job hunts as graduation grows closer (see Career Corner and Graduation News below). Everyone is finding and settling into their new normal.

You have also probably started to settle into the “new normal” at home. I have shared this article in the past but it gives a great perspective on familiar feelings and emotions as we take this opportunity to look at life through these new lenses: <http://huff.to/1JU9iWA> As the author says, “Just as college is an experiment in independence for our children, so it is for us as well.” Fall Family Weekend, however, is a great time to check back in with your students and the schedule is now live: <http://bit.ly/1C3wE6T> We (and your students!) are looking forward to seeing you back on campus, and as the semester moves forward, know that we are here and happy to help as you and your students settle in. Do not hesitate to reach out by e-mail [ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu) or calling the Parent Helpline at 1-800-988-0096.

Read on for more on December Graduation (scheduled just announced), FREE tutoring and Success Coaching, the Career Services Tailgate tomorrow, a few surveys (take 2 on the Housing survey!), student football ticketing info that kicks off tomorrow, and much more! In this edition:

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### **PARENTS CLUB UPDATES**

Fall Family Weekend – September 22-24

Fall Family Weekend is just weeks away and we know you are anxious to come to campus to see your student! We are looking forward to seeing you too. There will be lots for your WVU family to do including swinging through the woods on a zip line, gazing at stars at our Planetarium, enjoying WVU All Night, going to a women's volleyball game or a men's soccer game, or using the Student Recreation Center. Our events begin on Friday evening, September 22, with a Picnic with the President at our state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center on the Evansdale Campus. On Saturday, we have a big game watching party planned to cheer on the Mountaineer football team to victory! Unfortunately, we won't know the game time until 12 days out so we will keep you posted on the exact time. Check out the schedule for the many things to do on and off campus. The schedule of events can be found here <http://bit.ly/1C3wE6T> We look forward to seeing you on campus September 22-24!

## **Parent Surveys**

I Survived Move In Parent Reception Survey: Parents of First-Year Students – While you were on-campus a few weeks ago moving your student into their residence hall, the Mountaineer Parents Club hosted “I Survived Move-in” receptions. We would love to get your feedback on those receptions and whether you attended or not, we still want to hear from you. <http://bit.ly/2emAsdV>

On Campus Move In Survey – Take 2: Unfortunately, an error with the original WVU Move In survey has necessitated us sending it out again. We appreciate the time spent by those who did respond, and hope we can ask for your forbearance on completing the quick survey again to help us continue to improve our On Campus Move In experience for students and families. <http://bit.ly/2vvz3g4>

## **Parent Perks and your Parents Club membership card**

As a member you are eligible for parent perks at participating businesses in the Morgantown area. These “Member Discounts” are a way for us to welcome you to our community when you come back to see your student. Some may require your Parents Club membership card that you can download and print from our website. For a full list of the participating businesses check out the Member Discounts section on the Mountaineer Parents Club site. <http://bit.ly/1oDaO75>

## **Letters from Home**

For parents who attended New Student Orientation and have students living on campus, the letters you wrote this summer will arrive in their mailboxes next week! Encourage your students to check their mailboxes in their residence halls for these special letters. I'm sure that your letters will be special to them! p.s. We have a few that are being mailed to students that are living off-campus so remind your students to check their mailboxes too!

## **Parents Club Buses Home for the Holidays – Reservations to begin September 7**

The Parents Club offers holiday buses home during the breaks when WVU residence halls close: Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks. Currently buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; Philadelphia, PA and Highland, NY to service the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. Online reservations for Thanksgiving Break can be made beginning September 7 through the Parents Club website <http://bit.ly/2lEaTbg> No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Mark your calendar! NOTE: The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey, Long Island and Central Maryland local Mountaineer Parents Clubs also organize and offer buses to their areas. Details and info on all buses will be posted on September 7th on the Parents Club website.

## **Mountain Line Holiday Send-Off Bus Service to Pittsburgh announced**

On WVU holiday breaks, the regional Mountain Line bus service runs additional buses to and from the Pittsburgh Greyhound/Amtrak Station and Airport. If you are looking for flights or trains home for the

holiday, these additional connecting bus routes are now posted: <http://bit.ly/1FkaooK> Please be sure to always check your students' academic schedules before booking transportation. The Fall 2017 Finals Schedule can be found here, regarding Winter Break Buses: <http://bit.ly/2emu6Ly>

## **ATHLETIC UPDATES**

### **Clear Bag Policy at ALL Athletic Events**

Parents – please remember and remind your students that the new Clear Bag Policy is in place for all WVU Athletic Events – football, soccer, basketball, etc. Check the restrictions so you do not get turned away by not being prepared: <http://bit.ly/2wVHGRx>

### **Student Football Ticketing gets Underway this Friday, September 1**

We often get questions from parents of incoming students regarding how their students can obtain football tickets. Tickets are FREE to students but they must request them weekly, before each of the games. This process will kick off this week for the first home game of the season: <http://bit.ly/2vNoQXK> Students should watch their MIX e-mail account for communications and consult their resident or commuter assistant if they have questions. This process begins Friday, September 1, at 4:01 p.m. for the September 9 game. If you will be coming in for a game and want your student to sit with you, you will need to purchase a ticket for them as well, as student tickets are good for the official student sections only.

### **Student pregame event – Student LOT**

As your students makes their way to the stadium for the home-opening football game against East Carolina on Saturday (September 9), please encourage them stop by the Student LOT, located at the Oakland Hall Courtyard on the Evansdale campus. The LOT is the official student pregame tailgating event and offers great fun, free food, music, giveaways and guest appearances. This is a great opportunity for students to hang out with friends and meet other students in a safe, alcohol-free environment. The LOT will open at 9 a.m., and festivities wrap up an hour prior to kickoff.

<http://bit.ly/VR5bUF>

### **Reminder: Parents Club and Athletics Discounted Tickets Remain**

As a reminder, parents can still take advantage of a special ticket offer available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for WVU's Big 12 Conference football matchup with Iowa State on Saturday, November 4. Members can follow this link <http://bit.ly/1opr2Qx> and enter the promo code WVUParents to purchase tickets for \$45 each. Please keep in mind that student tickets (as noted above) are good for the student section only, so if your student wants to sit with you, you should purchase an extra ticket for them. For more on athletic tickets to all events, contact the WVU Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU-GAME or <http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i>

## **GRADUATION NEWS**

### **December Graduation Ceremony Schedule Announced**

The 2017 December Commencement schedule has been released! New this year, August and December graduates will celebrate their achievements at the WVU Coliseum on Friday, December 15, 2017 with two separate ceremonies. Graduates from the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences and from the College of Business & Economics will walk in a ceremony at 9 a.m. Graduates of all other schools and colleges will walk in a ceremony at 2 p.m. Please visit the Commencement website for details and check back for updates throughout the fall: <http://bit.ly/2eIAEF3> If you have questions about the upcoming December graduation ceremonies, please contact WVU's Office of University Events at [graduation@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:graduation@mail.wvu.edu) or 304-293-7132. Graduates planning to participate in December Commencement must first apply for graduation (see below) and then also register to walk in the appropriate ceremony by December 8. They will receive more information via email about registering to walk. This is an additional step to applying for graduation (see below.) Graduation schedules for May 2018 will be forthcoming later this fall. I will promote these here in the Parent E-news so stay tuned!

### **December Graduation Application – Due October 6**

As a reminder, the deadline to apply for Fall 2017 graduation through the Office of the University Registrar is October 6, 2017: <http://bit.ly/2sFl8xQ> If a student misses this application deadline the next date that they graduate officially is May 2018. The University reminds graduates that participation in Commencement exercises does not signify the completion of a WVU degree. Diplomas will be mailed after all grades are finalized and certified by the Office of the University Registrar.

### **Is your student considering Graduate School**

For students considering grad school, standardized tests can be a big part of the admissions process. Prep courses are being offered this fall for students considering graduate school who are required to take the GRE or GMAT. More on these prep courses can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2vvxPBG> Curious what grad programs WVU offers? <http://bit.ly/2wVTZNH>

## **CAREER CORNER**

### **Career Services Center makes networking fun through tailgating tomorrow, September 1**

Whether soon-to-be graduates or students looking for internships or pertinent summer work for next year, finding a job or internship can be overwhelming. The WVU Career Services Center makes the process easier. Students can connect with employers prior to formal career fairs and on-campus interviews at the Fifth Annual Career Kick-Off Tailgate Party on Friday, September 1 from noon to 3:00 p.m. on the Mountainlair Plaza. Corporate recruiters from Leidos, PepsiCo, Mylan, Sherwin-Williams, Eaton, and more will be on site to share tips and tricks for landing a great job. All students are encouraged to stop by for a free t-shirt, food, games, and prizes. Four lucky students will win a flat-screen TV! Encourage your student to attend! <http://bit.ly/1sVrFkr>

Make sure your students are preparing for upcoming career fairs!

No matter your students rank – sophomores and seniors alike should be preparing for our upcoming Career Fairs. Check out the Career Fair Prep Events and encourage them to prepare now so they can stand out from the crowd (in a good way!): <http://bit.ly/2wmeNN4>

Visit <http://bit.ly/2hbJtr0> for full schedule of events.

- College of Business and Economics Career Fair - September 13 | 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. | Student Recreation Center
- Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources Career Fair - September 14 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Student Recreation Center
- WVU Career & Internship Fair - September 27 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Mountainlair Ballrooms
- Davis College Career & Internship Fair - October 11 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Agricultural Sciences Building

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FREE Tutoring and Student Success Coaching Available**

The Office of Student Success offers free academic support through tutoring, success coaches, and much more. Free tutoring is available every day of the week in several subjects and locations. Tutoring is available on a drop-in basis and by appointment. Students can request a tutor on our website <http://bit.ly/2gsBdGK> For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2emDwqt> There are also several other tutoring centers on campus (Math Learning Center, Writing Studio, Chemistry Learning Center, etc.) and information for all of these can be found linked from the above page.

Student Success Coaches work individually with students to enhance their academic success in time management, note taking, reading, and study skills. The coaches will also assist in the transition to WVU by answering questions and providing information about campus resources. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2gtiyL9> Schedule an appointment today!

### **Collegiate Recovery Monthly Parent Meetings start September 13**

Parents who are concerned if their student may have a substance use disorder have a resource at WVU. The WVU Collegiate Recovery Program <http://bit.ly/2elkL1l> offers not only students, but also parents and families support with monthly family support meetings which are attended and facilitated by our Parent Ambassadors and our staff. Through our monthly meetings, families are able to receive support regardless of their child's recovery status. Our program is about focusing on solutions and support. Via a secure video platform called Adaptive Telehealth <http://bit.ly/2wm0vvS> we encourage all families to join using a computer, tablet or cell phone equipped with a camera, or in person. Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at our recovery house on campus called Serenity Place (369 Oakland Street on the Evansdale campus behind Towers.) Our first meeting is on September 13th at 7 PM and we welcome any parent interested.

## Recovery Month

September is recovery month which is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This year's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Our Families, Our Stories, Our Recovery!" highlights the value of peer support which is the purpose of our parent program. Throughout September the WVU Collegiate Recovery Program will have events and presentations throughout campus. We will begin with our sober tailgates which will be held two hours before each home as well as away football games at Serenity Place, our recovery house. Also during the month of September we will host weekly meditations, book studies, dinners and movie nights. Check out our website <http://bit.ly/2wIwTOX> for all the events during Recovery Month and please call 304-293-2547 if you have any questions.

## Mountaineer Hub Lobby Hours Changing

On September 15, 2017 the lobby/walk-in hours for the Mountaineer Hub will change to 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The adjusted hours will provide additional time to process requests from students and training to provide the best information possible. Please note the phone hours will remain 8:15 am to 4:45 pm. Only the lobby hours are changing. We also have resources available to you 24/7 through our websites or the WVU Portal!

- Thinking of withdrawing from a course? See how that could impact current and future financial aid at <http://bit.ly/2vvD7gv>
- How do you apply for aid? Check out <http://bit.ly/2gmre1T> for assistance!
- Want some tips on applying for private scholarships? Find those at <http://bit.ly/2wIQFKg>
- Forget how to accept your aid on STAR? Instructions can be found at <http://bit.ly/2wqIISI>
- Looking for a part-time job? Log into MountaineerTRAK to search at <http://bit.ly/1sv3eN8>
- Want to know your balance due? Visit <http://bit.ly/2rvBLiy> for instructions on navigating STAR.
- Find some additional funding options at <http://bit.ly/2emFEPj>

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@WVUSFSS) for tips, reminders, and scholarship opportunities.

## Student parking permits available for Area 76

The WVU Parking Office is currently selling a limited supply of permits for area 76 for \$252.00 yr. Permits are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Area 76 is a gravel parking lot located near the front entrance of the College of Law and overlooks the west side of Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium. Overnight/storage parking is permitted in this lot however, permit holders will be required to adhere to instructions of removing vehicles prior to football game days. These instructions will be emailed to students days before each home game for relocation options for their vehicle. Students can reach this lot by Mountain Line bus that they can ride for free. While supplies last, students can

purchase a permit for this area by visiting the parking office on the first floor at Mountaineer Station on the Evansdale campus (Health Sciences PRT Stop.) Questions? Call the Parking Office at 304-293-5502.

**Last Minute Reminders:**

WVU Alert Updates – See the latest on WVU Alert and remind your students to add you if they have not already: <http://bit.ly/2wVwHrj>

Extra Refund from federal loans? – Sending back \$100 now can save \$125 in future payments. Return excess aid to the Hub today: <http://bit.ly/2gmmHN5>

Dining Plan Change Deadline is September 5 at 3 p.m. – This is the last day to increase or decrease fall plans: <http://bit.ly/1hzOJ6g>

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University