

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
October 10, 2018

****Thanksgiving buses run by the Mountaineer Parents Club are now posted and reservations are being taken! See **Thanksgiving Break Mountaineer Parents Club buses** below.****

It was great to see so many of you over Fall Family Weekend! Please take a minute to share your thoughts whether you attended or not to help us plan for the future: <http://bit.ly/2018FFWSurvey>. Also be sure to check out our Fall 2018 edition of the Mountaineer Parents Club Newsletter. It should be hitting your mailboxes soon but you can also check it out here: <http://bit.ly/FallMPCNewsletter>!

From course advising and registration (for spring, summer and winter terms), midterm grades (now posted – resources follow!), graduation application deadlines (today October 5 is the last day to register for December Graduation!), flu shot clinics, details on early voting for students, and the 2019-20 FAFSA now live – there is a lot of information and action items packed in this edition! Please scan the headings below and share with your students. Also, as we start to look ahead to Thanksgiving with details on Parents Club buses, we have also included an update from GreyLine about additional trips to PIT over break, and details from Housing on Break and Football Housing options for the game over Thanksgiving. Details on Spring Payment plans will be included in the next edition coming out mid-month so stay tuned for that! Without further ado... In this edition:

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DECEMBER GRADUATION - Deadline to Apply for December Graduation Is Today, October 5

The deadline to apply to graduate in December is Friday, October 5 at 11:59 p.m.: <http://bit.ly/WVUGradApp>. NOTE: Students who have applied to graduate can also now register to walk in December Commencement Ceremonies. This is a separate process and must be completed before December 9 at <http://bit.ly/WVUWalkApp>. As a reminder, Commencement will be held Saturday, December 15 at the WVU Coliseum. The morning ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. for graduates of the College of Business and Economic and the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. All other schools and colleges will graduate at 2 p.m. All 2018 August and December graduates are invited to participate <http://bit.ly/WVUDecemberGrad>.

Regalia, Announcements and Gifts: Any student who walks in the Commencement Ceremonies must wear official regalia. **All caps and gowns, personalized announcements, diploma frames and college rings** can be ordered online through the WVU Bookstore at <http://bit.ly/WVUHerffJones>. All cap, gown and frame orders need to be ordered by November 9 and can be picked up in the bookstore starting Monday, December 3. The cap and gown can be shipped to the student's home for a \$15.95 fee. The home-ship orders must be placed by November 17. Diploma frames are not part of the home-ship program. There is no shipping fee on caps and gowns and diploma frames that are shipped to the WVU Bookstore for pick-up.

Representatives from Herff Jones will also be on campus for college class ring events on the following dates and locations for students interesting in inquiring:

October 8th, 9th, & 11th - 10am to 4pm – Mountainlair or October 10th - 10am to 2pm - Mountainlair Bookstore

MIDSEMESTER IS HERE - Midterm grades are now available

Midterm grades are now available. Students may view their grades in STAR through their WVU Portal. Parents who have access through the Parent Guest Portal may also see them. We hope

you and your student are pleased with their grades. If your student is struggling in a class, please encourage them to speak to the instructor during office hours. Not sure what office hours are? Remind your students that these are required of all faculty and are on the syllabus given out day one in class. This video takes a humorous (but helpful!) look at office hours:

<http://bit.ly/MidtermFOH>

In addition to office hours, students can also seek assistance from other campus resources including: free tutoring, student success coaches and other help at <http://bit.ly/WVUStudentSuccess>. In the residence halls, students have a wealth of resources including residence hall coordinators and resident assistants (RAs). WellWVU (<http://bit.ly/WellWVU>) has several resources to help students with stress, time management and better sleep habits. Career Services <http://bit.ly/WVUCSC> helps students build a four-year plan or explore other majors to launch a successful career. The Carruth Center offers individual and group counseling <http://bit.ly/CarruthCenter>. And Accessibility Services enhances the educational opportunities for students with disabilities or other learning abilities <http://bit.ly/WVUOAS>. Advisors are another great resource. Your student's advisor is listed in Degree Works.

Students who feel they cannot pass a course may consider dropping the class and adding a mid-semester course. Mid-semester courses begin Monday, October 8th. Before adding or dropping courses, students should speak to their advisor. Mid-semester courses are also an option for students who would like to take additional courses or get ahead. The last day to drop an individual class is Tuesday, October 23.

THANKSGIVING TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

****Thanksgiving Break Mountaineer Parents Club buses****

Reservations for the Parents Club buses for Thanksgiving break are being taken now! 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 offer buses to their areas.

For online reservations or to review the schedules and details, please go to <http://bit.ly/WVUMPCBuses>. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Thanks for your patience.

PLEASE NOTE: This year, we will also be adding a bus to Cleveland, OH. Reservations for this Ohio bus will begin on Tuesday, October 9.

Update on Mountainline GreyLine Send Off Service Buses

Since our last notice on transportation option, Mountainline, our regional bus carrier, has informed us that they have been able to add on additional GreyLine Send Off Service buses to and from the Pittsburgh Airport and Pittsburgh Greyhound/Amtrak Stations over Thanksgiving Break: <http://bit.ly/GreyLineThnksSendOff>. They ask that we also remind you to book directly through GreyLine online at the link above or by calling 304-296-3869. This allows them to guarantee seats and adjust to insure they are running enough buses to get everyone where they need to go!

Thanksgiving Break Housing

WVU's residence halls officially close three times throughout the school year (Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks). Because we realize that some students might still need a place to stay during these breaks, we are offering a solution – staying in town and on campus. In 2018-19, **Oakland, Seneca, Summit Halls and Brooke and Braxton Towers** will offer Break Housing to their residents. If a resident of another hall wants to stay, Brooke Tower has a *limited* number of spaces during Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks. Not all residence halls can remain open due to staffing and security over breaks.

- The cost for break housing is \$25 per day. Charges will be applied to the student's account.
- To ensure everyone's safety, no guests will be permitted.
- No meals will be served in University Dining facilities, and no meal plans will be active; instead, students may use their Mountie Bounty at many participating locations: <http://bit.ly/MountieBountyLocations>
- Only those who register online and agree to terms and conditions will be allowed to stay. The link for registration for Thanksgiving break housing will be active Monday, October 1 through November 7, 2018: <http://bit.ly/WVUBreakHousing>
- Questions on Break Housing? Visit <http://bit.ly/WVUBreakHousing> e-mail wvu-assign@mail.wvu.edu or call 304-293-2811.

Football Housing Option

WVU will host a home football game on Friday, November 23 at 8 p.m. Students who want to cheer on the Mountaineers against Oklahoma may return to their current residence hall assignment for Friday, November 23 and/or Saturday, November 24. NOTE: THIS IS SEPARATE FROM BREAK HOUSING (see above).

- For the football housing option, students will be able to return to their current residence hall assignment for an additional charge for one/two nights. Students who have registered for football housing may return to their hall beginning at 4 p.m. on Friday, November 23.
- There is an additional cost for those staying on campus for the football game. The cost is \$25 a day. Charges will be applied to the student's account.
- No guests will be permitted.

- Only those who register online and agree to terms and conditions will be allowed to stay. The link for registration will be active Monday, October 1 through Wednesday, November 7: <http://bit.ly/WVUBreakHousing>.
- No meal plan will be available during this period. Participants can use their Mountie Bounty at many local restaurants. <http://bit.ly/MountieBountyLocations>
- Questions on Football Housing? Visit <http://bit.ly/WVUBreakHousing> e-mail wvu-assign@mail.wvu.edu or call 304-293-2811.

Information and registration for semester break (December/January) housing will be available in early/mid-November.

BILLING AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

File 2019-20 FAFSA by October 31 for chance at a \$1,000 Scholarship

The 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for next year is now available. There's even a brand new app! Download the myStudentAid app to submit your FAFSA right from your phone. Why should you do your 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) now for next fall?

1. Some aid is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students.
2. Students will automatically be entered for a chance to win up to \$1,000 of scholarship money! Students who submit a FAFSA in October have three chances to win. Submit between October 1 - October 31 = \$1,000 scholarship drawing. Submit between October 1 - November 30 = \$500 scholarship drawing. Submit between October 1 - December 31 = \$250 scholarship drawing.
3. Students and families use 2017 tax information to complete the FAFSA at <http://1.usa.gov/146X9ep> for the 2019-20 academic year, so no need to wait.
4. To make the tax part even easier, you may be able to automatically pull your and your student's tax information into the FAFSA from the IRS!
5. Students can get their financial aid award offer as early as February.

Come see us in the Mountaineer Hub at Evansdale Crossing for one-on-one FAFSA assistance. We are here to help!

Pay Outstanding Balances Now to Avoid Registration Holds

WVU sends monthly e-billing statements to students who owe a balance. The statement identifies any new charges on their account (also available in the Parent/Guest Portal: <http://bit.ly/WVUPGPortal>) and informs them of any past-due balance. Statements are sent around the 5th of the month, with a due date of the first of the following month. Students who have a past-due amount greater than \$200 can also have a hold placed on their record, which will prevent them from registering for classes or obtaining an academic transcript. You should

encourage your student to check the WVU Portal to see if they have a hold so they can take care of this before winter, spring and summer pre-registration, which begins October 24.

ADVISING AND REGISTRATION

Registration dates and times are set, plan ahead

With registration priority dates approaching, students should be scheduled/scheduling soon to meet with their academic advisors to review progress and get advice for winter, spring and summer classes so they are ready before priority registration dates:

<http://bit.ly/WVURegDates>. A student's advisor is noted in DegreeWorks. NEW this year, also in DegreeWorks they can find their registration date and priority registration time ticketing slot as part of this new process: <http://bit.ly/WVUTimedReg>. This was also e-mailed to all students this week as well. Students should be sure to review DegreeWorks before their advising appointment and prepare any questions in advance. Considering Winter term or looking ahead to summer school? This is a good topic to mention to their advisor now since students can plan ahead and register for all at the same time.

It's Time to Think About Winter Intersession

WVU undergraduates looking to fit an extra course into their schedule, who want to boost their GPA, or who simply want to make the most of their Winter Break may want to consider taking an online course during WVU's "Winter Intersession," Dec. 17-Jan. 3. Students may register for Winter Intersession at the same time they sign up for spring classes (beginning at the end of October) and up through the end of the fall semester. Winter Intersession is also a great way for seniors to fit in a course they need in order to graduate on time in the spring. All courses are charged the standard WVU tuition rate of \$369 per hour, regardless of residency. It's a great deal all around! For more information on how students can earn up to 3 credits in 3 weeks see the website at <http://bit.ly/WVUWinterTerm>.

HEALTH UPDATES

Flu shots and upcoming clinics

Flu shots are now available on campus. Students can go to Student Health <http://bit.ly/StudentHealthHome> during normal business hours (7:45 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 9:45 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays to receive a flu shot – no appointment needed. Students need to bring their student ID and insurance card. Student Health will also be offering the following outreach Flu Shot Clinics across campus:

- Monday, October 8, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Health Sciences, Room John Jones C

- Tuesday, October 9, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Health Sciences, Pylons
- Thursday, October 11, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Mountainlair, Vandalia Lounge
- Tuesday, October 16, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Colson Hall, Room 130
- Thursday, October 18, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Engineering, Atrium
- Tuesday, October 23, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Mountainlair, Vandalia Lounge
- Tuesday, October 30, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Law School, Event Hall
- Wednesday, November 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., One Waterfront Place, Rm 6117

Parents – join in on the Flu Shot Challenge!

We encourage you and your student to join Student Health who is participating in the Alana Yaksich National University Flu Vaccination Challenge – a competition for colleges/universities to see who can get the most people to receive the flu vaccine: <http://bit.ly/FluChallenge>. No matter where you get your flu shot, this is open to students, faculty, staff, alumni and fans (and we hope you are all fans, parents!), so please take a minute to register for WVU to help us in the competition!

Reminder: AlcoholEdu Part 2 due October 16

DON'T FORGET: Parents please remind your first-year students (including transfers under 21) that they need to complete AlcoholEdu Part 2 is by October 16th. Your student will also receive an email reminder in their MIX account: <http://bit.ly/WVUAlcoholEdu>.

Prescription “Study Aid” Misuse and National Drug Take Back Day – October 27

Parents - As the semester unfolds, students may feel increasing academic pressures. With recent trends among college students nationwide of misusing prescription ADHD medications as “study aids,” some may resort to seeking these medications out illegally from fellow students with the belief that it will enhance academic performance. Learn more about this issue and the risks involved [here](#). If your student is prescribed ADHD medications, see this [forum](#) for thoughts that other parents have about safely storing these medications. Also know that October 27th is [National Drug Take Back Day](#) and WVU Mountaineer Pharmacy located on campus participates in this event – so encourage your student to stop by to drop off unused or expired medications. Our Wellness and Health Promotions staff are here to help with these and many other health related topics. For more details: <http://bit.ly/WellnessDrugAbuse>

OTHER UPDATES and IMPORTANT DATES

October 1 – 2019-20 FAFSA became available: <http://1.usa.gov/146X9ep>

October 5 – Deadline to Apply for December Graduation: <http://bit.ly/WVUGradApp>

October 8 – Mid-semester classes start

October 10 – Davis College Career and Internship Fair: <http://bit.ly/WVUCareerFairDavis>

The Davis College Career and Internship Fair will be on Wednesday, October 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Agricultural Sciences Building. Over 40 employers will be recruiting for internships and full-time talent! Students are encouraged to research the companies in advance on MountaineerTRAK and attend Resume Review and Career Fair Prep for getting career fair ready: <http://bit.ly/WVUCareerFairPrep>. While the events are geared toward Davis College majors, all students and alumni are welcome to attend.

October 10-11 – Graduate School Fairs: <http://bit.ly/WVUGradFair>

October 16 – AlcoholEDU part 2 due: <http://bit.ly/WVUAlcoholEdu>

October 13 – last day to drop individual classes

Early, Absentee College Student Voting Options

Election Day is just a month away and with many students away at school, we often get questions about how they can also participate in the election – perhaps for the first time. If they are away at college and unable to be in their hometown on election day where they may already be registered, early voting or absentee voting might be options. Students should check the laws for their state and keep in mind that absentee ballots often have to be received in their town or city several days before election day – Tuesday, November 6. For more details, see the *College Students* section of the Secretary of State website: <http://bit.ly/SecretaryofState> or the Campus Vote Project provides helpful state-by-state guidelines: <http://bit.ly/CampusVoteProject>. Please note the deadline to register to vote in West Virginia is Tuesday, October 16, 2018. WVU will be closed on Election day, Tuesday, November 6.

A Letter from Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity to WVU Parents

Parents – we received the following letter from the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity Executive Vice President, Justin A. Buck, requesting we share this with you. As a reminder from the letter we sent to you from President Gee on September 27, fraternities who disassociated and are not recognized include: Alpha Sigma Phi, Kappa Alpha Order, Theta Chi, Sigma Chi and Phi Sigma Kappa.

October 1, 2018

Dear Parents of WVU students,

I am the executive vice president of Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity. Pi Kappa Alpha suspended the charter of its Alpha Theta Chapter at the West Virginia University in June 2018 for collectively failing to live up to standards and violations of University policies. The International Fraternity and the University administration both agreed on the Chapter closure.

This closure means the Chapter and by extension, its former members, may no longer operate in the name of Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity or use any of the Fraternity's names or derivatives (Pikes, etc.), symbols, or signage. Former members have been individually suspended from the Fraternity, meaning they forfeit any rights or privileges of membership during the period of suspension.

Former members may not organize any event, sponsor any activity or participate in endeavors representing Pi Kappa Alpha on the West Virginia campus or elsewhere in the community. Formation of an unrecognized or "underground" group, recruitment of new members, initiating individuals into the Fraternity are prohibited.

It is very disappointing to have to write this letter to you, but I know you join me in wanting to ensure the safety of your student. Please consult with your student to ensure that he has joined an organization which is both supported by the University and their respective Fraternity's national organization.

If you have reason to believe that students on campus continue to operate as though they make up a recognized chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha, please alert the Division of Student Life at 304-293-5811 and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at West Virginia University or contact Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity at services@pikes.org or 901-748-1868.

Sincerely,

Justin A. Buck

Executive Vice President

Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University