

Bill Schafer is New VP for Student Life



WVU students and the community came together on April 11 for the Campus-Community Clean Up to make a cleaner city for all to enjoy. Dr. Bill Schafer, vice president of Student Life, joined students in these efforts.

West Virginia University has a new leader for its Student Life division. Bill Schafer, a veteran higher ed administrator with more than 35 years of experience, was welcomed to the University earlier this year.

Schafer will oversee more than 30 different departments at WVU, including Campus and Community Life, the Career Services Center, Dining Services and Housing and University Apartments, among others.

Schafer joins the University after an 11-year tenure at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was vice president for student affairs since 2004.

"I feel like I have been preparing for this opportunity my entire career," said Schafer, earlier this year. "I look forward to ... bringing my experiences to create a very special educational experience for the very deserving students from West Virginia and beyond."

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MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB



Sabrina M. Cave
Sabrina M. Cave, Executive Director

Calendar of Events

May 9
Residence Halls Close (7:00 p.m.)

May 14 - 16
Commencement Weekend

May 18
Summer Classes Begin

August 17
Fall Semester Begins

October 2-4
Fall Family Weekend

October 4
Fall Ring Day Ceremony

October 12- 13
Fall Break
(Residence Halls Remain Open)

November 20
Thanksgiving Break
(Residence Halls Close at 7:00 p.m.)

November 23-27
Thanksgiving Break

November 29
Residence Halls Re-open (noon)

Dear Mountaineer Parents Club members,

As the academic year comes to a close, many families are preparing to have their students return home for the summer while others are getting ready for commencement in May. Whatever point you are at in your student's WVU journey, I hope that the Mountaineer Parents Club has helped you and your WVU student.

From the information we provide through this newsletter and the Parents Club E-News to the network of families you have met through Club events, we do our best to support the families of WVU students.

As the semester ends, we are planning ahead! This summer the Mountaineer Parents Clubs will be busy planning Summer Send-offs. These events are a great way to meet WVU families from your hometown. WVU administrators, faculty, staff and student leaders will be present to share good news about the University.

In addition, we will be giving away a \$200 textbook gift card to Barnes & Noble to a student who attends. There are other great giveaways too! You won't want to miss your local send-off — stay tuned to our website!



WVU students and the Mountaineer at the Tidewater, VA, Summer Send-off last year.

We are also looking for new Club chairs. As students graduate, our parents often leave their role of Club chair. It's a great job! We support your efforts as you become the contact in your community for local WVU families. I know that you will find the experience very rewarding. We all want the best for our WVU students. What better way to support them than by being involved in their University? Please consider becoming a Club chair. If you are interested, please contact us at parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.

Mark your calendars now for Fall Family Weekend on October 2-4, 2015. This special weekend is designed for you and your students to enjoy campus life together. We are in the process of planning many fun and exciting events.

West Virginia University cares about our families and their children, and we are fortunate to have families like you involved. Not only do you contribute to the overall well-being and success of your students, but you are critical to our institution.

Thank you for all you do for West Virginia University. Your dedication and altruism are truly inspiring.

New VP for Student Life (continued)

During 11 years at Georgia Tech, Schafer led several new initiatives, including a strategic planning process, American Psychological Association certification of the Georgia Tech Counseling Center, the development of a fundraising plan, an assessment and outcomes program, a multicultural competency plan, an enhanced parent and family program, a student leadership program including a minor in leadership studies with global leadership dimensions, a program review process and professional development program.

In collaboration with academic affairs, he also led an initiative to develop a highly successful living-learning program in the residence halls that includes an academic component; WVU has recently started a similar program.

For six years, Schafer chaired the University System of Georgia's Regents Committee on Learning Disorders, providing recommendations for students with learning disorders attending the system's 31 institutions across the

state. He also chaired an effort to create a new doctoral program in Student Affairs Leadership at the University of Georgia. During his tenure, Schafer was recognized by Georgia Tech student leaders with the Most Outstanding Staff Award and a Friend of the Greek Award.

Schafer also has ties to West Virginia. His parents, Adam Clyde Schafer and Minnie Josephine Hardesty Schafer, graduated from Shinnston High School and briefly attended WVU, ultimately graduating from what was then Fairmont State Teachers College. Many other relatives also have attended WVU.

"Bill Schafer is a respected national leader on student issues," said WVU President E. Gordon Gee. "Throughout his career, Bill has worked alongside his academic partners to develop extraordinary educational experiences in and out of the classroom. He is the right person to guide us as we collaborate with students on building a culture of responsibility and accountability at West Virginia University." 🧡

New Degree Programs

To make sure that your students are equipped to succeed in a changing employment landscape, West Virginia University is continuously developing new degree programs.

One example is the nation's first accredited Master of Laws program in forensic justice. The College of Law and Eberly College of Arts and Sciences teamed together to create this program, further expanding the University's leadership in forensic science.

Another unique offering is the new Bachelor of Science in energy land management, which addresses the booming Marcellus Shale development and corresponding demand for energy professionals. This program is one of only 10 in North America accredited by the American Association of Professional Landmen.

The College of Creative Arts also has changed many of its undergraduate areas of emphasis into full majors. An exciting opportunity is available

through the new Master of Arts in music industry, a completely online program designed for those who want to work in the music business. One component of this degree is WVU's new student-run record label, Mon Hill Records, which is preparing to release albums by its first three artists.

You and your student can learn about all of the 193 degree program possibilities at majors.wvu.edu. Once they have selected their major (or two), students can track their progress toward graduation using DegreeWorks, an online advising tool (registrar.wvu.edu/dw).

Has your freshman changed his mind about his major? Incoming freshmen can either change their majors during New Student Orientation in June or submit the Change of Major form before their orientation session. See admissions.wvu.edu/admissions/change-major for details. 🧡

Keeping in Touch

At West Virginia University, we're so fortunate to have a strong parents club. The Mountaineer Parents Club is an integral piece of how we communicate as a University to you, and we hope it's a valuable resource.

There's a good chance you already know of the newsletters the Parents Club produces periodically throughout the year. There are also monthly email updates that provide you even more information. Recently, however, we've begun to communicate more and more through social media.

We know that many parents spend time on Facebook, and we want to give you an opportunity to not only read and see more information faster but to also ask questions – without picking up the phone or crafting a time-consuming email. Sometimes your questions, no matter how big or small, can be answered in a few seconds through Facebook.

Make sure to like us on Facebook at facebook.com/mountaineerparentsclub. Not only do we post different stories and information for you there, but we also answer as many questions as we can to keep you informed about what's going on at WVU.

Earlier this year, we had our first Q&A session for parents of students from the Class of 2019. It was a huge hit! Experts from various areas of the University answered questions on Facebook that centered on housing, financial aid, student life and the admissions process.

If you missed it, don't worry; we'll be doing more of these Q&As throughout the coming months. We'll announce them on our Facebook page.

If there are specific topics you'd love to see us develop a Q&A around, please comment on our Facebook page, and we'll take it into consideration. The next Q&A session will be held in late May or early June. 🧡



Joshua Arthurs



Damien Clement



Melissa Morris



Mario Perhinschi



Michael Strager



Elaine Wilson

Outstanding Teaching Awards

Every year, the West Virginia University Foundation celebrates a special class of teacher: the kind who nudges students toward their dreams. The kind you remember and keep in touch with decades after graduating — professors who leave a lasting impact.

This year’s recipients of the WVU Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching are:

Joshua Arthurs, an associate professor of history and director of graduate studies, challenges his students to question what they already know. Instead of assigning texts built around established narratives of historical events, his method allows students to look further than simplified, inflexible ideas about the past.

Damien Clement, an associate professor in the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences, concurrently pursued a WVU

doctoral degree in sport and exercise psychology and a master’s degree in community counseling. He was hired as an assistant professor to teach undergraduate sport and exercise psychology and graduate athletic training courses.

Melissa Morris, a teaching assistant professor in freshman engineering, engages first-year students through pop culture applications. For an honors course, she created a project around the idea of a “zombie apocalypse” with the potential to spread a virus through a local dance club. Students developed a computer code structure to track the spread of the virus.

Mario Perhinschi, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, developed five courses in the department, most on flight simulation and control. Students have access to state-of-the-art facilities and

simulation tools, including a flight simulation computer lab and a six-degrees-of-freedom motion-based flight simulator.

Michael Strager, associate professor of spatial analysis, developed eight new courses introducing students to cutting-edge technologies and methodologies like GPS, remote sensing and GIS/spatial analysis. He teaches six to seven classes a year, dividing his focus between forestry and natural resources and agricultural and natural resource economics.

Elaine Wilson joined the faculty of the WVU College of Law in 2012 as associate professor. She heads the College’s tax law curriculum, teaching federal income tax, taxation of business entities, estate and gift taxation, and nonprofit organizations. In 2014, the graduating class elected her Professor of the Year. 🏆

Your Student Needs Health Insurance

Already covered? ► **STUDENTS MUST OPT-OUT EACH ACADEMIC YEAR** via the online waiver available June through August 3 or be automatically enrolled in the WVU-sponsored health insurance plan!

WVU students are required to have health insurance. What prompted that requirement?

The primary goal is to ensure that students have access to quality healthcare that works where they are and when they need it. We want our students to have every opportunity to be successful in and out of the classroom, and protection from unexpected healthcare costs is an important part of that.

Do students have options for coverage?

Absolutely. WVU students are required to carry coverage that meets the minimum requirements listed on our website (studentinsurance.wvu.edu). Students and families should explore all coverage options including that of a family's insurance plan or those available through healthcare.gov. WVU has also negotiated with Aetna to offer an excellent plan designed specifically to meet the needs of WVU students at an affordable price. Students are automatically enrolled — no action is needed.

How can students opt out of the WVU Aetna plan if they already have adequate coverage?

Students who already have coverage that meets the minimum requirements at WVU can opt out of the Aetna plan by completing the student health insurance waiver online each academic year. The Fall 2015 waiver will open online in June. The deadline to complete the waiver is August 3, 2015. Students who have an approved Fall 2015 waiver on file are opted out of the plan for the entire 2015-16 academic year. Eligible students who don't have an approved waiver on file by the deadline will be enrolled in the WVU Aetna plan and assessed the student insurance fee.

Do students who completed the waiver last academic year need to take any action?

Yes! Since insurance coverage can change, the waiver must be completed prior to each academic year. Students who would like to opt out of the WVU Aetna plan will need to complete a new waiver online prior to the August 3 deadline for the 2015-2016 academic year.

What coverage does the WVU Aetna plan offer?

The WVU Aetna plan offers excellent coverage at an affordable price with zero deductible when the student is seen by a WVU Healthcare provider or an Aetna Preferred Care provider. We invite you to visit our

website to review a plan summary describing benefits and referral requirement in more detail.

WVU students are from all over the country and all over the world. Will the WVU Aetna plan cover them at home and while they travel?

Students enrolled in the WVU Aetna plan have nationwide coverage through Aetna's extensive network of providers, as well as worldwide medical and travel assistance.

What is a student's cost to be seen at Student Health with the WVU Aetna plan?

Student Health has made some exciting changes this past year, including moving to a great new building, offering on-site lab and X-ray services, and an on-site pharmacy will be opening soon. WVU Student Health also now bills insurances for services so students must only need to pay their appropriate insurance copay for a physician's office visit.

A student enrolled in the WVU Aetna plan will pay a \$10 copay with no deductible when they are seen at Student Health for a covered service. If a student has opted out of the WVU Aetna plan, and WVU Healthcare does not participate with the student's insurance, the student may be required to pay a deposit before they are seen. We strongly recommend that parents contact their insurance carrier to determine the student's cost to be seen at WVU Student Health operated by WVU Healthcare.

Can students who opted out of the WVU plan pick it back up if they lose their current coverage?

Absolutely! If a student loses their health insurance coverage after opting out of the WVU Aetna plan, and they meet the minimum eligibility requirements, they can request enrollment in the Aetna plan mid-semester by completing the Mid-Year Enrollment Form available at our website. There is also additional information on our website about the eligibility requirements to enroll in the Aetna plan, and prorating the student insurance fee for partial-semester coverage.

Who should we contact with questions?

Parents and students are welcome to contact the Student Insurance Office by emailing sio@mail.wvu.edu, calling **304-293-6815**, or visiting our office in One Waterfront Place. We're always happy to help parents navigate the insurance requirement or answer questions about the WVU Aetna plan. 💙

Michael Garcia: More Than A Mascot

Michael Garcia is known for the buckskins he wears. The rifle he carries. The coonskin cap propped atop his hair.

There's more to Garcia's daily getup, though. Peeking through the threaded neck of his brown top, you may notice from time to time a gray T-shirt underneath. Garcia, the two-year Mountaineer Mascot, wears this special gray T-shirt as often as he can keep it clean. On the back, the shirt reads "Ty's Army."

Who is Ty? Well, he's a 6-year-old first grader from Wellsburg, West Virginia. Ty, an avid sports and Mountaineer fan, suffers from a congenital heart defect called a bicuspid aortic valve; because of this, he'll never be able to play competitive sports due to the strain it would put on his heart.

Last April, though, Ty was fortunate to throw out the first pitch at a Mountaineer baseball game against Kansas State. Before that, though, he met Garcia, who was beginning his first year as mascot at WVU.

"He played catch with me, and we spent the entire day together," Ty wrote in a letter to the Mountaineer Selection Committee earlier this year. "We played and talked all day. It was one of the best days of my life."

"It was one of my first experiences being around someone who was in awe of the Mountaineer, someone who thought I was just awesome," Garcia remembers. "It wasn't because it was me, it was because I'm the Mountaineer, and it's a really cool thing to kids."

Since then, Garcia has

kept in touch with Ty and his entire family. In fact, Ty's uncle was the one that gave Garcia the "Ty's Army" shirt he sports at nearly every big game. Garcia recently visited Ty and his family in Wellsburg during a trip to the state's northern panhandle.

"They took me in like family. It felt like a very West Virginia experience – unique to this state," Garcia said.

Ever since becoming the Mountaineer Mascot in 2014, Garcia has made it a priority to be the best role model possible for children. He visits a number of grade schools throughout the state, and meets with even more children and families at his 250 yearly events.

"I make sure that they know they're the most important person in the world to me while I'm with them, and it's cool to do that in someone's life," he said. "The Mountaineer is someone who shouldn't be put up on a pedestal; it's someone who should act and be treated like any other West Virginian."

Garcia is a senior political science major from Fairmont and is the third student in the last decade to keep the mascot title in back-to-back years. He is the 63rd Mountaineer Mascot. Garcia will enter graduate school in the fall.

His mother, a schoolteacher, received a master's degree from WVU, and his older brother and sister also graduated from the University. So his family is rich with Mountaineer pride.

WVU has embraced the tradition of a Mountaineer mascot officially since 1934, but unofficial mascots started appearing at sporting events in the 1920s. There have been 63 different Mountaineers at WVU.

When you see Garcia this fall, check to see if he has Ty's gray shirt underneath his buckskins. It's that type of strong character and compassion that makes our mascot and our University so special.

"When Ty sees that little bit of gray underneath my uniform, he knows I'm thinking of him and his family," he said. "I'm in this position for a greater cause." 🐻



Did You Know?

Graduation Accommodations

Lincoln Hall, one of WVU's finest residence halls, will provide lodging for families of 2015 graduates May 15 through May 18. Lincoln Hall has a great location on the Evansdale Campus and is within walking distance of a variety of restaurants.

Each room sleeps two at a rate of \$63.08 per night. For reservations, please call **304-293-2790** or make a request via e-mail at Conferences@mail.wvu.edu.



Ask A Librarian

Students are not necessarily just goofing off on those phones! With our new "Ask a Librarian" feature, students can now chat with or text a librarian – often without even going to the library. Since Google and Wikipedia are not always deemed the most credible sources to cite, students can receive real-time help with their research with a quick text. Visit westvirginia.libanswers.com/.

11th Annual Blue and Gold Mine Sale

As the spring semester draws to a close, your student can donate unwanted items to be sold at the annual rummage sale scheduled for May 23 from 7 a.m. to noon at Milan Puskar Stadium. Items can be dropped off at collection areas located at all University residence halls or at one of four drop-off locations around Morgantown. Visit the sale for great bargains on wonderful treasures while supporting a great cause! Visit bluegoldmine.wvu.edu for more info.

Living-Learning Communities at WVU

You student can now study, think, live and learn with new friends who understand their dreams by living in one of WVU's Living-Learning Communities. Formed around a theme or specific field of study, your student can join a Community during the online room and roommate selection process. Admittance is first-come, first-served, and space is limited. For more information, visit housing.wvu.edu/livinglearningcommunities.

Rifle Team NCAA Champions

The number - 1 - ranked West Virginia University rifle team clinched its third-straight and nation-best 17th title at the NCAA Championships on March 15 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Patty Center. The 2015 title is the fourth under nine-year coach Jon Hammond. The team aggregate score is the second-best in NCAA Rifle Championships history.



Art Museum

After years of planning, giving and building, the Art Museum of West Virginia University is scheduled to open to the public in the fall semester. Many activities are planned for the campus and community to celebrate the new museum. The museum will be home to WVU's collection of nearly 3,000 works of art as well as visiting exhibits. Designed by Stanley, Beaman & Sears of Atlanta, the building is next to the Creative Arts Center facing Patteson Drive.

WVU Foundation

The WVU Foundation is celebrating its 60th year of service to the University. The organization was created as an independent foundation whose function remains to solicit and receive private gifts and administer them in support of the University. Visit www.wvuf.org to learn more.

Nutritional Counseling

WVU Dining Services now offers your student free nutritional counseling in areas such as diabetes, weight loss, eating disorders and food allergies. Students can schedule an appointment to discuss their nutritional needs with a full-time registered dietitian by contacting Cami McMillian at ccmcmillen@mail.wvu.edu. For more information visit diningservices.wvu.edu/allergies.

The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a joint effort of WVU Foundation, Enrollment Services, University Relations and Mountaineer Parents Club. Funding for this newsletter is provided in part by the Susan B. Hardesty Parents Club Endowment. Letters and suggestions are welcome. Send mail to: **Editor, Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter, PO Box 6240, Morgantown, WV 26506** or parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.

Marc Bulger Foundation Athletic Scholarship Established

A gift from the Marc Bulger Foundation is creating an endowment that will provide a yearly scholarship for WVU student-athletes whose parent(s) or sibling(s) are on active duty, serving in the U.S. military or serving as law enforcement officers.

Founded by Bulger, a former Mountaineer and NFL quarterback, the Marc Bulger Foundation was established in 2007 and strives to find innovative ways to provide funding to a diverse range of programs designed to benefit men and women in uniform, specifically, but not limited to, men and women in the armed services, as well as police and fire personnel.

“This endowment is a way for me to give back to West Virginia University and continue to support the families of the men and women in uniform,” explained Bulger. “My

grandfather was a city police officer for 32 years, and that, in addition to several other factors, such as 9/11, impacted my decision to start the Marc Bulger Foundation. Since then, I’ve worked with quadruple amputees, those suffering from PTSD, and several others, and through this work, I’ve gotten close to the families of these warriors. Continuing this work is something very near and dear to my heart, as is West Virginia University.

“It’s always been one of my goals to give back to WVU; the University not only treated me well, but also my whole family, including my sisters (former WVU women’s basketball players, Kate and Meg). It was always a matter of figuring out the best way to give back. It made sense to combine my passion for the military and those who serve

with WVU. Hopefully, this is just the start of something that will go beyond five years.”

A Mountaineer quarterback from 1996-99, Bulger ranks second in the WVU record book in career passing yards (8,153), pass attempts (1,023), pass completions (630) and touchdown passes (59). The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, native enjoyed an 11-year NFL career and played for the Atlanta Falcons, St. Louis Rams and Baltimore Ravens.

The gift was made in conjunction with *A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia’s University*. The \$1 billion comprehensive campaign being conducted by the WVU Foundation on behalf of the University runs through December 2017.

