

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
September 27, 2016

With Homecoming this weekend, one of our newer traditions, WVU Tent City, <http://bit.ly/2dd3kFe> is again under way. Many students have traded in their apartments and residence hall rooms for a tent and camaraderie on the Mountainlair Plaza this week. With the official change of seasons, President Gee took time to reflect on summer 2016 with an “engaging” announcement: <http://go.wvu.edu/2dl8WA7>. He is looking forward to meeting all of you during Fall Family Weekend, which is right around the corner: <http://bit.ly/2doUin6>. Events are filling quickly so see below and sign up today!

December and May Graduation details are now out as well as info on academic early alerts and tutoring, career fairs (tomorrow!), how to check for holds due to unpaid balances and flu shots. So be sure to read on and share with your student! It is a busy time on campus and we can’t wait to have you join us. Fall is in the air! In this edition:

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Fall Family Weekend Featured Events!

Events are filling up quickly for Fall Family Weekend, which is scheduled October 7-9! Stay tuned to the WVU Mountaineer Parents Club Facebook page and check out the Fall Family Weekend website for the full schedule: <http://bit.ly/2doUin6>. Be sure to register for the events you want to attend because seating is limited for some. We look forward to seeing you on campus October 7-9! A few featured events follow:

Legends in Concert, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Creative Arts Center

Legends in Concert is the world's greatest live celebrity tribute show and features world-renowned tribute artists. There will be two shows during Fall Family Weekend at the WVU Creative Arts Center, and we're offering deals for parents/families (\$49) and students (\$23).

- Student offer code = WVU student's first initial, last initial plus the last four digits of their WVU student ID number (e.g., AB1234).
- Parent offer code = BLUE (WVU parent offer valid only in rows G-Z.)

Be sure to enter your offer codes in ALL CAPS. To take advantage of these offers, click on the appropriate link below and enter BOTH offer codes before selecting your tickets. After you have selected each ticket, you will be prompted to choose which offer to apply to each ticket. Note that the WVU student discount is limited to one ticket. There is no limit on the WVU parent discount. For questions or to order tickets, please call the Box Office at 304-293-7469 or order online:

Friday, October 7, 7:30 p.m. tickets: <http://bit.ly/2cAgFJO>

Saturday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. tickets: <http://bit.ly/2dh1swB>

Get Free Help on Your 2017-18 FAFSA, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – Rhododendron Room, Mountainlair

For the first time ever, students have the opportunity to file a FAFSA for the upcoming school year during Fall Family Weekend, with their families and the help of financial aid experts. The 2017-2018 FAFSA will be completed using 2015 income information, so no need to wait! With improvements the new FAFSA should take less than 20 minutes to complete. Get it done NOW

to receive your best aid offer! Pre-registration is encouraged: <http://bit.ly/2cyQUVg>. Find out what you need to prepare here: <http://bit.ly/2dd4wbt>. File early. Plan early. #GoFirst

Pancakes, Parents and the President, Sunday, 8:15 a.m., Morgantown Event Center

If you haven't had the chance to meet and chat with President Gee, this is a great opportunity. He will be hosting parents for a free breakfast and address the various aspects of academics and research that make WVU great. He will welcome questions during a Q&A and as always, would love to grab a selfie with you! So let your student sleep in and come join President Gee for coffee and breakfast to close out your Fall Family Weekend experience. This free event does have limited seating, so sign up today.

Parents Club Buses Home for the Holidays

Seats on the Parents Club Holiday Buses for Thanksgiving break can be reserved now. Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; and Philadelphia, PA. This year we will offer a bus to Highland, NY, to service the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey and Central Maryland Mountaineer Parents Clubs also offer buses to their areas. Please Note: The Long Island Mountaineer Parents Club chapter will begin taking reservations for their bus on October 1. Online reservations began September 12 on the Parents Club website. For info on making reservations or to review the schedules and details, please go to <http://bit.ly/1vStQFj>. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken.

Early Alert Time for Freshmen

Over the past two weeks, faculty in certain courses have been reporting early alerts for students who are underperforming. Underperformance could include a below-average grade on a first test or assignment as well as lack of attendance. Students who have an early alert received an email indicating they need to seek support in that particular class. Support includes visiting the professors' office hours as well as free tutoring. Be sure to ask your student if he or she has received any emails regarding Early Alert. If so, encourage them to use the resources available (noted in the e-mail) to help them be successful academically. Official midterm grades will be available on Wednesday, October 12. Faculty are required to report grades of a D or F. Those grades will be noted in the Parent/Guest Portal. More details will be sent closer to that time. <http://bit.ly/2cyR0Mt>

Expanded Tutoring Options

WVU offers several options for students to receive free tutoring. Free tutoring is available every day of the week in locations across campus, for many subjects. We have added a new location on the ground floor of the Evansdale Library. <http://bit.ly/1Gn6MnW>

2016 December Commencement Details

Students who are preparing to graduate in December will need to ensure that their Application to Graduate is processed by the deadline established by the Office of the University Registrar – Friday, October 7. Students should also log on to their DegreeWorks account to review their progress and ensure that they have completed all requirements needed and/or meet with their advisor to confirm their progress. <http://bit.ly/1tnqyeO>

The December Commencement ceremony will be held Friday, December 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the WVU Coliseum. Students are required to register to participate in the graduation ceremony: <http://bit.ly/2cyQK04>. Tickets are not required for December Commencement, and there are no restrictions on the number of guests a graduate may bring. The ceremony will last approximately two hours. Official academic regalia is required to participate, and students can purchase this online from Herff Jones or the WVU Bookstore. For more details, including lodging options, see <http://bit.ly/1qEeNjg>.

May Commencement Schedule Available

May ceremonies will take place May 12-14, 2017. To help you plan, the schedule for the commencement ceremonies for each WVU school and college is now available <http://bit.ly/1MTCP6u>. Further details will be posted in the coming months, so check back or monitor Parent E-Newsletters.

Engineering Career Fair: NEW Location, September 28

This year, there are two major – and exciting – changes to the Statler College Career Fair. The one-day event will host 130 employers in the Student Recreation Center on September 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is a great way to land internships, co-ops or full-time opportunities. Learn more about participating employers in MountaineerTRAK: <http://bit.ly/2dh32yH>. The event is open to all students and alumni. Contact Sarah Rotruck Glenn at sarah.glenn@mail.wvu.edu with questions.

Quick Two-Question Financial Aid Survey

Please take two minutes to help the Financial Aid Office determine how you prefer to receive information. Do you like brochures and inserts to keep on hand, or do you prefer to go online for current information? Please answer a few questions at <http://bit.ly/2d0zLqJ> to help us cater our processes to your preferences.

Check for Unpaid Balances and Holds Today

Unpaid balances can cause students a variety of challenges, including delayed graduation, inability to register on time or lack of access to certain services. Remind your student to log on now to check for any outstanding fees and holds (unpaid parking tickets, overdue library books, fees, etc.). Students are not allowed to graduate if they have unpaid fees. Students can make sure they are set to graduate by following these steps:

1. Go to <http://bit.ly/1m8XLtH>
2. Log in with their WVU ID and password
3. Select the “STAR” tab from the home screen
4. Click on “Student Services and Housing”
5. Click on “Student Records”
6. Select the “View Holds” option

To resolve holds, students will need to contact the office(“Originator”) that has placed the hold on their account.

Update Addresses, Phone Numbers and Emergency Contacts

Has your student moved? Are you their emergency contact? Do you have a new number? We encourage students to take this opportunity to log in to STAR to update their addresses, phone numbers and emergency contacts. This is a quick, but important, process, since information can change over time. Students can log in to STAR at <http://bit.ly/1r61Z74> and click “Personal Information.”

Flu Shots and Upcoming Clinics

Flu shots are now available on campus. Students can go in to Student Health during normal business hours (8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday) to receive a flu shot without an appointment. Students need to bring their student ID and insurance card: <http://bit.ly/2cAjfQ2> Student Health will also be offering outreach Flu Shot Clinics across campus:

- Monday, October 17, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Health Sciences Center
- Tuesday, October 25, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Evansdale Crossing
- Thursday, October 27, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Law School
- Tuesday, November 1, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Mountainlair

Parent E-newsletter Spam Messages

If someone you know is a member of the Parents Club and is not receiving these Parent E-Newsletters, encourage them to check their spam or junk folders. Certain e-mail set ups (AOL, Yahoo, Comcast, etc.) have blocks in place to help protect you from spam or viruses from listserv messages. You might check how to “whitelist” from your account or save the following e-mail addresses used to send these messages in your “Contacts” so they are recognized as safe

addresses: Katie.Gallagher@mail.wvu.edu, ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu, and ParentEnews@listserv.wvu.edu. We archive Parent E-news on the Parents Club website and post them on the WVU Mountaineer Parents Club Facebook page: <http://bit.ly/2ccoDFW>.

Absentee Voting

This year we will choose the 45th President of the United States. Many students also head to the polls – perhaps for the first time. If they are away at college and unable to be in their hometown on election day, 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 your town or city several days before election day – November 8. Students from West Virginia can go to <http://bit.ly/2dzE6Ts> for more info. The deadline to register for West Virginia residents is Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

Student Rec Center Parking Update

Increased activity on the Evansdale campus has necessitated changing the previously free parking at the Student Recreation Center to paid parking during daytime business hours. <http://bit.ly/2d6tB9h>

WVU LGBTQ+ Center Opens

WVU's new LGBTQ+ Center hosted its grand opening Wednesday, September 21 at 6 p.m. in Hodges Hall, G-06. Everyone is welcome to stop by the Center. <http://bit.ly/2d6QibE>

Adventure WV Leaders Sought

Is your student interested in being on staff with Adventure WV? Adventure WV is searching for 2017 trip leaders and logistics specialists. The deadline to apply is October 5. <http://bit.ly/2dzFvJK>

2016-17 Important Dates

As you plan ahead, here are some date/time reminders for the upcoming year.

Friday, October 7

Deadline to apply for December Commencement

Friday, October 7-Sunday, October 9

Fall Family Weekend

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day recess (no classes; residence halls remain open)

Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

University housing closes for Thanksgiving Break

Sunday, November, noon

University Housing reopens from Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, December 7

Prep day for finals recess (no classes; residence halls remain open)

Thursday, December 8-Wednesday, December 14

Finals Week

Thursday, December 14, noon

University housing closes for Winter Break

Friday, December 16, 1:30 p.m.

December 2016 Commencement

Saturday, January 7, noon

University housing opens from Winter Break

Monday, January 9

First day of spring classes

The full 2016-17 academic calendar can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2cIlhM4>.

Residence Hall opening and closing dates (and times) can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1EjuamX>.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University