It seems that the April Showers have arrived a week early on campus and seem to be bringing with them some cases of spring fever! Remind your students to stay focused to finish strong – just four weeks remain!! Below you will find new details on graduation that is just a short 45 days away, but who is counting!? Parents of incoming students, we have also included some details for discounts and parameters on technology that might be helpful as you approach the start of the fall semester, just 140 days away on August 15! As a reminder: be sure your student has registered for New Student Orientation in June: http://bit.ly/2IZRqND

For parents of our continuing students, fall course registration dates are underway so please below to your student doesn’t have financial or other holds on his or her account *prior* to their priority registration dates (seniors start Monday, April 2!): http://bit.ly/2FOlACK. Also, payment plans open tomorrow for summer classes (summer charges are now posted for students who are registered) and fall charges (if you wish to explore estimating the costs and spreading out any anticipated balances due over the maximum timeframe). 2018-19 financial aid offers are also out on STAR and students should be accepting these, so read the “Financial Aid and Billing Updates” below for more directions and deadlines on these topics. It is a busy time on campus so read and share reminders with your students! In this edition:

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IMPORTANT: Class Registration Reminders – Clear Holds NOW

As a reminder: Students should check for holds and pay any outstanding bills now to avoid delays when registering for fall classes. Financial holds on student accounts WON’T be lifted during the first hour of pre-registration days, which run through April 9. If there is a hold on your student’s account, he or she will be able to see it on the WVU Portal http://bit.ly/1m8XLtH.

During registration, students are being reminded to NOT hit the refresh button on their browser but DO try to be patient. Students registering for classes April 2, 4, 6 and 9 may experience intermittent slowness in STAR between 8 and 9 a.m., but constantly refreshing the browser will make things worse by increasing the load on the system. If they see a “page unavailable” or time-out message, they are advised to wait 2-3 minutes, then try again.

Seniors are reminded, if they are unable to select a class required to graduate during their pre-registration period April 2, not to panic. Advisors will work with them to help ensure on-time completion of their degree.

PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS

Computer Buying Guide and Technology Discounts

Thinking of buying a computer before your student heads off to college? Did you know your WVU student-to-be has access to discounts on software and hardware? Check out these discounts as well as the Computer Buying Guide http://bit.ly/2pMqzMO to find out if there is a certain brand or software that is recommended based on your student’s major.

My WVU Life video blog

Parents, check out “My WVU Life,” our new YouTube-specific student vlog (video blog) project. You can watch the first video, which features student Trevor Kiess (the new Mountaineer Mascot), who takes us to the last home basketball game of the season: http://bit.ly/2E1kHUr.
FINANCIAL AID AND BILLING UPDATES

2018-19 Financial Aid Offers and Payment Options

It’s time for students to accept their aid for next year! Financial aid notification emails (continuing students) and letters (first-time students for fall) are going out. If your student submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1, their financial aid award may already be on their STAR account. Students can also view unsatisfied requirements through STAR that can delay the financial aid award. Info on how to access and review the aid offer can be found at http://bit.ly/2pNHLRu. Encourage your student to log on and accept that aid!

Also, if you are interested in setting up monthly payments to spread the semester cost over multiple months, the payment plan for fall is available as of March 29. The earlier you enroll, the better as you can space out payments over a longer period! More on these plans can be found here: http://bit.ly/2kQPrQh. If you have questions on financial aid or payment plans, you can contact the Mountaineer Hub online at http://bit.ly/2pLuERg under “Public Inquiry Submission” or call 304-293-1988.

Exit Counseling Required for Those with Loans

Students who are graduating, transferring, or no longer enrolled at least half-time who have borrowed federal student loans must complete the loan exit counseling process online. Emails from the Financial Aid Office will be sent soon to federal student loan borrowers who have applied to graduate in May. The email will include exit counseling instructions.

Exit counseling helps students through the important transition to loan repayment. To better understand loan repayment options, we encourage students to come to the Mountaineer Hub for personalized exit counseling to be walked through the online counseling with an expert to help answer any questions they may have (http://bit.ly/2pL4z52). Questions? Contact the Mountaineer Hub at http://bit.ly/2pLuERg or 304-293-1988. Follow us on social media for tips and reminders on Facebook and Twitter (@WVUSFSS).

Summer Full-Time Federal Work Study

Will your student be on-campus or near a WVU Extension Office this summer? Students may apply for full-time Federal Work Study consideration if not enrolled for summer or enrolled half-time or less (6 credit hours or less for undergraduates, 3 credit hours or less for graduate students). If your student would like to be considered, have them apply at http://bit.ly/2E69wKc. If approved, they can apply for full-time FWS jobs for the summer on-campus and through our Community Partners!
Summer Charges and Payment Deadlines

If your student is registered for summer classes (these have been open for registration since November and are still available to register for), summer charges are now posted. The first summer e-bills will be pushed out next week for those registered but if you wish to spread out payments for summer, there is a three (3) payment plan option for those enrolled by April 1 for April, May, and June. http://bit.ly/2kQPrQh. Summer charges are due (or students must be enrolled in a payment plan) by the first day of the class. http://bit.ly/2J2rwc3

STUDENT INSURANCE

Mid-Year Insurance Enrollment

Did your student recently turn 26 and lose his or her health insurance coverage? Qualifying life events, such as aging out of a parent’s coverage or losing health coverage for another reason, such as a change in employment, allow eligible students to enroll in the WVU Aetna student health insurance plan mid-semester.

Students who previously had opted out of coverage through the WVU Aetna plan and have lost their current coverage due to a qualifying life event may be eligible to enroll in the Aetna plan mid-semester. Interested students should complete the Mid-Year Enrollment Form and submit the required documentation to the Student Insurance Office. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/1l9XdfW.

Stay tuned, the annual Student Insurance waiver for the upcoming 2018-19 school year will come out again in June.

BOOKSTORE UPDATES

Cap & Gowns update - Beginning April 23, all cap & gowns ordered online for store pickup, prior to the March 25 deadline*, will be available for pick up at both WVU Barnes and Noble Bookstores (Mountainlair or Evansdale Crossing). If your graduate still needs to purchase their cap or gown, please have them stop by in person at either location for assistance. You can also view diploma frames, announcements and other items online here: http://bit.ly/1LuzSpZ


Book Buyback and Rental check-ins – The best dates to come in for Spring Book Buyback are April 25 through May 4. Textbooks RENTED in the Spring semester, will be due back to the stores by Friday, May 4th. Please pass these dates along to your students.
25% OFF NIKE apparel – through March 29 - Promotion available in store and online at the WVU Bookstore website: [http://bit.ly/2p0CDsi](http://bit.ly/2p0CDsi)

Questions? sm583@bncollege.com. The WVU Bookstore is here to help you through your student’s journey, in the classroom and on campus. For emails that include everything you need to know about textbooks, supplies & more, sign up at [http://bit.ly/2f2JT55](http://bit.ly/2f2JT55). Shop with confidence and trust as the WVU Bookstores are proud to give $1.5 million each year to West Virginia University in the form of non-athletic student scholarships. * Sorry, discounts cannot be combined.

**GRADUATION NEWS**

**Lodging option for families for graduation weekend**

Housing and Residence Life will provide overnight accommodations in Honors Hall for families of graduating seniors. Convenient and affordable, rooms are available Friday, May 11 through Monday, May 14. Continental breakfast, afternoon snacks, linen service are included in these suite-style rooms; rate is $79.12 per night, including tax. For more information or to make a reservation: [http://bit.ly/2GhokHv](http://bit.ly/2GhokHv) or call 304-293-2790.

**Final Steps to Graduate**

Students who officially applied to graduate in May by the March 2 deadline should be sure to complete these additional final steps.

1. **Register to walk.** After they’ve applied to graduate, students must register sign up if they would like to participate in the actual graduation ceremony. May graduates can register to walk through their WVU college/school’s website.
2. **Order the required cap and gown by April 13.** Official WVU regalia is available at the WVU Bookstore locations and should be purchased prior to the day of their ceremony as no regalia will be sold at the venue. If students previously purchased online, they can pick up at the WVU Bookstore starting April 23. To ensure delivery, students are encouraged to order by April 13 (direct customer ship option remains available through that date [http://bit.ly/1LuzSpZ](http://bit.ly/1LuzSpZ)).
4. **Check for any outstanding fees and holds** (unpaid parking tickets, overdue library books, fees, etc.). Students are not allowed to graduate if there are any unpaid fees. They should make sure they are set to graduate by going to the WVU Portal [http://bit.ly/1m8XLtH](http://bit.ly/1m8XLtH) and looking for holds.
5. **Complete Exit Counseling Required for Those with Loans:** Students who are graduating who have borrowed federal student loans must complete the loan exit counseling process online. Emails from the Financial Aid Office will be sent soon to federal student loan borrowers who have applied to graduate in May and will include exit counseling instructions. [http://bit.ly/2pL4z52](http://bit.ly/2pL4z52)
Additional Graduation Highlights and Tips

As Graduation approaches, here are some additional highlights and helpful tips to consider and pass along:

- **Woodburn graduation photos May 9**: University Relations will be offering graduating students free photos outside Woodburn Hall once again this year. The date for this year’s event will be May 9 and students will see info on students.wvu.edu next month once they are able to RSVP.

- **Mountaineer Send-Off Open House May 11-12**: Graduates and family members should make time to stop by the Erickson Alumni Center for the Mountaineer Send-Off Open House for tours, free membership information for our new graduates and other host of activities throughout Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12.

- **Commencement Brunch May 12**: On Saturday, May 12, join us to celebrate your new graduate at the home for alumni, the Erickson Alumni Center. Multiple seating’s are available. For the full menu, ticket prices and other details, go to: [http://bit.ly/2J3hZRN](http://bit.ly/2J3hZRN).


- **Looking ahead?** Is your student scheduled to graduate in December 2018 or May 2019? Check out dates noted here [http://bit.ly/2pOtbct](http://bit.ly/2pOtbct) and be sure to stay tuned in early fall for more details!

- **FAQ page**: Students and guests can also visit the Graduation FAQ page to get answers to any other commencement related questions. [http://bit.ly/1RPgPp0](http://bit.ly/1RPgPp0).

HAPPENINGS ON CAMPUS

Parents remember to guide students towards [http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR](http://bit.ly/1TZuNaR) for the most up-to-date happenings on campus. Also every weekend WVUp All Night offers free activities such as escape rooms, bumper cars, dances and DJs, arts and crafts, movies and much more! There is always something to do so have your students check out the upcoming WVUp All Night calendar: [http://bit.ly/2pL5Fha](http://bit.ly/2pL5Fha).

**Easter Brunch and Passover Seder available**

If your student is looking for an option to celebrate the various holidays or your family will be in town this weekend check out the Passover Seder offered by the Rohr Chabad Jewish Center Friday evening [http://bit.ly/2pOnego](http://bit.ly/2pOnego) or hop on down to one of these local establishments hosting Easter brunches [http://bit.ly/2DZwz9n](http://bit.ly/2DZwz9n).

**Is your student looking for a summer job?**

Mini Student Org Fair – March 29 – TOMORROW

We’ve set our next mini student organization fair. It’s Thursday, March 29 from 12-3pm in the Lair commons. This time we’ll be featuring religious student organizations: http://bit.ly/2pN0j1F.

Path to a Pulitzer Panel Discussion – April 4

The West Virginia Humanities Council and the Reed College of Media will present “Path to the Pulitzer: Journalism and the Informed Citizen” April 4 at 7 p.m. in Ming Hsieh Hall: http://bit.ly/2Ic9v9S.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University