

MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB | FALL 2018







## FALL 2018

ISSUE 59

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Mountaineer Parents Club Newsletter  
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The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a joint effort of the 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.

WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer — Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran. The WVU Board of Governors is the governing body of WVU. The Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia is responsible for developing, establishing and overseeing the implementation of a public policy agenda for the state's four-year colleges and universities. (MPC-18-1000)

## Viewfinder



New WVU Freshmen students enjoy an evening of music, friendship and relaxation at Fallfest.



Having a great time at the Central/Southern Ohio Mountaineer Parents Club Summer Send-off.



The Mountaineer had a great time meeting students at the Southern New Jersey Mountaineer Parents Club Summer Send-off.

### WVU Mountaineer Parents Club

For more information, visit [parentsclub.wvu.edu](http://parentsclub.wvu.edu), contact the office at **304-293-2506** or email us at [parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu).

**Cover:** WVU President E. Gordon Gee meets with members and the coach of the WVU Women's Soccer Team.

**Photo by:** M.G. Ellis



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## Snapshot

### ► Welcome Week 2018

West Virginia University welcomed 6,650 new students to its campuses. In Morgantown, freshmen gathered for the annual Monday Night Lights photo.





Did You **Know?**

## Campus Read

The Campus Read book selection for the 2018-2019 academic year is "Station Eleven," by Emily St. John Mandel. We encourage all students to read the book; perhaps you would like to read it as well!

More information on all Campus Read activities, including a visit from the author, can be found here: [campusread.wvu.edu](http://campusread.wvu.edu).

## Farmer's Market

The outdoor Farmer's Market will run on Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., starting August 23 until October 25, across from the WVU Mountainlair downtown.



## Old Gold, New Blue

Looking for a new way to get involved with West Virginia University? Join the Old Gold, New Blue Student Recruitment Program! As a volunteer recruiter, you provide the one-on-one interaction, personal attention and encouragement that can make the difference between a student in your community choosing West Virginia University or another school. Help us bring the best students to West Virginia University — volunteer today! Contact Program Director Allyson Cannon at [acannon2@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:acannon2@mail.wvu.edu) for more information.

## MPC Holiday Buses

The Mountaineer Parents Club offers buses home during the holiday breaks when WVU residence halls close: Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring breaks. Online reservations will begin in mid-September through the Parents Club website. To make a reservations or to review the schedule, please go to [parentsclub.wvu.edu/bus-schedules](http://parentsclub.wvu.edu/bus-schedules). No phone reservations will be taken.

## Student Lot

The Student Lot will open three hours before most home football games this season. Located at the University Park courtyard, the Student Lot is open to all students to enjoy food, games, music and win prizes before the Mountaineers take the field.

To check the status of the Student Lot before home games please visit [studentlot.wvu.edu](http://studentlot.wvu.edu).

## Social Media

It's time to close up shop on the **Families of the WVU Class of 2022** group. As of late August, the group was archived. While we will no longer answer your questions there, members can view the group as a reference. You'll still have an opportunity to ask questions and gain insight from us, though. You can "like" the **WVU Mountaineer Parents Club** to continue the conversation.

Students interested in running the WVU Students Twitter account may apply at [social.wvu.edu](http://social.wvu.edu).



# WVU Fall Sports

Fall sports have begun! Check out [wvusports.com](http://wvusports.com) for a schedule and ticketing information for all fall sports.





# Excitement and Expectation



## Dear Mountaineer families,

From those seemingly recent days when you helped your child pick out crayons and glue sticks for kindergarten, I am sure this time of year has always signified excitement and expectation for you.

As a university president, I experience similar excitement every fall. And I have the highest expectations for this year's new and returning students, who are invigorating our institution by working smart and playing smart.

Our University will be a second home to them, and their friends will form their West Virginia University family — a family whose members support one another, respect one another and cheer one another on to ever-greater accomplishment.

But through it all, they still need their own family's love, support and advice — even if they don't always act like it. So, encourage your children to be themselves, follow their interests and connect with people who share those interests.

You, in turn, should take every opportunity to connect with fellow parents and to engage with our University. You are important partners in everything we do.

I look forward to seeing you at Fall Family Weekend and hearing from you often about ways to make the West Virginia University student experience even better. ♡

**E. Gordon Gee**, President, West Virginia University



# New Scholars Program

A new two-year program is available to 75 of West Virginia's top health professions students interested in rural healthcare. The West Virginia Area Health Education Center's (AHEC) Rural Health Scholars program focuses on interprofessional education through clinical, didactic and community-based experiences and emphasizes how each Scholar can create change and reshape the status quo for healthcare in their community.

Scholars will engage in activities in rural and underserved areas of West Virginia to refine their skill sets and positively affect the lives of West Virginians.

Health professions students in the following areas are eligible to apply: Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, Exercise Physiology, Health Informatics and Information Management, Medicine (Osteopathic, Family, OBGYN, etc.), Nurse Practitioner, Nursing, Nutrition/Dietetics, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Public/Population Health Programs and more (contact us if you do not see your student's discipline listed — they may still be eligible to participate!). The application deadline is October 15, 2019.

## AS A SCHOLAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Become leaders in their professions and communities
- Receive supplemental training and education from experts in rural healthcare
- Develop an astute understanding of how to best implement healthcare services in rural or underserved areas
- Learn how to work as part of an interprofessional team
- Provide meaningful patient care in the field and gain hands-on experience
- Receive a stipend of \$1,300

For more information, visit [bit.ly/2NBYrcA](https://bit.ly/2NBYrcA) or contact Jessica Stidham at [RCH\\_Scholars@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:RCH_Scholars@hsc.wvu.edu). ▼

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# Career Fair Season

Career fair season has arrived! Now is a great time for your student to start preparing for their fall semester, which includes seeking full-time and internship positions. Career Services hosts or co-hosts a variety of career fairs to connect students with employers who are committed to hiring from West Virginia University.

Fortunately, our fall career fairs are just around the corner. Encourage your Mountaineer to check [careerservices.wvu.edu/events](https://careerservices.wvu.edu/events) for times, locations and a list of organizations attending. Interviews for full-time positions and internships are often held the day after the career fairs.

From career planning to major exploration, Career Services has your students covered. We're located directly above the WVU Bookstore in the Mountainlair. Our hours are Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. ▼

## FALL 2018 CAREER FAIRS

- **Pharmacy Recruitment Program**  
Networking Reception | September 16, 6 - 8:00 p.m.  
Interview Program | September 17, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Erickson Alumni Center
- **B&E Career Fair**  
September 19 | 1 - 5:00 p.m.  
Student Recreation Center
- **Statler College Career Fair**  
September 20 | 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Student Recreation Center
- **WVU Career and Internship Fair**  
September 26 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Davis College Career and Internship Fair**  
October 10 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Agricultural Sciences Building

*\*Professional headshots available for limited times during these events.*



## Campus Connection: Registration Changes and PRT Upgrades

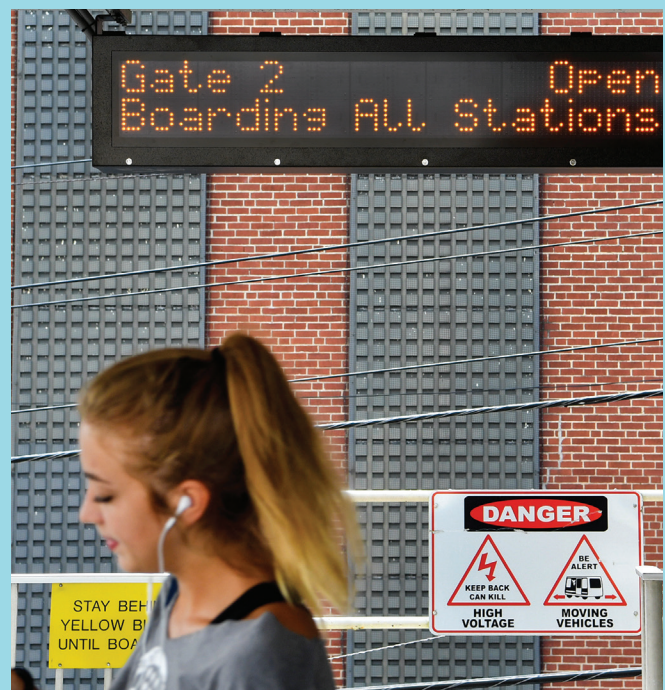
There are important changes to registration for 2019 spring and summer courses. Beginning with pre-registration in October 2018, West Virginia University will begin using time ticketing, which means students will have an assigned time to sign up for courses. This does not change the process for how students register, just the time that you can begin. Students will register on their normal registration day based on classification, unless they are eligible for priority registration.

Students received their first email about time ticketing on August 29. This email provided a brief overview of spring and summer registration and informed them that they should expect an assigned time email to be sent to their MIX email address and posted on DegreeWorks by the end of the first week of October.

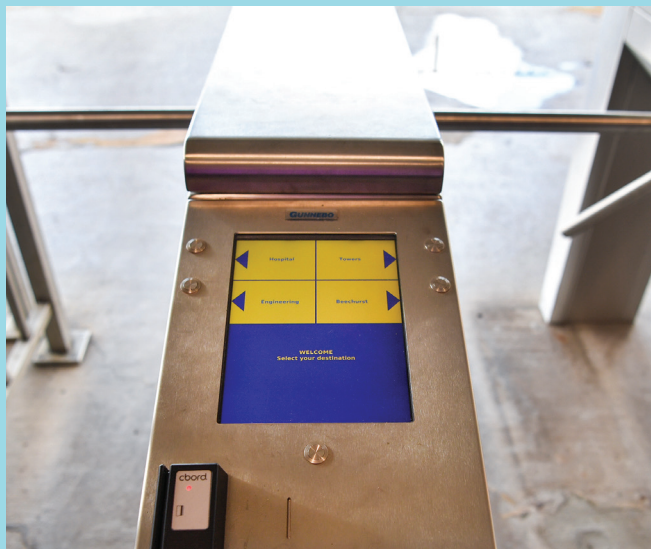
Please visit [registrar.wvu.edu](http://registrar.wvu.edu) to learn more.



ALEX KING



JENNIFER SHEPARD



JENNIFER SHEPARD

The West Virginia University Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system resumed operations on August 9 after being closed this summer to complete modernization activities. To enhance system reliability, phase two upgrades involved replacing the train control system, all the electronics, passenger signs and faregates. Full-scale testing took place during the summer without passengers and beginning this fall semester, the system is available for passenger service.

Please note that as with any new deployment, we anticipate scenarios that we could not test for and have been working on the appropriate fixes to reduce any disruption. While we continue to work through these upgrades, it is important that students allow extra time for daily commutes. Anyone riding the PRT is asked to adhere to all safety protocols. Learn more at [transportation.wvu.edu/prt](http://transportation.wvu.edu/prt). ♡



## Home Away from Home: New Student Dining Options

Exciting changes are under way in WVU Dining Services! New dining options are open in the Mountainlair that include: Blue Tomato, featuring gourmet pizza selections; Burger Shop, with fresh burgers, hand-cut fries, a free toppings bar and more; and Tres Habaneros, offering burritos, tacos and other Tex-Mex favorites. Chick-fil-A will be renovated and refreshed over the winter holiday break. Hatfields, Which Wich, Taziki's and J.A.C.S. Convenience

Store are open and ready, too, to serve hungry students and fuel them for their WVU adventures. Students living in residence halls may use their dining plans in any of these locations. Off-campus students should consider purchasing a non-resident dining plan so they never have to worry about where to grab a bite while they are on campus or shopping for groceries and cooking. Visit [dining.wvu.edu](https://dining.wvu.edu) to learn more. ♡



## Conversations: FAFSA — It's That Time Again!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed every academic year your student is interested in federal financial aid, and some state and scholarship programs require a valid FAFSA on file each year. But filling it out doesn't have to be stressful. Here are some things to keep in mind.

▮ The FAFSA becomes available October 1 for the following academic year (example: October 1, 2018, for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020).

- ▮ The priority deadline to file is March 1 for the upcoming academic year to receive the best financial aid offer available to your student. If your student is attending classes in Fall 2019, which begins in August, you should try to submit your paperwork by March 1, 2019.
- ▮ Don't worry. The FAFSA may still be completed after March 1 for consideration for some federal grant and loans.

Visit [financialaid.wvu.edu/applying-for-aid/fafsa](https://financialaid.wvu.edu/applying-for-aid/fafsa) for more helpful tips. ♡



Funding The **Future**

## Second Day of Giving

Hoping to build on last year's success, WVU Foundation officials have announced plans to conduct a second WVU Day of Giving on November 14.

"In one 24-hour period last November, our generous alumni and friends stepped up to give nearly \$3 million to WVU," said B.J. Davisson, Foundation senior vice president of development and chief development officer. "Mountaineers always step up, and we are confident we'll have another successful online fundraising event in 2018."

Last November 8, more than 2,500 gifts were made totaling more than \$2.9 million during the Foundation's first-ever Day of Giving. Its success was buoyed by several global matches and participation gifts, as well as those made at the college/school/unit level. WVU alumni Doug and Pam Van Scoy, and another donor, funded a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$150,000 in gifts. That challenge

was met within the first eight hours. Alumnus Ken Kendrick also matched the first 1,000 donations made of \$150 or more (up to \$150 per gift) for a total of \$150,000. The 2018 Day of Giving also is expected to have several matching and challenge gift opportunities.

"Mountaineers love to support this University, and I love to see the enthusiasm this day sparks," WVU President E. Gordon Gee said. "It is also a great way for first-time donors to share their gifts to achieve meaningful results when combined with the gifts of others. The value of a West Virginia University degree is immeasurable."

WVU's inaugural Day of Giving was focused on raising private dollars for the University's greatest priorities and opportunities, including scholarships and unrestricted funds at both the University and unit-specific level. ♡

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## Donors Give \$161 Million

Alumni and friends gave \$161 million to West Virginia University this past year, making it the second-highest year of giving ever in the University's history.

The WVU Foundation says 23,161 donors, including 12,471 alumni, made 46,056 gifts between July 1, 2017 — June 30, 2018, totaling \$161,029,056. FY18 was buoyed by three record months of giving in July (\$12.9 million), August (\$12 million) and December (\$49.5 million).

"I couldn't be more pleased with the response from our alumni and friends," said B.J. Davisson, Foundation executive vice president and chief development officer. "Mountaineer Nation is a loyal, generous bunch. On behalf of my colleagues at the Foundation and all those at WVU who benefit from private giving, I want to thank each donor

for their giving spirit, which is having such a positive, lasting impact across the University system."

Foundation officials say 31 donors gave \$1 million or more to the University in FY18, accounting for \$96.5 million or 60 percent of the \$161 million. The contributions span all areas of the University, from academics to research, to health sciences to athletics.

The Foundation's annual giving program — the University Fund — brought in a record \$22.3 million in FY18. This is the fourth-straight year of record totals for the University Fund. Successful initiatives included the first-ever WVU Day of Giving, which brought in nearly \$3 million and the Pride Travel Fund in support of the WVU Marching Band, to which donors gave more than \$100,000. ♡

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## Celebrating A Billion

The largest and most successful private fundraising campaign in the history of West Virginia University was celebrated June 1-3 in Morgantown. Alumni and friends gathered for events and activities to mark the end of A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University. Donors gave more than \$1.2 billion during the Campaign, surpassing the \$1 billion goal. ♡





## The Last Word with Meshea Poore

We had the opportunity to sit down with Meshea Poore, a longtime champion of under-represented people and new vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at WVU.

### **Q** What is your best advice for students?

**A** Be flexible with yourself and remember you are never alone! Sometimes we can be our worst critic. As you enter into this new space remember that you are growing into the adult you want to become. It does not happen overnight. You will not get every situation right, you will make some mistakes and you will have some setbacks. Understand that you are not by yourself because everyone around you is trying to figure it all out too. If you need a listening ear know that there are plenty of people on campus who want to hear your concerns and are eager to help you get over the hump. We believe in you and know that you will do amazing things!

### **What services does your office provide to students?**

The Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion advocates throughout the institution and the state the vision and values for social justice. We provide leadership and awareness programs throughout the campus community. Our office ensures that the institution complies with all relevant federal and state laws, University policies and requirements related to civil rights and affirmative action.

### **Now the important stuff. What is your favorite comfort food?**

I am a lover of all things seafood!

### **And your favorite spot on campus?**

Everywhere! I have jokingly labeled the transition into my new role as “my freshman year” at West Virginia University. I have only been on our beautiful campus for six months so I have a lot in common with the incoming class of freshmen. Every day I am discovering a new building, a new hangout spot and meeting great new friends. We have an awesome campus environment full of excitement, support and energy. As a new and proud Mountaineer, I am committed to exploring it all!

### **What do you like to do when you’re not working?**

I love practicing calligraphy and hand-lettering, sending friends and family inspirational notes and encouraging others to be awesome. I have enjoyed the art of handwriting ever since I was a kid. I enjoy sending random notes of love and inspiration to friends and family through “snail mail.” Oftentimes, we get so caught up in our daily tasks we forget the power such a minor act of kindness can have on someone’s day. There are a lot of factors in life we have no control over, but one thing we can control is how much and how often we show appreciation for those who agree to share their



RICK LEE

lives with us. We are all in this thing called life together. Why not make someone smile along the way?

### **What is the last book you read?**

“The Mood Elevator” by Larry Senn. This book spoke about the importance of taking charge of your feelings and becoming a better you. Senn shows how to interrupt negative thought patterns that keep you stuck on a lower floor — depressed, stressed, anxious, judgmental — and move higher by cultivating mental attitudes like curiosity and gratitude.

### **What did you want to be when you were growing up?**

Growing up I wanted to be an attorney. I first started my legal career at the Kanawha County Public Defenders office. I would enter the courthouse daily with a pep in my step, committed to upholding the oath of office that I so proudly affirmed before God, my family, future colleagues and the West Virginia Supreme Court. I would rush from courtroom to courtroom with my large stack of green case files passionately fighting for justice and advocating for my clients. Something that I could not have been prepared to understand at the time of taking that oath is that over the course of time, my original idea of the profession that I love dearly would change. I would begin to appreciate that the skill set acquired throughout law school and my legal training would prepare me to not only be blessed to be a public defender but a legislator, an adjunct professor, a policy consultant, a strategic planner, conduct numerous leadership trainings around the country, give motivational speeches around the globe and now serve as vice president at West Virginia University. While things change, one thing that has not is that I still enter each day with a pep in my step because I know I am helping others. ♡



# MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB

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# MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 28-30:** Fall Family Weekend

**September 30:** Fall Ring Day Ceremony

**October 9:** Midterm Grades Posted

**October 12:** Fall Break

**November 16:** Residence Halls Close at 7 p.m.

**November 19-23:** Thanksgiving Break

**November 25:** Residence Halls Re-open at Noon

**Decemeber 10-14:** Final Exam Week

For more information on residence hall closings, please visit the housing website at [housing.wvu.edu](https://housing.wvu.edu).  
And for a full list of events, go to [parentsclub.wvu.edu](https://parentsclub.wvu.edu).