

Aiming for Gold



If you watched any of the 2016 Rio Summer Olympic Games, you had a good chance of hearing the words “West Virginia University.” That’s because WVU sophomore Ginny Thrasher earned the United States’ first gold medal of the Olympic games — in women’s 10m air rifle.

The reigning NCAA air rifle and smallbore champion, the 19-year-old is the third-youngest USA women’s shooting medalist. Additionally, she is the third USA shooter to win the women’s 10m air rifle and the first since Nancy Napolski-Johnson won in 2000.

“I’m so proud of Ginny and what she achieved today in Rio,” WVU coach Jon Hammond said. “She has continued to raise the bar all year, and today’s gold medal is such an incredible way to begin her Olympic career.”

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MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB



Calendar of Events

September 5, 2016
Labor Day Recess

October 7-9, 2016
Fall Family Weekend

October 9, 2016
Fall Ring Day Ceremony

November 8, 2016
Election Day Recess

November 18, 2016
Residence Halls Close at 7:00 p.m.

November 21-25, 2016
Thanksgiving Break

November 27, 2016
Residence Halls Reopen at Noon

December 8-14, 2016
Final Exams

December 15, 2016
Residence Halls Close at Noon

December 16, 2016
December Graduation

January 7, 2017
Residence Halls Reopen at Noon

January 9, 2017
Spring Semester Begins

For more information on residence hall closings,
please visit housing.wvu.edu.

Dear Mountaineer Parents Club members,

Many of you still might be looking at unpacked bags from vacation or even shaking some sand out of your shoes. Whatever your summer held with your student, it is back-to-school time already!

Much like when they were younger and you took them to get some new clothes, a new backpack and a shiny new lunchbox, some things never change – the shopping list just gets a bit longer.

Whether this is your first child heading to college or you are an experienced parent in this process, the start of a new semester means new beginnings.

There are many things to keep in mind this fall that will help you and your student succeed. One is to remember to “let go and breathe.” You have done a good job raising your student – now it is their turn to use those skills.

Also, remind them to brush themselves off and try again if something they try doesn’t work out the first time. It’s not the end of the world! We often learn the most from these attempts.

At West Virginia University we have amazing staff and faculty who are here to help your child be successful on their journey. Encourage them to reach out.

With Project 168, there are countless opportunities for your student to truly engage in campus and community life. Learning outside of the classroom is just as important as the learning that takes place inside of it.

And while there are lots of ways for you to stay connected to your child, perhaps the best way is through the Mountaineer Parents Club. Be sure to read the Parents E-newsletter, check out our website, consider being a parent volunteer for your local club, engage with other WVU parents and come to Fall Family Weekend.

You can always call the Parents Club Helpline at **800-988-0096** or email us at parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.

I hope you and your student have a great fall semester! I look forward to seeing you at Fall Family Weekend on October 7-9.

Let’s Go!

Sabrina M. Cave

Sabrina M. Cave
Assistant Vice President, Parent Program



WVU students enjoying the Tidewater, VA Summer Send-off

Financial Aid Information



FAFSA Available in October

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2017-18 school year will be available on October 1, 2016. Students and parents will be able to use their 2015 tax information to complete the FAFSA. Since students will be using the same income information used for 2016-17, there is no need to delay!

The early FAFSA availability will benefit families by allowing them to file earlier using completed tax information. Incoming freshmen will be able to submit their federal aid applications in the same timeframe as their college admissions applications, streamlining the college application process. Financial aid award letters will begin going out in December, allowing students and families to make decisions and plan well in advance. Students are encouraged to file early to get the process started!

Visit fafsa.ed.gov for more information.

Transit Financial Wellness

Students face financial decisions that can cause a significant amount of stress and have major lifelong consequences. In an effort to educate and empower our students to make well-informed financial decisions, we are pleased to offer the Transit Financial Wellness online financial literacy course. Every incoming WVU student required to take the First-Year Seminar course is required to complete Transit. Part 1 must be completed with a score of at least 70% by September 12, 2016. Part 2 opens on October 17, 2016, and must be completed by December 5, 2016.

Visit financialaid.wvu.edu for more information about the Transit Financial Wellness course and other forms of financial aid. 🇺🇸

Aiming for Gold

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A native of Springfield, Virginia, Thrasher won her first career medal with an Olympic record 208.0 final total, edging China's Li Du, who finished second with a 207.0 mark. Du claimed gold in the event at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics. Yi Siling, also of China and the defending Olympic champion, finished third with a 185.4 mark.

"For me, I've put in a lot of hard work, and I really love the sport of shooting. To be able to practice and compete in the sport I love — it's the best thing in the world. Also, to be able to compete at such high levels, from West Virginia University to the international World Cups and the Olympics, is great," Thrasher said.

Thrasher is the fifth shooter and first female with ties to the WVU rifle program to medal at an Olympic Games. A Mountaineer shooter has now earned a medal in back-to-back Olympics, as 2011 graduate Nicco Campriani won gold and silver for Italy at the 2012 London Summer Olympics (and won two more gold medals in Rio). Additionally, she is the second student-athlete to earn an Olympic medal while still enrolled at WVU. James Jett (1989-1992) earned gold with the USA men's 4x100m relay team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games before returning to Morgantown for his senior season with the Mountaineers.

"It instills a great sense of pride, especially being born and raised in America. I am a die-hard Mountaineer fan. I love going to school at WVU," Thrasher said. "Just standing on the podium, hearing the national anthem and watching our red, white and blue flag raised was an amazing moment. I knew that my state, all the states — the entire country — was behind me at the moment. It was very gratifying." 🇺🇸

West Virginia Flood Relief

June 23, 2016, is a day many West Virginians will remember forever. Devastating floods swept through the southern part of the state, killing 23 and destroying hundreds of homes and businesses.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and administrators at WVU quickly mobilized and established donation drives across north-central West Virginia to help those affected. After more than two weeks of collecting and delivering donations for flooded communities across southern West Virginia, WVU organized and has been deploying volunteer teams for special one-day trips to help with cleanup. Efforts have continued into the fall.

“Relief efforts take on many forms,” said Alexis McMillen, assistant director of student engagement and learning at the WVU Center for Service and Learning. “The recovery process is long, and every little bit helps,” added McMillen. In a letter to the WVU community, President E. Gordon Gee said, “As president of West Virginia University, I am proud — yet very humbled — by the outpouring of support our University has shown to our state and its citizens. And ‘thank you’ hardly seems



These Residence Hall Coordinators, along with other WVU Residence Life & Housing employees, volunteered their time to help with flood relief on July 13, 2016.

adequate. But I do thank you for your tireless and selfless contributions. And though the path to recovery is long and uncertain, that is when we, as a West Virginia University community, are at our best. We will remain determined. We will remain steadfast. We will build a bridge where there is none — and we will keep going.” 🏡

Hire A Mountaineer

As the proud parent of a WVU student, you know the dedication and rugged determination of a Mountaineer. Their hard work and loyalty make them excellent employees, but many companies need someone within the organization to encourage recruitment from WVU. The Career Services Center wants to increase career and internship opportunities for WVU students by partnering with the Mountaineer Parents Club and its members. Connecting us with your current employer and professional network is a great way to support the overall mission of the University and help students and alumni find their dream job.

Please share the following information with your human resources department. Your employer and all of Mountaineer Nation will thank you!



For more information on recruiting at WVU, visit careerservices.wvu.edu/employers or contact Sarah Rotruck Glenn at sarah.glenn@mail.wvu.edu or Rachael Conrad at rachael.conrad@mail.wvu.edu.

Career fairs, professional development events and job postings are the perfect way to establish and enhance your employer's brand on campus, whether it's your first visit to WVU or you're expanding your recruiting efforts to meet your increasing talent acquisition needs.

Ways to Get Involved

- /// Post unlimited career and internship opportunities for all majors
- /// Schedule on-campus interviews
- /// Search résumé databases in MountaineerTRAK
- /// Register for career fairs and events

Fall 2016 Career Fairs

- /// Career Kickoff Tailgate Party: September 2
- /// WVU Career and Internship Fair: September 14 and 15
- /// Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources Career Fair: September 28
- /// Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design Career and Internship Fair: October 12 🏡

PROJECT 168

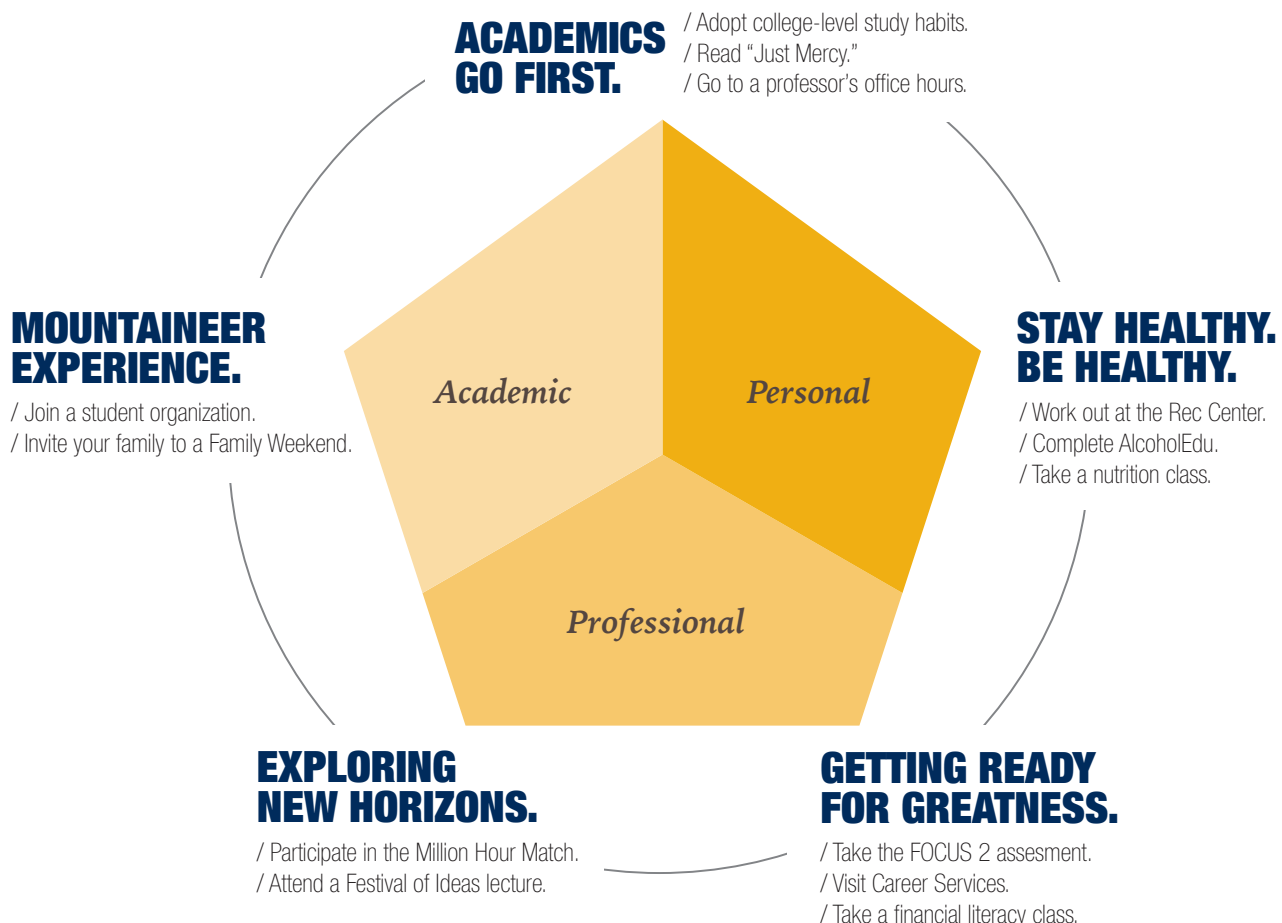
Project 168 is a personalized roadmap to a student's best WVU experience. This individualized program will help students make the best choices for them in every aspect of their education, which we've broken out into categories based on extensive faculty, staff and student input:

- Academics Go First
- The Mountaineer Experience
- Getting Ready for Greatness (career and professional development)
- Exploring New Horizons (civic, cultural and global engagement)
- Happy and Healthy (achieving balance and taking care of themselves)

With Project 168, we are challenging our students: You have 168 hours in every week: How are you going to use them? Run for student government, study abroad, join a service organization, camp with Adventure WV.

Every student's Project 168 is different. As a parent of a WVU student, you can help by encouraging them to explore the amazing opportunities available in college, in Morgantown, and specifically at WVU. By simply asking your student: What's your 168? you will encourage them to think bigger, more broadly, and more long-term. And if they are not getting the most out of those hours, well, you are someone they are likely to respect, to hear and to return to for advice and even mentorship. Encourage them to seek out new experiences (and join them in some of these during Family Weekend), then ask how those things went.

At WVU, we seek to educate the whole student, and to graduate young people who have truly made the most of their college years. Project 168 will help us do that — and parental encouragement will ensure that all of our students learn to answer the question: What's YOUR 168? 🍷



Did You Know?



Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

The Pride of West Virginia, The Mountaineer Marching Band will be performing in the 2016 Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, representing the state of West Virginia and West Virginia University. This will mark the first time The Pride has appeared in this parade. For more than 85 years, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has represented the official start of the holiday season, proudly marching down a more than 2-mile route in New York City.

MPC Holiday Buses

The Mountaineer Parents Club provides buses to help bring students home during Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring breaks. The MPC offers buses to 12 different destinations in eight states across the Northeast. Destinations include Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Virginia. Go to parentsclub.wvu.edu/schedules to find reservation information.



WVU has a new Mountaineer Mascot, Troy Clemons. He is a senior sport management major from Maxwelton, West Virginia.

Fall Sports

Fall at WVU means it's time for a new round of sporting events. Football, Men's and Women's Soccer, Golf, Volleyball and Rowing all begin their seasons now. Our student-athletes love a crowd, so make plans to attend and cheer them on! For information on tickets or to view the schedule, follow this link: wvusports.com.

Absentee Voting

If your student registered to vote in their hometown, but will be here during the actual election, they may want to look into absentee voting. Visit www.vote.org to register to vote, check on registration or get an absentee ballot.

Red, White, (Gold) and Blue

A total of 11 current and former West Virginia University student-athletes participated in the 2016 Summer Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August 2016. West Virginia University was represented in shooting events, women's soccer, track and field, and women's basketball.

WVU Campus Read

This year's book — "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption," by Bryan Stevenson — was selected by a committee of faculty, students and staff. Stevenson will be visiting campus on November 7, 2016, so pick up your copy today!

To learn more about the book or attend one of our events, visit undergraduate.wvu.edu/campus-read. And follow the Campus Read discussion on at [#WVUReads](https://twitter.com/WVUReads).



SGA Leaders

Julie "Jules" Merow, a senior Public Relations major and Honors College student from Morgantown, and Mac McIntyre, a senior Political Science major and Honors College student from Bridgeport, were elected as the 2016-17 SGA president and vice president.

Save the Date

This year's Fall Family Weekend will be held on October 7-9, 2016.

WVU Libraries: A Source for Success



If you hear “WVU Libraries” and think of endless stacks of books, you’re right – but that’s only the beginning of the resources we offer your student.

Read the New York Times for Free

The WVU Libraries, in partnership with the New York Times, is providing students with complimentary, yearlong access to **NYTimes.com**. Students can visit lib.wvu.edu/nytimes to activate their digital subscriptions. Once they have authenticated their access, they can read NYTimes.com from anywhere, using the same credentials entered when signing-up.

Expanded Options for Leisure Reading (and Listening)

Does your student need an audiobook for the long drive home? Or maybe a beach read? WVU Libraries has expanded services with eBooks and digital audiobooks available from the Libraries’ website. Students can borrow popular digital media anytime, anywhere by visiting wvu.lib.overdrive.com and entering a valid WVU login.

Many titles can be enjoyed immediately on any device with an internet browser, or download materials with the free OverDrive app. All titles automatically expire at the end of the lending period, so there are no late fees. 📖

9 More Library Resources for Your Student

- Whenever students need help on a project, they can **text a librarian at 304-220-0919**.
- Students can **check out up to 30 books for an entire semester**.
- We have **space for students to collaborate** with classmates on projects.
- When students need quiet, we have **space for studying and working independently**.
- Does your student need to pull an all-nighter? **Evansdale Library is open around the clock** during the school week.
- When students need inspiration, they should stop by a library. Our **Art in the Libraries program** has brought several exhibits into our buildings.
- Our **West Virginia and Regional History Center** is the place to go when your student needs to learn anything about the Mountain State.
- Do your student prefer **eBooks**? We have more than 300,000 of them.
- Is your student ready for a break? They can head to one of our **cafés**.

Kendrick issues challenge match for flood relief




Southern West Virginia native Ken Kendrick says even when you are far away, you never really leave West Virginia. The WVU alumnus and managing general partner of Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks has generously given \$500,000 to assist with flood relief efforts in hopes that fellow alums and donors will match his gift dollar-for-dollar.

On June 23, torrential rains over parts of southern West Virginia caused devastating flooding in many counties, resulting in loss of life and severe damage to entire communities. Many WVU students and their families were affected.

"My heart goes out to the people hit by this disaster. Many of them live just outside the back door where I grew up. It's very sad," Kendrick said. The WVU Extension Service and Office of Student Life have funds established as they coordinate efforts to assist flood victims. You can make a gift to one or both funds by visiting mountaineerconnection.com/WVFloodRelief and selecting from the "Designation" drop-down.

Gifts can also be mailed to the WVU Foundation, One Waterfront Place, PO Box 1650, Morgantown, WV, 26507-1650. Checks should be made out to the WVU Foundation and include "WV Flood Relief" on the memo line.

More than \$450,000 has been donated so far since Kendrick issued the challenge match. "I just want to help out where I can," he said. "I challenge all Mountaineers to do the same." 

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.

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