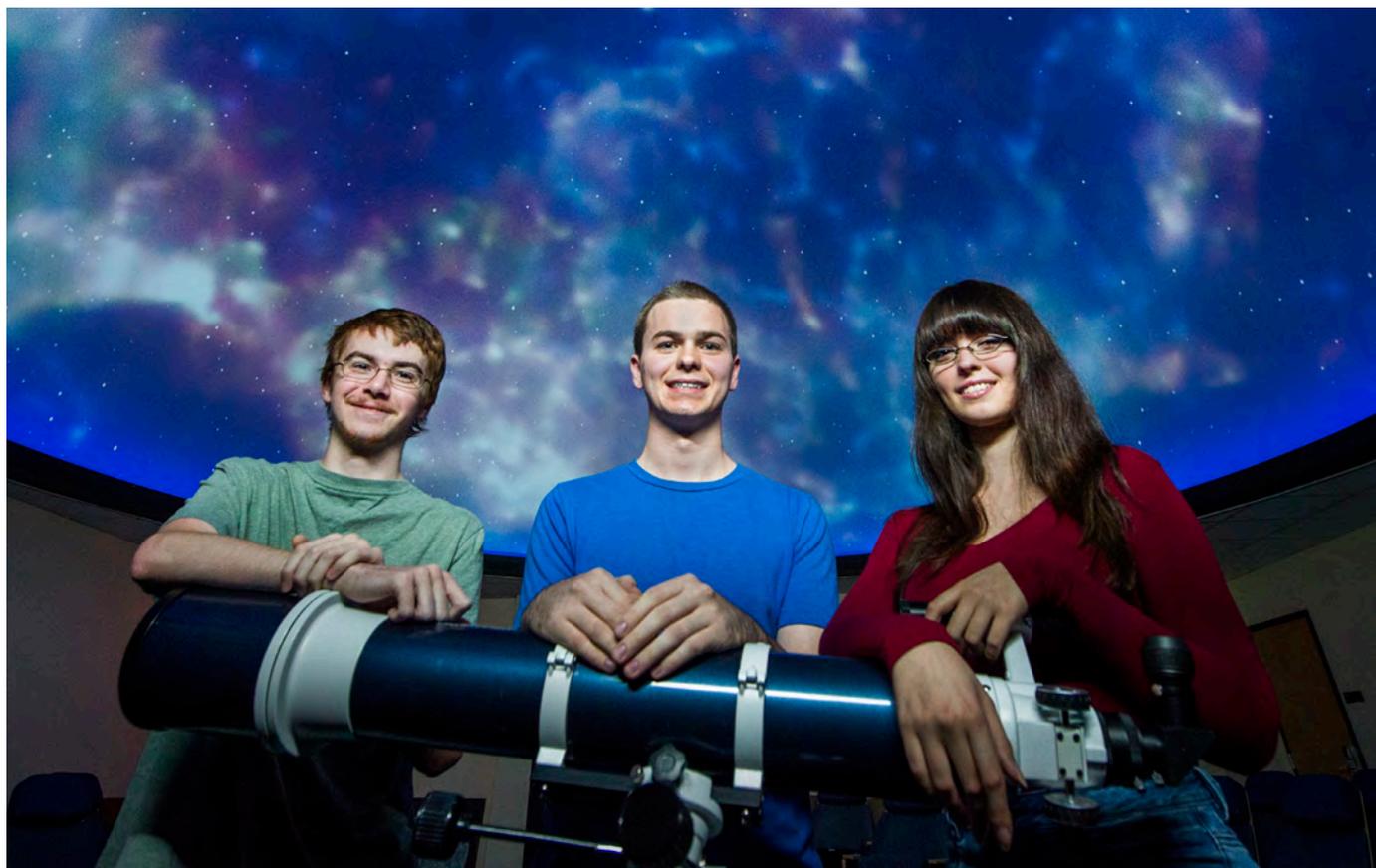


## Pulsar Hunters



Students Andrew Shaw, Tyler Matheny and Antonia Orsini discovered pulsars in deep space.

Sometimes, when physics major Antonia Orsini looks to the sky, she sees the pulsing remains of dead stars. At least that's what she hopes to see. It takes some imagination, however. And it takes days of sifting through reams of radio telescope data. But her tenacity has paid off.

She and two other WVU students — Tyler Matheny and Andrew Shaw — have so far discovered six of these stellar objects, called “pulsars” for the way they rotate and appear to emit pulses of electromagnetic radiation, using information collected by the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope in Green Bank, W.Va. Orsini herself discovered four. “Knowing that you’re the person who found that particular pulsar in the complete vastness of space an incomprehensible distance away from Earth is honestly mind boggling,” she said.

The students are part of a multinational collaboration of researchers in the United States and Canada, including

*Continued on page 3*

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## Dear Mountaineer Parents Club families,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday with your students. They should now be back in the swing of things here on campus. With a new year comes a time to reflect on changes you want to make for a fresh start and a new beginning . . .

The Mountaineer Parents Club wants to be sure that, as we start a new year, we are meeting the needs of West Virginia University families. We want to provide you with the tools and info you need to help your students thrive while they are here at WVU.

To better meet your needs, we have created a communications survey that I strongly encourage you to complete. Please take a few minutes to tell us if we are communicating the right information at the right time or providing too much or too little. We would like to know your preferred method (or methods) of communicating.

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered in a drawing for a \$200 Barnes & Noble gift card, thanks to our WVU Barnes & Noble Bookstore! You can link to the survey from the Mountaineer Parents Club website at [parentsclub.wvu.edu](http://parentsclub.wvu.edu).

We also want to re-energize our existing clubs both in and out-of-state and add clubs in areas that currently don't have any. We need your help! Please consider volunteering your time to connect WVU families and students in your communities. Parents who currently serve have shared with us that it is a rewarding experience to meet and network with fellow WVU families. And we'll help you every step of the way!

At West Virginia University we value families and the important role that you play in your students' lives. We know that at this age they come to you for advice and guidance, especially when they are away at college pursuing their dreams. So, after you take some time to settle back in to a quieter lifestyle while your student is on campus, please take a few minutes to complete the communications survey and consider becoming a club chair in your community. Why not make your circle of WVU friends larger?

I look forward to hearing from you — please email me at [parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu).

Let's Go!

Sabrina M. Cave, Executive Director, Mountaineer Parents Club

## Calendar of Events

**January 18**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recess

**March 18**  
Residence Halls Close at 7:00 p.m.

**March 21-25**  
Spring Break

**March 27**  
Residence Halls Reopen at Noon

**April 15-17**  
Spring Family Weekend

**April 17**  
Spring Ring Day Ceremony

**May 13-15**  
Commencement

**October 7-9**  
Fall Family Weekend



Mountaineer Parents Club founder Susan Hardesty and former WVU President David C. Hardesty, Jr., standing at left with President E. Gordon Gee at the "Pancakes with the President" event during Fall Family Weekend.

## Pulsar Hunters *(Continued from page 1)*

WVU professors Maura McLaughlin and Duncan Lorimer, searching for pulsars. Ryan Lynch, a staff scientist and adjunct faculty member at WVU, got the students involved through a program called Pulsar Ambassadors. He hopes the program will help researchers learn more about phenomena like neutron stars, of which pulsars are one type, and the force of gravity. The students' findings could

even help develop sophisticated methods of data analysis.

WVU and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory recently earned a nearly \$2 million, three-year National Science Foundation grant to expand the Pulsar Search Collaboratory student science education initiative, a joint project that gives high school students hands-on experience doing pulsar research. 🏡

## Solar Decathlon Team Wins Fan Favorite



The WVU Solar Decathlon Team took home two wins and some lessons learned.

While it didn't come away with the victory, West Virginia University and University of Rome Tor Vergata's Solar Decathlon 2015 team did bring home first prize in two categories along with major lessons learned from the competition.

"Making the trip to California to compete in the Solar Decathlon was a valuable experience for all of us," said Sharrafti Kuzmar, a senior computer science and electrical engineering major from Morgantown. "We're proud we had the opportunity to represent our universities."

The team blew the competition away in the fan favorite contest, which culminated after a week of voting. With more than

150,000 votes, WVU and UTV's house — named STILE — was chosen by a two-to-one margin over any other house.

The team was also awarded full points in the commuting contest, which challenged teams to drive an electric vehicle charged from the house's electric system several times during the competition to simulate the driving patterns of a typical household.

"For the next competition, the challenge will be to design and build a house that excels in all the contests," Kuzmar said. "My best advice for the next group is to celebrate the small successes but don't lose sight of the big picture and always remember that your team and your supporters are your biggest assets." 🏡

## WVU Supports the Development of New Aquatic and Track Complex at Mylan Park

Nine public entities, including West Virginia University, pledged their commitment to support the Mylan Park Foundation's plans to build a state-of-the-art aquatic and track complex.

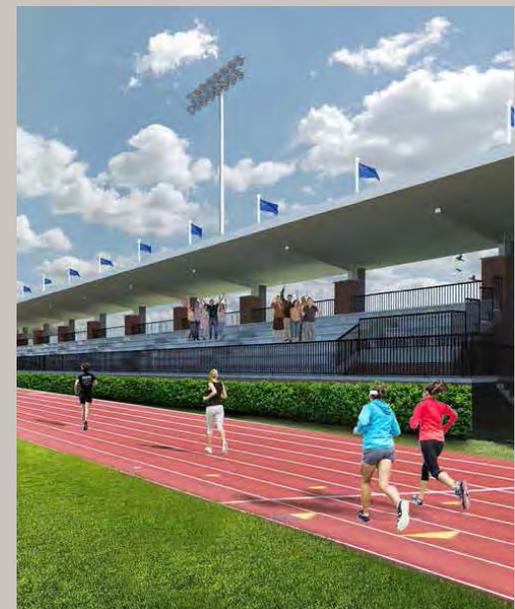
The estimated \$25-30 million facility on approximately 20 acres at Mylan Park will be both a community facility and house the WVU men's and women's swimming and diving teams, the women's cross country team and the women's track team. The facility will also host county high school track and swim competitions.

There will be a walking trail, jogging loop, sand volleyball courts and a nine-lane, 4,000 meter track complex with seating for 1,000.

The Aquatic Center will be an approximately 75,000 square-foot building with seating for 1,000 and a 50-meter competition swimming pool, which is eight lanes and nine-feet wide.

There will also be a diving pool and tower, a warming pool, a therapeutic pool, a family water park, an outdoor sun deck, two wet classrooms, a cardio fitness room, training space and locker rooms, and multipurpose rooms for meetings and special occasions.

Plans call for a late fall 2017 opening, and officials say they hope to host future NCAA and Big 12 championships in swimming, cross country and track at the complex. 🏡



# WVU Opens New Art Museum



From contemporary art to timeless masterpieces, the WVU Art Museum holds the cultural offerings and imaginations of our region.

For decades, there were those who dreamed of West Virginia University's first art museum. In the meantime, WVU amassed an art collection of more than 3,000 works, visited by scholars and students with appointments.

A consensus built that it was time for a place where children could take field trips, college students could have a space to imagine and professors could make more connections between science and art.

When the late 2000s came, most people weren't thinking about building art museums. They were thinking about staying afloat in an uncertain economy.

But WVU believed so strongly in the museum that the University and the College of Creative Arts selected architects and a museum staff and talked to supporters who also had a vision of the museum that wasn't there yet. They gave their art, they gave their energy, these supporters gave from their pocketbooks.

When the crowds rushed inside in August of last year, decades of dreams became reality. There are still more dreams unrealized — the dreams of what this place will do.

"The arts, quite simply, nourish the soul," WVU President E. Gordon Gee told the museum's visitors on opening day. "They make our lives richer, more compassionate, more fulfilled. They are what makes us human."

Designed by Stanley, Beaman and Sears of Atlanta, the Art Museum of WVU, located next to the Creative Arts Center facing Patteson Drive, has been six years in the planning, giving and building. But the collection it will house is more than 40 years in the making: more than 3,000 works of art in two exhibition galleries totaling 5,400 square feet.

The Art Museum of WVU houses a collection that has been assembled through the generosity of gifts and donations from alumni and friends.

One notable collection is the revered work of West Virginia native and WVU alumnus Blanche Lazzell, who was born in 1878 in Madsville and became a pioneering painter and printmaker who played a significant role in shaping abstract art in the United States. The Art Museum of WVU will feature the largest public collection of her work.

The museum will also showcase a mural from renowned graffiti artists How and Nosh.

Other featured artists include: Pablo Picasso, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, Polly Apfelbaum, George Bellows, Thomas Cole, Maurico Lasansky and Grace Martin Taylor.

The Art Museum is open from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Visit [artmuseum.wvu.edu](http://artmuseum.wvu.edu) for more information. 🇺🇸



# Empowering Students to Save Lives

Calling for help isn't a crime. That's the conclusion West Virginia lawmakers came to when, in March 2015, they passed the Alcohol and Drug Overdose Prevention and Clemency Act protecting bystanders who call for help when someone nearby is overdosing.

That isn't always the case. In nearly half of other U.S. states, if you're drinking underage or using illegal drugs when you call for emergency medical help, you could face charges — even if your actions save a life.

But West Virginia lawmakers hope this new law will empower people, especially young people, to take action when they suspect a friend is overdosing. And WVU is working to get the word out to students.

Heather Ruggiero, a University Police Department sergeant responsible for crime prevention and community involvement, said it's always been WVU's policy to think of student safety first. "One of our biggest focuses has always been making students aware that if a friend needs help, for whatever reason, they need to call our offices," she said. "We want anyone who sees another person in distress to contact us immediately without fear of repercussion. Our main goal isn't citations or arrests. It's protecting our students, faculty and staff." 🍷

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The new law went into effect June 2015. Certain requirements must be met for the caller to receive limited protection from prosecution. The caller must:

- Stay with the person in trouble until help arrives.
- Identify himself or herself if police or medical professionals ask.
- Provide any relevant information requested.

The caller gets limited protection from violations such as consuming or possessing alcohol while underage, possessing a controlled substance and appearing in public while intoxicated.

Visit [medicalamnesty.org](http://medicalamnesty.org) to learn more.

# Did You Know?



## WVU's PRT

WVU students have been riding the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) for free since 1975. Powered by environmentally friendly electric motors, the PRT connects WVU's three campuses with five boarding locations. Students can check the status of the PRT via Twitter, Facebook, the new WVU Portal or [transportation.wvu.edu/prt](http://transportation.wvu.edu/prt). The PRT is currently immersed in a phased multimillion-dollar modernization plan.

## WVU Portal Replaces MIX

Students can now log into STAR and Gmail, and access other important services and applications, through a single tool called the WVU Portal. The mobile-friendly site, [portal.wvu.edu](http://portal.wvu.edu), will let them: check grades and course content in eCampus; check account balances; view calendars; and access other WVU resources. They can even check the status of the PRT. This new service does NOT affect the way that parents access STAR.

## Basketball Tickets

The WVU men's basketball opened its 2015-16 season on November 13 with a win against Northern Kentucky. It was the 500th all-time victory for the Mountaineers. WVU Parents can log on to [WVUGAME.com](http://WVUGAME.com) and click Men's Basketball or call the Mountaineer Ticket Office at **1-800-WVU GAME** to order tickets for any WVU home men's basketball game.

## Women's Soccer Success

The four-time reigning Big 12 regular-season champions, the WVU women's soccer team, brought their season to an end in the Elite Eight on November 28 when the team lost to Penn State. The Mountaineers' run to the Elite Eight was the team's first since 2007. The 2015 Mountaineers are the winningest team in program history. This is Coach Nikki Izzo-Brown's 20th season as the only coach in Mountaineer women's soccer history.

## Art Series

The 2015-16 University Toyota University Arts Series, produced by WVU Arts & Entertainment, continues through Thursday, May 5, 2016. The events represent an eclectic mix of performing arts options. All series performances will be held in the Lyell B. Clay Theatre at the WVU Creative Arts Center. Visit [events.wvu.edu/series](http://events.wvu.edu/series) for a full list of upcoming shows and concerts. For tickets, please call **304-293-SHOW**.

## Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at WVU

The Pittsburgh Symphony kicked off the 2015-16 Canady Symphony Series at WVU with phenomenal Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov on September 19, 2015, followed by Igudesman & Joo: Scary Concert on November 2. The series will end on Monday, February 8, 2016, with The Ultimate Oscars at West Virginia University. Student ticket prices are \$13 and can be purchased at [pittsburghsymphony.org/wvstudent](http://pittsburghsymphony.org/wvstudent).

## Spring Family Weekend

Mark your calendars for Spring Family Weekend, April 15-17, 2016, and check back after Winter Break for more information. This fun-filled weekend will give you an opportunity to spend time with your student enjoying a wide range of entertaining and educational activities on campus and in the Morgantown community.



## Save the Date

This year's Fall Family Weekend will be October 7-9, 2016!



# A Walk Through the New Evansdale Crossing

by Katie Gallagher, Program Director, WVU Parent Relations

I recently joined Student Government Association members on a walk through the new Evansdale Crossing building. Opened in mid-November 2015, this building brings ease, functionality and key services together for our WVU community.

Students and families can easily drop by the new Evansdale Crossing: a convenient, short-term parking lot is located just outside the building. It is however, even more accessible via the PRT! From the Engineering PRT station, simply go up the stairs and rather than turning left to the Engineering Sciences Building, turn right to head across a new sky bridge that enters directly to the fifth floor of the Crossing. Complete with a coffee and juice bar and fantastic views of campus and the surrounding community, this is a great place to study or meet friends.

The fourth floor will be opening in the coming months. It will house classrooms and lab space for the College of Media, giving them an additional presence on the Evansdale Campus.

The third floor is home to a PNC Bank branch.

The third and second floors also house staff members from some of the key student services units (Office of Student Accounts, Financial Aid and Scholarships, Student Employment and the Office of the University Registrar) that have located here. The great news is that with the new Mountaineer HUB located on the second floor, you no longer need to keep track of what office is where.

The Mountaineer HUB is a new concept for WVU and serves as the front desk and central location for students and families with questions related to any of these offices. Simply go to the second floor Mountaineer HUB check-in desk and you will have access to representatives from these various offices. The HUB also provides a single phone number to support calls and questions for all of these units, **304-293-1988 (1WVU)**. A single e-mail will also be created soon.

And the ground floor of Evansdale Crossing provides a new and exciting array of eateries where students can use their dining plans and Mountie Bounty. Opening around the first of the year will also be a new, two-story WVU Barnes & Noble Bookstore location. This will replace the smaller WVU Bookstore that has been located on the ground floor of the Evansdale Residential Complex.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the Crossing also helps unify the Evansdale campus in new ways. With the sky bridge, students in Engineering can now seamlessly pass into the building; they go down the elevator or stairs five stories and then can go out to the Student Rec Center located right next door, or walk on to the Health and Education Building to visit Student Health or the WELLWVU Carruth Counseling Center. The new Evansdale Crossing truly raises the bar for our students and their families. 🏔️

# WVU's A State of Minds Campaign Nears \$920 Million

by Bill Nevin

WVU is well on its way to meeting its \$1 billion goal in A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University.

The WVU Foundation reports new gifts and pledges totaled \$917.2 million through September 30, 2015, or nearly 92 percent of the goal with more than two years left in the Campaign. That represents an increase of \$19 million during the past quarter.

"Our focus now is when we will meet our billion-dollar goal, and how far past that billion we will go," said WVU Foundation President and CEO Cindi Roth. "The key word is 'momentum.' Our alumni and friends, corporate and foundation partners have really risen to the occasion, and we're extremely grateful for their generosity. Our team is going to keep working hard because we know the needs of the University are great."

Through September 30, 2015, the Foundation says 80,927 donors have contributed to the Campaign, including 33,820 alumni and over 6,000 corporations.

The contributions include endowed scholarships to enable students to attend class and relieve their debt burden, financial support for new learning facilities, and gifts to enhance cutting-edge degree programs.

"I am enormously grateful for the gifts and pledges we have received from so many alumni and friends," said WVU President Gordon Gee. "It demonstrates that people want to invest in a place that is dear to their hearts – and a place that changes lives. Our students, our state and our world depend on us."

The Foundation also reported that the University's Dream First initiative, an effort to raise \$50

million for undergraduate scholarships and fellowships, has raised more than half of its \$25.2 million goal.

Since the beginning of the Campaign, 652 student scholarships have been created; 50 endowed faculty chairs and professorships have been started; and 192 new research funds have been added.

Recent gifts over the past quarter include: a \$4.2 million donation to the agriculture and forestry programs at Potomac State College of WVU, a \$1.6 million gift from the McGuane Foundation establishing undergraduate student scholarships and a \$1 million donation from the Hazel L. Sutton Trust benefitting three WVU colleges/schools as well as the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute at WVU.

Visit [astateofminds.com](http://astateofminds.com) for information on how you can help support the campaign. 🧡

## Grad Returns Home to Lead Alumni Association

It's been 26 years since Sean M. Frisbee graduated from West Virginia University in aerospace engineering. Since then, the retired Air Force colonel has traveled the world, helping to rebuild the Iraqi Air Force as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, leading the development and modernization of the F-22 stealth fighter weapon system and leading government and private business organizations.

For Colonel Frisbee, it was time to return to a place that gave him his start — WVU — as the new executive director of the Alumni Association and vice president of alumni relations.

In his new role, Frisbee is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Association, connecting with graduates and engaging in programs and outreach activities worldwide.

"My life and career have really come full circle," Frisbee said. "I am super excited about coming back to WVU and connecting with alumni, supporting the great state of West Virginia and helping my alma mater expand its global reach."

Frisbee replaced longtime president and CEO Stephen L. Douglas.

In addition to earning an undergraduate degree from WVU in 1989, Frisbee earned master's degrees in aeronautical sciences, military operations and air and space power studies from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Air University. He also spent a year as a National Defense Fellow at the University of Illinois, and is a Distinguished Alumnus of WVU's Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

The bulk of his career, from 1989-2012, was spent serving in the U.S. Air Force. He was program director of the F-22 stealth aircraft weapon system at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, vice wing commander of Iraqi Air Force Development in Baghdad and held other operational, acquisition and staff positions as a propulsion engineer, intelligence analyst, program manager and aircraft and munitions commander.

For the past several years, Frisbee has been involved in small business and startup firms and is president of a privately held electronics business, IES Global, Inc., that designs and produces systems for the oil and gas industries.

The WVU Alumni Association has more than 190,000 graduates worldwide and boasts 100 chapters and constituent groups across the county and six international chapters. 🧡

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](mailto:parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu).

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