Dear Mountaineer Parents Club families,

Welcome to the 2017 fall semester. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you at New Student Orientation over the summer, and I look forward to getting to know even more WVU families. Students are now back on campus, adding excitement to our community. You are probably settling into a new routine at home — whether this is your first student to send to college or your last, there is always an adjustment period.

The Mountaineer Parents Club has been supporting WVU families and students for 22 years now. We have learned how valuable it is to connect families with the WVU experience, and we know that students are more successful when their families are involved. The Parents Club provides information so that you can engage in meaningful conversations with your student. Those conversations might be about changing a major, studying abroad or finding an internship. Students have told us how valuable their families are to them, we want to equip you with the resources needed to assist them on their journey.

Thousands of WVU families and students attended New Student Orientation this summer and the Parents Club held Welcome Receptions so that families like yours could meet other WVU families. In addition, many of you attended Summer Send-offs held in your hometowns. The valuable connections that you made with fellow Mountaineers will be important. I encourage you to be involved in your local club. These clubs plan various events throughout the year. Information-sharing happens when parents get together, so don’t miss opportunities to learn. Be involved!

One of the many ways to stay involved is through on-campus events. Fall Family Weekend will be held September 22-24, 2017 — this is a great event for you and your whole family. Please plan now to attend; the memories you make with your student will be priceless.

Five weeks into the semester, first-year students will be so proud to show you what they have learned. All students will want to share the place that is now home with you. Planned events include a welcome picnic, Mountaineer Idol, WVUp All Night, a WVU game-watching party, a WVU men’s soccer game, volleyball game and many school- and college-specific events. Check out the complete schedule of events on the official Fall Family Weekend website: fallfamilyweekend.wvu.edu.

This fall, wherever you are in your student’s journey at WVU, please remember that it is important for you to be part of it. You provide invaluable support, so stay involved. Attend local Parents Club events, and perhaps even volunteer to be an officer. Read your newsletters and Parent Electronic News messages, like our Facebook page (WVU Mountaineer Parents Club), and answer our “Question of the Month” at parents.wvu.edu.

I look forward to supporting you on this exciting adventure. See you at Fall Family Weekend.

Sincerely,

Sabrina M. Cave
Assistant Vice President, Parent Program
Welcome Week 2017

Some 5,200 first-years and thousands of returning students found their way to Morgantown for Welcome Week this year (cover), an annual event that included everything from community service projects and career exploration to a food festival and live music. During Monday Night Lights (below), first-year students came together to learn what it means to be a Mountaineer — and participated in an epic photo shoot — at Milan Puskar Stadium.

Photo by Brian Persinger Cover photo by Jennifer Shephard
Did You Know?

**Fall Sports**
Fall sporting events mean more than just football. Check out wvusports.com for a schedule and ticketing information for all fall sports.

**A State of Minds**
Alumni and friends have given $1.25 billion to A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia’s University through June 30. Haven’t made your gift yet? There’s still time before the Campaign ends December 31. Make your donation at give.wvu.edu.

**WVUp All Night**
WVUp All Night is the award-winning, late night weekend program for students. Events happen every Friday and Saturday evening during the fall and spring semesters and include free games and activities, snacks, breakfast, volunteer opportunities and tutoring sessions. Full calendar available here: mountainlair.wvu.edu/wvup-all-night.

**Campus Read**

**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 reservations or to review the schedule, please go to parentsclub.wvu.edu/bus-schedules. No phone reservations will be taken.

**Special Ticket Offer**
A special ticket offer is available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for WVU’s Big 12 Conference football matchup with Iowa State on Saturday, November 4. By following this link bit.ly/2szneUQ and entering the promo code WVUParents, members can purchase tickets for only $45 each. Students will have the opportunity to request and receive football tickets for free to each game the week prior to each game through the student ticket selection process. Please keep in mind that student tickets are good for the student section only, so if your student wants to sit with you, you should purchase an extra ticket for them. Note: additional Parents Club athletic discounts for other games may be announced at a later date. For more on athletic tickets to all events, contact the WVU Athletic Ticket Office at 1-800-WVU-GAME or bit.ly/1BMvB9i.
Think You Know WVU? Think Again.

In celebration of our beloved University’s 150-year history, we present you with five fun facts and obscure tidbits about our wild and wonderful home — from the beginning to today. You’ll find the full 150th-list online at wvumag.wvu.edu, as well as compelling stories and photos from our WVU Magazine.

1. Don’t worry about your kids going hungry.
   Collectively, the five dining halls in 2016-2017 went through 23,350 chicken breasts, 20,560 bananas, 10,500 strips of bacon and 7,000 strawberries.

2. Whether they’re 15 or 94, your children are still your children, no matter how old they are.
   We’re not sure who our youngest student ever to attend WVU was, but Rush Holt was certainly one of the youngest. The future West Virginia delegate and U.S. senator attended WVU in the early 1920s at the age of 15 following his high school graduation.

3. As far as we know, our oldest person to graduate WVU is Tony Brutto,
   who, at 94, finished his Regents Bachelor of Arts in 2015. He had attended WVU in 1939, but World War II and his wife’s illness interrupted his studies.

4. We’re sure you’re familiar with the Mountaineer football team, but what about the Snakes?
   Prior to its adoption of the mascot “Mountaineers,” West Virginia’s football team once called itself “The Snakes” — a nickname that first surfaced in the late 1890s and continued throughout the early 1900s.

5. Did any of you parents take part in these hijinks?
   After the 1984 football win, 17-14 at home against Penn State (after a 29-year wait), fans took down the north goalpost and brought a piece to Crockett’s Lodge in Morgantown, where it still lives today.

150th Anniversary Swag
Celebrate the big 1-5-0 like a true Mountaineer with official 150th anniversary swag, from T-shirts and hats to tumblers and garden flags.
NEW PATHS

No matter which WVU campus a student chooses — Morgantown, Keyser or Beckley — we are all part of the WVU System. That means students can easily move from one campus to another to reach their goals.

Does your student want to take summer or online classes? Complete their general courses closer to home? The process is simple, but keep a few points in mind.

- Make sure your student is familiar with the admissions requirements. When switching campus (say from a two-year program at Keyser to a four-year program in Morgantown), students may need to meet different GPA requirements.
- Changing campus does not require a new application. Instead, students complete the Change of Campus Form available at admissions.wvu.edu/forms-and-procedures/change-of-campus.
- If they are looking to take classes at another WVU campus than where they are currently enrolled, they should contact their adviser to make sure the new courses will fit into their academic plan and future goals.

OUR STUDENTS HAVE OPTIONS

At WVU, we’re all about forging our own paths. Students will have the chance to do just that with new majors — in Health Sciences and the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences (CPASS) — debuting this fall.

HEALTH INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT is a bachelor’s program that combines business, science and information technology to create a unique 122-credit hour undergraduate degree.

HIGHLIGHTS
- The curriculum includes training in compliance/risk management, healthcare privacy and security, health informatics/data analysis, clinical documentation improvement, information governance, operations/medical records administration and revenue cycle management (coding and billing).
- Strong job prospects with competitive salaries await graduates. Five years after entering the field, salaries range upwards of $50,000 to $70,000 annually.
- Sample career paths include: health informatics consultant, health informatics director, nursing informatics specialist, chief medical information officer, electronic medical record keeper, healthcare IT project manager.

Learn more at medicine.hsc.wv.edu/him.

For more information, visit admissions.wvu.edu/forms-and-procedures/change-of-campus.

CPASS MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES was designed for students who have a specific academic or career goal in mind that cannot be met by existing majors, minors and electives. This program offers the flexibility to create a program of study to meet their sport- and physical activity-related career aspirations.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Students develop a breadth of knowledge in physical activity and sport sciences by combining three minors; two must be from CPASS.
- Students will build an individual plan of study, gain experiences related to their dream job and build a pathway to graduate school.
- Sample career paths include: activity director, athletic administrator, strength and conditioning coach, sports information director, wellness coach, sports data scientist.

Learn more at cpass.wvu.edu/academics/bachelors/multidisciplinary-studies.

Morgantown
Keyser
Beckley

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Learn more at cpass.wvu.edu/academics/bachelors/multidisciplinary-studies.
The most valuable thing you can do to help your student with career planning is to listen — be open to ideas and help your student research career-related information.

We’ve collected some of the most frequently asked questions on how Career Services can help students reach their career goals.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS?
- Career and major exploration counseling
- Résumé and cover letter reviews
- Customized internship and job search coaching
- Practice interviews
- Graduate school advising
- Access to thousands of internships and job opportunities through MountaineerTRAK
- Campus recruiting events with targeted employers

WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS BE INVOLVED IN CAREER SERVICES?
Students should take advantage of our services beginning in their freshman year by visiting our website, meeting with a career development specialist or coming to an event. Our office motto is, “A Great Résumé Takes Four Years to Build.”

WHAT IS A CAREER DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST?
It seems like everything is customizable these days, and that includes career advice. Students can meet with a career development specialist who focuses on their major or career pathway.

WHY DOES A GREAT RÉSUMÉ TAKE FOUR YEARS TO BUILD?
Employers are looking for candidates who have a combination of strong academic credentials, demonstrable communication and leadership skills, as well as applied volunteer and work experiences. These all have one thing in common — they are cumulative — and students who start as freshmen or sophomores have plenty of time to build upon their experiences.

WHAT IS MOUNTAINEERTRAK?
MountaineerTRAK is WVU’s premiere site for searching internship, part-time and full-time employment opportunities. Students and alumni can also sign up for on-campus interviews and learn about career fairs and professional development events through the system.

WHY DO STUDENTS NEED TO START APPLYING FOR JOBS IN SEPTEMBER?
We want your students to have access to the maximum number of available opportunities. Before the end of September, over 300 employers will visit campus to recruit for internships, co-ops and full-time jobs — and that doesn’t include companies who only recruit virtually! Another round of positions may open up in the spring.

HOW CAN YOU ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO VISIT CAREER SERVICES?
Ask your student, “Have you visited Career Services?” If you hear, “I already have a résumé,” or “You don’t go there until you’re a senior,” then reassure them that meeting with a career development specialist should take place early and often throughout a college career.
Ask the Experts: Your New Mountaineer Hub Connection

The Mountaineer Hub helps students connect with WVU offices and assists with student accounts, registration, financial aid, employment and other services — all in one place. And, beginning July 1, 2017, the Hub changed the way students, parents and guests contact and request the Hub’s services to provide more efficiency and convenience.

Rather than using former Hub email addresses, you can reach the Hub via a simple web form accessible from mountaineerhub.wvu.edu/contact. Here you can request assistance or track your request in real-time. Users will be able to track the completion of their request, respond directly and make sure all necessary info is included in their initial request.

Currently, there are four types of inquiries available on the form:

- **Current Student Inquiry Section**
  - Current students may submit questions about financial aid, student accounts or student services offered through the Office of the University Registrar.

- **Faculty or Staff Inquiry Submission**
  - Faculty and staff members may submit inquiries about the same subjects.

- **Public Inquiry Submission**
  - Public users, such as parents and potential students, may use this service.

- **Mountaineer Hub Walk-Up Support**
  - If you’re on campus, Mountaineer Hub Walk-Up Support is a great way to connect with the Registrar, Financial Aid, Scholarships, Student Employment or Student Accounts. It’s located in Evansdale Crossing, 62 Morrill Way, on the second floor and is open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. when classes are in session.

Learn more at mountaineerhub.wvu.edu.

Conversations: The Value of a WVU Degree

Despite an $8.7 million reduction in State support passed down by the Legislature in summer 2017 — about $3 million more than anticipated — WVU’s tuition remains below the national average among public colleges for both in-state and out-of-state students. And in 2015-2016, the University awarded over $433 million in financial aid to students — $48 million in grants and scholarships.

“Even though we are receiving less money from the State, we are committed to keeping tuition as affordable as possible,” said President E. Gordon Gee.

With opportunities for research, study abroad, internships and entrepreneurial ventures, WVU students are well prepared for the challenges of the working world after graduation day. That’s why our students are earning prestigious internships with NASA, the FBI and the White House; getting real job experience in Fortune 500 companies like Facebook, Amazon, Marathon Petroleum, Disney, GE and Coca-Cola and starting their own businesses — many before they even graduate.

Getting Your Return on Investment

Wondering about how your student can get the most from their college education? Choosing the right major is one of the first hurdles a student must overcome on the path to success. But they don’t have to go it alone.

If your student is struggling with this choice or is considering changing majors, we have resources to help. Our career counseling team located in the Career Services Center can help your student evaluate their skills, interests and life goals to make an informed decision about the right major and career path.

To get started, your student should complete FOCUS2 (access code: mountaineer): a customized online, self-guided program designed to help students select their college major and plan their career. It will only take 45 minutes, and the information will prove invaluable. Once your student has a FOCUS report, they can schedule an appointment with a career planning expert to determine their next steps.

Second, doing an internship is key. Maybe the most important thing a student can do to launch their career is to get real work experience. Many employers look within their own internship programs when they need to fill entry-level positions. That means, if a student does a good job while in an internship, they may get a job offer. And, while an internship could be the foot-in-the-door, it also gives a student a realistic look at what day-to-day life is like in that prospective job, company and career.

Of course, students should also take advantage of our Career Services Center. Research shows that tapping into the resources offered here can increase the likelihood of getting a job offer. Résumé help, how to land an internship and good interview etiquette are just a few of things students can learn.

Start the job-search process early. Once your student has found the right major and started considering internships (yes, multiple internships are best), plotting a career path should start as early as freshman year.

Check out all the resources for students and parents in our Career Services Center at careerservices.wvu.edu.
Parents, students and the University community can rest easy. WVU was recently named among the top 40 safest campuses in the United States, according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security, thanks, in part, to our University Police Department that protects more than 30,000 students and 6,000 employees every day.

"This recognition is a reflection on our campus community and the city of Morgantown," said Bob Roberts, chief of University Police. Earlier this year, University Police received its highest ranking – 13 – in The Security 500 Benchmarking Survey. The department has finished in the top 20 in the rankings for four consecutive years. But it’s not just about community policing. Prevention is just as important.

The WVU Alert system sends texts and emails to students, faculty and staff during emergencies or closings due to inclement weather. Parents and family members can sign up for WVU Alert online, too, at alert.wvu.edu.

And, in 2014, University Police partnered with WVU’s Student Government Association to bring a new smart phone app to campus as part of the WVU Alert system — it’s called LiveSafe.

Through the app, users (students, faculty and staff and parents) can contact University Police via text message, report anonymous tips, call police or 911 and notify friends and family in real time of the user’s location and safety.

"It takes the entire campus community to keep our students safe," said Corey Farris, dean of students. "We will continue to encourage our students to take care of one another on and off campus and seek help where needed. We’re fortunate to live in a community where students can feel safe and thrive."

Learn more at police.wvu.edu.
Supporting the Equine Program

For Roberta and William “Bill” Gellner, WVU has been an integral part of their family for many years, and the alumni are showing their appreciation by establishing a new endowment to support the equine program.

The Roberta and William Gellner Equine Endowment will advance the mission and goals of the Equine program, housed within the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.

“We came up and talked to Crystal Smith about the program and were very impressed by its scope, particularly how it interfaced with other degree programs at the Davis College and how it gives students career options that were not available when we were students,” Bill Gellner said.

“We work to consistently provide our students with hands-on and real-world learning opportunities that will help them become successful professionals in the equine industry,” said Crystal Smith, teaching associate professor of animal and nutritional sciences.

A Wheeling, West Virginia native, Bill Gellner graduated in 1972 with dual degrees in agriculture and animal science. Roberta Gellner grew up on a farm in Lewis County. She began at WVU in 1973 as an animal science major, ultimately earning a bachelor’s degree in chemistry.

Bill’s four children — and Roberta’s step-children — are all Mountaineers. Three have graduated and the fourth, Abigale Gellner, is a junior political science major.

Fostering Lifelong Learning

Dr. Robert L. Totterdale characterizes himself as a lifelong learner. He has established an endowment in his mother’s name in the academic area that represents the second segment of his life’s education. The Dorothy F. Totterdale Scholarship will be offered at the WVU of Business and Economics for students studying management information systems.

The scholarship was established in 2015, and Totterdale made an additional contribution to the fund in late 2016. He is a 1974 statistics graduate of the WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences with a strong connection to B&E.

“My wife Kathy and I decided to create the scholarship not only to acknowledge the support I received from the business school, but also to support the new degree in information systems. We decided to name the scholarship after my mother since she instilled in me the critical importance of education in my life.”

After enjoying a 28-year career in information systems and consulting as a partner with Accenture, Totterdale retired at age 49 and decided to further his education, earning both his master’s and doctorate at Robert Morris University. Today, he is an assistant professor of information systems at Florida Gulf Coast University.

“Management information systems is a fascinating field that brings together both the technology and business worlds. We are so pleased that our major is able to provide our students such exciting and robust careers,” said Virginia Kleist, chair of the Management Information Systems Department. “For a professional with more than 30 years of experience in both the industry and now academia to not only nurture this type of education at his own institution, but here at West Virginia University, is something truly remarkable. We are beyond grateful to Dr. Totterdale and his generosity to our students.”

In 2003, Totterdale and his brother, Gregory, also established a scholarship for students in the Eberly College in honor of their father, William Totterdale.

“In addition to helping students pursue their dreams with these scholarships, we wanted to recognize our parents’ contribution to our development,” Totterdale said. “Both my mother and father were really supportive of us, helped us get through college. So, this is really kind of a way to honor that.”

Roberta and Bill Gellner (center) spend time with faculty and students from the Equine Studies program during a Davis College event.

“WVU has been a part of each of our lives, and the experiences that we have had here have served to give us opportunities to work and learn and contribute in ways that we could only imagine when we were students,” Roberta Gellner said. “We hope that this endowment will make it possible for students to be better prepared for opportunities when they come knocking — whether it be going to vet school, working as an extension agent, or running a farm operation.”
The Last Word with Thanh Le

We had the chance to catch up with the executive director for student engagement and leadership, Thanh Le, for his thoughts on student life at WVU.

Q: What is your favorite way to relax?

A: When I do have spare time, I like to go to either Starbucks or Panera Bread. Typically, all I need is a pastry, a delicious drink, my computer, my wireless headphones and of course Netflix.

How do you find a work-life balance with three kids?

With balancing family, work, and a doctoral program, I don’t believe that work-life balance is possible. However, I approach one day and one week at a time. My calendar is essential in organizing my life, and I try to be present and active with all of my commitments.

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

I discovered my favorite spot on campus by volunteering at a New Student Orientation Parent Reception hosted by the Mountaineers Parents Club. This reception location has breathtaking views of Evansdale and is located on the fifth floor of Evansdale Crossing Balcony.

Where were you raised?

I was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina.

What should a student do to make a difference on campus?

Students can leave their mark at WVU in many different ways. The beauty of being a leader at WVU is there are different avenues to utilize your talents and passions to make a difference. Students can hold a leadership position within a student organization, create or start a new student organization, volunteer their time serving the state of West Virginia, serve as an academic tutor, serve as a Resident Advisor, etc. ... there are a plethora of opportunities to create impact.

What is your favorite comfort food?

My momma’s pho! I love anything my momma cooks! Pho’ is a traditional Vietnamese comfort food dish that is, for the most part, a beef noodle soup. There is nothing better than a bowl of pho’ on a cold winter day! True Noms!

Thanh is the executive director for student engagement and leadership and provides strategic vision and leadership to more than 460 student organizations.

Thanh works on initiatives that enhance the overall student experience and actively support valuable co-curricular learning experiences outside the classroom. 🎓
For more information on residence hall closings, please visit the housing website at housing.wvu.edu. And for a full list of events, go to parentsclub.wvu.edu.