Billing Notice: *Spring charges are posted for any students registered and are due January 2, See SPRING 2018 PAYMENT DUE below for details.

Today throughout campus there is much rejoicing from your students – it’s the last day of classes for the fall semester! However, the celebration will be short-lived as Finals Week kicks off this Thursday, December 7. Please be sure to ask your student when their last final ends (see the schedule at http://bit.ly/1MZdalV) as residence hall students are expected to head home within 24 hours of their last exam to keep halls quiet for those still studying. Also, before they head over the river and through the woods for Winter Break check out Housing Wrap-Up and Safety Notices for reminders. Need help getting them home for the holidays? Winter Break Buses are filling quickly but space remains – see below.

Other students are celebrating their last set of finals! For our soon-to-be-graduates, updates and deadlines are included below about December Commencement, including the announcement of commencement speakers. There are also details on the recent Bowl Game announcement and a new Parents Club Basketball Discount for upcoming men’s basketball games. WVU began releasing a daily dose of Mountaineer spirit and holiday cheer last Friday, with animated vignettes coming out each day through December 11 that tell the story of wintertime at WVU. If you're a Mountaineer, young or old, you'll relate to the scenes in these fun clips http://bit.ly/2ioV1Zw. And with that, happy Finals Week to all, and to all a good night (of studying!) In this edition:

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**SPRING 2018 PAYMENT DUE JANUARY 2**

Have had lots of questions on this lately so please know that spring charges are now posted for any student who is registered for spring classes. If you have not already, log on today following the directions below to pay the spring bill or to enroll in a monthly payment plan before January 2. *Please keep in mind that WVU offices will be closed for the winter holiday December 22, 25, 26 and January 1.* Don’t wait until the last minute in case there are questions regarding your student’s account!

2. In the Parent/Guest Portal, click the tab for your student’s name.
3. Click the link for “Electronic Bill/Make Payment.”
4. Select “Spring 2018,” and click “Submit.”
5. Scroll to **bottom** for “Pay Now.”
6. If necessary, you can also do a “print screen” from this page if a printed copy of the bill is needed for Smart 529 plans or other reasons.


Questions? Call or stop by the Mountaineer Hub to speak with a representative: 304-293-1988, [http://bit.ly/1R8kZwF](http://bit.ly/1R8kZwF). Please be aware that phone lines will be busier the closer to the deadline we get.

**END OF THE YEAR WRAP-UP**

**Housing Wrap-Up and Safety Notices**

**On-Campus Residence Halls**

Students are expected to vacate their residence hall rooms within 24 hours of their last final to ensure a quiet environment for those still studying. Exams are held at different times than their actual fall class schedule ([http://bit.ly/1MZdalV](http://bit.ly/1MZdalV)), so students will wrap up the fall semester at various times throughout finals week – please check with your student. University residence halls will officially close on Thursday, December 14 at noon, and they will not reopen until Saturday, January 6 at noon: [http://bit.ly/2zRNiut](http://bit.ly/2zRNiut). The only exception is those who have signed up for Holiday Break Housing (deadline to sign up is this Thursday, December 7 [http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0](http://bit.ly/2gP4Lz0)) in advance.
While students must vacate, they can leave belongings in their residence hall room. They should take any valuables or items they may need over break home with them. During Winter Break, students will not be permitted back into their residence hall rooms nor will they have access to their mailboxes. This does not apply to students living in University Apartments.

Prior to leaving, students should lock valuables in their closet or take the valuables home, close and lock their windows, close the curtains, empty their trash, and unplug appliances such as hair dryers and curling irons. If they have rented a MicroFridge or have one of their own, please leave it plugged in to prevent food from spoiling. Finally, students should make sure their room door is closed and locked when leaving.

*Off-Campus*

If your student lives off-campus, remind them to prepare their apartments for being away. Unfortunately, crime tends to increase around the holidays. Tips to pass along include:

- Put lights on a timer.
- Have mail temporarily held by the USPS to give their place the someone's-home” look.
- Take out their trash and clean up before leaving.
- Take valuable items with them when they leave town.
- Keep their heat on during break to avoid pipes freezing/bursting during a cold snap. Set the thermostat to a lower-than-normal setting while out of town, but do not turn the heating system off. Landlords generally require a minimum thermostat setting in winter months.
- Have a friend who is local check on the place or they can contact the Morgantown Police Department (if inside city limits) and sign up for the Vacation Home Check Program (304-284-7522, option 0).
- Close and lock all windows and doors, since many crimes are simply crimes of opportunity.
- Upon returning to Morgantown, students should immediately report any theft or incident that is suspicious to authorities.

Here's to a safe and restful break!

*Finals Week Tips – December 7-13*

Finals get under way Thursday of this week, and Fun Before Finals activities have been taking place throughout campus over the past week. Students should check finals times and dates as noted on their syllabus or as adjusted by their instructor. The overall schedule can be found here:
http://bit.ly/1MZdalV. Final grades will be posted online December 19 and can be viewed in STAR by the student or on the Parent/Guest Portal with appropriate access granted by your student: http://bit.ly/PGPortal. Here are a few reminders and tips to share with your students:

- **Libraries:** The WVU Libraries are offering extended study hours, with Evansdale and Downtown Libraries open 24 hours: http://bit.ly/2haDkhd.

- **Mountainlair:** While keeping regular building hours, the Lair is hosting open study rooms for finals.

- **Reduced Rate Parking for Finals Week:** WVU Parking offers reduced rates for finals week: http://bit.ly/2jhsSEy.

- **Free Scantrons:** Often needed for finals, these are free while supplies last: http://bit.ly/2BBiVEQ.


- **Residence Halls Quiet Hours:** 24-hour quiet hours are enforced for the week prior to and during finals. Students are expected to head home within 24 hours after completing their last final, and halls close on Thursday, December 14 at noon. http://bit.ly/2zRNiut

**Winter Break Buses**

Are you still looking for a way to get your student home for Winter Break? Seats on the Parents Club holiday buses can still be reserved. Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA; and one to Highland, NY, for those in the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. The Central Maryland, Northern VA, Southern NJ and Long Island Mountaineer Parents Clubs also offer buses to their areas. For online reservations or to review the schedules and details, please go to http://bit.ly/2yGUzii. No phone reservations will be taken.

**December Commencement Reminders and Speakers Announced**

For the first time there will be two ceremonies this year on Friday, December 15 – one at 9 a.m. for graduates in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business and Economics. Graduates from all other colleges and schools will attend the 2 p.m. ceremony.

- The last day to register to walk in the December Commencement exercises is **tomorrow, Wednesday, December 6:** http://bit.ly/2jEqb2Y.

- If family members are unable to attend, the event will be webcast live at http://bit.ly/2Ay3yS4, and a link will show and go live about 10 minutes before the start of the event. Ceremonies will also be recorded, and a video of each will be uploaded to the December Commencement website the week after the event.
• Before Commencement, students should ensure their account balances are at zero, that they have no holds that would prevent a diploma or transcript release and also that they have the appropriate mailing address on file by updating it in STAR, since this is where diplomas will be mailed after the ceremonies: [http://bit.ly/2AProrx](http://bit.ly/2AProrx).

• Speakers have recently been announced and can be found here: [http://bit.ly/2iUMf9v](http://bit.ly/2iUMf9v).

• Looking for a place to grab a meal to celebrate with family and friends? The WVU Alumni Association will be offering a Commencement Brunch on campus with multiple seatings to accommodate the morning and afternoon ceremonies. For the full menu, details and to reserve your seats, go to: [http://bit.ly/2jSSqHD](http://bit.ly/2jSSqHD). For questions, call 304-293-4731 or go to EACEEvents@mail.wvu.edu. Congrats to our soon-to-be new Mountaineer alumni!

ATHLETIC NEWS

WVU Hoops Ticket Offer for Parents Club Members

The Mountaineer Parents Club and the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics have teamed up to make a special ticket offer available to Mountaineer Parents Club members for a home Big 12 Conference men’s basketball game this season.

The Parents Club discount is available for the men’s basketball game against Oklahoma State on Saturday, February 10 at noon. Upper-level tickets for the matchup with the Cowboys are available for $17 each. This is a savings of $10 per upper-level sideline ticket and $7 off each upper-level baseline ticket. Parents Club members can take advantage of this offer by visiting [http://bit.ly/2bR0O5I](http://bit.ly/2bR0O5I) and entering the promo code WVUPARENTS.

A Family Day package is also available for the Mountaineers’ matchup with Oklahoma on Saturday, January 6. Parents interested in this package, which consists of four tickets and a voucher good for $25 at the Coliseum concession stands (for $70 per package), should visit [http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i](http://bit.ly/1BMvB9i) and click the Men’s Basketball graphic in the middle of the webpage. Tipoff with the Sooners is scheduled for 7:15 p.m.

Coach Bob Huggins and the Mountaineers are currently ranked 18th in the AP and 16th in the USA Today Coaches’ Top 25 polls and were ranked second in the preseason Big 12 poll.

Bowl Game Details

The Mountaineers and Utah Utes have officially accepted invitations to play in the 2017 Heart of Dallas Bowl to be played Tuesday, December 26 at Cotton Bowl Stadium. Kickoff is set for 1:30 p.m. ET, and the contest will be televised by ESPN. For those interested in attending and purchasing tickets or travel packages, more details can be found here: [http://bit.ly/2nuFUTv](http://bit.ly/2nuFUTv). Let’s Go Mountaineers!
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Enrollment Verification

This time of year, many folks have to provide proof of enrollment for insurance purposes. Your students can obtain this online by following the directions here: http://bit.ly/2iYIxLT.

Now Hiring Orientation Leaders for Summer

If your student is looking for a summer job where they can gain leadership skills, interact with various University staff and administrators and assist new families and students, encourage them to apply to be an Orientation leader. They can sign up for an information session on January 9 or 10: http://bit.ly/2AyRvUE.

Grad Guard Tuition Insurance

We understand the investment you and your family make in tuition and fees is a significant one that can create a financial hardship if your student is unable to complete their classes and is not eligible for a full refund of tuition and fees. That’s why we offer tuition refund insurance, provided by GradGuard, which can help refund tuition, fees and room/board charges, up to the annual policy limits, if your student is unable to complete the semester due to a covered medical reason: http://bit.ly/1WzCXLv.

State Compliance

New this spring, at the beginning of each term, all students using the WVU Portal will be required to indicate the state, territory or country they will be physically located in while taking classes. They must answer this question or they won’t be able to proceed with any activity in the Portal. The process should only take about 30 seconds. If your student is unsure where they will be when taking their courses, they should choose the state, territory or country that best fits. The responses won’t affect residency. This info is being collected only so that WVU can meet all state and federal legal requirements. Please see http://bit.ly/2BBZvn6 for details. For technical questions, contact ITS at 304-293-4444 or ITSHelp@mail.wvu.edu. For questions about this agreement, contact WVU Online at 304-293-2834 or WVUOnline@mail.wvu.edu.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University