

WVU names new provost

West Virginia University President E. Gordon Gee recently announced that Dr. Michele G. Wheatly would step down as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at the end of June. Gee named WVU College of Law

Dean **Joyce McConnell** to the provost and vice president's post.




"Joyce McConnell is a highly respected faculty member, dean and leader, and is familiar with all phases of academic life — from policies, programs and facilities to budgets, personnel and strategic planning," Gee said. "She also understands the bold vision of a major land-grant university, and its primary mission to serve our state and its citizens. Her commitment to this University and to West Virginia is evident; it's truly a passion."

Gee said McConnell is the "right person at the right time" to help carry the message that higher education is one of the most powerful forces for making life better in this state and in this nation.

McConnell will oversee undergraduate and graduate academics, academic innovation, extension, the Honors College, information technology, advising, civic engagement, the first-year academy, the registrar, international education and other areas.

McConnell has been at WVU for 19 years — the last six as dean. She also served two terms as associate dean for Academic Affairs.

Gregory Bowman, professor of law and associate dean for Academic Affairs, has been named interim dean of the Law School. Bowman, a nationally recognized scholar in international trade and remedies, was honored with the 2013 WVU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award and was also voted by students as the 2013 College of Law Professor of the Year. A national search will be conducted for a permanent dean. 

Student Affairs is now Student Life

Student Affairs will now be called Student Life, West Virginia University President Gordon Gee announced earlier this summer.

Student Life supports WVU's student-centered learning environment with more than 30 different departments across the University, including the Mountaineer Parents Club.


In addition, **Michael Ellington** has been named the interim vice



president for Student Life. He replaces longtime administrator Ken Gray, who retired in July.

Ellington came to the University

in 1993 and was previously an associate vice president of Student Affairs, overseeing the Mountainlair, residential dining and catering, Arts & Entertainment, capital improvement projects, community relations and many other support programs aimed at enriching students' lives.

A screening committee has been developed to search for a new vice president for Student Life. 

New Majors Offered


WVU currently offers 191 degree programs, and is constantly adapting its academic offerings to ensure that a WVU degree will result in a successful career.

A few recent additions are majors in biomedical engineering, hospitality and tourism management, energy systems engineering, forensic justice, energy law and sustainable development, and data science.

If one major isn't enough for your student, many dual-degree programs exist: mechanical and aerospace engineering; biometric systems and computer engineering; social work and public administration; medicine and public health; law and public administration.

An MBA can be combined with a variety of options: law/pharmacy/sport

management/dentistry/finance/medicine/human resources and industrial relations/public health.

Students also can customize their educations by adding a minor. Over 100 are available, including personal training, equine studies, music performance, interactive design for media, and entrepreneurship. 

PARENTS

Club



Dear Mountaineer Parents Club members,

As a child the words “back-to-school” always made me think of new notebooks, clothes, pencils and backpacks. I’m sure for each of you those words bring special memories too!

At West Virginia University, those words mean our campus and community will once again be bustling with students who are starting a brand new semester full of hope and dreams. A new semester is a fresh start for our returning students and for our incoming freshmen, and it’s the beginning of a new chapter in their book of life!

Along the way this fall, your eager, first-day students might find themselves frustrated, anxious, or even homesick. If and when they call, e-mail, text, or private message you, remember there are resources here to help them. There are also resources to help YOU!

For students, just to name a few:

Academic Resource Centers — The Academic Resource Centers are an excellent way for students to receive free, walk-in tutoring for many subjects. The first day of tutoring is August 25, so encourage your students to check it out.

Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services — In their new location in the Health and Education Building, the Center offers services and programs designed to support students through changing experiences. They provide an atmosphere that is welcoming for all and offer confidential services.

Residential Education — Students living in residence halls should take advantage of the resources provided through Residential Education. They offer lots of programs to engage students! Resident assistants and resident hall coordinators are also great sources of information.

Faculty members — Encourage your students to meet their faculty. In each class your student is given a syllabus that has the faculty member’s name, office address, office hours, phone number and e-mail address. Faculty members want to meet your students too!

For parents — *There is the Mountaineer Parents Club!*

Newsletters and Parent Electronic Newsletters — We mail two copies of the newsletters per year and produce one electronic version. Read them! They are full of valuable information about what is happening on campus. The Parent Electronic Newsletters will come to you bi-monthly. This is a valuable source of news. You will find news about what is happening on campus, opportunities for your students, and more!

Clubs — Be active in your local club! Volunteer to have an active role. If there isn’t a local club, volunteer to be the club chair. Check out the website directory to find a club in your area.

Mountaineer Parents Club Helpline and e-mail — The Mountaineer Parents Club helpline, 800-988-0096, was designed for parents to call if they have a question or concern and simply aren’t sure where to turn. If you would prefer to e-mail, you can e-mail us at parentshelpline@mail.wvu.edu

First-Year Seminar for Parents — Whether it’s your first year as a parent of a WVU student or your last year, take a few minutes and watch the refresher course. The link can be found on the Mountaineer Parents Club website.

Last, make plans to visit your student during Fall Family Weekend, September 26-28. This is a great time to reunite and reconnect with your son or daughter. Many great activities are planned, and we welcome you to campus.

Some of you may just be beginning this journey called “parenting a college-aged student,” while some of you may consider yourselves somewhat of an expert. Either way, welcome to the ride. It will be filled with many memories!

Let’s Go Mountaineers!

Sabrina M. Cave
Sabrina M. Cave, Executive Director



PS: These are my children Carter and Cooper starting their first day of school in Monongalia County, and yes, they have new notebooks, clothes, pencils and backpacks! Carter, age 10, fifth grade and Cooper, age 8, second grade.

Fall 2014

The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a free publication for Mountaineer Parents Club members. It is a joint project of WVU Foundation, Enrollment Services, University Relations, and Mountaineer Parents Club. Letters and suggestions are welcome. Send mail to: Editor, Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter, PO Box 6240, Morgantown, WV 26506 or parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.

Funding for this newsletter was provided in part by the Susan B. Hardesty Parents Club Endowment. 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. West Virginia University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

Designed by University Relations-Design.

Students win major awards

Growing up in a hollow in Wyoming County, **Jordan Lovejoy** would sit under an apple tree and read.

"I didn't have a lot of friends nearby that I could go outside and play with," she says. "I didn't have a place of community I could go to unless my parents wanted to drive me 10 minutes down the road. I had books," she added.

Those roots of reading only grew deeper when she arrived at West Virginia University. The senior triple major in English, Spanish and women's and gender studies from Pineville, West Virginia, is WVU's third-ever Udall Scholar.

Only 50 students in the country win each year; so it's a huge honor. The scholarship rewards students who are planning careers related to the environment.

An Appalachian fiction class opened her eyes to the importance of the environment in West Virginia and Appalachia. Since then, she's tried to make every project or paper about Appalachian environmentalism.

This spring Jordan Lovejoy wasn't the only WVU student to be rewarded for their accomplishments – for the third time in school history, three students were named Goldwater Scholars in the same year.

Trevor Butcher, a sophomore chemistry and math double-major from Hollywood, Maryland; **Virginia Cunningham**, a physics major from Hurricane, West Virginia; and **Andy Maloney**, a sophomore chemical engineering major from Morgantown, brought the number of WVU Goldwater's to 39.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious undergraduate award of its type and recognizes the commitment and potential each winner has to make a significant contribution to science.

In addition, six WVU students earned **Gilman Scholarships** for study abroad, the most the University has ever received in one year. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsors the scholarship, which provides up to \$5,000 to use toward study abroad costs. 💙

Tools of the Trade *By Katie Gallagher*



Each year students go away to college, and parents remain at home in a support-from-afar role.

The Family Educational Rights and

Privacy Act (FERPA) often changes the past norm of encouraged access and involvement once kids become college students. It is a delicate balance — finding a way to let your students grow up and handle things on their own and face the consequences of their actions, while fighting the urge to just handle it yourself.

At WVU, while working within the FERPA guidelines, we view parents as partners in supporting your students' success, keeping in mind that your student must be involved and engaged in the process. We realize the value in students handling things for themselves as they grow into independent, successful adults and realize you want the same for your student. Here are some tools that you might find helpful as we work together in support of your student.

Parent/Guest Portal — WVU offers a Parent/Guest Portal where students can grant parents or guests direct online access to relevant student record information, including grade information, financial aid details and student account/billing information. If your student has not yet done so, and you wish to remain involved in the process, students should log on to their STAR account and designate what access they wish to grant to whom, the term of that access, and a FERPA passphrase that will be used to authenticate the identity of a designee, should he or she need to call a relevant University office regarding a record.

Once completed, an e-mail will be sent to the parent/guest designee to help set up the guest account. This access covers the

majority of typical student service areas where parent/guest access might be needed. For more on FERPA, go to: ferpa.wvu.edu. For more on the Parent/Guest Portal, including instructions, FAQs, and tutorials, go to: parent-guest.portal.wvu.edu/.

DegreeWorks — Though there is not a parent portal access to this tool, this program is something you can encourage your student to review to help them stay on track academically. DegreeWorks is an online checklist that provides real-time review of progress, helps speed time to graduation, streamlines the graduation process, and allows direct access to multiple related services and advice through links to catalog information, class schedules, and FAQs. If your student is considering a major change, this tool provides the ability to see how the change might impact their progress and time to graduation. Approaching graduation? Have them monitor DegreeWorks before advising appointments.

Parent E-Newsletter — By joining the Mountaineer Parents Club and giving us a working e-mail address, you have been added to the Parent E-News listserve (NOTE: be sure to whitelist ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu to ensure these don't get caught in spam filters.). Sent out twice monthly, these newsletters are packed with timely information, great reminders and opportunities. We encourage you to read these and share with your students any info that you think is relevant.

Parent Helpline — 1-800-988-0096/ ParentHelpline@mail.wvu.edu — a toll-free helpline and dedicated e-mail address are provided for the parents of our WVU students. Have a question? Not sure who to contact about a concern? Call or e-mail here. We appreciate all you do to support your students and look forward to working with you! 💙

Family's gift to honor WVU's outstanding scholars

Education has always been a core value in the Caveney home. So much so that **Dr. James Caveney**, his wife, **Karen**, their three children and immediate family hold 19 degrees from WVU.

It is only fitting that the family lift up and celebrate education at their alma mater by establishing the WVU Wall of Academic Scholars at the Erickson Alumni Center. The wall will honor Marshall, Truman, Rhodes, Goldwater, and Fulbright scholars.

"The academic success of our students is impressive, and we wanted to be able to showcase those accomplishments at the Erickson Alumni Center. Each year the Center welcomes thousands of visitors from all over the world for special celebrations, and now when visitors from the Big 12 and others come to our beautiful alumni center, they will see the amazing achievements of our students," Dr. Caveney said.

Dr. Caveney, a member of the WVU Academy of Distinguished Alumni, received three degrees from WVU, including a bachelor's degree ('64), a doctor of dental surgery ('68), and a master's degree in orthodontics ('72). Karen graduated from WVU in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in

medical technology. Susan Caveney Keadle received her bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from WVU in 1990. Her husband, David Keadle, also received two degrees from WVU ('92 DDS, '96 MD).

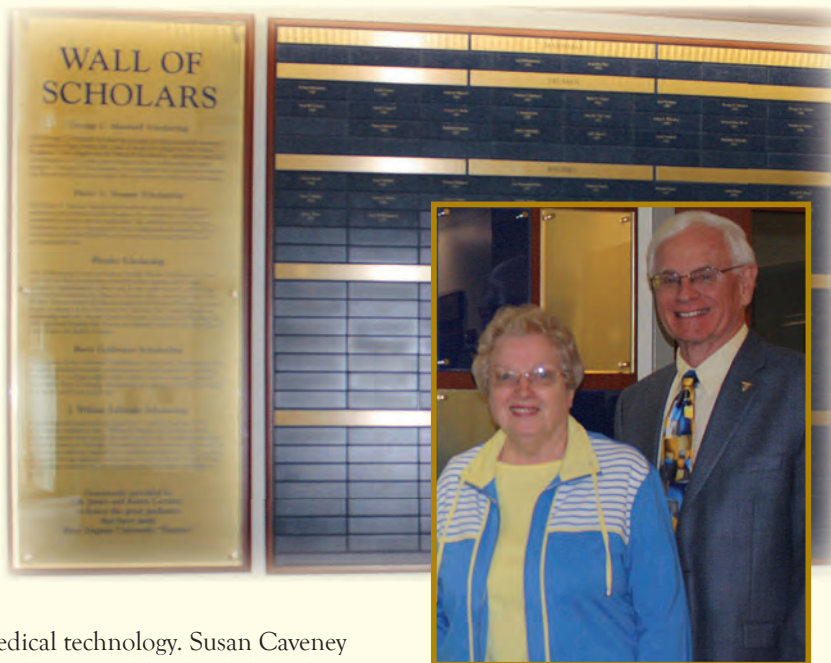
Scott Caveney, one of WVU's first Foundation Scholars and a Truman Scholar, received three degrees, including a bachelor's degree ('91), followed by a PhD in pharmacology and toxicology ('96), and a medical degree ('98).

The Caveney's youngest son, Brian, also a Foundation Scholar, received his bachelor's degree in 1995 and was one of the first students to pursue dual postgraduate degrees, receiving a law degree ('01), followed by a medical degree ('02). Brian's wife, Erica,

received a bachelor's degree ('94), a medical degree ('98), and served as chief resident from 2001-02.

Dr. Caveney's three younger brothers, William ('66 BS), Robert ('73 BA, '76 MD), and Bruce ('78 BS), also graduated from WVU.

"The Caveney's certainly leave an impressive legacy at their alma mater. Their family appreciated the education they received here, and this wall will be a wonderful way to showcase the hard work and accomplishments of our outstanding WVU scholars," said Stephen L. Douglas, president and CEO, WVU Alumni Association. 🇺🇸



Freshman International Experience

Starting in spring recess 2015, the Office of International Programs is offering Freshman International Experience (FIE) programs. These programs offer students the opportunity to gain an international experience during their first year of college.

The FIE programs are led by WVU faculty, who teach the students in a hands-on setting, allowing them to gain a unique perspective on their curriculum and gain an international educational

experience, helping them prepare for life after graduation.

This spring break, the Office of International Programs will be launching FIE programs in Greece, Europe, Belize, Puerto Rico, and Italy. These programs are for credit and offer educational experiences for students wishing to explore and travel over spring break.

"Our hope is that freshmen will take this opportunity to study abroad, love it, and choose to participate again,"

says David Stewart, Interim Director of International Programs. "These programs are an excellent first start for someone who is unsure of whether they want a longer study abroad experience."

Any student or parent who is interested in more information may contact the Office of International Programs at 304-293-6955, OIP@mail.wvu.edu, or visit StudyAbroad.wvu.edu. 🇺🇸

Parents, family members encouraged to support WVU Family Fund

by Eleni Skezas

An easy way to show your support for WVU students is by contributing to the Family Fund.

The WVU Foundation, in collaboration with the WVU Division of Student Life, has identified six prominent programs/initiatives that you may choose to support by donating to the WVU Family Fund. They include Student Wellness, Career Services, Adventure West Virginia, WVU Student Food Pantry, Kenneth D. and Carolyn T. Gray Student Emergency Fund and the Mountaineer Parents Club.

"Contributing to the WVU Family Fund demonstrates your endorsement for programs designed to benefit all students during their time at WVU," said Mary Esposito, assistant director of the Foundation's University Fund, which oversees and coordinates the Family Fund. "A gift to the WVU Family Fund is a great way for parents and families of current students to join alumni, friends, family and staff to show their support for WVU."

Every gift, regardless of size, is meaningful to the success of programs targeted by the WVU Family Fund.

Gifts to the WVU Family Fund can be made by check, credit card or online at www.wvuf.org/family_fund. Donations by mail can be sent to WVU Foundation, One Waterfront Place, 7th Floor, P.O. Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507-1650.

Families of current WVU students will be contacted through direct mail and the WVU Foundation telemarketing program.

Donations to the Family Fund count toward A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University. 📄

Meet the new Mountaineer Mascot, Michael Garcia

Growing up, Michael Garcia used to watch the Mountaineers on TV from his couch in Fairmont.

Pepperoni roll — a West Virginia icon — in hand and older brother at his side, he used to see the mighty Mountaineer Mascot on the screen and dream about what it would be like to don the buckskins and carry around the musket himself.

Those buckskins and that musket are all his now. Garcia, a West Virginia University junior political science major, is now the 63rd Mountaineer Mascot.

"I've always thought about WVU as my second home," he said. "It's truly a representation of the people and the students here."

Garcia believes WVU has an "intangible" that many others universities around the world don't — its people.

"The University is meaningless without its students, faculty and staff, so in that regard the people really bring the passion, excitement and family atmosphere here," he said. "It's hard to put into words, but WVU has that something special."

As the Mountaineer Mascot, Garcia will be make nearly 300 appearances across the country including visits to elementary schools and hospitals — and of course many athletic events on and off campus.

"I love going to the elementary schools. My mom is an elementary school teacher, and you don't know how excited she was for me to come to her class," Garcia said. "Mentorship is one of the key things that helps us grow as individuals, and this is a way I could be a mentor to West Virginia youth."

Garcia has gained a slew of advice from former Mountaineers. He interned for former Mountaineer Mascot Natalie Tennant (1990) in the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office last summer, an office where fellow former mascot Brock Burwell (2010, 2011) also works.

His mother received a master's degree from WVU, and his older brother and sister also went to the University.

Keep up with Garcia and his many appearances by following him on Twitter (@WVU Mascot) or on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TheWVUMascot>).

WVU has embraced the tradition of a Mountaineer mascot officially since 1934, but unofficial mascots started appearing at sporting events in the 1920s. 📄



Students and parents from the Delaware Mountaineer Parents Club enjoy their Summer Send-off on the beach.

New building opens on the Evansdale campus

Earlier this summer, West Virginia University opened up its newest building on the Evansdale campus. It houses the Student Health and Wellness department and the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences.


The Health and Education building will house various WVU student health clinics and services including a pharmacy, the Student Wellness

program and the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services.

For the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences, there will be seven general-purpose classrooms. A small fitness center and multipurpose space will enhance the delivery of the college's lifetime activities programs.

The new building borders the Evansdale Recreation Fields and

is located adjacent to the Student Recreation Center, creating a wellness precinct on Evansdale.

This building is the first of many changes coming to the Evansdale Campus over the next few years. Construction is also being done on a new Advanced Engineering Research Building, Agricultural Sciences Building, Art Museum and Evansdale Crossing. 

Student Health Services and WELLWVU move to Evansdale

Your students' health is of utmost importance while they are away at college. This fall, the new Health and Education Building (H&EB) opened on the Evansdale campus adjacent to the Student Rec Center. It offers state-of-the-art, comprehensive health and wellness facilities for WVU students.

WELLWVU's Offices of Wellness and Health Promotion and Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services now reside on the first and second floors of the new space. Student Health Services, now managed by WVU Healthcare, is located on the ground floor. This move brings together all health services under one roof, offering students a one-stop shop in a central, easy-to-find location.


If your student is experiencing test anxiety, dealing with a challenging

relationship or homesickness, or having difficulty adjusting, the WELLWVU Carruth Center staff are ready to assist and work with your student confidentially to help them get back on track with their emotional wellness.

WELLWVU's Wellness and Health Promotion Office helps students thrive by helping make the healthy choice, the easy choice. Through programs such as liveWELL and leadWELL, student groups such as the Student Wellbeing Ambassadors or academic course offerings including Yoga and a new heartMath lab to help students learn to de-stress, the offerings are many. Also on the first floor, the new Greenhouse Café, offered by Dining Services, features organic/healthy foods.

Located on the ground floor, the new partnership with WVU Healthcare

allows for an expansion of Student Health Services that allows for extended evening and weekend clinic hours and enhanced coordination with WVU Healthcare specialty services for all your student's medical needs. The facility also has space established for a new pharmacy that will open in the coming months. Appointments are required for primary care, women's health, and other planned visits, while walk-ins are accepted for treatment of minor illnesses or injuries. For any visit to the clinic, students should bring their WVU ID, insurance card, relevant medical history/information, and co-pay/deposit.

Located at 390 Birch Street, the facility also houses the College of Physical Activity and Sports Sciences, truly rounding out the health and wellness corner of campus! 

	Hours	Location	Sample of Services	Contacts	Fees
Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services	<i>Appointments</i> — call 304-293-4431 <i>Drop-in Hours</i> — M–F, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Second Floor H&EB	Athletes with injuries, career counseling, couples, crisis, depression, eating disorders, homesickness, LGBTQ, psychiatric services, self-injury, sexual assault, spirituality, stress/anxiety, substance abuse, test anxiety	304-293-4431 well.wvu.edu/ccpps	Free—up to 12 visits
Office of Wellness and Health Promotion		First Floor H&EB	Stress management, Yoga, liveWELL, leadWELL, Student Wellbeing Ambassadors	304-293-5054 well.wvu.edu/wellness	
WVU Healthcare Student Health Services Clinic	<i>Appointments</i> — M–F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 304-285-7200 <i>Walk-in Hours</i> — M–F, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.	Ground Floor H&EB	Primary care, women's health, family planning, physicals, immunizations, travel medicine, urgent care, occupational medicine, pharmacy (coming soon)	304-285-7200 www.well.wvu.edu/ student-health	Co-pay as assigned by insurance due at time of service; self-pay option available, deposit required. Deposit/payment up front required for all medicine visits.

Did you know?

**Your Ticket to
FUN!**



Student LOT

Saturday, September 6 will kick off the fourth year of the Student LOT, the official alcohol-free student pregame tailgating event. This year, the LOT will be located at the Evansdale Residential Complex (ERC) parking lot at the corner of Rawley Avenue and Oakland Street. All students are welcome stop by as they make their way to the stadium to cheer on the Mountaineers at the home football games. For more information, visit studentlot.wvu.edu/.

One of the best places to retire

Morgantown, home of West Virginia University and unique people-mover transit system (PRT), was voted one of the 25 best places to retire in 2014, by *Forbes* magazine.

WVU Rifle team visits the White House

On March 10, the No. 1-ranked WVU rifle team visited the White House for NCAA Champions Day. Members of the team met with President Barack Obama to celebrate the squad's 2013 National Championship.

Emergency Alerts

Current students are automatically subscribed to receive WVU emergency and weather alerts. The system allows students to add one additional cell phone and e-mail address. Students who want to add a parent's cell phone or e-mail address may log in to e2Campus and update their account information. For more information, visit emergency.wvu.edu/alert/.

Best Picture Award from Campus MovieFest

Kevin Langué, a junior marketing major, represented WVU at this year's Cannes International Film Festival in France, after his five-minute movie, *The B Team*, won best film at the WVU Campus MovieFest. Langué's movie was selected out of 1,600 films to go to Cannes. Campus MovieFest is the largest college film festival in the world, and this was its first visit to WVU.

WVU Robotic Team

WVU's robotic team had three straight wins in a NASA-sponsored robotic competition this summer. For more information, visit www.statler.wvu.edu/.

MountaineerTRAK

MountaineerTRAK is a Web-based recruiting management system that allows students and alumni to access hundreds of internships, co-ops and permanent employment opportunities that have been posted specifically for WVU students. For more information or to log in, visit careerservices.wvu.edu/.

LiveSafe App

West Virginia University is furthering its commitment to campus safety with the launch of the LiveSafe App, which provides students, faculty, staff, community members and visitors an on-the-go way to connect with authorities. LiveSafe is a free mobile application for Apple and Android devices that offers users a suite of emergency services.

The University community is encouraged to download the free app and use it to report crimes, safety hazards or suspicious activity. This service, however, will not replace the current WVU Alert text message system, which is the best way for the University to report emergencies to the community. Download the app here: police.wvu.edu/special-services/livesafe



The **2014 Foundation Scholars** were announced during a ceremony at Blaney House. They are Savannah Lusk of Covell, Nicole Hegele of Shady Spring, Anna Cokeley of Harrisville, Daniel Berrebi of Morgantown, and Kensey Bergdorf of Evans. The scholarship, WVU's most prestigious, is valued at \$80,000 and provides full tuition and fees plus room-and-board to five of the best and brightest West Virginia high school seniors.

The WVU Foundation's Pride Travel Fund

The WVU Foundation's Pride Travel Fund campaign is under way to help the WVU Marching Band travel this fall. Make your contribution today by visiting www.pridetravelfund.com. Donors who give \$500 or more become members of the prestigious 100 Mile Club. Those who contribute \$100 receive a Band CD, and all donors receive a Pride Travel Fund magnet.

2014 Calendar of Events

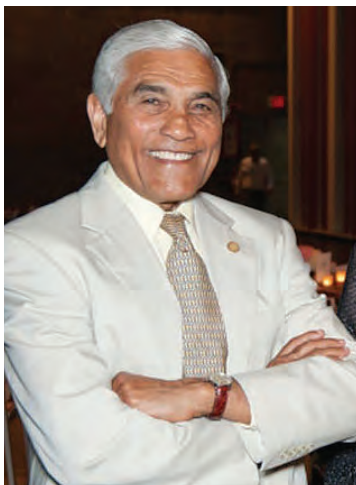
September 1, 2014 — Labor Day Recess
September 26 - 28, 2014 — Fall Family Weekend
September 28, 2014 — Fall Ring Day Ceremony
October 13 - 14, 2014 — Fall Break (University Housing remains open)
October 13, 2014 — Mid-Term grades posted
November 21, 2014 — Residence Halls close at 7:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving Break
November 24 - 28, 2014 — Thanksgiving Break
November 30, 2014 — Residence Halls reopen at noon.

The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a joint effort of WVU Foundation, Enrollment Services, University Relations, and Mountaineer Parents Club.

Professor emeritus creates endowed fund to assist WVU's food bank

By Bill Nevin

For more than 40 years before his retirement in 2009, **Joginder Nath** gave to West Virginia University students by mentoring and sharing his knowledge as a genetics professor. Now, he is giving back in a different way, but helping students is still at the core.



Nath, now an emeritus professor, has established the Nath Student Food Pantry Endowment that will provide funds to purchase food for distribution to students from "The Rack," WVU's student food pantry.

"Students have been my life," Nath said. "I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for the students. So we must take care of them. They are very precious."

Nath said he had wanted to do something to help combat hunger in the local area, and after talking extensively with those who operate "The Rack," it seemed like a great fit.

"It bothered me after reading about students foregoing meals because of expenses like tuition, fees, books and transportation," Nath said. "I feel very strongly about helping

students these days. I'm very happy and proud to be able to make this gift to the WVU food pantry."

Jacqueline Dooley is program director for "The Rack." She said a random sampling of students during the 2012-13 academic year showed that 57 percent said they had sacrificed the purchase of food to pay for educational expenses.

"The Rack' is a vital resource for many at WVU, be it undergraduate, graduate or professional students," said Dooley. "Students utilizing 'The Rack' are overjoyed and grateful to receive food without cost."

"The Rack" is funded solely through private donations and grants. The Nath donation is the first-ever endowment in support of the initiative. Dooley is hoping to use the Nath gift and other local contributions to secure matching funds through the Feinstein Foundation's hunger relief program.

Nath has made several gifts to the University and community over the years, including supporting the Art Museum of WVU, an endowed lectureship in the Honors College, a graduate student travel fund at the Davis College, and local arts projects and hospitals. But he says there's just something special about this latest philanthropic initiative.

"I have helped many causes, but this perhaps, is the most satisfying," Nath said. "It is such a joy to know you are helping kids. I hope my gift serves as an inspiration for others to support this worthy project." ❤️