

MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB | WINTER 2018







## WINTER 2018

ISSUE 58

**E. Gordon Gee**  
*President, West Virginia University*

**Joyce McConnell**  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

**Sharon Martin**  
*Vice President for University Relations*

### MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB

**Sabrina Cave**  
*Assistant Vice President, Parent Program*

**Lisa Hanselman**  
*Associate Director, Mountaineer Parents Club*

### EDITORIAL

**Jason Broadwater**

**Tony Dobies**

**Bill Nevin**

**Mikenna Pierotti**

*Contributing Writers*

**Kathy Deweese**  
*Director-University Content*

### ART DIRECTION

*WVU University Relations — Design*  
**Sheree Wentz**, *Multimedia Specialist*

### PHOTOGRAPHY

*WVU University Relations — Communications*

**Jennifer Shephard**, *Photo Manager*

**M.G. Ellis**, *Senior Photojournalist*

**Brian Persinger**, *Senior Photojournalist*

### EDITORIAL OFFICE

Mountaineer Parents Club Newsletter  
P.O. Box 6240  
Morgantown, WV 26506

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

*The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a joint effort of the 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.*

*WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer — Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran. 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. (MPC-18-1000)*

## A Letter from the Parents Club



### Dear Mountaineer families,

Happy new year! I hope you had a great winter break with your family, but we are happy your children are back on campus. It was too quiet without them!

I have said many times that parents are our partners — this remains true in 2018. You play a critical role in your student's success. We plan to continue to work closely with you and other key stakeholders on campus to provide the resources you need to support your Mountaineer.

As we move forward this year, we will be developing a comprehensive communication plan for all WVU families. Whether you are a parent of a prospective student or a parent of a graduating senior, we want to be sure that we are providing "need to know" information at the correct time. We know it is great to look ahead, but we also know that there are some items of interest that are much more timely than others.

You can also look forward to a new and improved Parents website. We will be customizing information and providing additional resources through the Parents Club. Watch for a redo this spring.

I am also working with others on campus to strategize how current parents can help recruit future Mountaineers. You know firsthand how WVU is supporting and guiding your student to success. We will be developing plans on how you can network and mentor future Mountaineer parents as they begin their college journey with their students.

Last, we will be expanding our presence on social media. With over 10,000 followers on Facebook, we are looking at ways to personalize that platform. You may find us on additional social media platforms, too!

So, big things are happening for our parents in 2018. We look forward to working with you to provide a great experience at WVU.

Let's Go!

**Sabrina M. Cave**, Assistant Vice President, Parent Program

### WVU Mountaineer Parents Club

For more information, visit [parentsclub.wvu.edu](http://parentsclub.wvu.edu), contact the office at **304-293-2506** or email us at [parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu).

**Cover:** The December 2017 commencement ceremony at the WVU Coliseum was bittersweet, with grads bidding farewell to one chapter of their lives and welcoming the start of the next.

**Photo by:** Alex King

# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

- 5 Education Abroad
- 6 WVU Raises Nearly \$3 Million

## DEPARTMENTS

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Did You Know?     | 7 Ask the Experts    |
| 4 Campus Connection | 8 Funding the Future |
| 7 Conversations     | 9 The Last Word      |

## Snapshot

### ► Gee-SPN

West Virginia University President E. Gordon Gee surprised Mountaineer basketball players one day and learned a few new tricks. Did you know he could dunk? Yeah, we didn't either. Watch his newest Gee Mail that includes interviews with head coach Bob Huggins and players and proof that he's a true "baller."

Watch the video at [youtube.com/user/westvirginiau](https://youtube.com/user/westvirginiau).



Photo by M.G. Ellis



## Did You **Know?**



## *A Place in History*

Graduation is approaching! Act now to reserve a place in history on campus for your new graduate. Partner with us to make your graduate's story permanent at the Erickson Alumni Center by joining the more than 1,500 alumni and friends who placed their brick on the Ware Family Alumni Walkway. Click here to learn more: [give.wvu.edu/bricks-and-pavers](https://give.wvu.edu/bricks-and-pavers).

## *FAFSA Reminder*

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) became available October 1 for the following academic year (example: October 1, 2017, for fall 2018 and spring 2019). It must be completed every academic year a student is interested in federal financial aid. Please note some state and scholarship programs require that students have a valid FAFSA on file each year.

The priority deadline to file is March 1 for the upcoming academic year to receive the best financial aid offer available to you. However, the FAFSA may still be completed after March 1 for consideration for some federal grant and loans.

FAFSAs submitted after March 1 will not be considered for certain types of aid, such as the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant or Federal Work Study. For more information, visit [financialaid.wvu.edu/applying-for-aid/fafsa](https://financialaid.wvu.edu/applying-for-aid/fafsa).

## *Outdoor Gear*

If your student loves the outdoors but left their gear at home, let the Outdoor Rec Center help! The ORC has a wide variety of quality outdoor gear available for rent. Just have your student stop by the Student Rec Center to make a reservation. A Mountaineer Card must be presented in order to rent. Learn more here: [adventurecreation.wvu.edu/gear-rentals](https://adventurecreation.wvu.edu/gear-rentals).

## *May 2018 Commencement Reminder*

Congratulations! This year's ceremonies will be held May 11 – 13. Be sure to check the website, [graduation.wvu.edu/may-commencement](https://graduation.wvu.edu/may-commencement), for the date and time of each ceremony, as well as information concerning parking, guests and information for graduates.

## *MPC Holiday Buses*

The Mountaineer Parents Club will once again offer buses home for Spring Break. Online reservations began in January through the Mountaineer Parents club website. To make a reservations or to review the schedule, please go to [parentsclub.wvu.edu/bus-schedules](https://parentsclub.wvu.edu/bus-schedules). No phone reservations will be taken.

## *WVU Intramurals*

If your student enjoys playing sports and is looking for some fun, encourage them to check out WVU Intramurals. Students can join as a team or as an individual. It's a great way to meet new friends! Visit [studentreccenter.wvu.edu/intramurals](https://studentreccenter.wvu.edu/intramurals) to learn more.



# Celebrating 150 Years

For the last year, we've been celebrating. As you probably already know, WVU turned 150 years old in February 2017. We were so proud of our century and a half of history and accomplishments that we spent a whole year looking back and making sure our future was forged to allow us to prosper over the next 150 years, too.

We sang happy birthday and ate tons of cake. The Pride of West Virginia performed a special halftime show at a football game. You helped us raise more than \$2 million in our first Day of Giving.

As we head into our 151st year, take one last look back at our first 150 years at [birthday.wvu.edu](http://birthday.wvu.edu).

GREG ELLIS



GREG ELLIS



BOB BUEVICH

JENNIFER SHEPARD



GREG ELLIS



GREG ELLIS



## Campus Connection: A Sweet Venture

**WVU student Matthew Byrd has taken his childhood love of bugs and his interest in wildlife and turned it into a business. With bees, an essential crop pollinator, slowly disappearing, Byrd's new business came on the scene at just the right time.**

His 60+ hives covering 170 acres demonstrate what happens when you mix a student's passion with University outreach and resources. Byrd, the owner of Byrd's and Bee's Honey and a wildlife and fisheries resources major in the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources

and Design, said he's always been fascinated by wildlife

But, the dream of beekeeping was sparked by a Facebook post from the WVU Extension Service Ritchie County office. It advertised a beginning beekeeper course offered at the local 4-H campgrounds. Byrd was an ambitious junior in high school at the time. "I knew then and there I was going to pursue the opportunity and enroll," Byrd said. "As you can imagine, some of my friends and family were a bit skeptical, but I was determined to become a first-generation beekeeper because I truly wanted to help repopulate honeybees in our area."

One of the strengths of the WVU Extension Service is the ability to share research-based knowledge to West Virginians with programs and offices in all 55 counties. The information is sound and trustworthy. For Byrd, it provided a stable footing to build his business on as he learned the proper ins and outs of becoming a beekeeper thanks in part to WVU Extension Service Clay County Agent Michael Shamblin who taught the classes.

Byrd learned enough to start the venture that year with three hives. The next year he doubled his hives and sold more than 70 pounds of honey in less than a month.

When he came to campus his freshman year, Byrd was met with a familiar face, the former agriculture teacher from his high school had taken a position at WVU and introduced him to the WVU LaunchLab, the University's free startup resource center that helps



PHOTO SUBMITTED

entrepreneurial students develop new companies and products. The unit is part of the WVU Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship Applied Ecosystem, a University-wide web of centers, offices and programs that fosters and supports innovation and entrepreneurship.

Byrd recounts the director asking him — if you're already selling honey, why not make a business out of it? So he did, by taking classes; developing his entrepreneurial skills like budgeting, projecting sales and revenue; and refining his business pitch and developing a comprehensive business plan with the help of master's student Katie Cook in the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.

He obtained \$21,000 for his business in various business pitch competitions, including winning \$10,000 as a sophomore in the West Virginia Collegiate Business Plan Competition.

The money has allowed him to reinvest in his business and plan for careful expansion, including a small building devoted to processing honey in the near future. He has even taken his business on the road with presentations at local 4-H camps.

When asked about his future, Byrd is decisive. He wants to finish his degree, build his business and give back — both to the bees and to West Virginia.

Byrd's and Bee's Honey can be found on Facebook at [facebook.com/ByrdsandBeesHoney](https://facebook.com/ByrdsandBeesHoney). 🐝



# A WORLD VIEW STARTS WITH A VIEW OF THE WORLD.

WVU's Education Abroad program gives students a different landscape in which to learn, research and experience life — preparing them to be confident and entrepreneurial leaders in an international marketplace while earning WVU credit. With hundreds of programs ranging from one week to a full year, there is an option for every student, in any major, to gain valuable international experience. Applications are now open for Summer 2018 — visit [studyabroad.wvu.edu](http://studyabroad.wvu.edu) to view a full list of summer programs.

ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK  
NEW ZEALAND



# WVU Raises Nearly \$3 Million

It was promoted as “One Day to Give Back,” and supporters of WVU responded Nov. 8 during the University’s first-ever Day of Giving.

More than 2,500 gifts were made totaling more than \$2.9 million.

“I have learned never to be surprised at the depth of the generosity of West Virginia University’s supporters, and the results of our first-ever Day of Giving campaign did nothing to change that feeling,” said WVU President E. Gordon Gee. “The affection for and commitment to all of our campuses is unparalleled. We are humbled by the thoughtful support to student scholarships and the University’s greatest needs — ensuring that future students, faculty and staff will continue to experience an outstanding education at West Virginia University.”

The Day of Giving’s success was buoyed by several global matches and participation gifts, as well as those made at the college/school/unit level. WVU alumni Doug and Pam Van Scoy, and another donor, funded

a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$150,000 in gifts. That challenge was met within the first eight hours of the 24-hour online giving event. Alumnus Ken Kendrick also matched the first 1,000 donations made of \$150 or more (up to \$150 per gift) for a total of \$150,000.

“Thank you to everyone who participated in our first-ever WVU Day of Giving,” said Mary Esposito, who led the effort for the WVU Foundation. “The excitement for the day was so great to see from all of our WVU alumni, students, faculty and staff. The engagement on social media was phenomenal as well.”

WVU’s inaugural Day of Giving was focused on raising private dollars for the University’s greatest priorities and opportunities, including scholarships and unrestricted funds at both the University and unit-specific level.

“In one day, our supporters truly stepped up to help make a difference for WVU,” added Esposito. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the response.”





## Conversations: Helping Your Student Prepare for Career Fairs

BRIAN PERSINGER



- /// Craft well-written resumes. Yes, plural. You will want to tailor your resumes to specific companies. Employers expect this, so have them reviewed by a career counselor at Career Services.
- /// Identify employers you want to visit — do your research on MountaineerTRAK and visit their website.
- /// Prepare your “elevator pitch,” a concise statement about who you are and the type of position you are seeking.
- /// Create a list of questions to ask employers.
- /// Decide what professional outfit you will wear at least a week in advance, and make sure it is clean and pressed.

### 2018 CAREER FAIRS AND EVENTS

#### College of Business and Economics Mock Interview Week

January 22-25 | 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | B&E Building

#### College of Business and Economics Career Fair

January 30 | 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. | Student Rec Center

#### Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources Career Fair

January 31 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Student Rec Center

#### WVU Career and Internship Fair

February 14 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Mountainlair

#### Statler College Mock Interview Days

February 20-21 | 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Engineering Sciences Building

#### Eaton Professional Etiquette Dinner

April 3 | 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. | Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place

#### Professional Education Career Program

April 4 | 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Erickson Alumni Center

## Ask the Experts: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act — What it Might Mean for WVU

After the passing of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we spoke with our Federal Relations team to get a rundown of how the reforms might affect WVU families, our students and the University as a whole.

Overall, higher education stakeholders were successful in fending off a number of provisions that would have negatively affected students and families and certain operations of the University.

However, some provisions included in the final version of the bill will result in increased borrowing costs to WVU and WVU Hospitals, tax revenue generated by the WVU Research Corporation and WVU Innovation Corporation, and may impact revenues received by the University.

### The Good News for Students and Families

- /// The tax exclusion for graduate student tuition waivers is preserved, which means graduate students will not see an increase in their taxes based on the tuition waiver they received. [Section 117(d)(5)]
- /// The tax exclusion for tuition waivers of university employees and dependents is preserved. [Section 117(d)]
- /// Employer-provided tuition assistance is preserved and will not be taxed. [Section 127]
- /// The Student Loan Interest Deduction is preserved, so those paying student loans will still be able to deduct their student loan interest on their taxes. This continues to apply to graduates with salaries of \$80,000 or less.
- /// The Lifetime Learning Credit is preserved and will not be taxed. ♡



## A Grant for the Future

Thanks to a grant from Fortune 500 science and information technology company Leidos, research initiatives and student involvement at campus events are getting a boost.

The grant was made through the WVU Foundation and will be used to continue research funding on topics like blockchain technology and population health data management, which attempt to investigate and alleviate the health problems that ail the state.

“Our partnership with Leidos has proven extremely valuable for the campus community and greater Morgantown area,” said Cynthia Sweet, associate vice president of Corporate and Government Relations at WVU. “They help our students prepare for real-world experiences by offering applied workshops and supporting our hackathons and other academic programming. They partner with our researchers by providing generous grants to support their work in relevant industry topics.”

In addition, the donation will be used to support WVU’s efforts to get students involved in events like the National Society of Black Engineers are involved in, providing funds for Engineers Week and supporting on-campus tech and development workshops.

“Our relationship with WVU has been extremely rewarding,” said Leidos Chief Technology Officer John Fraticchio. “We’ve been able to collaborate on some really exciting research projects and have been able to meet and recruit many talented students and alumni.”

Established in 1969, Leidos is a global solutions and services leader working to solve the world’s toughest challenges in the defense, intelligence, homeland security, civil and health markets. ♡



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## Supporting Health and Wellness

Recognizing the importance of overall health and wellness to academic, professional and personal success, WVU is creating a systemwide initiative to coordinate and improve efforts in those areas.

Supported by a substantial gift from Natalie and Wes Bush, the Bush Fund for Health Promotion and Wellness will be directed by Dean of Nursing Tara Hulse, who will continue in her current role while adding responsibilities.

“It’s our responsibility as an academic institution to help our students, staff and faculty not only excel in their educational and career pursuits but also engage and empower them to achieve mental and physical health,” Hulse said. “Putting a focus on their well-being will have a far-reaching, positive affect in improving the individual as well as our neighborhoods, communities and the state of West Virginia.”

While the program will initially focus on WVU and its five campuses, including those of WVU Medicine, some of the lessons learned may help determine how the University can help other communities, Hulse said.

“Just as a flight attendant tells you to put on your own oxygen mask before helping others, it is crucial that the

people we educate and employ be well if they are to help others,” President Gee said. “This is a perfect combination of our three pillars – education, improving health and building prosperity. Each is dependent on the other.”

Hulse will work to create a network of partners involved in the many related programs across campus, so they can be leveraged to the benefit of faculty, staff and students. Those programs include several in WVU Medicine, such as student health, and the Health Sciences Center, and in the Division of Student Life, such as WellWVU, the WVU Collegiate Recovery Program and the Carruth Center.

Natalie Bush received a bachelor’s of science degree in nursing from WVU in 1988 and a master’s in 1990. She is an independent hospital and healthcare professional and is an active supporter of the WVU Nursing Program. Wes Bush is from Morgantown, is chairman and CEO of Northrop Grumman Corp. and is a member of the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame.

“We are delighted to support this important program, and we look forward to its impact under Dean Hulse’s leadership,” Natalie and Wes Bush said. ♡



## The Last Word with Kim Mosby

Kim Mosby, Senior Associate Dean of Students in Campus and Community Life, is one of the go-to experts on campus for things like student advocacy, nontraditional and commuter student programs, crisis management, off-campus housing, student conduct and legal services. We caught up with her just before winter break to get a little advice and learn what makes her tick.

**Q** What can students do to make their years at WVU successful?

**A** Go to class and study, obviously. They should get to know their faculty — very important. But also, move out of their comfort zone. They should make a diverse group of friends, go to some of the many activities and events offered on campus, study abroad, etc.

**How does your office assist students?**

So many ways. We help commuter students feel like they are a part of campus, help all students find apartments when they move out of the residence halls, offer free legal assistance, provide resources for nontraditional students and students who are parents, provide assistance when students are in crisis and many other ways. We specialize in problem-solving.

**Now the important stuff. What is your favorite food after a stressful day?**

I crave salty food, like Lay's potato chips. Add a Diet Coke and I'm very happy.

**And your favorite spot on campus?**

E. Moore Hall, specifically the Betty Boyd Lounge.

**What do you like to do on your days off?**

Shopping! Don't judge me — I have a shoe room!

**If you could take a vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?**

I've travelled so little that I think I would be happy closing my eyes, spinning a globe and picking a spot.

**What makes you smile?**

Spending time with family and friends. ♡



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# MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB

Office of Admissions  
West Virginia University  
P.O. Box 6009  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6009

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Morgantown, WV  
Permit No. 34

# MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 1:** FAFSA Deadline

**March 2:** Midterm Grades Available

**March 9:** Residence Halls Close at 7 p.m.

**March 12-16:** Spring Break

**March 18:** Residence Halls Reopen at Noon

**March 30:** Friday Before Easter Recess

**April 15:** Spring Ring Day Ceremony

**April 30 - May 4:** Final Exam Week

For more information on residence hall closings, please visit the housing website at [housing.wvu.edu](https://housing.wvu.edu).

And for a full list of events, go to [parentsclub.wvu.edu](https://parentsclub.wvu.edu).