Writing this on a sunny Friday in Morgantown, I feel as though I understand a bit of the “senioritis” and “end-of-the-year-itis” that your students are probably feeling. Today officially marks the last day of classes for the 2017-18 school year. Now only finals week stands between your students and your promotion to “parents of sophomores, juniors, seniors or graduates!” See the End of the Year Wrap-Up section for important last-minute reminders. We asked some of our soon-to-be graduates to look ahead and reflect on their time, noting wisdom they would share with their ‘freshmen self’: http://bit.ly/2vUxtoQ. More updates and new info for Commencement Weekend are included in the Parents of Graduates section, including honorary degree recipients, regalia pick-up details and gift ideas!

Final grades will be posted Thursday, May 10 in the Parent Guest Portal if your student has granted you that access: http://bit.ly/2BA3Cji. Also, I included a list of summer and fall dates (and additional points for consideration) in the section, A Look Ahead. These include when the annual student insurance waiver opens (June 4), fall bills come out (July 6) and are due (August 1) and the first day of fall classes (August 15). More will be forthcoming in the next Parent E-News on some of these dates, so stay tuned. And with that, school’s (almost) out for summer! In this edition:

A Unique Mountaineer Gift!

END OF THE YEAR WRAP-UP

- Falling Run Finals Retreat – Saturday, April 28
- Blue and Gold Mine Sale – Collections begin Monday, April 30
- Reduced-Cost Parking During Finals Week – April 30-May 4
- WVU Bookstore Rental Returns and Book Buyback – now May 4
- Residence Halls Closing Procedures – Close May 5

PARENTS OF GRADUATES

- Woodburn Photo Opportunity – Sign-ups Available
- Bookstore Cap and Gowns and Diploma Frames
- WVU Bookstore Commencement Weekend Hours and Locations

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- Scholarship Deadline Extended
- Final Reminder: Pay Academic Deposit and Register for NSO

A LOOK AHEAD

- Summer/Fall Payment Plans
- 2018-2019 Award Notifications and Updates
A Unique Mountaineer Gift!

Looking for a unique gift for any Mountaineer – alumni, current student or future WVU student? Stay connected to the history and culture of the WVU experience with the new “WVU Traditions” book — a coffee-table style book full of photos and history, complete with space to fill in memories and mementos unique to a student or alumni and their time at WVU. With college and high school graduations, as well as Mother’s Day and Father’s Day just around the corner, order yours today! The “WVU Traditions” book is available at the WVU Bookstore: http://bit.ly/2I33o8P.

END OF THE YEAR WRAP-UP

Falling Run Finals Retreat – Saturday, April 28

Students are encouraged to take a break from studying and get outdoors to enjoy the new Falling Run Trails on Saturday, April 28 from 1-3 p.m. There will be a variety of activities including the Adventure WV Slacklines and Hammocks, guided hikes, a lemonade stand and Starbucks will be providing “Puppychinos,” so students are encouraged to bring along their dogs and puppies or hang out with the WVU service dogs! Snacks and refreshments will be available. The gathering will be at the Falling Run Greenspace on Overlook Street just up from Stalnaker and Dadisman halls. http://bit.ly/2Fmg9Zi

Blue and Gold Mine Sale – Collections Begin Monday, April 30

As they move out, students may drop off gently used items they wish to donate to the Blue & Gold Mine Sale beginning April 30 through May 9: http://bit.ly/2IIfkw3. Collection boxes will be placed in each residence hall in addition to four outdoor donation stations around Morgantown at Chateau Royale, the top of Falling Run Road, Seneca Center and Grant Street. Items like furniture, home décor, kitchenware, clothing and electronics are welcome; however, mattresses, box springs, CRT televisions and computer monitors will not be accepted. http://bit.ly/2Kl9iDa

Reduced-Cost Parking During Finals Week – April 30-May 4

WVU Parking Management will once again partner with our friends at Parkmobile to offer 50-cents-an-hour parking during finals week. http://bit.ly/2r4i9RM
WVU Bookstore Rental Returns and Book Buyback – Now May 4

**Textbooks RENTED** for the spring 2018 semester are due back to the stores by **Friday, May 4**. Reminder emails with specific title information are currently being sent to customers from the Barnes & Noble corporate office. Please advise your students to check their e-mails ("wvu.edu" or personal account) and their "Junk/Spam" folders to ensure they find this info. Parents, if you ordered these books, please double-check your e-mails as well. Please text/email a reminder to your student to keep an eye out!

Students who purchased textbooks can also return any titles for possible **textbook buyback**. The best dates to come in for spring book buyback are April 27 through May 4 (WVU ID required. State ID not accepted). [http://bit.ly/2I82AQk](http://bit.ly/2I82AQk)

**Residence Halls Closing Procedures – Close May 5**

Residence halls officially close Saturday, May 5 at noon, although students are to vacate their room 24 hours after their last final to ensure a quiet environment for those still studying. [http://bit.ly/2z6dv6E](http://bit.ly/2z6dv6E)

**PARENTS OF GRADUATES**


**Woodburn Photo Opportunity – Sign-ups Available**

Reservations are now open for graduates to sign up to get free keepsake pictures in their cap and gown, WVU gear or professional attire in front of Woodburn Hall, Wednesday, May 9. Spaces are limited, so graduates should sign up today for a space from noon to 4 p.m. [http://bit.ly/2I5Pt27](http://bit.ly/2I5Pt27)

**Bookstore Cap and Gowns and Diploma Frames**

All caps and gowns previously ordered through our website are now available for pickup at both the Mountainlair and Evansdale Crossing WVU Barnes & Noble Bookstores. If your graduate still needs to purchase their cap or gown, please have them stop by in person at either location for assistance through May 11.

Looking for a great gift? Diploma frames can be purchased at the stores, or through the WVU Bookstore website for home delivery or pickup: [http://bit.ly/2p0CDsi](http://bit.ly/2p0CDsi).
WVU Bookstore Commencement Weekend Hours and locations

- **Mountainlair** store - 5/11 open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5/12 open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5/13 open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Evansdale Crossing** store - 5/11 open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Health Sciences** store (Located below HSC Library) - 5/11 open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Law** store - 5/11 open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Pop-up locations:
  
  - **Coliseum** (Located at Blue Gate doorway. Frames and regalia available.) - 5/11 open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., 5/12 open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and 5/13 open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  
  - Creative Arts Center shop (Located in lobby. Frames and regalia available.) - 5/11 open 1 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., 5/12 open 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
  
  - Alumni shop (Located in lobby of **Erickson Alumni Center.** Frames and Alumni-logoed gear available.) - 5/12 open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS**

President Gee is scouting for talent all across the region by visiting high schools and hosting “Ask Us Anything” events. The goal is to encourage students to join the Class of 2022. One of Gee's latest stops was at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, W.Va., where he met with prospective students and their families from West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. [http://bit.ly/2FmPM5E](http://bit.ly/2FmPM5E)

**Scholarship Deadline Extended**

The merit aid or scholarship deadline has been extended to July 1. Any first-time freshmen admitted by July 1 will still be eligible to receive the appropriate merit award. Need-based awards also will continue to be offered to eligible students on a weekly basis, so encourage a high school senior you know to apply today; it’s not too late! [http://bit.ly/2DyYXmp](http://bit.ly/2DyYXmp)

**Final Reminder: Pay Academic Deposit and Register for NSO**

If your incoming student has still not done so, this is a reminder to pay the academic deposit [http://bit.ly/2IKp0Ge](http://bit.ly/2IKp0Ge) to secure their place in the class of 2022 prior to the May 1 national decision date. Also, once paid, students and families can register for New Student Orientation, which is just a month away. [http://bit.ly/1bmgeFa](http://bit.ly/1bmgeFa)
A LOOK AHEAD

Summer/Fall Payment Plans

Summer tuition and fees must be paid (or enrollment in a payment plan) prior to the first day of the start of each summer class to avoid removal from classes. The first summer session starts May 14. The monthly tuition payment plan is now open for summer and fall 2018! Students can pay their summer bill in three installments or pay their fall bill in up to six installments using these monthly payment plans. NOTE: Students who have used the Higher One tuition pay monthly payment plan in the past will need to create a new account/login at the new CASHNet site. [http://bit.ly/2kQPrQh](http://bit.ly/2kQPrQh)

2018-2019 Award Notifications and Updates

If your student has not done so yet, it’s time for them to accept their aid for next year. If your student filed a 2018-19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), their financial aid award may already be on their STAR account. Financial aid award offer email notifications have started going out to continuing students, and new incoming students should have started receiving these as early as last November for 2018-19. Here are some things to consider and next steps:

- Students can view through STAR unsatisfied requirements that can delay the financial aid offer.
- Encourage your student to log on today and accept their aid!
- The PLUS loan will not show on students’ awards until the PLUS application is received. A new application must be completed each academic year if interested [http://bit.ly/29tyjKU](http://bit.ly/29tyjKU).
- If you have questions, contact the Mountaineer Hub at [http://bit.ly/2pLuERg](http://bit.ly/2pLuERg) or 304-293-1988. Peak call hours are 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Calling outside of those hours will typically result in reduced wait times.

I Have Work Study ... Now What?

If your student has accepted Federal Work Study on their financial aid award for summer or fall, go to [http://bit.ly/2JxCIN2](http://bit.ly/2JxCIN2) to see the next steps. Students who are not work-study recipients can look for part-time student employment through the MountaineerTRAK system at [http://bit.ly/2Hz4L2g](http://bit.ly/2Hz4L2g).

Summer Tips: Classes at Another Institution

If your student will be taking class(es) back home or at another institution over the summer, there are steps that need to be taken in advance to ensure that the credits will transfer back to
WVU correctly. Students can access all necessary information for approving transient work by clicking on the “Transfer Credits” button in their WVU Portal.

The process is initiated when a student fills out the International or Domestic Transient Request and emails it to his or her adviser. The adviser must make sure that the courses requested by for transient approval have been evaluated for equivalency at WVU. Remember that courses that have not yet been evaluated will not be approved. Once the adviser has checked the Transient Application for accuracy, they submit the request for final review. The appropriate dean’s office will then approve, hold or deny the application. Students are notified via email of any decisions.

When the class is completed, students must make sure that transcripts are sent to WVU Admissions so the credits will officially transfer. If this class will serve as a prerequisite for a fall class, it is important to have a final transcript sent back quickly to make sure students are not removed from an up-and-upcoming class due to a missing prerequisite. If your student has any questions, they can speak with their adviser or email transfercredit@mail.wvu.edu.

AETNA Student Health Insurance Updates – Waiver Opens June 4

Mark your calendars: Students with insurance can complete the annual student insurance waiver starting June 4; it is due by August 1.

Staying healthy is an important part of your student’s time at WVU, and having adequate insurance coverage is part of maintaining their good health. WVU requires all domestic students taking six or more credits and all international students to have health insurance – either on an existing plan or through the WVU Aetna Student Insurance Plan.

As the costs of medical services have increased with the introduction of new technologies and prescription drugs, the WVU Aetna premium has also experienced a premium increase for the upcoming plan year, while keeping a high level of coverage. Please review the plan changes shown below. They will take effect on August 11, 2018, so keep this info in mind when considering your options. More updates and changes will be listed in the 2018-19 Aetna Benefits Summary available at http://bit.ly/2HxMOgm beginning in July. If you’re not familiar with terms such as “copay,” “deductible,” “coinsurance,” and “premium,” you can look them up at http://bit.ly/2FqEw8o.
This information is only an overview of upcoming changes. Please see the 2018-19 plan year summary at [http://bit.ly/2HxMOgm](http://bit.ly/2HxMOgm) beginning in July for additional details. Please contact us at [sio@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:sio@mail.wvu.edu) or call 304-293-6815 with questions or concerns.

Again, students covered under another comparable health insurance policy can complete the annual waiver coming available June 4: [http://bit.ly/2HxMOgm](http://bit.ly/2HxMOgm). This must be completed by August 1.

**Important Dates**

April 30-May 4 – Final Exam Week

May 5 – Residence Halls Close at 5:00 p.m.

May 8 – Primary Election Day Recess

May 10 – Final Spring 2018 Grades Post to STAR (and Parent/Guest Portal, if final grade access is granted by your student) [http://bit.ly/2BA3Cji](http://bit.ly/2BA3Cji)


May 14 – First Summer Session Begins [http://bit.ly/2zMSDFH](http://bit.ly/2zMSDFH) (summer bills are due prior to the first day of the class start date – start dates can vary)

May 28 – Memorial Day Recess

May 31-June 29 – New Student Orientation


June/July/August – Parents Club Summer Send-Offs in Your Communities (invitations to come)
July 4 – Independence Day Recess

July 6 – Fall Bills Available on STAR (and Parent/Guest Portal, if billing access is granted by your student) http://bit.ly/2BA3Cji

July 6 – Last Day to Apply to Graduate in August 2018

August 1 – Fall Bills Due

August 1 – Student Insurance Waivers Due

August 11 – On-Campus Move-in Day

August 15 – First Day of Classes

September 3 – Labor Day Recess (no classes, residence halls remain open)

September 28-30 – Fall Family Weekend


/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University