Though midterms are over, the busy month of October continues. As such, I will be sending one more Parent E-News before the end of the month, so stay tuned! *Advising* is now fully underway for spring and summer classes, and the last day to drop a class, if necessary, is next Tuesday, October 24. *Class Registration* for spring (and summer) classes will start October 25 depending class rank (full schedule below) so students should also be sure to check for and resolve any *Holds* they may have in advance. This is also the time students start having *Housing Conversations* as they think about where to live next year (tips follow to help avoid some pitfalls!) and it is time to complete the **2018-19 FAFSA** (again, do so by October 31 and your student will be entered for three chances to win a scholarship.) Parents of Seniors, as you plan ahead, the much anticipated *May Commencement Schedule* was just released today and also follows.

But, it is not all work and no fun on campus! With fall weather finally in the air this also brings with it hot air balloons from the Mountaineer *Balloon Festival*, WVU’s 70th *Mountaineer Week*, and the annual *Pumpkin Drop* – all happening in the next few days (see below for more on each.) Also our students are still finding time to get involved and give back through events such as our Student Government organized statewide day of service called *Service First*. Tomorrow they will head down our country roads to volunteer throughout the state! Student organizations are a great way to find your place at WVU with over 500 to choose from: [http://bit.ly/2xUyBJF](http://bit.ly/2xUyBJF). In the latest edition of *Gee Mail*, President Gee “goes clubbing” (not that kind, Mom and Dad!) and checks out some of these great clubs [http://bit.ly/2gUdQ6o](http://bit.ly/2gUdQ6o). So happy fall from campus, everyone! Read on to get caught up and if you are on campus this next week, enjoy some of the various fall celebrations! In this edition:

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- Mountaineer Week – October 20-29
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- Festival of Ideas Speakers Series kicks off October 27
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PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

Last chance to give feedback on Fall Family Weekend

We hope that you enjoyed Fall Family Weekend last month and we want your feedback! Even if you weren’t able to attend, we want to hear from you. http://bit.ly/2xXgi5M. Each year we do our best to plan events for the whole family so please take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts and experiences. Thanks in advance for your feedback.

Mountaineer Parents Club Bus reminder and cancellation deadline – November 2

Interested in the Parents Club buses for Thanksgiving? Make your reservations soon! Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; Philadelphia, PA and Highland, NY, for those living in the Connecticut, New York and New England
The deadline to cancel a reservation for one of these destinations is November 2, 2017.

The Long Island, NY and Central Maryland local Mountaineer Parents Club chapters also offer buses to their areas. (The Northern Virginia and Southern New Jersey buses are now sold out.) For information on making reservations or to review the schedules and details, please go to http://bit.ly/2yGUzii. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken. Tickets are not issued. Students names will be added to the boarding list for each bus. Look for the Winter Break bus information to be posted in mid-November.

Parents Club Question of the Month

The October Question of the Month is posted. Visit our website to answer the question about your student's major: http://bit.ly/2yXRuf0.

Mountaineer National Day tomorrow, October 21 – register your game watch!

Parents – Join Mountaineers across the globe on October 21 to cheer on the gold and blue as we take on Baylor during Mountaineer Nation Day tomorrow. #WVUMND is a 24-hour period dedicated for fans to show their pride and passion for WVU. Help us show the world how big Mountaineer Nation is by registering your watch party at http://bit.ly/1rjyS9b. By registering, you will be entered to win a WVU prize pack including an exclusive Mountaineer Nation Day shirt and headwear from Top of the World. You’ll also receive a 15% discount at http://bit.ly/2fcMzwJ and 50% off your Papa John’s order when ordering online from participating stores. Visit http://bit.ly/2gxIkOw to learn more.

WHAT’S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

Balloon Festival – October 19-22 – Tell your students to keep their eyes up these next few mornings and evenings as hot air balloons take to the skies from the Morgantown Airport as part of the Balloon Festival: http://bit.ly/2gqSsFn

Mountaineer Week – October 20-29 – This year WVU Mountaineer Week is celebrating its 70th year on campus with fun activities from PRT crams to arts and craft festivals to kettle corn and pumpkin regattas: http://bit.ly/2yDm0Yg

Last Day to Drop individual Classes – October 24 – Students should first consult an advisor: http://bit.ly/2xUKTl1

Pumpkin Drop – October 27 – Beware of falling pumpkins as the annual WVU Pumpkin Drop brings students from throughout the region to campus next week to test their young engineering skills by launching their creations (pumpkin included) from the Engineering Sciences Building. http://bit.ly/2yDLhlu
Next Festival of Ideas Speakers – October 27 and November 2 – This lecture series is open to the WVU community and beyond and brings news-makers, public figures, and thought leaders as well as WVU’s own superstars to campus to engage and learn: http://bit.ly/2gUoJFo

File 2018-19 FAFSA by October 31 – students who file by October 31st have up to three chances to win a scholarship: http://bit.ly/2e6a4Y4

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

May Commencement Schedule Now Available

To help you plan, the schedule for the commencement ceremonies for each WVU school and college was just released. Ceremonies will take place May 11-13, 2018: http://bit.ly/2gUpka6. Further details will be posted in the coming months, so check back and continue to monitor Parent E-Newsletters closer to time.

Spring Health Insurance Waiver – Available October 23 – January 2

NOTE: Students with an approved waiver on file from fall of 2017 have opted out of the WVU Aetna student health insurance plan for the entire 2017-2018 academic year and do not need to complete this spring waiver. Others, mark your calendars: the spring 2018 student health insurance waiver will open at http://bit.ly/119XdfW on Monday, October 23rd, with a deadline for completion of January 2nd. Eligible students http://bit.ly/2yCWCn7 without an approved student health insurance waiver on file will be automatically enrolled in the WVU Aetna student health insurance plan at a cost of $912 per term, assessed to the student’s account. For more information about the WVU Aetna student health insurance plan, view the 2017-18 WVU Aetna Plan Summary http://bit.ly/2gVfB32. Contact the WVU Student Insurance Office at sio@mail.wvu.edu with questions or concerns, or for assistance completing the student health insurance waiver.

WVU Bookstore Sales

Parents – this is a great time to start your holiday shopping. Check out these upcoming sales at the WVU Bookstore. All these deals are available in store and online at http://bit.ly/1lRRzze. Please Note - the sale information will appear online on the dates noted below:

Tuesday, October 24th - Thursday, October 26th – As the weather changes, fleece can make a great holiday gift. 25% Off ALL Fleece

Monday, October 30th through Thursday Nov. 2nd – Take advantage of 25% Off Sale of all Nike product
Monday, November 6th through Thursday, November 9th – Buy One Champion product, Get One at 50% OFF


The WVU Bookstore is here to help you through your student’s journey, in the classroom and on campus. For emails that include everything you need to know about textbooks, supplies, & more, sign up at http://bit.ly/2f2JT55. Shop with confidence and trust as the WVU Bookstores are proud to give $1.5 million each year to West Virginia University in the form of non-athletic student scholarships. *Sorry, discounts cannot be combined.

Flu shots clinics remain

Students can go to Student Health http://bit.ly/2hiSDSS during normal business hours (7:45 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 9:45 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays – except home football games) to receive a flu shot without an appointment. Students need to bring their student ID and insurance card: http://bit.ly/2fbe8EJ. Student Health will also be offering the following outreach Flu Shot Clinics across campus:

- Tuesday, October 24, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Mountainlair, Vandalia Lounge
- Monday, October 30, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Health Sciences, Room John Jones C
- Tuesday, November 7, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Law School, Event Hall

HOUSING CONVERSATIONS

Leasing 101 – Helpful Tips and Reminders

Every year we have parents who say, we wish we would have known… Please take the time to read to help you and your student avoid challenges next year. While 2018-19 leasing season in Morgantown begins during the fall semester, staff members from WVU Student Legal Services http://bit.ly/2zoUjSj and the Off-Campus Housing Office http://bit.ly/1xKgZYV would like to remind students and parents of the risks of signing a lease too early as well as other helpful reminders and tips to review with your student before he or she signs on the dotted line to avoid common pitfalls:

- **Plenty of Inventory:** While many landlords and property managers will tell students that they must sign early, in reality there is a healthy supply of housing. Students should wait until they and their roommates have at least one semester of grades and experience before signing a lease for next year.
- **Legally Binding:** Leases are *legally binding* contracts. After signing a lease – no matter what happens to their status as a student (not returning, academic suspension, etc.) – students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period. Thus, students should not sign leases unless they are certain they and their roommates are returning to WVU next year.

- **Roommates Matter:** Consider a roommate’s progress, too. Also, will you still be best friends with the person you met just ten weeks ago in ten months when your new lease starts? Many leases in the Morgantown area are joint leases, so a potential pitfall is signing a lease with a student who will not return for next year or who you don’t know very well. What are your rights? You might also ask about roommate matching options and how that works.

- **What are the terms of the lease? Read the Fine Print:** It is boring but important! What are the lease start and end dates? What is the early termination clause? For those graduating in May or December, or those considering study abroad or co-ops - are short term leases available? Check if there is an option for subletting or early termination and what this entails.

- **Have Your Lease Reviewed:** Before they sign, all students can have a free lease review performed by Student Legal Services. It is important for them to understand the legal document they are about to sign. To schedule a review, call 304-293-4897 for an appointment. ([http://bit.ly/2zoUjSj](http://bit.ly/2zoUjSj)).

- **Develop a budget:** How much can your student really afford? Are utilities included? Is bus service available or can they walk to campus? Will they have to pay for parking at the apartment? On campus? Also, students should remember to include the cost of food. Upperclassmen meal plans are available for those living off campus ([http://bit.ly/2cc6Fqs](http://bit.ly/2cc6Fqs)) but this is also important to figure into the bottom line.

- **Attend an Off-Campus Housing Fair:** Not sure where to start or what is available? How much is too much for rent? Students can drop in to meet landlords, check out housing options, shop around, ask questions, and educate themselves about the process. Encourage your student to mark their calendars (and/or mark yours to come check out the market and options) ([http://bit.ly/1xKgZYV](http://bit.ly/1xKgZYV)):
  - Downtown Housing Fair: Wednesday, November 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms
  - Evansdale Housing Fair: Saturday, January 20, noon to 3 p.m., ERC Blue and Gold Rooms
University Apartments

As your students begin exploring living options for next academic year, keep in mind that University Apartments offers four properties managed and operated by WVU: University Place, University Park, College Park and Vandalia. These properties offer a secure and independent living environment with the freedom of 24-hour access all-year long. At University Apartments, there are no resident assistants. Instead, our community assistants and property managers are available to the residents when needed and help create a live-learn environment for our WVU students. All utilities are included at each property and financial aid can be applied to your student’s rent if they choose to do so.

Open leasing will begin November 1st and staff members will be on-site at all the properties to provide tours and answer any leasing questions or concerns you or your student may have. For more information, visit our website http://bit.ly/1DUWA5f or contact us at 304-293-5840. We will also be available at our University Apartment Housing Fairs from 10am-4pm on Monday, November 6th in Evansdale Residential Complex Blue and Gold Rooms and Wednesday, November 8th in the Mountainlair Vandalia Lounge. Also we will have representation at the Off-Campus Housing Fairs Downtown Housing Fairs Wednesday, November 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms, Evansdale Housing Fair: Saturday, January 20, noon to 3 p.m., ERC Blue and Gold Rooms. Encourage your students to stop by and see us!

A limited number of short-term leases are also available through University Apartments. Students should inquire about these options prior to signing any leases. In conjunction with the WVU Offices of Off-Campus Housing and Student Legal Services, we remind students and parents that all leases are legally binding contracts and after signing a lease, students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period.

Returning Student Residence Hall Housing

Housing and Residence Life anticipates a limited number of upperclassmen spaces available for returning students in our residence halls. Information and updates will be sent to students in November to explain how to apply, pay their deposit online, and choose their room in the selection process: http://bit.ly/2gz2t6S.

SPRING ADVISING AND REGISTRATION

Advising

With spring registration dates quickly approaching, this is a good time to touch base with your student to make sure they have scheduled for or already had their advising appointment. During this time they will meet with their academic adviser to plan spring (and summer, if necessary) classes. Students must complete this meeting before their advising hold will be removed so they will be able to register for spring classes on their STAR Registration Priority
Date listed below. Students should also be sure to check their online DegreeWorks graduation audit before their advising appointment to plan ahead: http://bit.ly/2ipMGYA

Holds

In addition to the advising hold that will be lifted after the student’s advising appointment, students should check the WVU Portal http://bit.ly/2fbdrLr to ensure they do not have any other holds pending on their records. Holds can prevent students from registering for classes on time and can exist for a variety of reasons. Allowing enough time to check for these and resolve any matters in advance of their course registration date is important.

Class Registration (spring/summer)

Registration classifications are based on hours earned and hours in progress for Fall 2017 term. Students should check their individual classification and be prepared to register on time: http://bit.ly/1ycPaJz. Students will be able to log on to register beginning at 8 a.m. each day:

- **Oct. 25** – Professional, Graduate, Honors-SR, and Exceptions, Law-L3
  - **Oct. 26** – Honors-JR, Law-L2
  - **Oct. 27** – Honors-SO, Law-L1
  - **Oct. 30** – Honors-FR
  - **Oct. 31** – Seniors (89+ hours)
  - **Nov. 2** – Juniors (59 – 88 hours)
  - **Nov. 6** – Sophomores (29 – 58 hours)
  - **Nov. 8** – Freshmen (0 – 28 hours)

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University