

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
April 25, 2016

As another academic year prepares to draw to a close, this is a great chance to say thank you for all you do. You often take the journey from the sidelines with your student. Thanks for the coaching, the reminders and the support you impart to your students. It truly takes a village, and we are glad you are part of the Mountaineer Family!

This edition of Parent E-News includes residence hall closing details and Blue and Gold Mine collections/sale info. Also, you will find important dates for the upcoming 2016-17 school year, updates on graduation, finals and financial aid exit counseling reminders.

Finally, check out the *Mountaineers Go First* section. It highlights some amazing accolades from the past month, including Mountaineers who have won a Pulitzer Prize or been named as one of Time's 2016 100 most influential people in the world. Your student is on their own path to greatness as they head toward graduation – last weekend I spoke with one of our 2016 graduating seniors. She received a job offer last fall from a highly competitive international company and had just received her job relocation information that would determine where our country roads will lead her after graduation!

Whether you are the parent of an incoming freshman, a rising sophomore, junior or a senior, or if you are the parent of a soon-to-be graduate, it is exciting to consider what the next chapters of their lives will hold. What discoveries, recognitions, or breakthroughs will they make? The future is bright! In this edition:

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PARENTS CLUB

Question of the Month

We have already heard from many of you but if you haven't yet, please take a moment to answer the April Question of the Month: let us know what plans your student has for the summer (<http://bit.ly/23bP8SO>). We'll be sharing these responses in the next Parent E-News.

END-OF-YEAR INFO

Bookstore Reminders

Spring semester rental book returns – If your student rented textbooks this spring, the books are due back to the store from which they were originally rented by May 6 (end of finals week). Since the due date coincides with the end of finals week, we simply tell students to visit the store before they pack up and leave for the summer.

Bookstore Buyback \$\$\$ – the best time to sell books to the WVU Bookstore is April 25-May 6.

25% Off T-shirt sale! – April 26, 27 and 28 (Tuesday-Thursday). Shop in our local stores or online at <http://bit.ly/1SQRqfD>.

Blue and Gold Mine Sale Collections Begin May 2, Sale May 14

Give it up for good. That's a saying that holds true on campus around this time every year. While students begin packing up their living space, they may donate any unwanted household items to the Blue and Gold Mine Sale. Acceptable items include but are not limited to furniture, clothing, appliances, décor, sporting equipment and electronics. This twelfth annual sale is focused on keeping the community clean, keeping usable items out of landfill and raising money for the United Way of Monongalia and Preston counties. From May 2-11, students may drop off donations to any of the designated collection stations, including all WVU residence halls, Chateau Royale, at the top of Falling Run Road, the Seneca Center and Grant Avenue. <http://bit.ly/1MTBaxy>. Due to football stadium renovations, this year's sale will be held at the Hazel and J.W. Ruby Community Center in Mylan Park on May 14, from 7 a.m. to noon. <http://bit.ly/1MHxKwW>

Residence Halls Close May 7 at 5:00 p.m.

As a reminder, residence halls close Saturday, May 7 at 5 p.m.; students are expected to vacate the residence halls within 24 hours of their last exam or by May 7 at 5 p.m. (whichever comes first). Be sure to ask your student when his or her last final exam is for spring. The official finals schedule can be found at <http://bit.ly/1MZdalV>.

Students who anticipate difficulty in meeting the departure time due to academic reasons should contact their residence hall director no later than one week prior to the closing date to see if alternate arrangements can be made: <http://bit.ly/1L74eOY>.

Also, students have been given details on what to expect during move-out; official move-out procedures can be found at <http://bit.ly/1ruWAYk>.

Storage Facilities

Parents often ask about local storage facilities. There are many available, but they become scarcer during this time of the year. Our best advice to find what fits your needs (size, climate-controlled, location, price, etc.) is to do a broad search online for the Morgantown area. You can find contact info and take a look at reviews. The Office of Student Life also offers a list in their FAQ listing (but not an endorsement) that can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1pySgpf>.

Additionally, remind your student that Zipcars are available on campus; students can rent a car by the hour. <http://bit.ly/1DaGLrc>

Dining Plan Reminders

As the semester winds down, WVU Dining has a few reminders for you and your student:

- All parts of your student's WVU Dining Plan will expire at the semester's end. The last meal we will serve for the semester will be breakfast on Saturday, May 7. After breakfast, all Dining Plan swipes and Dining Dollars will expire. Students can use leftover Dining Dollars at all WVU Dining outlets. The Lyon's Den convenience store located in the Evansdale Residential Complex also offers the opportunity to use Dining Dollars to purchase personal items, cases of favorite beverages, toiletries and other apartment necessities for next year. <http://bit.ly/1TteaEZ>
- Summer Dining Plans will become available for purchase on May 10. If your student is taking a summer class, visit <http://bit.ly/1VUcN5A> for more info.
- For upperclassmen living off campus, dining plan information for fall 2016 and spring 2017 will be announced soon. WVU Dining offers two non-resident Dining Plans for students who live off campus. <http://bit.ly/1VUcN5A>
- Questions? Feel free to email us at dining@mail.wvu.edu or call us at 304-293-2096. It's been a pleasure to serve your students this year, and we hope you all have excellent summers.

Student Health and Health Insurance Reminders

Students who purchased the Aetna health insurance policy the spring term – even soon-to-be graduates – should note that their policy runs throughout the summer months until August 10: <http://bit.ly/1Ttei7q>. Also, WVU Medicine Student Health Service and the Mountaineer Pharmacy will remain open throughout the summer months and welcome students to stop in for their healthcare needs: <http://bit.ly/1I3YUHe>.

FINALS PREP

The end of the semester is upon us. Finals week runs from May 2-7: <http://bit.ly/1MZdaIV>. Listed below are a few resources to help your student finish the semester strong.

We have a host of **Fun Before Finals** events scheduled across campus to help students de-stress. Activities range from Pet a Pup to playing mini-golf in Woodburn Circle. Remind your students to check these out in between their studies to help keep the stress levels low: <http://bit.ly/1rdeONH>.

Academic Resource Centers and other learning and tutoring centers across campus will be open and working with students to prepare. We remind students not to wait until the last minute to study and prep for final exams! <http://bit.ly/1Gn6MnW>

Starting this past weekend, the Downtown Library began **24-hour study hours** that will last through finals week. <http://bit.ly/1XSDi9g>. The Evansdale Library generally remains open 24 hours-a-day throughout the spring and fall terms: <http://bit.ly/1VUcQOM>. Libraries are a great place to study for finals. Now is the time to start!

We want all students to remain enrolled and in good standing at WVU, but we also understand that sometimes students need to completely withdraw from a semester. Before your student makes any changes to their schedule, if your student is considering a withdrawal from the current term, please encourage them to discuss their options with an academic adviser, a professor, a residence hall coordinator, a financial aid counselor or another WVU staff member. Students can also call the Student Life Office of Student Success Programs at 304-293-5804. **The last day to withdraw from this semester is Thursday, April 28.**

GRADUATION

Graduation Updates

Graduation is just a few weeks away, and you should have received updates and reminders via e-mail and snail mail. There have been a few minor schedule and location changes, webcasting of the ceremonies has been announced (so families and friends who can't join in person can watch online) and Mountaineer Send-off locations and times have been confirmed. Graduates and their families are invited to the Erikson Alumni Center for the Mountaineer Send-offs before or after their ceremonies throughout the weekend. Stop by from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There will be food, giveaways, music, photos and other fun activities to commemorate the day. Also, lodging options still remain for families at Lincoln Hall. Links and details can be found at <http://bit.ly/1MTCP6u>.

FINANCIAL

Exit Counseling Required for Those with Loans

Students who are graduating, transferring, or no longer enrolled at least half-time who have borrowed federal student loans must complete the loan exit counseling process online. Emails from the Financial Aid Office were recently sent to graduating students that included exit counseling instructions.

Exit counseling helps students through the important transition to loan repayment. To better understand loan repayment options, we highly encourage students to come to the Financial Aid Office for personalized exit counseling (<http://bit.ly/1aW7ltH>). Questions? Contact the Mountaineer Hub at finaid@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-1988. Follow us on social media for tips and reminders on Facebook (WVU Financial Aid) and Twitter (@WVUFinancialAid)

Summer Payments

If your student will be taking summer classes at WVU, summer bills are now available on his or her STAR account. Classes have various start times throughout the summer. Full payment is required before the class begins. <http://bit.ly/1qgEfHA>

2016-17 IMPORTANT DATES

Fall 2016

Monday, June 6	Fall 2016 student insurance waiver available online
Tuesday, July 5	Online fall billing statement available
Wednesday, July 27	Fall 2016 student insurance waiver due date
Wednesday, July 27	Fall payment due date
Wednesday, August 17	First day of fall classes
Monday, September 5	Labor Day recess
Friday, Oct. 7 – Sunday, Oct. 9	Fall Family Weekend
Tuesday, November 8	Election Day recess
Saturday, Nov. 19 – Sunday, Nov. 27	*Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday, December 7	Prep day for finals recess
Thursday, Dec. 8 – Wednesday, Dec. 14	Finals Week
Friday, December 16	December 2016 Commencement
Thursday, Dec. 15 – Sunday, Jan. 8	*Winter Break

Spring 2017

Monday, January 9	First day of spring classes
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King Birthday recess
Saturday, March 4 – Sunday, March 12	*Spring Break
Friday, April 14	Friday before Easter recess
Monday, May 1 – Friday, May 5	Finals Week
Friday, May 12 – Sunday, May 14	May 2017 Commencement Weekend

*During these breaks, our WVU Residence Halls will be closed.

MOUNTAINEERS GO FIRST

It is more than just a statement. Every day amazing WVU students, alumni, faculty and staff are leading the way, winning Pulitzer Prizes, being named as national champions or as one of Time's 100 most influential people in the world. We invite you to help spread the word about all of the great things going on and how Mountaineers are going first!

- **R1 TOP CARNEGIE RESEARCH CLASSIFICATION:** Our ranking of “highest research activity,” a classification by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning, is shared by only 114 other universities, including the likes of Yale, Duke and Johns Hopkins, authenticating WVU's quality on the global stage. President Gee talks about this here: <http://bit.ly/1pyTiS4>
- **ALUMNA WINS PULITZER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE:** She describes herself on Twitter as “Asia medical writer and Indonesia bureau chief for The Associated Press. Proud Mountain Mama.” Now WVU Reed College of Media alumna Margie Mason can add Pulitzer Prize-winner. <http://bit.ly/1Wmiatj>
- **TIME'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD:** West Virginia University engineer Dan Carder, who led the research team that broke open the Volkswagen emissions scandal, has been named to the 2016 Time 100, the magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world. <http://bit.ly/1T9J2b1>
- **SECOND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:** On a blustery day in a large, open field in Manhattan, Kansas, a Flying WV flag waved proudly in the air. Near the flagpole, the WVU Soils Team surveyed the ground beneath its feet in preparation for the 2016 National Collegiate Soils Contest they would go on to win. <http://bit.ly/1Nu5TBo>
- **INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM:** A senior project led to third- and sixth-place international finishes for our robotics teams. <http://bit.ly/1Vy49K5>

- **SENIOR SCHOLARS:** WVU's most prestigious student honor recognizes eight students who are first in their class in contributions and achievements in scholarship, leadership and service as Order of Augusta Scholars, chosen from our 42 Outstanding Seniors. <http://bit.ly/1Sv8iZz>
- **HIGH ACHIEVEING INCOMING FRESHMEN:** The newest class of Bucklew Scholars is made of tireless workers, curious explorers and analytical thinkers, bound by a love of their home state and a fierce determination to make a difference in the world. <http://bit.ly/1QxofMq>

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