Fall brings cooler weather and many traditional, as well as unique, activities to campus. Over the next few days, we’ll see hot air balloons rise during Balloons Over Morgantown, Mountaineer Week will feature a Beard Growing Contest, and local students will create their best apparatus to defy gravity at the Annual Pumpkin Drop. (Check out Other Campus News and Upcoming Events below for more!)

With Halloween just around the corner, costume design is sure to be on the mind of your Mountaineer. As a parent or guardian of “Batman” or “Wonder Woman,” we ask you to please take a moment and remind your student that while superheroes aren’t typically written up for making poor decisions, students can be. Encourage them to make smart decisions as they are choosing their costumes and making memories. Remind them to watch out for their friends and ask their friends to watch out for them. Using the LiveSafe app that includes the SafeWalk feature is a good way to navigate campus on Halloween and throughout the year – they can find this to download and other safety resources on our Safety Website.

Also a timely reminder that priority class registration dates for spring and summer classes start next week so students should have cleared any holds and also met with their academic advisor prior to these dates to discuss course progress and be prepared to register on their date. Spring payment plans will also be opening Nov. 1 and after class registrations, spring bills will officially come out and be due by Jan. 6 – see NEW IMPORTANT DATES: FINANCIAL AID, BILLING AND PAYMENTS. Though it seems early, this is also the time that you will likely start to hear about housing choices and leases for next year. More to help guide this conversation follows under FEATURED ARTICLES: HOUSING CONVERSATIONS FOR 2020-21 so you are ready with resources and a timeline and tips to avoid common pitfalls.

In the spirit of the holiday, let us hear from you – reply back (or send a picture!) and let us know your favorite Halloween costume or favorite thing you dressed your student up as through the years. (You are also always welcome to reply with any questions - responses won’t go to the whole listserv – just me.) Happy Fall Y’all! In this edition:

PARENTS CLUB NEWS
- Thanksgiving Break Mountaineer Parents Club buses – cancelation deadline is Nov. 7

NEW IMPORTANT DATES: FINANCIAL AID, BILLING AND PAYMENTS
- Submit 2020-2021 FAFSA by Oct. 31 for chance at a $1,000 Scholarship
- Spring Payment Plans Available Nov. 1

FEATURED ARTICLES: HOUSING CONVERSATIONS FOR 2020-21
- Leasing 101 – Helpful Tips and Reminders
- University Apartments
- Returning Student Residence Hall Housing
- Residence Hall Resident Assistant Recruiting – Deadline Dec. 9
HEALTH AND WELLNESS UPDATES
- REMINDEER: Flu shots and Flu Clinics remain
- NEW: Crisis Text Line now available

OTHER CAMPUS NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS (check out other updates and deadlines noted here!)

PARENTS CLUB NEWS
Thanksgiving Break Mountaineer Parents Club buses – cancelation deadline is Nov. 7
Reservations for the Parents Club buses for Thanksgiving break are still underway! Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA; and one to Highland, NY, for those in the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. Remember, the deadline to cancel these reservations is Nov. 7.

The Northern Virginia, Southern New Jersey, Central Maryland and Long Island local Mountaineer Parents Clubs also offer buses to their areas. The Northern Virginia and Southern New Jersey buses are almost full, so make your plans soon. New for this year, the New England Mountaineer Parents Club is also planning a bus to Springfield, MA. For online reservations or to review all schedules and details, please go to http://bit.ly/MPCBuses. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken.

NEW IMPORTANT DATES: FINANCIAL AID, BILLING AND PAYMENTS
Submit 2020-2021 FAFSA by Oct. 31 for chance at a $1,000 Scholarship
The 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available for next year. Download the myStudentAid app from the Apple Store or Google Play to submit your FAFSA right from your phone. Students can also submit their FAFSA online here. Why should you do your FAFSA now for next fall?

1. Students will automatically be entered for a chance to win up to $1,000 in scholarship money! We have doubled the number of drawings we’re doing this year to give free money to even more students! Submit between October 1 - October 31 = two $1,000 scholarship drawings. Submit between October 1 - November 30 = two $500 scholarship drawings. Submit between October 1 - December 31 = two $250 scholarship drawings. Students who submit a FASFA in October have SIX chances to win a scholarship. Students who submit their FAFSA in November will be entered into four drawings, and those who submit in December will have two chances to win.

2. Some aid is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students.

3. Students and families must use 2018 tax information for the 2020-2021 FAFSA, so you do not need to wait for your 2019 taxes.

4. To make the tax part even easier, you may be able to automatically pull your and your student’s tax information into the FAFSA from the IRS!

5. Students can get their financial aid offer as early as February.

Questions? Students can come to the Mountaineer Hub at Evansdale Crossing for one-on-one FAFSA assistance. We are here to help!
Spring Payment Plans Available Nov. 1
Spring payment plans via CashNet will be available on November 1. Signing up for a tuition payment plan is a great way to manage your budget, as it allows you to make smaller installments over a longer period of time. If you sign up by November 30, you can make six monthly installments. The earlier you sign up, the more time you have to pay! See the key spring billing dates below for other important payment plan dates.

Please note that the first installment plus the enrollment fee of $35 will be due when your student signs up for a plan. Even though your student’s charges won’t show until mid-November, they can still sign up for the plan. They can estimate for spring based on their fall 2019 bill. If needed, they can adjust the plan once their spring 2020 charges are available. If you have questions about billing, aid or payment options, please contact the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988. Click here to stay updated on important spring payment messages or for more information. Key spring billing dates follow:

Nov. 1 – Payment plan opens for spring
Nov. 13 (on or around) – For students who have registered for spring, spring 2020 charges will be available online in the student’s WVU Portal and the Parent/Guest Portal (if your student has granted you that access). The portals will show charges, authorized aid and amount due.
Nov. 30 – Last day to sign up for the six-month option for the payment plan
Dec. 4 – First round of spring 2020 eBills will be sent to students’ MIX email for students who owe a balance (due January 6)
Dec. 31 – Last day to sign up for the five-month option for the payment plan
Jan. 3 – Financial aid for spring 2020 will disburse according to federal guidelines 10 days before classes start
Jan. 6 – Payment due or students must be enrolled in a payment plan by this date (for students who received an eBill in December)
Jan. 7 – A 2.25% late fee will be assessed for those who have not paid their eBill from December down to less than $200, signed up for a payment plan to cover their balance or do not have sufficient financial aid to cover their balance
Jan. 13 – First day of classes
Jan. 31 – Last day to sign up for the four-month option for the payment plan

FEATURED ARTICLES: HOUSING CONVERSATIONS FOR 2020-21
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 2019-20 leasing season in Morgantown begins during the fall semester, staff members from WVU Student Legal Services and the Off-Campus Housing Office 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 WVU 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.

- **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. **Off Campus Meal Plans** will also be available for those living off campus. 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 plan to drop by (and/or mark your calendar to come check out the market and options) at one of the **Off-Campus Housing Office Housing Fairs**:
  - Downtown Housing Fair, Mountainlair Ballrooms, Wed., Nov. 20 from 10 AM to 3 PM
  - Evansdale Housing Fair, ERC/Towers Blue and Gold Rooms, Sat., Jan. 18 from noon to 3 PM

**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. All utilities are included at each property and all payments and charges are processed through your student’s account.

Open leasing will begin Nov. 1 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 or contact us at 304-293-5840. We will also be available at our University Apartment Housing Fairs from 12pm-5pm on Nov. 11 and 12 in the Mountainlair. Also we will have representation at the Off-Campus Housing Fairs noted above.

A limited number of short-term housing, family housing, and ADA units are 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**

Is your student interested in remaining in a residence hall next year? That is an option too and the good news is we want your student back! Besides being in the most convenient locations, residence halls are designed to help students succeed. Students living in residence halls typically have higher GPAs and are more likely to return for their next year of college. We take care of the details — meals, security, cleaning, maintenance, etc. — while students focus on academics and career development.

Because we know that extra space is important to many students, we will offer a limited number of double rooms as singles in the Evansdale Residential Complex (Towers) to students returning to a residence hall. Twice the space and the convenience of residence hall living! And payment is convenient as well — your student (or you) can pay all expenses through their WVU account. Our contracts run for the academic year only; meaning you will only pay for the time your student needs to live on campus.

So why bother with moving off campus? More information will be available in early November; we will communicate directly with your student via their MIX email account. It will be simple. And we’ll say, “Welcome Back!”

**Residence Hall Resident Assistant Recruiting – Deadline Dec. 9**

With Resident Assistant leadership on their resume, your student could be one step closer to acing their first job interview and landing the career of their dreams. Resident Assistants (RAs) are mentors, connectors, campus experts, and advocates. They are among the most important student leaders on campus. As an RA, your student will learn to lead, challenge themselves and hone critical thinking, time management, problem solving and communication skills. RAs have the chance to make a lasting impression on fellow students and make a mark on campus.

Before applying, students must attend an information session. [Click here](#) for more information about being an RA and the information session schedule (available October, November and early December). **Deadline to apply is Dec. 9, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.**

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS UPDATES**

**REMINDEER: Flu shots and Flu Clinics remain**

Outreach Flu Clinics are ongoing for the next few weeks. Students can also go to [Student Health](#) during normal business hours (8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays) to receive a flu shot — no appointment needed. Students need to bring their student ID and insurance card. The following outreach Flu Shot Clinics also remain across campus:

- Oct. 22 – Mountaineir Vandalia Lounge – 7:30 a – 3:00p
- Oct. 23 – Colson Hall Room 130 – 8:00a-1:00p
- Oct. 24 – Waterfront Place Room 6117 – 8:30a – 1:00p
- Oct. 31 – Health Sciences Center G285 C, John Jones Conf – 7:45a-11:45a
- Nov. 7 – Mountaineir Vandalia Lounge – 7:30a – 3:00p
Also, as a correction, here is the correct flu shot challenge link for your to help us try to win the Flu Shot Challenge by registering that you (and your family!) got your shots. The link sent in the last E-News was from last year. Our apologies!

**NEW: Crisis Text Line now available**
Parents, students now have access to a new Crisis Text Line. With Crisis Text Line students can reach out to a counselor any time, for any reason, for free, with no judgment. Knowing that texting is second nature to students, this allows them to reach out in a format that is comfortable and familiar. Please pass along this new resource and help make sure you student is aware of this new service and how it works in three quick steps. Step 1: Text WVU to 741741. Step 2: A trained Crisis Counselor will respond (83% in under 5 minutes.) Step 3: Crisis Counselor will help bring student from hot to cool moment and plan for future health and safety.

**OTHER CAMPUS NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**
- Bookstore Sales - available online and in-store – Oct. 21, 23-24 (see below)
- **NOTE:** AlcoholEdu Part 2 due for first-year students (including transfers under 21) – Oct. 22
- Graduate and Professionals School Fair – Oct. 22 and 23
- Global Chef Visit – Oct. 23-25 (see below)
- **Balloons Over Morgantown**– Oct. 24-27
- Annual Pumpkin Drop – Oct. 25
- Submit the 2020-21 FAFSA for six chances at scholarships – by Oct. 31 (see above)
- Spring Payment Plans open – Nov. 1
- Mountaineer Week – Nov. 1-9
- Day of Giving – Nov. 13 (see below)
- December Graduation Regalia, Diploma Frames – Order by Nov. 15 (see below)

**Bookstore Sales - available online and in-store** - Oct. 21, 23-24
Get 25% off all Fleece/Cold Weather Outerwear product through 10/21!
Get 30% Off Drinkware on 10/23 & 10/24

**Global Chef Visit – Oct. 23-25**
WVU Dining Services is pleased to host Global Chef Robert Janse, who will be bringing the flavors of The Netherlands to West Virginia University. As part of Dining Services’ continuing efforts to elevate and enhance the dining experience with unique offerings and educational and interactive experiences, the university will host a global chef for the second semester in a row.

Chef Janse is currently spending a one-month residency in the United States, visiting select cafes and dining halls and sharing his culinary experience as part of the Sodexo Global Chef program. This experience will allow Chef Janse, students, patrons, and our local culinary team to share authentic Dutch cuisine and culture. Chef Janse will come to the state Wednesday, Oct. 23, and educate WVU Dining Services’ chefs, cooks and food service workers on how traditional dishes in The Netherlands are prepared. The chefs will then prepare the food under his direction for two special lunches.
The first lunch will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 at Hatfields. The second lunch will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 at Café Evansdale. Both lunches promise to be an experience that shouldn’t be missed! For more information or questions, visit WVU Dining Services’ website, email dining@mail.wvu.edu, or call 304-293-3166.

**WVU Day of Giving – Nov. 13**

Parents: Join the WVU community on November 13, 2019 for the third annual WVU Day of Giving, a 24-hour online fundraising event. Last year, WVU Day of Giving generated over 3,000 gifts and raised more than $6,000,000. Check now with your companies and employers as many will match donations and be sure to check back closer to time to see the various challenges and other match opportunities! On WVU Day of Giving, you can donate to WVU to support the University’s greatest priorities and opportunities, as well as the greatest needs of your favorite school, college or department. To learn more, and to make a gift on November 13, visit our [Day of Giving website](#). #WVUDayofGiving

**December Graduation Regalia, Diploma Frames – Order by Nov. 15**

All caps and gowns, personalized announcements, diploma frames and college rings can be ordered online through the [WVU Bookstore](#). All cap, gown and frame orders need to be ordered by November 15th and can be picked up in the Downtown or Evansdale Bookstore (per your choice) starting December 9th. The cap and gown can also be shipped to the student's home for a $15.95 fee. The home-ship orders must be placed by November 25th. Diploma frames are not part of the home-ship program. There is no shipping fee on caps and gowns and diploma frames that are shipped to the WVU Downtown and Evansdale stores for pick-up. **Locations:** Downtown (Mountainlair), Evansdale Crossing (62 Morrill Way), WVU Law, and WVU HSC.

**State of the University: Gee builds on his five years at WVU to plan the University’s future**

The wisdom of the past, especially as articulated by Abraham Lincoln, provides a guidepost for the future, especially for the land-grant universities he signed into law, West Virginia University President Gordon Gee said Monday (Oct. 14) in his annual [State of the University address](#).