

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
February 10, 2017

Valentine's Day is next week, and we'd love to help you wish your student a surprise Happy Valentine's Day. Read below for more details and be sure to *send us a picture, your Valentine's message from home and your student's full name by Monday at 5 p.m.* Also be sure to remind your student to stop by so we can share it next Tuesday at our Parents Club Valentine's Day booth. In addition to upcoming Valentine's Day celebrations, this past week WVU turned 150! With such a big birthday, these celebrations will continue throughout the year. Check out our latest Gee Mail to celebrate the occasion: <http://bit.ly/2kY1Zra> and be sure to see the article below for a link to the full 150 birthday celebration website.

February is also a busy month so here are some key reminders for you and your student. If you have not done so already, this is the time for students to complete their 2017-18 FAFSA for next year before the quickly approaching March 1 deadline. In addition to the Graduation One-Stop Shops, February 13-15, the WVU Career Fair will be taking place next week on February 15 and 16 and the Study Abroad Fair on February 22. Be sure to check in to make sure that your students are studying and keeping up in classes, as midterm is just around the corner – and actually coincides with the first day of Spring Break this year – March 3. More on Spring Break transportation and parking options follow, so read on for more on this and other important news. Happy Valentine's Day, parents, and don't forget to send us your pictures and Valentines from Home. In this edition:

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PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

Valentines from Home!

Guess whose logo is a heart with a Flying WV in the middle? The Mountaineer Parents Club logo was designed to include a heart surrounding the Flying WV. Former WVU First Lady and founder of the Mountaineer Parents Club, Susan Hardesty, believed that while your students are at WVU, you always carry a piece of WVU in your heart.

With Valentine's Day coming up the Parents Club staff and our Flying WV Heart logo are taking to the Lair! Please send us a picture of you and your student along with their full name, and a Valentine's Day note by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 13! We will be in the Mountainlair Commons Area from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. on Valentine's Day and will display and share Valentines from Home with your students. So send us your pictures and notes and encourage your student to drop by.

Question of the Month

The January Question of the Month results are here. In response to the question "What social media tool do you use most?" the answer is overwhelmingly Facebook, at 95%! We have a few who Tweet (3%) and Snapchat (2%). If you are not already following us on Facebook, visit our page "WVU Mountaineer Parent Club" for the latest information. Log on today and answer our February Question of the Month: "How will your student be spending Spring Break?" <http://bit.ly/2l2nbfi>

SPRING BREAK NOTES: March 3-12

As a reminder, residence halls will be closing Friday, March 3 at 7 p.m. for Spring Break. They will reopen on Sunday, March 12 at noon: <http://bit.ly/2kR66Tj>. As your students make plans for break, here is some additional pieces of info.

Parents Club Spring Break Buses

Does your student need to make travel arrangements home? We have buses confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; Philadelphia, PA, and new this year, Highland, NY, to service the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. Local clubs are also sponsoring buses to Central Maryland, Northern Virginia, Long Island and Southern and Central New Jersey. The Mountaineer Parents Club Spring Break bus information, including times and locations, can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2kbpBbs>. February 16 is the last day to cancel for these buses and still receive a refund. Residence halls will close Friday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. and reopen on Sunday, March 12 at noon.

Other Spring Break Transportation Options

As a reminder, the Mountain Line Grey Line bus runs additional routes to the Pittsburgh Airport, Greyhound Station and Amtrak during the breaks when residence halls close, in addition to their two daily runs. Currently these are set to depart Morgantown (from three different locations) starting at 7:50 a.m., noon, 4 p.m., and 5:20 p.m. (and this last route actually picks up on campus at WVU Mountaineer Station as late as 5:40 p.m.). <http://bit.ly/2kY6Us3>.

Limited Spring Break Parking Available

Does your student need a place to park their car while they are away? Parking Management is offering students who are leaving campus for spring break the option to store their vehicle at Short Term 2 in the upper lot of the Mountainlair garage. Temporary student permits can be purchased for \$10, which covers March 3-12. To purchase a permit, students should visit Mountaineer Station, located at 1112 Van Voorhis Drive. If you have any questions, contact the WVU Parking Office at 304-293-5502. <http://bit.ly/1OF8ap3>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February is for FAFSA – Deadline March 1

This is the last month to complete the 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before the March 1 priority deadline! If students would like consideration for federal financial aid, they must complete a FAFSA each aid year at <http://bit.ly/2j94h3b>. It's important to file early.

1. **DEADLINES!** Most state aid programs and some scholarships require a FAFSA, and many have early deadlines. Some aid is limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. This includes Federal Work-Study, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and the Federal Perkins Loan.

2. **FASTER!** Students only need 2015 income information, so no need to wait for your 2016 taxes. And it only takes 15 to 20 minutes on average to complete the FAFSA (for continuing students).

3. **ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT!** Completing the FAFSA early means students get the best aid package available.

We anticipate financial aid award notifications will begin the first week of March to continuing students who have filed a FAFSA, do not have any unsatisfied requirements on STAR, and are meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements for financial aid eligibility.

Questions? Contact the WVU Mountaineer Hub at WVUHub@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-1988. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@WVUSFSS) for tips and reminders.

Final Call for McNair Scholar Applicants: Deadline February 15

The McNair Scholars Office needs your help: please encourage eligible students to apply for the WVU McNair Scholars program. The deadline has been extended to February 15 to allow eligible applicants to apply.

To be eligible, students must have demonstrated financial need and be the first in their family to go to college OR be a member of an underrepresented group, i.e., African American, Hispanic American, Native American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. They should be full-time sophomores, juniors or seniors (not graduating in May 2017) and must be committed to doctoral study. They should have a minimum 3.0 GPA and be available to participate in a paid research internship this summer. For information about the program, visit: <http://bit.ly/10rYVpF>.

Extra Support for Students Through Summer BOOST Program

Students who may have hit an academic road bump this year can apply for a special program designed to get them back on track. Students will enroll on-campus in the summer and have dedicated tutors, success coaches and academic skills workshops. Those who successfully complete their courses will be eligible for a summer stipend valued up to the 30 percent of University tuition. For eligibility and program details, visit <http://bit.ly/2kY4jyc>.

Happy 150 Birthday, WVU!

One hundred and fifty years ago this week, in a four-year old state, in a country healing from cataclysm, people looked to education to bind the wounds of division and open the door to a better future. On February 7, 1867, Gov. Arthur I. Boreman signed a bill creating the Agricultural College of West Virginia. From those humble beginnings, West Virginia University has grown into a premier research university, educating more than 30,000 students each year and driving innovation in alternative fuels, gravitational waves, the neurosciences and many other critical fields. As we kick off a yearlong celebration of WVU, we invite you to check out the new 150 Birthday website that highlights campus then-and-now fashion trends and upcoming events. <http://bit.ly/2kuO9Jd>

A Note from the President: WVU Supports and Assists all International Faculty and Students

President E. Gordon Gee sent the following out to the University community on Sunday, January 29: <http://bit.ly/2kXY0ea>. If you have or know of any students who need assistance or have questions, they should contact the Office of International Students and Scholars directly at 304-293-6112, <http://bit.ly/2kY7V3v>. We have a team of specialists who can help them navigate these complex issues and can connect them to extra resources if needed. Also, here is a link to an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education detailing how WVU has handled these recent developments. <http://bit.ly/2lxKR8b>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2017 Graduation One-Stop Shops: February 13-15

The Grad One-Stop Shop is scheduled for February 13-15 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for those planning to graduate in May. On February 13, this will be held at Evansdale Crossing in the fifth floor lobby and February 14-15 in the Mountainlair Commons area: <http://bit.ly/1Syczjt>. Students must apply to graduate by March 3: <http://bit.ly/1xlqTgR>. If your student is unable to make it to one of the Graduation One-Stop Shops, they can still order graduation items online: <http://bit.ly/1LuzSpZ>.

Career Services Hosting 100+ Employers at WVU Career and Internship Fair: February 15 and 16

The WVU Career and Internship is one week away — and Career Services is seeking your help to encourage student attendance! The event, which is open to students and alumni from all disciplines, will be held on February 15 and 16, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. The event will host over 100 employers from diverse industries, government agencies and nonprofits, including Gabe's, Highmark, the U.S. State Department and Volvo.

Complimentary professional head shots will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. both days. Strategies for effectively working career fairs, crafting great resumes and preparing for

interviews can be found at <http://bit.ly/1oGa9zh>. A complete list of participating employers can be found in MountaineerTRAK: <http://bit.ly/2kv2FkQ>. Professional attire REQUIRED.

Study Abroad Fair: February 22

If your student is considering studying abroad, encourage them to stop by the Study Abroad Fair to be held February 22 in the Mountainlair Commons from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Students will be able to speak with staff from the Education Abroad Office and get specific information from representatives about upcoming summer, faculty-led and semester-long exchanges. Summer trips can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2kBkn8d>. Students can attend an Education Abroad 101 Session for more info. These are offered twice a week. <http://bit.ly/2kuWBIF>

WELLNESS

Memory Journals

Is your student experiencing the loss of someone close to them? Journaling is a great way for a student to express their emotions. Dealing with grief and managing its impact are real. Let's face it: we all grieve differently. Through the help of a current student, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences faculty member and members of Student Life, the University is offering free journals and memory journal guidebooks to any student going through the grieving process. Please contact Associate Dean of Students Kim Mosby at Kim.Mosby@mail.wvu.edu for additional details and pickup locations. Any student who needs additional support should also know that the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services also welcomes students to call for an appointment 304-293-4431 or drop in for counseling services. <http://bit.ly/1s9DRub>

Wellness Workshop Series Kicks off February 14

The Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services is sponsoring drop-in Wellness Workshops throughout the spring semester. These will all take place in CPASS Room G06 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and are free to all students. Two new sessions have been added focusing on recovery and addiction in conjunction with the WVU Collegiate Recovery program. February sessions will be on February 14 (Love Someone! Life Saving with Naloxone) and February 28 (Stress and Anxiety Management). The full list of spring Wellness Workshops can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2cQXqZ9>. Encourage your student to attend.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University