



WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
<http://wvutoday.wvu.edu/spirit/>

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Make a Mountaineer 'connection' during Gator Bowl activities

BY JIM BISSETT AND BECKY LOFSTEAD

While the Mountaineers prepare for their Jan. 1 Gator Bowl matchup with the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in Jacksonville, Fla., University officials are preparing various ways for fans to "connect" with the University.

As is tradition, the focus of all WVU activities will be the Mountaineer Fan Center at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel — 225 East Coast Line Drive, near Jacksonville Landing — in the third floor Terrace Pavilion #1 ballrooms.

The center — dubbed "The Mountaineer Connection" — will operate from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30; and from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31.

Fans will be able to purchase WVU merchandise at Zide's Mountaineer Market both days, while enjoying visits by cheerleaders, the Mountaineer mascot and "Pride of West Virginia" Mountaineer Marching Band on the afternoon of the 31st. WVU souvenirs will also be distributed.

On game day, the venue will change to Alltel Stadium from 10 a.m.-noon so that fans can pick up bright gold "Flying WV" foam hand waves to take into the game.

'Where are you from?'

It all starts with the Mountaineer Connection Kiosk — the first thing fans will experience see upon entering the Fan Center. The kiosk asks fans their name, hometown and other information so WVU officials and fans can connect — or reconnect — with one another.

Connecting through a 'healthier U'

Fans can also get fit and have fun

by participating in Dance, Dance Revolution (DDR), an interactive video game that helps dance pounds and stress away while promoting physical activity. Fans need only step onto the "Flying WV" patterned mat and watch and follow highlighted patterns on the large video screen above.

WVU and the Public Employees Insurance Agency are collaborating on a nationally acclaimed study to determine the health benefits of playing DDR. The games have been incorporated into the public schools' physical education curriculum in the state, and the study has garnered national media attention. Linda Carson, the Ware Distinguished Professor in the School of Physical Education, is spearheading the research.

That is... 'The Question'

Nearby, fans can ponder "The Question." A unique project of WVU's Department of Philosophy, "The Question" is an exercise in critical thinking, primarily posed to youngsters, but in this case, fans, department chair Sharon Ryan said.

"We've asked kids questions ranging from 'When is war OK?' to 'Are NASCAR drivers athletes,'" she noted.

Some of the Gator queries: "What is your Mountaineer Connection?" "What is a team?" "What is a family?" "What is a friend?"

In addition to posting the question and some of the answers at the Fan Center, WVU will pose these same questions and some answers on its

bowl Web site:

<http://bowlgame.wvu.edu>



'I wondered what happened to you'

Another exhibit will allow

alumni to connect with other Mountaineers through an online community. Officials will be on hand to help them key in information to launch advanced technology searches to possibly track down that old roommate or fraternity brother.

Connecting WVU to the fans

Video highlights from the 10-2 football season, athletic memorabilia from the Hall of Traditions, a photo opportunity and other activities are also planned.

WVU families can also make connections at the Mountaineer Parents Club booth, where they can learn more about the organization and pick up free mini mascots with the club's unique heart logo.

Gator bites

■ Gator Bowl tickets are on sale through the Mountaineer Ticket Office. Prices range from \$50 to \$75. They may be ordered at the Mountaineer Ticket Office in the Coliseum, www.WVUGame.com or 1-800-WVU GAME.

■ Land and air packages through the Alumni Association/National Travel are at capacity. To get on a wait list, call 1-800-642-3603.

■ The Tamarack tourist attraction off Exit 45 at the I-64-77 interchange near Beckley will again serve as a Mountaineer "connection" for fans

driving to Jacksonville. Pick up free WVU gift items, a Beckley Register-Herald special bowl edition with WVU window banner, free refreshments and discounts on merchandise for fans wearing gold and blue from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 28-31 (except Dec. 31 when it closes at 5 p.m.).

■ The Alumni Association is selling the official Gator Bowl Patch to commemorate the Mountaineers' appearance in the bowl. The \$10 souvenir patch can be purchased by calling 1-866-WVU-ALUM or 293-4731 by Dec. 20 or stopping by the Erickson Alumni Center. The patch entitles fans admission to the Gator Bowl Tailgate Party at Alltel Stadium on game day, plus free items and discounts at participating Jacksonville restaurants and shops leading up to the game.

■ The city of Jacksonville has several events planned for New Year's Eve, including a pep rally at 1:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Landing and a parade featuring the Mountaineer Marching Band at 3 p.m. Visit www.coj.net for more.

■ Kickoff is 1 p.m. Jan. 1 at Alltel Stadium. CBS is carrying the contest nationally. Call the WVU Bowl Hotline at 304-293-4764 for updated information.

On the Intranet:

Dec. 12: Faculty Senate hears legislative budget request

Dec. 7: BB&T awards \$1.75 million gift to B&E

Updated daily!
<http://intranet.wvu.edu>

Don't be a grinch No one's a winner in 'blame game'

Have you ever been caught in a "blamestorm?" I have, and I can tell you — it's not pleasant.

You may have never heard of the word "blamestorming." It is like brainstorming, only instead of people getting together to exchange ideas freely and to solve problems, the group gets together to try to find someone to blame.

This might sound familiar to you. When something goes wrong or doesn't go as planned, it is often our first impulse to point the finger at someone who is at fault. We do this almost instinctively. It's common to hear a child say, "I didn't do it. They did it!" However, instead of ending with childhood, this behavior seems to have traveled with us into adulthood.

Even though it seems we live in a culture that gets in a frenzy over blaming, this type of behavior is not helpful in personal relationships, and it's also organizationally unhealthy. Instead of blamestorming, a better course of action is to accept personal responsibility and seek solutions.

It is often difficult to accept responsibility. We don't want to appear fallible, or worse, incompetent.

However, it is a mark of maturity and wisdom when we accept the con-

sequences of our actions. In personal relationships, this can mean saying "I'm sorry" and determining how to improve the situation. Professionally, this can mean apologizing in some instances or merely stating, "Well, my idea didn't work out. Where do we go from here?" in other instances.

Along with accepting responsibility for our words and actions, we should seek solutions. This behavior betters the situation, whereas blamestorming deteriorates it. The only way to recover when something has gone wrong is to come up with a new course of action. What's more, seeking solutions as a group restores our cooperative spirit.

As we review the past year, part of the assessment ought to be a personal assessment of the areas in which we need to improve individually and resolve to overcome in the future.

This article may have struck a chord with some of us. If we have been involved in blamestorming, now is the time to recognize this behavior and improve on it. Instead of blamestorming, let's resolve in the new year to accept personal responsibility and seek solutions. These behaviors will help us improve personally and collectively.



Jennifer McIntosh

**JUST
SOCIAL
JUSTICE**

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My holiday wish list

Regardless of weather, holiday time has rolled around once again, and I've been developing my wish list.

Betty Miller — retired from the Department of Mathematics, where she was a beloved teacher of calculus for 36 years, and rehired as a 90-day "Gal Friday" in Stewart Hall some 14 years ago — plans to retire again in January. My wish is that she would stick around for a bit longer. After all, what would she do with all of that free time?

Aerobics at the Village at Heritage Point? Feed her addiction to ESPN?

I wish everyone would pick up their trash and place it in the proper receptacles instead of dropping it on University property. Litter on the Stewart Hall lawn and on the walk leading to the Mountainlair makes us look bad. Let's all have pride in our surroundings and respect the work of those whose jobs it is to keep the place looking great.

Speaking of which, I always try to say thank you to those keeping our "Home Among the Hills" looking picture perfect. I wish others would as well.

I wish everyone would take some time to visit the Downtown Library Complex and appreciate what we have in that facility. Have a coffee at Eliza's and read around in the new books on display, take in the view across the river to Westover

from the sixth floor, or relax in one of those wonderful chairs in the Robinson Reading Room in old Wise. I love the place and wish I could share it with others.

I wish the Mountaineers a big win in the Gator Bowl. Go 'Eers. I'd bet on a WVU engineer rather than a "rambling wreck from Georgia Tech" any day.

I wish John Beilein and our young basketball team an exciting season that exceeds expectations.

I wish our institution snags the very best new president for this place and time.

President David Hardesty and his wife, Susan, cannot be replaced. I wish them the best of everything in their new private lives.

I wish my Stewart Hall Weight Watchers group a new year where we see less and less of each other.

I wish Jen Fisher, President Hardesty's chief of staff, would stop razzing me about wearing my green pantsuit. (It's not really Marshall green.)

I wish all students would recognize the enviable opportunities they have here at WVU and not jeopardize their academic careers and future lives by making bad choices.

I wish all members of the University community good health and happiness in 2007.

I wish, above all, peace on earth. Happy holidays.



Cheryl Torsney

**IT'S
ALL
ACADEMIC**

The Spirit staff wishes you a happy holiday season. The next issue will be published Thursday, Jan. 11. Deadline for submissions is noon Monday, Jan. 8.

In the meantime, check the Intranet (<http://intranet.wvu.edu>) for daily news updates.



Thanks to 'U' United Way campaign nears goal

BY JIM BISSETT

WVU's campaign for the United Way of Monongahela and Preston Counties inched closer to its goal of \$230,000 this week, and campaign co-chair John Beilein expects it to be a done deal by the holiday break.

As of Monday (Dec. 11), donations totaled \$228,000 for the organization that funds the efforts of 26 outreach agencies, including the Alzheimer's Association and American Red Cross.

"WVU consistently contributes \$200,000-plus every year for the

organization that helps our friends and neighbors, and us," Beilein said. "That's a winning team, but more importantly, it's a generous team."

"You can direct your donation to the United Way effort in your hometown or home county if you prefer," said Ginny Petersen, a longtime WVU campaign organizer.

To donate, employees may drop their pledge cards off with the United Way volunteer in their department or unit, or they may send their donation to: Ginny Petersen, P.O. Box 6201.



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A look at legislative issues that will impact higher ed in new year

Since my election to the WVU Board of Governors in 2001, I have often been told that my *Spirit* articles focus on the same issues, such as additional funding resources needed to move staff to full funding of the salary schedule.

A question that followed was "Why don't you write about the important work classified staff provides the University and regional campuses?" My response has been that I am limited to 500-word columns, and I want to inform classified staff about issues that I believe are most important to them.

Since the 2001 Mercer Salary Schedule was implemented, the subjects of additional revenues, salary improvement, Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA), sick leave and lack of sufficient state funding for higher education continue to be major concerns.

I began thinking about when an article could be written about classified staff who have the responsibility of providing the overall excellent college experience for more than 27,000



students. These are the employees whom most administrators acknowledge keep the University running.

My decision was to use this opportunity to share with you some highlights of legislation that will have major implications for higher education in 2007.

The Staff Council Legislative Committee planned to meet with legislators during the legislative interims this month. However, we were advised that would not be a good time to meet. The next opportunity appears to be early in the 60-day legislative session, which begins Jan. 10.

Our agenda will include the salary schedule funding, the \$8 billion PEIA projected liability, retiree health care, and continued reduction in state

funding to WVU and other higher education institutions.

According to the National Conference of State Legislators, state budgets are not established in a logical or strategic manner, and higher education receives the leftovers after allocations to elementary and secondary education, prisons and Medicaid. Our state has failed to set clear goals for colleges' performance. Many employees believe that our legislators have not made higher education a priority.

During the November Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE) meeting on the WVU campus, President David Hardesty stated that all institutions need to present a united front and have a common agenda. He emphasized that once agenda and goals are established, legislators should hold institutions accountable for their performance. His remarks set a standard theme for the remainder of the ACCE meeting.

I have reported in previous articles numerous times that over the years, our share of the state budget has been

reduced, and as a result, we have been forced to rely on tuition and fees, grants and contracts auxiliaries, and other revenues such as the \$317 million the WVU Foundation has provided over the past decade.

The Higher Education Policy Commission reported that state appropriations budget for West Virginia since fiscal year 1999 decreased 11.9 percent in fiscal year 2006. During the same period, Louisiana increased 53.9 percent.

In comparing funding breakdown in fiscal year 2004 to fiscal year 2006, WVU state appropriations decreased from 32 percent to 26 percent.

Unless the 78th Legislature accepts this fact and finally provide the funding for higher education, staff and faculty will continue to face the same problems that have been with us for the past decade.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of faculty, staff and administration, nor those of The Mountaineer Spirit.



News & Notes

'U' partners with university in Vietnam

WVU officials have signed a linkage agreement with a university in southern Vietnam that will help develop social work, study abroad and exchange programs for students and faculty. More on the Intranet: <http://intranet.wvu.edu/>

UAM wins prestigious national awards

WVU Advancement and Marketing has received a gold MarCom Creative Award for its student "Video Diaries" project and a silver Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II Award for special event marketing at the 2006 Sugar Bowl. More on the Intranet: <http://intranet.wvu.edu/>

Petty new AVP for integrated marketing

Tricia Petty, director of undergraduate student recruitment at WVU, was recently named assistant vice president for integrated marketing operations at the University.

Dependent Employee Scholarship applications being accepted

The WVU Dependent Employee Scholarship, established to assist legally

dependent children of benefit-eligible employees, is now accepting applications from full-time undergraduate or newly admitted freshmen or transfer students. Selection is based on academic criteria and financial need. Awards range from \$500 to \$1,650 per year. More on the Intranet: <http://intranet.wvu.edu/>

2010 Strategic Planning Activities online

As part of the WVU 2010 Plan, the Provost's Task Force on Graduate Education and the Graduate Student Experience and the Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Task Force on Advising and Career Placement have released a set of recommendations. These reports and more information about the 2010 Plan are available at: www.wvu.edu/~2010plan/

Kids' healthy activities, Choosy Kids Club registration deadline Jan. 15

The West Virginia Motor Development Center is registering kids for fun, healthy activities January through April. The deadline to sign up is Jan. 15. Classes begin Jan. 26 and are open to children, infant through 11 years of age.

Info: 293-3295 ext. 5250

Participants wanted for back pain study

Dr. Kimberly Williams, a research assistant professor in Community Medicine, has received a National Institutes of Health grant to study whether yoga therapy is more effective at alleviating chronic

lower back pain than standard medical therapy.

The research team is recruiting participants for the final group. Those selected to take part may receive up to \$1,000 worth of free yoga treatment. The study is free, but only people insured by PEIA and Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield, or employed by Monongalia Health Systems, WVU Hospital and University Health Associates are eligible to be in the study. Info: 293-BACK (2225)

Support WVU 4-H by going to movie

Supporting the WVU Extension Service 4-H Youth Development Program can be as easy as going to the movies. All employees have to do is purchase tickets for "Charlotte's Web" online at: www.fourhcouncil.edu

Ticket vouchers may be used through Jan. 31.

Bailey named 'Outstanding Partner'

The WVU Extension Service has presented its Outstanding Partner Award to Barbara Copenhaver Bailey, director of the University's Student Support Services/TRIO program, for her service as a 4-H volunteer leader and advocate.

Faculty Footnotes

History professor awarded Higby Prize

Matthew Vester, an associate professor of history, was awarded the Higby Prize by the Modern European History Section

of the American Historical Association.

Profs, student published in journal

Eberly College professors Thomas Scotto and Donley Stellar, along with graduate student Kyle Christensen, had articles appear in the October 2006 issue of PS: Political Science and Politics.

Nichols elected newsletter editor

Larry Nichols, professor of sociology, has been elected editor of "Timelines," the national newsletter of the History of Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.

Gonzalez receives teaching award

Foreign language professor Pablo Gonzalez is the 2006 recipient of the Cyrus R. Vance Award that honors significant achievement in furthering international studies in West Virginia.

In memoriam

Art professor emerita Rajam dies

Margaret Tavenner Rajam, professor emerita of art history, died Nov. 30. She was 82.

Catastrophic leave sought

James Sell, Facilities Management, and Horatio Aceves, Maintenance Engineering, have been approved for catastrophic leave.

To donate leave or for more information, call Medical Monitoring, 293-5700 ext. 8.



WVU, FBI COLLABORATION — Special agent Ray Morrow, who oversees operations at the FBI's Pittsburgh field office, presents WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr. with a plaque in recognition of his service on the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DEC. 14

Finals continue—end Saturday, Dec. 16
Blood drive—7 a.m.-1 p.m., HSC John Jones Conference Room; appointment: www.givelife.org, 598-0732

CSCBBL—noon, Rhododendron Room, Mountainlair

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

Electronic thesis and dissertation submission deadline for fall semester—4 p.m., Wise Library Acquisitions Department Room 2510; info: John Hagen, 293-4040 ext. 4025 or john.hagen@mail.wvu.edu

Nicotine treatment seminar—Noon, Room 3A, fourth floor, HSC northeast tower

Tomchin Planetarium holiday show—7, 8 and 9 p.m., 425 Hodges Hall; reservations: 293-3422 ext. 1443

Tomchin Observatory public viewing (if sky is clear)—7:30 p.m., fourth floor, Hodges Hall; no reservations needed

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

EMBA Graduation—11 a.m.-2 p.m., Mountainlair ballroom

CAC—Music Teachers National Association holiday concert, 1:30 p.m., Bloch Hall

Residence halls close—5 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17

Winter break begins

MONDAY, DEC. 18

Dissertation—*Effectiveness of 'Counseling as a Related Service' in Hawaii's Public Schools as Measured by the Behavior Assessment System for Children, Second*

Edition (BASC-2), Gregory A. Lobb, 10 a.m., Room 512 Allen Hall

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

ICRC seminar—Dr. Kelly Kelleher, professor of pediatrics, *Collaborative Models of Care and Information Technology: a Meeting of the Minds*, noon, HSC John Jones Conference Center; R.S.V.P. by Dec. 15: 293-6682 or bgrimm@hsc.wvu.edu

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

Winter holiday—University closed

MONDAY, DEC. 25

Christmas—University closed

TUESDAY, DEC. 26

Winter holiday—University closed

THURSDAY, DEC. 28

Degree conferring date

MONDAY, JAN. 1

New Year's Day—University closed
Toyota Gator Bowl—WVU Football vs. Georgia Tech, 1 p.m., Alltel Stadium, Jacksonville, Fla. (see page 1 for more information)

THURSDAY, JAN. 4

New Student Orientation—continues Friday, Jan. 5

FRIDAY, JAN. 5

General registration

SATURDAY, JAN. 6

Residence halls re-open—noon

MONDAY, JAN. 8

First day of classes
Stansbury Fitness Center—Spring session begins; info: 293-3295 ext. 5208

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

CAC—*Man of La Mancha*, 7:30 p.m.; tickets: 293-SHOW

Space Grant Consortium Open House—noon-5 p.m., Room G68, Engineering Sciences Building

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

Space Grant Consortium Open House—8 a.m.-noon, Room G68, Engineering Sciences Building

Hardesty honored by FBI

BY JIM BISSETT

WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr. has been honored by the FBI for his work on a board that was established to foster outreach, research and understanding between the bureau and higher education.

Agents from the FBI's Pittsburgh field office presented him on Tuesday (Dec. 12) with a plaque of appreciation for his service on the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board.

The board assists the bureau in the development of research, degree programs, coursework, internships and consulting opportunities for faculty related to higher security. WVU already has an FBI tie: The school's Forensic and Investigative Science Program began as a partnership with the bureau in 1997.

Chancellors and presidents from several prominent universities make up the 16-member board.

Special agent Ray Morrow, who oversees operations in Pittsburgh, praised Hardesty for his service.

"What you do is very beneficial to

the FBI," he told Hardesty. "You and your colleagues bring so much that we didn't have before."

That includes insight and practical advice on the culture of higher education, including the traditions of academic freedom and intellectual collaboration.

Those are things FBI Director Robert Mueller didn't take lightly when he announced the formation of the board in September 2005.

"As we do our work, we wish to be sensitive to university concerns about international students, visas, technology export policy and the special culture of colleges and universities," Mueller said. "We also want to foster exchanges between academia and the FBI in order to develop curricula which will aid in attracting the best and brightest students to careers in the law enforcement and intelligence communities."

Pennsylvania State President Graham Spanier chairs the board, which meets three times a year in Washington.

— Employee Spotlight —

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Margaret Lopez, an administrative associate for the WVU Staff Council, was recently named West Virginia's 2006 Outstanding Older Worker by the Prime Time Awards Program. Lopez, who has more than 50 years of service with WVU, is featured in an online salute to older workers at: www.experienceworks.org/site/PageServer?pagename=PrimeTime_main)



Name: Margaret Lopez

Position: Administrative associate, Administration, Finance and Human Resources

What was your first job at WVU? Secretary, Registrar's Office, which is now known as Admissions and Records

How long have you been employed at WVU? 54 years

What is your favorite book/movie? "Anne of Green Gables" (book), "The Sound of Music" (movie)

What music do you like to listen to? All music

What is your favorite food? Salads

What's your favorite hobby? Reading

What do you like best about WVU? It is beautiful, and most of the people I have worked with have been good people.

What would your dream job be? I would like to be in a job where I could help people who are less fortunate.

What would you do if you won the lottery? Give the money to my children, grandchildren and all my good friends. If there is any left, give it to charity.