

# *Delaware Mountaineer*

*A publication of the Delaware Chapter, WVU Alumni Association*

## Please Join Your Friends At The WVU Family Picnic, Saturday June 28

This year's WVU Family Picnic promises to be a terrific event you will not want to miss! Last year, almost 300 Mountaineers and their friends attended and we expect an even larger event this year! The festivities will be held on Saturday, June 28 from 2-7 PM at the 150 acre estate of Edna and Bud Pierce, 1201 Snuff Mill Road, near Centreville, DE. You can find more detailed picnic info inside this newsletter.

Our list of guests could not be confirmed at press time, however we have extended invitations to a variety of celebrities including those below and we will be updating you via our broadcast e-mail list. If you are not currently receiving our e-mails, kindly send an e-mail to [jrheer@aol.com](mailto:jrheer@aol.com) and we will get you added immediately!

**Marlon LeBlanc.** In less than two years on campus, Marlon LeBlanc has made many contributions to WVU, both on and off the soccer field. A former Penn State assistant, Marlon took the reins of our Men's Soccer program and has brought us nationally ranked teams and network television exposure. We are proud to have this man in our Mountaineer family!

**Natalie Tennant.** Natalie made history at WVU in 1990 when she was selected as the first female Mountaineer mascot! Following a career as a television reporter and news anchor, Natalie is now an owner of her own television production company and recently won the Democratic nomination for West Virginia's Secretary of State.

**Garrett Ford.** One of the all-time football greats at WVU, Garrett Ford's contributions to West Virginia University are too lengthy to mention. Currently serving as Assistant Athletic Director for Student Services, Garrett has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of student athletes and encouraged their academic success.

**Artie Owens.** Artie Owens was a Heisman Trophy candidate at WVU, and played for Bobby Bowden. A native of Montgomery, AL, "King Arthur" held the WVU rushing record for 25 years before Amos Zereoue broke it.

**Bo Orlando.** Bo Orlando played 9 years in the NFL after starring on WVU's Fiesta Bowl team in 1988. Today, Bo directs the sales & marketing efforts for an apparel manufacturer in the Lehigh Valley.

**Jim Ritchie.** Jim Ritchie played in the NCAA Championship game in 1959 for West Virginia, and was a teammate of Jerry West and Willie Akers. Mountaineer basketball fans will enjoy meeting Jim, who is now a hospital administrator in Point Marion, PA.

**Rudy Almasy.** Rudy Almasy is the Assistant Dean/ Development for the Eberly School of Arts & Sciences, the largest of the thirteen schools and colleges that comprise WVU. Rudy has made many friends in Delaware and we are thrilled he will be here to provide counsel to students and parents on their investment in West Virginia University.

You never know who might show up at the WVU Family Picnic! Others who have been invited include Jason Colson, Eugene Napoleon, Freddie Smalls, Senator Tom Carper, Dick Struck, John Mallory, Bill Stewart, Bob Huggins, Pat Randolph, David Lightcap, Bryan Hendricks and many, many more!

## Sign Up Today For The Annual WVU Family Picnic!

Bring all of your family members and fellow Mountaineer supporters to the Delaware Chapter's big event of the year! Network with alumni, parents, students, incoming frosh and their parents, and friends of West Virginia University. A great chance to meet many WVU dignitaries and celebrities who will make the journey from Morgantown!

We will gather on Saturday June 28 at the magnificent estate home of Edna and Bud Pierce, 1201 Snuff Mill Road, near Centreville, DE. The picnic goes from 2-7 and we will serve dinner around 4:30 PM. There will be lots to eat and drink and plenty of warm Mountaineer fellowship. Don't forget our annual raffle and auction of WVU items and collectibles!

### SWIMMING FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

Please bring a swimsuit for yourself and family and enjoy both the adult and kiddie swimming pools! (You can leave a change of clothes inside the pool house.)

### THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT!

In the event of inclement weather, the party will simply be moved inside the mansion and we will have a great day under any circumstances.

Cost is just \$14 per person and kids under 12 are free. Plus, we'll need you to bring a favorite salad, dessert or hors d'oeuvre or your choice. Please RSVP no later than June 19, and if you have any questions, contact Dick Struck at (302) 475-1723.

**DIRECTIONS FROM WILMINGTON:** Go north on Route 52. Just before you cross the state line into Pennsylvania, turn left on Snuff Mill Road and go 1.4 miles. Turn right at the WVU logo.

**DIRECTIONS FROM HOCKESSIN:** Take Yorklyn Road to Route 82 South. Go ½ mile on 82 South. Go left on Snuff Mill Road and go 1.3 miles. Turn right on Old Kennett Pike and then look IMMEDIATELY for a left hand turn onto Snuff Mill Road. Turn left at the WVU logo.

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## Sign Up Form For The WVU Family Picnic

- Please complete and return your reservation no later than June 19
- Enclose \$14 per adult and kids under 12 are free!
- Make check payable to "*Delaware Chapter, WVU Alumni*"
- Mail check to: *Drew Shears, 12 Highland Circle, Newark, DE 19713*

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF GUESTS\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE\_\_\_\_\_PHONE\_\_\_\_\_E-MAIL\_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BRING (circle one):      Salad                  Dessert                  Hors d'  
oeuvres

## \$1,000 Scholarship Winner To Be Announced At Picnic; New Scholarship Goal Set At \$50,000!

Five years ago, the Delaware Chapter set out on a mission to endow a scholarship at West Virginia University for a deserving student from Delaware. Named after two of our most loyal, dedicated and hard-working Delaware alums, we set up this scholarship so we could help deserving WVU students from the State of Delaware pursue a WVU education.

Thanks to the generosity of many alumni, parents and friends of West Virginia University, and hard work by our volunteers, our dream is alive! The fund's principal now exceeds \$26,000! Last year, we awarded the very first scholarship from the DJ and Bob Gibson Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$500. On June 28, we will be granting a \$1,000 scholarship and we hope you will be at the WVU Family Picnic to help us celebrate this momentous occasion.

**Now, our goal is to get the fund to the \$50,000 mark AND WE CAN DO IT!**

Like most scholarship funds, we will never spend the principal we invest. For example, \$50,000 in principal will generate a scholarship of \$2,500 if the rate of return on the invested monies is 5%. The WVU Foundation has set up a special account for us and we rely on their money management professionals to invest and manage the fund.

**Won't you please take a moment and send us a contribution?**

Please make your check payable to *WVU Foundation*, and in the note field of the check write DJ and Bob Gibson Scholarship. Please mail your check to our Treasurer *Drew Shears, 12 Highland Circle, Newark, DE 19713*.

**You will feel fulfilled by helping a young person achieve their dream of a WVU education!**

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## Patrick White Named Playboy All-American

Patrick White joined some elite company recently when he was named the eighth player in WVU history to make the Playboy All-American team. White joins Steve Slaton, Dan Mozes, Mike Compton, Major Harris, Brian Jozwiak, Paul Woodside and Carl Crennel as honorees. Don Nehlen was honored as a coach in 1989. Eric DeGroh and Jay Henry made the Playboy Academic All-American team for WVU.

A bona fide Heisman Trophy candidate, White finished sixth in the balloting last year. He has amassed 3,356 yards rushing during his storied career in Morgantown, and only needs 934 yards more to become the all-time NCAA rushing leader for a quarterback. Last year, White threw and ran for 28 touchdowns and was named the Offensive MVP of the Toyota Fiesta Bowl. White has led WVU to an amazing 33 wins in the last three seasons, including three bowl wins. Not too shabby.

This year, White will lead a WVU offensive with some new weapons. With Steve Slaton, Owen Schmitt and Darius Reynaud leaving for the NFL, White and his offense will be faced with some

challenges and opportunities. Fear not...the college football pundits are already predicting another banner year for the Mountaineers.

## 44,000 Square Foot Erickson Alumni Center

### Scheduled To Open This Fall Near Puskar Stadium

*Magnificent edifice transforming the look of Evansdale Campus!*

By Tara Curtis, WVU Alumni Association

Coming this fall, when alumni and friends return home to WVU they will find a brand new Erickson Alumni Center on campus! The WVU Alumni Association, in partnership with the WVU Foundation, Inc., is in the midst of a \$14 million capital campaign to fund the construction of this important building. The project is expected to be completed in October.

The building will, of course, house the day-to-day operations of our WVU Alumni Association. But it will serve a multitude of purposes for every WVU stakeholder!

“The current Erickson Alumni Center has been our home for nearly 20 years and has served us well,” says Charlie Brown, President of the WVU Alumni Association Board of Directors. “As the University has grown, so has our alumni base. With more than 165,000 graduates worldwide and record enrollment at WVU, this new facility will position the WVU Alumni Association to better meet the changing needs of our alumni and friends.”

Located less than 400 yards from Milan Puskar Stadium, the facility will bring the downtown tradition to the Evansdale campus. A landmark bell tower, reminiscent of Woodburn Hall, will feature a set of genuine bronze carillon bells along with a custom multi-bell digital touch screen carillon instrument which can be programmed to play some of WVU’s most popular songs, such as our Alma Mater, Country Roads, Simple Gifts and Hail West Virginia!

With more than 44,000 square feet of space, the new center will more than **triple the size** of the current Erickson Alumni Center and feature terraces, multiple meeting and banquet facilities, an outdoor fireplace, and waterfall. A Hall of Honor will pay tribute to some of WVU’s most distinguished and memorable alumni. WVU traditions and memorabilia will also find a home at the new alumni center. Alumni will be able to view old yearbooks and magazines, special keepsakes, and other items that tell the history of our Alma Mater.

Located on a beautiful park-like setting with walking paths and gorgeous landscaping, the new alumni center will offer unique event space under the sun or stars. Featuring a waterfall and outdoor fireplace, alumni and friends will be able to enjoy reunions, chapter events, and pre-game pep rallies in the adjacent courtyard. The expansion of meeting facilities in the new center is sure to attract more campus wide events, many of which are currently held off-campus.

## Join the WVU Alumni Association Today!

You may not realize it, but your membership in our Delaware Chapter does not gain you membership in the WVU Alumni Association, and vice-versa. While these two entities are related for programming and leadership, from a financial standpoint, we operate separately.

We hope you will join both organizations and make a statement of your Mountaineer Spirit not only felt in Delaware, but nationwide. Please visit [www.alumni.wvu.edu](http://www.alumni.wvu.edu) for membership info.

## Generosity Of The Erickson Family

### Will Boost Pride And Spirit Of WVU Alumni

The late Charles O. "Charlie" Erickson, a noted businessman and philanthropist, believed that alumni associations play important roles in the lives of the institutions. In the 1980s, he provided financial support to many colleges and universities in West Virginia to build alumni centers, including the current Erickson Alumni Center at WVU. His son Charles F. Erickson is proud to carry on that family tradition.

"This new building will bring a renewed sense of pride and spirit to alumni and to the University, said Erickson. I know my father would have been extremely proud of this new facility and the services it will provide to students, alumni, and the University community."

The new center will retain the Erickson name in honor of the family's continued generosity. "We are so fortunate to have friends like Charles and Laurie Erickson," adds WVU Alumni Association CEO Steve Douglas. "They have played an integral role in making this new alumni center a reality"

## WVU Experiencing All Time High

### In Freshmen Class Applications

*WVU degree deemed "a tremendous value and important investment"*

#### **By WVU News Services**

This year, more college-bound students from within the state and around the nation are showing interest in attending West Virginia University to obtain their higher education.

Several key metrics including applications for admission by first-time freshmen, payment of academic deposits and enrollment in new student orientation sessions are all on the rise, indicating that the University is on track to achieve the goal of 4,800 new students in the fall.

The number of freshman applications has increased by more than 7.5 percent compared to this time last year. The University has received an all-time high of more than 16,600 applications from freshman for enrollment in fall 2008.

Further adding to the diversity of the University, the number of international students that have applied for admissions has also increased by more than 58 percent.

"West Virginia University continues to provide an incredible array of educational opportunities in over 175 degree areas," said Russell Dean, WVU senior associate provost. "These numbers are representative of WVU's reputation for academic excellence, great faculty and success in job placement.

"The continued growth in academic programs, technology and infrastructure make an education at WVU a tremendous value and worthwhile investment in one's future," he added. "I believe that today's student understands the value of a WVU education, and that is why we continue to see our numbers grow."

## Delaware Chapter Announces New Officers

We are proud to announce the appointment of **David Baum** as the new President of the Delaware Chapter. David is a 1980 WVU grad with a BS in Journalism. He owns the David Baum Agency in Media, PA which provides Health and Life Insurance coverage to small business owners. A tireless campaigner for the DJ and Bob Gibson Scholarship Fund, David has been especially active on the WVU campus with the construction and development of the new Kappa Alpha fraternity house. Born in Kirkwood, MO, David was raised in Pittsburgh and is married to Kimberly, a Robert Morris grad. The Baum's have two young children; Marisa (12) and Tori (7).

**Will McDonald**, a died-in-the-wool WVU sports fan, has been named First Vice-President and will be focusing on membership development. Will is a Vice President in Bank of America's Credit Card Services division. (The WVU Alumni Association and Bank of America have a credit card partnership.) Will graduated from WVU in 1994 with a BA in Communications. He is a native of Pennsville, NJ and resides in the Pike Creek Valley with his wife Sarah (a U of D grad) and their twin boys Liam and Jack (2).

**Drew Shears** continues his fine work as Secretary/Treasurer of our Delaware Chapter. Drew is a CPA with Deloitte and Touche in Philadelphia and resides in Bear, DE. Drew is a huge WVU supporter and provides us a variety of support functions to keep our chapter running smoothly.

Our incoming Board of Directors includes **Jon Hickey**, Past President; **Jayne Armstrong** and **Dick Struck**, Student Recruitment Leadership; **Natalie Gimbel**, representing recent graduates; **Carolyn Curry** and **Randy Bethke**, representing Kent and Sussex County grads; **Gale Duncan**, Mountaineer Parents Club; **Jamie Nardozzi** and **Mark Lannan**, at-large members.

The Board would like to recognize **Evan Moody**, long-time Vice President of the Delaware Chapter for his unwavering loyalty and service to the Delaware Chapter. A retired State Farm Insurance Agent, Evan was involved in a myriad of tasks for our chapter for many years. He did a lot of behind-the-scenes work to make sure our bus trips worked smoothly. Additionally, Evan did a tremendous job of developing relationships throughout the WVU Athletic Department to insure we would have terrific raffle and auction items for our fundraisers. Evan is a loyal Mountaineer through and through and we will continue to see him at our events!

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## Your 2008 Chapter Dues Are Payable Now!

Membership in the Delaware Chapter is inexpensive! While we have a one year membership that sells for \$15, most Mountaineers choose the 5 Year Membership for \$35 or the Lifetime Membership for \$95. Your chapter provides support for student recruitment in Delaware, is building a Delaware Chapter Scholarship fund, markets a WVU license plate, has a broadcast e-mail program (contact us at [jrheer@aol.com](mailto:jrheer@aol.com)), does volunteer work in the community, maintains a web presence at [www.wvudelaware.org](http://www.wvudelaware.org), and sponsors social events like the WVU Family Picnic, bus trips to WVU games and game watching parties. Our chapter now has over 175 members and we are still growing. Won't you consider joining with us?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level (circle one):

Life \$95                      5 Years \$35                      One Year \$15

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## Mountaineer News and Notes

- **Gerald E. Lang**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research and **R. Stephen Sears**, Dean of the College of Business and Economics, have resigned their positions as Provost and Dean respectively after an independent panel found that a former WVU student had been improperly awarded an MBA degree. At the recommendation of the panel, the degree was rescinded. The situation has drawn added attention since the involved student is the Chief Operating Officer of Mylan Pharmaceuticals and also the daughter of **Governor Joe Manchin**. Both Lang and Sears remain tenured members of the faculty. The **WVU Board of Governors** has asked **President Mike Garrison** to provide a report at their June 6 meeting to assure them that such a situation will never happen again. Garrison has been under heavy fire from the news media and a variety of WVU stakeholders, including both the Faculty Senate and the WVU Faculty itself. In two separate votes, the Faculty Senate and WVU Faculty both voted decisively to ask for the President's resignation. The report of the independent panel can be located on the University website at [www.wvu.edu](http://www.wvu.edu). WVU is now conducting a nationwide search for a new Provost and Dean.
- Longtime WVU Athletic Director **Ed Pastilong** has announced that he will be officially retiring in two years.
- WVU professors **Charles "Sandy" Baldwin, Ph.D.**, and **Rebecca M. Chory, Ph.D.**, have been awarded Fulbright Scholar grants by the U.S. Dep't. of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.
- **Bill Stewart** rebuilt his coaching staff with what many are calling the most talented group of assistants ever to appear on the WVU sideline. Former Mountaineers **Doc Holliday**, **Steve Dunlap**, **David Lockwood** and **David Johnson** join **Bill Kirelawich** to give the new staff a distinct WVU flair.
- The **Delaware Chapter** of the WVU Alumni Association was one of 22 WVU alumni chapters nationwide to garner the prestigious "**Golden Musket Award**" in a ceremony in April in Morgantown. All 84 Alumni chapters are rated on their performance in providing networking and social interaction opportunities, student recruitment initiatives, scholarship establishment, and community service. Congratulations, Delaware!
- Congratulations to WVU Alumnus **Mark Lannan**. Mark's Brightfield Associates, has been named the Small Business of the Year in Delaware. The award was presented by the Small Business Administration. WVU alumna **Jayne Armstrong** proudly made the presentation to Mark and his wife, **Marian Young**, the co-owners of the business.
- **Bob Huggins'** first year success did not go unnoticed by the WVU administration. Huggins recently signed an 11 year contract that will allow him to coach the Mountaineers through his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Huggins has inked his first recruiting class at WVU and it is probably the highest regarded group in school history. **Devin Ebanks**, a 6-9 small forward from New York City who can score is rated as a top ten prospect. **Truck Bryant** is a 6-2 point guard from the Big Apple. **Kevin Jones** is a top twenty five small forward from Mount Vernon, NY and **Roscoe Jones** is a 6-11 center from Hargrave Military Academy.
- **Dr. David Bailey**, a WVU graduate and a Beckley native, is the CEO of The Nemours Foundation here in Wilmington, one of the largest foundations in the USA. The Nemours Foundation has \$5 billion in assets and was started in 1935 when Alfred I. duPont passed away and left a \$40 million gift. Among other entities, The Nemours Foundation funds the A.I. duPont Children's Hospital and KidsHealth.org, a website for parents that has strong presence on the internet.

- At press time, we could not confirm whether or not **Joe Alexander** would forego his senior year and make himself available for the NBA Draft. Many NBA scouts believe that Alexander will be a mid-first round selection and will probably leave WVU.
- **Yinka Sanni**, the veteran 6-1 center who led the WVU Women's Basketball team the last two years has made the roster of the WNBA Detroit Shock!

A Great Gift For Any Mountaineer!

Own Delaware's Official WVU License Plate!



Join Over 140 Delawareans Who Show Their  
Mountaineer Pride Every Day!

You've seen these babies all across Delaware! Now, you can own your very own WVU license plate, due to a special arrangement created by the Delaware Chapter of the WVU Alumni Association together with the Delaware Department of Transportation.

Thanks to the great and continuing work of our Past President Dr. Forrest Hawkins, the Delaware Chapter of the WVU Alumni Association now has over 140 license plates on the streets, roads and highways of The First State. Imagine the frustration this creates when a Pitt, Virginia Tech or Maryland fan pulls up behind you!

You can order your very own WVU license plate by contacting Dr. Hawkins by e-mail at [fgdoc@aol.com](mailto:fgdoc@aol.com) and he will get the process started for you. WVU License Plates cost only \$30, and **you own the plate** for as long as you remain a member of the Delaware Chapter in good standing. All proceeds of the sale of these plates will go directly to the DJ and Bob Gibson Scholarship Fund

If you wish, you can ask for a particular license plate number. If the number is available, and not yet assigned, Forrest will be happy to help you.

*NOTE: State of Delaware law mandates that WVU license plate holders must be a member in good standing of the Delaware Chapter. We require a minimum 5-year membership in the Delaware Chapter for all license plate holders. If you leave the state or fail to continue membership in good standing, the plate must be returned to the DMV.*