



Tech Collegian



WVU Tech, Montgomery, WV

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Preparing for Graduation

By Krystin Barton
Staff Writer

In a month or less, seniors will be getting ready to put on their caps and gowns and walk at graduation to receive their diploma. Graduating from college and transitioning into the career world is a big change in life. It is something every senior needs to prepare themselves for. With only a month left before going into the real world, there are some things you may want to do, so you're not going into the career world blindsided.

This close to graduation you should have already completed a grad check. If you have not done this and you're planning to graduate in May, you need to go to your advisor right away and start your request for one. For those who have already completed a grad check, you should make a trip to see your advisor and go through your grad check with your advisor. You should also go ahead and talk to your advisor about what career options your degree gives you. It may sound silly, but often students don't know all of the career options that their degree will give them.

Some other things you want to make sure you obtain before leaving college is a quality cover letter, a professional resume, and strong references. These references can be from some of the professors that you are close to or have had multiple classes with. After completing your cover letter and resume, you should go to your advisor or a favorite professor to have them look it over. This way if there is any mistakes or any changes that will make your resume or cover letter stronger, they can point it out and help you have the best cover letter and resume possible. You should also talk to a few professors about using them in the future as a reference so when you need reference letters you already have some options about who to get them from.

By now, you should know if you're going to go straight in to the career world or if you're planning on going to grad school. If you are not sure yet that's okay it is a big decision, but you do need some kind of a plan for after you graduate. After all, you didn't spend four years of your life and become overwhelmed with student debt for nothing. So if you're not sure what you want to do, have a plan with a few different options. Also, look at job openings that deal with your degree and make a list of them, this way you have a couple of options in case one would fall through.

One of the most important things you need to do before you graduate is figure out your student loans. Many college students don't even begin to think about their student loans until they start receiving bills after they graduate, you don't want to do that. You need to talk with financial aid or log on to your mix account and review your loans and the contract with those loans, so you know when the repayment starts. You need to know how much you owe and you need to contact your loan providers and find a good payment plan option, so you can be prepared and know what to expect when you get hit with the first repayment bill. You also want to know your interest and of it goes up every year the loan is not paid off.

The final thing you want to make sure you do before you graduate is know where you are going to live. Are you going to stay with your parents until you start a career, go into another dorm at a grad school, or find your own place close to where your career is taking you? Oh, and don't forget to of course buy your cap and gown, you don't want to be at graduation without it.



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Tech Collegian

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 450 words, and they usually respond to a particular item or debate from the previous issue. Opinion articles are longer pieces, up to 800 words, and take the form of a longer column. No letter or opinion articles may be printed anonymously. If you are interested in contributing, email tech-collegian@mail.wvu.edu.

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Organization Spotlight: SAE Baja

By Rob Leibel
Staff Writer

SAE BAJA is an international collegiate design competition where student engineers design and fabricate a single seat vehicle to compete against approximately 100 other colleges from all over the world. There are multiple events at each race, including a design competition, sales presentation, hill climb, maneuverability course, suspension and traction course, acceleration, and a 4-hour endurance race. The members from SAE spend countless hours designing the vehicle working hard with the advisors, what they learn in the classroom, and their own common knowledge. The vehicle takes a substantial amount of money to be able to design and fabricate, so the organization has reached out to business across West Virginia for sponsors. The sponsors were able to donate money, material, and parts for the organization. This year is a first for Tech, as the Golden Bear Racing team is competing in all three North American competitions this year. The team is currently preparing for the first race, which takes place April 14-17 at Cookeville Tennessee. The second race is in Gorman California in May, and the third and final race this year is in Rochester New York in June. Last year the group was able to compete in two races, and was able to place really high in several events. SAE BAJA is working hard in and out of the classroom, and it has helped West Virginia University Institute of Technology spread the glorious name across the country.

Transitioning to Spring Fashion

By Krystin Barton
Staff Writer

Transitioning from winter to spring fashion isn't always easy. Especially when it is early spring and some days it's still really cold out. The best way to beat the cold spring days is to layer your look, this way you have a cute spring look, but you still stay warm. During the spring it is better to lighten your look up and add more color to your wardrobe. You don't want to wear your dark winter clothes when the sun is out, the flowers are blooming and the leaves are coming back. In the spring it is best to start slowly transition into less clothes, start with sleeveless tops and cropped bottoms to slowly expose your skin to the light that is hasn't seen in months. In spring it is better to glam up your look. During the winter you are used to wearing solid dark colors, now that its spring it's time to bring out some print to make your style have a little more edge for spring. Spring is also a great time to start adding accessories, since you're getting out of all the big sweaters and starting to show more skin it is the best time accent your outfit with a few accessories, helping the outfit stand out a little more. And remember during this spring season be playful with your outfits try something new, add a lot of color and don't forget your accessories.

Student Success Center's Transition to Beckley

By Dylan Cole
Guest Writer

The Student Success Center is a place to relax, study, and grab a quick snack. The great addition to Tech's campus, known as the SCC, has aided many students with their studies throughout their college years. However, with Tech's move to Beckley, some Tech students are wondering what is going to happen to places like the SSC when the campus moves to Beckley.

The Student Success Center has been open for nearly three years now with its original premiere occurring in April 2013. The SSC advises students and provides tutoring for students in need of assistance with their schoolwork.

Ms. Kelly Hudgins, Director of the SSC, stated "We (WVU staff) are busy making plans for both the 2016-2017 "transition" year and the 2017-2018 year." Hudgins also provided information concerning the future of the SSC in Beckley, stating "The Student Success Programs staff is committed to continuity for our current students and excited about expanding our services to students on the Beckley campus."

The Beckley Student Success Center will be located in the Learning Resource Center, along with the library and dining services. The Beckley SSC will attempt to feature a more convenient location for students than the current location in Montgomery.

The Student Success Center's main purpose is to provide a place to ensure the success of students through a doable schedule that will allow them to graduate. Especially with first year and transfer students, the SSC is available to provide advice for current and future courses. With the impending move, some students wonder if the same SSC services will still be provided.

Regarding advising, Hudgins said, "There will not be any changes in academic advising on the Montgomery campus during the 2016-2017 academic year." Hudgins insisted, "Some of our services may look a bit different in Beckley during the transition year, but should be no less effective."

According to Hudgins, contacting SSC Montgomery staff is an available option for all students attending the Beckley campus this fall.

"We will have academic advising staff in Beckley during the transition year, but their schedules will depend on enrollment," added Hudgins.

With a difficult curriculum for the majority at Tech, having an available and free tutoring service encourages success for students. Requesting to have a tutor is as simple as completing an online application or making a request in person at the SSC. The gradual transition to the new campus should make many wonder what will happen to the option of tutoring.

Hudgins explained, "It is too early to say exactly what academic support will look like in Beckley, but we are developing options – including Skype sessions with Montgomery tutors – and will do our best to assist students who need help."

The lack of upper class students at the Beckley campus did seem to worry Ms. Hudgins in regards to tutoring.

At the beginning, all were freshmen or transfer and had to experience the New Student Orientation provided by the Student Success Center. Those four days allowed students to get to know both the faculty and staff along with the students they would be learning alongside. The split of the campuses next year has created a unique situation in trying to provide an orientation for both. Hudgins said, "At this time, we plan to offer a multi-day New Student Orientation program in August on the Montgomery campus as we have in years past. We are exploring several options to deliver Orientation on the Beckley campus and will make a decision about format when we have a better idea of the number of students who will be enrolled there in the fall," Hudgins maintained in regards to the split campuses.

However, before any students join the rest as a Golden Bear, one must first go through the rigorous registration process. The helpful staff at Tech's SSC lessen a tedious journey for incoming students. The early registration events make getting a feel for the campus and deciding on Tech a much easier task, thanks to the help from SSC.

According to Hudgins, "We have scheduled eleven New Student Registration events for late spring and summer of 2016 – seven on the Montgomery campus and four on the Beckley campus."

Upcoming students have the option to attend the events at either campus and can register for classes for either campus. Over the summer, students that were unable to attend the event or need to adjust their schedules can simply call any advising staff in the SSC without difficulty. All of this preparation shows great promise in the stability and the future of the move and the university.

Track & Field Team Update

By Krystin Barton
Staff Writer

The men and women's Track team started their season in early March. In their first track meet the Men's and the women's team both finished up seventh overall. The Men's closest competitor was Shawnee came in sixth place. Zuber Indy led Tech to win the triple jump and have a personal best with the jumps being 38'6.25. He also placed fourth on the long jump. Freshman Daniel Lynch won third in the shot put and sixth on the discus. Freshman Joseph Richmond won fourth in the discus. Freshman Sasha Fleurinor came in eighth in the 400 meter dash. Jaleel Parris came in seventh in the 200 meter dash and Raquel Lockhart came in seventh in 200 meter dash. The women's closest competitor was West Liberty University who had 11 points Tech only having 6. Lenondra Bell finished third in the Shot Put.

Barbie Evolves

By Mackenzie Coley
Guest Writer

Move over Bratz dolls, Mattel's Barbie got a makeover. Just before Barbie's 57th birthday she is getting made over. Barbie is not the same doll with her small frame, flawless white skin, and signature blonde hair. Barbie now comes in different skin tones and hair. Barbie also comes in different body shapes and is changing her looks for the better.

Barbie no longer comes in just a white skin tone. She is becoming more ethnically diverse with all her new skin tones. Barbie comes in seven new skin tones. Barbie is also ditching her signature long, blonde hair for a variety of different colors and styles. She now comes in 24 new hairstyles such as a short bob, a pixie cut, and many more. Her hair also comes in multiple colors like blue, red, and purple. Barbie eyes are also no longer just blue. She has 22 new eye colors. Barbie's features also now come in a new variety. Some Barbies have fuller lips than others, while some have beauty marks.

One of Barbie's biggest changes is that she now comes in three new body types. There is now a curvy Barbie with wider hips, thicker legs and arms. There is also a petite Barbie. This Barbie is shorter than the other Barbies and has a very small frame. Then there is the Tall Barbie. This Barbie has longer legs and a longer torso than the other Barbies. The new dolls will be available in stores on March 1, 2016.

In a USA Today article, Evelyn Mazzocco, the senior Vice President and Global General Manager of Barbie said in a company statement, "We believe we have a responsibility to girls and parents to reflect a broader view of beauty." Mattel is trying to expand Barbie's beauty standards to include a variety of shapes, sizes, colors, and hairstyles. In this same article by USA Today, a visiting scholar from George Washington University, Florence Williams, says that the new body types can influence boys' and girls' body expectations. She goes on to say that kids are constantly being shown body images that just aren't real and can damage their self-esteem. There are a lot of positive things being said about Barbie's makeover. People are saying that Barbie's new makeover is a really positive change in Mattel's direction with Barbie.

Along with the positive feedback comes the negative. Actress, Kirstie Alley was one of the few to dislike Barbie's makeover and took to Twitter to share her dislike for it. She tweeted, "Are we seriously going to imply that BARBIE needs to be taken seriously? Jeez bring back 1965 where BARBIE just looked like a freak." The Charleston Daily Mail, in an article, says that people took to Twitter to voice their disapproval of Barbie's new look. One user said that, "Adult hang-ups shouldn't be forced on children." Others said that the doll doesn't need to be "politically correct." The people who are upset with this makeover think that Barbie's makeover doesn't matter to children.

Barbie sales have been dropping in recent years. The New York Times says that this is due to the drift from gender specific toys to electronics and games. Mattel hopes that rebranding Barbie will increase their sales. Now that Barbie comes in new shapes and colors, there are more to collect. The original Barbie came in different outfits, but she looked like clones of herself. Mattel is hoping that the new Barbie will help boost their sales that have been dropping in recent years. They are hoping Barbie's makeover will be a step in the right direction.

Politics Matters!

By Ali Woody
Guest Writer

With the 2016 Presidential Election approaching, the importance of teens and young adults being politically aware has amplified. Many younger people think that their voices are insignificant or even that their votes wouldn't matter. This isn't true. One person can make a ripple in the water, and a group of people can make a wave. What happens in the country happens to everyone in the country, and if a person cares about what happens and has a chance to influence it, the person should try. But something that's really important is that before a person makes a decision, they need to know what they're deciding on.

In "Every Vote Counts. Teens Must Understand The Importance of Being Politically Aware" the author says, "The importance of being politically aware cannot be understated. The government and politicians—both local and national—are directly involved in each citizen's daily life. Not only does the government control issues that affect adults and families—like taxes, wages and retirement—but also issues that affect the typical high school student, like driving laws and education policies." If it's affecting them, shouldn't they know something about it? Shouldn't they make their opinions heard?

Kaitlyn Akers, a Pre-Law freshman from WVU said, "It's extremely important for teens and young adults to be educated in current political issues. Whether the subject of politics is interesting or not, the laws that our government is passing will directly impact everyone's day-to-day lives," Akers went on to say that "if we don't pay attention to politics as young adults, we lose our voice in lawmaking."

One of the issues with teens and young adults being aware is the question of how to interest them. Not many young people are going to pick up a newspaper or watch CNN; they just aren't. Adults, parents, and teachers could try to talk to them about the process, or talk about the logic behind voting, but it could fall flat. The answer is obvious. The best way to get teens and young adults involved in the election is reaching out to them on social media and online.

A website called "youngrights.org" is an online forum dedicated to teens and helping them take action in politics. Social media, however, is a sure-fire way to catch a young person's attention. "That is our platform as young adults to speak our minds," Akers said. Bernie Sanders has accumulated a following of young adults because of his campaign being largely run on social media. Donald Trump, Hilary Clinton, and other candidates are also using Twitter as a platform to campaign. This keeps teens invested in what's going on and soon, they will be forming their own opinions and expressing them.

Teens and young adults are the future. They're just as important in this election as adults and seniors. Something to consider when becoming politically aware, of course, is who you agree most with. "In an incredible twist of irony, the oldest presidential candidate clearly has the youngest voters' wants and needs at heart," Akers responded when asked who she thought had younger voters' interest in mind.

The polls over the last few weeks have been very back and forth. In Iowa, Hilary Clinton took the Democratic vote while Ted Cruz took the Republican vote. Recently, though, Sanders came out the Democrat winner, and Donald Trump won the Republican vote. With nearly nine months still ahead of the election, there is no telling who will come out as the ultimate victor. That also gives young adults time to register if they haven't, understand what's happening politically, and keep up with the election.

The future of America is going to change this year, and teens and young adults can help influence how it does. People the age of 18 and over have this incredible right to vote and they need to use it. Everyone's rights and everyone's life will be affected depending on whom gets elected. No person with the right to vote should take it lightly. It's an important responsibility. With that in mind, everyone needs to know what's happening around them, learn as much as they can, and make sure they cast their vote.

The College Gaming Experience

By Jaleel Parris
Guest Writer

Silence pervaded the room as the professor was prepared to give back the exams. The sad student knew what his grade was going to be because the week before he had not done all he could do to prepare...

The professor placed the exam on his desk face down, and the student waited till the professor walked away to turn the exam over. Once the professor walked away, the student flips over the paper and was appalled when he saw his grade: 57%, an F.

The night before the test the student was caught in a decision between two things: study or play "Call of Duty" all night long.

Dameion Russ, a WVU Tech student-athlete and gamer, was caught in a similar situation. Now he is balancing the time between doing schoolwork and playing video games. Russ said, "I just can't focus on boring school work when games are way better to play." Russ has been playing video games since he was a kid and continues in college.

Being a gamer in college causes students to make tough decisions. Students would rather have fun by playing video games than study.

"Me and my friends can get together and play video games for hours and hours every day. We just forget about work because we have so much fun," Russ explained.

When students play video games they push their priorities to the side and some tend to not get back to it.

"At night when I choose to play video games instead of studying, I usually just wake up earlier before my test so I can study," Russ said.

So the real question is what to do to help students manage their gaming experience and their college experience.

"I believe the only way to manage work and video game time is to stay away from your video game system until you have time to play," Russ explained. "Most of the time I am not in my room, so that makes it easier for me to not play the game."

Another WVU Tech student, Jonah Jones added, "It's hard for me to focus on just school work. When my schedule is at the point where you must study, that is when I actually decide to study. Otherwise I just treat any day as a light day."

"The only way for me to study is for me to go to the library, sit on a computer by myself and get to work," Russ explained.

"The library is a better place to be because I am away from Call of Duty," he said. And Jones believes the same.

Dameion Russ and Jonah Jones now both make their way to the library at a specific time when work is needed to be done.

Jones says, "We make our way to the library right after dinner, so that we have plenty of time to study and knock out some work."

Jones and Russ now prepare for a new week of exams, and will study accordingly.

Back in the classroom, when the professor hands out exams, will Russ and Jones know the material? Or will the grade they receive back be less than par?

Jones feels more confident now, saying "I got this!"

Montgomery WV, Then and Now

By Ali Woody
Guest Writer

It's the late 1950s, and Montgomery, West Virginia is a thriving town with stores lining the streets, an abundance of things to do, and people buzzing about. There's movie theatres, stores, restaurants, and even a city pool. It's truly a picturesque, family safe, flourishing town straight off the pages of a calendar.

Everything was simple then.

Suzanne Whittington, once Suzanne Pollastrini, was a young girl who grew up in Montgomery when the town was in its prime. Now a 62-year-old mother of three, Whittington is still a lively woman who often reminisces about her hometown.

Whittington and her six siblings all hold fond memories of Montgomery, West Virginia.

"My first memory of Montgomery was probably realizing I lived right across from the city swimming pool. My siblings and I practically lived there during the summer," Whittington said with a faraway look in her eyes, remembering those times happily.

The pool was always crowded. The smell of chlorine pervaded the air, children laughed and splashed around, and the summer sun seemed to shine brighter there than anywhere else.

Montgomery, at least the way people know it now, is not exactly the ideal place for kids to grow up. There's little to offer for entertainment purposes, the buildings are crumbling, and the streets are not as safe as they once were. But in Whittington's day, there was no better place to grow up. No one locked their doors when they left home, everyone walked everywhere, and kids stayed outside playing and riding their bikes until day turned to dusk.

"Believe it or not- there were two theatres in Montgomery. We always went to the movies on the weekends," Whittington recalled with a smile on her face.

Montgomery was once the type of town that's depicted in wholesome, family movies. Parents didn't have to worry about their kids because Montgomery was a nice and harmless place. Anything anyone could possibly need was right there. There was no need to travel thirty minutes down the road to shop.

"We had three drug stores, three jewelry stores, a women's clothing store, a men's clothing store, furniture stores, a grocery store or two, a shoe store, two hardware stores, and one of the best stores around, the G.C Murphy... it had everything!" Whittington went on, her voice rising and getting faster with each word in excitement.

Sadly, it's much different now.

It's so different, it's hard to believe that it's the same town at all.

When asked how she felt about Montgomery's current state, Whittington said "it has been totally devastating to me to witness the decline of Montgomery. It absolutely breaks my heart to see what it has become, and it depresses me greatly just driving through town these days."

A hometown is normally a place that everyone expects that they can leave and come back to and everything will be exactly the same. In some cases, that's true. But in the case of Suzanne Whittington, who has never strayed further than six minutes away from her hometown, it's not true at all.

Some towns grow and change and become better than they once were.

Montgomery, however, has lost everything.

The streets are no longer buzzing. Instead, the only noise that seems to rattle the town is passing coal trains. Clusters of people don't clog the streets. Only the students of WVU Tech can be seen roaming around.

It's as if the city was drained of its color.

"The thing I'd want back most of all would be the train station," Whittington insisted.

She went on to add that "back then, three passenger trains went through town every day, and my family rode on those trains all the time. My dad worked on the railroad, so we got to ride free."

Whittington remembers Montgomery in such a pure and cherished way, the way that it should be. It should be remembered for being great. It should be remembered for being alive.

It's sad to think that some people will always remember it for what it is now; a ghost town.

It's sad to compare a childhood in a town like Montgomery used to be to a childhood in the Montgomery that exists now.

"About the coolest thing to do was on Saturdays when my friends and I would walk "uptown" with only a quarter in our pockets and go to College Drug Store and buy a Coke and a comic book," Whittington said.

Everything was simple then.

Even though Montgomery has changed and it does upset Whittington, she says that she is not only lucky to have grown up in the city, but lucky to have grown up in the time period that she did.

It's people like Suzanne Whittington, who have such wonderful stories, that keep a spark of history alive in a dim, changing present. It's people like her, people of the older generations, that give something to the newer generations. They make them see more than remains; they make them see what once was beautiful.

*"I can't change the direction of the wind,
but I can adjust my sails to always reach my
destination." - Jimmy Dean*

On This Day in History..

March 24, 1951: General Douglas MacArthur threatens the Chinese with an extension of the Korean War if the proposed truce is not accepted.

March 26, 1804: The territory of New Orleans is organized in the Louisiana Purchase.

March 27, 1976: Washington DC opens its subway system.

March 28, 1969: President Dwight D. Eisenhower dies at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, DC.

March 29, 1976: Eight Ohio National Guardsmen indicted for shooting four Kent State students during an anti-war protest in May 1970.

March 30, 1981: President Ronald Reagan is shot and wounded in Washington DC by John Hinckley Jr.

March 31, 1918: Daylight savings time goes into effect throughout the United States for the first time.

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