



# Tech Collegian



WVU Tech, Montgomery, WV

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## Beckley Campus Kick-Off Recap

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By Kassie Shope  
Editor

On October 3, our campus leaders hosted a campus kick off at our new home campus in Beckley. The day was full of events with something exciting for everyone to participate in. At 1pm, there were campus tours for prospective students and their parents. These students were able to tour the campus and meet with admissions and financial aid counselors. Later in the day, there were tours provided to current students, staff, alumni, and community members. There was a much larger turn out for these tours than originally expected. Later in the afternoon, more than 150 guests gathered to welcome former Congressman Nick J. Rahall as he donated his congressional papers to WVU Tech. This donation included two thousand boxes of documents from his



Photo Credit: WVU Tech

thirty-eight years in office. “This is truly an exciting day for me to see these archives come to WVU in the hands of professionals who can make so much come alive from old, dusty boxes,” said Rahall.

President Carolyn Long also announced the opening of a WVU LaunchLab on campus. The lab will offer professional help to entrepreneurs with creating business plans, market research, and much more. Long says that the opening of the LaunchLab is very exciting and hopes it will make southern West Virginia more prosperous.

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## Greek Spotlight

By Rob Liebel  
Staff Writer

Of all the negative attention Greek life receives from other campuses, the Greeks on the campus at West Virginia University Institute of Technology keep up a positive atmosphere for the campus and the community. Tech has two sororities, Alpha Sigma Tau ( $\Delta\Sigma\text{T}$ ) and Delta Kappa Theta ( $\Delta\text{K}\Theta$ ), and two fraternities, Sigma Pi ( $\Sigma\Pi$ ) and Phi Kappa Tau ( $\Phi\text{K}\text{T}$ ). Here is a small review of how the semester has been going.

So far this semester, the ladies of Alpha Sigma Tau have been working hard on fundraising for their national convention. The convention is being held in Jacksonville, Florida in the summer of 2016.

The ladies have been selling Yankee Candles to the campus and community. Also, they have sold BBQ and tacos in bag at Montgomery General Hospital. The sorority has also welcomed 5 new members to their organization.

The ladies of Delta Kappa Theta have been working hard with their small sisterhood trying to expand. They were able to add 4 new members to their organization. The sisters of Theta have been planning their annual Boobie Dance on October 21. This is a charity dance that is raising money and awareness for breast cancer. They are charging admission, where the money will be donated to the Living Beyond Breast Cancer Charity.

The brothers of Phi Kappa Tau have also been busy this past month with both community service and philanthropy events. Phi Tau sent 14 brothers to Camp Horseshoe in Parsons, WV to help the camp prepare for the winter by splitting wood for the fires. The group has also been able to do some yard work for alumni, and helping out at a couple other places

the community. The brothers were able to host Pie a Phi for SeriousFun. Brothers were pied in the face for a dollar, where all proceeds went to SeriousFun Children's Network. SeriousFun gives terminal-ill children a free, fun week of summer camp. This event was able to raise about \$145 to be able to be donated. Also, the brothers are glad to welcome 9 members to their organization this semester.

The Greeks are working hard with classes, and helping create events on campus for charity and students. They have high expectations for participation for Homecoming, trying to help one another. Greeks are able to help each other with the mindset of, “No matter the letter, we are all Greek together.”

## Tech Collegian

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## Active Shooter 101

By Rhea Calica  
Staff Writer

Our campus was graced with the presence of WVU's own Police Chief Bob Roberts. The topic that brought him to us? An active shooter presentation. We all have the tendency to think that a shooter situation would never happen on our campus. Although shootings are "as rare as lightning," they are not impossible. What we need is to be prepared in case tragedy does strike our small community. So where do we start?

To begin the presentation Chief Roberts, showed the video Flashpoint followed by Shots Fired, both available to watch online. The first point was actually a mathematical formula: Awareness + Action = Prevention. When you're aware, you can stay calm and lead yourself and others to safety. There are four sets of human behavior. Any of the first three can hold the warning to a catastrophic event. The behaviors are as follows: everyday behavior, behaviors of concern, threatening behaviors, and physical injury/death. The everyday behaviors are just that. Behaviors that a person expresses every day. Behaviors of concern are the first warning signs that someone may become an active shooter.

These behaviors of concern could be a newfound interest in violent events or some more minor changes such as missing assignments, suddenly poor hygiene or becoming obsessive. From there, a person transitions into threatening behaviors in which verbal violence can ensue. The final phase, the most terrible phase, is when a person evolves into violent physical behavior. This is when fights are made and shootings actually happen.

Sometimes these behaviors are preceded by factors including mental illness, termination of a job or the like, and domestic violence. The most dangerous shooters are the ones ready and willing to commit suicide. Sometimes, all the shooter wants is to deal as much damage as possible. At that point, they've likely lost all hope of surviving and already have a murder-suicide plan in action. They're dangerous, but that doesn't mean they can't be stopped or prevented.

Take action. If someone you know or even a stranger you've seen around is exhibiting odd behavior, behavior not a part of their usual regime, do something about it. Talk to them. Figure out the root of the problem and help them address it. If they won't accept your help, then tell someone else. Call the campus therapist. Call campus police. Talk to a professor. Sometimes they can get through to the potential shooter even when you can't. "Students are at ground level." This means that we are the first to see a problem and the first actors to fix it. Don't be afraid to ask for help, though. We might be adults, but sometimes we need someone even older than we are to find a peaceful resolution. "If you see something, say something."

Say you can't prevent an active shooter. How do we survive one? There is a mindset we all can manage if we think clearly and calmly. That is the "survival mindset." When facing a shooter, there are three stages: awareness, preparation, rehearsal. Awareness is making sure you are aware of your surroundings. Find all the possible exit points and barricades. Find the weak points in a room and run scenarios in your head to decide the best way to defend or utilize them. Preparation is preparing for the worst. Have a plan in mind. Will you fight or hide? Rehearsal is practicing your plan as much as possible.

If you are ever in an active shooter situation, you have three options to utilize: get out, hide out, or take out. If you have the chance, get to a safe location and call the police. When they arrive, give them as much information as you can about the shooter, but do not expect them to stay and have a friendly chat. Your second option is to hide out. Find a secure room to close and lock the door, but do not restrict your movements. After the door is locked, find heavy objects and barricade the door. You want as much as possible between you and the shooter. If there is more than one person in a barricaded room, spread out. It will make it harder for the shooter to inflict a mass murder. Also, if you are hiding out and the police find you, be submissive and compliant. Do as the officers ask while showing them

your hands. Do not look them in the eye. They don't know if you're the shooter, an accomplice, or a victim. If you do anything that they may deem threatening, you may very well be shot as a precaution. Give the police all the information you can about the shooter and do not expect the officers to help you to safety. Your own safety is your responsibility.

The final option is to take out the shooter. If a shooter comes into your vicinity and you are not alone, you may choose to gang up on him. There may be one of him and twenty of you. Throw books, bags, chairs, anything to disrupt him and keep him from getting off any shots. Once he is hindered, the closest to him may then begin to tackle the shooter with the help of everyone else. Again, don't do anything threatening when the police arrive, but keep the shooter's weapon out of reach.

Sometimes a shooter comes in with a specific goal to accomplish that isn't about killing everyone. These occasions often become a hostage situation. If you find yourself in a hostage situation, be compliant. Do as the shooter asks to try to keep him from opening fire. If he does open fire, your hostage situation just became an active shooter situation in which your survival instinct should take over.

I hope many of you can recognize the sound of a gunshot. However, there are people out there who don't know what it sounds like. It is not like in movies. In reality it sounds like firecrackers going off in another room. If you ever hear that sound, don't second guess yourself. Remain calm and remember what you've learned. As Chief Roberts said, "Have a plan in mind if you aren't gonna fight. If you're gonna fight, fight with everything you've got. The key to prevention is knowledge." There are options for you to better educate yourself from campus. There are videos and information provided on [police.wvu.edu](http://police.wvu.edu) to help you. On the website, you can cover Threat Assessment, Crime Prevention Resources, Emergency Management, and print an Emergency Flip Chart. There is also a link to anonymously report a problem. However, this link is through Morgantown for the moment so it would be quicker for you to report your problem to the campus police here at Tech. So this is what I want you to do. I want you to ask your professors about their safety, evacuation, and emergency situation plans. I also want you to look at and sign up for Tech Alert, which can be accessed through the school's main page, and LiveSafe or Circle of Six. Everything here is to help you stay safe and keep our community safe. Please do all you can for yourself and the people around you.

## Patrick's Observations

By Patrick McBrayer  
Staff Writer



Review of *Pompeii* by Robert Harris

By Dr. Farshid Zabihiian  
Guest Writer

Earth has witnessed many volcanic eruptions throughout history. In fact according to the U.S. Geological Survey, on average there is one volcanic eruption every week. However, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in southern Italy in 79 AD is the one that remains the most well known volcano even after 2,000 years. Certainly it is not the largest one in history. Even it is not the deadliest one. But it is the one that has captivated public, scientists, and artists alike for centuries. The reason might be the fact that it destroyed one of the jewels of Roman Republic in its peak glory or its enormous social, economic, and even military impacts on the known ancient world. Many movies (e.g. "Pompeii" – 2014), documentaries (e.g. "Pompeii: The Mystery of the People Frozen in Time" – 2013, "Ancient Mysteries: Pompeii: Buried Alive" – 1996, and "In the Shadow of Vesuvius" - 1997), literary books (e.g. "The Last Days of Pompeii" by Edward Bulwer-Lytton – 1834 and "The Taras Report on Pompeii" by Alan Lloyd - 1975), and even artistic expressions (e.g. "The Last Day of Pompeii" painting by Karl Brullo – 1830 and Pink Floyd's performance at the Pompeii's amphitheater) have been created on this event or inspired by it.

The bestselling novel "Pompeii" by Robert Harris showcases the social, economic, and political conditions of the era as well as a heavy dose of scientific and engineering elements. Uniquely, the later elements are not through typical geological observations. The author follows the fire of volcano through water flow! The plot of the novel is in southern Italy around the Bay of Naples during 48 hours before and 8 hours after the eruption (August 23 - 24, 79 AD). It is rich in providing scientific and engineering accounts of the events leading to the eruption. The author smartly integrated events related to the volcano eruption to his plot.

The main character of the story is Marcus Attilius Primus, an ambitious, honest, incorruptible young engineer who was appointed as Aqua Augusta, in charge of aqueduct that transfer water to the Mediterranean coast in southern Italy. The aqueduct was the most complex and the

and the longest aqueduct of its time and provided fresh water for a quarter of million inhabitants of Pompeii, and eight other cities some of whom were the richest citizens of Roman Empire temporarily living in the region to escape the hot summer of Rome. His appointment was unexpected and was due to the disappearance of his predecessor under mysterious circumstances. The unfortunate engineer had to deal with crisis after crisis in first days of his job. Fountains were failing in cities throughout the region. He needed to identify where the problem was in the 60-mile long aqueduct and fix it. The author uses this mission to provide accurate and detailed explanations of advancement in hydraulic and other engineering fields in ancient Roman Republic. The discussion on design, construction, and maintenance of aqueducts is remarkably informative. The engineering presentation of bathes as the focal point of social life in Roman society is also very interesting. Moreover, the author provides an insight to the corruption in social and economic structure of the Roman society. All these elements are seamlessly integrated to the story in a way that readers do not even recognize that they are dealing with these complicated and seemingly boring topics. For example, the author created a scene where contaminated water by sulfur due to the volcanic activities killed many fish in a fish farm. The slave in charge of the farm was blamed for this and brutally executed in the false accusation of negligence by his owner, a corrupted prominent businessman. While the main character was trying to save the slave, he got emotionally involved with the owner's daughter. In summary, if you are interested in fiction novels and advancement in ancient technologies, this book should be placed on the top of your to-read-list.

About the author

Robert Harris (born in 1957) is an English novelist and former political journalist and television reporter. All his novels have a historical background. Some of his early books were about the Second World War. In "Fatherland" (1992), the world was pictured as if the Nazis have won the war. In his second novel, "Enigma" (1995),

the setting was again WWII where the allies were able to break German's secret military code. In his 1998 novel "Archangel", his main character, a historian, hunted for Stalin's secret diary in Russia. All three novels were made into movies. His next three novels, "Pompeii" (2003), "Imperium" (2006), and "Conspirata" (2009) were all set in ancient Roman Empire. His recent books are on more contemporary issues, such as the corruption in the modern political system (The Ghost - 2007) and computer takeover (The Fear index, 2011). His latest novel, Dictator (2015), was released early October 2015.

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## Political Update

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By Seth Greensage  
Staff Writer

Donald Trump and Ben Carson are currently at the top of the Republican polls while Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are at the top of the Democratic polls. Donald Trump is sitting at 24%, Ben Carson is at 23%, Hillary Clinton is topping the Democratic poll with 45%, and Bernie Sanders is right at 25%. Donald Trump is seen as somewhat of an extremist due to his openness on what it will take for us to reach success as a country. Many have seen Trump as a radical from the beginning due to his ideas on the “wall on the southern border” pertaining to immigration. However, many also believe that since he was such a successful businessman, he will be able to fix our national deficit of over \$18 trillion. Ben Carson has slowly made his way up in the polls due to the fact that many of his views are those of a typical Republican, such as: gun rights, climate change, and health care. Hillary Clinton has made her general democratic views open, however, she has been made more popular due to how she speaks on issues. Some of these include marijuana, where she was asked about legalization of it, and she simply said “wait and see”. Another issue that she spoke on which had great controversy was Obamacare where she said “Keep it. Strengthen it. Tout it”. Lastly, there is Bernie Sanders who shows the main left-wing beliefs. Sanders is partially against gun rights, he plans to have two years of free tuition at state colleges for everyone, and he has been a long time anti-war activist. However, one huge piece of Sanders candidacy was when he said “Black Lives Matter”. This alone caused a huge uproar in his candidacy and has simply gone to show how interesting this whole thing can really be!

**Source:** <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/topic/politics/>

## World Bank Plans to End Poverty

By Patrick McBrayer  
Staff Writer

The World Bank Group, “an international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for capital programs”, pledged to begin working with developing countries and international partners to ensure an end to poverty. The President of the World Bank Group Jim Yong Kim spoke in the capital of Ghana on October 16th, 2015 about ways to end extreme poverty for the bottom 40% of people in developing countries. The plan introduced by the WBG is centralized around data collection utilizing “house-hold level” surveys in the 78 poorest countries every three years, with the first round of surveys to be completed by 2020. This means that instead of collecting general data for a developing country they will be collecting comprehensive data about individual households going far beyond the standard acquisition of income/consumption data and moving towards collecting information on standard of living. In plainer terms, data is going to be collected about the education, health, hunger, sanitation, and infrastructure of individual households. The World Bank Group hopes to use this very crucial data to aid in the creation of plans to help developing countries eliminate extreme poverty by 2030.

## Surviving Midterms

By Patrick McBrayer

Staff Writer

Fall is a very busy season for the everyday college student. While we would like to be able to sit back, relax, and enjoy the festivities of autumn we find ourselves presented with one very big challenge that prevents us from having a stress free October. You know what I'm talking about . . . the dreaded midterms. Mid-semester examinations to test our cumulative knowledge thus far on the courses we are taking (that was painful to write). Even though these tests are generally harder than quizzes or regular exams they're not the biggest problem we face when midterm season comes up. The stress that we have while taking the actual examination is minute in comparison to the amount of stress that we create whilst preparing for said exam. There are many different ways to tackle this "midterm stress" in the list below you will find the most effective means to eliminate it.

1. Eliminate Distractions disconnect from social networking

Log out of Facebook, Twitter, etc. distractions only make it harder on you. If you're studying content for an exam you will retain far more information if your mind is solely focused on the topic at hand.

2. Sleep rest for success

A good night's sleep is proven effective in reducing stress and improving concentration. Attempting to study with very little sleep will produce undesirable results which in turn will adversely affect your exam grade.

3. Take a Walk give yourself time to reflect on information you have read

A recent study performed by Stanford University shows that walking can help to boost your memory and critical thinking skills. The ability to retain information relevant to your exam is crucial in getting a good grade.

4. Time Management Do. Not. Cram.

There's a reason Midterms aren't on the second day of school. It's completely unreasonable to expect yourself to be able to learn two months of course content in just one night. The same concept also applies to review. If you are familiar with the topics just spend each day before the examination reviewing a chapter. It's better to spread out studying to help alleviate the pressure on your mind.

5. Be Healthy don't snack too much and keep caffeine to a minimum

Your entire body reacts to changes in your diet and exercise pattern this includes your mind. It's very easy to "accidentally" go to McDonald's every night during midterms or "accidentally" stop by 7-Eleven at approximately 1:00 AM each evening to indulge in two for two dollars Doritos. In order to keep your mental performance at its peak, you must maintain a healthy diet and keep these irregular behaviors at a minimum. This will result in success on your midterms.

## Ask Monty

Dear Monty,

I just saw my midterms. I am failing miserably and want to drop out of school. I am feeling very depressed. What do I do?

Sincerely,  
Failing and Scared

Dear Failing & Scared,

Don't get too stressed out quite yet. I promise you are not the only one having trouble. There are many ways you can help improve your grades. First of all, the Student Success Center offers tutoring to anyone having trouble in a class. Make an appointment and get help, but don't be embarrassed about it. There's nothing wrong with asking for help when you need it. Everyone has a bad semester. If you still feel depressed after getting help, talk to Vickie Shawl or a close friend. Call a family member back home. Spend a little more time studying and getting help and I'm sure you will do just fine.

Wishing You Good Luck,  
Monty

Dear Monty,

I thought it would be easier to make friends at college, but I am really having a hard time. I don't know who to talk to or how to get involved. Do you have any suggestions?

Signed,  
Lonely & Bored

Dear Lonely & Bored,

Everyone has issues making friends sometimes. There are movie nights once a week on campus. You can attend one of those or other various events on campus. Find something that interests you. Chances are, someone else has the same interest. Get involved in any of the events held on campus. If you see someone by themselves, go say hi. Maybe they need a friend too. You can almost always find someone in either of the lobbies in Maclin or Ratliff Hall. If you are staying on campus, perhaps your roommate can help you as well. Try to be outgoing with even one person. You might just make their day and walk away with a new friend.

## Poetry Corner

“These Woods” by Sean Cushing

Walking through the woods  
Moon at my back  
The glow seeps  
Through  
The twigs all snap  
The creatures are stirring  
That old beast is purring  
He's deep down inside  
He ravages my mind  
The woods are silent  
The pressure keeps climbing  
Surrounded by leaves  
The hearts on the sleeve  
It shows that I bleed  
I walk through these woods  
With this disease  
I can't get through  
I'll scream  
But I'm mute  
I would jump  
But there's no parachute  
These woods are narrow  
These woods are tremendous  
I feel so defenseless  
I wonder if its all  
Really endless

“The Men of Constant Sorrow” by  
Sean Cushing

We are all men of constant sorrow  
Living on time that's borrowed  
Waiting on tomorrow  
Sailing away like the Argo  
The sun will set  
And it will rise  
So incomparable there is no size  
It will set for us all one day  
The day we choose to pay  
No more need to pray  
But my friends don't fade  
We are all men of constant sorrow  
By our pain we are swallowed  
By death we are all followed  
Flying away like a swallow  
So when that day comes  
And you've seen the lies you've spun  
I say don't run please don't run  
Face it with pride in your lungs  
It's a hard thing to do  
But easy for the man and not the fool  
We are all men of constant sorrow  
Broken down and hollow  
Wading out into the black grotto  
Remember friends this motto  
About the men of constant sorrow

Unentitled by Kenny Plumley

Baby, we are the galaxy, slowly trying  
to figure out where we belong. It takes  
years to make any kind of progress, but  
we are definite. I love you.  
You love me even though I'm scared of  
weird things. Dolls and Slugs are my  
weakness, but to you I'm still a king;  
And yes you're my queen. There was  
never any doubt. Even though you're  
short, and don't know what we're about.  
But I love you.  
You are my backbone, my theoretical  
spine. At the end of every day, I sleep  
great knowing that you're mine. Your  
curves and your figure, it just drew  
the line. It's like you don't realize that  
you're so damn fine.  
But this is the end, it's all I have left.  
Thank you for loving me and stealing  
my heart just like theft.

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”  
 -Albert Einstein

## On this day in history..

October 19, 1997 - John Denver honored at Grand Ole Opry for “Take me Home Country Roads”

October 20, 1803 - US Senate approved the Louisiana Purchase

October 21, 1945 - Women in France allowed to vote for the first time

October 22, 1939 - The first televised pro football game was telecasted from New York

October 23, 1929 - the Dow Jones industrial average plunged starting the stock market crash just before the Great Depression

October 25, 1955 - the microwave oven was introduced for home use by the Tappan Company

October 27, 1904 - the New York subway system opens as the first rapid-transit system in America

October 31, 1993 - River Phoenix died at the age of 23 after collapsing outside The Viper Room in Hollywood

November 2, 1889 - North Dakota and South Dakota were admitted into the union as the 39th and 40th states

## Halloween Movie List

Halloween  
 Friday the 13th  
 Nightmare on Elm Street  
 Hocus Pocus  
 The Nightmare Before Christmas  
 Halloweentown  
 Corpse Bride  
 Casper  
 Beetlejuice  
 ParaNorman  
 Monster House  
 Sleepy Hollow  
 Frankenweenie  
 Poltergeist  
 Scream  
 The Shining  
 Dracula  
 Psycho  
 The Exorcist  
 IT  
 The Conjuring  
 The Amityville Horror  
 Paranormal Activity  
 Cujo  
 The Crazies  
 The Sixth Sense  
 Pet Sematary  
 Saw  
 Night of the Living Dead  
 The Addams Family  
 Indisious  
 The Fog