



Tech Collegian



WVU Tech, Montgomery, WV

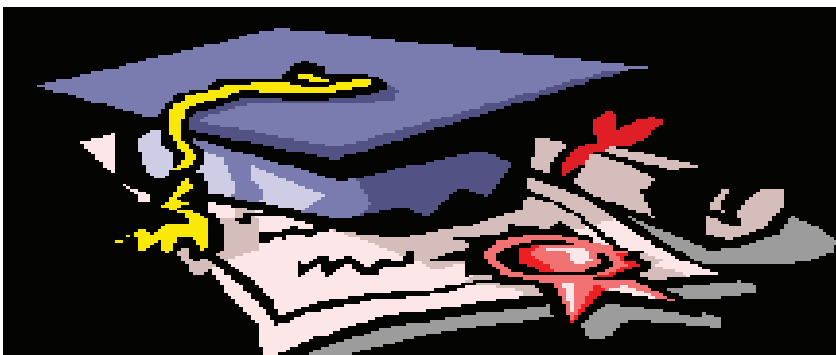
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Recovering from Failing a Class

By Krystin Barton
Staff Writer

Since midterms are quickly approaching, some of us may not be doing as well in a class we would like. It's not too late to salvage your grade, but in case you failed a class last semester, we have some tips to help you along. Failing a class or two in college can seem like the end of world and like nothing could get any worse. Take a deep breath and realize you're not the first person to fail a class in college and most certainly won't be the last. In college you will have ups and down, you will have semesters where you have so much work that you just don't have enough time to put as much effort into each class, it's okay. No matter what you do you cannot give up just because of one or two failed classes. You just have to pick your head up and take a few steps to recover from the class you just failed. First, you have to stop beating yourself up about failing the class. Then, you should talk to someone about it. Whether it be your parents, a professor, or a trusted friend, they can reassure you it happens more than you think. After you have talked to someone and you have relaxed about it, you should hang out with friends or do something that makes you happy and keeps your mind occupied so you're not overthinking it. The last thing you should do is find ways to prepare you to retake the class. The best way to prepare yourself for a class you just failed is to talk to the professor about the class. You need to find out what all you did wrong and the things you need to work on so you can pass with a good grade the next time. It is also recommended that you take the class from a different professor because sometimes you just need a different type of teaching in order to understand the class. You should also keep your notes from the class you failed so when you retake it you can have two sets of notes to refer back to. Then just before you retake the class, you need to find a tutor that which you are comfortable working with and asking questions. The final thing you need to do retake the class in a semester that will be more laid back so you will have more free time and more time to focus on succeeding in the class. Using this method, you can spend extra time studying for the class and focus on doing your best. I would also recommend after the class starts that you go and visit the professor every couple weeks to see how you are doing in that class, along with asking any questions that you might have about the class work. You might have failed the class once, but that shouldn't stop you from retaking the class and passing it the second time.



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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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Professor Spotlights

By Rhea Calica
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what your professors are like outside of the classroom? Two professors have come forward to share their interests and some of their history with you, their students. The two who agreed to share a little more of themselves with you are Dr. Cynthia Hall of Psychology and Dr. Matthew Williamson of Computer Science and Information Systems. By letting you into their lives, they hope you can understand them a little better and come to respect their pasts.

To begin, allow me to introduce Dr. Hall. For those who do not know her, she teaches many of the Psychology classes alongside Dr. Lieving. As a first-generation college student, Dr. Hall was an undeclared major. However, she was leaning toward a degree in art. After taking a few classes to test the waters, Dr. Hall realized art just was not meant to be her major if she had to create her artwork for grades. Psychology became her focus when she had to take "Analysis of Behavioral Data I" when her preferred class was full. It was her professor in this course that hooked her. He taught her class in a way that was "funny, easy to grasp, and involved a great deal of hands on experience conducting research". Dr. Hall had become fascinated by the theories and information held within psychology. Graduating before she and two of her professors finished a research study, Dr. Hall decided to complete her Masters at the same university so she may continue her research. Dr. Hall chose to teach her major because she wanted other students to make similar connections and she wanted to be able to help them accomplish them. As a result, Dr. Hall has been teaching Psychology for 10.5 years.

Dr. Hall isn't all about Psychology, however. Many of her hobbies still lie within the creative arts. She enjoys playing the piano, alto saxophone, clarinet, guitar, mandolin, and some banjo. "My favorite to play is guitar," says Dr. Hall. She is also a supporter of local music and tries to see live local bands whenever she possibly can. In addition, she is a gamer. Dr. Hall says her favorite video game series to play is Elder Scrolls including Morrowind, Oblivion, and Skyrim. Her final favorite hobby is traveling and does so whenever she is able. Finally, Dr. Hall has many accomplishments she is particularly proud of, and it was difficult for her to create a condensed list. She is proud of having graduated college three times and presenting her Master's research at an international conference in Crete, Greece. "It was the first time I had traveled abroad and I had the honor of presenting my research alongside the famous psychologists who I had cited in my research," recalls Dr. Hall.

Love Your Melon Campaign

By Rob Leibel
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association is currently in the process of creating a campaign where they will be getting ambassadors on campus ready for the fall semester. The ambassadors will be used for the Love Your Melon Campaign, a college student formed organization that was founded in Minnesota, focusing on putting a hat on every child that is dealing with the fight with cancer. The idea is to get people to buy various beanies and with every beanie purchased, a child with cancer will receive a beanie as well. Also, 50% of the proceeds goes to the organization's partners, Pinky Swear Foundation and CureSearch, where they are researching a cure for cancer. Now, the ambassadors will receive the packaged hats that are needed to go to the children with cancer and they will dress up as super heroes to give them to the patients. The school would have to wait until the fall before they could apply to be a part of this program, but it will be beneficial for the school. Plus, who wouldn't want to dress up like a hero, do a great service to the community, and brighten up someone's life.

Professor Spotlights (continued)

Dr. Williamson comes from a more planned history. Computer Science was one thing Dr. Williamson grew up with. "My father worked with computers and programming, so I've been exposed to it for a long time," recalls Dr. Williamson. "I still remember playing games on my father's TI-99/4A." To begin, Dr. Williamson was dedicated to studying game development. However, as time progressed, he realized there were endless possibilities for computer programming. "There's something satisfying about creating your own programs," says Dr. Williamson. He decided to teach his major because he absolutely enjoys it one hundred percent despite the demanding work load. He wishes for his students to understand and succeed in his classes just as he once did. "It's gratifying seeing my students understanding the material and succeeding in my classes," comments Dr. Williamson. Secondly, Dr. Williamson enjoys teaching Computer Science because the demand for students in those majors is at an all-time high. Businesses and organizations are always in need of people to write software and programs for them, especially in this day and age of technology. "Even in West Virginia, where right now it seems like there isn't much of a job market, there are opportunities in computing," states Dr. Williamson. "In fact, I would make the claim that the future of this state will be computing. So we need more people studying Computer Science and Information Systems if that future is to become a reality, and I intend to make that happen".

Just like Dr. Hall, Dr. Williamson's hobbies lie far outside the academic idea and in the creative arts. Dr. Williamson is a gamer through and through. Playing PC and console games, Dr. Williamson has played most Blizzard games and occasionally League of Legends. He is also a fan of team trivia at restaurant and tries to win free food with his friends. Dr. Williamson also used to play trumpet in symphonic and jazz ensembles, which he hopes to one-day return to. Dr. Williamson also has many accomplishments he is proud of and thankful for. First of all, he is proud of the high school and Tech's programming competitions he has arranged in which he hopes for a bigger turnout in the future. He is also in the process of designing online computer courses for high schoolers in the hope of introducing them to their future careers. Dr. Williamson is proud that he has gotten to work with multiple students in varying age groups and teach them about music, programming, computers, and mathematics. He is also glad to have taken a minor in Leadership Studies which taught him to be a better leader. In addition, he has travelled the Mediterranean and is thankful for the chance to appreciate the scenery and cultures. Dr. Williamson says, "All of these opportunities have changed my life for the better. If I can do the same thing for someone else, to provide opportunities that change even one person's life, that would be my greatest accomplishment."

Through this article, I hope you, as a unique and talented student, can better understand and connect to both Dr. Hall and Dr. Williamson and be thankful they have chosen to teach us and better our lives when they have the skills to do so much more for themselves. Thank you to all of Tech's professors.

The Dawn of a New Era: WVU Tech Soccer

By Marvell Conner III
Guest Writer

Tech soccer kicked their way into a new conference, the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, under new head coach John Dunn this season. Tech soccer, coached by new interim head coach John Dunn, finished their first season placing second in the new conference posting a record of 5-2 in conference play and an outstanding 16-2 overall record. This was the first season without Coach Louis Cortell, who led the team to many successful seasons and also winning two USCAA championships.

Louis Cortell, who had been Tech's soccer coach since 2011, had led the team to 2 successful winning seasons which resulted in United States Collegiate Athletic Association championships. At the end of the 2014 season, Tech was forced to find a new head coach after Cortell announced his transfer to Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina. That's where Coach John Dunn comes in. Coach Dunn had been Cortell's assistant coach for the years that Cortell was here, and it wasn't long before he was named the interim head coach.

Coach Dunn's first season was a very successful one. Tech finished the season as runners-up in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) posting a 5-2 record, losing to only conference champs Rio Grande and finishing the season with a 16-2 overall record. This was the first season that Tech had been a part of the KIAC. According to officials of the NAIA National Championship Games committee, under Dunn, the team also received an at-large bid in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) soccer tournament round of 32 to face No. 15 Campbellsville University which took place on Saturday, November 21, 2015 where Tech sadly lost 4-2 to end their season.

According to the WVU Tech men's soccer webpage, which received its information from dakstats.com, "The Golden Bears held six top-five rankings in the first division of NAIA, including the top spot in shots on goal per game (13.760). They were No. 2 in shots per game (23.940) while ranking No. 4 in assists per game (3.470) and goals per game (4.350) and No. 5 in total assists (59) and total goals (74)." It doesn't stop there; also to announce there were two players, Sophomores Francisco Neto and Jose Segarra, who were named honorable mention NAIA All-Americans which officials announced Tuesday December 8, 2015 according to Chad Waller, the NAIA director of Communications and Sports information.

With such success in his first year as a coach, it is possible that Coach Dunn will soon be the permanent head coach. A WVU Tech soccer player who wished to remain anonymous said, "Coach Dunn is a good coach and did a very good job this year. He does a great job with getting everyone involved and integrating the young with the multi-year varsity players, to give them a different aspect of playing with everyone." Another Tech soccer player said, "Coach Dunn is a good coach and would be a great permanent head coach if he receives that job. He did a good job this year with working with everyone and making sure we were all ready to play when it came to game time. He would be an even better coach if he grew better a relationship with the new players, just as good as the relationship with the players who had been playing for the team for the past couple of years. Also, he should listen to us and see what we have to say about things we feel are not going well or things we're not doing to our best abilities and switch up tactics to help players."

WVU Tech soccer players strongly believe Dunn will be back, not as an interim coach, but the permanent head coach.

New WVU Tech Track & Field Team

By Kylie Lang
Guest Writer

WVU Tech's new track & field team anxiously awaits the sound of the gun in February. The track team will be starting off their season with three indoor meets, followed by ten outdoor meets. Head cross country Coach, Bruce Cox, will be taking on the role as Head Coach for the track team as well, but he will not be alone this season. With thirty-four athletes on the track team, Coach Cox will be assisted by two new coaches.

According to Coach Cox, "Being a new program, we certainly have our work cut-out for us, especially in the numbers game. However, with the athletes we have, we certainly have the opportunity to surprise a few of the other teams in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Championship Meet, perhaps even landing a couple of qualifiers in the NAIA Championship Meet. Plus, we have certainly created a solid foundation to build upon moving into the future."

As for the new staff, Coach Wayne Phillips will be the team's new throwing coach, and he has been training the throwers so that they will be meet ready. The team is excited to see the outcome of all the training as the season progresses. With his collegiate experience, as a competitor and later as a coach, Coach Phillips brings with him all the experience and technical knowledge necessary to build a solid throwing core.

The team's second new coach is Jeremy Bloom who will be training the sprinters and a few hurdles/steeple chasers. Coach Bloom said, "I think expectations [for the team] are a tricky thing. With a brand new program, especially with as young of a group as we have, specifics are tough to come by. That said, I think we will be good and competitive at the end of the conference." Coach Bloom said, "I bring structure and studious seriousness to the sport. I have 18 freshman sprinters so they are green. The first few weeks of practice have been eye opening for them in that our program is challenging. In high school, they were simply better than everyone else because of talent. That simply isn't the case at the collegiate level. So what change do I bring them? Enhanced individual expectations and a changed perspective in what it honestly takes to be competitive."

Coach Cox is very excited about our new assistant coaches, adding, "This is my third time building a collegiate program from scratch, and one of the keys is certainly bringing in a staff that understands the vision, and is willing to work within a very specific framework. Coach Phillips worked with us while we were at the University of Charleston, coaching up several national qualifiers, including a three time All-American. Then we were blessed to find Coach Bloom, and his willingness to take on multiple roles within our program. While his primary role this Spring will be with the sprint group, he will also work closely with us on further developing our distance group. Both coaches are very surprised at the talent level we have brought in for our first year, believing we can surely turn some heads in the KIAC. We are extremely pleased to have them both onboard." WVU Tech's track team is off to a good start and seems to be in good hands with the team's amazing coaching staff. We will all be anxiously waiting to hear how the season goes. As a school the coaches and the team hopes to see this program progress and get bigger and better as the years go by. Upward and onward, WVU Tech track and field!

Travel West Virginia

By Rob Leibel
Staff Writer

Looking for a place to travel to on the weekends, or a small vacation? If so, in this issue, we are recommending to travel to The Greenbrier. Located in White Sulphur Springs, The Greenbrier is a national landmark and is also a world-class resort. First opened in 1778, The Greenbrier has expanded to be a 10,000-acre retreat where royalty, celebrities, and business leaders frequent. Also, 26 out of 44 of our country's presidents have visited this beautiful resort. This resort has over 55 activities where people can go spend their relaxing time. The Greenbrier has a golf course, tennis courts, off-road driving, falconry, and even horseback riding. The resort has plenty of fine dining cuisines and they have a "world-class" casino for the ones that want to try to push their luck with the slot machines or card tables. This may seem a little expensive for the college life, but it will be worth it from all the activities that are provided. Plus, who would not want to relax from a week of mid-terms with a nice and relaxing massage at their spa. If you want to travel in West Virginia, The Greenbrier is the place to visit, especially with this moody weather.

Greek Life Update

By Rob Leibel
Staff Writer

Alpha Sigma Tau:

The spring recruitment was a success, where they had an "Ugly Sweater Party", a Craft Night, and various activities all week. AΣT pinned three exceptional young women whom will be excited to start new member classes. AΣT also sponsored an open campus event to go to Calacino's Pizzeria. Everyone had a great time and plan to sponsor more fun campus outings. In March, the Alpha Sigma Tau Gamma Mu chapter will volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, their local philanthropy they're constantly involved with. If you want to know more about AΣT or just want some genuine friends, they eat lunch in the Bears Den at 12:30 on Thursdays.

Delta Kappa Theta:

Delta Kappa Theta have been working hard as well on trying to supply service for the community. The sorority participated in the Student Government Association's Day of Service, which was on MLK Day. They bared the freezing weather and helped pick up trash at the local Morris Creek Water Shed. They participated in rush week with a theme that was based on the TV show "Friends". ΔKΘ will have four girls have been pinned into the sorority. The whole week was a blast and the sisters are looking forward to these wonderful ladies becoming sisters of Delta Kappa Theta. The local sorority also participated in a cake pop fundraiser that made suckers that are made out of cake. They sold to the community at the local hospital, Montgomery General Hospital, and to the students in the Bear's Den. They are excited to participate further in the future to help with the community.

Sigma Pi:

The past year was rough for Sigma Pi Gamma-Xi Chapter. There was a time where Sigma Pi weren't sure they were going to be able to continue as a chapter. It is great to announce that, despite everything that happened, they are on an upswing. The national fraternity currently gained three new members and look forward to showing them everything Sigma Pi has to offer. Relations with other Greek organizations on campus are strengthening and the group is eager to participate in cooperative events.

Phi Kappa Tau:

The Phi Kappa Tau Epsilon Beta Chapter have been working hard to get the chapter ready for the transition to Beckley. The fraternity recently went to Old Dominion University to attend a regional conference with other chapters, which helped brothers gain new leadership skills. After participating in rush week, the chapter was able to get seven young gentlemen who are qualified to join the fraternity. Not only did we get seven new men, the fraternity gained a new advisor, Scott Robertson. Phi Tau is excited to work with everyone. The men also participated in the Day of Service, with helping at Morris Creek, a homeless shelter in Beckley, and volunteered at an animal shelter. The group is currently collecting Box Tops for Education in order to raise money. The national fraternity is excited to see what is in store for the rest of the semester.

White Rose Valentine

By Rhea Calica
Staff Writer

Two months have passed since the one I thought was my destiny turned his back on me. Two months containing Christmas and New Year's. Now I was faced with the dreaded day of lovers. I stood alone in the crisp winter wind, watching as the setting sun signaled the end of another cold day. As the sky darkened, I began to make my way back to my empty dorm room. My roommate Crissy was gone to be with her own boyfriend this weekend. Unlocking my door, I walked inside with a heavy heart, not even bothering to turn on the light.

I remembered a time when being single on Valentine's Day didn't matter. It was a time when my sister Kassidy and I would enjoy a movie, popcorn, and each other's company. We didn't need anyone else. But that was years ago. On my own at college, she wasn't there to raise my spirits. She wasn't there to remind me of what Valentine's Day was about. But I had my memories. Ridding myself of the day's class weight, I threw myself onto my bed and buried my face in the pillows. Closing my eyes, tears began to stream in neat rivulets down my cheeks as I remembered the very first time Kassidy and I turned Valentine's Day into Sister's Day three years ago.

The day before Valentine's, Kassidy and I were uncertain of what to do. All of our friends had significant others. Essentially, we were alone, but that didn't stop us. We were determined to do something that would take away the romantic feeling of Valentine's Day. Just what was there to do in our little barren town? Neither of us had wanted to stay locked away from the world inside. We had to come up with a plan. Later that night, we learned a new movie was hitting theatres, and it just so happened it was one we both desperately wanted to see.

So our plan was set. After the school day ended on Valentine's Day, we would coerce Mom into a ride to the nearest theatre. Unfortunately for her, the nearest one was an hour away from home. Regardless, our mother agreed and picked us up from the high school after the final bell. The movie premiere wouldn't start until midnight, but that didn't stop us. Off we went into the city to kill time. Our very first stop was the mall.

The mall was open until ten that night, so that was where we spent most of our free time. We went in and out of various clothing stores and entertainment stores. Kassidy needed a new phone case, so we even made a trip to one of the phone places in the mall. We ate dinner in the food court before we left for the theatre. The theatre was only about ten minutes away from the mall, so we had arrived way too early for our show. Still, we got our tickets and goofed off at the arcade games they had set up inside.

That was the night that the fact we were single didn't matter. That was the night I learned Valentine's Day can be about sisterly love and not just romance. That was the night I learned friends are just as important as any fleeting romance. But that was also the only night, the only Valentine's Day, where those truths were realized. The following fall, I left for college hours away from home.

I never got to speak to my sister on the following Valentine's Day. I didn't get to relive that familial connection in either of the next two years. And then there was this year. This year, I had no family or friends to spend my Valentine's Day with. They were all preoccupied with their own plans. Laying in my bed, I realized that didn't matter. I took one more deep breath before sitting up and drying my eyes and wiping my cheeks free of the tear stains.

I could have a perfectly good night on my own. Who cared if I didn't have a significant other? Who cared if I spent the night alone eating ice cream and watching Netflix as long as I wasn't setting the world on fire? I changed into comfy lay-around clothes and settled in for my revelation. It was then I heard the hesitant knock on my door. My hair was in a sloppy ponytail and my room was a mess, but I got up and opened the door anyway. Who cared? But when I opened the door, I fell into silent shock. He was standing there in blue jeans and a plain white tee. His hair was wet from the rain outside, and in his hands, he held a single white rose. He looked at me uncertainly. Taking the rose gently from his hand, I smiled softly. Miraculously, an old friend came to save my night. I gazed down at the beautiful flower and all my worries slipped away. Maybe new beginnings were possible. After all, if my white rose valentine could come to me, who was to say tomorrow wouldn't teach more lessons. If only I could wait.

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world"
- Robin Williams

On This Day in History..

February 22, 1732: George Washington is born in Westmoreland County, VA.

February 24, 1821: Mexico gains independence from Spain.

February 26, 1933: Ground is broken for the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

February 27, 1908: The forty-sixth star is added to the US flag, symbolizing Oklahoma's admission to statehood.

February 29, 1692: Sarah Good and Tituba are accused to witchcraft; sparking the beginning of the Salem Witch Trials.

March 1, 1969: Mickey Mantle announces his retirement from baseball.

March 3, 1845: Florida becomes the 27th US state.

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