



# On Campus

March 6-26, 2006



## SPRING FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT LARGEST IN HISTORY

The spring full-time enrollment at West Virginia University at Parkersburg is the highest in the college's 45-year history. The full-time equivalency (FTE) measurement calculates the number of students and credit hours taken in terms that can be compared with headcount enrollment. For the spring term, the calculation equates to 2,466 full-time students attending the college.

It is the largest spring FTE total in the college's existence. The record-setting FTE reflects a 2.5 percent increase over last year's spring enrollment totals. A total of 3,556 full- and part-time students are enrolled in classes for the spring semester. Sixty percent of them reside in Wood County and nearly 19 percent live in Jackson County.

"As we enhance opportunities for students to access our courses and programs, these initiatives are resulting in record enrollments for the college," Marie Foster Gnage, president of WVU Parkersburg, noted.

She cited increases in the availability of on-line courses, partnerships with area public school systems and higher education institutions, and heightened recruiting and marketing strategies as contributing to the college's sustained growth.

In the fall, WVU Parkersburg set a 29-year record in the calculated number of full-time students enrolled in classes for the fall semester. The college's fall FTE rate was the second highest fall total in the college's history. The overall enrollment increased by nearly two per cent for the fall with 3,772 enrolled.

## FOUNDATION SURPASSES HALF-WAY MARK OF FUNDRAISING GOAL

The WVU at Parkersburg Foundation has surpassed the half-way mark of its 2006 fundraising goal of \$500,000.

To date, the Foundation has topped more than \$250,000 in gifts received and pledges made. The contributions are funding facility improvements, the startup of new programs, scholarships for students, and faculty and staff development opportunities, Foundation officials noted.

"As the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation comes of age, we are gaining momentum to increase the level of charitable support for WVU Parkersburg," said Ronald N. Roberts, president of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation. Its board of directors and college leadership set a fundraising goal of \$500,000.

"Our commitment and drive is to increase the level of much needed dollars that the Foundation raises to support the ever growing base of students, programs, and leadership that WVU at Parkersburg provides for the Mid-Ohio Valley region," Roberts added.

While WVU at Parkersburg is a public institution, charitable donations are needed by the college to fund such initiatives as expansion of programs, improvement and expansion of facilities, and acquisition of new technology.

“We receive basic operating dollars from the state but to continue our tradition of excellence in higher education and our leadership as the community’s college, we need the financial contributions of the citizens of our region to support us,” said Marie Foster Gnage, president of the college.

“The Mid-Ohio Valley community has a wonderful tradition of supporting public higher education,” she added. “Gifts are needed for many aspects of the college community and we welcome our community’s involvement.”

The WVU at Parkersburg Foundation, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation managed by a local board of directors of community members, business leaders, and alumni that receives and administers private gifts from individuals and organizations for the benefit of WVU at Parkersburg.

## SPRING BREAK

Spring break is the week of March 13. Classes resume March 20.

## FORENSICS TEAM TAKES THIRD PLACE IN STATE

West Virginia University at Parkersburg’s forensics team took third place in individual events and overall team sweeps at the annual state tournament of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Forensics Association.

Participants included all state colleges and universities involved in intercollegiate forensics. The competition was held Feb. 24-25 at Shepherd University.

In the competition categories, WVU Parkersburg students and their honors included: Duo Dramatic Interpretation: Brittany Huffman/Kaleb Smith - first place, and Jon Corra/Adam Heflin - fourth place; Poetry: Brittany Huffman - first place; After Dinner Speaking: Adam Heflin - second place, Jon Corra - third place, and Brittany Huffman - fifth place; Program Oral Interpretation: Brittany Huffman - first place; Impromptu: Jon Corra - fifth place; Informative Speaking: Brittany Huffman - third place, Rebecca McClung - fourth place, and Jenny Metz - fifth place; Single Dramatic Interpretation: Brittany Huffman - fourth place; Prose Interpretation: Brittany Huffman - first place, and Kaleb Smith - fourth place; Persuasion: Jon Corra - sixth place; Pentathlon, Overall Speaker: Brittany Huffman - first place.

Team members also adding to the team sweeps points included Jane Eyberg and Candi Jacenkiw. Parkersburg’s forensics team is coached by Barbara Harris, instructor of speech.

## NEW TO CAMPUS

Jan Miller has joined the campus community as the evening administrator. She can be reached at ext. 225 in Office 1109.

## INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON

The campus’ International Luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, March 9, in the multi-purpose room. You are invited to bring your favorite international cuisine and enjoy the food and entertainment which will include the Groove Project, entertainment by the Children’s Room, dulcimer music by Mike Mollohan, and the traditional parade of international costumes.

## WEB REDUX

The college’s Alumni web site has been redesigned. It is located at [www.wvup.edu/alumni/](http://www.wvup.edu/alumni/) (or visit the college home page and click on “Resource links for” in the right-hand column). The site has been designed to offer alumni the opportunity to use the portal as an on-line community and connection to the college, its faculty/staff and alumni. If you are an alumnus/alumna of the college, please take a moment to visit the site and provide your information for the alumni database. Judy Shremshock (Class 2005) is the college’s new alumni development representative. She can be reached at ext. 375, Room 1026.

Also, the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation site has been restyled as well. The site includes new content, including links to the Foundation's annual reports. It can be reached at [www.wvup.edu/foundation/](http://www.wvup.edu/foundation/) or, from the college home page, click on "Links of Note" in the left-hand column.

## FACULTY MEMBER TO ADDRESS FATALITY ASSESSMENT SESSION

A West Virginia University at Parkersburg faculty member will discuss "Sociocultural Considerations of Death and Dying" at the annual Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation meeting being held Thursday, March 9, in Morgantown.

Gregory Busch, WVU Parkersburg instructor of sociology, will be among the presenters at the national meeting convened by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Session participants will include principal investigators and program directors from 15 state-based NIOSH-funded and FACE programs.

State-based FACE and NIOSH personnel investigate work-related deaths of workers from diverse cultures. Busch will address ways in which these groups react to death and suggestions how personnel can become more skillful in approaching survivors with prevention recommendations.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

**Melody Mercer**, Payroll Representative, has been selected as Employee of the Month for March.

Melody earned an associates degree from Washington Technical College and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from West Virginia University at Parkersburg. Melody was hired at WVU Parkersburg in the Computer Center in April of 1993, and moved to the Business Office in October of 1994.

Melody and her husband Terry of 28 years (29 years this July) live in Vincent, Ohio. They have a pet beagle, Barney, who has owned *them* for 13 years. Terry and Melody do not have any children, but are very close with their nieces and nephews. Their oldest niece has 3 sons, aged 6, 4, and 2. They are like "grandkids" to Melody and Terry.

Melody says that crafting is her "obsession." She enjoys making baskets, floral arrangements, and interior decorating. She also enjoys gardening, reading, cooking and entertaining. She loves to travel, and she and her husband do a lot of motorcycling.

Melody is involved in several committees on campus. She is on Staff Council Committees, including those for Staff Appreciation Week, Casino Night, and the Alternate Lunch Committee.

Melody expressed her gratitude for being selected Employee of the Month by saying; "I have enjoyed my years at WVUP and have worked with some really great people. I look forward to many more years here."

Following are excerpts from the nominations that served as the basis for Melody's selection as Employee of the Month:

"Melody is always willing to help solve a problem or assist with a staff council fund raiser. She is always enjoyable to work with. She is a very dependable and valuable employee for WVU at Parkersburg."

### About On Campus

*On Campus* is published biweekly by the College Communications unit of West Virginia University at Parkersburg. It is distributed to faculty, staff, students, institutional boards and others interested in the college. *On Campus* contains official college announcements, news reports and notices of campus events and other college-related information. The newsletter may be viewed online at [http://www.wvup.edu/On\\_Campus/index.htm](http://www.wvup.edu/On_Campus/index.htm). Submissions for *On Campus* should be sent to the Information Office, Room 1102 or emailed to [info@mail.wvup.edu](mailto:info@mail.wvup.edu).

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