



The Midwest Mountaineer

The Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Chapter of the WVU Alumni Association

Spring 2014 Vol. 38

Save the Date: Our Annual Summer Family Picnic and Cornhole Championship is set for Sunday, August 3rd By Jason Smith



Our **annual picnic** will be held at **Sharon Woods Park** in Sharonville, OH, **Sunday, August 3th** in the **Great Meadow Shelter**. **Admission is free to dues paying members** and current students. Non-members pay a small admission fee. An entire picnic meal and beverages will be provided to all Mountaineers, big and small. The Chapter will be holding our 12th annual cornhole tournament for both WVU-themed prizes and more importantly bragging rights until next year's champion is crowned. As has become tradition, members and guests are invited to bring their musical instruments (guitars, harmonicas, washboards, jugs, etc.) as we will attempt to tap into our WV heritage and put together a mountain jam. This year the chapter is working to make this event even more special with the addition of some special guests. Vehicle permits are required to enter the park and can be purchased at the park entrance upon entry.

A Mountaineer Memory By Jackie Turner

I did not grow up in a household that favored, much less worshipped, any college team. Most of my extended family commuted to a local state college. However, all that changed for me when in late winter of 1979, my high school basketball team played its way into the state finals. Those championship games were fought out in the WVU coliseum, and I am still not certain how I talked my parents into driving me and several friends from Winfield WV to Morgantown to watch our game. What I vividly remember, though, was my first glimpse of the Coliseum from I-79, and the feeling that came with it. From that moment forward, I was a Mountaineer. In the Spring I applied to WVU, was accepted into the Class of 1983 and never looked back.

My husband Jim likes to joke that, when we married, I made him promise to become a Mountaineer fan as part of our vows. Recently I asked him about his favorite Mountaineer memory of our past 18+ years together. He said it was watching the orange-clad Clemson fans steadily emptying out of the stadium during the second half of the 2012 Orange Bowl like so much orange juice from a fractured glass. His comment was, "Since the team decided not to show up for the second half, their fans left too." That's my man! What I remember is the breath-taking, voice-losing game itself: Geno Smith breaking Tom Brady's Orange Bowl passing record, and tying all-time bowl game records with 407 passing yards along with 6 touchdown passes; Darwin Cook's 99-yard touchdown run, the 2nd longest play in Orange Bowl history; the Mounties' record-breaking 589 yards of total offense and 31 first downs; Tavon Austin catching 4 touchdown passes, matching the record for any previous bowl game; and the West Virginia Mountaineers putting 70 beautiful, bowl game record-breaking points on the board. What a memory, and what a victory in classic Mountaineer style! Let's Go, Mountaineers!



Jackie and Jim enjoy the atmosphere Orange Bowl

Midwest Mountaineer Social Media Update

Hello Mountaineers! As many of you know, the chapter strives to keep up with the ever-changing social media landscape to ensure our members have every opportunity to participate in the activities of the chapter. Get involved in one or all of our social media groups to keep up with the latest Midwest Mountaineer happenings.

FACEBOOK GROUP: Midwest Mountaineers is one of the primary ways we communicate chapter events such as game watches, Annual Spring Dinner, Summer picnic, etc. Easy way to RSVP to events you plan on attending so that we can get a head count and make sure to have you accounted for!

TWITTER: @WVUAlumInCincy has been another tool to communicate game watch festivities. We follow various WVU alumni chapters, WVU athletes, WVU academic programs, and general state of West Virginia accounts to ensure we have a good flavor of interaction with our alma mater.

LINKEDIN: WVU Alumni – Midwest Mountaineers A great networking tool for professionals in the area. This has been a great source for meeting new Mountaineers in the area and recruit potential members to grow the chapter.

CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.midwestmountaineer.com We recently upgraded the website and will look for future upgrades as we progress throughout the year.

EMAIL: Midwest_mountaineer@yahoo.com Directions on how to subscribe to our chapter email group can be found by visiting our website and clicking on the "About" tab toward the top left corner of the page. Once there, look near the center of the bottom and you will see "Join Our Email List." Click on the email address and you can easily add yourself to the group.

Here are our latest numbers. We are always looking to expand our reach, so please follow us, join our group, or link in with us ASAP!



144 Group Members: Our goal is to reach 200 members by the end of 2014.



@WVUAlumInCincy: 64 Followers – Our goal is to reach 100 followers by the end of 2014.



WVU Alumni-Midwest Mountaineers: 99 Group Members. Targeting 150 members by the end of 2014.

Other Chapter Events

We are currently planning additional events. Interested in the Olympic sport of Curling? How about hanging out with fellow Mountaineers for Happy Hour and our annual 'Countdown to Kickoff?' These events as well as our usual Fall gamewatch gatherings will be planned throughout the year. These events will be advertised by email and on our social media sites.



Scenes from the WVU Campus from top:

Woodburn Hall at night, PRT in action, Mast from the USS WV, Mountaineer statue by The Mountainair.

Greater Cincinnati/Dayton WVU Alumni Chapter Scholarship

For the past 13 years the Cincinnati/Dayton WVU Alumni Chapter has provided a \$1000 per year scholarship to a local student who attends WVU. The scholarship is one of the ways our chapter gives back to our alma mater and to the local community. To date our chapter has given out \$13,000 to help support local students. In 2010 we began the process of endowing our scholarship. Once our scholarship is fully endowed it will provide approximately \$1000 scholarship each year in perpetuity for a deserving student in our area to attend WVU. Through our major functions, as well as contributions from our members, we have raised \$22,000 for our endowment. Our goal is to have our chapter scholarship fully endowed by 2015. To achieve this goal we need to raise \$3000 over the next year.

With WVU's move to the Big12 our primary fundraising source, the pregame events when we play at UC, will no longer occur. Because of this we ask for your help. By making tax deductible contributions directly to the WVU Foundation you can help make the goal of our scholarship being fully endowed by 2015 a reality. By including the information below any donation sent to the WVU Foundation will be added to our endowment.

Donations can be made via the WVU Foundation website (<http://www.wvuf.org/>) or by mail using the order form below. Always refer to Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Chapter WVU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund #3Z308 on the check memo line or in the online comments section.

Contributions totaling \$3800 were made to the Cincinnati/Dayton WVU Alumni scholarship fund by chapter members and local corporations last year. We, and future Mountaineers would like to thank the following members for their generous support: Jim Ankrum, John & Carolyn Ach, Justin & Adrienne Bond, Patricia Carey, Bobbie Farley, Deborah Felzien, Joan Franz, General Electric Company, Helen Kirbas, Tracey Kornau, Michele and Greg Laur, Fred Lucas, Wafa Nasser, Proctor & Gamble Company, Rodney Raines, Susan Ridgway, Wilda Shaffer, David & Diane Sherrard, Jason Smith, Larry Utt, Neal Watzman, and Howard & Ann Withrow.

Support the Cincinnati/Dayton Chapter's Scholarship Fund #3Z308 with a Tax Deductible Gift

Name _____ Class of _____

Street/PO _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please indicate amount contributed \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 \$other _____

Please make your check payable to *West Virginia University Foundation, Inc.*, and mail directly to One Waterfront Place, PO Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507-9939

Specify "*Greater Cincinnati/Dayton Chapter WVU Alumni Association Scholarship 3Z308*" on the check memo line

What the song "Country Roads" means to me

By Tate Johnson, 2014 Cincinnati/Dayton WVU Alumni Scholarship winner

Editors Note: This essay was submitted as part of the 2014 Chapter scholarship application. The scholarship judges were so impressed they thought it should be shared with the rest of the chapter.

When I was young my mom brought me up in a southern household. I may have lived in Ohio, but she instilled in me the meaning of the southern ways. She was raised in Oklahoma and Texas. She shared stories of what it meant for her to live in the country. The biggest thing I remember is what she told me about the people who lived out in the country where she grew up. I always knew that I didn't belong in the city. With each story she shared with me I knew I was a country boy at heart.

It came time to pick a college and I knew that it had to be someplace special and someplace that felt like home. I looked at many schools in Ohio and none of them seem to be the right fit. Then one day, I received a postcard from WVU. On the front was a picture of the mountains and I found myself smiling while looking at that post card. I asked my parents if I could at least see what WVU was about. My step-father who has been my rock for many years said that he wanted to show me something. He pulled a children's book off of his reading shelf and showed it to me. It was the children's picture book called "Take Me Home Country Roads." You see my step-father loved John Denver and my mom gave him the book as a gift. He told me that he had always wanted to go to West Virginia and that he loved this song. I asked him if I could borrow the book for the night and he said yes. I went to my room and looked at the pages. The illustrations reminded me of a quilt. I curled under my own quilt that my grandmother had made me many years ago. I didn't know the song that the book was about, but I found the lyrics to be comforting. The story was about a family just being together, going through the country. I could not help but think that this family in the book was so similar to mine. My family is everything to me. The book showed pictures of West Virginia. It showed farm houses, country roads, and rolling hills. Then I read the words, "Country roads, take me home. To the place I belong....West Virginia. I must have read those words ten times. I felt this was a good sign and maybe the answer to my question of where I needed to go to college.

I did visit WVU and within 15 minutes, I knew that I would be a Mountaineer. I felt at home. I felt that the country roads I had traveled had brought me to a place that I could call home. Although I am almost 5 hours from my family, I have met so many wonderful people at WVU. When I drive up to Coopers Rock to look out over the ridge, I often wonder if there could ever be a place that brings you as much peace as this place does. I feel so calm and so full of joy when I see the beauty that has been untouched.

"Country Roads" is a song that describes how we all feel at WVU. My first home football game was exciting, but a very moving experience. I watched the team come in and felt the excitement from the crowd. Then without any warning the entire stadium started to sing "Take Me Home Country Roads." My heart filled with pride, I got choked up and at that moment, I knew, I truly knew that those country roads had taken me to a place that I belonged.

2014 Football Schedule

Sat., August 30 vs. Alabama Crimson Tide at Georgia Dome in Atlanta
 Sat., September 6 vs. Towson Tigers
 Sat., September 13 @ Maryland Terrapins
 Sat., September 20 vs. Oklahoma Sooners
 Sat., October 4 vs. Kansas Jayhawks (homecoming)
 Sat., October 11 @ Texas Tech Red Raiders
 Sat., October 18 vs. Baylor Bears
 Sat., October 25 @ Oklahoma State Cowboys
 Sat., November 1 vs. TCU Horned Frogs
 Sat., November 8 @ Texas Longhorns
 Thurs., November 20 vs. Kansas State Wildcats
 Sat., November 29 @ Iowa State Cyclones

Spring 2014 Order Form

Please return this form for the Spring Dinner, to pay Chapter dues, or to comment to the officers.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

WVU Alumni Family Picnic at Sharon Woods, Sharonville, OH
Sunday, August 3rd, 2014, 1:00 PM—dark

Number attending: _____

CHAPTER DUES for 2014

I wish to become a member or renew my membership with the Greater Cincinnati/Dayton Chapter of the WVU Alumni Association. Dues are \$15.00 per individual or \$20.00 per family. Amount enclosed \$_____

BECOME INVOLVED!

Are you interested in helping with events sponsored by the Cincinnati/Dayton WVU Alumni Chapter? We are always looking for chairpersons and coordinators to help with our fun social activities. It's a great way to meet fellow Mountaineers!

_____ Check here if you would like someone to contact you about how you can help

Please return to **Cincinnati/Dayton WVU Alumni Chapter, 5065 E. Eastwood Circle, Cincinnati, OH 45227.** Call (513) 858-2001 or E-mail jsmithWVU@gmail.com if you have questions. Make checks payable to the **GREATER CINCINNATI/DAYTON CHAPTER, WVU ALUMNI ASSOC.**