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WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

"Making Higher Education a Part of Your Future"

*Sunday, the Eighteenth of December
Two Thousand and Eleven
Two O'Clock in the Afternoon*



*Hazo William Carter, Jr.
President*

December Commencement

CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA



What is West Virginia State College

What is West Virginia State College? It is all of us who believe in it – who absent or present, work in it and wish it well. Its constituency is the living and dead, and from them the college enjoys an unrestrained loyalty and willing service. It is an exponent of trust which sweeps aside the petty jealousies of men and all propagandic proposals which would minimize or depreciate personality. It is an institution containing faults and defects which challenge the constructive efforts of students, teachers, officers, and graduates. It is incomplete and desires to remain so, to be in an advantageous position for changing life situations.

What is West Virginia State College? It is spirit; it cannot be touched by hand; it is based upon communions between the living and those who though dead yet live in an immortality made practical through enlistment in the college program, which of necessity requires eternity for completion. What is the college? You and those graduates ahead of you are the college.

John W. Davis
Fifth President, WVSC—1932

Historical Sketch of West Virginia State University

West Virginia State University was founded under the provisions of the Second Morrill Act of 1890 to provide education to black citizens in agriculture and the mechanical arts. Like many other states at that time, West Virginia maintained a segregated education system. On March 17, 1891, the Legislature passed a bill creating the West Virginia Colored Institute to be located in the Kanawha Valley. Federal funds provided \$3,000 for faculty salaries, and the West Virginia Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to purchase land and to construct a building. We now celebrate that as the official "Founders Day" of West Virginia State College, now University.

In 1915 the West Virginia Collegiate Institute began offering college degrees. Under the leadership of President John W. Davis, the academic programs were expanded, and new buildings were constructed; in 1927 the Institute was accredited by the North Central Association, and in 1929 it became West Virginia State College.

After the 1954 United States Supreme Court historic decision outlawing school segregation, West Virginia State College evolved into a fully accessible, racially integrated, and multi-generational institution. Also at that time, land-grant status was transferred to West Virginia University due to a decision of the West Virginia Board of Education; WVSC was the only 1890 institution to have its status transferred. Following a twelve-year effort by ninth president Hazo W. Carter, Jr., the college's land-grant status was fully restored in 2001 by an act of Congress.

With reinstatement of its 1890 land-grant status, and accompanying federal funding, WVSC strengthened its mission of teaching, research, and service to the community. The first graduate degree programs began in the fall, 2003 semester. With the passage of Senate Bill 448 during the 2004 Legislative session, the name of the institution was changed to West Virginia State University.

From a modest beginning, West Virginia State University has emerged into a multipurpose institution serving a diverse student body. From a small tract of land and one building, the University has developed into a multimillion dollar education complex.

The Academic Procession

The Academic Procession is composed of administrators, honored guests, faculty, graduates, and the University Board of Governors. This procession is led by a marshall, a graduate of West Virginia State University, who seats the graduates, faculty, and platform guests. The faculty enter wearing costumes that had their origin in the Medieval English University system. The costumes were devised to distinguish academic persons from lay persons, since everyone wore robes or gowns to ward off the cold. The recession, then, is in reverse order, with the platform guests leaving the dais first, followed by Administrators, and faculty then graduates.

The colors of the academic dress have a significance deeply rooted in the tradition of academic life and are specified by a uniform code maintained by the American Council on Education. Caps are black and are usually mortar boards with tassels. Doctors of Philosophy wear gold tassels, usually of metallic thread; other degrees wear black or discipline colors.

The bachelors' gown is simple and black with long, pointed sleeves. Masters' gowns, also black, are longer than bachelors. Older gowns have sleeves that terminate at the elbow, while those since 1960 have sleeves extended to the wrist. Doctors' gowns are full, with bell-like sleeves. The front is marked by velvet panels, and the sleeves are marked by three velvet bars. While most gowns are black with black velvet, one variation is to replace black velvet with velvet in the discipline color. A second variation is a colored gown, usually of the university's colors.

All hoods specify the level of degree, the discipline studied, and the awarding institution. First, degree level is signified by the size of the hood with bachelors' smallest, masters' larger, and doctors' quite large and of a different shape. West Virginia State University does not award hoods to bachelors. The width of the velvet trim also conveys the degree. Secondly, the discipline is indicated by the color of the trim edging the hood to form the throat over the gown. Finally, the color of the hood's lining specifies the awarding institution. The colors are displayed in combinations that are drawn from heraldry.

The colors of the tassels worn by candidates for baccalaureate degrees represent the fields of study in which the degrees will be conferred. At West Virginia State University, the following colors are used to designate the various degrees.

Bachelor of Arts.....	White
Bachelor of Science.....	Yellow
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.....	Drab
Bachelor of Science in Communications	Yellow
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.....	Royal Blue
Bachelor of Science in Education	Light Blue
Bachelor of Science in Recreation Service	Yellow
Bachelor of Science in Social Work.....	Citron
Master of Arts in Media Studies	White
Master of Arts/Science in Biotechnology.....	Yellow

The Mace

The Academic Mace precedes the entire procession. The Grand Marshal carries in his hand this ceremonial staff that is used as a symbol of authority. Its placement and removal from a place of honor signifies the opening and closing of ceremonial sessions. The mace had its origin in the Middle Ages, being used first as a weapon by royal bodyguards to protect their monarchs in processions. Today, the mace is primarily used in academic processions, particularly in English speaking countries.

The original mace used by West Virginia State University had historical significance in that it was created from a spindle used in the staircase of West Hall, the second building erected on the campus in 1895. This mace was restored by James Huffman when he was the Assistant Director of Admissions at the University.

The mace we use today was designed by former Art Faculty member, Dr. Cubert Smith. This circular ring design in its center symbolizes the four colleges of the University: Arts and Humanities, Business and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Professional Studies.

WVSU College Banners

West Virginia State University students will proceed to their respective places behind gonfalons. Gonfalons are flags or banners hung from crosspieces on poles, used since medieval times in the republics of Italy as symbols of state or office. Universities and colleges around the world have adopted gonfalons to increase the ceremonial nature of commencement exercises.

This new tradition associated with commencement will symbolize the accomplishments of the graduates whom we honor on this occasion and the University's commitment to their success.

Four gonfalons of old gold with black lettering will be carried by two faculty members from each College. They are: the College of Arts and Humanities; the College of Business and Social Sciences, the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the College of Professional Studies.

Order of Exercises

R. Charles Byers, Ph.D., Presiding
Vice President for Academic Affairs
West Virginia State University

THE PRELUDES—

The Mad Major..... D. Alford

Waltz No. 2..... D. Shostakovich/A. De Meijj

Italian in Algiers Overture..... G. Rossini/L. Cailiett

West Virginia State University Wind Ensemble
Scott Woodard, M.A., Director

THE PROCESSIONAL—

Pomp and Circumstance..... Sir Edward Elgar/James Ployhar

MARCHING ORDER—

Grand Marshal
College Flag Bearers
The Candidates for Degrees
Administrators
The Faculty
The Platform Party

THE POSTING OF THE COLORS Color Guard

Yellow Jacket Battalion
United States Army Reserve Officers Training Corps

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM arr. James McKelvey

West Virginia State University Wind Ensemble
West Virginia State University Choir

*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

(The audience will remain standing until after the Invocation)

Order of Exercises

THE INVOCATION Reverend Melissa R. Remington
St. Christopher Episcopal Church
Charleston, West Virginia

GREETINGS..... Larry L. Rowe, Esq.
Chair of the WVSU Board of Governors

THE INTRODUCTION OF
THE SPEAKER..... Hazo W. Carter, Jr., Ed.D.
President, West Virginia State University

THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Orlando F. McMeans. Ph.D.
Special Assistant to the President for Research and Public Service and Dean
and Director of West Virginia State University's Gus R. Douglas Land-Grant Institute

THE MUSICAL SELECTION
"Go Where I Send Thee" arr. by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory
West Virginia State University Concert Choir
Dirk Johnson, D.M.A., Director

THE CONFERMENT OF SPECIAL HONORS
Teacher of the Year
Boone County Teacher of the Year Mr. Brian Withrow
Kanawha County Teacher of the Year..... Mrs. Jane Kennedy
Putnam County Teacher of the Year..... Mrs. Mary Jane Anderson

RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES John Teeuwissen, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES Barbara Ladner, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Arts in Humanities

R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Hazo William Carter, Jr., Ed.D.
President, West Virginia State University

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY Katherine Harper, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Hazo William Carter, Jr., Ed.D.
President, West Virginia State University

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ARTS..... Abainesh Mitiku, D.B.A.
Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE..... Robert L. Harrison, Jr., Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Hazo William Carter, Jr., Ed.D.
President, West Virginia State University

THE PRESENTATION OF GRADUATING OFFICERS..... Tony Taylor
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army
Professor of Military Science

Sandra Coleman
Russell P. McDonald, II

THE STUDENT ADDRESS..... Russell P. McDonald, II
Communications

THE SALUTE TO GRADUATES.....Hazo W. Carter, Jr., Ed.D.
President, West Virginia State University

THE ALUMNI PLEDGE Ms. Donna Hunter, '75
Director of Registration and Records

To join hands with other alumni in perpetuating the ideals of West Virginia State University, nurturing its growth and promoting its programs, to serve with honor in my chosen profession, and to make myself a symbol of the best traditions of West Virginia State University—This is my commission and my challenge.

THE ALMA MATER..... Martha Spencer/Ernest Wade
Led by Chelsea Price
West Virginia State University Wind Ensemble

THE CLOSING REMARKS..... R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

THE BENEDICTION Reverend Melissa Remington
St. Christopher Episcopal Church
Charleston, West Virginia

THE RECESSIONAL
The Raider's March John Williams/Johnny Vinson
West Virginia State University Wind Ensemble
The audience is requested to remain seated until the graduates have recessed.

GRAND MARSHAL
Vice President R. Charles Byers '68

ASSISTANT MARSHALS
Professor Debra M. Anderson-Conliffe '76
Professor Rita Brown '75
Vice President Bryce Casto '81
Professor Patricia King '85
Professor Patricia Shafer '71
Professor Walter Stroupe '78

Honor Societies Graduating Seniors

ALPHA DELTA MU - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN SOCIAL WORK

ADVISOR-MS. RITA BROWN
Elizabeth Ann Staats

ALPHA EPSILON RHO - WV NATIONAL BROADCASTING SOCIETY

ADVISOR-MS. SHERRI SHAFER
Stephanie Ann Barnette

Russell McDonald, II

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA - INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-DR. GAIL MOSBY
De-Juan Curtis Haley

ALPHA KAPPA MU - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-DR. SONYA ARMSTRONG

Aaron Dale Dunlap
Billie Jo Fontalbert

William Craig Dutton
LeAnn Marie Marcum

Rachel Renee Elkins

ALPHA MU GAMMA - NATIONAL COLLEGIATE FOREIGN LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-MS. REBECCA CONNER

Russell McDonald, II

Chenai Tadiwa Rusike

BETA KAPPA CHI - SCIENTIFIC HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-DR. TIM RUHNKE

Erin Kenny Tye

DELTA MU DELTA - INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN BUSINESS

ADVISORS-MR. JOHN HODGES, MR. MICHAEL LEWIS

Amy Beth Ashworth
Cathryn Elisabeth Payne
Amanda Ann Salmon

Aaron Dale Dunlap
Amanda S (Potts) King
Tyler Matthew Shamblin

Dustin Scott Morris
Sara Nicole Price
Meghan E Stewart

KAPPA DELTA PI - INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN EDUCATION

ADVISORS-DR. EMILY WAUGH, DR. SANDRA ORR

Cory Michael Atwood
Angela Nicole Nichols
Melissa Ann Waugh

Billie Jo Fontalbert
Madora Sascha Saunders

Courtney Anne Hopf
Jodie Marie Trimble

PHI ALPHA THETA - INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN HISTORY

ADVISOR-DR. BILLY JOE PEYTON

Joseph James Baldwin

Dustin Baker Hall

Chenai Tadiwa Rusike

PHI ETA SIGMA - FRESHMAN NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-DR. JAMES SPENCER, CO-ADVISOR - DR. MEHDI SEYEDMONIR

Christina Dawn Ball

PI SIGMA ALPHA - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE

ADVISOR-DR. FRANK VAUGHAN

David Edwin Whanger, II

PSI CHI - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGY

ADVISOR-DR. JAMES SPENCER

Crystal Michelle Jennings

SIGMA TAU DELTA - INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-DR. ANNE MCCONNELL, MS. CATHY PLESKA

Melissa Anne Waugh

Courtney Anne Hopff

Baccalaureate Degree Programs

CUM LAUDE

Joseph James Baldwin
Rebecca A. Bassham*
Krystal Caroline Carper
Harry Joe Cook
Jill Ann Cook-Ball
Autumn Drummond*
Aaron Dale Dunlap
Billie Jo Fontalbert
John Alexander Gale

Lisa D. Graley*
Margaret Camille Guthrie
De-Juan Curtis Haley
Todd Alan Hutchinson
Crystal Michelle Jennings
Brandy Michelle Lane
Russell McDonald, II
Angela Nicole Nichols

Ashlee Nicole Nichols
Chastity Fallon Perdue
Jessica Renee Sams
Charli D. Small*
Chenai Tadiwa Rusike
Donald Andrew Thomas
Erin Kenny Tye
Gail Rogers Wright

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Cory Michael Atwood
Gina Ann Baker
Melinda Sue Breedlove
Wesley Browning*
John D. Chapman*
Katherine Deem*
Shad Gregory Fox

Rhoda Sarah Goitom
Dustin Baker Hall
Katheryne Elizabeth Hawkins
Rachel K. Holstein
Catherine Ann McAllister
Ashley Diane Martin
Ashley Michelle Medley

Angela N. Mink*
Chelsea Elaine Price
Pina N. Sangani*
Madora Sascha Saunders
Tabithia Strickland
Mark Allen Talbert
Melissa Ann Waugh

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Stephanie Ann Barnett
Rebekah Jean Burns
Terry Lynn Collison

Megan Nicole Egnor
Rachel Renee Elkins
Courtney Anne Hopf

Lora Sue Kirk
Victoria Angellicque Souhala
Jodie Marie Trimble
David Edwin Whanger, II

WITH DISTINCTION

Patrick Ryan Bentley Adkins

Christopher Lee Wagner

A name on the program does not assure that final degree requirements have been met.

*Denotes August 2011 Graduate

Candidates

College of Arts and Humanities

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

Katheryne Elizabeth Hawkins Miranda Lynn Pierce* Mark Allen Talbert

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Anna Brooke Addesa	Rachel K. Holstein	Candace Nicole Miner*
Summer Dawn Ballard	Shantel A. Hudgins	Jennifer Lynn Newman
Stephanie Ann Barnett	Mark Alan Johnson*	Bryan Anthony Pauley
Sandra Marie Coleman	Korbi Georgette Kelly	Christopher Gerald Scraggs
Rhoda Sarah Goitom	Robert Washington Kinney, Jr.	Rikki Lynn Spinks*
Justin Bradley Harrah	Russell McDonald II	

FOR THE DEGREE OF REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Mary Elisabeth Allison	Stephanie Lynn Hatfield*	Samantha Renee Perna
Jarrold David Anderson	Jeffrey Alan Haynes	Wanda Lee Pfost
Gina Ann Baker	Melissa Dawn Hines	Kimeca Latonya Pratt
Valerie Jane Ball	Stephanie Lynn Hooper	Jeffery Michael Preast*
Megan Jo Bays	Sean Bradley Hughes	Pina Navnit Sangani*
Judy Lynn Berry*	Christopher David Hunt	Jason Robert Settle*
Leigh Ann Branham	Ursulette Susie Huntley	Jennifer Ann Slimick*
Joshua Christopher Branson	Lindsey Danelle Johnson	Charli Danielle Small*
Michelle Mae Brock	Trudy M. Johnson	Brian LaKeith Smart*
Joseph Burris Brown*	Evan Brock Kendall*	Tanis Marie Smith*
Wesley Van Browning*	Lora Sue Kirk	Stanley B. Saint Germain
Torin Tarnel Clark	Catherine Ann McAlister	Daniel Thomas Telehany
Harry Joe Cook	April Marie Marion	Alex Lucious Tibbs
Siobhan Lashee Dorcas	Amy Lea Marks*	Jennifer Ann White*
Larry L. Duncan, II	Ashley Diane Martin	Nathaniel Earl Williams, Sr.*
Joshua Alan Wayne Exline*	Sandra Jo Medley	Virgil C. White
Laura Katherine Fauber	Raymond C. Pack	Roxanna L. Williams
Nycky Dajuan Fossitt*	Meredith Leigh Pauley	Christopher Tyrone Wormley
Margaret Camille Guthrie	Martin Corey Payton	

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*Denotes August 2011 Graduate

Candidates

College of Business and Social Sciences

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (ECONOMICS, HISTORY, INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, POLITICAL SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY)

Candis Leah Baldwin	Autumn Angelina Drummond*	John Douglas Morrison, II
Joseph James Baldwin	Rondalyn Kristia English	Craig Zachery Rodarte
Robert Summers Barnes	De-Juan Curtis Haley	Chenai Tadiwa Rusike
Misty Ann Bennett*	Dustin Baker Hall	Adrienne Beth Sommerville
Paul James Blankenship	Lisa Marie Hall	Victoria Angellicque Souhala
John David Chapman*	Jon Reginald McClure*	David Edwin Whanger, II
Bracken Gayle Compston	LeAnn Marie Marcum	Sha'Ronda N. Woods
Katherine Lee Deem*	Angela Nicole Mink*	

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Sural S. Abduljelil	Aaron Dale Dunlap	Seth Thomas McCormick
Melinda Sue Breedlove	Jeremy Lee Fisher	Debra Lee Rayhill
Rebekah Jean Burns	John Alexander Gale	Tabithia Strickland
Amy Catherine Callihan	Margaret Claire Harless	Joshua Ryan Terry
Janet Charis Cantees	Garrett Paul Humphrey	Josh Dwight Van Meter*
Nicholas Clay Dodd	Frederick Almos Lyles, Jr.*	Emily Melissa Withrow

Candidates

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Andrew Charles Nortman	Erin Kenny Tye	Miranda Leigh Watt
Justin Nathaniel Teter*	Troy Preston Vermillion	

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*Denotes August 2011 Graduate

Candidates

College of Professional Studies

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Ross Joseph Anderson	Paula Rene Graves	Dana Lee Reese
Sarah Elizabeth Bailey	Caitlin Ryan Huffman	Ryan Michael Smoot
Rebecca Ann Bassham*	Stephanie LeeAnn Kirk*	Pamela Dawn Sowders
Seth Daniel Dittebrand	William Fred Krieg	Jason Troy Wilburn
Duane Lee Fields	Ashlee Nicole Nichols	Courtney Alyse Williams
Shad Gregory Fox		

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Patrick Ryan Bentley Adkins	Lisa Dawn Graley*	Chelsea Elaine Price
Cory Michael Atwood	Mary E. Harrah	John Dare Rogers
Christina Dawn Ball	Courtney Anne Hopf	Jessica Renee Sams
Stacy Nicole Bloss	Todd Alan Hutchinson	Madora Sascha Saunders
Cara Ann Brooks	Brandy Michelle Lane	Donald Andrew Thomas
Krystal Caroline Carper	Vanessa Lynn Legg	Jodie Marie Trimble
Jill Ann Cook-Ball	Sara Elizabeth Lucas	Christopher Lee Wagner
Lindsey Paige Davis	Ashley Michelle Medley	Elesha Kay Ware
Megan Nicole Egnor	Angela Nicole Nichols	Melissa Ann Waugh
Rachel Renee Elkins	Lauren Nicole Nichols	Gail Rogers Wright
Billie Jo Fontalbert	Chastity Fallon Perdue	

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Alecia Nicole Allen	Cathryn Anne Driggs *	Crystal Michelle Jennings
Leah Monet Anthony	Bolaji O. Isijola*	Ashley Dawn Rutherford*
Terry Lynn Collison		

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN RECREATION

Regina Gail Leiva*	Matthew Julius Watts, II
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FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES

Ryne Joel Hurley	Amanda Michele Metzger*
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A name on the program does not assure that final degree requirements have been met.

*Denotes August 2011 Graduate

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Mary Kate Heilman*
Shimaya Shantell Jones

Sarah Elizabeth Jorgensen*
Mikki Shauntia Owens*

Monica Starr Prater
Elizabeth Ann Staats

Candidates
College of Arts and Humanities

FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES

Curtis Lee Baskerville
Emily Jane Burdette
Margaret Ashley Starcher

Candidates
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Nischit Aryal **

A name on the program does not assure that final degree requirements have been met.

*Denotes August 2011 Graduate

**Denotes May 2011 Graduate

Commencement Speakers

- 1898**
Booker T. Washington
- 1909**
William E. Glasscock
Governor, State of West Virginia
- 1919**
Waitman Barbe
*Professor of Literature,
West Virginia University*
- 1923**
Charles Victor Roman
Nashville, Tennessee
- 1925**
Carter G. Woodson
Editor, Negro Life & History
- 1926**
Eugene Kinckle Jones
*Executive Secretary,
National Urban League*
- 1927**
James Adlai Cobb
*Judge, Municipal Court,
Washington, D.C.*
- 1928**
Harry J. Capehart
*Associate District Attorney
of Southern WV*
- 1929**
(May)
Charles Wesley
*Professor of History, Howard
University*

(Summer)
Mark Miles Fisher
*Pastor, 16th Street Baptist Church,
Huntington, WV*
- 1930**
(May)
Henry D. Hatfield
U.S. Senator, State of West Virginia

(Summer)
John W. Davis
*Fifth President,
West Virginia State College*
- 1931**
(May)
W.W. Sanders
*Supervisor, Negro Schools,
State of West Virginia*

(Summer)
John W. Davis
*Fifth President,
West Virginia State College*
- 1932**
(May)
Thomas Gillis Nutter
Attorney, Charleston, West Virginia

(Summer)
James C. Evans
*Professor, Mechanical Industries,
West Virginia State College*
- 1933**
(May)
J.B. McLaughlin
*Commissioner of Agriculture,
State of West Virginia*

(Summer)
George D. Brock
*Professor of Education,
West Virginia State College*
- 1934**
(May)
Homer A. Holt
West Virginia Attorney General

(Summer)
Daniel P. Lincoln
*Registrar and Professor of
History, West Virginia State College*
- 1935**
(May)
Harry H. Pace
*President, Supreme Liberty Life
Insurance Co., Chicago*

(Summer)
Richard Hurst Hill
*Pastor, First Baptist Church,
Charleston, West Virginia*
- 1936**
(May)
John Andrew Gregg
Bishop, AME Church, Kansas City

(Summer)
David Kirby
*Secretary, West Virginia Board of
Education*
- 1937**
(May)
Julian H. Lewis
*Associate Professor Pathology, University
of Chicago*

(Summer)
David Alphonso Lane, Jr.
Dean, West Virginia State College
- 1938**
(May)
Ambrose Caliver
*Senior Specialist in Education of Negroes,
U.S. Office of Education, D.C.*

(Summer)
Harry W. Greene
*Director, Teacher Training, West
Virginia State College*
- 1939**
(May)
Frederick Douglas Patterson
President, Tuskegee Institute

(Summer)
William J.L. Wallace
Associate Professor of Chemistry, WVSC
- 1940**
(May)
Mordecai Johnson
*President, Howard University,
Washington, D.C.*

(Summer)
Lorena E. Kemp
*Professor of English,
West Virginia State College*
- 1941**
(May)
Charles Hamilton Houston
Attorney, Washington, D.C.

(Summer)
Herman G. Canady
*Professor of Psychology and
Philosophy,
West Virginia State College*

1942
(May)
Mary McLeod Bethune
*Director,
U.S. Department of Negro Affairs*

(Summer)
Grace I. Woodson,
*Associate Professor of Education,
WVSC*

1943
(May)
Channing H. Tobias
National Secretary, YMCA

(Summer)
Henry Lake Dickason
President, Bluefield State College

1944
(May)
Roland Hayes
Concert Singer

(Summer)
Bertrom L. Woodruff
Associate Professor of English, WVSC

1945
(May)
Theodore F. Green
U.S. Senator, Rhode Island

(Summer)
W.O. Armstrong
*Principal, Dunbar High School,
Fairmont, WV*

1946
(May)
Anne Eleanor Roosevelt
*U.S. Representative,
New United Nations*

(Summer)
D.T. Murray
*President,
Negro State Board of Education*

1947
(May)
Ethel J. Alpenfels
*Anthropologist, U.S. Bureau
Intercultural Education*

(Summer)
Moses Newsome
*First Baptist Church,
Charleston, West Virginia*

1948
(May)
Percy Julian
*Division of Research & Manager
of Fine Chemicals, The Glidden
Company*

(Summer)
H.D. Hazelwood
*Principal, Douglas High,
Huntington, West Virginia*

1949
(May)
Harley M. Kilgore
U.S. Senator, West Virginia

(Summer)
Vernon Johns
*College Minister, West Virginia State
College*

1950
(May)
Walter Philip Reuther
*President,
United Auto Workers of America*

(Summer)
Charles S. Johnson
*President,
Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee*

1951
(May)
Ira De A. Reid
*Professor of Sociology,
Haverford College, Pennsylvania*

(Summer)
Corma A. Mowrey
*Past President,
National Education Association*

1952
(May)
Mordecai Johnson
*President, Howard University,
Washington, D.C.*

(Summer)
James C. Evans
*Civilian Assistant,
Secretary of Defense*

1953
(May)
Rufus B. Clement
*President, Atlanta University,
Atlanta, Georgia*

(Summer)
James W. Robinson
*State Superintendent of Negro Schools,
West Virginia*

1954
(May)
Edward Anderson Bolling
*Superintendent,
Institute School for Deaf & Blind*

(Summer)
James H. Rowland
*Attorney, West Virginia
Department of Education*

1955
(May)
Buell G. Gallagher
President, City College, NY

(Summer)
Charles A. Williamson
President, Advertising Corporation

1956
(May)
John Warren Davis
*Fifth President,
West Virginia State College*

(Summer)
Moses Newsome
*Pastor, First Baptist Church, Charleston,
West Virginia*

1957
(May)
Virgil L. Flynn
*Assistant Superintendent in Charge of
Research, Kanawha County Schools*

(Summer)
Ruth C. Norman
*English Instructor,
Stonewall Jackson High School*

1958
(May)
Frank M. Snowden, Jr.
*Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Howard
University, Washington, D.C.*

(Summer)
S.J. Baskerville, DDS
West Virginia Board of Education

1959
Cecil Underwood
Governor, State of West Virginia

1960
Justice Wise Polier
Judge, Domestic Relations Court, NY

1961
William W. Barron
Governor, State of West Virginia

1962
A.J. Gibson
*Executive Secretary,
North Central Association*

1963
Pearl S. Buck
Anthropologist

1964
William Orville Douglas
*Associate Justice,
U.S. Supreme Court*

1965
P.K. Banerjee
Minister, Embassy of India

1966
Hulett C. Smith
Governor, State of West Virginia

1967
Miles Clark Stanley
*President, AFL/CIO, Charleston,
West Virginia*

1968
William W. Jellema
*Executive Associate, Association of
American Colleges*

1969
Mildred Mitchell Bateman
*Director, Department of Mental
Health, State of West Virginia*

1970
Richard Eugene Shearer
*President,
Alderson-Broadus College*

1971
Arch A. Moore, Jr.
Governor, State of West Virginia

1972
Damon J. Keith
Judge, State of Michigan

1973
John W. Davis
*Fifth President,
West Virginia State College
and
William J.L. Wallace
Sixth President,
West Virginia State College*

1974
(May)
Jennings Randolph
U.S. Senator, State of West Virginia

(Mid Year)
Daniel B. Taylor
*Superintendent of Schools
State of West Virginia*

1975
(May)
James C. Malone
Vice President, Union Carbide

(Mid Year)
James R. McCartney
*Secretary of State,
State of West Virginia*

1976
(May)
Helvi Sipilä
*Associate Secretary General, Social
Development & Humanitarian Affairs,
United Nations*

(Mid Year)
Vincent E. Reed
*Superintendent of Schools
The District of Columbia*

1977
(May)
Ben L. Morton
*Chancellor,
West Virginia Board of Regents*

(Mid Year)
Henry B. Wehrle, Jr.
President, The McJunkin Corporation

1978
(May)
Robert C. Byrd
U.S. Senator, State of West Virginia

(Mid Year)
Harold Delaney
*Associate Executive Director American
Association of Colleges and Universities*

1979
(May)
Harold L. Hodgkinson
*Executive Director, Professional Institute
of American Management Association*

(Mid Year)
John D. Rockefeller, IV
Governor, State of West Virginia

1980
(May)
Donald M. Knox

(Mid Year)
Robert R. Ramsey
*Chancellor,
West Virginia Board of Regents*

1981
(May)
Allen Ostar
*President, American Association of State
Colleges and Universities*

(Mid Year)
Leon H. Ginsberg
*Commissioner, West Virginia
Department of Welfare*

1982
(May)
Thomas W. Cole, Jr.
*Eighth President,
West Virginia State College*

(Mid Year)
Margaret L. Workman
*Judge, Circuit Court
Charleston, West Virginia*

1983

(May)
Russell Lowell Isaacs
*President, Hecks Inc.,
Charleston, West Virginia*

(Mid Year)
Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, IV
First Lady of West Virginia

1984

(May)
Samuel Proctor
Pastor, Abyssian Baptist Church, NY

(Mid Year)
John D. Rockefeller, IV
Governor, State of West Virginia

1985

(May)
Julian Bond
Senator, Atlanta, Georgia

(Mid Year)
D. Wayne Smith
President, Friendship Force

1986

(May)
John F. McGee
President, Charleston Daily Mail

(Mid Year)
Ken Hechler
Secretary of State West Virginia

1987

(May)
Leon H. Sullivan
*Chair, Board of OIC,
Philadelphia, PA*

(Mid Year)
Thomas W. Cole, Jr.
*Chancellor,
West Virginia Board of Regents*

1988

(May)
Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
*Ninth President,
West Virginia State College*

(Mid Year)
Ralph E. Kirkman
*Professor of Education,
George Peabody College
Vanderbilt University*

1989

(May)
Grover A. DuBose
*Visiting Professor, Business,
West Virginia State College*

(Mid Year)
Harrison B. Wilson
President, Norfolk State University

1990

(May)
Mary Sarah Weddington
*Senior Lecturer, History and
Government, University of Texas*

(Mid Year)
Lauro F. Cavazos
Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

1991

(May)
Gaston Caperton
*Thirty-first Governor,
State of West Virginia*

(Mid Year)
Laura Pederson
Financial Consultant

1992

(May)
Paul B. Marion
*Chancellor, State College System of
West Virginia*

(Mid Year)
Phyllis Harden Carter
*Director of State-Federal Relations,
Governor's Office, State of West Virginia*

1993

(May)
Bettina Gregory
*Senior General Assignment
Correspondent, American Broadcasting
Company*

(Mid Year)
Barbara Harmon-Schamberger
*Secretary, Department of Education and
the Arts State of West Virginia*

1994

(May)
Margaret L. Workman
*Judge, Supreme Court of Appeals,
State of West Virginia*

(Mid Year)
Booker T. Stephens
*Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District,
Welch, West Virginia*

1995

(May)
James W. Monroe
Major General, United States Army

(Mid Year)
Clifford M. Trump
*Chancellor, State College System of West
Virginia*

1996

(May)
Rodney E. Slater
Federal Highway Administration

(Mid Year)
Robert E. Wise, Jr.
United States House of Representatives

1997

(May)
Hazel R. O'Leary
Former Secretary of Energy

(Mid Year)
James W. Rowley
*President Emeritus, College of Graduate
Studies*

1998

(May)
Shirley R. Watkins
*Secretary, U.S. Department of
Agriculture*

(Mid Year)
Gus R. Douglass
*West Virginia Commissioner of
Agriculture*

1999

(May)
Christine M. Corey
*Senior Program Officer, Office of
International Education and Graduate
Programs, United States Department of
Education*

(Mid Year)
Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
*Ninth President, West Virginia State
College*

2000
(May)
Cecil H. Underwood
Governor, State of West Virginia

(Mid Year)
David Stewart
*State Superintendent of Schools,
West Virginia Board of Education*

2001
(May)
Marie C. Johns
President, Verizon

(Mid Year)
J. Michael Mullen
*Chancellor, West Virginia Higher
Education Policy Commission*

2002
(May)
Miles C. Cary
*President, West Virginia State
College Advisory Board*

(Mid Year)
Kaye Goodwin
Secretary, Education and Arts

2003
(May)
J. T. (Ted) Childs, Jr.
*Vice President,
Global Workforce Diversity
IBM Corporation*

(Mid-Year)
Richard L. Ferguson
*Chief Executive Officer and
Chairman of the Board
ACT, Inc.*

2004
(May)
Boyce Courtney Williams
*Vice President,
National Council for
Accreditation of Education*

(Mid-Year)
Hazo W. Carter, Jr., Ed.D.
*President, West Virginia State
University*

2005
(May)
John D. Rockefeller, IV
US Senator, State of West Virginia

(Mid-Year)
Joseph Manchin III
Governor, State of West Virginia

2006
(May)
Thomas Joyner, Sr.
*Thomas Joyner Foundation and
REACH Media*

(Mid-Year)
Thomas D. Boston, Ph.D.
Georgia Institute of Technology

2007
(May)
Constantine W. Curris, Ed. D.
*President, American Association of
Colleges and Universities*

(Mid-Year)
Brian Eugene Noland, Ph. D.
*Chancellor, Higher Education Policy
Commission*

2008
(May)
Reggie B. Walton
*United States District Judge,
District of Columbia*

(Mid-Year)
B. Keith Fulton
President, Verizon West Virginia

2009
(May)
John D. Perdue
West Virginia State Treasurer

2010
(May)
Joseph R. Goodwin
*Chief Judge
US District Court
Southern District–West Virginia*

(Mid-Year)
Eric Coleman
Chair, WVSU Board of Governors

2011
(May)
Donald L. Graham
*Judge, U.S. District Court of the
Southern District of Florida*

Commencement programs are maintained in the University Archives of the Drain-Jordan Library. For many years, the University held graduation exercises three times a year—in May, August, and a mid-year commencement at the end of the first semester in January. Mid-year graduation exercises were dropped in 1954 and re-established in 1974, while summer exercises were discontinued after 1958.

Honorary Degrees Conferred by West Virginia State University

1941

Carter G. Woodson
Doctor of Laws

1944

Roland Hayes
Doctor of Humanities

1946

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt
Doctor of Humanities

1947

Mary McLeod Bethune
Doctor of Humanities

May 16, 1948

Special Honors Convocation
Irvin Stewart
Doctor of Laws

Henry L. Dickason
Doctor of Laws

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt
Doctor of Humanities

Percy Julian
Doctor of Science

1950

Walter Philip Reuther
Doctor of Humanities

Ralph Johnson Bunche
Doctor of Humanities

Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
Doctor of Laws

1951

Corma A. Mowrey
Doctor of Humanities

1954

Edward Anderson Boling
Doctor of Humanities

1956

George Camron Grant
Doctor of Letters

John Warren Davis
Doctor of Humane Letters

1961

William W. Barron
Doctor of Laws

Cecil H. Underwood
Doctor of Laws

W.O. Armstrong
Doctor of Humanities

Henry Edward Schultz
Doctor of Humanities

L.L. McKenzie
Doctor of Pedagogy

1962

Mary L. Williams
Doctor of Pedagogy

Alva J. Gibson
Doctor of Pedagogy

F. Ray Powers
Doctor of Laws

1963

Pearl S. Buck
Doctor of Humanities

Leon H. Sullivan
Doctor of Humanities

1964

Jennings Randolph
Doctor of Humanities

Thomas E. Posey
Doctor of Humanities

William O. Douglas
Doctor of Humanities

1965

P.K. Banerjee
Doctor of Laws

William Simon Jackson
Doctor of Laws

Lawrence Neale Jones
Doctor of Laws

Damon J. Keith
Doctor of Laws

William J. Thompson
Doctor of Laws

Herbert W. Richardson
Doctor of Laws

1966 Founder's Day

Adolph Putnam Hamblin
Doctor of Humanities

William Edwin Chilton III
Doctor of Humanities

James Madison Nabrit, Jr.
Doctor of Humanities

1967 Founder's Day

Thomas Miller Jenkins
Doctor of Laws

1967

Drue E. Culums,
Doctor of Laws

Miles Clark Stanley
Doctor of Laws

1968

Mae Belle Jones
Doctor of Pedagogy

Willie P. Russell
Doctor of Pedagogy

Lawrence V. Jordan
Doctor of Pedagogy

Herman G. Canady
Doctor of Pedagogy

Paul J. Moore
Doctor of Pedagogy

Simon H. Galperin
Doctor of Humanities

1969

Dunbar H. Ogden, Jr.
Doctor of Humanities

Mildred Mitchell Bateman
Doctor of Humanities

1971

Richard A. Brown
Doctor of Humanities

Harrison H. Ferrell
Doctor of Humanities

Arch A. Moore, Jr.
Doctor of Humanities

1973

Robert L. Bradford
Doctor of Humanities

Jeanette Gordon McPherson Gates
Doctor of Humanities

1975

Joseph J. Smith
Doctor of Science

1978

John F. Matheus
Doctor of Letters

Vincent Reed
Doctor of Humanities

Robert C. Byrd
Doctor of Laws

1981

Naomi Garrett
Doctor of Humane Letters

William James Lord Wallace
Doctor of Letters

1983

David Wayne Smith
Doctor of Humane Letters

Jeff H. Towles
Doctor of Humane Letters

James S. Wade
Doctor of Laws

1984

Leonard Troy Anderson
Doctor of Letters

Thomas J. Anderson
Doctor of Music

John D. Rockefeller, IV
Doctor of Laws

1985

Sophia Nelson
Doctor of Laws

1986

Leander J. Shaw, Jr.
Doctor of Laws

1987

Thomas W. Cole, Jr.
Doctor of Laws

1989

Norman Fagan
Doctor of Humane Letters

1991

Gaston Caperton
Doctor of Laws

1992

Paul Gilmer
Doctor of Divinity

Raymond Danner
Doctor of Laws

Angie Turner King
Doctor of Laws

Paul B. Marion
Doctor of Pedagogy

1993

Floydelh Anderson
Doctor of Laws

1994

Margaret K. Workman
Doctor of Laws

Benny J. Primm
Doctor of Science

1995

Katharine Graham
Doctor of Laws

Acie McGhee
Doctor of Laws

James W. Monroe
Doctor of Laws

James W. Rowley
Doctor of Laws

1996

James W. Holley III
Doctor of Laws

1997

Robert H. Thompson
Doctor of Humanities

Virginia Gill Simmons
Doctor of Laws

1998

Gus R. Douglass
Doctor of Laws

1999

Christine M. Corey
Doctor of Laws

2001

David Anthony Stafford
Doctor of Science

2002

Kay Huffiman Goodwin
Doctor of Laws

2003

J. T. (Ted) Childs, Jr.
Doctor of Humane Letters

2004

Elizabeth Early Chilton
Doctor of Laws

Howard Lee Wilson
Doctor of Laws

2005 Mid Year

Joseph Manchin III
Doctor of Laws

2006 May

Thomas Joyner, Sr.
Doctor of Laws

R. Frank Lee
Doctor of Divinity

Mid Year

Andrew N. Aheart
Doctor of Laws

2007 Mid Year

Brian Eugene Noland
Doctor of Laws

2008 May

Judge Reginald B. Walton
Doctor of Laws

2008

James M. Lawson
Black History Convocation
Doctor of Divinity

2009 May

John D. Perdue
Doctor of Laws

2010 May

Joseph R. Goodwin
Doctor of Laws

Mid Year

Eric Coleman
Doctor of Laws

2011 May

Donald L. Graham
Doctor of Laws

Alma Mater

Ernest Wade '30

Martha Spencer '31

There is a place we love so dear—
Its name we'll ever praise and revere
'Tis West Virginia State we love—
Just one more step from there is Heav'n above.

REFRAIN

West Virginia's praise we'll sing—
Lift our voices 'til heavens ring—
As we gaily march along—
We'll sing a song—
For Alma Mater
How we love her
Pride of all our loyal hearts—
From her we will never part—
Thoughts of thee will ne'er be few
Alma Mater we love you.

We'll love her more as days go by,
And send her praises to the sky;
To place her over all the rest,
And keep her e'er the dearest and the best.

Shadowed 'neath a deep blue sky;
Is STATE for whom we'll live and we'll die—
Arise! O men of God and sing;
We're loyal, and to her we'll always cling.

