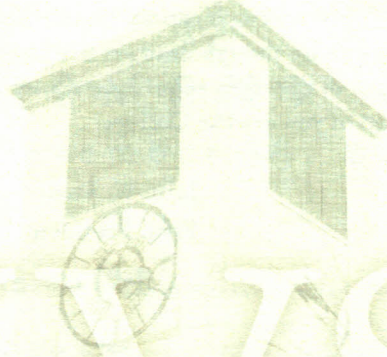


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COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

December 15, 2012

10:00 A.M.

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

2:00 P.M.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS



Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President

P. Ahmed Williams Auditorium
Ferrell Hall
Institute, 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 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, West Virginia State College, 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 University.

In 1915, the West Virginia Collegiate Institute began offering college degrees. Under the leadership of President John W. Davis, academic programs were expanded and new buildings were constructed. In 1927, the Institute received accreditation from 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 became an integrated institution serving a predominately white, adult, commuter student population. At that time, land-grant status was lost due to a decision of the West Virginia Board of Education; West Virginia State College was the only 1890 land-grant institution to lose that status. The College regained land-grant status in 2001, by an act of Congress.

With reinstatement of its 1890 land-grant status, and accompanying federal funding, West Virginia State College strengthened its mission of teaching, research and service to the community. The first graduate degree programs began in fall 2003. With the passage of Senate Bill 448 during the 2004 legislative session, the Institution became 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 system.



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

December 15, 2012

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WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
DECEMBER 15, 2012
10:00 A.M.
ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDES

West Virginia State University Brass Ensemble
Mr. Scott Woodard, Director

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance

Sir Edward Elgar/James Ployhar

MARCHING ORDER

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

POSTING OF THE COLORS

Yellow Jacket Battalion Color Guard
United States Army ROTC

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Francis Scott Key
arr. James McKelvey

INVOCATION

Reverend John Sylvia
St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Charleston, West Virginia

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Attorney Larry L. Rowe
Chairman, West Virginia State University Board of Governors

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. R. Charles Byers
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford
Dentist and Entrepreneur

MUSICAL SELECTION

I'm Seventeen Come Sunday

Percy Grainger

CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREE

Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford



PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERMENT OF DEGREES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Science

Dr. Robert L. Harrison
Dean of the College of Professional Studies

Dr. R. Charles Byers
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President, West Virginia State University

*After the conferring of degrees by President Hemphill,
the Director of Registration and Records, Ms. Donna L. Hunter, will announce the names of the graduates.*

REMARKS

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President, West Virginia State University

ALUMNI PLEDGE

Dr. Ann Brothers Smith, Class of '64
Immediate Past President, WVSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER

Martha Spencer, Class of '30
Ernest Wade, Class of '31

Led by Emily Cloer
West Virginia State University Brass Ensemble

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. R. Charles Byers
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

BENEDICTION

Reverend John Sylvia
St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Charleston, West Virginia

RECESSIONAL

Grand March

from *Aida*

The audience should remain seated while the graduates recess.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
DECEMBER 15, 2012
2:00 P.M.
ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDES

West Virginia State University Brass Ensemble
Mr. Scott Woodard, Director

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance

Sir Edward Elgar/James Ployhar

MARCHING ORDER

Grand Marshal
College Flag Bearers
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Candidates for Degrees

POSTING OF THE COLORS

Yellow Jacket Battalion Color Guard
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NATIONAL ANTHEM

Francis Scott Key
arr. James McKelvey

INVOCATION

Father Joe Tuscan
Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Chaplain, Catholic Campus Ministries

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Attorney L. Vincent Williams
West Virginia State University Board of Governors

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. R. Charles Byers
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford
Dentist and Entrepreneur

MUSICAL SELECTION

I'm Seventeen Come Sunday

Percy Grainger

CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREE

Ms. Deborah Carper
Health Services and Philanthropist



PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERMENT OF DEGREES

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Abainesh Mitiku
Dean of the College of Business and Social Sciences

Dr. R. Charles Byers
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President, West Virginia State University

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Katherine Harper
Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. R. Charles Byers
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President, West Virginia State University

*After the conferring of degrees by President Hemphill,
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REMARKS

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President, West Virginia State University

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Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

BENEDICTION

Father Joe Tuscan
Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Chaplain, Catholic Campus Ministries

RECESSIONAL

Grand March

from *Aida*

The audience should remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER DR. LAWRENCE D. CRAWFORD



Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford's noteworthy career in health care, civic service and business has spanned nearly four decades. Presently, he is the Chairman and CEO of Diversity-Vuteq, LLC, an automotive supplier of molded plastic parts and assemblies for the automotive industry. Diversity-Vuteq, LLC is an international joint venture between Dr. Crawford and Vuteq, a major Japanese automotive parts supplier that supports Toyota operations in Indiana and Mississippi.


With Dr. William Picard, Dr. Crawford co-founded VITEC-USA, a supplier of plastic fuel tanks and systems to the automotive industry. VITEC was the first major manufacturing business in the Detroit Empowerment Zone, and records annual sales in excess of \$150 million. Dr. Crawford also chaired the Delta Dental Plan of Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, and the Delta Dental Foundation.

Dr. Crawford is currently chairman of the Booker T. Washington Association of Detroit, and of Real Times Media Inc., the parent organization of numerous publications that include The Chicago Defender, The Memphis Tri-State Defender, The Pittsburgh Courier, The Michigan Chronicle, The Michigan Front Page, and Who's Who In Black America, among others throughout 26 cities.

Dr. Crawford graduated from The University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 1974, and practiced dentistry in his hometown of Saginaw, Michigan. In 1982, he was elected mayor and served two terms, during which time he significantly increased the diversity of the city's workforce and vendors. Additional distinguished civic service includes: liaison to the I-75 Corridor Mayors at the Michigan Department of Commerce; presidential appointment to the National Advisory Board of the U.S. Small Business Administration; and Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Gender and Racial Equity in the Courts.

Dr. Crawford is a member of Bethel AME Church, a life member of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and The University of Michigan Alumni Association. His honors include Michigan Dental Association Dentist Citizen of the Year, Chamber of Commerce Brick Award, Frontier's Businessmen of the Year Award, Alpha Phi Alpha Community Service Award, Zeta Phi Beta Professional Achievement Award, and Saginaw High School Distinguished Alumnus.

HONORARY DOCTORATE



Honorary degrees at West Virginia State University are conferred upon distinguished alumni and other individuals who have achieved prominence in education, government, business, and other professions.


10:00 a.m. Ceremony

Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford, Doctor of Commerce.
(Please see Dr. Crawford's biography on previous page.)

2:00 p.m. Ceremony

Ms. Deborah Carper, Doctor of Public Service

DEBORAH L. CARPER, LPN, MICP, EMT



Deborah L. Carper has spent her life in service to Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia. She set her sights upon helping others when she went to college, a commitment and passion that she has nourished to this day.

Ms. Carper began her career as an early childhood developmental instructor at First Presbyterian Child Development Center in South Charleston. After five years, she enrolled at West Virginia State College where she obtained a degree as a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic in advanced life support. She later worked for Putnam County as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic.

In 1998, Ms. Carper became a licensed practical nurse and soon afterward took on the role of West Virginia president and representative for the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), an organization founded in 1976 that now serves 20 states throughout the country. HOSA encourages and supports high school and college students' interest in the health care sciences.

Through a natural outgrowth of this increased involvement with the community, Ms. Carper established and personally contributed to the Deborah L. Carper Foundation, located at the Clay Center. The Foundation introduces school-age children to the arts and sciences, at no cost to their families, and is a principal contributor to the Clay Center's annual Summer Fun Day.

Capping a career of generosity and philanthropy, Ms. Carper made a significant gift to her alma mater through the West Virginia State University Foundation in 2001 to create the University's first Endowed Faculty position. The gift provides funds each year to pay the salary for a credentialed, distinguished leader to teach a course as a faculty fellow in Political Science or Government. An additional gift provides for an annual award to be given to a West Virginia journalist to recognize journalistic excellence in the area of exploring abuse in the public sector and/or enhancing the public good. To date, two journalists have received this award.

THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



10:00 A.M. COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Julia Yvonne Bradley
Steven Matthew Bumpus
Danette B. Clark

Glenn Morton Colby
Joseph Aaron Cole
Jatina Marquee Dyess

Fabian Dyon Payne
Carla Jean Shirey
Jennifer Christine Willis

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Reginald Meredith Cain
Noreen Patience Dewese
Douglas Matthew Feldhaus
Melissa Ann Hinzman

Andrew Dillon Holston*
Meagan Louise Jordan
Ashley Marie Lewis
Deanna Joy Myers

Teresa A. Sherrod
Lena Denise Smith

Bachelor of Science in Education

Kinyatta M. Buford
Cody Jack Cunningham
Jeremy Richard Dosier
Rachel E. Ervin
Sarah Lee Glenn
Jennifer D. Hensley
Mallory Dean Hilton
Becky Mae Jarrett

Emily Kathryn McMillion
Taran Nicole Miller
Thomas Wesley Mullins
Anthony Woods Nelson
Andrea Danielle Neophytou
Joanne Gray Nine
Emily Alice Oldaker
Danielle Nicole Perry

Heidi Opal Potts
Sara Elizabeth Rider
Joshua Allan Smith
Allen Joel Tanner
Tara Telitha Triplett
Julia Gayle Wilkinson

Bachelor of Science in Recreation

Robert Daniel Turbeville, Jr.
Mark Anthony Wade, Jr.

Bachelor of Science in Sports Studies

Sharena Mary Atkinson
Adam Lee Canada

Cierra Jane Jones*
Shaun Steven Marshall

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Kamisha Octavia Ford
Dontryse Azaria Zanee Greer

Jan Morris McKoy*
Abby Lee Vickers

Bachelor of Arts

Lora Ann Ball
Noah Patrick Balsler
Andrew Brian Barr*
Naomi R. Bays – NP*
Veronica S. Bowles
Stephen Riley Bukovinsky*
Nicole Michelle Campbell*
Keisha Nicole Chaffin
Stephanie Michelle Chambers
Anthony Wayne Cochran
Melissa Ann Darby*
Steven J. Doolittle
Terri G. Duttine
Jonathan David Edwards

Brandy Ann Escue
Courtney Nichole Farley
Misty Dawn Farmer
Meagan Elizabeth Goode
Katherine Ella Grubb
Tammy Jean Huldren
Benjamin Tyler Hawley
Lori LaDawn Hedrick*
Norma Nanette Hines
Sheryl Lynn Hunter*
Sasha Faith Kimberling
Harriet Laura Mattson
Tami Rena Blair Maynard
Haley Michelle Miller

Robert Earl Miller
April Dawn Morgan
Jeffrey Chase Pickering
Nerissa Gail Prescott
Dwight M. Sloan
Amanda Dawn Smith
Rodney Shane Stanphill*
James Taylor
Russel Wayne Warden
Willie Lee Washington, III
Tyler Wayne Willis
David Austin Wissler
John James Wilbert Young

* Summer 2012 graduate

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

2:00 P.M. COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Bachelor of Arts

Art and English

Betsy Leann Allen
Patrick Shea Black
Cameron Javier Clark

Casey Suzanne Guet
Randolph Marcum, III
Gregory David Miller

Danielle Nicole Moore
Steven Lee Smith
Kara Caitlynn Trivison

Bachelor of Science in Communications

Jonathan Caleb Adkins
Grace Ann Alsop
Emily Hope Burgess
Christin Marie Daugherty*
Casey Austin Davis*

Jammie Lee Ferrell
Stephen Duane Foster
Sarah Christine Herold
Emily Swann Jones*
Paul Manuel Leques

James D. Peyton
Joshua Dale Sapp
Ashley Catherine Spangler

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts

Economics, History, International Studies, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology and Philosophy

Annemarie Frances Barnes
Gordon William Cox Blizzard
Alicia Nicole Bowyer
John Thomas Brabender
Rachel Ann Burch
Kari Ann Clark
Cody Jack Cunningham
Andrea Jeanette Cremeans
Sarah Elizabeth Curry
Bradley Gene Davis*
Michael Shane Edens

Marla Rhodes Griffith
Todd A. Gunter
Jennifer Erin Henning
Danyale Marie Lane
Shannon Marie Laws
Gayla Davis Lehotay*
Christy Lynn Little
Charlotte Leona Martin
Jessica Dawn Matics
Jeana Gayle Mullins
Jared Gregory Nelson

Mary Elizabeth Pomeroy
Benjamin Anthony Randolph
Naomi Beth Sholock
Ryan Elliot Sircy
Joshua Allan Smith
Cheyney J. Straughter
Megan Rochelle Toney
Teri Lynne Wilson
Chyrelle Delisa Woods

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

James Vincent Burgess
Melissa Dawn Cain
Kari Ann Clark
Lisa L. Crawford
Ethan Joshua Dimtroff
Brenin Marseiles Garcia
Diana Lynn Given
Christina Lynn Graley
Amy Rae King

Kellie Ann Lewis
Eddie Dean Myers, II
Jared Gregory Nelson
YunBin Ni
Brandon Michael Pack
Heather Dawn Pauley
Shannon Nicole Pennington*
Adam M. Rollins
Amber R. Sanders

Jamie Yvonne Sarginson-Bradley
John Isaac Sayre
Christopher Antonio Sizemore
Renada Ellen Snodgrass
Jessica L. Strickland
Audra M. Terrell
Brandon P. Treola
Zachary Craig Young

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor of Science

Byron Michael Bevins
Rachel Ann Burch

Grace Ngobi Nyiiro
Shawn Lee Paul*

Sonja Leigh Shamblin
Andrew Bartholomew Wright

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Master of Arts in Media Studies

Stephen Daniel Shannon

COLLEGE OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCE

Master of Science in Biotechnology

Niranjan Aryal*
Abhishek Bhandari

Jesus Emmanuel Chavarfia-Palma
Hugh Lee Dalton, II*

Natalia Argentina Montenegro Garcia
Vitalis Odibe Ukwuaba

* Summer 2012 graduate

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

WVSU ALUMNI PLEDGE



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.

ACADEMIC HONORS FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS



Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages between 3.25 and 3.49

Magna Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages between 3.50 and 3.74

Summa Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages of 3.75 and above

With Distinction

Candidates, who are graduating with a second bachelor's degree, who have completed at least 30 hours beyond the first degree, and have attained a grade point average of 3.5 and above in these additional hours

United States Army Commissioned Officer

John Brabender has been commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant through West Virginia State University's ROTC program and will be assigned to the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. He will serve as a Platoon Leader in the 1-112th Infantry once he completes his Signal Officer Basic Course located at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Graduating Seniors in Honor Societies

To become a member in a University Honor Society, a student must have earned 30 hours toward his/her degree and must have met the society's specific requirements for eligibility. Congratulations to the seniors listed for your commitment to academic excellence and thank you for the national and international recognition that you bring to West Virginia State University by your membership in these societies.

Alpha Delta Mu – Honor Society in Social Work – Ms. Rita Brown, advisor

Kamisha Octavia Ford

Alpha Mu Gamma – National Foreign Language Honor Society – Ms. Rebecca Conner, advisor

Annemarie Barnes

Sarah Curry

Alpha Psi Omega – National Honor Society in Criminal Justice – Dr. Cassandra Whyte, advisor

Carla J. Shirey

Kappa Delta Pi – International Honor Society in Education – Dr. Paige Carney, advisor

Jennifer Hensley
Heidi Potts
Julia Wilkinson

Lambda Iota Tau – National Literary Honor Society – Dr. Anne McConnell, advisor

Gregory David Miller
Betsy Allen
Randolph Marcum

Phi Alpha Theta – International Honor Society in History – Dr. T. J. Park, advisor

Cody Jack Cunningham
Sarah E. Curry
Bradley G. Davis
Marla R. Griffith
Mary E. Pomeroy
Joshua A. Smith

Phi Eta Sigma – Freshman National Honor Society – Dr. James Spencer, advisor

Betsy L. Allen
Sarah E. Curry
Heather D. Pauley
Megan R. Toney

Psi Chi – National Honor Society for Psychology – Dr. James Spencer, advisor

Alicia N. Bowyer
Rachel A. Burch
Jennifer E. Henning
Danyale M. Lane
Christy L. Little
Charlotte L. Martin
Jeana G. Mullins
Ryan E. Sircy
Megan R. Toney
Teri L. Wilson

Pinnacle – National Honor Society for Non-Traditional Students – Ms. Kellie Toledo

Betsy Allen
Jennifer Hensley
Audra Terrell

Sigma Tau Delta – International English Honor Society – Dr. Anne McConnell, advisor

Gregory David Miller
Betsy Allen

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 marshal, a graduate of West Virginia State University, who seats the graduates, faculty, and platform guests. Faculty members wear 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 is in reverse order, with the platform guests leaving the dais first, followed by the faculty and the graduates.

The colors of the academic dress have a significance deeply rooted in the tradition of academic life and are specified by a uniformed 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 bachelor's gown is simple and black with long, pointed sleeves. Master's 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. Doctor's 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 bachelor's smallest, master's larger, and doctor's quite large and of a different shape. West Virginia State University does not award hoods for bachelors' degrees. 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 bachelor's 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 used today was designed by former Art faculty member Dr. Cubert Smith. The 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.

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 symbolizes the accomplishments of the graduates whom we honor on this occasion and the University's commitment to their success.

Four gonfalons of the old gold with black lettering will be carried by two faculty members from each College: 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.

Banner Carriers

Professional Studies

Dr. Cassandra Whyte
Dr. Jenelle Robinson

Arts and Humanities

Dr. Tom Kiddie
Ms. Sherri Shafer

Business and Social Sciences

Mr. John Bird
Dr. Lois Lucas

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Sundar Naga
Dr. Micheal Fultz

Grand Marshal

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Dr. R. Charles Byers '68

Assistant Marshals

Ms. Rita Brown '75
Ms. Debra Anderson-Conliffe '76
Dr. Daton Dean '99
Mr. Sam Holdren '01
Ms. Patricia King '85
Mr. Joshua Martin '10
Ms. Cathy Pleska '94
Ms. Patricia Shafer '71
Dr. Walter Stroupe '78
Ms. Patricia Wilson '67

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Francis Scott Key

*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, thru 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 through 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?*

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.*