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WV SU
C O M M E N C E M E N T P R O G R A M
May 12, 2018

College of Arts and Humanities
College of Business and Social Sciences
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
College of Professional Studies



Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
President

D. Stephen & Diane H. Walker Convocation Center
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

May 12, 2018 10:00 a.m.

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WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE Classical Selections

PROCESSIONAL Pomp and Circumstance

MARCHING ORDER

- Grand Marshal
- President and Deans
- Platform Party
- College Flag Bearers
- Faculty and Administrators
- Flags of the Nations
- Candidates for Degrees

POSTING OF THE COLORS Yellow Jacket Battalion Color Guard
United States Army ROTC

NATIONAL ANTHEM West Virginia State University Concert Choir
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

INVOCATION Tia Welch
Pastor, Heart of God Church

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS Leon Vincent Williams, Esquire
Chair, West Virginia State University Board of Governors

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Dr. William T. McDaniel
Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University

MUSICAL SELECTION *My Home Among the Hills* WVSU Concert Choir
Dr. Dirk Johnson, Director
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford



CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts, Public Administration and Sciences Dr. J. Paige Carney
Dean, College of Professional Studies

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Fine Arts and Sciences Prof. Deborah Williams
Interim Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

*The Director of Registration and Records, Ms. Donna L. Hunter, announces the names of the graduates
during the conferring of degrees by President Jenkins.*

U.S. ARMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY LTC Joshua Germann
Military Science Department

STUDENT ADDRESS Jeffrey Petty
Communications Graduate

REMARKS Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

ALUMNI PLEDGE Dr. Lateef Y. Saffore
President, WVSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER Roberta Arthur
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

CLOSING REMARKS Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

BENEDICTION Tia Welch
Pastor, Heart of God Church

RECESSIONAL Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER DR. WILLIAM T. MCDANIEL

Dr. William T. "Ted" McDaniel, professor emeritus of music and African American and African Studies, at The Ohio State University (OSU) is a specialist in jazz history, jazz performance, and African American music. He retired from OSU after teaching there for 35 years on June 1, 2015. He held faculty appointments in the School of Music and the Department of African American and African Studies, where he served as Department Chair for eight years.

He was Director of Jazz Studies and directed the OSU Jazz Ensemble from 1990-2015. His leadership of the OSU Jazz Ensemble led to performances throughout Ohio and the United States. They also took five international tours: European tours to France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, where they performed at the leading jazz festivals and other sites; Canada tour to Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia; and in 2014 to China for a U.S. State Department-sponsored tour.

His numerous music arrangements represent a diverse portfolio but are primarily for jazz bands, R & B groups, and marching bands. He has written music for the "Sesame Street" television show, and has served as an arranger for the OSU Marching Band since 1981, where his music has been performed at every Big 10 stadium and at major bowl games.

McDaniel received his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and his master's and doctorate degrees in music from the University of Iowa. A native of Memphis, Tenn., he previously taught at Morehouse College and North Carolina A & T State University.

He is married to Bernice Dowdy McDaniel, and they are the parents of two grown sons, William T. McDaniel, III and Elliot B. McDaniel and the grandparents of two girls, with another baby expected in a few months.

McDaniel is the grandson of John W. Davis, who served as President of West Virginia State College for 34 years, and spent time on campus during the summers when he was growing up. Both McDaniel's mother and aunt, Dorothy "Dot" Davis McDaniel and Constance "Dit" Davis Welch, respectively, are graduates of West Virginia State, and his youngest aunt, Caroline "Dash" Davis Gleiter, grew up on the campus.

U.S. ARMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

During the commencement service, a member of the West Virginia State University Reserve Officers' Training Corps. (ROTC) program will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. West Virginia State's ROTC Program has commissioned over 900 officers into the United States Army. Fifteen of these officers have achieved the General Officer ranks. Cadet Delanta Yancey is a criminal justice major and is commissioning into active duty as a military police officer.

STUDENT SPEAKER

Jeffrey Petty is a native of Cabin Creek, W.Va., and a 2013 graduate of Riverside High School. At West Virginia State, Petty has immersed himself in campus life, and earned induction into two academic honor societies; Alpha Kappa Mu and Alpha Epsilon Rho. He has served as the president of the WVSU Chapter of the National Broadcasting Society, as well as the sports director and lead broadcaster of the student sports broadcast team. Petty graduates today with a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in broadcasting. He hopes to work in the field of broadcasting and showcase the skills he learned at WVSU, before one day attending graduate school with plans to become a professor.

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 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 Fine Arts - Brown
- 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
- Master of Education in Instructional Leadership - Light Blue
- Master of Public Administration - Peacock Blue
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration - Midnight Royal

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES

Ikram Benaicha
Ahmed Tarek Selim Mohamed
Wendy Dawn Taylor

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Tucker A. Abruzzino
Ricardo Figueroa
Ana Karen Gatica Toledo
Imtiaz Al Mamood
Rongling Tang
Liang Zhang

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Pooja Divya Chinthakuntla
Umer Rizwan

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Victoria Renee Daniel
Tawna Shanice Heath
Abha Maskey
Marjan Nadimi
Dimple Sharma
Nirwan Tandukar

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Garrett Arthur Burdette
Allison Taylor Cooper
Stephenie Clara Haynes
Sheran K. Helmick
Samantha Jo Holcomb
Matthew David Kinnick
Angela Nicole Nichols

Tyler Neil Ramsey
Victoria Marie Ramsey
Cheryl Dawn Salisbury
Megan Taylor Shaffer
Nicole Renee Shipman
Cathy Lynn Thomas
Brittney Reney Vaughan
Dustin Allen Vaughan

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Sydnee Elise Kuhn
Dori Barbara McDonough

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART

Alexandra Leigh Booten
Lindsay Marie Crookshanks
Charles "Chad" Brady Foreman
Brianna Kristine Lawrence
Nazanin Parirokh
Morgan Leigh Perdue
Nichole Amber Westfall
Brittany Nicole Wines

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Angela Cathleen Bosley
Richard Conner Dolin
Elizabeth Foster Edele
Chesney Michaels Frampton
Torri Laine Halstead
Bambi Latessa Hayes
Kerry William Hughes
Connor Ray Kinder
Erica Rae Kitchen
Michael Staten Peaytt
Katherine Joan Reed
Kristina Marie Sevy
Wendy Danielle Stewart
Shayne Matthew Taylor
McKenzie Payge Thomas

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Jacquelyn Elouise Bryant

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Roberta Ann Arthur

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Zachary Brevard

Alexander Hairston Day

Evan Scott Dupree

Kimberly Michele Furman

Quinton Edward Gray

Senaia Simonné Harris

Aurreeshae Ella Ranell Hines

Whittani Ann Kirk

Laneisha Letticia Langley

Emari Tah-Von Lewis

Callilyn Elizabeth Norton

Joseph Morgan Pauley

Jeffrey Vanden Petty

Tanner Morgan Taylor

Dylan Keith Vidovich

REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Alexa Cheyenne Amburgey

Dorian Elizabeth Baker

Ieshia Shaunta Barrett

Shana Anne Byrd

Larry Christopher Damron

Amy Michelle Dean

Robert Allen Fomby, Jr.

Gregory Alan Frye, Jr.

Leisha Mari Gray

Jessica Leigh Hinkle

Ieasha Louise Jackson

Jennifer Nicole Keffer

Joyce F. Kilburn

Amanda Kaye McDonald

Amie Lea Moss

Ashley M. Moyers

Stephanie S. Paul

Joshua Duane Perry

Emily Ann Robinson

Steven Aaron Skeens

Alicia Nicole Stine

Cayley Leann Tackett

Christian Alecsander Watts

Melinda Dawn White

Wesley Alan Wood

Jaylyn MaeRee Woods

Tiffany Diane Yeager

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

Matthew Quintin-Joseph Benincosa

Taylor Christian Conaway

Joshua Isaiah Ginther

Folami A. Mack

Matthew Scott Martin

Jonathan Taft Tippett

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Elizabeth Anne Bush-Hoh

Nathan Kyle Deskins

Stephanie Nicole Fragale

Jacob Tyler Paxton

Zachary Allen Smith

Benjamin Jordan Thompson

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Jordan Lavender Barnhart

Matthew Quintin-Joseph Benincosa

Sierra Cheyenne Hess

Daniel E. Holcombe

Kervens Lorthe

Benjamin Wade Seawright

Joseph Dale Staup

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Chelsie Nicole Brooks
Alisha Carol Chandler
Ashley Erin Cottrell
Abigail Ann Darnold
Anna Christin Eagle
Elijah Alexander Farley
Alysha LaShaé Humbles
Esmeralda Magdalena Kaestner
Micca Noelle Mirabella
Elijah N. Roberts
Morgan Leigh Snodgrass
Cody Allen Stowers
Autumn Nicole Wells
Alexis Christian Wilder

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Bonnie Nicole Swan

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Morgan Annallyse Allen
Destiny Lynn Ashby
Kaleb Andrew Ball
Kendra Lene' Benson
Alexandra Elise Brannon
Phoenix David Bush
Aaron Nicholas Calvert
Stephen James Caudill
Amber Lane Elizabeth Costello
Stephen Michael Crowell
Nina Dillwald
Sheila Sue Dolan
Travis Alan Garrett
Taylor Alexander Grimm
George Robert Hamrick
Michaela Dawn Hanshew
Denitra Semaj Houchins
Ethan Mitchell Jones
Alexander Nicodemus King
Austin Lee King
Marinda Renae Lanham

Gail Ann Lentz
James David Lingan
Zachary Matthew McCormick
Jacob Michael McDonald
Kel'Lese Shantel Simone Miller
Sarah Danielle Rife
Jacob Tyler Smith
Jeremy M. Smith
Jacob Alexander Stanley
Alexander Harrison Stover
Amanda Suzanne Tyler
Brianna Morgan Walker
Krysten Alexis Wolfe

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Brenna Dianne Barker
Daniel Wesley Barker
Zachariah Allan Casto
Ashley Marie Current
Taylor Joseph Farris
Colby Glenn Gainer
Charles Brett Mabry
Victoria Gayle Ramey
Elijah N. Roberts
Benjamin Jordan Thompson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Jessie Callie Bowlin
Kimberly Hope Cavender
Charles Jennings Haught, III
Jonathan David Simms
Joy Chioma Ugwuanyi

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Zachariah Allan Casto
Tyler Ward Hoskins
Travis Connolly Hovatter
Jesus Rivera
Brett Matthew White

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Devon Montel Bollinger
Justin Larry Duncan
Lietta Neesheay Goins
Ryder Davis Gore
Brenden Michael Iezzi
Thomas Michael Kriston
Madison Savannah Lambert
Brittany Esta Martens
Candyce Elizabeth Melton
Tiffany Harika Middaugh
Tyrel R. Panter
Kole D. William Patterson
Daniel Leo Riggs
Haley Skye Russell
Aaron Duane Slusher
KayCee LaShae Thomas
Jonathan Tyler Torman
Seth Edward Welsh
Delanta Patrick Yancey

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Roberta Ann Arthur
Jessie Callie Bowlin
Sydney Rae Burdette
Jessica Paige Cullop
Alexander Chase Estep
Dasia Annanicole Jeffries
Stephen Timothy Jenkins
Haeley Brooke Moore
Cody Ray Morris
Kayla Dawn Nida
Courtney Paige Samples
Mamie Justine Smith
Kaitlyn Elisabeth Stone
Kaitlyn RaeAnn Tadlock
Daniel Allen Thomas
Skylar Alexis Tomblin
Beth Ann Tomczak
Allison Sue Tumey

Sarah Dianne White
Rachel Leigh Wolfe
McKenzie Renee Young
Laurel Renée Zirbel

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Staci Jo Keffer
Krisa Michelle Lamb
Jonathon Bruce Murphy
Nadejah Sheli'ta Polite
Brittanie Nichole Rimmey
April D. Simpson
Chelsea Marie Zachary

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN RECREATION

Matilyn Alanna James
Emily Mackenzie Peal

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Joseph Allen Barker, Jr.
Elvin Emanuel Campbell
Robert Joseph Crowley
Michael Franciscan deLopez
Alesia Annette Duncan
Andrea Leigh Eaves
Brianna Michelle Grishaber-Clark
Amber Nicole Haynes
Jamie Lynn Holmes
Christopher John Maillet
Kevin R. Nichols
Josie Brooke Thomas
Kaitlyn Danielle Watson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES

Taylor Ryan Clark
Julie Christine Conway
Hunter M. Crites
Kevon C. Monroe
Elijah N. Roberts
Richard Cody Wheeler

ACADEMIC HONORS

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.

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

National Honor Society in Social Work

Professor Rita Brown, advisor

Joseph Allen Barker
Patricia Crockett
Robert Crowley
Andrea Eaves
Amber Haynes
Jaime Holes
Kevin Nichols
Josie Thomas

Alpha Epsilon Rho

National Broadcasting Society

Professor Kimberly Cobb, advisor

Alexander Day
Jeffrey Petty
Tanner Taylor

Alpha Kappa Mu

Junior and Senior National Honor Society

Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor

Elizabeth Anne Bush-Hoh
Allison Taylor Cooper
Jessica Paige Cullop
Victoria Renee Daniel
Amy Michelle Dean
Senaia Simonne Harris
Jamie Lynn Holmes
Connor Ray Kinder
Matthew David Kinnick
Amanda Kaye McDonald
Jeffrey Vanden Petty
Victoria Gayle Ramey
Daniel Allen Thomas
KayCee LaShae Thomas
Brianna Morgan Walker
Brittany Nicole Wines

Alpha Si Sigma

National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Dr. Cassandra B. Whyte, advisor

Kenneth Christopher Dodd
Sydnee Elise Kuhn
Madison Savannah Lambert
Dori Barbara McDonough
Candyce Elizabeth Melton
Daniel Leo Riggs
Haley Skye Russell
Kaycee LaShae Thomas
Seth Edward Welsh

Beta Kappa Chi

National Scientific Honor Society

Dr. Timothy Rhunke, advisor

Ashley Marie Current
Victoria Gayle Ramey

ACADEMIC HONORS



Delta Mu Delta
International Honor Society
in Business Administration
Professor John Hodges, advisor
Alexander Elise Brannon
Ethan Mitchell Jones

Kappa Delta Pi
International Honor Society in Education
Professor Barbara Korn, advisor
Sydnee Burdette
Jessica Cullop
Alexander Estep
Dasia Jeffries
Stephen Jenkins
Haeley Moore
Skylar Tomblin
Beth Tomczak
Allison Tumey
Rachel Wolfe
McKenzie Young
Laurel Zirbel

Omicron Delta Epsilon
International Economics Honor Society
Dr. Suvayan De, advisor
Jonathan Taft Tippett

Phi Alpha Theta
National Honor Society for History
Dr. T. J. Park, advisor
Elizabeth Anne Bush-Hoh

Pinnacle National Honor Society
for Non-Traditional Students
Kellie Toledo, advisor
Joseph Barker
Amber Haynes

Pi Sigma Alpha
Political Science Honorary Society
Dr. Ginta T. Palubinskas, advisor
Jordan L. Barnhart

Psi Chi
International Honor Society in Psychology
Dr. Paula K. McCoy, advisor
Chelsie Brooks
Alisha Chandler
Abigail Darnold
Anna Eagle
Elijah Farley
Alysha Humbles
Esmeralda Kaestner
Micca Mirabella
Morgan Snodgrass
Cody Stowers
Autumn Wells
Alexis Wilder

Sigma Tau Delta
International English Honor Society
Dr. Anne McConnell, advisor
Richard Dolin
Connor Kinder

WVSU Honors Program
Dr. Timothy Ruhnke, advisor
Victoria Ramey

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.

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

Arts and Humanities

Prof. Ali Ziyati
Prof. Reidun Øvrebø

Business Administration and Social Sciences

Assoc. Prof. Frehot Hailou
Assoc. Prof. Ginta Palubinskas

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Prof. Tim Ruhnke
Prof. Tom Guetzloff

Professional Studies

Asst. Prof. Mickey Blackwell
Asst. Prof. Jay Canterbury

Grand Marshal

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya

Faculty Marshals

Asst. Prof. Katie McDilda
Assoc. Prof. Patricia Wilson

Stage Marshals

Asst. Prof. Leighann Davidson
Prof. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals

Assoc. Prof. Debra Anderson-Conliffe
Assoc. Prof. Patricia King

Sign Language Interpreters

Ashley Cobb
Melanie Wilkerson

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.*



WEST VIRGINIA STATE
UNIVERSITY