

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

"Making Higher Education a Part of Your Future"

*Sunday, the Nineteenth of December
Two Thousand and Ten
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 marshal, a graduate of West Virginia State University, who seats the graduates, faculty, and platform guests. The faculty enter by academic rank, 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 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 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 Biotechnonology.....	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—

- Abide With Me*..... William Henry Monk/Scott E. Woodard
- Symphony No. 8 (Unfinished)*..... Franz Schubert/Lucien Cailliet
Conducted by Tyler Mullins
- Ringling Brothers Grand Entry March*..... Al Sweet/Andrew Glover
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 ANTHEMarr. 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 hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, 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 Pastor Joel M. Harpold
First Baptist Church St. Albans
St. Albans, West Virginia

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

THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Mr. Eric Coleman
Chair, West Virginia State University Board of Governors

THE MUSICAL SELECTION
"Shut de do" arr. by Mark Hayes
West Virginia State University Concert Choir
Dirk Johnson, D.M.A., Director

THE CONFERMENT OF SPECIAL HONORS
Teacher of the Year
Clay County Teacher of the Year Mr. Robert Morris
Kanawha County Teacher of the Year..... Mr. Michael Carte
Putnam County Teacher of the Year.....Mr. Joseph Kincaid

THE RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES John Teeuwissen, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
West Virginia State University

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

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

THE PRESENTATION OF
GRADUATING OFFICER Timothy U. Phillips
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army
Professor of Military Science

ChiQuita L. Mack

THE STUDENT ADDRESS Ms. Tiffany Finkton, B.S.
Communications

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

THE ALUMNI PLEDGE Mr. Philip Bright, '71
Director of Alumni Relations

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

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

THE BENEDICTION Rev. Donté Jackson
First Baptist Church Huntington
Huntington, 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 Daton Dean '99

Professor Patricia King '85

Professor Patricia Shafer '71

Professor Walter Stroupe '78

Professor Patricia Wilson '67

Honor Societies Graduating Seniors

December 19, 2010

ALPHA DELTA MU - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN SOCIAL WORK

ADVISOR-MS. RITA BROWN

Jeffrey Lewis Albright

ALPHA EPSILON RHO - WV NATIONAL BROADCASTING SOCIETY

ADVISOR-MS. SHERRI SHAFER

Eric Christopher Young

ALPHA KAPPA MU - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-DR. SONYA ARMSTRONG

Jeffrey Lewis Albright

Ashley Lara Denison

Bryan Lee Roberts

Mekdes Dereje Aychiluhim

Elizabeth Louise Morgan

William Alexander Carroll

Danielle Nichole Pettry

DELTA MU DELTA - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN BUSINESS

ADVISORS-MR. JOHN HODGES, MR. MICHAEL LEWIS

William Alexander Carroll

Elizabeth Louise Morgan

KAPPA DELTA PI - INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN EDUCATION

ADVISORS-DR. EMILY WAUGH, DR. SANDRA ORR

Shannon Marie Burton

Melissa Renata Scott

Ashley Dawn Johnson

Candess Rae Workman

Amanda Gail Luedtke

LAMBDA IOTA TAU - NATIONAL LITERARY HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-MR. DAVID WILSON

Lorna Christie Linger

PHI ALPHA THETA - INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN HISTORY

ADVISOR-DR. BILLY JOE PEYTON

Tanya Mata Adkins

Eric Christopher Young

PHI ETA SIGMA - FRESHMAN NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

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

Elizabeth Louise Morgan

Danielle Nichole Pettrey

PSI CHI - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGY

ADVISOR-DR. JAMES SPENCER

Cynthia Denise Briscoe

Suzanne K. Morris

Rachel Michele Burdette

Ashley Lara Denison

SIGMA TAU DELTA - INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

ADVISOR-MR. DAVID WILSON

Lorna Christie Linger

Christina Lynn Young

Baccalaureate Degree Programs

CUM LAUDE

Zachary Charles Adkins*
Stephanie M. Ahart*
Georgiana Lesley Albright
Jeffrey Lewis Albright
Mekdes Dereje Aychiluhim
Shannon Marie Burton
William Alexander Carroll
Kathy Ann Hash

Paula Renè Houston
Jeanellen Chapman Jenkins
Ashley Dawn Johnson
Shelly Inez Jones
Lorna Christie Linger
Amanda Gail Luedtke
Joshua D. Martin*

Candace Morgan
Anthony G. Saunders
Brittany Nicole Slater
Corey Anthony Williams
Barbara Ann Wine
Joshua Aaron Workman
Eric Christopher Young

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Gina Marie Balsler
Ashley Lara Denison
Bernard W. Morris, Jr.
Suzanne Kay Morris

Rebekah Gail Parsons
Melissa Renata Scott
Megan Leigh Sheets

Rebecca V. Smith*
Michelle Ruth Spurlock
Christina Lynn Young

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Tanya Mata Adkins
Amanda Joyce Basham**
Elizabeth Louise Morgan

Bethany Anne Parkins
Danielle Nichole Pettry

Bryan Lee Roberts
Candess Rae Workman

WITH DISTINCTION

Deborah Lynn Roda

*Denotes August 210 Graduate

**Denotes December 2009 Graduate

Candidates

College of Arts and Humanities

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

Lorna Christie Linger

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Laura Ashley Bruner

Charles William Carl, Jr.

Tiffany Pauline Finkton

Shelly Inez Jones

Kevin DeWayne Osborne

Kathryne Marie Prosser*

Bruce Dewayne Purnell, Jr.

Scott Alexander Risdien

Jonathan Craig Searls

Megan Leigh Sheets

Corey Anthony Williams

Gheymarne Domica Woodson

Alissa Blaire Yoho

Eric Christopher Young

FOR THE DEGREE OF REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Stephanie M. Ahart*

Deborah Kay Amos

Shawn Paul Asbury

Marcus Randolph Bailey

Gina Marie Balsler

Selamawit S. Belete

Alexandra P. Bertolotti

Bethanie R. Brown

Jody Allen Brown

Jessica L. Bryant*

Kevin Lamore Corbin

Michael Thomas Elkins*

Mary Suzanne Ellis*

Deanna Lynn Fertig

Cory L. Fisher

Philip Micheal Gibson

Melissa Ann Guthrie*

Robel Hailu*

D'Andrea A. Harris*

Ronnie Dewayne Harris

Shana Lynn Higginbotham

Kimberly Dawn Jarvis

Cindy Denise Krepps*

Kelly S. McCormick-Straight

Joshua Douglas Martin*

Melissa J. Miller

Jillian Nicole Minter

Candace Morgan

Matthew D. Morris

Suzanne Kay Morris

Patricia N. Mosley

Bryan A. Noggy

Charles Donald Pauley, Jr.*

Linda Beth Ratcliff

Shezad Rauf

Bryan Lee Roberts

Nicholas Adam Santmyer

Anthony G. Saunders

Karleigh Marie Scott

Malinda Elizabeth Ventura

Joel Landon Watts*

Barbara Ann Wine

Stephanie Nicole Woods

Christopher D. Wright

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

*Denotes August 2010 Graduate

Candidates

College of Business and Social Sciences

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

Tanya Mata Adkins	Robert Dallas Erwin	Lance E. Marshall*
Christopher Charles Blackmon	Kelli Michelle George	Shane Monroe Rose
Cynthia Denise Brisco	Kathy Ann Hash	Allison Jo Samples
Rachel Michele Burdette	Christopher Adul Kunhavijit	Michelle Lynn Sergent*
Kristen Elizabeth Casto*	Aimee Renee McNurlen	CherRita LeShea Varner*
Carrie Elizabeth Childress	Karie Elizabeth Martin	Eric Christopher Young
Ashley Lara Denison		

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Molley Kathleen Bird*	Cierra Takevia Foster	Davie Christine Scott
Solomon A. Boadi	Carma Beth Goff	Ana Alexandra Sierra
Michael Paul Briggs	John Andrew Harman	Christopher Burton Slack
DeAnn Elaine Carpenter	Stephen Michael Hughes, II	Rebecca V. Smith*
William Alexander Carroll	Galina Marie McDowell	Michelle Ruth Spurlock
Jessica Lynn DeWitt	Elizabeth Louise Morgan	Katherine Louise Whiting
Jason Ray Emerson*	Rebekah Gail Parsons	Melissa Sue Wood*
Robert Dallas Erwin	Adam Lawton Rowsey	Joshua Aaron Workman

Candidates

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Amy Louise Foose	ChiQuita LaShawn Mack	Michael Andrew Tighe
Carey Lynn Gay	Danielle Nichole Pettry	

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

*Denotes August 2010 Graduate

Candidates

College of Professional Studies

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Tonya Sue Adkins	Katie Lynn Bridwell	Brittany P. Jackson
Jalil Jamar Allen	Lace Brittany Butler	Jeremy Travis Tate
Christopher James Ballard	Paula Reneè Houston	Bethany Danielle White*
Raymond Anthony Barron, Jr.	Christina Lorraine Ingels	

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Georgiana Lesley Albright	Orleta Joyce Holmes	Bethany Anne Parkins
Carolyn Rose Allen	Theresa Marie Holt	Danielle Nichole Pettry
Amanda Joyce Basham**	Charell Lee Irwin	Seth Thomas Ramsey
Shannon Marie Burton	Jeanellen Chapman Jenkins	Deborah Lynn Roda
Ashley Rae Chapman	Ashley Dawn Johnson	Melissa Renata Scott
Mary Kate Elkins	Brian Todd Linville	Brittany Nicole Slater
Bryan Carter England	Amanda Gail Luedtke	Alison Ann Warner
Norene Nichole Gallion	Gregory Donald Mallory	Candess Rae Workman
Michael Paul Hawkins	Bernard W. Morris, Jr.	Christina Lynn Young
Dusty Dennard Herscher		

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Mekdes Dereje Aychiluhim	David Jamison Crites	Aaron L. Lewis
Eudora Denise Burton	Melanie Danielle Hill	Fanica JeNailyn Payne

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN RECREATION

Zachary Charles Adkins*	Joshua Jamal Hollingshead	Derrick A. Peaks, Jr.*
Eli Benjamin Capps-Amburgey		

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Jeffrey Lewis Albright	Jennifer Lynn Bailey	Elaine Marie Murphy*
Angela Lynn Baber	Erin Elizabeth McKinney*	Jennifer Ann Washburn

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

*Denotes August 2010 Graduate

**Denotes December 2009 Graduate

Candidates

College of Arts and Humanities

FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES

Lawrence Edward Burgess, II

Rose Marie Namay

Joseph Wing-Cheung Ng

Candidates

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Christopher Robert Racine*

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

*Denotes August 2010 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
Nasbville, 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)
Corna 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 <i>Former Secretary of Energy</i>	(Mid Year) J. Michael Mullen <i>Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission</i>	2006 (May) Thomas Joyner, Sr. <i>Thomas Joyner Foundation and REACH Media</i>
(Mid Year) James W. Rowley <i>President Emeritus, College of Graduate Studies</i>	2002 (May) Miles C. Cary <i>President, West Virginia State College Advisory Board</i>	(Mid-Year) Thomas D. Boston, Ph.D. <i>Georgia Institute of Technology</i>
1998 (May) Shirley R. Watkins <i>Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture</i>	(Mid Year) Kaye Goodwin <i>Secretary, Education and Arts</i>	2007 (May) Constantine W. Curris, Ed. D. <i>President, American Association of Colleges and Universities</i>
(Mid Year) Gus R. Douglass <i>West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture</i>	2003 (May) J. T. (Ted) Childs, Jr. <i>Vice President, Global Workforce Diversity IBM Corporation</i>	(Mid-Year) Brian Eugene Noland, Ph. D. <i>Chancellor, Higher Education Policy Commission</i>
1999 (May) Christine M. Corey <i>Senior Program Officer, Office of International Education and Graduate Programs, United States Department of Education</i>	(Mid-Year) Richard L. Ferguson <i>Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board ACT, Inc.</i>	2008 (May) Reggie B. Walton <i>United States District Judge, District of Columbia</i>
(Mid Year) Hazo W. Carter, Jr. <i>Ninth President, West Virginia State College</i>	2004 (May) Boyce Courtney Williams <i>Vice President, National Council for Accreditation of Education</i>	(Mid-Year) B. Keith Fulton <i>President, Verizon West Virginia</i>
2000 (May) Cecil H. Underwood <i>Governor, State of West Virginia</i>	(Mid-Year) Hazo W. Carter, Jr., Ed.D. <i>President, West Virginia State University</i>	2009 (May) John D. Perdue <i>West Virginia State Treasurer</i>
(Mid Year) David Stewart <i>State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Board of Education</i>	2005 (May) John D. Rockefeller, IV <i>US Senator, State of West Virginia</i>	2010 (May) Joseph R. Goodwin <i>Chief Judge US District Court Southern District—West Virginia</i>
2001 (May) Marie C. Johns <i>President, Verizon</i>	(Mid-Year) Joseph Manchin III <i>Governor, State of West Virginia</i>	

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

Corna 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

1965 (continued)
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

1971 (continued)
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**
Floydell 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 Huffman 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
- 2006 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

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.