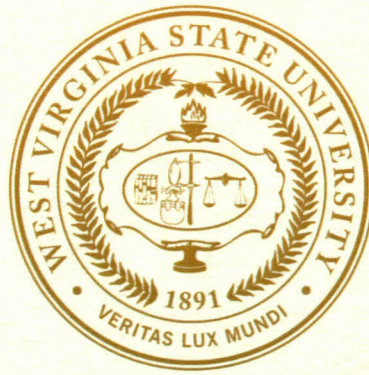


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WV
SU
COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
May 11, 2013

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
WVSU Main Lawn
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 11, 2013

Order of Exercises 10:00 a.m.	2
Order of Exercises 2:00 p.m.	4
College of Professional Studies Candidates	6
College of Arts and Humanities Candidates	7
College of Business and Social Sciences Candidates	7
College of Natural Science and Mathematics Candidates	7
Commencement Speaker	8
Honorary Doctorate	8-9
Delegate Douglas J. Skaff Jr.	
WVSU Alumni Pledge	9
U.S. Army Commissioning Ceremony	9
Academic Honors	10-11
The Academic Procession	12
The Mace	13
College Banners	13
The Star-Spangled Banner	Back Cover
Alma Mater	Back Cover



WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
MAY 11, 2013
10:00 A.M.
ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDES West Virginia State University Wind Ensemble
Mr. Scott Woodard, Director

PROCESSIONAL *Pomp and Circumstance* WVSU Wind Ensemble

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 West Virginia State University Concert Choir
Accompanied by WVSU Wind Ensemble

INVOCATION Rev. Tim Pauley
Capitol Commission, Charleston

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 Delegate Douglas J. Skaff Jr.

CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREE Delegate Douglas J. Skaff Jr.

MUSICAL SELECTION *Let the River Run* WVSU Concert Choir
Dr. Dirk Johnson, Director



CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Awarding of Posthumous Degree

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

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

U.S. ARMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY LTC Tony Taylor
Military Science Department

REMARKS Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President

ALUMNI PLEDGE Mr. Charles Boddy
President, WVSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER WVSU Concert Choir
Accompanied by WVSU Wind Ensemble

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

BENEDICTION Rev. Tim Pauley
Capitol Commission, Charleston

RECESSIONAL Grand March WVSU Wind Ensemble

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
MAY 11, 2013
2:00 P.M.
ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDES West Virginia State University Wind Ensemble
Mr. Scott Woodard, Director

PROCESSIONAL *Pomp and Circumstance* WVSU Wind Ensemble

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 West Virginia State University Concert Choir
Accompanied by WVSU Wind Ensemble

INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Gerald A. Clark
Ferguson Baptist Church, Dunbar

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS Attorney L. Vincent Williams
Vice Chairman, West Virginia State University Board of Governors

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Delegate Douglas J. Skaff Jr.

MUSICAL SELECTION *Let the River Run* WVSU Concert Choir
Dr. Dirk Johnson, Director



CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Awarding of Posthumous Degree

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts and Sciences Dr. Barbara Ladner
Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities

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

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Dr. Lois Lucas
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

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

REMARKS Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President

ALUMNI PLEDGE Mr. Charles Boddy
President, WVSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER WVSU Concert Choir
Accompanied by WVSU Wind Ensemble

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

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Gerald A. Clark
Ferguson Baptist Church, Dunbar

RECESSIONAL *Grand March* WVSU Wind Ensemble

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



10:00 A.M. COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Jerry Anderson, Jr.
Matthew Edward Bippus
Jasmine Ariel Blanton
Calem William Bridgette
Jameka Reneé Bryan
Dakoda Shane Chattin *
Kathryn Dale Cooke
Marissa Elaine Duncan
Tiffany Michelle Dye
Desiree Nicole Giffin
Brittany Suzanne Given *
Nikole Lynn Henkels
Logan A. Hoffman
Brook Nicole Johnson
Jennifer Morgan Jones
Jordan Andrew Lawson
Samekia Laverne Lawton
Sharrie Latrise McCain
Ashton Michael McDaniel
Eileen Elizabeth McKinnon
Taikara Mercedes Millner
Desmond Ainsworth Mills, Jr.
Brent Moles
Shawn Maurice Myers
Kimberly Kay Rowley
Robert Judson Rucker *
John Daniel Smith, Jr.
Nicholas Alan Stone
Walter Aaron Stroupe

Bachelor of Science in Education

James Michael Abner
James T. Bailes *
Amanda J. Bird
David Leo Bonecutter
Emily Renae Brown
Scott Delaney Canada

Christine Marie Carte
Gideon Trent Casto
Victor Dean Gore, II *
Leah Diane Harrell *
Robin Michelle Hatfield
Matthew Thomas Jones
Gabriel D. King
Chelsea R. Kuhn *
Brian S. Lanham
Holli A. Layne
Samantha Lynn McVicker
Jessica Ann Means *
Ashley Michelle Parlagreco *
Jared Scott Parsons
Sandra Reneé Jackson Robison
Heather Nichole Roush
Elizabeth Dawn Satterfield
Rachel N. Standish
Sheri Lynn Starr *
Amanda L. Stephens
Callie Ann Stevens
Alisia Marie Stricklen
Joshua Luke Tackett
Karen Jo Watts
Teresa Ann Young

Bachelor of Science in Health Science

Lynda Ann Conneway *
Kyndel Marie Evans
Tanna Erin Finney
Amanda L. Kay
Travis Ray Kinser *
Duce Moore
Jerri Lee Nelson
Krystle Antoinette Smith
Jeannie Laticia Stewart
Travis Alan Stone

Bachelor of Science in Recreation

Elliott Hunter Birckhead

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Gabrielle Chanell Balancier
Michael Norris Barber
Jordan Lindsey Browning *
Tiffany Chenelle Byrd
Danielle Reneé Fragman
Jeanny Jean Baptiste
Michelle Marie Miller
Paula Kay Mooney
Andrea Jean Morris
Jessica Nicole Plantz
Brittney Dawn Ramsey
Lauren Rose Schiefer
Erica Shanai Walls

Bachelor of Science in Sports Studies

Landon Cornelius Johnson
Monique Laverne Love
Matthew Ray Moneyppenny *
Adrienne Jenelle Ramey
Leisha Michelle Salyer

Regents Bachelor of Arts

Alasha Lee Al-Qudwah
Crystal Lashelle Birmingham
Kristina Ann Brooks
Lucas S. Burdette
Cheryl A. Casdorff
Keisha Nicole Chaffin *
Amanda Joy Childers-Foster
Candiss Nicole Chinn
Justin Christopher Clendenin
Misty Dawn Clendenin
Leonard D. Comithier, Jr.
Ronald K. Dickerson
William Gene "Billy" Dillinger
Etheredge W. Donaldson *
Elizabeth Jane Elkins
Garrett David Facemyer

Alex James Faulkner
David Leander Ford, Jr.
Vernell Bianca Geathers
Brian Franklin Gunnoe
Rebecca Lynn Hale
Michael J. Harper-Thompson
Joyce Jean Haynes
Carla Terry Hunt *
John Thomas Hunter
Donté Leon Jackson *
Joshua Ortega Johnson
Tina M. Jones *
Darrel D. Kidd *
Garrett Marshall Kiser
Nathan Scott Koepsel
Keith Andrew Konkle
Jessica Ann Kortz
Stephanie Ann Lester
Stuart Wayne Lively *
Katie Michelle McCloud *
Javier Armond McCoy
Kelsey Mechele McCutcheon
Ronald L. McDade
Rachel Diane Means
Elisha De'Paugh Merchant
Kimesha Danyelli Patterson
Karen Leigh Pauley-Vickers
Hasani A. Poku
Christian Edward Rader *
Michael Linden Reynolds
Brandon R. Ross
Rickey Matthew Runion, II
Christopher Dwayne Ryan
Joanne Shaffer
William Drue Sigman *
Aaron Keith Stuter
Talia Michelle Tabor
Jeanne Elizabeth Taylor
Dagineaux Mariel Thomas
Latefa Ranea Toney
Catherine M. Tucker
Christina Marie Weese *
Natalie Irene White

* Not participating in the commencement ceremony.

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

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



2:00 P.M. COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Master of Arts in Media Studies

Lisa Ann Bragg
Tijah Ondrae Bumgarner
Angela Marie Neal
Michael Alan Ramsey

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Master of Science in Biotechnology

Venkata Lakshmi Abburi
Allison Noelle Cox
Jackie Ann Fletcher
Russell Paul Wissner

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Bachelor of Arts

Ashley Ja'Net Bish
Marsha Denise Casto
Rhonda Michele Severn Marrone
Jennifer Caitlin Means
Aaron Theodore Morris
Melissa Ann Oliver
Jose A. Peña *
Jameyia Rose Richardson
Wendy Dawn Shamblin
Rachael Lea Spaulding
James Henson Taylor *
Erika Dawn Walker

Bachelor of Science in Communications

Leah Marie Craver
Cordero Rashad Davis
Stephen Duane Foster
Alyssa Jo Graboski
Damon Robert Hoffman
Jeffrey Scott Honaker, Jr. *
Stannetta Bahiyah King
RaeShawn Monique Mallory Nichols

Sara Nicole Pelegreen
Tyler Ray Riddle
James Mason Walling
Kimberly Rebekah-Marie Waybright
Victoria Lorraine Wright

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts

Tabitha Nicole Adkins
Amber Renae Anderson
Jeremy Ryan Blackshire
Ronda Nicole Burkhart
Justin Han Cherry
Davaé Nichelle Churchill
Jaqueline Lorren Cowan *
Timothy Robert DeBarr
Elizabeth Ann Doig
Chelsea Leigh Dolan
Jessyca Marie Gooch
Christian Nicole Green
TaBetha Joele Harrah *
Evan Taylor Hartman
Amber Nicole Henson *
Ashley Nicole Huffman
Nicole Marie Jones
Ariel Grace Lee
Alleyse Camille Lipscomb
Jessica Ann Means
John Paul Mooney *
Kassie Jean Nolan
Ashley Michelle Parlagreco
Julianna Rae Phillips
Jessica Nicole Plantz *
Marcus Lee Pressley
Anna Laura Reed
Roberto Alexander Robles
Sandra Michelle Rollins *
Denessa Elaine Rouse
Jason Ryan Sammons *
Megan Renee Shaffer
Damon Edward Spriggs
Cheyney J. Straughter
Cody Garrett Taylor
James Henson Taylor
Laura Ashley Wilmoth
Ashley Renae Withrow
Nadia Humayun Yousaf

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Mary Nicole Baker
Badia Beasley
Bahiyah Beasley
Ka'Shauna Dominique Cook
Nathan Lee Cooper
Jaqueline Lorren Cowan *
Nikita Claire Delgadillo
Brenin Marseilles Garcia
Alex W. Gordon
Dustin Patrick Harper *
TaBetha Joele Harrah
Justin Bradley Henry
Amber Nicole Henson *
Thomas William Hinds
William Terrell Palmer
Ricky Phillips
Sandra Michelle Rollins
William David Siders *
Eric Michael Smith
Sara Gebresilassie Teklu
Sara Lynn Thaxton
Bianca Michelle Washington
Kenneth Richard Williams
Raymond Walter Williams *
Shantae L. Williams

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor of Science

David Allen Berry, Jr.
Douglas Wayne Bright
Jessica Lane Hoffman
Peter Edward Hunt
Patricia Michelle Johnson
Joshua Haun Kim
Emily Suzanne Konstanty
Cameron Juanita-Marie Lewis
Melissa L. Lytton
Michael Drew McClain
Marjan Nadimi
Jesse Nathaniel Oglesby
Samantha Ann Rizzo
Sarah Ann Sigmon
Stacie Nicole Sircy
Andrew Bartholomew Wright

* Not participating in the commencement ceremony.

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

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER DELEGATE DOUGLAS J. SKAFF JR.



Delegate Douglas J. Skaff Jr. is a native West Virginian and successful business owner. He earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and a master's degree in industrial labor relations and business management from West Virginia University (WVU).

Skaff left the Mountain State after he completed college to work for Owens Corning, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Toledo, Ohio, as part of their Leadership Development Program. For seven years he held numerous positions in Sales, Human Resources and Management with Owens Corning that took him across North America. When company officials said there was an open district manager position covering West Virginia, Skaff welcomed the chance to return home.

Skaff currently serves as the managing partner for his family owned business—Building & Remodeling Warehouse in Nitro. The business distributes building material products to contractors, remodelers and do-it-yourself homeowners with a focus on selling products made in West Virginia. In just two years, Skaff and his team have grown the business to almost double its previous size. Skaff also serves as the vice president of Skaff Development Co. in South Charleston, where he works with his father in commercial and residential development.

Skaff currently serves as a member of the WVU Alumni Association's Board of Governors. In 2005, the Association honored Skaff for his commitment and service to his alma mater. He also serves on West Virginia University's Student Affairs Visiting Committee and participates in the Charleston Area Alliance, HBA – Home Builders Association, Generation Charleston, the March of Dimes, the Guys Night out Committee for the YWCA, Clay Center Development Committee. He serves on the Marcellus Shale to Manufacturing Task Force and is also a member of Charleston Moose Lodge and St. George Orthodox Cathedral.

Skaff, a Democrat, is a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates representing Kanawha County's 35th District. He serves as Chairman of the Small Business and Economic Development Committee, Assistant Majority Whip, and on the Finance Committee and Roads and Transportation. In addition, Skaff serves as Chairman of the Legislative Oversight Commission on Workforce Investment for Economic Development. He also co-chairs a Bipartisan Generation Legislature Caucus that he created for all newly elected legislators and current legislators between the ages of 25-45 who want to work together, regardless of political party, to move the state forward.

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

Delegate Douglas J. Skaff, Jr., Doctor of Public Service

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.

U.S. ARMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



During the 10 a.m. commencement service, two members of the West Virginia State University ROTC program will be commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants.

Cadet John D. Smith Jr. will be commissioned in the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer. He will attend the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

Cadet Ashley J. Bish will be commissioned in the West Virginia National Guard as an Ordnance Officer. She will attend the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Lee, Va., before beginning her duties in West Virginia.

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 – Rita Brown, advisor

Gabrielle Chapell Balancier
Danielle Renee' Fragman
Michelle Marie Miller
Jessica Nicole Plantz
Brittney Dawn Ramsey

Alpha Epsilon Rho – National Broadcasting Society – Sherri Shafer, advisor

Alyssa Jo Graboski
Sara Nicole Pelegreen
Michael Alan Ramsey (MS program)

Alpha Kappa Mu – Junior and Senior National Honor Society – Sonya Armstrong, advisor

Jennifer Marie Bailey
Matthew Edward Bippus
Amanda J. Bird
Jeremy Ryan Blackshire
Douglas Wayne Bright
Emily Renae Brown
Christine Marie Carte
Marissa Elaine Duncan
Tanna Erin Finney
Jessyca Marie Gooch
Rebecca Lynn Hale
Thomas William Hinds
Jeffrey Scott Honaker, Jr.
Brook Nicole Johnson
Landon Cornelius Johnson
Jacklyn Kate Kennedy
Joshua Haun Kim
Chelsea R. Kuhn
Ariel Grace Lee
Eileen Elizabeth McKinnon
Jessica Ann Means
Michelle Marie Miller
Duce Moore
Angela Marie Neal
Ashley Michelle Parlagreco
Julianna Rae Phillips
Jessica Nicole Plantz
Adrienne Jenelle Ramey
Michael Alan Ramsey
Samantha Ann Rizzo
Denessa Elaine Rouse
Kimberly Kay Rowley
Jason Ryan Sammons
Elizabeth Dawn Satterfield
Sarah Ann Sigmon
Rachel N. Standish
Nicholas Alan Stone
Callie Ann Stevens
Alisia Marie Stricklen
Sara Lynn Thaxton
Catherine M. Tucker
Kenneth Richard Williams
Teresa Ann Young

★ Alpha Psi Omega? - is this Univ. authorized



Alpha Mu Gamma – National Foreign Language Honor Society –

Rebecca Conner, advisor ✓
Ashley Ja'Net Bish
Leah Diane Harrell
Jeffrey Scott Honaker
Rachael Lea Spaulding
Kimberly Rebekah-Marie Waybright
Denessa Elaine Rouse

Alpha Phi Sigma – National Criminal Justice Honor Society –

Cassandra Whyte, advisor ✓
Matthew Edward Bippus
Dakoda Shane Chattin
Marissa Elaine Duncan
Jessyca Marie Gooch
Eileen Elizabeth McKinnon
Kimberly Kay Rowley

Beta Kappa Chi – National Scientific Honor Society –

Tim Ruhnke, advisor
David Allen Berry, Jr.
Douglas Wayne Bright
Peter Edward Hunt
Joshua Haun Kim
Cameron Juanita-Marie Lewis

Kenn Barry

Delta Mu Delta - International Honor Society in Business –

John Hodges, advisor ✓
Thomas William Hinds

✓ **Kappa Delta Pi – International Honor Society in Education –**

Paige Carney, advisor
Emily Renae Brown
Christine Marie Carte
Jessica Ann Means
Rachel N. Standish
Amanda L. Stephens

Phi Alpha Theta – National History Honor Society –

T.J. Park, advisor ✓
Nicole Marie Jones
Jessica Ann Means
Ashley Michelle Parlagreco
Denessa Elaine Rouse
Jason Ryan Sammons

Phi Eta Sigma – National Honor Society for Freshmen –

James Spencer, advisor
Ashley Ja'Net Bish
Jeremy Ryan Blackshire
Douglas Wayne Bright
Emily Renae Brown
Dakoda Shane Chattin
Marissa Elaine Duncan
Thomas William Hinds
Brook Nicole Johnson
Alisia Marie Stricklen
Christina Marie Weese

Psi Chi – International Honor Society in Psychology –

James Spencer, advisor
Jeremy Ryan Blackshire
Chelsea Leigh Dolan
Jessyca Marie Gooch
Michelle Marie Miller
John Paul Mooney
Julianna Rae Phillips
Jessica Nicole Plantz
Laura Ashley Wilmoth
Nadia Humayun Yousaf

Pinnacle – National Honor Society for Non-Traditional Students –

Kellie Toledo, advisor ✓
Cheryl A. Casdorff
Eileen Elizabeth McKinnon
Catherine M. Tucker
Natalie Irene White
Nicole Marie Jones

Sigma Tau Delta – International English Honor Society –

Anne McConnell, advisor
Rachel N. Standish

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. Jenelle Robinson
Dr. Cassandra White

Arts and Humanities

Dr. Anne McConnell
Dr. Reidun Ovrebo

Business Administration and Social Sciences

Prof. John Bird
Dr. Tae Jin Park

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Micheal Fultz
Dr. Upali Karunathilake

Grand Marshal

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

Assistant Marshals

Prof. Rita Brown
Prof. Debra Anderson-Conliffe
Dr. Daton Dean
Prof. Sam Holdren
Dr. Joshua Martin
Prof. Christopher Passero
Dr. Walter Stroupe
Prof. Patricia Wilson

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.*

1891

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