

WD  
Cme.



COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM  
May 13, 2017

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 13, 2017 10:00 a.m.

Order of Exercises .....	2
Commencement Speaker .....	4
U.S. Army Commissioning Ceremony.....	4
The Academic Procession .....	5
College of Arts and Humanities Candidates .....	6-7
College of Business and Social Sciences Candidates.....	6, 7-8
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Candidates.....	6, 8
College of Professional Studies Candidates.....	6, 8-9
Academic Honors.....	10-11
WVSU Alumni Pledge .....	12
The Mace.....	12
College Banners .....	13
The Star-Spangled Banner .....	Back Cover
Alma Mater .....	Back Cover



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 ..... Br. Mark Parsons-Justice  
Worship Arts Director, Bream Presbyterian Church of Charleston

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ..... William Lipscomb  
Vice Chair, West Virginia State University Board of Governors

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS ..... Maj. Gen. James A. Hoyer  
West Virginia Army National Guard

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 Public Administration and Sciences ..... Dr. Robert Wallace  
Interim Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins  
President

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences ..... Dr. Naveed Zaman  
Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

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 Derrick Spears  
Military Science Department

REMARKS ..... Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins  
President

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

ALMA MATER ..... James Shamblin  
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

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

BENEDICTION ..... Br. Mark Parsons-Justice  
Worship Arts Director, Bream Presbyterian Church of Charleston

RECESSIONAL ..... Grand March

*Please remain seated while the graduates recess.*

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER MAJOR GENERAL JAMES A. HOYER

---

Major General James A. Hoyer has served as Adjutant General for the West Virginia Joint Forces Headquarters since February 2011. As the Adjutant General, he provides command guidance and vision to the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard of more than 6,500 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen. He provides the overall supervision of the day to day operations and management of the readiness, fiscal, personnel, equipment and the real property resources of the agency.

General Hoyer was commissioned in 1983 through a joint Reserve Officer Training Corps program with West Virginia State University. General Hoyer began his military career in the West Virginia National Guard as a Cavalry Officer. He attended the Special Forces Officer Qualification course and spent over 14 years with the 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. General Hoyer led the development of the West Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force and the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center and its Center for National Response; a national level operational and training capability for critical infrastructure protection and consequence response. General Hoyer's most recent assignment was Director, Joint Staff, West Virginia Joint Force Headquarters.

General Hoyer earned his bachelor's degree in management/marketing from the University of Charleston and earned a master's degree in management/public administration from the West Virginia Graduate College. In addition, he earned a master's degree in strategic studies from the United States Army War College. He has also been awarded an honorary doctorate of law degree from the University of Charleston.

General Hoyer has earned numerous awards and commendations during his distinguished service including: legion of merit, meritorious service medal, army commendation medal, army achievement medal, national defense service medal, Iraq campaign medal, global war on terrorism service medal, and the armed forces reserved medal, to name a few.

## 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 Vincent Michael Bird is commissioning into the regular Army as an Ordnance Officer. After serving as a trainer at Advanced Camp this summer, he will attend the Ordnance Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Lee, Va., with duty to follow at Fort Carson, Colo.

## 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 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 Science in Criminal Justice - Midnight Royal
- Master of Public Administration - Peacock Blue

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND  
HUMANITIES**  
*MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES*  
Adam Wesley Striker

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
*MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION*  
Justine Andrea Lee  
Jordyn Leigh Reed

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
AND MATHEMATICS**  
*MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY*  
Binlit Mathew  
Alejandro de Jesus Ramirez-Garcia  
Krittika Vilas Tonapi\*  
Lav Kumar Yadav

**COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL  
STUDIES**  
*MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
ADMINISTRATION*  
Carla Elaine Brooks  
Sarah Kaye Clere  
John J. Dolce  
Tiffany Ellen Ward

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND  
HUMANITIES**  
*BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART*  
Olivia Anne Holstein  
Stephanie Kristine Morgan

*BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH*  
Tiffany Lucinda Aliff  
Jaime E. Barton  
Bridgett Nichole Dudding  
Veronica Morgan Jarrell  
Megan Lynn Jenkins  
Jessica Lea Kirk

Amanda Denise Myers  
Brandon Matthew Perdue  
Jennifer Nicole Wilson

*BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS*  
Rami Joseph Anderson  
Jireh Grace Beacom  
Joel David Hanson  
Eleyse Charon Hudson-Sagnia  
Patience Catherine Kascic  
Matthew Dylan Keefer  
Haley Denise Krepps  
Hannah Rachel Matthews  
James Michael Olah  
Jason Paul Robinson  
Eric Lawrence Rogers  
Damian Lightfoot Ross  
Matthew Ryan Skeen  
Javon J. Smith  
Colton Daniel Thomas  
William Maxwell Wallace\*\*  
Christin Deanna Wesley

*REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS*  
Michael Allen Ball  
Lee Ann Bias  
James Harrison Brown, III  
Elvin Emanuel Campbell  
Kaye Anne Ellis  
Hannah Rose Faegre  
Sally Ann Finchum  
Terrance Bernard Jenkins  
Staci Jo Keffer  
Megan Lee Kennedy  
Dustin R. Kinser  
Amanda Lynn Lacy  
Shayla Anngnette Leftridge  
Steven Lee Lewis  
Ashley Nichole Logan  
Victor Wade Morris

\* Denotes August 2016 graduate

\*\* Denotes December 2016 graduate

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



# PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



Wendy Ferguson Mosteller  
Meghan Danielle Mullins  
Earl K. Nowling, Jr.  
Craig Alan Nutter, II  
Brittany Eve Price  
Deborah Lynne Walker  
Brittany Mattina Watts  
Rebecca Alene White  
Cindy Cobb Withrow  
Asfaw Markos Zerihun\*

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### *BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS*

Brittany N. Gibson  
Aubrey James Martin  
Erblina Prekazi  
Joseph Thomas Rotz

### *BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY*

Caroline Joyce Bruce  
Kaitlin Noel Dingess  
Rocky Sebastian Mendez  
Justin Lee Miller  
George Preston Russell, III  
Nicholas Avery Stavrakis  
Aurora Mariah Ulbrich

### *BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES*

Logan Jacqueline Seals  
Christopher David Young

### *BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE*

Dennis E. Gardeck  
Sasha Reynolds  
Logan Jacqueline Seals  
Shawn Christian Simms  
Christopher David Young

### *BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY*

Rami Joseph Anderson  
Justin K. Barnhouse  
Cassie Cole Ford  
Kaitlynn Desiree Gilbert  
Ciara Rose Grimm  
Scotti Ann Hager  
Katie Marie Hedrick  
Sydney Brannon Howerton  
Valerie Renee Kidd  
Erika Lynn Lambert  
Terrica Nashea Maxwell  
Caché Monique Phillips  
Jazmyn Michelle Price  
Alexandria Jade Raines  
Samantha Gail Spence  
Amy Dey Thomas  
Pamela Marie Young

### *BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY*

LaShea Ashley Strader

### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION*

Karlee Suzanne Berg  
Jacob Michael Bulriss  
Faith Marie Burchett  
Patrick Eugene Crede  
Regenia Lynn Davis  
Tiffany René Dingee  
Nicholas William Dohm  
Brittany N. Gibson  
Travis P. Gibson  
Charles Elliot Griggs  
Chase Campbell Henderson  
Brian Alexander Hilmon  
Charles Melvin Johnson, III  
Dustin Hunter Kincaid

\* Denotes August 2016 graduate

\*\* Denotes December 2016 graduate

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

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Joshua Hudson Kiser  
Aubrey James Martin  
Stacy Renee McGhee  
Cameron Bryant McLane  
Trenton A. McMillen  
Elizabeth Nicole Mounts  
Bennie Ray Parsons  
Devin Nicole Randolph  
Darrell Render, Jr.  
Jason Allan Roth  
Baley Renae Rummell  
Allison Jill Scarbro  
Carly Jean Settle  
Sierra Brook Sheltz  
Amiea Chilton Summers  
Brooke Renee Thaxton  
Jesse Chukwuemeka Umeh  
Shannon Leigh Watson  
Ross Andrew Whisner  
Tetiana V. Yancich

### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

#### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY*

Miranda Christine Buckley  
Joshua Benjamin-Kyemenu Caiquo  
Saira Rizwan  
Umer Rizwan  
Mitchell Deion Rowell  
Shawn Christian Simms  
Justin Reed Spradling  
Brett Michael Strahin  
Summer LeeAnn Sword

#### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY*

Morgan Davis Bright  
Megan Bernadette Guetzloff  
Shealyn Brooke Shafer

#### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE*

Taylor Wilson Hurst  
Jordan Rashod McMillian

#### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS*

Brandon James Wright

### COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

#### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE*

Vincent Michael Bird  
Christopher Tyler Brewster  
Taquila Nicole Bruce  
Jennifer Lee Bryant  
Miranda Elaine Deal  
Tyler John DeCarlo  
Nicholas Charles Dreixler  
Robert Eugene Farley  
Benjamin Riley Fletcher  
Chelsey Danielle Hayes  
Jamaine Hunt  
Terrica Nashea Maxwell  
Kimberly June Moffett  
Jared Michael Payne  
Angela Dawn Price  
Tamra Dawn Price  
Paige Lynn Rhodes  
James Parker Searls  
Kaylee Michelle Stanley  
Amy Dey Thomas  
Ciara Inez Thomas  
Jackson Daulton Tyler  
Kareé Alexandria Vaughn  
Akil Rami Washington  
Stephen James White  
Charles Travis Winter

\* Denotes August 2016 graduate

\*\* Denotes December 2016 graduate

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

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION*

Ashley Nicole Adkins  
Ashlee Danielle Austin  
Haylee Morgan Bias  
Miranda Christine Buckley  
Haley Brooke Byrd  
Brooke Louise Cieslewski  
Evelyn Rebecca Dean  
Holly Marie Dingess  
Brett Martel Dodrill  
Amanda Elizabeth Easter  
Meredith Brooke Ferrell  
Toni Elizabeth Fitzwater  
Diandra Lynn Gentilin  
Alexandria Marie Greene  
Kasandra Ann Harless  
Zachery Zane Heaver  
Olivia Anne Holstein  
Nicole Marie Jenny  
Meegan Elizabeth King  
Matthew David Kinnick  
Jaime Nicole Neely  
Benjamin David Pannell  
Christa Elizabeth Parsons  
Bridget Colleen Pauley  
William E. Scott  
Ashley Russell Setterstrom  
James Richard Shamblin  
Chelsea Lynn Simmons  
Stanley Douglas Stewart, II  
Kellian Jon Strange  
Chelsea Lynele Thomas  
Jasmine Kiara Withrow

Katie JoAnn Perry-Lockard  
Jeannemarie Saunders  
Samantha Rose Scripter  
Jacinta Maria Stefursky

### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN RECREATION*

Alexander Joseph Keiffer

### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK*

Lindsey Nicole Atkins  
Megan Danielle Backus  
Jessica Nichole Beha  
Cherylin Olivia Bown  
Jessika Morgan Fawcett  
Patricia Lynn Hines  
Alyna Carol Jarrett  
Lashawnda Ashley Miles  
Emily Amber Perdue-Kuhn  
Tamra Dawn Price  
Debra J. Raines  
Kasey Marie Samples  
Emily Irene Sheets  
Ruth Ann Vance  
Amanda Sue Williams

### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES*

Aijah Tyla-Danielle Bost  
Tyrie Detjuan Elliott  
Anthony M. Grant  
James David Salisbury  
Aaron Matthew Smith  
Rachel R. Ward  
Ayinde Kumasi Warren

### *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE*

Sarah Elizabeth Allred  
Ashley Yvette Jones  
Carrie Michelle Martin  
Shavion Marie Means

\* Denotes August 2016 graduate

\*\* Denotes December 2016 graduate

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

## 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***

Lindsey Nicole Atkins  
Megan Danielle Backus  
Jessica Nichole Beha  
Cherylin Olivia Bown  
Tamra Dawn Price  
Debra J. Raines  
Emily Irene Sheets  
Ruth Ann Vance  
Amanda Sue Williams

### ***Alpha Epsilon Rho***

#### ***National Broadcasting Society***

#### ***Dr. Sherri Shafer, advisor***

Patience Catherine Kascic

### ***Alpha Kappa Mu***

#### ***Junior and Senior National Honor Society***

#### ***Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor***

Summer LeeAnn Sword  
Smanatha Gail Spence  
Carla Elaine Brooks  
Kassandra Ann Harless  
Katie JoAnn Perry-Lockard  
Matthew David Kinnick  
Alexander Joseph Keiffer

### ***Alpha Phi Sigma***

#### ***National Criminal Justice Honor Society***

#### ***Dr. Cassandra B. Whyte, advisor***

Vincent Michael Bird  
Christopher Tyler Brewster  
Carla Elaine Brooks  
Jennifer Lee Bryant  
Sarah Kaye Clere  
Miranda Elaine Deal  
Nicholas Charles Dreixler  
Jamaine Hunt  
Kimberly June Moffett  
Tamra Dawn Price  
Kaylee Michelle Stanley

### ***Alpha Psi Omega***

#### ***National Theatre Honor Society***

#### ***Professor Susan Marrash-Minnerly, advisor***

Eric Lawrence Rogers  
James Richard Shamblin  
Matthew Ryan Skeen  
Christin Deanna Wesley

### ***Beta Kappa Chi***

#### ***National Scientific Honor Society***

#### ***Dr. Timothy Ruhnke, advisor***

Saira Rizwan  
Umer Rizwan  
Shealyn Brooke Shafer  
Justin Reed Spradling  
Brett Michael Strahin

## ACADEMIC HONORS



### ***Delta Mu Delta***

***International Honor Society***

***In Business Administration***

***Professor John Hodges, advisor***

Travis P. Gibson

Charles Melvin Johnson, III

Aubrey James Martin

Carly Jean Settle

### ***Kappa Delta Pi***

***International Honor Society in Education***

***Professor Barbara Korn, advisor***

Ashley Nicole Adkins

Ashlee Danielle Austin

Brooke Louise Cieslewski

Holly Marie Dingess

Amanda Elizabeth Easter

Meredith Brooke Ferrell

Toni Elizabeth Fitzwater

Kasandra Ann Harless

Christa Elizabeth Parsons

Stanley Douglas Stewart, II

Kellian Jon Strange

Chelsea Lynele Thomas

### ***Omicron Delta Epsilon***

***International Economics Honor Society***

***Dr. Suvayan De, advisor***

Aubrey James Martin

Erblina Prekazi

Joseph Thomas Rotz

### ***Phi Alpha Theta***

***National Honors Society for History***

***Dr. T. J. Park, advisor***

Aurora Mariah Ulbrich

***Pinnacle National Honor Society for Non-Traditional Students***

***Kellie Toledo, advisor***

Katie Marie Hedrick

### ***Pi Sigma Alpha***

***Political Science Honorary Society***

***Dr. Ginta T. Palubinskas, advisor***

Dennis E. Gardeck

Veronica Morgan Jarrell

Sasha Reynolds

Logan Jacqueline Seals

Aurora Mariah Ulbrich

### ***Psi Chi***

***International Honor Society in Psychology***

***Dr. Paula K. McCoy, advisor***

Cassie Cole Ford

Ciara Rose Grimm

Scotti Ann Hager

Sydney Brannon Howerton

Valerie Renee Kidd

Jennifer Blair Mize

Alexandria Jade Raines

Samantha Gail Spence

Amy Dey Thomas

### ***Sigma Tau Delta***

***International English Honor Society***

***Dr. Anne McConnell, advisor***

Tiffany Lucinda Aliff

### ***WVSU Honors Program***

***Dr. Ginta T. Palubinskas, advisor***

Saira Rizwan

Umer Rizwan

## 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. Reidun Øvrebo  
Asst. Prof. Lan Wang

#### ***Business Administration and Social Sciences***

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

#### ***Natural Sciences and Mathematics***

Asst. Prof. Mohammad Bhuiyan  
Assoc. Prof. Linwei Niu

#### ***Professional Studies***

Instructor Jay Canterbury  
Instructor Gary Hensley

### ***Grand Marshal***

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya

### ***Faculty Marshals***

Asst. Prof. Matt Carroll  
Assoc. Prof. Patricia Wilson

### ***Stage Marshals***

Asst. Prof. Joshua Martin  
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