



WVSI
COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
May 11, 2019

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 11, 2019 10:00 a.m.

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WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE Classical Selections

PROCESSIONAL Pomp and Circumstance

MARCHING ORDER

Grand Marshal

President and Deans

Platform Party

College Flag Bearers

Faculty and Administrators

WVSU National Alumni Association, Inc.

Executive Board

Flags of the Nations

Candidates for Degrees

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM WVSU Concert Choir
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

INVOCATION Rev. Ronald English, M. Div.
Commencement Speaker

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS Mr. William W. Lipscomb
Chair, WVSU Board of Governors

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Rev. Ronald English, M. Div.

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



CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

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

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

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

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

*The Interim Director of Registration and Records, Ms. Traci West-McCombs, announces the names of the graduates
during the conferring of degrees by President Jenkins.*

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

REMARKS Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

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

ALMA MATER Alanah Coleman
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

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

BENEDICTION Rev. Ronald English, M. Div.
Commencement Speaker

RECESSIONAL Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER REV. RONALD ENGLISH

The Rev. Ronald English acknowledged the call to ministry at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia where he served as Assistant Minister to Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. and Jr. and offered the prayer at the funeral of Dr. King. He graduated from Morehouse College and Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in the Atlanta University Complex where upon graduation he served as Special Assistant to the President of ITC.

In June 1972, Rev. English was called to pastor the historic First Baptist Church of Charleston, West Virginia. During his 21-year tenure, he led the church to become a Charter Member of the Religious Coalition for Community Renewal, which established low income housing in downtown Charleston and initiated the Black Heritage Cultural Series as the first such project funded by the West Virginia Arts and Humanities Council and the Division of Culture and History.

He has taught African-American history at West Virginia State University (WVSU), the University of Charleston and WVU Institute of Technology, and served as adjunct instructor in Leadership Development at Wheeling Jesuit University and English at WVSU. His essays and editorials on race relations and social justice have been featured in local newspapers and other publications, particularly on the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He worked on the administrative team that opened the Mt. Olive Correctional Complex, the state's maximum security prison for adult offenders in Fayette County.

His international travels include trips to Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and Central America. In 1989, he participated in a delegation of African-American leaders in the Anti-Apartheid Movement in America who were invited by Bishop Desmond Tutu to South Africa upon the release of Nelson Mandela. In 2012, he was awarded the Governor's Martin Luther King Living the Dream Award for Peace.

Rev. English is committed to service in interim ministry for churches in transition between pastoral calls and recently completed his third interim assignment at Antioch Baptist Church in Huntington. He is a facilitator/trainer in race relations for law enforcement and Restorative Justice initiatives with collaborative organizations committed to criminal justice reform. He has moderated and produced public affairs programs for commercial and public television and is featured in the documentary "Blood On the Mountain," which was nominated for an Emmy in 2019.

He is the father of one son, two daughters and grandfather of four girls, one grandson and one great grandson.

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 Danford Smith is a graduating with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION



The Academic Procession is composed of administrators, honored guests, faculty, graduates and the University Board of Governors. This procession is led by a marshal who seats the graduates, faculty and platform guests. Faculty members wear costumes that had their origin in the Medieval English University system. The costumes were devised to distinguish academic persons from lay persons, since everyone wore robes or gowns to ward off the cold. The recession is in reverse order, with the platform guests leaving the dais first, followed by the faculty and the graduates.

The colors of the academic dress have a significance deeply rooted in the tradition of academic life and are specified by a uniformed code maintained by the American Council on Education. Caps are black and are usually mortar boards with tassels. Doctors of Philosophy wear gold tassels, usually of metallic thread; other degrees wear black or discipline colors.

The bachelor's gown is simple and black with long, pointed sleeves. Master's gowns, also black, are longer than bachelors. Older gowns have sleeves that terminate at the elbow, while those since 1960 have sleeves extended to the wrist. Doctor's gowns are full, with bell-like sleeves. The front is marked by velvet panels, and the sleeves are marked by three velvet bars. While most gowns are black with black velvet, one variation is to replace black velvet with velvet in the discipline color. A second variation is a colored gown, usually of the university's colors.

All hoods specify the level of degree, the discipline studied, and the awarding institution. First, degree level is signified by the size of the hood with bachelor's smallest, master's larger and doctor's quite large and of a different shape. West Virginia State University does not award hoods for bachelors' degrees. The width of the velvet trim also conveys the degree. Secondly, the discipline is indicated by the color of the trim edging the hood to form the throat over the gown. Finally, the color of the hood's lining specifies the awarding institution. The colors are displayed in combinations that are drawn from heraldry.

The colors of the tassels worn by candidates for bachelor's degrees represent the fields of study in which the degrees will be conferred. At West Virginia State University, the following colors are used to designate the various degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts - White
- Bachelor of Fine Arts - Brown
- Bachelor of Science - Yellow
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Drab
- Bachelor of Science in Communications - Yellow
- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice - Royal Blue
- Bachelor of Science in Education - Light Blue
- Bachelor of Science in Recreation Service - Yellow
- Bachelor of Science in Social Work - Citron
- Master of Arts in Media Studies - White
- Master of Arts/Science in Biotechnology - Yellow
- Master of Education in Instructional Leadership - Light Blue
- Master of Public Administration - Peacock Blue
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration - Midnight Royal

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND
HUMANITIES**
MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES
Sarah Christine Herold

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES**
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
David Lowell Gillespie
Samantha Renee Loudin

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS**
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY
Tolulope Abodunrin Akinmoju
Tosin Enimofe Akinsipe
Kshitiz Dhakal
Saugata Dutta
Tawna S. Heath
Sabin Khadgi
Binlit Mathew
Nirwan Tandukar

**COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL
STUDIES**
*MASTER OF EDUCATION IN INSTRUCTIONAL
LEADERSHIP*
Michael William Black
Benjamin Michael Fuller
Edgar Daniel Kraemer Harbert
Justin David Hersman
Katelynn Miranda King
Donald Andrew Linger
Karrie Markezich Lowe
Beverly Ann Smith
Laurel Hope Tanner
Christin Lynn Williams

*MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ADMINISTRATION*
Cornelius Jordan Hagins
Jamaine Hunt
Kimberly June Moffett
Shane Madison Shamblin
Amy Dey Thomas

Christopher Elliott Thompson
Jill Robin Thompson
Mallory Noelle Woods

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND
HUMANITIES**
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART
Winafret Lynn Casto
Kristen Jessica Hicks
Anthony W. McGriff
Christopher Michael Moynahan
Trayvis Marcell Patterson
Zachary Robert Douglas Stamper
Gilbert Joshua Vega

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH
Brian Andre Bucklew
Elizabeth Ann Carrier
Hannah Elizabeth Gerencir
Nicholas Jack Ingram
Jonathan I. Milton
Jason Allen Thornton
Keisha Doble Wright

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Daniel Travis Means
Elizabeth Danielle Warner

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS
Daniel Levi Adamczyk
Stevie Lee Adamczyk
Kelton James George
Christopher Knud Rasmussen
Michael Thomas-Howard Swagger

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS
Matthew Henne Burnette
Noah Nathaniel Fulks
Kayla Danielle Holder
Mar Lamadrid Coll
Aaron Joseph Lynch-Kelley
Charles Gerald Oakley
Amanda E. Rogers
Baigen Aziz Seawell
Aric Douglas Taylor

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

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



Kevin Cody Walker
Angélica Maria Willis
Marijean Withers

REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Nicholas Ansah
Joshua Frank Barnett
Savannah Tennille Belcher
Jacob D. Bowman
Ashley Louise Braley
Tamika Michelle Brice
John Eric Courtney
Jerricka L. Davis
Vonzell Jerome Groom
Johnathan Hewitt
Morgan Bryant Higginbotham
Ruth Elizabeth Hill-Washington
Cooksey Perry Hunter IV
Kyle Lee Jaskulske
Kris E. Kern
Tracy Stuart Kinder
Andrea Nichole Koontz
Alex Jordan Marrs
Matthew Tyler Mayo
Wendell L. Miller
Emily Carson Moore
Kimberly Ruth Murphy
Jamie Michelle Pell
Sharon Lynn Stackpole
Deborah Susan Starks
Crystal Dawn Thomas
Daniel Jacob Ware
Tina Lynn White
Alfred Shelby Williams

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

Kelly Jo Boggess
Olivia MacKenzie Carnegie
Brian K. Conley
Laura Christina Isbey
Douglas Allen King
Aaron Alexander Moore
William Dale Sidors

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Alexander P. Bennett
Cal Parker Colangelo

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Michael Angelo Argento
Alexander P. Bennett
Sarah Zell Christian
Cal Parker Colangelo
Rachel Marie Harper
Gavin Hunter Nichols
Connor Louis Slagill

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Ra'ed Joseph Abdel-Hadi
Ashley Nicole Clark
Michelle Lynn Derreberry
Shantel Lynn Fierbaugh
Zaynah Lana Kali
Lakin Elizabeth Keeney
Madelyn Paige McDermitt
Jordan Nicole Schoolcraft

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Robert S. Branch
Roxanne Marie Draganowski
Moises Valcarcel

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Russel R. Akers III
Brandon Ball
Jalen Roy Benjamin
Kelly Jo Boggess
Rhidzo Nino Breidel
Gabriel Kipp Brewer
Olivia MacKenzie Carnegie
Gabrielle Bliss Cochran
Brian K. Conley
Sable Cameron Cooper
Ethan Rhea Cross
Zachary Kane Fridley
Jahlen Rashard Greene
Sheila K. Hicks
Caitlyn Mashelle Honaker

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Kameron Chance Hornsby
Laura Christina Isbey
Douglas Allen King
Zachary Ryan Koontz
James Evan Marcum
Jonathan David Matuszkiewicz
Bryan Nathaniel Mazzella
Patrick Alexander Messinger
Jayson Blain Poling Mitchell
Shaina Nicole Prince
Stacy Dawn Quillen
Elisha Elliot Shank
William Dale Siders
Cynthia Nicole Smith
Kaylan L. Striggles
Kayleigh Leanne Thompson
Zaviaé Terrique Walker
Vanessa Lynn Walton
Sarah J. Ward

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Amneh Farid Alkatrib
Bethany Kristine Allred
Matthew Allen Blackburn
Nicholas S. Bonnett
Joshua Matthew Davidson
Adriana Marie Fleming
Amber Marie Mellinger
Brooke Elizabeth Mollett

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Hunter Lee Aliff
Edgar Ulises Lopez-Torres
Harlee Faith Pauley
David Anthony Stone VI

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Zelalem Tedra Addis
Nicholas David Cartwright
Austin Roger Francis
Justin Allen Graham*
Jonathan Daniel Musselwhite
Chaz Alexander Pittman

Danford Pershing Snowden Smith
Jaime N. Veronda

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

Danford Pershing Snowden Smith
Jaime N. Veronda

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Alexander William Bobinger
Christopher Ian Boggess
Luke Landon Bowman
Jamal DeVaughn Brown
Seth Michael Burger
Nicholas M. Dalporto
Diego Armando Damian Espinoza
Courtney Nichole Dexter
Morticia Elicia Dyess
Hameed Ahmad Farook
Heather Nicole George
James Micah Goff
Donovan Eugene James Grooms
Michael David Hancock
Tyrell Le'Marr Henderson
Michael Paul Hill
Shawntel Kathryn Hunter
Okechukwu Patrick Johnson-Agwu
Katelynn N. Justice
Brooksanna Marie Kennedy
Stefani Rene Keys
Jae'von LeNell McClain
Amber Marie Mellinger
Bethany Ann Neff
Jonathan Paul Nester
Patrick Joseph O'Neill III
Joshua Richmond Powers
Anna Simone Ross
Takeiya R'Shaun Smith
Joseph Levi Stoneman
Craig Alan Thomas
Jessica Elizabeth Toney
Malik Jamal Treadwell

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

*Awarded posthumously.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Haley Gail Barnett
Zoey Ellen Carte
Kristi Michelle Casto
Alanah Christine Coleman
Carly Jane Dye
Rachael Nicole Fortune
Jennifer Lauren Herscher
Barbara Jean Hopkins
Kaitlyn N. Jenkins
Kylie Paige Jones
Sarah Michelle Jones
Jessica Lynn McCormick
Casey Marie Montgomery
Martin Aloysius Nicolay
Andrea Nicole Rankin
Sarah Elisabeth Romaca
George Eugene Smith
Kaylee Jon Smith
Cassie Rashell Taylor
Tevin Nathaniel Taylor
Christopher Edward Thayer
Samantha Jordan Tulley
Raven Raye Withrow
Brooke Alexzandra Young

Itai Marie Gravely
Britany Hannah Honaker
Sonia Renee Manriquez
Jessica Lynn Maxey
Megan May McCormick
Vincent Maurice McCray
Emily Dawn McNally
Kristina Alexis Moore
Keshia Marie Neal
Cara Ann Nelson
LaAmya Arlene Nowak-Manley
Amber M. Perry
Kiersten Elyse Poore
Natasha C. Reed
Michelle L. Scarbro
Ashleigh Nichole Sharp
Stephen Ernest Simmons
Ashleigh Dawn Smith
Elizabeth Kae Tarver
Arminda Michaela Taylor
Emily Paige Taylor
Alexesis Brianna Walker
Jordan Ceira Weaver
Brandy Marie Woods
Cristen Dawn Wyatt-Young

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Renae Bailey
Kendell Bryant Martin
Juantajah Kyche Spillman
Carmen L. Stein
Bruce Alan Whitten

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Jacob Matthew Bounds
Ciara Danielle Bowman
Linda Kaye Carter
Nicholas Michael Cogar
Alesia A. Duncan
LaDonna Diane Gilpin
Angela Michelle Graley

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORT STUDIES

Brittany D. Allison
Joseph Laythen Good
Brookelyn Alexis Hale
Callie Joann Huck
Terrell Lee Lovejoy
Christopher James Matthews
Ryan Casey McDonough
Kayla Christine McKnight

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 M. Brown, advisor

Linda Kaye Carter

Angela Michelle Graley

Itai Marie Gravely

Sonia Renee Manriquez

Emily Dawn McNally

Kristina Alexis Moore

Cara Ann Nelson

LaAmya Arlene Nowak-Manley

Kiersten Elyse Poore

Natasha C. Reed

Ashleigh Nichole Sharp

Stephen Ernest Simmons

Alexesis Brianna Walker

Cristen Dawn Wyatt-Young

Alpha Epsilon Rho

National Broadcasting Society

Professor Kimberly Cobb, advisor

Angelica M. Willis

Alpha Kappa Mu

Junior and Senior National Honor Society

Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor

Bethany Kristine Allred

Gabriel Kipp Brewer

Linda Kay Carter

Sarah Zell Christian

Rachael Nicole Fortune

Brookelyn Alexis Hale

Donald Andrew Linger

Matthew Tyler Mayo

Bethany Ann Neff

Andrea Nicole Rankin

Amanda E. Rogers

Vanessa Lynn Walton

Alexesis Brianna Walker

Alpha Phi Sigma

National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Dr. Cassandra Whyte, advisor

Christopher Ian Boggess

Courtney Nicole Dexter

Jamaine Hunt

Shawntel Kathryn Hunter

Jae'Von LeNell McClain

Bethany Ann Neff

Amy Dey Thomas

Mallory Nicole Woods

Kimberly Moffett

Beta Kappa Chi

Scientific Honor Society

Dr. Timothy Ruhnke, advisor

Hunter Aliff

Edgar Lopez-Torres

Delta Mu Delta

International Honor Society in Business

Dr. Michael Lewis, advisor

Dr. Alan Tillquist, advisor

Brunetta Gamble Dillard, advisor

Kelly Boggess

Gabriel Brewer

Olivia Carnegie

ACADEMIC HONORS



Gamma Beta Phi

National Collegiate Honor Society

Dr. Ali Ziyati, advisor

Ethan Cross

Adriana Fleming

Itai Gravely

Jordan Hagins

Shawntel Hunter

Matthew Tyler Mayo

Brooke Mollett

Bethany Neff

Emily Taylor

Alfred Williams

WVSU Honors Program

Dr. Marek Krasnansky, advisor

Danford Smith

Honor Society

Dr. Stephanie Burdette, advisor

Haley Price Barnett

Matthew Tyler Mayo

Casey Montgomery

Andrea Rankin

Sharon Stackpole

Alfred Williams

Angélica Maria Willis

Raven Withrow

Kappa Delta Pi

International Honor Society in Education

Professor Barbara Korn, advisor

Haley Barnett

Zoey Carte

Kylie Jones

Sarah Jones

Andrea Rankin

Sarah Davis Romaca

Samantha Tulley

Raven Withrow

Brooke Young

Phi Alpha Theta

National History Honor Society

Dr. Tae Jin Park, advisor

Matthew Tyler Mayo

Pi Sigma Alpha

National Political Science Honor Society

Dr. Gina Palubinskas, Advisor

Sarah Z. Christian

Cal P. Colangelo

Gavin H. Nichols

Stephen E. Simmons

Pinnacle

Academic Honor Society

For Non-Traditional Students

Kellie Toledo, advisor

Shantel Fierbaugh

Michelle Scarbro

Alfred Williams

Angélica Maria Willis

Sigma Alpha Lambda

Leadership Honor Society

Jay Canterbury, advisor

Matthew Tyler Mayo

Sigma Tau Delta

International English Honor Society

Dr. Anne McConnell, Advisor

Matthew Tyler Mayo

Tau Sigma

Transfer Student Honor Society

Trina Sweeney, advisor

Matthew Tyler Mayo

WVSU ALUMNI PLEDGE

To join hands with other alumni in perpetuating the ideals of West Virginia State University, nurturing its growth and promoting its programs, to serve with honor in my chosen profession, and to make myself a symbol of the best traditions of West Virginia State University – this is my commission and my challenge.

THE MACE

The Academic Mace precedes the entire procession. The Grand Marshal carries in his hand this ceremonial staff that is used as a symbol of authority. Its placement and removal from a place of honor signifies the opening and closing of ceremonial sessions. The mace had its origin in the Middle Ages, being used first as a weapon by royal bodyguards to protect their monarchs in processions. Today, the mace is primarily used in academic processions, particularly in English-speaking countries.

The original mace used by West Virginia State University had historical significance in that it was created from a spindle used in the staircase of West Hall, the second building erected on the campus, in 1895. This mace was restored by James Huffman when he was the assistant director of Admissions at the University.

The mace used today was designed by former Art faculty member Dr. Cubert Smith. The circular ring design in its center symbolizes the four colleges of the University: Arts and Humanities, Business and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Professional Studies.



COLLEGE BANNERS



West Virginia State University students will proceed to their respective places behind gonfalons. Gonfalons are flags or banners hung from crosspieces on poles, used since medieval times in the republics of Italy as symbols of state or office. Universities and colleges around the world have adopted gonfalons to increase the ceremonial nature of commencement exercises.

This new tradition associated with commencement symbolizes the accomplishments of the graduates whom we honor on this occasion and the University's commitment to their success.

Four gonfalons of the old gold with black lettering will be carried by two faculty members from each College: the College of Arts and Humanities; the College of Business and Social Sciences; the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the College of Professional Studies.

Banner Carriers

Arts and Humanities

Prof. Ali Ziyati
Prof. Reidun Øvrebø

Business Administration and Social Sciences

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

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Asst. Prof. Katie Bitting
Asst. Prof. Mohammad Bhuiyan

Professional Studies

Asst. Prof. Mickey Blackwell
Asst. Prof. Stephanie Burdette

Grand Marshal

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya

Faculty Marshals

Mr. Vasilios Dianellos
Mr. Jay Canterbury

Stage Marshals

Asst. Prof. Leighann Davidson
Prof. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals

Assoc. Prof. Michael Pennington
Assoc. Prof. Patricia King

Sign Language Interpreters

Ms. Ashley Turley
Ms. Jasmin Campbell

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