

# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM December 12, 2015

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



Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. President

D. Stephen & Diane H. Walker Convocation Center Institute, West Virginia *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.

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# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

December 12, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Order of Exercises	
Commencement Speaker	
Honorary Doctorate Kyle Mork	
WVSU Alumni Pledge	
College of Arts and Humanities Candidates	
College of Business and Social Sciences Candidates	
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Candidates	8/9
College of Professional Studies Candidates	
Academic Honors	
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College Banners	
The Star-Spangled Banner	Back Cover
Alma Mater	Back Cover



# WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY Commencement Order of Exercises

PRELUDE		
PROCESSIONAL Pomp and Circumstance		
MARCHING ORDER Grand Marshal President and Deans Platform Party College Flag Bearers Faculty and Administrators Candidates for Degrees		
POSTING OF THE COLORS Yellow Jacket Battalion Color Guard United States Army ROTC		
NATIONAL ANTHEM Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford		
INVOCATION Reverend John H. Finnell Blessed Sacrament Church, South Charleston		
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS Dr. Ann Brothers Smith Chair, West Virginia State University Board of Governors		
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Dr. Kumara Jaysuriya Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs		
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Kyle Mork President, Energy Corporation of America		
CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREE Kyle Mork President, Energy Corporation of America		
MUSICAL SELECTION My Home Among the Hills WVSU Concert Choir Dr. Scott Woodard, Director		

# WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT ORDER OF EXERCISES

#### CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

> Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

> > Dr. Brian O. Hemphill President

#### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

> Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

> > Dr. Brian O. Hemphill President

#### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

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

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

> Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

> > Dr. Brian O. Hemphill President

#### COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Sciences Dr. Paige Carney Dean, College of Professional Studies Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Sciences Dr. Paige Carney Dean, College of Professional Studies

> Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

> > Dr. Brian O. Hemphill President

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

# WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT ORDER OF EXERCISES

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REMARKS	Dr. Brian O. Hemphill President
ALUMNI PLEDGE	Dr. Lateef Y. Saffore First Vice President, WVSU National Alumni Association
ALMA MATER	Casey Sharp Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford
CLOSING REMARKS	Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
BENEDICTION	Reverend John H. Finnell Blessed Sacrament Church, South Charleston
RECESSIONAL	Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

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## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Kyle Mork

Kyle Mork is the President of Energy Corporation of America (ECA) and a Director of the company. He began his career with Halliburton Energy Services as a completions engineer before moving to ECA as a drilling engineer in the company's Houston, Texas office. Since that time he has held various positions throughout the organization focused on operations and management. He has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Cornell University, and a MBA degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. In addition, he has taken masters courses at the University of Southern California in petroleum engineering. Mork is chairman of the board of the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia and also serves on the nonprofit ECA Foundation Board of Directors, the USC Mork Family Department Advisory Board and the Cornell Football Association Board. He and his wife, Kirsten, live in Charleston with their daughter and son.

## 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.

Kyle Mork, President, Energy Corporation of America Honorary Doctorate of Business

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## 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.

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

#### MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES

Chinwe Joy Joboson

#### COLLEGE OF NATURAL Sciences and Mathematics

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Abiodun Patrick Bodunrin \* Johanna Lynn Bosse Douglas Wayne Bright Khyra Shädé Fullen Jessica Lane Hoffman Santosh Khanal Michael Drew McClain K. M. Ahasan Al Tanim \*

#### COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Anita Le Clinton \* Brittany Ann Dangerfield \* Rachel Marie Halstead \* Shawn Maurice Myers \* Carla Jean Shirey \* Danielle Marie Smith \* Heather Nicole Smith Mikyle Ray White \* Natalie Irene White \*

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART

Kirk Thomas Collins Michelle Lynn Tompkin Hannah M. Watters

#### BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

John Mark Arthur \* Christopher Dylan Barton \* Kelsey Riane Crisco \* James Allen Hodges, Jr. \* Tyler Lee Mullins \* Ashley Nichole Penny \*

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Kandi Lynn Workman

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Christopher Lee Canada Reba D. Comer \* Cody Allen Cummings Colby Gene Dotson Curtis E. Haskins, Jr. Maria Michelle Hightower Steven Foster Hoffman Candice Shea Holliday Anita Ruth Hollier Rendell Keith Larry Terrence Martin James Michael Olah Mushay Charnelle Simms-Davis

#### **REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Michael Le'on Beatty Ruth Ann Belcher \* Katherine Patricia Burke Anna Lee Butcher Tracie Dawn Courtright \* Brittany Elizabeth Crary Charles Adam Frye, Jr. Jessica Lynn Halstead Lauren Nicole Hunt Julie Ann Jackson \* Cheryl Lynn Jett \* Brittani Ann Kirk Branden David Ledford Crystal Mae Lucas Kristina Marie Lynch Jeffrey Wayne McCune Ramadhin Mais Joshua Allen Michalski Yunusah Babangida Mohammed \* Melissa Dawn Mullins \* Lee Morgan Painter \* Andrea Denice Perdue \* Rebecca Lynn Perry Christopher Andrew Petitt James Kevin Pickron, II Elizabeth Pearl Pyszkowski Jeremy Charles Rollman Grace Wang Zhen Rose \* Valarie Nicole Ross Eugenia Francine Scott Kelly Witters Shannon Beth Allison Silvestrucci David Wayne Sisson David S. Slater \* **Ronald Perry Stewart** Marsha Lynn Thornton-Bradbury Jessica Beth Vance Jedidiah Drew Walls Victoria I.C. Waybright Dina Renee Williams Jocelyn Kristine Williams \* Kayla Nicole Workman \*

\* Denotes August 2015 graduate A name on the program does not assure that final degree requirements have been met.

#### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

Zachary Dale Cooper \* Christina R. Cox Casey Morgan Knuckles Isaiah Herl Seandelle White Kenneth D. White, Jr.

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Tyler Dean Allen Kevin Westley Carpenter Chelsea Elizabeth Duffey Tyler Ryan Michael Godbey Jonathan Scott Kirk Dakota Brooke Lee Jay Charles Martin

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Hadra Mohammed Awol Destani Nichole Casdorph Nellie Jane Erby Kevin Allen Konkle William Lodge Lindsey Nichole Thaxton Samantha Nichole Wooten

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Matthew Raymond LaGrange \* Summer Dawn Meadows

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Casey Jo Owens

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Christopher K. Anderson Amy Renee Bennett Lee Ann Buck Christina R. Cox Whitney Kathryn Dunlap Jordan Michelle Gosien \* Jordan Arielle Isaacs Shawn Renee Kiser Casey Morgan Knuckles Matthew Curtis Lilly Christopher David Oldaker Tevin Warren Scott Owsley MinMing Wang Isaiah Herl Seandelle White Kenneth D. White, Jr. Donteako Earl'Ontay Wilson

#### COLLEGE OF NATURAL Sciences and Mathematics

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Erica Danae Bickham Matthew Russell Bower Sharon M. George James Edward White, III

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Stephen Lee Heywood



**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN** 

**MATHEMATICS** 

Jordan Arielle Isaacs

Ionathan Scott Stalnaker

\* Denotes August 2015 graduate

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

#### COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Brandi Lynn Briscoe \* Charles Edward Brown, III Sharon Lynn Deal Christopher Wayne Dolin Sonia Lee Foster Tammie Len Gibson Mark Anthony Guerin Dawn Marie Hall Kari Ann Hudson Matthew Houston Lovejoy Brittany Elizabeth Marsh John Christopher Morrison, II Betsy Sue Motto Kimberly Dawn Pritt Jordan Tyler Rogers Amy Renee Shaluta Chelsey Sierra Wanner Chyna Sade' Watkins Robert L. Wright\*

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Jessyka Maree Andrews Dawn Annette Arbaugh Amanda Elaine Bird Brittney Leann Charcandy \* Megan Danielle Cochran Courtney Rae Coffman Taylor Briann Coleman Laura Kathleen Cummings Kelly Sue Dearnell Brittany Ann Downey Lindsay Jo Dunlap Emily Cristina Eskew

Chantel Lace Hartwell Gloria Jean Huff Samantha Jo Hughes Michael Scott Inglish, II Ashley Elizabeth King Katrina Lynn Kirk Tayler Catherine Kline Christin Lynn McLaughlin Davin Shea Miller Morgan Blair Miller Danielle Jo Moles Lindsie Dion Nelson Melanie Sue Pyrtle Kathryn Marie Robertson Jamie Marie Sparks Jonathan Scott Stalnaker **Emily Michele Thomas** Sarah K. Weekley Hannah Beth Young

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Margit Anna Biros Jessica Ann Keefer Zachary A. Szasz \*

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Kenneth Wesley Dewayne Booth, Jr. Casey Nicole Casto \* Frances Lynn Hamilett Chloe' Nicole Ivy Hannah Elizabeth Kinsey Ashley Nichole Moore Stephanie Lee Woodyard

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES

Shanin Taylor Bennefield DeRaughn Christian Brown Ferlaxanes Breial Carson Victoria Paige Crawford Robert Dwayne Dooley William Scott Fitzsimmons Greg Eugene Jones, Jr. Kelsey Chae Martin Garrett Lee Underwood \*



\* Denotes August 2015 graduate A name on the program does not assure that final degree requirements have been met.

## ACADEMIC HONORS

#### Cum Laude

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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 Hannah Elizabeth Kinsey Ashley Nichole Moore Stephanie Lee Woodyard

Alpha Epsilon Rho National Broadcasting Honor Society Professor Sherri Shafer, advisor Cody Allen Cummings

#### Alpha Kappa Delta

National Honor Society in Sociology Dr. Gail Mosby, advisor Casey Jo Owens

#### Alpha Kappa Mu

Junior and Senior National Honor Society Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor Brandi Lynn Briscoe Laura Kathleen Cummings Lindsay Jo Dunlap Gloria Jean Huff Matthew Houston Lovejoy

Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society Dr. Kerri Steele, co-advisor Dr. Cassandra B. Whyte, co-advisor Brittany Ann Dangerfield Sharon Lynn Deal Christopher Wayne Dolin Dawn Marie Hall Rachel Marie Halstead Matthew Houston Lovejoy Kimberly Dawn Pritt Carla Jean Shirey Anita Le Smith Danielle Marie Smith Heather Nicole Smith Natalie Irene White

# ACADEMIC HONORS

Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business Administration Professor John Hodges, advisor Jordan Arielle Isaacs

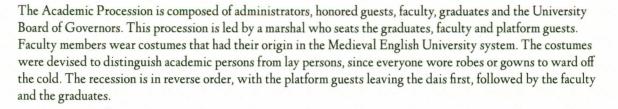
Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education Professor Barbara Korn, advisor Jessyka Maree Andrews Dawn Annette Arbaugh Amanda Elaine Bird Brittney Leann Charcandy Megan Danielle Cochran Courtney Rae Coffman Taylor Briann Coleman Laura Kathleen Cummings Kelly Sue Dearnell Brittany Ann Downey Lindsay Jo Dunlap Emily Christina Eskew Chantel Lace Hartwell Gloria Jean Huff Samantha Jo Hughes Michael Scott Inglish, II Ashley Elizabeth King Katrina Lynn Kirk Tayler Catherine Kline Christin Lynn McLaughlin Davin Shae Miller Morgan Blair Miller Danielle Jo Moles Lindsie Dion Nelson Melanie Sue Pyrtle Kathryn Marie Robertson Jamie Marie Sparks Jonathan Scott Stalnaker **Emily Michele Thomas** 

Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society for History Professor T. J. Park, advisor Jonathan Scott Kirk Michael Scott Inglish, II

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honorary Society Dr. Frank Vaughan, advisor Summer Dawn Meadows

WVSU Honors Program Dr. Genia Sklute, advisor Erica Danae Bickham





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

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- 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 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. Sherri Shafer Dr. Ali Ziyati

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Business Administration and Social Sciences Asst. Prof. Matt Carroll Assoc. Prof. Frehot Hailou

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan Dr. Linwei Niu

*Professional Studies* Dr. Mickey Blackwell Dr. Kerri Steele *Grand Marshal* Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya

*Faculty Marshals* Dr. Daton Dean-Leonard Inst. Roger Echols

Stage Marshals Prof. Josh Martin Dr. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals Prof. Debra Anderson-Conliffe Prof. Patricia King

#### 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.

