

# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM December 14, 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?* 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 December 14, 2019 10:00 a.m.

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Commencement Speaker	
WVSU Alumni Pledge	
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The Star-Spangled Banner	Back Cover
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### WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE		
PROCESSIONAL		
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		
NATIONAL ANTHEM West Virginia State University Concert Choir Piano Accompaniment by Mary Beth Norman		
INVOCATION		
Pastor, St. Paul AME Church		
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS		
Chair, West Virginia State University Board of Governors		
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Dr. R. Charles Byers Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Emeritus		
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS		
MUSICAL SELECTION		
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford		

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### CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts, Public Administration and Sciences . . . Dr. Gurupdesh Pandher Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences

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

> > Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins President

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Fine Arts and Sciences ...... Dr. Robert M. Wallace Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

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

> > Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins President

The Director of Registration and Records, Mr. Ryan Kendrick, announces the names of the graduates, during the conferring of degrees by President Jenkins.

	Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins President
ALUMNI PLEDGE	Belinda Fuller Executive Secretary, WVSU National Alumni Association
ALMA MATER	Elainah Smith Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford
CLOSING REMARKS	Dr. R. Charles Byers Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Emeritus
BENEDICTION	Rev. John Sylvia, M. Econ. Pastor, St. Paul AME Church
RECESSIONAL	Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER SHERI A. SESAY-TUFFOUR, PH.D.

Dr. Sheri A. Sesay-Tuffour is the Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the professional association representing certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives in the United States who are primary care providers for women throughout their lifespan with an emphasis on pregnancy, childbirth, gynecologic and reproductive health. A dedicated advocate for the well-being of women and infants through the practice of midwifery, she has transformed ACNM into a powerful voice in the maternal health care landscape.

Dr. Sesay-Tuffour has advanced ACNM's organizational and financial performance since her arrival in 2018. Membership has grown by more than 5 percent; inter-professional partnerships have spanned to more than 80 organizations committed to improving maternal health outcomes in the United States, and ACNM's nationwide influence has grown significantly. She has implemented a strategic approach to prioritization that has led to advancing the College's policy agenda, which included the introduction of legislation, Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services (MOMS) Act, to address the growing crisis of maternity care provider shortage through the expansion of midwifery education.

Prior to ACNM, Dr. Sesay-Tuffour was vice president of business operations for the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) where she led efforts to ensure the integrity of accounting processes, internal controls, budgeting, financial reporting and forecasting. At HRS, she successfully implemented the organization's first talent management strategy and team-based project management program that improved overall business performance. Prior to HRS, she was executive director for the International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners (IBHRE) overseeing board governance, business strategy, finance and operations. At IBHRE, she transformed the financial viability of the organization by doubling the operating budget, growing long-term reserves, and establishing a formal partnership that guaranteed multi-year net revenue for the organization.

Dr. Sesay-Tuffour is a lifetime inductee of Yale University's Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, a Certified Association Executive, and earned a doctorate degree in organizational leadership from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology where she served as an adjunct professor, an M.A. in public administration from Trinity University and a B.S. in communications from West Virginia State University. She volunteers as chief editor for an online magazine focused on the progressive actions of the African diaspora, served as a grant reviewer and evaluator of IRS-registered programs for the Washington D.C. Mayor's Office on African Affairs, and is a contributing supporter of Sister Mentors, a program that mentors school-aged girls and women doctoral candidates. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is married to her college sweetheart and has two children.

### 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 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 Robert Thomas Lilly

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COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION Billie Jo Gillespie Daniel Morris Kanner Amanda Denise Myers\* Lyndsay Alicia Nielsen\* Tamra Dawn Price

### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

MASTER OF ART IN BIOTECHNOLOGY Saugata Dutta\*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY Tawna S. Heath Andrielle Larissa Kemajou Tchamba Sabin Khadgi Arjun Ojha Kshetry Binlit Mathew\*

### COLLEGE OF Professional Studies

### MASTER OF EDUCATION IN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP Tonya Kaye Beard Michael William Black\* Tonia Michele Carpenter Benjamin Michael Fuller\* Edgar Daniel Kraemer

Justin David Hersman\* Lisa Marie Inglish Lee Marvin Lewis Karrie Markezich Lowe\* Derek Ryan Ragle Brent Camron Roberts\* Rhonda Lynn Manns Roberts Beverly Ann Smith\* Laurel Hope Tanner\* Christin Lynn Williams\* Katherine Joan Williams

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION Miranda Elaine Deal Cornelius Jordan Hagins\* Jamaine Hunt\* Ana Christine Pile Amy Dey Thomas\* Christopher Elliott Thompson\* Jill Robin Thompson\* Mallory Noelle Woods\*

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN

SPORT STUDIES Mattie Renee Best\* Colby Matthew Brogan\* Adam Lee Canada\* Taylor Ryan Clark Brandon Michael Dickerson\* Tammy Foster Hauldren Annamarie Shieree Kiser Erica Michelle Pates Jay Patrick Terry Davon Tyson

### College of Arts and Humanities

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART

Jessica Lynn Burdette Anthony W. McGriff Jr. Tori Elizabeth Myres BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH Zoe Marie Long Tessa Marie Musilli

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES Daniel Travis Means\*

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS Michael Thomas-Howard Swagger\*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS Jared Franklin Boote

Charlinda Brianna Bena Colbert Holly Danae Fields Sydnie Rose Ruth Harless Kenon Christopher Johnson Jillian Leigh Tate John Darwin Williams Brian Matthew Wilmot

### REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Kimberly Dionne Beavers Jared Ray Brewer Emily Jo Chambers Jerricka L. Davis\* Jamie Denise Donohoe Benjamin Maxwell Fertig Charlton Jeffrey Gandee\* Vonzell Jerome Groom Lindsay Marie Holmes Joshua Graham Honaker Jessica Mae Hunter Kyle Lee Jaskulske\* Khave Michael Konteh Harold D. Miles II **Emily Carson Moore** Jessica Danell Payne James Dylan Shafer\* Taylor Danielle Smith



Angela Dione Stowers-Signore Isaac Wade Thomas Kenneth John Toney\* Jerri Ann Viars Candice Kay Ward Ryan Jacob Wilkinson Alfred Shelby Williams\*

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

Mary Elizabeth Graves Moderage Neranjanae Gunawardena Sara M. McCoy Thilakamuni Shamindrika Sanduni Silva Gunasekara Oruada Anya Ukiwo

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Richard L. Adkins Jordan Thomas Holstein Garold Walter Morris III Jacob Scott Painter Anthony Jay Sauls Maxx Eldon Turner

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE Jacob Alfred Guetzloff Jeremiyah L. Hairston Geneva M. Thomas

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Adam Thomas Arnold Scott Allen Baker Hunter Marie Byrd Hannah K. Chapman Haley Ann Keiffer Anna Elizabeth Legge Amanda Jo Spencer

\* Denotes August 2019 graduate

Harbert\*

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY Jennifer Jo Harmon

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS

**ADMINISTRATION** Rhidzo Nino Breidel\* Tyler Matthew Browning Jennifer Ann Carpenter Jon Martin Castleberry Gabrielle Bliss Cochran\* Travis Alton Covert David Junior Cummings Jimetta Monique Early Brianna Marie Eden Corey A. Good Mary Elizabeth Graves Bradford Joseph Grose\* Moderage Neranjanae Gunawardena Sarah E. Hamilton Jon Austin Hensley Kameron Chance Hornsby\* Crystal Diane Klodowski Alexander Paul Lacy Ryneishah Kristina Joy Leach John Vincent Marks\* Jasmine Ayana Matthews Sara M. McCoy Shanda Rae McGrady Makala M. Meadows Hanna Rae Moss\* Kevin Mark Richards James Martin Riley Susan Webb Rose\* Lisa D. Saddler Thilakamuni Shamindrika Sanduni Silva Gunasekara Teresa Ann Thacker\* Oruada Anya Ukiwo Tyler Lee Woody Jared Ray Zickafoose\*

COLLEGE OF Natural Sciences and Mathematics

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Amneh Farid Alkatrib David A. Anderson Wylie M. Faw V\* Leslie Karina Garcia Lopez Sarah Rose Greenberg Chantz Allen Hopson Fatima Irfan Jakeshia Lynette Peterson Heather Lynn Rzewuski

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Dylan Dileepa Jayasuriya Rhys McCauley Jelich Claire Nicole Shanholtzer Jeffrey Alan Thompson, II

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE Nicholas David Cartright Kyle Michael Smart

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS Natalie Rose Farley Moderage Neranjanae Gunawardena

### COLLEGE OF Professional Studies

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN

CRIMINAL JUSTICE John Paul Abbott Donald L. Adkins Tamarah Shae Back Jacqueline Ann Bias Tabatha Paris Boyles Yolanda S. Burger\* Miranda LeAnn Chaffin Sarah Michelle Christian\* Allison Renee Cooper Anastacia Lynn Eggleston Cole W. Haynes Catherine Brooke Honaker Michael Charles Johnson Hannah Caroline Jordan Amanda Kathryn Karnes Lucas Ray Lett Robert Corey Romans William Mikhail Tanzey Eva Jane Tupper\*

# BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Kati Jo Angle Grant Austin Bates Tia Diane Crawford Kylar Jade Fragale Alexandrea Paige Furr Joshua Patrick Hale Briann Jean Harless William Edward Herrald Megan Ray Hess Tyler Harvey Hill James Lester Jordan Alexander Joseph Keiffer Julia Elizabeth Knisely Brittany Leigh Lowe Alauna Tiffany Moss Aaron Nathan Neil Hannah Julia Schoolfield Hannah Jolynn Smith Tayler Danielle Vance Kerri Elizabeth Wandling Brittany Nicole Yarber

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN

HEALTH SCIENCE Renae Bailey\* Amber Lynn Cochran Dennis Ja'quan Marble Lindsay Nichole Roberts Erica Jean Short Jamie Marie Walker\*



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK Ciara Danielle Bowman\* Kirsten Nichole Chafin Jessica Lynn Maxey\* Cara Ann Nelson\* Kiersten Elyse Poore\* Elizabeth Kae Tarver\* Brandy Marie Woods

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORT STUDIES

Collin Christopher Beckner Dustin William Bouck Rashawn A. Cook Nicholas G. Ebanks Callie Joann Huck\* Te'von Demarco Littleton JaWan David-Akahi McCullough Zach Bryan Pate

### 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 Epsilon Rho

National Broadcasting Society Professor Kimberly Cobb, advisor Brian Matthew Wilmot

#### Alpha Kappa Mu

**Junior and Senior National Honor Society** Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor Moderage Neranjanae Gunawardena Tori Elizabeth Myers

#### Alpha Phi Sigma

National Criminal Justice Honor Society Dr. Cassandra Whyte, advisor Donald L Adkins Tabitha Paris Boyles Miranda E. Deal Ana Christine Pile Eva Jane Tupper Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society Dr. Timothy Ruhnke, advisor Fatima Irfan

#### Kappa Delta Pi

International Honor Society in Education Professor Barbara Korn, advisor Brianna Harless Megan Hess Brittany Lowe Alauna Moss Tayler Vance

National Society of Leadership and Success Dr. Shannon McGhee, advisor Trina Sweeney, advisor Jade Irving, advisor Jaleesa Nunez, advisor Richard Adkins Adam Arnold Tabatha Boyles Alexander Keiffer Lee Lewis Hannah Schoolfield Oruada Ukiwo

#### Pi Sigma Alpha

National Political Science Honor Society Dr. Gina Palubinskas, advisor Jeremiyah L. Hairston

#### Sigma Tau Delta

International English Honor Society Dr. Anne McConnell, advisor Tessa Musilli 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. Dr. Reidun Øvrebø

Business Administration and Social Sciences Assoc. Prof. Frehot Hailou Assoc. Prof. Ginta Palubinskas

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Asst. Prof. Upali Karunathilake Asst. Prof. Mohammad Bhuiyan

Professional Studies Asst. Prof. Terry Reed Asst. Prof. Elisha Lewis *Grand Marshal* Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Emeritus Dr. R. Charles Byers

*Faculty Marshals* Asst. Prof. Mathew Carroll Insructor Jay Canterbury

Stage Marshals Asst. Prof. Leighann Davidson Prof. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals Assoc. Prof. Debra Anderson-Conliffe 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.

