

WD
Cme.



WVSI
COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
May 16, 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?



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 16, 2015

Order of Exercises 10:00 a.m.	2
College of Arts and Humanities Candidates	4
College of Business and Social Sciences Candidates	5
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Candidates	4-5
College of Professional Studies Candidates	6-7
Commencement Speaker	8
Honorary Doctorate Charles F. Bolden Jr.	8
Posthumous Degree	9
U.S. Army Commissioning Ceremony	9
WVSU Alumni Pledge	9
Academic Honors	10-11
The Academic Procession	12
The Mace	13
College Banners	13
The Star-Spangled Banner	Back Cover
Alma Mater	Back Cover



WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
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
- 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 Kent Estep
Senior Pastor, South Charleston First Nazarene Church

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS Tom Susman
Chair, West Virginia State University Board of Governors

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Charles F. Bolden Jr.
Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREE Charles F. Bolden Jr.
Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

MUSICAL SELECTION *Choose Something Like a Star* WVSU Concert Choir
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford
Dr. Dirk Johnson, Director



CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Awarding of Posthumous Degree

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

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Dr. Scott Woodard
Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

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.*

U.S. ARMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY LTC Derrick Spears
Military Science Department

REMARKS Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President

ALUMNI PLEDGE Charles Boddy
President, WVSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER Brienna Jenkins
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

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

BENEDICTION Kent Estep
Senior Pastor, South Charleston First Nazarene Church

RECESSIONAL Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES

Kevin Michael Scarbrough
Monica S. Thomas

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Abiodun Patrick Bodumrin
Johanna Lynn Bossé
Brittany Shauntaé Davenport
Khyra Shādé Fullen
Michael Drew McClain
Supriya Shrestha

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART

Bri'Anna Joyce Bass
Samuel Alexander Boder
Dominique Chantel Bolling
Emory Jean Carsey
Kevin Byron Cunningham
Natalie Sara-Marie Larson
Dario Robert Luke
Kevin Daniel Robinson
Amber Nichole Schneider
Kimberly Ruth Shrader

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Ashton Nicole Hughes
Jessica Liane Jenkins
Frank David Larnerd
Kaila Michelle Mullins
Shayla Elizabeth Owens
Bianca Leigh Prince
Virginia Rose Taylor

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Monica Azaleah Elswick
Ashton Tracy Gauff
Natalie Sara-Marie Larson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Qareeb Aldridge Bashir
Christopher Lee Canada
Kelly D. Clark
Joshua Daniel Collins
Curtis E. Haskins, Jr.
Marta Tankersley Hays
Dimitrios Michael Jelen-Joy
Rendell Keith
Carter Matthew Maynard
Corey M. Meadows
Mary Kathryn Molitor
Stephanie Leigh Robinson
Justin Taylor Rogers
Raynalle Angela Rouse
Timothy Venning
Scotty Odell White
Ethan Michael Young

REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Kara Michelle Atkinson
Suzette Michelle Bailey
Lonnie Dwight Bivins, Jr.
Ronnie Dwayne Bivins
Johnna B. Bowles
Carla Elaine Brooks
Zachary Jordan Cloxton
Steven Paul Corbin
Tammy Lynette Crockett
Wayne Francisco Delapas
Steven Patrick Fullerton
Charles Garland Griffith, Jr.
Maurice Harris
Judy Lynn Hicks
Robert Rashiem Ingram
Sandy Lynn Jeffrey
Leigh Ann Jones
Karim Kerdieh
Jessica Lynette Lynch-Knox
Rená Kenyon Lewis
Deborah Kay McCann
Kandy Kay McKinney
Mary Beth Mather
William Bertel Mattson
Ryan Victor Navarro
Shena Lynn Payne
Caitlyn Brooke Pettry
Joseph Wheeler Ratliff
Erin Rachelle Rhodes
Felicia Ann Roberts
Rachael Elizabeth Siders
Scott Othel Smith
Richard D. Steele
Alyse Catherine Thomas
Caleb Donald Thomas
Krista Marrs Thornton
Monique Joretta Watkins

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

Jaime MacKenzie Birchfield
Ashton Tracy Gauff
Billie Jo Gillespie
David Lowell Gillespie
Jessica Kamer

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Caitlin Lee Cunningham
Ronnie Ray Hubbard, Jr.
Brandon Tyler Huffman
Anthony Charles Matics
Dominique Cochise Matthews
Brooke Nickole Neeley
Wesley Allen Nutter
Charles Clayton Ocheltree, IV
Daniel Delano Payne
David Wayne Plumley, II
Emily S. Snodgrass

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Vanessa Mary Bumpus
Phoeneisha Jaquice Deahl
Carmen Theresa Didiano
Michael Kenyatta Durgan, Jr.
Darynann Renee Ellis
Wedeb Habtemariam Ghile
Hannah Jo Griffith
Felicia Dawn Gunnoe
Jessica Rae Hixon
Rreo Rashad Hobbs
Nasiyra McCorkle
Emma Muriel Nellhaus
Sydney Gabrielle Sims
Michele Dawn Wells
Alana Hope Weyant

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Seth Michael Frederick
Lauren Michelle Hall
Shane Robert Light
Clifton Lee Sanders, II
Jordan Lee Shanklin
Kirstin Delanie Totten

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Linda Kay Banisaid
Cassie Leigh Gilbert
Jared Allen Thomas

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Alison K. Anderson
Caleb J. Bone
Kierstin Paige Brogan
Brittany Dawn Burns
Tyler Jeffrey Clendenin
Caitlin Lee Cunningham
Ryan C. Fiddler
Sarah Louise Hess
Elizabeth Augustus Jump
Hannah J. Keller
Brandy Dawn Russell
Samantha Kaye Spence
Robert Thomas Tanner
Wade Eugene Walters
Donteako Earl'Ontay Wilson

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Cierra D. Boyd
Alnairouz Katrib
Micah Graham Monk
Kelvin D. Quan

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Christopher Ryan Newman
Jordan Patrick O'Dell
Anthony Tyler Payne

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Alemayehu G. Mengste

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

Taylor Ray Ferrell
Ashton Tracy Gauff
Lauren Whitney McKinney
Chandra Simone Martin

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Erin Nikole Barber
Wenly Beliard
Steven Glenn Boland
Charles Edward Brown, III
Marquis Deanthony Brown
Ryan Lane Buchanan
Tasha N. Capper
Rozanna Marie Cline
Corey Joseph Coen
Brittany Lynn Davis
Tamara Lynn Davis
Courtney Kaye Ellis
Shana Marie Goode
Angelique Deon Johnston
Joshua Stephen Kirby
Khadijah Amirah Lovejoy
Keith Edward Mosteller
Sarah Elizabeth Price
Ryan Cole Shamblin
Samuel Lee Sigmon
Cody Ryan Smith
Amber Jo Teel
Tiffany Ellen Ward
Tiffany Yvonne White
Robert Lee Wright, Jr.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Ellen Vee Akers
Brandon Alan Atkins
Brittany Nicole Barker
Jessica Renee Blake
Kacy Sue Boggess
Jonathan D. Brown
Stella Ann Buoy
Kaylah Dawn Carnell
Justin David Carter

Brittney Leann Charcandy
Matthew Hoffman Chesebrough
Tyler Benjamin Cobb
Jamie Elizabeth Coché
James Wayne Crawford
Jessica Sue Cunningham
Mark Jason Cutlip
Carrie Marie Daugherty
Sarajha N. Davis
Kaylee Michelle Dillon
Patricia Sue Dimsdale
Madison Marie Downey
Alicia Dawn Eldridge
Toni Sue Fitzwater
Hilary Caitlin Hackney
Charity Anna Hightower
Toni Marlene Holcomb
Tracy Nicole Hudnall
Tyler Allen Hudnall
Savannah Arlene Hudson
Joshua Will Isaacs
Hollie Ann Jett
Seth Alexander Kiriluk
Wendy Dawn Lemon
Nicholas Casey McGhee
Christin Lynn McLaughlin
Paul Marvin Moore, III
Jennifer Diane Morris
Kaitlan Paige Raby
Amber Nichole Schneider
Megan Marie Schoolcraft
Sabrina Michelle Schouten
Christina Ashley Sidebottom
Billy Joe Smith, III
Stacy Lynn Snyder
Brittney Ann Spinks
Matthew Gordon Stephenson
Matthew Tyler Stonestreet
Rachael Diane Wheeler
Amanda Kate Whitlock
Megan Lee Wray
Christopher Drake Young, II

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Jenna Michelle Brand
Dionne Elizabeth Beverly Hairston
Alicia Gaye Milam
Dennis Wade Mosley
Jami Anne Patton
Sarah Michelle Pauley
Jessica Lee Smith

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN RECREATION

Robert Lewis Bratton, II

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Linda Kay Banisaid
Kalynn Elizabeth Barrett
Amy Elizabeth Bowles
Lori Leigh Burton
Brandy Nicole Chapman
Lona Erin Rae Coon
Janet E. Courts
Misti Dawn Cutlip
Bobbi Jalia Dyer
Heather F. Harmon
Lauren Elizabeth Haye
Alexandria Ann Mahairas
Jasmine Danielle Stavrakis
Jessica Anne Stewart
James Donald Stormer
Sara Nicole Warner
Brandi Michelle Westfall
Ashley Renee Wilcox

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES

Onea Resha Albright
Jamie Leigh Cool
Joshua Scott Egnor
Hayley Lynn Kirby
Cameron Scott McCormick
Russell Tyler Thompson
Joseph Ellis Thornton, Jr.
Cody Mark Totten
Jordan D. Unrue
Joshua Ted Wade
Joseph Scott Whittington

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CHARLES F. BOLDEN JR.



Charles F. Bolden Jr., Major General, U. S. Marine Corps (Retired), is the 12th Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). At NASA, Bolden has overseen the safe transition from 30 years of space shuttle missions to a new era of exploration focused on full utilization of the International Space Station and space and aeronautics technology development.

The agency's dynamic science activities under Bolden include an unprecedented landing on Mars with the Curiosity rover; launch of a spacecraft to Jupiter; enhancing the nation's fleet of Earth-observing satellites; continued progress toward the 2018 launch of the James Webb Space Telescope, the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope; and the successful launch and recovery of the Orion deep-space crew module, the first human rated spacecraft to be developed for flight beyond low Earth orbit by any nation in more than 40 years. His 34-year career with the Marine Corps included 14 years as a member of NASA's Astronaut Office. He traveled to orbit four times aboard the space shuttle, commanding two missions and piloting two others.

After his final shuttle flight in 1994, Bolden left NASA to return to active duty with the Marine Corps. He was promoted to Major General in July 1998 and retired from the Marine Corps in 2003. Bolden received his Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and his Master of Science degree from the University of Southern California.

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.

NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden Jr., Major General, U. S. Marine Corps (Retired)
Honorary Doctorate of Science

POSTHUMOUS DEGREE

U.S. Army Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert was 24 years old when he was killed on July 27, 2004, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Baladruc, Iraq. At the time Sgt. Talbert was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Regiment, of the West Virginia Army National Guard. A native of Alexandria, Va., Sgt. Talbert moved to West Virginia to attend West Virginia State University where he majored in Education. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in 2001 and divided time between school and his military service. In recognition of his service to the country, West Virginia State University is awarding Sgt. Talbert a posthumous degree. Accepting Sgt. Talbert's degree are his son, Deontae Hamilett, and his sister, Tawanna Talbert Darring.

U.S. ARMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

During the commencement service, a member of the West Virginia State University 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 Ryan L. Buchanan is commissioned in the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer. He will attend the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Benning, Ga. Cadet Buchanan's 2nd Lieutenant Rank is being pinned on by his Mother, Lori L. Buchanan and his Father, Michael J. Buchanan.

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.



ACADEMIC HONORS

Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages between 3.25 and 3.49

Magna Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages between 3.50 and 3.74

Summa Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages of 3.75 and above

With Distinction

Candidates, who are graduating with a second bachelor's degree, who have completed at least 30 hours beyond the first degree and have attained a grade point average of 3.5 and above in these additional hours.

Graduating Seniors in Honor Societies

To become a member in a University Honor Society, a student must have earned 30 hours toward his/her degree and must have met the society's specific requirements for eligibility.

Congratulations to the seniors listed for your commitment to academic excellence and thank you for the national and international recognition that you bring to West Virginia State University by your membership in these societies.

Alpha Delta Mu

National Honor Society in Social Work

Rita Brown, Advisor

Kalyn Barrett

Lori Burton

Casey Casto

Janet Courts

Lauren Hays

Alpha Epsilon Rho

National Broadcasting Honor Society

Sherri Shafer, Advisor

Scotty White

Alpha Kappa Mu

Junior and Senior National Honor Society

Sonya Armstrong, Advisor

Carla Elaine Brooks

Brittany Shauntae Davenport

Kaylee Michelle Dillon

Ashton Tracy Gauff

Lauren Michelle Hall

Tracy Nicole Hudnall

Savannah Arlene Hudson

Chandra Simone Martin

Micah Graham Monk

Emma Muriel Nelhaus

Sarah Elizabeth Price

Kaitlan Paige Raby

Kevin Scarbrough

Virginia Rose Taylor

Amber Jo Teel

Tiffany Ellen Ward

Alana Hope Weyant

Danteako Wilson

Alpha Mu Gamma

National Foreign Language Honor Society

Rebecca Conner, Advisor

Monica Elswick

Ashton Gauff

Jessica Clark Jenkins

Natalie Larson

ACADEMIC HONORS



Alpha Phi Sigma

National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Cassandra B. Whyte and Kerrie Steele, Advisors

Carla Brooks

Rozanna M. Cline

Brittany L. Davis

Tammy L. Davis

Keith Edward Mosteller

Sarah E. Price

Sam Sigmon

Amber J. Teel

Alpha Psi Omega

National Theatre Honor Society

Susan Marrash-Minnerly, Advisor

Scotty White

Delta Mu Delta

International Honor Society in Business

John Hodges, advisor

Caleb J. Bone

Ashton Tracy Gauff

Hannah J. Keller

Omicron Delta Epsilon

International Economics Honor Society

Suvayan De, Advisor

Jaime MacKenzie Birchfield

Ashton Tracy Gauff

Billie Jo Gillespie

David Lowell Gillespie

Jessica Kamer

Phi Alpha Theta

National History Honor Society

T.J. Park, Advisor

Brandon Tyler Huffman

Anthony Charles Matics

Wesley Allen Nutter

Charles Clayton Orcheltree

Pinnacle

National Honor Society for Non-Traditional Students

Kellie Toledo, advisor

Carla Brooks

Pi Sigma Alpha

National Political Science Honor Society

Frank Vaughan, Advisor

Seth Michael Frederick

Lauren Michelle Hall

Shane Robert Light

Clifton Lee Sanders

Sigma Tau Delta

International English Honor Society

Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski and

David Wilson, Advisors

Jessica Clark

Bianca Prince

WVSU Honors Program

Genia Sklute, Advisor

Ashton Gauff

Hannah Griffith

Alnairouz Katrib

Shayla Owens

Alana Weyant



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

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

Dr. Ali Ziyati
Prof. Sherri Shafer

Business Administration and Social Sciences

Dr. Frehot Hailou
Dr. Matt Carroll

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Linwei Niu
Dr. Micheal Fultz

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
Prof. Patricia Wilson

Stage Marshals

Dr. Gail Mosby
Dr. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals

Prof. Patricia King
Prof. Debra Anderson-Conliffe

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