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May 14, 2016

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 14, 2016 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

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 Frederick Hightower
Senior Pastor, All Nations Revival Centre

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 Charles Patton
President and COO, Appalachian Power

CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREES Charles Patton
President and COO, Appalachian Power

Katherine G. Johnson
Retired NASA scientist and mathematician

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 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

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Dr. David Bejou
Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences

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.*

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 Frederick Hightower
Senior Pastor, All Nations Revival Centre

RECESSIONAL Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CHARLES PATTON

Charles Patton is the president and chief operating officer of Appalachian Power, serving approximately one million customers in West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee. Patton has 30 years of experience in the electric utility business and has served in numerous capacities throughout the American Electric Power (AEP) company. Previously, Patton served at the parent company headquarters of AEP in Columbus, Ohio, as executive vice president – AEP Utilities West and senior vice president – Regulatory and Public Policy. Prior to these roles, a significant amount of Patton's career was spent in Texas where he served as president and chief operating officer of AEP Texas as well as in other executive positions. During his time in Texas, Patton was appointed by former Texas Gov. George Bush to serve on the Texas Energy Coordination Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. Later, Gov. Rick Perry appointed Patton to the Texas Energy Planning Council, which was established to advise the governor on energy matters.

As president of Appalachian Power, Patton has been appointed by West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin to chair the state's Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Council, charged with advancing STEM education in West Virginia. He also has been appointed by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe to serve on the Climate Change and Resiliency Commission.

Patton was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's board of directors for a three-year term beginning in 2014.

Patton has served and chaired numerous professional and civic organizations in the communities in which he has lived. Charles and his family live in Charleston, W.Va., where he serves on the boards of the University of Charleston, the West Virginia Education Alliance, the West Virginia Regional Technology Park and the Buckskin Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

He is an undergraduate of Bowdoin College, located in Brunswick, Maine, and holds a graduate degree from The University of Texas LBJ School of Public Policy.

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.

Charles Patton
President and COO, Appalachian Power
Honorary Doctorate of Business

Katherine G. Johnson
Retired NASA scientist and mathematician
Honorary Doctorate of Science

KATHERINE G. JOHNSON



Katherine G. Johnson is a native of White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., who first came to Institute, at the age of 10 to attend the high school that used to be part of West Virginia State's campus. Johnson excelled in school and graduated early, enrolling for college classes at West Virginia State by the time she was 15.

Johnson excelled in her college studies and graduated summa cum laude from West Virginia State in 1937 at the age of 18 with bachelor's degrees in mathematics and French. Johnson became a teacher for several years following graduation, but never lost her passion for mathematics.

In the 1950s, Johnson was hired as a research mathematician at the Langley Research Center with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), the agency that preceded NASA, after they opened hiring to African-Americans and women.

Johnson exhibited exceptional technical leadership and is known especially for her calculations of the 1961 trajectory for Alan Shepard's flight (first American in space), the 1962 verification of the first flight calculation made by an electronic computer for John Glenn's orbit (first American to orbit the earth), and the 1969 Apollo 11 trajectory to the moon.

In her later NASA career, Johnson worked on the Space Shuttle program and the Earth Resources Satellite and encouraged students to pursue careers in science and technology fields.

Johnson worked at the agency until 1986, when she retired after 33 years of service. During her tenure at NASA, she received many prestigious awards. Among them were the NASA Lunar Orbiter Award and three NASA Special Achievement Awards. She was named Mathematician of the Year in 1997 by the National Technical Association.

In November 2015, in recognition of her career at NASA and her service to the nation's space program, Johnson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award that can be bestowed upon a civilian. In bestowing the award, President Barack Obama, called Johnson "a pioneer in American space history," whose mathematical calculations "influenced every major space program from Mercury through the Shuttle program."

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES

Leslie Elizabeth Bragg
Chinwe Joy Joboson *
Brooke DeAnn Lewis

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Vasilios F. Dianellos
Khyra Shādè Fullen
Hannah Marie Payne
Iniyavan Pushpalingam

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART

Carlet Clo Blake
Michael Lee Burnette, Jr.
Brandy Ember Carroll
Elexus Nicole Dennis
Niesha Nicole Shafer
Daniel Ryan Morton

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Deidra Ann Abbott
Samina Lyn Fowler
Rachel R. Hicks
John Young Lin
Patrick Killian Price
Jordan Edward Sharps
Christopher Dean Thomas
Alison Danielle Washburn

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Joshua Daniel Cole
Brittany Sue Fletcher
Brienna Ariel Jacqueline Jenkins

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Elaine Najla Abdalla
Jordan Michelle Brock
Michael Anthony Burgess
Corey Steven Foster
Jessica Nicole Frazier
Laura Beth Hedrick
Krista Danielle Hernandez
Courtney Nicole Jennings
Anthony D. Lester
Jason Lee Lykens
Kayla Vivian Lynch
Scott Ward McCarus
Patrick Wayne Means
Lois A. Smith
Sean Matthew Snider
Gail M. Thornhill
Stevenson Matthew Tose'-Rigell

REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Wesley Lee Armes
Lacey Mae Baumgardner
Tara Danielle Chandler
Cynthia Louise Chapman
Destiny Dianne Combs
Kevin Michael Day
Kevonté D. Edwards
Janet L. Ennis
Justin Matthew Fisher
Angel Dawn Graley
Jodie Ann Groves
William Scott Hamrick, II
Kimberly Lynn Harper
Harmon T. Harris
Lindsay Carol Hay

Timothy M. Henry
Stephen Wyly Hudson
Regina Lynn Jarrell-Arthur
Logan Christopher Jarrett
Katharine Elise Johns
Remick Leigh Keaton
Donald Ray Kinder
Dalton Joelby Lipscomb
Kimberly Goodwin Mallory
Cera Lauren Maxie
Markee D. Mazyck
Carla Ann McKenzie
Jennifer Gayle McVey
Connor Christian Meadows
Andrea Nicole Mollohan
Glen Allen Myers
Karen LeAnne Neccuzi
Zachary T. Nelson
Kimberly Beth Persinger
Jesse William Rowley
Ralph S. Smith, III
Randy Taylor Spaulding
Victoria I.C. Waybright
Anthony Desale Wilson
Stephanie Michelle Young

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

Azel Edward Bolden
Edison D. Casto
Diana Cotoros
Jeromy Austin Eagan
Lucreshia Ann Hescht
Matthew Stuart Hinds
Jimmy William Seabolt, II
Jamar Sloley
Tevin Javon Spurlock
Kenneth D. White, Jr.
Jane'ek La'Shon Wiggan
Christopher Brad Williams
Cody Lee Williams

* December 2015 graduate.

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

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Kelli Dawn Compton
Margaret Jean Field
Ricardo Figueroa
Curtis Wayne Hudnall
Sydney Quinn Kaplan
Joseph Steven Kelemen
Sommer Lauryn Neace
Patrick Killian Price
Austin Ryan Roach
Michael Stephen Snead
Ian David Stamper
Christopher Blake Taylor
Jessica M. Woods

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Sydney Quinn Kaplan
Savanna Shae Kimble
Devon Storm Matheny
Melinda Dee Scaggs
Ian David Stamper
Sarah Elizabeth Starks
Tacy Malena Wright

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Eudelia Andr ea Ayala
Tyffani Dawn Chandler
Howard Lincoln Davis
Mary Frances Eskins
De'Lesha Chantel Jackson
Eric Allen Jett
Heather Dawn Kincaid
Melody Ren e Light
William Lodge
Emily Kate Messer
Elizabeth R. Nicholson
Miguel Angel Pazos
Stacy Elise Price
Laurance Leslie Raines

Melinda Dee Scaggs
Jason Michael Weese
Samantha Nichole Wooten

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Steve Tyler Henson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Justin Alan Abbott
Katie Marie Bays
Melody Ann Breedlove
Edison D. Casto
Diana Cotoros
Andrew Clinton Eden
Justin Michael Eid
Joshua Franklin Falbo
Taylor G. Fisher
Lucreshia Ann Hescht
Matthew Stuart Hinds
John David Houston
Brent Matthew Ligon
Sarah J. McKown
Sarah Elizabeth Meester
Cameron William Powell
Candace Nicole Pryor
Emma M. Richardson
Jimmy William Seabolt, II
Jamar Sloley
Megan Blair Sparks
Tevin Javon Spurlock
Celena May Tooley
Lisa La'Nelle Venable
Ryan Michael Whisner
Kenneth D. White, Jr.
Christopher Brad Williams
Cody Lee Williams
Blake Richard Isaac Winter
Russell Otmer Withrow

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Lucas Venson Adkins
Victoria Renee Daniel
Brittany Nicol Franco
Amanda Christine Hughes
Joseph Francis Koontz
Seth Thomas McCormick
Amber Leigh Moore
Chessie Elizabeth Shamblin
Jessica Leigh Simmons
Christy Michelle Stephenson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Laura Gayle Miller
Bhupendra Rokaya
Anthony T. White, II

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

Joseph Allen Rager
Charlotte Emma Sandy

* December 2015 graduate.

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

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Terry Alan Baldwin
Timothy Caleb Berkhouse
Christina Bojaski
Brittany Nicole Breeden
Charles Edward Brown
Tyler Joseph Carrillo
Hanna Morgan Cremeans
Kenneth Roy Crumlin
Brooke Rhianna Dale
D'Von Jamel Dorsey
Dalton Lee Hall
Nicole Madeline Hallock
Kathryn E. Henning
Alexus Jordan Hobbs
Jayde Alexis Layne
Dori Barbara McDonough
Alex Joseph Miller
Janna L. Minued
William Julian Ore
Edwin Timothy Petty
Jordan Juwan Pierce
Tiffani Danielle Russell
Talir Noel Satterfield-Rowe
Tyler Brooks Smith
Deyahna Danay Styles
Christopher Blake Taylor
Sarah Elizabeth Wagner
Christopher Aaron Walker-Akers
Chyna Sade' Watkins *
August N. Williams
Joshua T. Woods

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Taylor Dawn Adkins
Rebecca Jane Beckelhimer
Victoria Marie Boyles
Suzanne Dail Brown
Jessica Elizabeth Bryant
Miranda Eloise Chapman
Taylor Nicole Connard
Elizabeth Rebecca Crouch
Hannah Samantha Darnell
William Scott Derrick
Kristy M. Ellison
John Garrett Grafton
Amy S. Haden
Shanna Rachelle Holland
Chelsie Kay Howsare
Lisa Marie English
Lori Ann Justice
Emily Suzanne Konstanty
Elisha Gail Laliberty
Maria Anne Lawson
Hannah Elise Lefevre
Amanda Nicole Legg
Hayley Erin Long
Morgan Liane McPherson
Brooke Caitlin Miller
Destinee Brooke Mulcahy
Shaina Marie Parsons
Katelyn Nicole Pickrell
Danielle Nicole Poe
Kayla Leigh-Ann Slater
Deborah Kay Snedegar
Daniel A. Spaulding
Britney Lynn Spencer
Caitlin Renee Teetor
Parker Lee Wolfe

* December 2015 graduate.

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

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Tasha Mari Payne Baldwin
Codi J. Evick
Heather Lynne Garten
Deborah Rose Harris
Louann Hedrick
Jessica Ann Keefer
Lea Faline Summers

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES

Malcolm B. Branch
Marquia Ja'Mar Lee Ivey
Curtis G. Johnson
Jeremy James Sexton

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Latasha Danelle Asbury
Ashley Moriah Bradshaw
Sierra Brianna Burgess
Celise Michelle Campbell
Ashley Sierra Copen
Kayla Rachelle DeWees
Tara Reneé Dotson
Jadea Dean Edwards
Jennifer Dawn Fannin-Adkinson
Melissa Dawn Harper
Jordan Hunter
Lena Mae Lambert
Melody Reneè Light
Erica Nichole Martin
Pamela Kate Minimah
Lana Jo Myers
Desiree Leighann Roberts
Rachel Dawn Roberts
Kaley Renee Sigmond
Megan Christina Spinks
Kelli Stone
Tosha Danielle Thomas

* December 2015 graduate.

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

ACADEMIC HONORS

Cum Laude

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

Magna Cum Laude

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

Summa Cum Laude

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

With Distinction

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

Graduating Seniors in Honor Societies

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

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

Alpha Delta Mu

National Honor Society in Social Work

Professor Rita Brown, advisor

Latasha D. Asbury
Sierra B. Burgess
Ashley S. Copen
Kayla R. DeWees
Jadea D. Edwards
Jennifer D. Fannin-Adkinson
Melissa D. Harper
Lena M. Lambert
Lana J. Myers
Desiree L. Roberts
Kelli Stone

Alpha Epsilon Rho

National Broadcasting Society

Professor Sherri Shafer, advisor

Elaine Abdalla
Leslie Bragg
Krista Hernandez
Brooke Lewis

Alpha Kappa Mu

Junior and Senior National Honor Society

Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor

Timothy Berkhouse
Victoria Daniel
Lana Myers
Jimmy Seabolt
Michael Sneed
Ian Stamper
Caitlin Teetor
Anthony T White, II

Alpha Phi Sigma

National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Dr. Kerri Steele, co-advisor

Dr. Cassandra B. Whyte, co-advisor
Timothy Caleb Berkhouse
Tyler Joseph Carrillo
Destiny Diane Combs
Hanna Morgan Cremeans
Dalton Lee Hall
Nicole Madeline Hallock
Alex Joseph Miller
Tiffani Danielle Russell
Christopher Blake Taylor

Alpha Psi Omega

National Theatre Honor society

Professor Susan Marrash-Minnerly, advisor

Jason Lykens
Patrick Means

ACADEMIC HONORS



***Delta Mu Delta
International Honor Society
In Business Administration
Professor John Hodges, advisor***

Katie M. Bays
Theron Bittle
Christopher David Emmons
Whitney Farrell
Travis Paul Gibson
John Wesley Handley
Charles M. Johnson, III
Emma M. Richardson
Kaitlin S. Sada
Cody Williams

***Kappa Delta Pi
International Honor Society in Education
Professor Barbara Korn, advisor***

Taylor Dawn Adkins
Victoria Marie Boyles
Jessica Elizabeth Bryant
Taylor Nicole Connard
Elizabeth Rebecca Crouch
Hannah Samantha Darnell
Kristy M. Ellison
Lisa Marie English
Hanna Elise Lefevre
Amanda Nicole Legg
Hayley Erin Long
Brooke Caitlin Miller
Destinee Brooke Mulcahy
Shaina Marie Parsons
Danielle Nicole Poe
Kayla Leigh-Ann Slater
Deborah Kay Snedegar
Britney Lynn Spencer

***Omicron Delta Epsilon
International Economics Honor
Society***

Dr. Suvayan De, advisor
Luchreshia Hescht
Sandra King
Erblina Prekazi
Joseph Rotz
Jonathan Tripplett
Cody Williams

***Phi Alpha Theta
National Honors Society for History
Professor T. J. Park, advisor***

Michael Stephen Snead
Ian David Stamper
Christopher Blake Taylor
Caitlin Renee Teetor

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

Kellie Toledo, advisor

Latasha Asbury
Sierra Burgess
Jadea Edwards
Lena Lambert
Desiree Roberts
Michael Sneed
Christy Stephenson

***Pi Sigma Alpha
Political Science Honorary Society
Dr. Ginta Palubinskas, advisor***

Sydney Quinn Kaplan
Savanna Shae Kimble
Melinda Dee Scaggs
Ian David Stamper

***Psi Chi
International Honor Society in Psychology
Dr. Paula K. McCoy, advisor***

Eudelia Ayala
Laura Harper
Elizabeth Nicholson
Melinda Scaggs

***Sigma Tau Delta
International English Honor Society
Dr. Anne McConnell, advisor***

Samina Fowler
Destinee (Vance) Mulcahy

***WVSU Honors Program
Dr. Genia Sklute, advisor***

Victoria Daniel

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

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

Asst. Prof. Sherri Shafer
Prof. Ali Ziyati

Business Administration and Social Sciences

Assoc. Prof. Frehot Hailou
Prof. Lois Lucas

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

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

Professional Studies

Asst. Prof. Mickey Blackwell
Asst. Prof. Kerri Steele

Grand Marshal

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya

Faculty Marshals

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

Stage Marshals

Asst. Prof. Joshua Martin
Prof. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals

Assoc. Prof. Debra Anderson-Conliffe
Assoc. Prof. Patricia King

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