

140TH
COMMENCEMENT
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

HONORS CONVOCATION



May 15, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Creative Arts Center

ALMA MATER

Alma, our Alma Mater,
The home of Mountaineers.

Sing we of thy honor,
Everlasting through the years.

Alma, our Alma Mater,
We pledge in song to you.
Hail, all hail, our Alma Mater,
West Virginia "U."

—*Louis Corson*

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ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE	William P. Haller, <i>Organist</i>
PROCESSIONAL*	William P. Haller
PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS	West Virginia University ROTC Cadets Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM**	Sarah Margaret Grisso <i>Bachelor of Music, Cum Laude</i> <i>Class of 2009</i>
ALMA MATER**	Sarah Margaret Grisso
WELCOMING REMARKS	C. Peter Magrath, <i>Interim President</i> West Virginia University
ORDER OF VANDALIA INTRODUCTIONS	C. Peter Magrath
AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES	C. Peter Magrath and Nigel Clark, <i>Chair</i> WVU Faculty Senate
KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Verl O. Purdy <i>2009 Honorary Degree Recipient</i> WVU '64
Recognition of University Honors Scholars	C. Peter Magrath and Keith Garbutt, <i>Dean</i> Honors College West Virginia University
Recognition of National Award-Winning Scholars	Lisa DeFrank Cole, <i>Director</i> ASPIRE Program West Virginia University
Introduction of the 2009 Order of Augusta Scholars	Kenneth D. Gray, <i>Vice President for</i> <i>Student Affairs</i> West Virginia University
Recognition of Air Force ROTC Graduates	C. Peter Magrath
Recognition of Army ROTC Graduates	C. Peter Magrath
STUDENT ADDRESS	Jason A. Parsons, <i>Outgoing President</i> WVU Student Government Association
CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	Charles D. "Charlie" Brown WVU '80

Recognition of Nicholas Evans Awards for Advising Excellence	E. Jane Martin, <i>Interim Provost</i> West Virginia University
Presentation of the Ethel and Gerry Heebink Award for Distinguished State Service	E. Jane Martin
Presentation of the Mary Catherine Buswell Award	E. Jane Martin
Presentation of the Neil S. Bucklew Award for Social Justice	E. Jane Martin
Presentation of the Caperton Award for Excellence in Teaching Writing	E. Jane Martin
Recognition of the Benedum Distinguished Scholars	C. Peter Magrath
Presentation of the Foundation Awards for Outstanding Teaching	C. Peter Magrath
Introduction of Foundation Awards for Outstanding Students	Kenneth D. Gray
CLOSING REMARKS	C. Peter Magrath
RECESSIONAL	William P. Haller

*A celebratory reception will follow tonight's ceremony in the
Creative Arts Center lobby.*

* Members of the audience may be seated during the processional.

** Members of the audience are requested to stand and remain in place.

Special thanks to Dr. Jessika Thomas, our reader for tonight's ceremony and Teresa McGonigle and Janelle St. Martin, who are interpreting this evening.

Disclaimer: The list of degree candidates in this program is tentative and based upon the anticipated successful completion of work undertaken during the second semester 2008-2009. This document should not be taken as an official record that degrees have, in fact, been awarded.

ORDER OF VANDALIA

Curtis H. Barnette
Gloria Salucci Cunningham

Eleanor Ellis Flowers
John D. Rockefeller, IV

RECIPIENTS OF HONORARY DEGREES

At Commencement, West Virginia University recognizes the contributions of distinguished persons by conferring honorary degrees upon them. To be honored this year are Verl O. Purdy, Benjamin Statler, Bonnie Jo Statler, and G. Viswanathan.

Verl O. Purdy

A native of Poca, West Virginia, Verl O. Purdy began his career with the BASF Group, a leading chemical company, in 1969, and played a major role in developing that company into a multi-billion dollar enterprise in the United States. While employed at BASF, he held many positions before becoming vice president of the Intermediate Chemicals group, a corporate officer, and a member of the executive committee.

In 1980, he became president and CEO of Rio Tinto Zinc Chemicals in the U.S. and Canada. In 1984, he founded AGDATA, the largest agricultural data analysis and marketing company in the world. In 1997, he founded MedData that provides state-of-the-art database and real-time transaction processing technology for the healthcare industry.

Purdy's commitment to excellence extends to the community, especially in his support of education. He is a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International, has sponsored of the Technology Forum at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, and has been a member of the Business Advisory Committee of the Belk College of Business at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Today, Purdy remains a loyal Mountaineer by giving his time to the University. He represented the chemical engineering department in WVU's Building Greatness Campaign, in which the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources raised more than \$22.5 million. His generosity and leadership also led to the renovation of the Alfred F. Galli Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory at WVU.

Purdy is a member of the WVU Foundation Board of Directors where he serves as chairman of the investment committee. He is also a member of the Academy of Distinguished Alumni the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame, and the WVU Chemical Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni. He recently established a faculty fellowship in the WVU Department of Chemical Engineering.

Purdy earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from WVU in 1964 and a master's in business administration from the University of North Carolina in 1973. He is the father of three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Benjamin M. Statler

Benjamin Statler began his career as a laborer with Consolidation Coal (CONSOL) in 1969. He advanced steadily over the years, rising to the positions of section foreman, assistant superintendent, superintendent, and technical assistant to vice president of Morgantown operations before becoming vice president of Moundsville and Ohio operations. In 1994, he was named senior vice president of mining for the Eastern Region, and in 1996, he became senior vice president of mining for CONSOL.

In 1999, Statler retired from CONSOL to start his own mining company, PinnOak Resources. PinnOak Resources is an entrepreneurial coal mining and energy resources group, with annual production capacity in excess of 7 million tons of high quality, low volatile metallurgical coal. PinnOak employs the latest technology available in mining, which results in a cleaner, higher quality coal that is more efficient and safer to obtain. The system is highly productive and automated with the latest technology. The company has had a highly positive economic impact on West Virginia and the nation.

Statler has been extensively involved and taken leadership roles in several professional organizations within the coal mining community, including the Society of Mining Engineers and the West Virginia Coal Association. He has served on the visiting committee for the WVU Department of Mining Engineering, and his peers at West Virginia University named him the Distinguished Engineer of Mines in 2004.

Statler has been extensively involved with his community through involvement and leadership in numerous organizations, including the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce, Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, Ohio Valley Medical Center, Upper Ohio Valley United Way, Easter Seals, Christ United Methodist Church, and Boy Scouts of America. In August 2008, he was named to the WVU Foundation's Board of Directors.

Over the years, Statler and his wife, Jo, have made regular significant donations, as well as corporate ones, to the Department of Mining Engineering, to support student scholarships and other endeavors. In 2007, Ben and Jo took their philanthropy to a new height with a \$25 million dollar donation to West Virginia University to fund breast cancer care as well as programs in the WVU College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

In 2007, Ben and Jo Statler were named Most Loyal West Virginians during Mountaineer Week. The WVU Foundation also honored the Statlers with the 2008 Outstanding Philanthropists Award for their display of exceptional generosity, commitment, leadership, and proven records of outstanding civic and charitable devotion to the University. The Statlers have also received the Milan Puskar Award for their role in the community.

Bonnie Jo Statler

A native of Mooresville, West Virginia, Jo Statler has been a strong supporter of West Virginia University and her home state throughout her life. She currently serves both Morgantown and West Virginia through membership on the Metropolitan Theater Foundation Board and through personal leadership and attention to launching “Bonnie’s Bus,” a program of mobile digital mammography services offered by the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. Bonnie’s Bus will increase access to screening services in remote areas of West Virginia, a state that has the nation’s fifth highest incidence of breast cancer.

Statler and her husband, Ben, have made regular significant donations, as well as corporate ones, to the Department of Mining Engineering, to support student scholarships and other endeavors. In 2007, the Statlers took their philanthropy to a new height with a \$25 million dollar donation to West Virginia University to fund breast cancer care as well as programs in the WVU College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

The first \$5 million supported the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program at WVU’s Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. A large portion of that gift was used to purchase Bonnie’s Bus. The Bonnie Wells Wilson Mobile Mammography Unit was named for Jo Statler’s late mother and brings WVU’s advanced breast care services to women throughout the rural parts of West Virginia. The Bus initiative has also spawned new partnerships throughout the state to improve cancer health care delivery and access to clinical trials.

The Statlers’ generosity has also extended to the public education system. The couple gave the Monongalia County Board of Education \$1.2 million to build a new gymnasium at their alma mater, Clay Battelle High school. It was dedicated in April 2007 and named the Statler Wilson Gymnasium in honor of their parents.

In November 2007, Ben and Jo Statler were named Most Loyal West Virginians during Mountaineer Week. The West Virginia University Foundation also honored the Statlers with the 2008 Outstanding Philanthropists Award for their display of exceptional generosity, commitment, leadership, and proven records of outstanding civic and charitable devotion to the University. The Statlers have also received the Milan Puskar Award for their role in the community.

G. Viswanathan

G. Viswanathan, the founder-chancellor of VIT University, India, was born in 1938 in a remote village in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Dr. Viswanathan’s journey has influenced generations of people who came across him at every stage of his life as a scholar, public servant, and an educator.

Viswanathan completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 2003. This reflects his urge to be an eternal student and learner. He excelled in academics through childhood and went on to obtain a master’s degree in economics from the prestigious Loyola College and completed his studies in law at Madras University. His leadership skills were instantly noticed, and his political party chose him to contest the parliamentary elections in 1967. He entered the Indian parliament carrying the hopes and aspirations of around 500,000 people of his constituency.

A student leader in his twenties entering Indian parliament was something unthinkable, especially in 1960s. He championed people’s issues in the parliament and they, in turn, placed faith in him as a leader. They re-elected him by a bigger margin in the next election for another five-year term. He travelled to different parts of the world as a member of parliamentary delegations. Viswanathan wanted to play a bigger role in provincial politics so that he could make a direct contribution in bettering the lives of the people in the region. He was elected to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for ten years. During this period, he served as a minister for two years.

He established Vellore Engineering College in 1984 at Vellore. He envisioned that his institution would offer world-class education to students who would be influencing the industry in the future. The engineering college that started with 180 students in 1984 has grown into a university with more than 14,000 students in 45 undergraduate and graduate programs. It has attracted students from Europe for internships and professors from across the world.

Viswanathan has helped women and unemployed youth in his region receive vocational training and encouraged them to be self-reliant. His initiatives have helped to improve their standard of living. Viswanathan offers scholarships to disadvantaged students. He has adopted a number of villages in an effort to improve the quality of their people’s lives. He has embarked upon making Vellore—a city of around 500,000 people—greener and cooler by planting one million saplings. His vision reaches beyond the defined horizons.

UNIVERSITY HONORS SCHOLARS

Students certified as University Honors Scholars have completed 24 hours of Honors Courses, including either an undergraduate thesis or a summer guided reading and a senior seminar, and have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 through the freshman year, 3.3 through the sophomore and junior years, and 3.4 as they enter the semester in which they will graduate.

August 2008

Emily M. Renzelli

December 2008

Cole N. Borgia

Vanessa A. Baxter

Amanda N. Schlak

Jennifer M. Beach

Hannah R. Wisniewski

Sean Butler

Martin J. Jones

Bethany T. Jennings

Kimberly A. Motter

Tyson M. Sears

Erin E. Cunningham

Rebecca K. Fuerch

Melissa A. Hitchens

Scott V. Button

Thomas A. Johnson

Megan D. Hersman

May 2009

Benjamin L. Addicks

Naushin J. Ahmed

Sarah L. Altmeyer

Morgan F. Ames

Eric R. Arnold

Kristen E. Babiak

Daniel I. Bain

Whitney L. Baker

Sriganesh Balasubramanian

Garrett A. Ballengee

Jamie L. Barnabei

Clay S. Bell

David C. Bell

Kelly A. Benner

Valerie A. Bevans

Danielle L. Bishop

Caroline Blanco

Patrick C. Bonasso

Paul M. Braswell

Christie M. Bruno

Shawn D. Cain

Kellen M. Calinger

Tiffany A. Campbell

Rachel E. Canning

Danielle R. Carpenter

Dean A. Carpenter

Harold K. Carpenter

Katelyn A. Chafin

Morgan E. Cira

Natalie R. Committee

Kelly A. Conway

Sarah E. Crouse

Cassie A. Cunningham

Chelsea L. Derlan

Kate N. Dobson

Shane R. Dragan

Christopher F. Drescher

Cory J. Driscoll

Mallory A. Duley

Patrick M. Dunlavy

Jessica K. Dyche

Amanda M. Dzielski

Rachel E. Edwards

Brittany A. Fernandez

Sara A. Fetty

Caitlin K. Frail

Lindsay M. Gainer

Phil M. Gansor

Cassandra J. Garcia

Zachary A. Gouzd

Mark V. Guido

Sky R. Gwinn

Jeremy S. Hardinger

Megan S. Harman

Michelle K. Hense

Jessica B. Hughes

Carrie L. James

Sarah M. James

Kristy L. Johnson

Betsy L. Kaminski

Haley A. Kane

Julie L. Kenst

Emily T. Kimble

Frank S. Klepadlo

Emily S. Lawrence

Kristin B. Lemaster

Margaret C. Maloy

Molly A. Maradei

Sarah B. Massey

Kelly L. Matheny

Windy K. Matich

Bradley W. May

Hillary A. May

Kaitlyn A. McDowell

Mark D. Miller

Michelle A. Molinari

Sarah E. Moore

Andrea A. Morgan

Keri E. Morgan

Amy R. Moyers

Loren R. Mueller

Oliver T. Napier

Julie D. Ott

Justin W. Parnicza

Jason T. Peluchette

Colleen M. Pettrey

Darcey N. Powell

William S. Przybysz

Brandon S. Radow

Rebecca M. Reese

Christopher S. K. Reynolds

Tara L. Roberts

Erica N. Rogers

Rachel D. Romero

Zachary J. Rossi

Eleanor E. Santy

Joseph V. Schaeffer

Kimberly A. Schneider

Sarah E. Schneider

Erik A. Schramm

Anne C. Seabright

Victor E. Sella-Villa

Gary J. Shaw

Jason A. Sheets

Ranjit V. Shenoy

Elizabeth M. Slack

David M. Slusarick

Alexander B. Slusser

Macy M. St. Clair

Hilary P. Steele

Ryan W. Storm

Lydia A. Streit

Nicole C. Stricklin

Adam N. Strylowski

Kristen L. Sundin

Russell W. Tarry

Kristen N. Thomaselli

Theodora K. Trimble

Jennifer S. Turner

Lauren K. Turner

Judd A. Waldo

Brittney L. Warnick

Kelsey L. Weigand

Ashlee N. Weitzman

Joshua R. Weitzman

Carli D. Williams

Matthew L. Williams

Danillya L. Wilson

Jennifer M. Wilson

Katherine O. Wilson

Jonah T. Womack

Robert M. Wyatt

Kayla M. Younciak

