



The Buzz



WEST VIRGINIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

WVSU Alumni and Friends eNewsletter

May 2016



Congratulations to State's newest alumni! Spring Commencement was held on May 14, 2016 in the D. Stephen and Diane H. Walker Convocation Center.

Upcoming Events

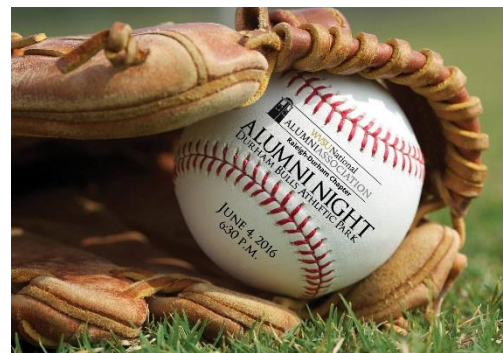
- June 4 Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter Alumni Night, Durham, N.C.
- June 18 Philadelphia Alumni Chapter Annual Cookout, Philadelphia, Pa.
- June 25 Atlanta Alumni Chapter - Atlanta HBCU 5K Run/Walk, Atlanta, Ga.
- July 2 Houston Alumni Chapter Annual Picnic & Membership Drive, Houston, Texas
- July 22 Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter Annual Fish Fry, Durham, N.C.
- July 23 Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter Annual Cook-Out, Durham, N.C.

Raleigh-Durham Alumni Night Set for June 4

Registration for this annual event now available online

The Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter invites you to come out to the ballgame and join them at Durham Bulls Athletic Park on Saturday, June 4, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. when the Bulls take on the Gwinnett Braves. Tickets are \$35 per adult and \$25 for children 12 and under and include admission as well as unlimited food and soft drinks.

For more information or to register for this event, please go to <https://connect.wvstateu.edu/ncalumninight>, email alumni@wvstateu.edu or call (304) 766-3387.



Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter will be having its annual Alumni Night at Durham Bulls Athletic Park on June 4, 2016.

Board of Governors Announces Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins as the University's 11th President

Jenkins to assume presidency July 1, 2016

The West Virginia State University Board of Governors (WVSU BOG) named Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins as the 11th President of West Virginia State University on May 10, 2016. Jenkins will assume the presidency on July 1, 2016.

Following a national search, the Presidential Search Advisory Committee recommended final candidates to the WVSU BOG. Those candidates were invited to WVSU's Institute, W.Va. campus in late April to meet with students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members and business leaders at a series of open forums. After reviewing stakeholders' comments regarding each candidate, the WVSU BOG offered the position of President of West Virginia State University to Jenkins.

Jenkins, a Washington, D.C. native, is a United States Army veteran and has a background in criminal justice, sociology and educational leadership and policy studies. He most recently served as Senior Associate Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment Services at the University of Central Florida (UCF). During his tenure at UCF, Jenkins supported a strategic vision that impacted student life, success, retention and graduation rates. He also was part of a team of university leaders to develop policies, procedures and training on a variety of higher education issues, including a new response process to incidents of racial-bias, sexual misconduct and substance abuse, as well as raised money for students in crisis (i.e. homeless students, personal emergency). Prior to that, he served as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where he developed and implemented the university's first comprehensive retention plan resulting in an increase in first-to-second and second-to-third year return rate.

Jenkins' higher education experience also includes serving as the Dean of Students at the University of Houston Clear Lake; Associate Dean of Students at the University of North Carolina Wilmington; Assistant Dean of Students at Northeastern Illinois University; Area Coordinator at Virginia Tech University; and Admission and Financial Aid Advisor at Jackson State University. Prior to his career in higher education, Jenkins served in the United States Army as an Air Defense Artillery Specialist.

Jenkins has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice/Sociology from Fayetteville State University, a master's degree in Criminology from North Carolina Central University and a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Virginia Tech University.



Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins will assume the presidency of West Virginia State University on July 1, 2016.

"I am humbled to be selected as the 11th President of West Virginia State University," Dr. Anthony Jenkins said. "Throughout my career, I have focused my efforts and energy on students and ensuring their path to earning a college education is accessible and, most of all, challenging and rewarding. I am truly honored to join a family—the State family—which is as dedicated to student-centeredness and access. On behalf of my wife, Toinette and our daughters, Ashley and Alicia, thank you for welcoming us, and we look forward to serving and leading all Yellow Jackets in the Kanawha Valley, state and region to a prosperous future."

State Family Bids Farewell to the Hemphills

Various events celebrate President Hemphill's Legacy at State

On May 13, 2016, several events were held to pay tribute to President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. and his family, including First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D. A small group joined together at the Carillon to unveil a replica of the bronze plaque that will be installed in order to forever etch President Hemphill's legacy on the campus. The plaque features a photo of President Hemphill, his years of service, and his major accomplishments.

Following the brief ceremony at the Carillon, the campus community joined together in the Dr. Ann Brothers Smith Conference Room of the Judge Damon J. Keith Scholars Hall where students, faculty, staff, and administrators spoke of President Hemphill's limitless passion and unwavering commitment to the University and the State family. In the evening, the business and local community as well as alumni joined together at Berry Hills Country Club to reflect on President Hemphill's significant accomplishments and close connection to so many.



A small group joined together at the Carillon to unveil a replica of the bronze plaque that will be installed in order to forever etch President Hemphill's legacy on the campus.

Congratulations and Farewell to Adam Neal

Assistant Vice President for University Advancement and Vice President of the WVSU Foundation played significant role in success of West Virginia State

The Office of University Advancement and the West Virginia State University Foundation congratulate Adam Neal regarding his appointment as Vice President for University Advancement at Ohio Dominican University. Neal officially began his duties at Ohio Dominican University on June 1, 2016.

Serving as the Assistant Vice President for University Advancement and Vice President of the WVSU Foundation, Neal has had a great impact on the University. Through his leadership and tireless efforts to engage alumni and friends in support of the University, Neal has been integral to many University and Foundation successes. He has played a significant role in our success during The Campaign for West Virginia State University, launched the Planned Giving program, mentored colleagues, and offered his talent, expertise and energy to enhance the University community in many ways. In the near future, a search for a new Assistant Vice President will begin.



Adam Neal (pictured at left) has been appointed Vice President for University Advancement at Ohio Dominican University.

WVSU National Alumni Conference Recap

Conference sets stage for future growth, pays tribute to President Hemphill

A special thank you to the Chicago Alumni Chapter of the West Virginia State University National Alumni Association, Chicago Chapter President, Larry Potts, and conference chairs Vernon Bell and Dr. Ann Brothers Smith for all their hard work in hosting the Alumni Association's 23rd National Conference, held in Chicago from May 4-7, 2016, and making the conference a great success. A strong theme of the conference was a commitment to increase membership in the National Alumni Association, particularly among younger alumni, and to increase the Association's support of student recruitment, alumni engagement, and philanthropic support.

During a Presidential Soiree honoring President Brian O. Hemphill and Dr. Marisela Rosas Hemphill, the establishment of the President Brian O. Hemphill Scholarship was announced. A number of chapters and individuals made pledges to the scholarship, resulting in more than \$19,000 in commitments to the fund in one evening.

Support the President Brian O. Hemphill Scholarship by donating at connect.wvstateu.edu/hemphill



The 23rd National Alumni Association Conference was held in Chicago, Ill. at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, May 4-7, 2016. Pictured above are the Glover L. Smiley, Jr. 110% Award Winners present at the awards luncheon.

Photos from the conference are available on our Flickr webpage.

WVSU Extension Teaming Up with Fruits of Labor, Inc. for Agriculture Workshops, Tours

Workshops to begin July 26 - Registration required

West Virginia State University Extension Service is teaming with Fruits of Labor Inc. for a series of free agriculture workshops to help beginning and experienced gardeners learn a variety of agricultural growing and harvesting techniques on July 26-27 at Fruits of Labor Café and Bakery in Rainelle, W.Va.

The two-day event will include tours of Fruits of Labor's small fruit orchard and mushroom production sites. Beginning at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, Cochran will present a hands-on workshop on mushroom production, followed by a plated dinner at the Fruits of Labor Café at a cost of \$12.50. At 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27, Cochran will lead a session on small fruit production, followed in the afternoon by the site tours.

Registration for the workshops is required, and space is limited to 30 attendees. To register, contact Extension Agent Brad Cochran at (304) 204-4021 or bcochran2@wvstateu.edu.



Since 2014, WVSU Extension Service has partnered with Fruits of Labor Inc. on initiatives relating to nutrition education, urban farm development and the creation of the orchard and mushroom production sites, which were made possible by West Virginia Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grants.

"We are excited to team with Fruits of Labor Inc. and bring this much-needed instruction to the people of Greenbrier County," said WVSU Extension Agent Brad Cochran. "We will be placing great emphasis on growing and consuming locally sourced foods within the town of Rainelle."

Caring and Sharing at State

WVSU's fourth annual Cares Day event held on April 23

West Virginia State University held its fourth annual Cares Day celebration on Saturday, April 23. The day-long event brought together WVSU students, faculty, staff and alumni to perform volunteer work on a variety of projects in support of area residents.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make this day a success, the proud alumni who participated and in some cases traveled great distances to come to campus and volunteer, as well as the out-of-state groups like the Metropolitan D.C. Alumni Chapter who helped to spread the Cares Day message beyond the valley.



Volunteers at a worksite pause for a photo during WVSU's fourth annual Cares Day.

Nominations Open for Awards

Award winners will be honored during Homecoming

Nominations are now being accepted for the Young Professional Achievement Award, the Alumnus/Alumna of the Year and for the "W" Club Hall of Fame. Please consider alumni you know who have significant career achievements, community service history, and a history of service to West Virginia State University and its mission, and nominate one or more for these prestigious awards by filling out the appropriate nomination form. Nomination forms will be available on our website or you can request that a form be mailed to you.



Dr. Lateef Saffore, Class of 1996 and 2015 Young Professional Award winner.

WVSU to Launch Fully Online Degrees

Are you interested in furthering your education?

WVSU is thrilled to offer new, fully online degrees beginning in August! Several bachelor's degrees and a new Master of Education in Instructional Leadership will be offered fully online this fall. Through the Master of Education in Instructional Leadership program, graduates will be able to improve teaching and learning methods in school settings by applying new techniques and concepts in instructional leadership. With two different tracks, one for candidates seeking a master's degree and one for candidates who hold a master's degree and are seeking administrative licensure.



WVSU is launching fully online degrees.

Alumni Chapter Spotlight: Atlanta

Atlanta Chapter spotlight featured in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

A few months ago, the WVSU National Alumni Association Atlanta Chapter was featured in an article by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) as the AJC Sepia HBCU of the Week. The article follows life stories from chapter members YLonne Polley Fullen Swails, Eric Billups, Dennis L. Boyden, Francis "Jinx" Monroe and Paul H. Easley Sr. and highlights their time at West Virginia State as well as the profound influence the school continues to have in their lives.



Members of the Polley Fullen family during the 1971 Homecoming at West Virginia State.



WEST VIRGINIA STATE
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Alumni Relations

100 East Hall, P.O. Box 1000 Institute, W.Va. 25112
Phone: (304) 766.3387 Email: alumni@wvstateu.edu