



Construction of the new Judge Damon J. Keith Scholars Hall continues to move at a brisk pace. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for August 13 and the hall will be open for new students on August 14.

Coming Events

July 19 "W" Club Shenandoah Valley Chapter Horseshoe & Cornhole Tournament, Williamsburg, Va.

July 31 Baltimore Charm-City Alumni Day at Camden Yards' Oriole Park, Baltimore, Md.

August 8 - 16 WVSU Exhibit at the West Virginia State Fair, Lewisburg, W.Va.

August 9 D.C. Area Young Alumni Event, Upper Marlboro, Md.

August 9 Atlanta Alumni Chapter Meeting, Atlanta, Ga.

August 13 Judge Damon J. Keith Scholars Hall Ribbon Cutting, Institute, W.Va.

August 14 - 17 16th Annual BBQ RibFest, Dunbar, W.Va.

August 21 State Stride, Institute, W.Va.

August 22 Alumni Night at Appalachian Power Park, Charleston, W.Va.

For more information about Coming Events visit connect.wvstateu.edu

Celebrating Dr. R. Charles Byers

Administrator and Educator honored on June 25

Hundreds were present to help honor the legacy of Dr. R. Charles Byers and his 42 years of service to his alma mater on June 25 in the Davis Fine Arts Auditorium. The evening was highlighted by a slideshow, various speakers and the display of Dr. Byers' many pieces of artwork. Dr. Byers was also presented with a Distinguished West Virginian Award from the Governor's Office.

Following his retirement as Provost, Byers now serves as Senior Advisor to the President for one year with primary responsibilities including the campus master plan and the University's accreditation. "I feel fortunate that the University is in good hands



Dr. R. Charles Byers addresses the crowd during a celebration of his contributions to the University.

with Dr. Hemphill. His positive vision is motivating faculty, staff and students. It has been a joy working and being part of the State family and I look forward to an additional year of service working directly alongside the President in his office,” Byers said.

Born in Logan County, Byers was raised in West Dunbar. He is a 1968 graduate of WVSU with a bachelor’s degree in art education. Byers later earned a master of fine arts degree from The Ohio State University while working as a commercial artist and art teacher in Columbus. Later, Byers earned his Ph.D. from Kent State University and, to date, has more than 430 graduate hours from various higher education institutions.

WVSU Welcomes Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs as of July 1

West Virginia State University (WVSU) welcomes Kumara L. Jayasuriya, Ph.D., as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“As an educator and mathematician, Dr. Jayasuriya brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will undoubtedly advance State’s four academic colleges and further strengthen the quality of education our students receive,” said WVSU President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. “Well-respected among his peers, Dr. Jayasuriya is an award-winning educator with an outstanding record of building relationships between higher education institutions and local schools to captivate young minds and engage current and future learners. His deep commitment to student success includes creating proposals for an online degree completion program, seeking and securing grants to develop quality programs and, most importantly, helping students remain on a degree path and obtain their degrees in a timely fashion. I am confident Dr. Jayasuriya will serve the State family well as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.”

Jayasuriya earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1993. He holds a master of science degree from Southern Illinois University and a bachelor of science degree from the University of Colombo-Sri Lanka. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at West Virginia State University

Homecoming set for October 9-11, 2014

Yellow Jacket Fever, Catch It!

Homecoming at WVSU will be held October 9-11, 2014, and will feature the annual parade, tailgating, football game, alumni dinners and dances, a masquerade party, 5K Run/Walk and much more! Be sure to join alumni and friends after the Homecoming parade on Saturday in front of the University Union for an exciting announcement from President Brian O. Hemphill. Together we can realize the promise and deliver the future for so many students!

Event registration forms will be mailed to all alumni within the coming weeks and online registration will be available starting Monday, July 21. Hotel rooms at the Charleston Marriott Town Center, this year's headquarter hotel, and the Sheraton Four Points will be available for reservations starting Monday, July 21. A tentative schedule, lodging information, and frequently asked questions are available at connect.wvstateu.edu/homecoming.



College of Arts & Humanities Tailgating Tent during Homecoming 2013

Upcoming Residence Hall Dedication and Opening Ceremony

Event set for August 13

We hope you will join us for the Dedication and Opening of the Judge Damon J. Keith Scholars Hall on August 13, 2014, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The program will feature various speakers and provide recognition to the entities and individuals who made the project a reality. Following the formal program, building tours will be provided and a reception will be held. Please let us know if you will be joining us! You may RSVP by August 1, 2014 to Ms. Crystal Walker at walkercr@wvstateu.edu or (304) 766-3111.



Construction continues on Judge Damon J. Keith Scholars Hall.

Headlines

July 04 - [BridgeValley, WVSU sign transfer agreement](#), *Parkersburg News and Sentinel*

June 28 - [Group looks to sustain business innovation](#), *Charleston Gazette*

June 26 - [Q&A: Charles Byers](#), *State Journal*

June 23 - [How well will hops grow in West Virginia?](#), *WV Public Broadcasting*

June 17 - [Marshall pharmacy school, W.Va. State sign educational agreement](#), *Greenfield Reporter*

June 17 - [Blackwell named new softball coach at W.Va. State](#), *Charleston Daily Mail*

June 16 - [WVSU Camp Targets Young Women Interested in Science Careers](#), *WCHS*

June 15 - [W.Va. State Hall-of-Famer Smith to be honored](#), *Charleston Daily Mail*

May 28 - [At 81, WVSU junior, a former nurse, thrives on learning](#), *Charleston Gazette*

SAVE THE DATE

connect.wvstateu.edu/homecoming



OCTOBER 9-11
HOMECOMING AT WVSU



WEST VIRGINIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

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