

# The Buzz



WEST VIRGINIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

WVSU Alumni and Friends eNewsletter

April/May 2015



RICHARD D. AND M. ALISON  
WOLFORD STUDENT LOUNGE

The Richard D. and M. Alison Wolford Student Lounge was dedicated on Monday, April 27, 2015. Strong supporters of West Virginia State, Rick, Class of 1976, and Alison have made provisions in their estate plans to further endow the Richard D. and M. Alison Wolford Endowed Scholarship.

## Upcoming Events

- May 9 Black & Gold Gala, Charleston, W.Va.
- May 16 Spring Commencement, Institute, W.Va.
- May 21 Downtown Charleston ArtWalk at the WVSU Capitol Center Art Gallery, Charleston, W.Va.
- May 30 Raleigh-Durham Alumni Night, Durham, N.C.
- June 10 Putnam County Alumni Event at The Wine Valley (featuring Bob Thompson), Teays Valley, W.Va.
- June 25 Downtown Charleston ArtWalk at the WVSU Capitol Center Art Gallery, Charleston, W.Va.
- June 27 8th Annual Atlanta Twilight Run/Walk, Atlanta, Ga.
- July 11 Eastern Region Alumni Picnic, Upper Marlboro, Md.
- July 24 Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter Annual Fish Fry, Raleigh-Durham, N.C.
- July 25 Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter Annual Cookout, Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

## Headlines

- April 25 - WVSU hosting gala to help meet \$18M goal, *The Charleston Gazette*
- April 25 - Hats off to West Virginia State University and Brickstreet Insurance, *Charleston Daily Mail*
- April 23 - West Virginia State celebrates day it received its land grant, *Charleston Daily Mail*
- April 17 - WVSU EDC hosts solar energy co-op May 19, *WVSU*
- April 16 - WVSU to dedicate new public relations research laboratory April 22, *WVSU*
- April 02 - WVSU Chapter of National Broadcasting Society Recognized for Community Service, *WVSU*
- Mar 31 - WVSU, agencies partner on project, *The Herald-Dispatch*
- Mar 31 - Wells to tap natural gas under W.Va. State, *Charleston Daily Mail*
- Mar 31 - WVSU names new finance leader, *The Charleston Gazette*

# Third Annual Black & Gold Gala

Join us on May 9 in Charleston, W.Va.

The 2015 Black & Gold Gala will be held on May 9, 2015. Attendees will enjoy an elegant reception and dance in recognition of West Virginia State University's profound contribution to the region and those who make it possible. All proceeds benefit the WVSU Foundation to support the University's students and programs.

Black tie. For further information, visit <https://connect.wvstateu.edu/gala> call (304) 204-4051 or email [gala@wvstateu.edu](mailto:gala@wvstateu.edu).



Join us for the third annual Black & Gold Gala on May 9!

## Realize the Promise, Deliver the Future

### The Campaign for West Virginia State University Update

Each gift brings the University closer to its campaign goal of \$18 million. With help from our loyal alumni and friends, West Virginia State University has already raised \$11.8 million to help support all areas of the University from scholarships to building and program support. To help spread the word about the campaign, the WVSU National Alumni Association will be hosting various regional campaign events throughout the year.

Every gift you make through June 30, 2017, will help the University reach the overall campaign goal. Many opportunities are available to create your personal legacy through a named fund or space. Please join with alumni, friends, community members and all members of the State Family in helping West Virginia State University "Realize the Promise" for our students today and "Deliver the Future" for generations of Yellow Jackets to come!



View photos from the Eastern Region Alumni Campaign Event at [flickr.com/wvsualumni](http://flickr.com/wvsualumni). Photos are courtesy of George W. Cooper.

## Spring Commencement

### Maj. Gen. Charles Frank Bolden, Jr., (USMC-Ret.) to address graduates on May 16

Spring Commencement exercises will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2015, in the D. Stephen and Diane H. Walker Convocation Center. A limited number of tickets are available for alumni and friends. If you are interested in attending, please contact Belinda Fuller at (304) 766-3387 or at [bfuller@wvstateu.edu](mailto:bfuller@wvstateu.edu).

This year's Commencement speaker is Maj. Gen. Charles Frank Bolden, Jr., (USMC-Ret.). Bolden was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 12th Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He began his duties as head of the agency on July 17, 2009. As Administrator, Bolden leads a nationwide NASA team to advance the missions and goals of the U.S. space program.



The spring Commencement speaker for 2015 is Maj. Gen. Charles Frank Bolden, Jr., (USMC-Ret.).

# Diane Slaughter Public Relations Research Laboratory Unveiled

## April 22 Dedication held for New Research Space

The new Diane Slaughter Public Relations Research Laboratory was dedicated April 22 on the second floor of Cole Complex. The new laboratory will function as a multi-purpose space that will be used as a traditional classroom with multi-media technology including a computer lab area, a client/team meeting space and a two-way viewing area with audio-visual accommodations for conducting focus groups and marketing research.

Diane Slaughter is a long-time supporter of and professional advisor for WVSU's C. R. Byrd Chapter of PRSSA and continues to be a driving force behind PRSA-West Virginia.



*Dean Scott Woodard, Diane Slaughter, Dr. Tee Ford-Ahmed, VP Patricia Schumann and Dr. Ali Ziyati.*

## Monthly Member Raffle

### March & April Raffle Winners, May Prize Announced

Congratulations to Antionette "Toni" Hodges, '68 and Jason Bailey, '00! Toni is our March WVSU Connect raffle prize winner and Jason is our April WVSU Connect raffle prize winner! May's prize is a deluxe embroidered WVSU Yellow Jackets pennant!

Members of WVSU Connect will automatically receive an entry into the raffle each month and can gain additional entries and increase their chances of winning by participating in various social media challenges!



*March's Raffle Winner Toni Hodges, '68, poses with her prize!*

## Alumni Night in Raleigh-Durham

### Registration now Available for Third-Annual Event

The Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter invites alumni and friends to come out to the ballgame at Durham Bulls Athletic Park on Saturday, May 30 at 5:00 p.m. when the Bulls take on the Syracuse Chiefs. Tickets are only \$30 per person (\$25 for attendees 12 and younger) and include admission and unlimited food and soft drinks at the game. President Brian O. Hemphill and WVSU staff members will be on hand to talk with alumni and friends about the University. For further information, or to purchase tickets, visit [connect.wvstateu.edu/ncalumninight](http://connect.wvstateu.edu/ncalumninight).



*Join President Hemphill and the Raleigh-Durham Alumni Chapter at Durham Bulls Athletic Park on May 30!*

## Nominations Open for 2015 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. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (304) 766-3387 to be mailed a printed nomination form.



*Autumn Anderson, 2014 Young Professional Achievement Award Winner and Glover L. Smiley, 2014 Alumnus of the Year*

# Atlanta Twilight HBCU Run/Walk

## Annual Atlanta Event Scheduled for June 27

Saturday, June 27, 2015, the Atlanta Alumni Chapter will be participating in the 8th Annual Atlanta Twilight HBCU Run/Walk at Piedmont Park in Atlanta, Ga. For the past several years, the Atlanta HBCU Alumni Alliance (AHBCUAA) has galvanized thousands of HBCU alumni, family and friends in support of health awareness and scholarships for future students of participating HBCUs.



*Help the Atlanta Alumni Chapter represent WVSU at this year's Atlanta Twilight HBCU Run/Walk on June 27!*

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## Chapter Spotlight: Hampton Roads

### Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter Reflects on Growth

The WVSU Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter was formed in the 1980's as the WVSC Tidewater Alumni Chapter. The name was later changed to reflect the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.

Dr. James Holley and Mrs. Jean Jeffery have each received the honor of being voted Alumnus of the Year after being nominated by the chapter. Charles Corprew, Vincent Ross and Haywood Holder were inducted into the ROTC Hall of Fame after being nominated by the chapter. Linwood "Baby Boy" Greene, Robert "Bob" Smith, John Milbourne and Gregory Banks were inducted into the WVSU Sports Hall of Fame after being nominated by the chapter, as well.

Members of WVSU's Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter are proud of the progress that has been made since the chapter was chartered. It is easy to see that the chapter's outstanding members have contributed greatly to its success.



*WVSU's Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter reflects on its growth in the past 30+ years.*



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