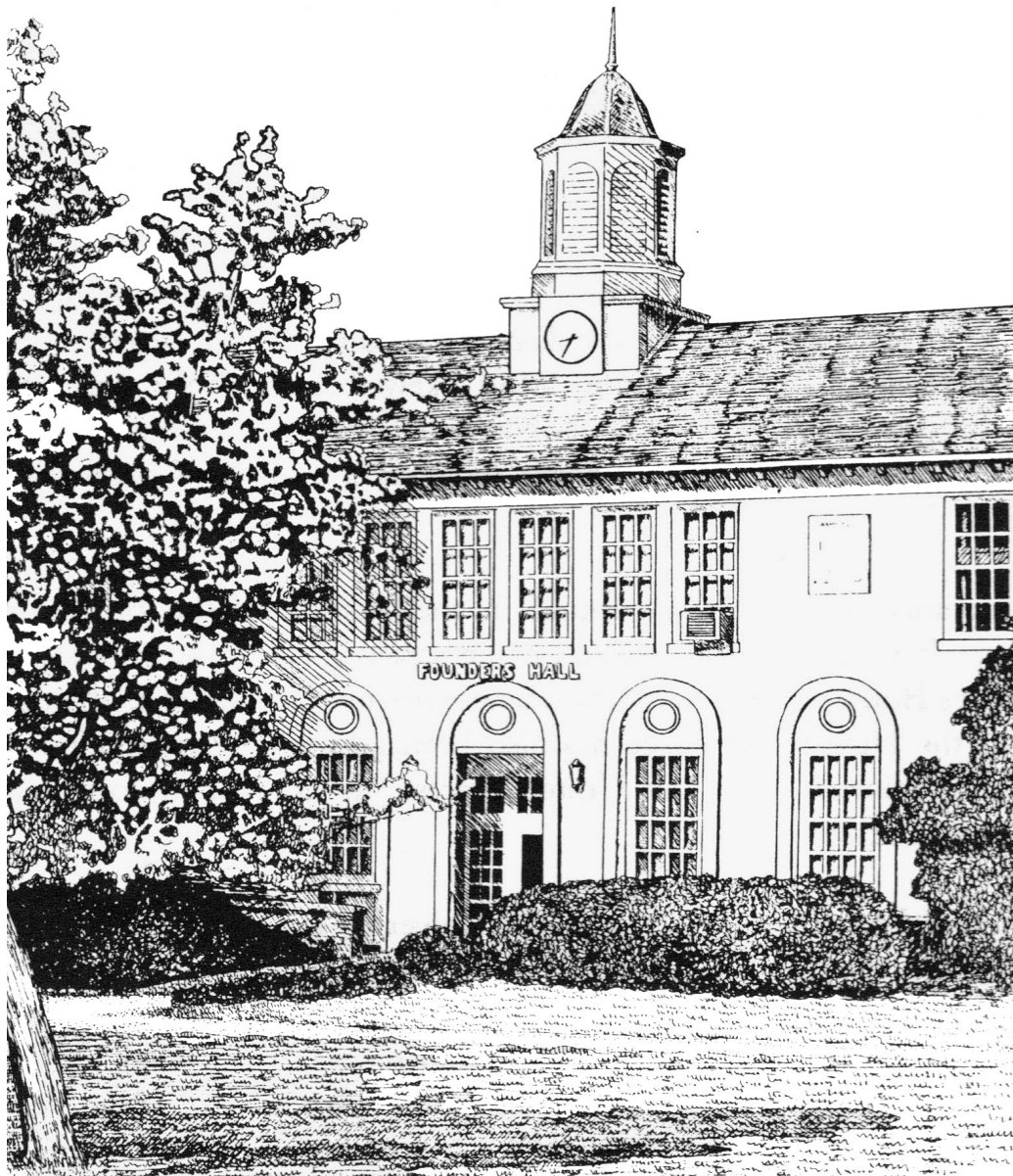


Fort Valley State University



About Fort Valley State University

Fort Valley State University is home to thousands of students discovering the genius within themselves and exploring their extraordinary potential for leadership under the guidance of highly accomplished faculty. Since 1895, the FVSU family has shared a love of invention and innovation, and embraced a culture where discovery is celebrated. No matter where you start in life, we believe that education is the surest way to make a difference in the world and achieve your dreams.

FVSU is one of the most affordable colleges in the country, because our goal is to make sure anyone with talent and desire can use education as a steppingstone. At the same time, excellence is demanded across our campuses, from our faculty members who are respected researchers, instructors, and authors, to our students, who accept the challenges of leadership, scholarship, and professionalism. More than 60 clubs and organizations provide students with real-world opportunities to pursue their passions, and our professional network helps launch students into careers through internships and career development.

FVSU is one of nineteen 1890 land-grant institutions, which means that our mission is to not only empower students to use education to pursue meaningful careers, but it is also to use our scholarship, research, and outreach to make lives better for the communities around us. Our overriding goal is to equip people from all backgrounds with the knowledge and skills to impact the world as leaders in meaningful fields, and to also spread knowledge and resources throughout the state to make the lives of ordinary people better today.

- FVSU has earned the recognition of being designated as a Research College and University in the 2025 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.
- FVSU was named the top public HBCU in Georgia for 2026 by U.S. News and World Report for the eighth consecutive year.
- FVSU has the highest ranking in Georgia for social mobility among public regional universities (South) for 2026 by U.S. News and World Report.
- FVSU is ranked as the #24 top public university in the south for 2026 by U.S. News & World Report.
- FVSU is ranked #28 for HBCUs for 2026 by U.S. News & World Report.
- FVSU was recognized as #3 in the nation for its online Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling degree program by EduMed.org.
- FVSU conducts more federally funded science, technology, engineering and math research than any other public teaching university in the state of Georgia and is fifth among Georgia public universities overall.
- FVSU is the #4 top producer nationally of African Americans with bachelor's degrees in agriculture, agricultural operations and related sciences and is #1 in the state of Georgia.
- FVSU's four-year veterinary technology program is the only one in Georgia.
- FVSU is ranked in the Top 25 Most Affordable Master's Degrees in Counseling in the south by bestcounselingdegrees.net.
- FVSU's mathematics, engineering technology, family and consumer sciences, computer and information sciences, psychology and history degree programs all rank in the top ten in Georgia for producing the most African Americans with bachelor's degrees.
- FVSU is ranked #8 on the national list of "Top 10 Colleges with Tuition Under \$20,000" bycollegeraptor.com.

Academic Attire

The academic costume derives from practices originating in the Middle Ages. When European universities were formed in the 12th and 13th centuries, the first scholars, mainly clerics, adopted costumes like those of their monastic orders. Cold halls and drafty buildings made caps and floor-length gowns with attached hoods a necessity for warmth. Probably because of the religious customs of that period, academic costumes remained largely drab. After the administration of the universities was removed from the control of the church, some features of the academic costumes took on brighter hues. Drawings and restored prints from this era reveal a strong similarity between the academic costumes worn in the early European universities and the regalia worn today.

In light of the strong English heritage in the United States, the academic costume has been in use in the United States since colonial times. To establish a standard of uniformity regarding the practice of dress in the academy, an intercollegiate commission was formed. This commission prepared the code, which has been adopted by all universities, for the wearing of caps, gowns, and hoods. The shape of the cap is often the more familiar mortarboard square. Its design resembles the scholar's book. Legend has it that the privilege of wearing a cap was the initial right of a person who had been enslaved under the Roman Empire. The flowing gown has become a symbol of the universality of scholarship, for it covers any attire, which might indicate work or social strata. The hood indicates the type of degree and is lined with the official colors of the university.

THE GOWN

BACHELOR'S	Black, full cut with long pointed sleeves
MASTER'S	Black, long or short sleeves with an arc-shaped panel for each sleeve
DOCTORATE	Black, with velvet panels on the front of the gown and three velvet bars on each sleeve. Color of the velvet may be black or distinctive of the field of study

THE HOOD

BACHELOR'S	Three feet in length with two-inch wide velvet trim
MASTER'S	Three and one-half feet in length with three-inch wide velvet trim
DOCTORATE	Four feet in length with five-inch wide velvet trim and panel at the sides

The lining of all hoods, which is folded out, bears the official colors of the institution from which the degree was received. The color of the trim indicates the field in which the master's degree was granted: Public Health (salmon pink); Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Rehabilitation Counseling (golden yellow); Animal Science (gray); Biotechnology (golden yellow); and Education Specialist and Education (light blue).

THE CAP AND TASSEL

Candidates for graduate degrees at Fort Valley State University wear the black mortarboard with a gold tassel, and candidates for undergraduate degrees wear the black mortarboard with a black tassel.

Presidential Mace



Like the academic costume, the mace dates to medieval times. Knights used the mace, a heavy club topped with a spiked metal knob, as an effective instrument against the strongest armor in battle. Most likely this use of the mace influenced university officials to adopt it as a symbol of vested authority. Usually about two feet in length, the ceremonial mace survives today as a symbol of authority in most institutions.

Notable instances of its use are found in the sessions of the British House of Commons where the mace is placed on the treasury table, and in sessions of the United States House of Representatives where the mace is placed to the right of the Speaker of the House. The mace has also been adopted as an emblem by many colleges and universities in the United States. It is used in formal academic ceremonies and activities.

The inauguration of President Luther Burse in 1984 marked the first ceremonial use of the mace at Fort Valley State University. The Mace was retired after 38 years on May 14, 2023.

During the 81st Spring Commencement, a new Presidential Mace was installed in a ceremony led by President Paul Jones, Ph.D., and Isaac J. Crumbly, Ph.D.

The Presidential Mace of Fort Valley State University is 42 inches long and is Cherry with Cordovan Stain. The Staff is wood with two metal sleeves and sits in a cherry wood hexagon stand. The top of the mace consists of an Antique Brass Medallion engraved with the university seal, which is gold plated.

The Mace was designed by Medalcraft Mint, Inc., the largest private mint in all North America.



Celebr

**#1 Public
HBCU in GA
for Eight
Consecutive
years**



Excellence

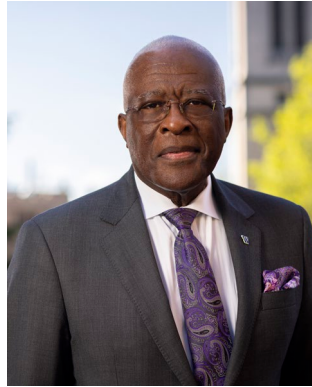
#1 Regional University in Georgia for Social Mobility

- 2026 U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

www.FVSU.edu

SPEAKER AND HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENT

Robert J. Jones, Ph.D.
President, University of Washington



Robert J. Jones '73, Ph.D., became the 34th president of the University of Washington in August 2025 and holds a faculty position in the Department of Biology. A distinguished crop physiology and seasoned university leader, Jones previously served as chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for nine years, and before that, as president of The University at Albany (SUNY Albany). Prior to his administrative leadership roles, he spent more than 34 years as a member of the faculty and senior administrator at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

At Illinois, Jones launched the world's first engineering-based medical school and expanded access to a college degree through scholarships like the Illinois Commitment and led a \$2.7 billion fundraising campaign. Under his leadership, enrollment grew by 25 percent. Jones also launched radical research partnerships and initiatives in quantum computing, bioprocessing and precision fermentation and the inflammatory states that underly many human diseases.

Jones has served as a leader in numerous national academic organizations, including as chair of the boards of the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors.

A native of Dawson, Georgia and a first-generation college student, he holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Fort Valley State College, a Master of Science degree in crop physiology from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in crop physiology from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Jones is married to Dr. Lynn Hassan Jones, and together, they have five children and a growing number of grandchildren.

PROGRAM

Paul Jones, Ph.D.
10th President, Fort Valley State University
Presiding

Prelude	Elvis Lewis Jr.
*Processional	"Pomp and Circumstance" Elvis Lewis Jr. Sir Edgar Elgar
*Invocation.....	Reverend Forrest Dickey <i>Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Macon, Georgia</i>
*The National Anthem	"Star-Spangled Banner" Fort Valley State University Choir Francis Scott Key
Selection	"Lift Every Voice and Sing" Fort Valley State University Choir James Weldon Johnson
Welcome	Paul Jones, Ph.D.
1895 Society Induction	Garren Walker <i>President, FVSU National Alumni Association, Inc.</i>
Message from the Valedictorian.....	Adetoro Adenuga <i>Electronics Engineering Technology Major</i>
Introduction of Speaker	Paul Jones, Ph.D.
Commencement Address	Robert J. Jones '73, Ph.D. <i>President, University of Washington</i>
Special Presentation and Acknowledgements	Paul Jones, Ph.D.
Conferring of Honorary Degree to Robert J. Jones '73, Ph.D.	
Selection	Fort Valley State University Choir
Presentation of Deans	Derrick Scott, Ph.D. <i>Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	Deans Graduate Studies – Nirmal Joshee, Ph.D. College of Education and Professional Studies – Beth Day-Hairston, Ph.D. College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology – Keith Howard, Ph.D. College of Arts and Sciences – Eyualet Abebe, Ph.D.
Conferring of Degrees	Paul Jones, Ph.D.
Induction of Graduates into the National Alumni Association	Garren Walker <i>President, FVSU National Alumni Association, Inc.</i>
Commissioning of Cadet	MAJ Elizabeth Jackson <i>Professor of Military Science</i>
*The Alma Mater	Fort Valley State University Choir and Audience William H. Pipes and Odessa Hardison McNair
*Benediction	Reverend Forrest Dickey
*Recessional	"War March of the Priest" Elvis Lewis Jr. Felix Mendelsohn
Postlude	Elvis Lewis Jr.

**The audience should stand. See page 19 for lyrics for FVSU Alma Mater and "Lift Every Voice and Sing".*

GRADUATE DEGREES

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST

School Counselor Education

Lisa Naomi Latrice Butler	Capella University
Markita Cooper	Albany State University
Raquel Lashae Ewings-Murray	Albany State University
Jade Anderson Haggerty	Fort Valley State University
Ayana Patrice Harvey	Walden University
Kierra Moss	Grand Canyon University
Katrina Michelle Paulk	Albany State University
Robin Brooks Purcell	Fort Valley State University
Kaitlyn Cochran Wells	Fort Valley State University

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Environmental Health

Jeremiah Oluyemi Arowolo	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology
Brittney Alicia Evans	Fort Valley State University
Tamia Kelley	Clayton State University
Bernotta Linder	Armstrong State University
Sodiq Abiola Omotosho	Kwara State University
Milo H. Raoof	Georgia State University

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Sheruneda Carrenan	Fort Valley State University
Caroline Elizabeth Holland	Georgia College & State University
Janea Emon Horton	Fort Valley State University
Jada DéShun Smith	Clafin University

Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling

Jocelyn Tanel Bishop	Albany State University
Annabel Cobane	University of Washington
Senay Marble	Fort Valley State University
Donna Mitrrency Smith	Alabama State University

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ANIMAL SCIENCE

Daisha Nicole Beal	Fort Valley State University
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Ayani Giovanni Cockrell	Dillard University
Razan Eldurssi	Fort Valley State University
Cornelius Ellington	Fort Valley State University
Janan Qadirah Fareed	Fort Valley State University
Kás Marie Howard	Fort Valley State University
Jasmine Tyshea Jordan	Fort Valley State University
Lauren Alicia Wartley	Fort Valley State University

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Sumantee Baidya	Tribhuvan University
Jamilatu Tiyyumba Issah	University for Development Studies
Sri Sandhya Manne	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya
Lauren Brett Morton	Middle Georgia State University
Anvesh Sankuratri	Dr. Panjab Ro Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola
Sairam Vutla	Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Elementary Education/Special Education

Yolanda Denae Johnson Cummings	Bellevue University
Ellen Evett Mathis-Jones	Fort Valley State University
Angie Johnson Parker	Fort Valley State University

Middle Grades Education

Jacquez Jarrell Harris	Mercer University
Jiliaya Alexis Rumph	Fort Valley State University
LaFreda Knedra Wimberly	Fort Valley State University

School Counselor Education

Shirlene Graham	Capella University
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UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Academic Honors

Cum Laude (with honor) - Graduates with an overall grade point average of 3.25 - 3.49

Magna Cum Laude (with high honor) - Graduates with an overall grade point average of 3.50 - 3.74

Summa Cum Laude (with highest honor) - Graduates with an overall grade point average of 3.75 - 4.00

† Cum Laude

†† Magna Cum Laude

††† Summa Cum Laude

Honor graduates are identified based on the students' institutional and cumulative grade point averages calculated through the Spring/Summer 2025 semester. Since final action cannot always be taken by the time this program is printed, the list of candidates here is tentative only.

(H) Honors Program Graduate

Honors Program Graduates have met the exacting requirements of the Honors Program as well as those of their degree program. These students have participated in the required number of intellectual development activities outside of their classes, taken a minimum number of more advanced Honors courses and have completed at least one experiential learning activity during their undergraduate studies at FVSU.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Elementary Education/Special Education

†† Brianna Imari Lula Scott Atlanta, Georgia

Health & Physical Education

† Jordan Henry Battle Macon, Georgia

Christopher McLendon McDonough, Georgia

Aalliyah Tiana Powell Thomasville, Georgia

Middle Grades Education

Nakia Benefield Warner Robins, Georgia

††† Jaliyah Dior Carter Americus, Georgia

†† Faith Azaria Evans Augusta, Georgia

Marcus Jefferson Eatonton, Georgia

†† Laila Simone Leverett Grovetown, Georgia

Brittney Marie O'Neal Thomasville, Georgia

Briana C. White Bonaire, Georgia

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FAMILY SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Agriculture Engineering Technology

Shannon Tionne Jordan Harris McDonough, Georgia
Destaney Johnson Cordele, Georgia

Veterinary Technology

Iyana Sharay Avant Roberta, Georgia
††Emily Eidson Byron, Georgia
†Setene Green Orangeburg, South Carolina
†Donyé Solomon Porter Berkeley, California
Audrey Faith Sanders Amory, Mississippi
†Amaya Breanna Thompson Bainbridge, Georgia
Moswa Moze Wilson Brunswick, Georgia
††Spencer James Wingate Mableton, Georgia

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Economics

Raven LeShawn Edwards Merrillville, Indiana
Naadira Tomasina Jones Florence, South Carolina
Jasmine Gabriellé Westry Powder Springs, Georgia

Animal Science

Triniti Faith-Celestine Adolph Virginia Beach, Virginia
††Taylor Arnold Ellenwood, Georgia
Phaith N. Boyce Ellenwood, Georgia
Charity M. McNair Lawrenceville, Georgia
††Clay A. Nodes Perry, Georgia
Makya Perry Columbus, Georgia
Timazea Dontasia Marnay Richardson Ashburn, Georgia
Tonee Marlyssa Sanders Macon, Georgia
†Kensley Krystina Stegall Donalsonville, Georgia

Plant Science

†Asha Sanaa Colvard Duluth, Georgia
Curvion La'Var Ezell Perry, Georgia
†Bryan Xavier Hallman Albany, Georgia
Aniyah Clotille Parris Union City, Georgia
Latavia Tenaysha Powell Jacksonville, Florida
Tyler Michelle Ragin Atlanta, Georgia

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

†††Adetoro M. Adenuga	Lithonia, Georgia
Oshane Farquharson	Kingston, Jamaica
Savion Jaqua Peak	Cuthbert, Georgia
LaMarcus Deonta Smith, Jr.	Warner Robins, Georgia

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Tarianna Dianne Knighton	McDonough, Georgia
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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Criminal Justice

†††Djenabou Balde	Brooklyn, New York
Cornelius Cooks, II	Jacksonville, Florida
Charmiesha Lena Foreman	Vidalia, Georgia
††Quesharius Fluellen	Columbus, Georgia
Natiya D. James	Gainesville, Florida
Tamika Charrise James	Stone Mountain, Georgia
Demetri Lamont Laurent, Jr.	Valdosta, Georgia
††Brittney Sierra Mangham	Fort Valley, Georgia
††Ashari TeRaye Ruff	Covington, Georgia
Antionette Ro'Shawn Scott	Jonesboro, Georgia
Daejah Terrell	Detroit, Michigan
Da'mon Tiquez Tippins	Adel, Georgia
†††Jakota Lahmir Walker (H)	Carrollton, Georgia
Ylencia Makaya Warner	Macon, Georgia

Liberal Studies

Freda Holt Alexander	McDonough, Georgia
ShaQuira Alexis Marché Bryant	Atlanta, Georgia
Madison Kennedy Cook	Atlanta, Georgia
Deandrea Alyse Douthit	Augusta, Georgia
Alphonso Darnell Harris	Manchester, Georgia
Kendra Eli Henry	Daytona Beach, Florida
Alex Jarrell Henton	Fort Valley, Georgia
Zacharie Nathanael Jean-Louis	Fort Myers, Florida
Xavier James McIntyre	Warner Robins, Georgia

Mikayla Genessence Oates	Fort Valley, Georgia
Laurn Janeé Parker	Powder Springs, Georgia
William Jai Riggins	Albany, Georgia
†Sarah M. Rosario	Bayamon, Puerto Rico
Katrecia Brandon Stephens	Warner Robins, Georgia
Rahim Sincere Whitehead	Stockbridge, Georgia
Trayontae Dequan Williams	Bradenton, Florida
Devedrick Julius Wilson	Perry, Georgia

Media Studies

Erika Lashay Flag	Atlanta, Georgia
Amaury Keyshaun Hutchinson	Auburn, Alabama
†Kalillah Ayrial Melton	Hampton, Georgia
††Shemari Mark Anthony Salkey	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
††Makayla Janell Wright	Newnan, Georgia

Political Science

Kenniecia L. Downer	Elberton, Georgia
†††Nikiah Dissani Dunn	Old Bridge, New Jersey
††Alexzandria Nazahah Ijelu	Douglasville, Georgia
Tammia Nia James	Stone Mountain, Georgia
†††Chyua Janell Squires	Decatur, Georgia
Alexander Oganna Wilson	Acworth, Georgia

Psychology

††Sierra Kaitlyn Bajnath	Sandy Springs, Georgia
†MaKenzie Joi Broner (H)	Brunswick, Georgia
Paris Carlisle-Joseph	Snellville, Georgia
Einamra Carter	Leesburg, Georgia
Syera Leisean Chaney	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Courtney Ann Crumsey	Atlanta, Georgia
Twandralla Culberson	Rex, Georgia
†††Valerie Dorelien	Riverdale, Georgia
Asilin Elder	Union City, Georgia
Ty'Liyah Etchinson	Covington, Georgia
Kelvey Evans	Atlanta, Georgia
†Latoya Fullmore	Bonaire, Georgia
McKenzie Garrett	Hampton, Georgia
Orion Denarria Gaston	Griffin, Georgia
†††Jakiera Chelsea-Carina Harris	Lithonia, Georgia
Nakiya Danelle Harrison	Gainesville, Georgia
Miriah Hunt	Lancaster, California
†Delissa Carmeal Kier	Valdosta, Georgia
Kentrell Raymond Lawson	Sneads, Florida
Nia Ajae Mack	San Antonio, Texas
Alycia Monet Mann	Smyrna, Georgia
Chyna McQuay	Forrest Park, Georgia
††Ha'Zerika Nitia McRoy	Albany, Georgia
Joshua Michael Monroe	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
†††ShiKana Di'mone Porter	Cuthbert, Georgia
Destiny Michelle Ransom	Fairburn, Georgia
†Z'Niyah Rector	Atlanta, Georgia
Jadon D. Sanders	New Orleans, Louisiana
Marquita Michelle Smith-Wright	Butler, Georgia
Felicity Rose Stallworth	Riverdale, Georgia
†††Ebonique Antonia Starr	Atlanta, Georgia

†††Ayana Arlyce Williams	Macon, Georgia
†Syraih Wint	Fresno, California
Jasmine Nicole Woodard	Fairburn, Georgia
Kyla Deloris Woods	Athens, Georgia

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Rory Steven Bell, Jr.	Atlanta, Georgia
TayZiir Maurique Ward	Hephzibah, Georgia

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Accounting

Euridicee Genese Heppard	Orangeburg, South Carolina
Bumani Alejandro Kirk	McDonough, Georgia
††Hadijat Jumoke Olushesi	Covington, Georgia
†Aissa Lyric Stevenson	Norcross, Georgia
Herbert Turner	Riverdale, Georgia

Management

Amiya Iamni Cameron	Greenville, Georgia
Kevin Charles	Orlando, Florida
Tristan J. Demming	Athens, Georgia
††Daniel Himan Gibbs	Warner Robins, Georgia
Frederick D. Jones	Elberton, Georgia
Anthony Tyler Lockhart	Thomaston, Georgia
Derreon J. Martin	Smyrna, Georgia
Jacob Taiwan Mitchell	Valdosta, Georgia
Willie Stiggers	Atlanta, Georgia
Mariah D'new Williams	Griffin, Georgia
A'Neriah Ajai Wimberly	Lawrenceville, Georgia

Marketing

†Damarion Jaqon Bell	Camilla, Georgia
Kasyana Cymon Bouie	Atlanta, Georgia
Shekinah Majesty Lucas	Kathleen, Georgia
Schadrac D. Metayer	Lake Park, Florida
King Music Osei	Marietta, Georgia
Laila Monique Richardson	Valdosta, Georgia
†Tiffini Michelle Rucker	Atlanta, Georgia
Ian J. Swann	Ellenwood, Georgia
Xavier Malik Ward	McDonough, Georgia
Weylon Williams	Powder Springs, Georgia
Bianca Young	Wrightsville, Georgia

Supply Chain and Logistics Management

Jamarion Daqon Bell	Camilla, Georgia
††Briona Témar Hayes	Atlanta, Georgia

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Biology

†Savannah Brooke Coffelt	Byron, Georgia
††TaLeiyah Latrice Cooper	Glennville, Georgia
†Poetri Crouch	Morrow, Georgia
Jermiah Jordynn Dunbar	Charlotte, North Carolina
††Raven Armani Janese Edwards	Hampton, Georgia
De'Miya Mikell Jackson	Grovetown, Georgia
††Travion Jermarlin Jackson	Albany, Georgia
Morria Genae Jordan	Fort Gaines, Georgia
††Gavin Gabrielle Knox (H)	Augusta, Georgia
Ariel Lawrence	Kathleen, Georgia
Mykhaiah Michael	Charlotte, North Carolina
La'Keisha Renee Miley	Adel, Georgia
Maurice Lorenzo Releford	Perry, Georgia
Jadyn Alexandria Shoulars	Atlanta, Georgia
Chloe Smith	Atlanta, Georgia
Keana Charice Smith	Covington, Georgia
Mya Sumbry	Albany, Georgia
†††Queen Saamiya Lanya Watson	Dawson, Georgia
William Daniel White	Bonaire, Georgia

Computer Science

Kiaran Dandy	Warner Robins, Georgia
Miles C.E. Davenport	Hull, Georgia
Denzel Ezeigbo	Jonesboro, Georgia
†Jordyn Alexia Johnson	Warner Robins, Georgia
Devin Joseph	Stockbridge, Georgia
Briana Anjali Madison	McDonough, Georgia
Sakinah Laelah Muhammad	Atlanta, Georgia
Arionna De'Asia Smartt	Conyers, Georgia
Philip Starke	Lovejoy, Georgia
Jairus Thomas Walton	Macon, Georgia
Makale Wiggins	Lithonia, Georgia
†††LaVonne Chantel Wilson-Taylor	San Diego, California

Organizational Leadership

Lotania Driskell	Fort Valley, Georgia
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BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Martavion Boyd	Johns Creek, Georgia
Destiny Ashley Lewis	Red Bank, New Jersey

United States Army Commissions

Second Lieutenant, Reserve Duty

Aalliyah T. Powell Transportation Corps

Administration

Paul Jones, Ph.D., President

Emma Bennett-Williams, Esq.
Chief of Staff

Derrick Scott, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Michelle Martin
Vice President for Business and Finance

Timothy L. Hatchett, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs and
Enrollment Management

Keith M. Howard, Ph.D.
Vice President for Economic Development
and Land Grant Affairs and Dean, College of
Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology

Karen Wright
Vice President for University Advancement and
Executive Director for the FVSU Foundation

Eyualet Abebe, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Beth Day-Hairston, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Education and Professional
Studies

Nirmal Joshee, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, Graduate Studies

Commencement Committee Members

Ndidi Akuta, DScIT
Ashley Ballard
John Cagnina
Alicia Carner-McDonald
Edwidge Dufresne
Vonda Easterling, Ph.D.
Denise Ezell
Chief Antonio Fletcher
Maj. Elizabeth Jackson
Leasha Jackson, Senior
Class President

Jabria Lawrence
Crystal Lewis
Cheryl McNeil-Jordan
Candace Mims
Karyn Nooks
Kimecia Oliver
Duane Patrick, SGA President
Jim Posey
Ronnie Scott
Hari Singh, Ph.D.
Britney Smith

Maj. Parrish J. Strickland
Mario Thomas
Jazmin Thomas-Pullen
Sunny Wesey, DrPH
Emma Bennett-Williams, Esq.,
Ex-officio
Derrick Scott, Ph.D., Ex-officio
Bridget Holyfield-Moss, Ed.D.,
Chair

Mace Bearer

Isaac J. Crumbly, Ph.D., Professor and Associate Vice President for Collaborative Programs and Founder/Director of the Cooperative Developmental Energy Program

Marshals

Mohammed Ibrahim, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology, Faculty Marshal
Brou Kouakou, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research, Agricultural Research, College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology, Graduate Marshal
Vonda Easterling, Ph.D., Dean of Students, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Student Marshal
Gregory Green, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Teacher Education, College of Education and Professional Studies Marshal
Jacques Surrency '93, Ph.D., Professor, Plant Science Program, College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology Marshal
Justice Yorke, Associate Professor, Visual and Performing Arts Program, College of Arts and Sciences Marshal

*Academic Marshals are selected based on the number of years of service to the university.

Announcers

Regina Ivory Butts, DBA, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Business Administration and Economics, College of Arts and Sciences
James R. Newton, D.H.Sc., Associate Professor, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Professional School Counselor, Counseling Department, College of Education and Professional Studies

Commencement Staff

Alumni, Staff and Students
Blue Coat Ambassadors
Campus Life
Facilities Management
Marketing and Communications' Student Marketing and Media Agency
Office of Civic Engagement
Office of Marketing & Communications
Office of University Events
ROTC Cadets
Women in Gold

The FVSU 1895 Society

Since 1895, Fort Valley State University has empowered people to use education as a pathway to maximize their potential through invention, intellectual fulfillment, civic leadership, and meaningful careers. As a way of honoring our founders and perpetuating a meaningful lifetime connection to our dear ole alma mater, Fort Valley State, FVSU 1895 Society was established to celebrate the legacy of these pioneers. It is an opportunity for the graduating class, both undergraduate and graduate students, to express their generosity and foresight for next generation scholarships for students seeking an education that will benefit them for the rest of their life. Graduating class members who donate at least \$18.95 to the FVSU Foundation will be recognized at Commencement for their demonstrated commitment to FVSU.

Rabin Gyawali
Freda Holt
De'Miya Jackson
Bumani Kirk
Jacob Mitchell
Tyler Ragin
Ayana Williams
Alexxa Woodard

Alma Mater

Fort Valley State! Fort Valley State!
Our lives to thee we dedicate.
Our souls we blend to sing thy name;
Eternal praise we do proclaim.

Faithful and true, Fort Valley State,
We at thy call, forever wait;
We lift our hearts to thankfulness,
For loyalty and thoroughness.

We love to hear thy sweet name called;
Thou art the dearest school of all.
Our hearts to thee will e'er belong,
Thou art so steadfast, brave and strong;

We love thee so, Fort Valley State,
Our loyalty we dedicate;
Thy name forever we proclaim;
Fort Valley State, We love thy name.
-William H. Pipes and
Odessa Hardison McNair, 1954

The Star-Spangled Banner

O 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, through 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;
O say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

O thus be it ever when free man shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation;
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust;"
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

-Francis Scott Key, 1775

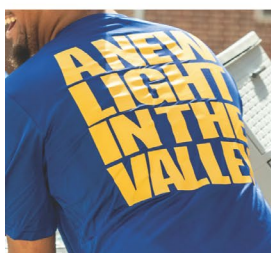
Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.

-Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson
Music by John R. Johnson



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