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WVU-P & MC Graduations

West Virginia University at Parkersburg can now add almost 300 alumni to its list.

Saturday WVU-P held its 37th annual Commencement Exercises in the College Activities Center.

The class of 2008 includes nearly 270 area residents who will receive approximately 300 degrees and certificates and more than 100 of those attended the on stage ceremony.

This year's commencement speaker was Robert H. Foglesong, retired four-star general and founder of the Appalachian Leadership and Education Foundation.

Foglesong serves as president and executive director of the foundation. He is a graduate of West Virginia University.

Also Saturday, Marietta college handed up 258 undergraduate degrees and 23 graduate degrees during the 171st Commencement Ceremony.

Family, friends and faculty watched and celebrated the ceremony at the Dyson Baudo Recreation Center as close to 300 graduates joined the long blue line.

During the ceremony, notable civil rights leader and U.S. Congressman from Georgia John Lewis addressed students, encouraging them to "get in the way."

Lewis said he was proud to be a part of the civil rights movement, and that his and other people's involvement in that crusade led to freeing a nation.