

# Words of wisdom for soon-to-be graduates

Gov. Tim Kaine will speak at Radford University; Gen. David Petraeus is on deck at VMI.

The governor is coming — to Radford University, at least.

Gov. Tim Kaine will make his fifth trip to Radford since 2005 when he speaks at the May 9 commencement ceremony. Kaine has visited the campus to campaign, attend the inauguration of university President Penelope Kyle and host a town hall meeting. This will be the first time he has spoken at its commencement.

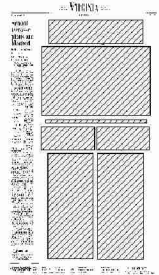
He was the keynote speaker at Virginia Tech's commencement ceremonies in 2006.

In a written statement, Kyle highlighted the long-standing relationship the university has had with Kaine and his wife, Anne Holton.

“Governor Kaine has been an exemplary public servant and advocate of higher education, and we are thrilled that he accepted our invitation in this, the final year of his administration,” she wrote.

Kaine will receive an honorary degree, Doctor of Letters, from Radford during his visit. He will speak at the University of Richmond's commencement the next day.

Here's a look at speakers and other details of commencement ceremonies in Southwest Virginia this month.





**Belle  
Wheelan**

## **Ferrum College**

**When:** Saturday

**Speaker:** Belle Wheelan, president of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

**Number of graduates:** 145

**Details:** 10:30 a.m. on the lawn in front of Adams Lake (rain location: Swartz Gymnasium)



**William  
Coleman**

## **Roanoke College**

**When:** Saturday

**Speaker:** William Coleman, a civil rights lawyer

**Number of graduates:** 439

**Details:** 10 a.m. on the front lawn of the Salem campus (rain location: Bast Center)



**Gov. Tim  
Kaine**

## **Radford University**

**When:** May 9

**Speaker:** Gov. Tim Kaine

**Number of graduates:** 1,476 undergraduates and 310 graduate students

**Details:** 10:30 a.m. on Moffett Lawn (rain location: Dedmon Center and Bondurant Auditorium)



**Brett  
Leake**

## **Jefferson College of Health Sciences**

**When:** May 15

**Speaker:** Inspirational speaker and comedian Brett Leake

**Number of graduates:** 229 undergraduates and 10 graduate students

**Details:** 11 a.m. at the Roanoke Civic Center Coliseum



**Edwin  
Hall**

## **Virginia Western Community College**

**When:** May 15

**Speaker:** Edwin Hall, president and CEO of Hall Associates Inc.

**Number of graduates:** 686

**Details:** 6:30 p.m. at the Salem Civic Center



**Tiffany  
Anderson**

## **New River Community College**

**When:** May 15

**Speaker:** Montgomery County schools Superintendent Tiffany Anderson

**Number of graduates:** 350

**Details:** 6:30 p.m. in Room 177 of Edwards Hall



Gen. Lance Smith

## Virginia Tech

**When:** May 15

**Speakers:** U.S. Air Force Gen. Lance Smith (undergraduate ceremony) and Nicholas Taubman, retired chairman and CEO of Advance Auto Parts (graduate ceremony)

**Number of graduates:** 3,800 undergraduates and 1,300 graduate students

**Details:** 3 p.m. in Cassell Coliseum for graduate ceremonies; 7:30 p.m. in Lane Stadium for undergraduates (rain location: Cassell)



Nicholas Taubman

## Virginia Military Institute

**When:** May 16

**Speaker:** Gen. David Petraeus

**Number of graduates:** 260

**Details:** 11 a.m. in Cameron Hall



Gen. David Petraeus

## Hollins University

**When:** May 17

**Speaker:** Wyndham Robertson, a member of the Hollins class of 1958 who also serves on the school's board of trustees

**Number of graduates:** 178 undergraduates and 67 graduate students

**Details:** 10 a.m. on the Front Quadrangle of the Roanoke County campus (rain or shine)



Wyndham Robertson

## Washington and Lee University

**When:** June 4

**Speakers:** University President Kenneth Ruscio and president of the Student Executive Committee, Richard Cleary

**Number of graduates:** 422 undergraduates and 144 graduates from the law school

**Details:** 10 a.m. on the front lawn near Lee Chapel (rain location: Cameron Hall at Virginia Military Institute)



Kenneth Ruscio

— Compiled by Greg Esposito, Courtney Cutright, Sarah Bruyn Jones, Janelle Rucker, Cody Lowe and Pete Dybdahl



Richard Cleary

## UPCOMING

Keep up with the latest news from area college graduations in The Roanoke Times and at [roanoke.com](http://roanoke.com).



The Roanoke Times | File 2008

Virginia Tech students process into Lane Stadium for the universitywide graduation ceremony in May 2008. This year's ceremony will be held May 15.