



Students in their red-colored caps and gowns form a sea of red while they wait with anticipation for their name to be called at **COMMENCEMENT**.

*Photo contributed by Roger Winstead.*

## a sea of red

### SOON-TO-BE GRADUATES FORM SEA OF RED WITH CREATIVE CAPS

*Each semester, graduates turn the tassels on their mortarboards and become alumni of the University.* The members of the spring 2010 class were the first to don red gowns embroidered with a white University seal and white tassels on their hats.

Previously, graduates dressed in black gowns with tassels color-coordinated with their college. Graduate students and faculty dress in black gowns with colored hoods.

The spring 2012 class was the largest in history when combined with the 3,359 degrees award-

ed in the fall 2011 semester. Chancellor Randy Woodson conferred 67 associates', 3,500 bachelors', 1,398 masters', 195 doctoral and 76 doctor of veterinary medicine degrees at the PNC Arena. Each graduation features a keynote speaker.

Graduates heard words of advice from the likes of Philip Rivers, quarterback for the San Diego Chargers, in spring 2012; James E. Rogers, chief executive officer of Duke Energy, in spring 2011; Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command, in fall 2010; and Charlie Rose, executive editor and anchor of the "Charlie Rose Show", in spring 2009.