

2003

## **PM Ceremonial Script, April 27, 2003**

Eastern Michigan University

**Eastern Michigan University  
COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT  
Sunday, April 27, 2003  
Convocation Center**

1:40 p.m. PROCESSIONAL  
(Eastern Michigan Wind Symphony)

**Grand Marshal Mary Krieger** enters center aisle, ascends the stage, turns left and remains standing beside the table at the front of the stage holding the mace. When the procession is over, the Grand Marshal places the mace on the table, goes to her chair and remains standing.

**Color guard** enters center aisle, ascends stage, splits and posts flags.

**Marshals** lead participants down center aisle: doctoral students, graduate students, undergraduate honor students, undergraduates then faculty. Participants remain standing in front of their chairs.

**Platform participants** enter center aisle, ascend stage and remain standing in front of their chairs. President Kirkpatrick enters and assumes the lectern.

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Good afternoon. Provost Schollaert, members of the Board of Regents, distinguished faculty, graduates, parents, families and friends. Welcome to Eastern Michigan University's 2003 spring commencement.

Please join Donald Hartmann, professor of music, in singing our national anthem. The Eastern Michigan

University Wind Symphony, conducted by David Woike, department head and professor of music, will accompany Professor Hartmann.

(Men remove caps. President Kirkpatrick steps back. Professor Hartmann assumes the lectern. Colors are dipped during the National Anthem.)

**PROFESSOR HARTMANN:** (Leads singing of National Anthem)

(All remain standing. Professor Hartmann returns to chair and remains standing. President Kirkpatrick assumes the lectern.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Please be seated.

Before we begin, please join me in a moment of silence to honor all of the brave women and men of the armed forces who are serving our country both at home and abroad.

It is my honor to introduce the distinguished members of our Board of Regents upon whose authority degrees are granted. Please hold your applause until all have been introduced.

(Regents, please rise as your name is called.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:**

- Rosalind Griffin, of Bloomfield Hills, vice chair;
- Jan Brandon of Ann Arbor; and
- Karen Valvo of Ypsilanti.

(Regents, please be seated.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Next, I would like to acknowledge the members of the President's Cabinet, academic officers and deans. Please stand and be recognized.

(Cabinet members, academic officers and deans, please stand briefly.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Leading our procession today is Grand Marshal Mary Krieger.

(Professor Krieger stands)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Dr. Krieger is an emeritus professor of human, environmental and consumer resources.

During her 30 years at Eastern Michigan, she was well known for her dedicated work in evaluating student teachers and for her wonderful sense of humor. Since her retirement in 1994, Dr. Krieger has

been working in academic advising, using her expertise during EMU's Fast Track program. Thank you, Mary.

(Professor Krieger sits down.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Our faculty marshals are:

- Howard Bunsis, associate professor of accounting and finance; and
- Joanne Caniglia, associate professor of mathematics.

(Faculty marshals rise and sit down as their names are called.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** The marshals of the students are:

- Charles Anderson, emeritus professor of chemistry;
- David Anderson, associate professor of leadership and counseling;
- Daniel Brickner, assistant professor of accounting and finance;
- Edwin Etter, assistant professor of accounting and finance;
- Nancy Milligan, assistant professor, associated health professions;
- Robert Okopny, professor of accounting and finance;

- Gretchen Reeves, associate professor, associated health professions;
- Stephen Sonstein, professor, associated health professions; and
- Michael Vogt, professor of economics.

(Marshals rise and sit down as their names are called)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Faculty members, representing the department of communication and theatre arts face the challenging task of reading the graduates' names as they are presented.

Our readers today are:

- Dennis Beagen, head of the department of communication and theatre arts;
- Gary Evans, professor of communication and theatre arts;
- Sally McCracken, professor of communication and theatre arts; and
- Mary Ann Watson, professor of communication and theatre arts.

(Readers rise and sit down as their names are called.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Seated before you are members of the faculty who represent the academic

departments of the university upon whose recommendation candidates for degrees are presented.

Faculty, please stand and be recognized.

(Faculty stands and sits down.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** And finally, I would like to introduce Jeffrey Pluta who will serve as signer for our hearing impaired guests.

(Mr. Pluta stands and sits down. President pauses to change pace.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** As president, I am called upon to perform numerous duties. Few are as enjoyable as presiding at commencement.

First, let me convey my congratulations to the students who have worked so hard to arrive at this day; to their parents, families and friends who have supported them on their long journey; to the faculty who have taught and mentored them; and to the Regents who have shepherded the resources and provided the stewardship that enabled our students to learn and discover new knowledge at Eastern Michigan University.

This is indeed a special day. As you anxiously approach your next new adventure, I'm sure you are also wondering if graduation has *really* come so quickly. We look at you and ask the same question. It seems like only days ago that you entered the University, eager to absorb every sight, sound and new experience.

Much has changed since you began your journey. You enter a world today that is drastically different than any of us could have imagined four years ago. You have experienced times of tragedy, of cruelty and war. You've witnessed the presidency of the United States of America tested by sex scandals and challenged by "hanging chads." You've seen the euphoria of a soaring stock market, and the uneasiness of tumbling one.

Yet despite all the unexpected and unwanted turns of history, your time at Eastern Michigan University has also been marked by a world filled with support and encouragement, with poetry and music, with curiosity and discovery – with people daily doing all



the small things that make the world a better and more humane place.

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “we cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

No one can predict your future, but the intellectual skills and practical experiences you have acquired while at EMU have purposely prepared you for any challenge. You graduate today with the ability to continue to learn, to adapt to a changing world and to relate to people and cultures different than your own.

For this you have many people to thank...especially your teachers. You have been privileged to study with an outstanding faculty at EMU, a faculty who’s teaching, research and service is dedicated to the needs of our students.

Each year, Eastern Michigan University honors four outstanding faculty with the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Award. This prestigious honor

recognizes faculty who have demonstrated excellence and passion both in the classroom and in the lives of their students.

This year's recipients are:

- Joseph Csicsila (sis-sill-yah), assistant professor of English language and literature, who won the Teaching I award.
- Jamin Eisenbach (jay-min i-sen-bahk), professor of biology, who won the Teaching II award.
- Catherine Bach, professor of biology, who won the award for scholarly and creative activity for her internationally known work as an ecologist. And,
- Mildred Lintner, professor of computer science, who was honored for her service to the university.

These are only four of many talented and hard-working faculty who helped prepare you to succeed.

Would all current and former recipients of the Distinguished Faculty Award please stand and be recognized?

(Pause, then lead applause)

Thank you.

You are also prepared to face the challenges of the world because of the people with whom you have lived and studied while at Eastern.

Your classmates today represent all 50 states and more than 114 foreign countries. Some of you come from a long line of college graduates; others will be the first in your family to earn a college diploma. Each of you enriched our academic and cultural environment, and helped to build a learning community that mirrors the global reality of today's society.

Each of you knows what it took for you to graduate today. I regret that time does not permit me to share all of your stories, but I would like to share with you the stories of two of your classmates who, like many of you, overcame many barriers to achieve their goals of graduating from E-M-U.

Would Norma Viola Cantu (can – too) please stand?

It's a long way from picking cotton as a migrant worker to picking up at Master's degree, but today Norma completes that journey.

Growing up as the oldest of six children in a Mexican-American family, Norma and her siblings were expected to work in the fields at a very young age. Although she came from a very loving and close-knit family, education wasn't a priority, especially for women.

At 24, she married a serviceman and soon found herself moving to various places around the country. Those moves opened her eyes to the world's possibilities.

After a divorce, she found herself struggling to raise two children. A close friend encouraged her to take classes at a local college.

Despite the challenge of juggling school, work and the needs of two children, Norma never gave up.

With the help of others, she came to E-M-U and earned her bachelor's degree in 2001. Today, she'll graduate with a master's in social work.

During her years at E-M-U, she never forgot to assist others, just as she was helped. She worked as a mentor and tutor for the Helping One Student to Succeed (HOSTS) program; was president of the Welfare Rights program at EMU; and was a student representative to the National Association of Social Workers.

Even with that hard-earned master's degree, though, Norma doesn't plan to ease up.

Armed with years of experience fighting for welfare rights and her work as a community activist, Norma would now like to take that experience and return to Texas to work with migrant farm workers.

Eventually, she says, she may make a run for the U.S. Senate in order to make an impact on national policy.

Thank you, Norma.

Next I'd like to introduce you to Che (chay) Carter of Ann Arbor. Che, would you please stand?

Che Carter is not only an excellent student, but he is also a husband and a father. Trying to juggle two jobs, a prospective music career and school hasn't been easy but once he started at E-M-U, Che never looked back. Today, he will be awarded his degree in elementary education.

Che never planned to go on to college when he graduated from high school. His goal was to join the U.S. Air Force, but asthma changed his plans.

With the help of several high school teachers, Che enrolled at Washtenaw Community College. He transferred to Eastern Michigan in 2000.

As a young African-American male, Che knew how important a strong-male role model could be to students. He was also surprised by how few African-American men pursued teaching as a career.

That's one of the reasons Che decided to become a teacher. He now is on what he calls 'a mission to change the world, one person at a time.'

It hasn't been easy. Che worked two jobs – one at the University of Michigan Hospital and the other at a canoe livery – to support his family. Then, in order to graduate in April, he took 20 credit hours last semester. That's a pretty impressive load.

Che recently signed a record deal, so in addition to pursuing a career in the classroom, he hopes to also be a successful rap singer.

Che continues an EMU family tradition. His mother, Lucindia Shelton recently graduated with her undergraduate degree in special education, and his younger brother, Cinque (sin-kay), is a junior studying communication.

Thank you, Che.

Norma and Che are just two of the outstanding representatives of your 2003 graduating class.

No matter how you arrived at this day – whether you completed your degree in three years or finished up on the twenty-year plan – we are proud to have had you as students.

(Pause and change pace)

As is customary at graduation, it is the President's honor to introduce the commencement speaker. I am delighted to do so.

We are pleased to have one of Michigan's premier communications professionals as our speaker today.

Philip H. Power is founder, owner and chairman of the board of the HomeTown Communications Network, Inc.

He founded his company in 1965. Initially, HomeTown Communications published six newspapers in Western Wayne County. Today, they publish more than 70 community newspapers with a circulation of more than 650,000.



Mr. Power has used his talents to make a positive difference in our state. As the former head of the Michigan Job Training Coordinating Council, he is widely recognized for his innovative redirection of the state's job training programs as well as for the development of an integrated human investment policy for Michigan.

In 2000, then Governor John Engler appointed him to the Executive Committee of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). He is now the vice chair of the MEDC and also chair of the Finance Subcommittee.

Recently he served as a member of the University Investment Commission, a broad-based independent task force of state and local leaders responsible for analyzing higher education's impact on the state of Michigan.

Eastern Michigan University is indebted to Mr. Power and his colleagues on the Investment Commission for the work they did that proved how

important economically, socially and culturally higher education is to the people of the state of Michigan.

I think many people, myself included, were surprised to learn that for every dollar the state invests in higher education, more than \$26 are generated in positive economic activity. In this era of shrinking public support for higher education, that's a fact even "bottom-line" legislators need to heed.

A 1960 graduate of the University of Michigan, Mr. Power earned his master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford University in 1964.

He is married to Kathleen Power and has two sons, Scott Sutton and Nathan Power.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very honored to present to you, our commencement speaker, Philip Power.

(President Kirkpatrick is seated. Mr. Power assumes lectern.)

**MR. POWER:** (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

(Following the commencement address, Mr. Power returns to chair.  
President Kirkpatrick assumes lectern.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Thank you, Phil, for your inspiring message to our graduates.

It is the right of the Board of Regents to grant an honorary degree to individuals who have distinguished themselves and whose contributions, meritorious public service or other achievements have brought them the high esteem of their colleagues and communities. Earlier today, at our morning ceremony, Mr. Power was awarded the honorary degree – Doctor of Public Service – for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Dr. Power, will you please stand and be recognized?  
(applause)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** I now present Paul Schollaert, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, who will introduce the doctoral candidates.

(President Kirkpatrick returns to seat. Provost Schollaert assumes lectern.)

**PROVOST SCHOLLAERT:** Members of the Board of Regents, President Kirkpatrick, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present E-M-U's three doctoral candidates. These candidates have completed a program culminating in the doctor of education degree in educational leadership. .

Upon the recommendation of the faculty of Eastern Michigan University, I present the candidates to you for the conferring of their degrees.

Regent Rosalind Griffin will confer the doctor of education degrees. Dr. Robert Holkeboer, associate vice president for graduate studies and research, will assist.

(Candidates and faculty chair (chair has hood) walk to bottom of ramp at side of stage. Holkeboer stands in front of his chair. Provost Schollaert steps back. Regent Griffin assumes the lectern.)

**REGENT GRIFFIN:** In as much as you have been recommended by the faculty, contingent upon completion of all requirements, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Regents of

Eastern Michigan University and the state of Michigan, I confer upon you, the degree to which you are entitled with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto. Please come forward to receive your diplomas.

(Provost Schollaert assumes the lectern. Regent Griffin and Associate Vice President Holkeboer descend the stairs to the lower center stage.)

(As the Provost calls your name, move forward up the ramp for hooding, receipt of diploma cover from Regent, shaking of Regent's hand and back to your seat. Dissertation chair follows graduate.)

**PROVOST SCHOLLAERT:** The first candidate is

Sarayuth Poolsup (sara-yth pool-sup). Her dissertation chair, Dr. James Barott, professor of leadership and counseling, accompanies her. Mr. Poolsup is a doctoral fellow. His dissertation is entitled "Educational Politics in Thailand: A Case Study of the 1999 National Education Act."

Congratulations, Dr. Poolsup.

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Poolsup and Barott move up the ramp, and stop in front of Holkeboer. Holkeboer and Barott hood Poolsup. Poolsup accepts diploma cover from Regent and shakes

Regent's hand. Poolsup ascends down the center ramp, followed by Barott. They return to their seats.)

Our second candidate is Jane Ellen Teska who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Helen Ditzhazy, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Teska is a teacher in the Southfield Public Schools. Her dissertation is entitled "The Superintendency: Effective Leadership Through Communication." Congratulations, Dr. Teska.

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Teska and Ditzhazy move up the ramp, and stop in front of Holkeboer. Holkeboer and Ditzhazy hood Teska. Teska accepts diploma cover from Regent and shakes Regent's hand. Teska ascends down the center ramp followed by Ditzhazy. They return to their seats.)

Our third candidate is Timothy Wendler who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. James Berry, professor of leadership and counseling and interim associate dean of the College of Education.

Mr. Wendler is assistant director of special education for the Ann Arbor Public Schools. His dissertation is entitled, "An Investigation of Organizational Structures That Support Collaboration Within a High

School: A Descriptive Study.” Congratulations, Dr. Wendler.

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Wendler and Berry move up the ramp, and stop in front of Holkeboer. Holkeboer and Berry hood Wendler. Wendler accepts diploma cover from Regent and shakes Regent’s hand. Wendler ascends down the center ramp followed by Berry. They return to their seats.)

**PROVOST SCHOLLAERT:** The presentation of candidates for graduate certificates, advanced graduate certificates, master’s degrees, master of fine arts degrees and specialist’s degrees will be conducted by Dr. Holkeboer.

Regent Karen Valvo will confer the degrees.  
Academic deans will assist her.

(Provost Schollaert returns to his seat. Dr. Holkeboer assumes the lectern. Regent Valvo comes forward and stands to the left of Dr. Holkeboer.)

**DR. HOLKEBOER:** Will the candidates for graduate certificates, advanced graduate certificates, master’s degrees, master of fine arts degrees, and specialist’s degrees, please rise?

(Pause - Candidates rise.)

**DR. HOLKEBOER:** Regent Valvo, each of these candidates has completed a program of advanced studies. The faculty of Eastern Michigan University recommends them for specialist's degrees, master's degrees and graduate certificates. I present them to you now for the conferring of degrees.

(Dr. Holkeboer steps back and Regent Valvo assumes lectern.)

**REGENT VALVO:** Inasmuch as you have been recommended by the faculty, contingent upon completion of all requirements, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Regents of Eastern Michigan University and the state of Michigan, I confer upon you the degree or certificate to which you are entitled with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto. Please come forward to receive your diplomas and certificates.

(Dr. Holkeboer is seated. Regent Valvo and Dean Robbins go down the stairs to the presentation stage left. Dean Potter and Dean Buchanan go down the stairs to the presentation stage right. Two of the readers go down the stairs to the microphones left and right.)



(Candidates are led to the stage by the marshals of the students. Candidates present their name card to the reader who reads the name of the candidate. Dean Robbins hands Regent Valvo, and Dean Potter hands Dean Buchanan, the diplomas for the students.)

(Regents Valvo and Dean Buchanan will shake the hands of the students and hand them their diplomas. Halfway through the graduates Valvo and Robbins change positions and Potter and Buchanan change positions. When all Specialist's, Certificate and Master's candidates have walked across the stage, all presenters are seated and Provost Schollaert assumes the lectern.)

**PROVOST SCHOLLAERT:** Congratulations to all who have just received graduate degrees and certificates. You should be very proud of your achievement.

Associate Provost Michael Harris will now acknowledge honors among the undergraduate candidates.

Dr. Harris.

(Provost Schollaert takes his seat. Associate Provost Harris assumes lectern.)

**ASSOCIATE PROVOST HARRIS:** We work very hard at Eastern Michigan University, to create an honors environment that maximizes our students' chances for academic success. The University Honors program was established to attract academically

gifted students to the university and to provide them with intellectual challenges and opportunities to excel.

Thirty-seven students are graduating from the University Honors program this semester. In addition to completing their undergraduate requirements with an exceptional grade point average, these students also have undertaken the special challenge of honors work and completed a senior honors thesis.

At this time, I would like to recognize the graduates of the University Honors program. Will these graduates please stand and be recognized?

(Pause)

Please be seated.

Next we will recognize those undergraduate students who are graduating with academic honors.

Students who have attained a 3.5 to 3.69 grade point average are graduating cum laude. Would you please rise and be recognized?

(Pause)

Please be seated.

Students who have attained a 3.7 to 3.89 grade point average are graduating magna cum laude. Would you please stand and be recognized?

(Pause)

Please be seated.

(Pause)

Students who have attained a 3.9 to a perfect 4.0 grade point average are graduating summa cum laude. Would you please stand and be recognized?

(Pause)

Please be seated.

(Pause)

Five members of this graduating class have completed the required courses in military science and through R.O.T.C. have been selected for commissions as second lieutenants in the United States Armed Forces.

Four of these students were honored during this morning's ceremony. The fifth, Melissa Stevenson, is with us this afternoon.

Melissa, will you please stand and be recognized?

(pause)

Please be seated.

Regents Jan Brandon, Karen Valvo and Rosalind Griffin, assisted by the academic deans, will confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Dr. Harris returns to seat. Dr. Schollaert returns to lectern. Regent Brandon approaches the lectern and stands slightly behind the lectern on stage right. Regents Griffin and Valvo and Deans Pritchard, Dugger, Buchanan, Potter and Robbins stand at their chairs.)

**PROVOST SCHOLLAERT: Will the candidates for the bachelor's degree, please rise? (Pause)**

(Candidates rise)

Regent Brandon, it is an honor and a distinct privilege, on behalf of the faculty of Eastern Michigan University, to present to you the members of the undergraduate class of 2003 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees to which they are appropriately entitled.

(Provost Schollaert steps back. Regent Brandon assumes the lectern.)

**REGENT BRANDON:** Inasmuch as you have been recommended by the faculty, contingent upon completion of all requirements for the bachelor's degree and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Regents of Eastern Michigan University and the state of Michigan, I confer upon you the bachelor's degree to which you are entitled with all of the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

Please come forward, as directed by the marshals, to receive the diploma appropriate to the degree that has been conferred upon you

(Regent Brandon and Dean Buchanan go to presentation stage right. Regent Griffin and Dean Potter go to presentation stage left. All others are seated. Two of the readers go to the microphones stage left and stage right.)

(Candidates are led to the stage one row at a time by the marshals. Candidates present their name cards to the readers who read the name and any honors listed on the cards of the candidates.)

**(Readers, please read University academic honors only – not program or college designations. Please read, where appropriate, summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude.)**

(After the candidates receive their diplomas, they return to their seats where they remain standing until their entire row has returned, whereupon the marshals give the signal to be seated.)

(Dean Buchanan hands Regent Brandon, and Dean Potter hands Regent Griffin, the diplomas. Regents Brandon and Griffin shake the students' hands and give them their diplomas.)

**(About one-quarter of the way through the bachelor's candidates,** Regent Valvo will replace Dean Buchanan and Dean Buchanan will relieve Regent Brandon. Dean Robbins will replace Dean Potter and Dean Potter will relieve Regent Griffin. Readers change.)

**(About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,** Dean Dugger replaces Regent Valvo and Regent Valvo replaces Dean Buchanan. Dean Pritchard replaces Dean Robbins and Dean Robbins replaces Dean Potter. Readers change.)

**(About three-quarters of the way through,** Dean Buchanan relieves Dean Dugger and Dean Dugger replaces Regent Valvo. Dean Potter replaces Dean Pritchard and Dean Pritchard replaces Dean Robbins.

(When all bachelors' candidates have walked across the stage, all presenters are seated and President Kirkpatrick assumes the lectern.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** On behalf of the entire Eastern Michigan University family, congratulations.

(applause).

When you were very young children, your parents taught you the importance of three very important words...please, and thank-you. Today it's your turn to return the favor by sharing three equally

important words... No More Tuition! (pause)...well, at least for some of you.

I want to congratulate the parents and families and spouses and significant others and grandparents and brothers and sisters who supported you in your studies...Would you all please stand and be recognized?

I now present the honorable Rosalind Griffin, vice chair of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents.

**REGENT GRIFFIN:** On behalf of the Board of Regents and the citizens of the state of Michigan, I wish to congratulate you and your families on your accomplishment today. We are especially proud that you will be representing Eastern Michigan as professionals in your chosen field.

Learning is a life-long process. Your education does not end with graduation.

As you take your leave from the University, I'd like to share with you with some advice from General

Colin Powell who said, “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”

You all have worked especially hard to get here today. You’ve taken the first steps to building your future. Now, go out and give it your all. If you do, success will follow. Congratulations.

(Regent Griffin returns to seat. President Kirkpatrick assumes lectern.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Ms. Karen Pitton, president of the Eastern Michigan University alumni association, and a 1979 graduate, will welcome you to the ranks of our distinguished alumni.

(President Kirkpatrick returns to seat. Ms. Pitton assumes the lectern.)

**MS. PITTON:** As president of the Alumni Association, to which you now belong, I’m proud to represent more than 120,000 graduates of Eastern Michigan University.

Commencement is an exciting time. Not only is it the conclusion of one phase of your life, it’s the beginning of another – one you have the power to shape.



I am confident you will value the knowledge and skills you've gained at Eastern Michigan – they will help you to excel in today's complex world.

I am a proud graduate of Eastern Michigan because it has given me the means and the expertise to be successful. It has also helped me to form many friendships I value highly.

As new alumni, you are joining the ranks of some prominent individuals, including:

- A former U.S. secretary of transportation,
- A national teacher of the year,
- A Pulitzer Prize winner in journalism,
- An Academy Award winner,
- The co-founder of the Ladies Professional Golf Association,
- The founder and CEO of Discount Tire, and
- The retired president of Chrysler-Europe.

Universities are measured by the success of their graduates, and as you can see, you're in pretty

impressive company – and those are only a few of our outstanding alumni.

The Alumni Association is here to help you. Our goals are to provide you with programs that will benefit you as your careers progress and to help you maintain ties with current students, other alumni, faculty and programs.

I hope you will reciprocate by asking how you as alumni can help strengthen EMU. After all, the better-known EMU becomes, the more value that adds to your diploma.

In one sense, you have invested in your education. You should want that investment to perform like any blue chip stock, to appreciate in value and produce a lifetime of dividends. As alumni, you can shepherd this process by staying in touch and involved and by helping when asked.

I encourage you to provide your time, talent and support, so current and future students can benefit from your experience.

Congratulations on your achievements, and I look forward to seeing you at alumni events.

(Ms. Pitton returns to seat. President Kirkpatrick assumes lectern.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Thank you, Karen. Members of the class of 2003: Let me again offer my congratulations. We are very proud of you. Good luck on the journey ahead.

We will conclude with our alma mater, *Our Pledge*, led by Professor Hartmann. The words are found on page 9 of your program.

Following the alma mater, we request that you remain in your seats until the recessional is completed. Please meet your graduates outside of the convocation center.

(pause)

Please rise.

(pause)

Professor Hartmann.

(Professor Kirkpatrick returns to seat and remains standing. Professor Hartmann assumes lectern.)

**PROFESSOR HARTMANN:** Eastern, sacred alma mater,  
to your name we shall be true. Ever marching on to  
victory, we'll stand by to see you through. Softly  
floating on the breeze, verdant green with white of  
snow. This our banner we will carry in our hearts  
where'er we go.

(Professor Hartmann returns to seat and remains standing.  
Participants replace caps. Wait until the Grand Marshal and Color  
Guard are in place.)

(The Grand Marshal, followed by the Color Guard and then the  
President leading participants in reverse order of the processional  
leads Recessional. Return to the robing room where you may remove  
your robes.)

## **RECESSIONAL**