

2003

## **Winter Ceremonial Script, December 14, 2003**

Eastern Michigan University

**Eastern Michigan University  
COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT  
Sunday, December 14, 2003  
Convocation Center**

**1:40 p.m. PROCESSIONAL  
(Eastern Michigan Symphonic Band)**

**Grand Marshal Sally McCracken** enters center aisle, ascends the stage, turns left and remains standing in front of 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:** Provost Schollaert, members of the Board of Regents, distinguished faculty, graduates, parents, families and friends. Welcome to Eastern Michigan University's 2003 winter commencement.

Please join Glenda Kirkland, professor of music, in singing our national anthem. Professor Kirkland will

be accompanied by the Eastern Michigan University Symphonic Band, conducted by Mark Waymire, director of the Symphonic Band.

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

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

(All remain standing. Professor Kirkland 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 our men and women of the armed forces who are serving our country both at home and abroad. (*Pause*)

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:**

- Philip Incarnati, of Fenton, chair;
- Rosalind Griffin, of Bloomfield Hills, vice chair;
- Jan Brandon, of Ann Arbor;
- Steven Gordon, of Bloomfield Hills;
- Sharon Rothwell, 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 Sally McCracken.

(Professor McCracken stands)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Dr. McCracken is a professor of communication and theatre arts. She has distinguished herself both in the classroom and as a leader on campus. She also is well-known for

her humor and her ability to engage students in the classroom. Thank you, Sally.

(Professor McCracken sits down.)

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

- Catherine Bach, professor of biology; and
- Joseph Csicsila (sih sill yah), assistant professor of English language and literature.

(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;
- Jean Bush-Bacelis, professor of management;
- Elizabeth Broughton, associate professor of leadership and counseling;
- Richard Douglass, professor, associated health professions;
- Barbara Leopard, assistant professor of mathematics;
- Jan Jellema, emeritus professor, industrial technology; and
- Kathleen Quinn, professor of special education.

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

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** Faculty members, representing the departments of communication and theatre arts, and foreign languages and bilingual studies, 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;
- Wallace Bridges, associate professor of communication and theatre arts;
- Catherine Day, professor of foreign languages and bilingual studies;
- Kerry Graves, associate professor of communication and theatre arts;
- Geoffrey Hammill, professor of communication and theatre arts; and
- Elisabeth Morgan, interim department head and professor of foreign languages and bilingual studies;

(Readers rise and sit down.)

**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 members, please rise and be recognized.

(Faculty rise and sit down.)

**PRESIDENT KIRKPATRICK:** And finally, I would like to introduce Jeffrey Pluta who will serve as interpreter 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 time. As you anxiously approach your next new milestone, 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 horror of September 11 and watched as the United States fought two wars, one in Afghanistan and the one in Iraq. You are graduating at a time when our state's economy is in turmoil.

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.



John F. Kennedy once said, "Education is the mainspring of our economic and social progress. It is the highest expression of achievement in our society, ennobling and enriching human life."

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

You have many people to thank for this...especially your teachers. As writer Henry Adams once noted, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

You are privileged to have studied with an outstanding faculty at EMU, a faculty whose teaching, research and service are dedicated to the needs of our students.

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 more than 45 states and 117 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 has traveled a special path to bring you to today.

Although time does not permit me to share all of your stories, I would like to briefly share with you the stories of three of your classmates – one who is graduating in three years, one who is graduating after 65 years and one has faced special challenges.

Would Tara Wall please stand?

Twenty-six-year-old Tara Wall is a wife, a mother and a student. She is graduating today with a master's degree in speech pathology.

Like many students, she worked her way through school, both as a graduate assistant in the College of Education and as a waitress.

As if this wasn't enough of a challenge, Tara was forced to "grow up fast" when her son Ethan was

diagnosed with specific chromosomal abnormality – one of only five people in the world to have this illness. So in between doctors, physical therapists and hospital visits, Tara snatched time to study.

Despite these challenges, Tara is graduating with a 3.9 grade point average and was named Graduate Student of the Year in Speech Pathology for 2003.

Tara is already using her training to work with Kroger to implement communication devices in their stores, and is working with artists to develop visual images that can be incorporated as part of aisle directories.

She's also arranging for communication boards to be placed at cash registers to help cashiers understand and serve people with speech impairments. She hopes to patent this project.

Tara's long-term goal is to earn a doctorate in speech pathology and genetics with an emphasis on how genetics affects speech, and she knows that Ethan, and her husband Scott will be cheering her on in her

efforts. So will we.

Congratulations, Tara.

Would Jason Richmond please stand?

Jason Richmond, from Livonia, Michigan, is graduating today with a bachelor's degree in economics. A Presidential Scholar, he carries a 3.66 grade point average and is graduating with honors.

In the three years and one summer that he's been at E-M-U, Jason's taken a variety of honors classes in different fields in order to "taste as much about as many subject areas that he could."

Although he excelled in the classroom, Jason is anything but a bookworm. In between classes, he used his skills in economics to work as a supplemental instructor at the Holman Learning Center and he also ran track.

For the past two years, Jason has volunteered with the Big Brother-Big Sister program. As a Big Brother,

Jason mentors an 11-year-old boy two to three hours a week.

On campus, Jason served as vice president of the Economics Club and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Golden Key International Honor Society.

He also is an active member of the Ski and Snow Boarding club and the Ultimate Club team that plays a type of football using Frisbees.

Although he's graduating with a bachelor's degree today, Jason is already working on his master's degree in economics at E-M-U. When he graduates, his goal is to work with statistical and financial modeling for business.

Congratulations, Jason.

Although many of you came to E-M-U right out of high school, there are many others who started, stopped to work, started again and just kept plugging away at your degree. Austin Thomas

knows just how you feel.

Captain Thomas would you please stand?

Captain Thomas is receiving a bachelor of science degree with a major in individualized studies. He is 83 years old and has been working on his degree since 1938. Today is the fulfillment of a promise he made his mother.

Let me take you back to 1938. Austin Thomas was 17 and his dream was to play basketball for the University of Michigan.

What he hadn't counted on was a double standard. He was devastated when he learned that while blacks could play football or run track at U-M; they couldn't play basketball.

So Austin headed south to play ball at Virginia State University, where he ran smack into strict segregationist laws. After a year, he returned to U of M hoping the ban against black basketball players would be lifted. It wasn't. After completing his sophomore year at U-M, he dropped out of school and went to work for the Ford Motor Co., in order to

help his widowed mother.

Mr. Thomas was drafted in 1944 and after basic training, attended officer candidate school. He spent twenty years in the Army, traveling around the world, but he always kept taking classes. He eventually retired as a captain in 1964.

After the Army he worked in real estate and as an employment interviewer for the state. Then, in 1968, he signed up for night classes at E-M-U while working full-time during the day. He attended Eastern for several years, but never graduated.

It was his mother's dream to see him graduate from college, and although she died before he earned a degree, Austin felt it was important to keep his promise to her that he would graduate from college. Armed with years of transcripts, he contacted E-M-U and the rest is history.

Austin Thomas is a man who strongly believes in the value of an education and his early experiences with segregation encouraged him to fight racism in all its

forms. Now he hopes that his efforts to graduate will inspire other students.

Congratulations, Captain Thomas.

No matter how you arrived at this day – whether you completed your degree in three years or finished on the sixty-five 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 our nation's most prominent communications professionals as our guest speaker today.

Kevin Klose is president and chief executive officer of National Public Radio, America's premier non-profit news and cultural radio programming service.

NPR has 600 stations – including WEMU – and a weekly audience of nearly 15 million listeners nationwide. Internationally acclaimed for the quality



and balance of its programs, NPR has won numerous awards for excellence.

A former editor, and national and foreign correspondent with The Washington Post, Mr. Klose is an award-winning author and international broadcasting executive.

Before joining NPR in December 1998, he served as director of U.S. International Broadcasting, overseeing the U.S. Government's global radio and television news services and was president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, which broadcast to Central Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Prior to Radio Free Europe, Mr. Klose was an editor and reporter at The Washington Post for 25 years. During that time, he served as city editor, Moscow Bureau chief, Midwest correspondent and deputy national editor.

Mr. Klose received a bachelor of arts degree, cum laude, from Harvard University. A former Woodrow Wilson National Fellow, he serves on the board of the Eurasia Foundation in Washington, D.C. He is

the author of “Russia and the Russians: Inside the Closed Society,” which won the Overseas Press Club’s Cornelius Ryan Award.

Mr. Klose is a founder of the Intermedia Survey Institute of Washington, a non-profit research firm specializing in media and opinion survey in Eurasia.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very honored to present to you, our commencement speaker, Kevin Klose.

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

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

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

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

**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 ten doctoral candidates. These candidates have completed a program culminating in the doctor of education degree in educational leadership.

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

Chairman of the Board of Regents, Philip Incarnati, 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 Incarnati assumes the lectern.)

**REGENT INCARNATI:** 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 Incarnati 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 Norman Abdella. His dissertation chair, Dr. William Price, professor of leadership and counseling, accompanies him. Mr. Abdella is principal of Grand Blanc Middle School. His dissertation is entitled "An Investigation of the Organization and Curriculum Delivery of Middle Schools and the Michigan Education Assessment Tests."

Congratulations, Dr. Abdella.

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

Our second candidate is Ned Cooper who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, associate professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Cooper is principal of Saline Middle

School. His dissertation is entitled "A Case Study of One Principal's Role in the Transformation of a Junior High School to a Middle School in an Affluent Suburban Community."

Congratulations, Dr. Cooper.

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

Our third candidate is Sally Covert who is accompanied by Dr. William Price, professor of leadership and counseling. Dr. Price is representing Ms. Covert's dissertation chair, Dr. Charles Achilles, professor of leadership and counseling.

Ms. Covert is a lecturer at Eastern Michigan University. Her dissertation title is "Transferring Professional Development to the Classroom."

Congratulations, Dr. Covert.

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

Our fourth candidate is Sharon Donahue-Rascke (rash-key) who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. James Barott, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Donahue-Rascke is executive director of finance and business services for Dexter Community Schools. Her dissertation is entitled “Socialization of New School Business Administrators from Outside the Educational Field.”

Congratulations, Dr. Donahue-Rascke.

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

Our fifth candidate is Daniel Guernsey (gurn-see) who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. James Barott, professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Guernsey is dean of the College of Education at Ave Maria University. His dissertation is entitled “Conflict in Independent Catholic Schools.”

Congratulations, Dr. Guernsey.

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

Our sixth candidate is Jeff Hamlin who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Helen Ditzhazy, professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Hamlin is an educational consultant. His dissertation is entitled "Teacher Instruction vs. Integrated Learning Systems: A Comparison of Sixth Grade Reading Instruction."

Congratulations, Dr. Hamlin.

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

Our seventh candidate is Will Hathaway who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Martha Tack, professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Hathaway is a consultant. His dissertation is entitled

“Conflict Management and Leadership in Higher Education: A Case Study of University of Michigan President Robben W. Fleming.”

Congratulations, Dr. Hathaway.

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

Our eighth candidate is Daniel Jonkers (yahn-kers) who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. David Anderson, associate professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Jonkers is assistant superintendent of instructional supervision for the Ottawa Intermediate School District. His dissertation is entitled “The Effects of MEAP Preparation on Students’ Opportunity to Learn.”

Congratulations, Dr. Jonkers.

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Jonkers and Anderson move up the ramp and stop in front of Holkeboer. Holkeboer and Anderson hood Jonkers. Jonkers accepts diploma cover from Regent and shakes Regent’s hand. Jonkers ascends down the



center ramp, followed by Anderson. They return to their seats.)

Our ninth candidate is David Maile (mail-lee) who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. William Price, professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Maile is principal of Lakeland High School. His dissertation is entitled "An Investigation of Formative Evaluation Practices in Selected School Districts in the State of Michigan."

Congratulations, Dr. Maile.

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

Our tenth candidate is Barbara Sofferdine who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Helen Ditzhazy, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Sofferdine is director of general education for the Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle (presk-eel) Educational Service District.

Her dissertation is entitled "A Study of the Effectiveness of Parental Involvement in Supporting

Osteoporosis Lessons in Second and Third Grade  
Classrooms in Selected Michigan Elementary  
Schools.”

Congratulations, Dr. Sofferdine.

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Sofferdine and Ditzhazy move up the ramp and stop in front of Holkeboer. Holkeboer and Ditzhazy hood Sofferdine. Sofferdine accepts diploma cover from Regent and shakes Regent’s hand. Sofferdine ascends down the center ramp, followed by Ditzhazy. 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.

Regents Rosalind Griffin and Joseph Antonini will  
confer the degrees. Academic deans will assist them.

(Provost Schollaert returns to his seat. Dr. Holkeboer assumes the  
lectern. Regent Griffin 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 Griffin 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 Griffin assumes lectern.)

**REGENT GRIFFIN:** 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 Griffin and Dean Dugger go down the stairs to the presentation stage left. Regent Antonini and Dean

Pritchard 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 Dugger hands Regent Griffin, and Dean Pritchard hands Regent Antonini, the diplomas for the students.)

(Regents Griffin and Antonini will shake the hands of the students and hand them their diplomas. 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.

We will now acknowledge honors among the undergraduate candidates.

**PROVOST SCHOLLAERT:** 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.

Twenty-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 that includes a major project, the 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)

One member of this graduating class has completed the required courses in military science and through R-O-T-C has been selected for a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Armed Forces.

Will Dateesha (dah-tee-sha) Blakely please stand and be recognized?

(pause)

Please be seated.

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

(Dr. Schollaert remains at lectern. Regent Brandon approaches the lectern and stands slightly behind the lectern and stands slightly behind the lectern on stage right. Regents Valvo and Rothwell and Deans Pritchard, Dugger, Buchanan, Blanchard 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 Pritchard go to presentation stage right. Regent Valvo and Dean Dugger 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 Pritchard hands Regent Brandon, and Dean Dugger hands Regent Valvo, the diplomas. Regents Brandon and Valvo shake the students' hands and give them their diplomas.)

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

**(About halfway through the bachelor's candidates, Dean Blanchard replaces Regent Rothwell and Regent Rothwell replaces Dean**



Pritchard. Dean Buchanan replaces Dean Robbins and Dean Robbins replaces Dean Dugger. Readers change.)

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

(When all bachelor's 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).

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

I now present the honorable Philip Incarnati, chair of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents, who will address the graduates.

**REGENT INCARNATI:** 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.

I can't emphasize enough that 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 some advice from the American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, who said, "I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen."

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 Incarnati 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.

While commencement signifies the conclusion of one phase of your life, it's also the beginning of another – one you have the power to shape.

The diploma you're receiving today represents a significant investment of thousands of dollars. As alumni, you should want that investment to perform like any blue chip investment. It should appreciate in value and produce a lifetime of dividends.

My degree from Eastern Michigan is doing that for me, and all of us should expect no less, as the University must continue to improve the delivery of educational services to students; to grow in academic stature; to respond to innovation and challenge; and to implement scores of other practices that come

with good educational leadership.

But this is not a one-way street. As alumni, our obligation does not end today. It only enters a new phase.

We live in an extremely competitive culture. I see it daily in the automotive industry in which I work, and what we extol as best practices came about largely as a result of the intense competition we face on a daily basis.

The competition is no less intense in the educational sector. Eastern Michigan competes for the best faculty, students and staff. It competes for resources and recognition. As we shape our own careers as alumni, let's not forget our initial investment and do what we can when we are asked to help position E-M-U to compete at the highest level.

The University's success will enrich us many times over. We will indeed see our degrees appreciate in value and produce a lifetime of dividends.

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 Kirkland. The words are found on page nine 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 Kirkland.

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

**PROFESSOR KIRKLAND:** 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 Kirkland returns to seat and remains standing. Participants replace caps. Wait until the Grand Marshal and Color Guard are in place.)

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

## **RECESSIONAL**