

2006

## **AM Ceremonial Script, April 30, 2006**

Eastern Michigan University

# EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Sunday, April 30, 2006

Convocation Center

1:35 p.m. – Processional

2 p.m. – Ceremony

(Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony)

**Grand Marshal Joel Welber** enters center aisle, ascends the stage, turns left and remains standing in front of the table at the center of the stage holding the mace. When the procession is over, the Grand Marshal places the mace on the table, goes to his chair and remains standing.

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

**Marshals lead** participants down center aisle in this order: doctoral students, graduate students, undergraduate honor students, undergraduates and 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 Fallon enters and assumes the lectern.

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Provost Loppnow, members of the Board of Regents, distinguished faculty, graduates, parents, families and friends. Welcome to Eastern Michigan University's 2006 Spring Commencement.

Please join Ernest Brandon, professor of music, in

singing our national anthem. The Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony, conducted by Scott Boerma, will accompany Professor Brandon.

(Men remove caps. President Fallon steps back. Professor Brandon assumes the lectern. Colors are dipped during the national anthem.)

**PROFESSOR BRANDON:** (Leads singing of the national anthem)

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

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Please be seated. Before we begin, please join me in a moment of silence to remember our men and women in the armed services, and Eastern Michigan University senior, Lisa Radtke, who died suddenly April 7. Lisa would have graduated today with a bachelor's degree in urban planning.

Upon the recommendation of the faculty, the Board of Regents will be conferring Lisa's degree posthumously.

(Pause)

Thank you.

Now, 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 FALLON:**

- Karen Valvo, of Ypsilanti, chair,
- Thomas Sidlik, of Ann Arbor, vice chair,
- Jan A. Brandon, of Ann Arbor; and
- Floyd Clack, of Flint.

(Regents, please be seated.)

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Next, I would like to acknowledge the vice presidents, academic officers and deans. Please stand and be recognized.

(Vice presidents, academic officers and deans, please stand then are seated.)

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Leading our procession today is Grand Marshal Joel Welber.

(Professor Welber stands)

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Professor Welber retired in 2005 after 21 years as a professor of law in Eastern's College of Business. He is well known for helping to rebuild the city of Detroit, one building at a time, while providing his students with the opportunity to get hands-on experience in real estate and the law.

Thank you, Professor Welber.

(Professor Welber sits down.)

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Our faculty marshals are:

- Richard Douglass, professor, School of Health Sciences; and
- Karen Paciorek (pah-sore-ick), professor of early childhood education.

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

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

- Charles Anderson, emeritus professor of chemistry;
- David Anderson, associate professor of leadership and counseling;
- Marti Bombyk (bomb-beck), professor of social work;

- Nancy Copeland, assistant professor, department of teacher education;
- Kathleen Hric (rick), assistant professor, department of special education;
- Sandra Nelson, associate professor of nursing;
- Linda Woodland, professor of accounting and finance; and
- Mary Vielhaber (veel – hay-ber), professor of management.

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

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Faculty members reading the graduates' names as they are presented today are:

- Henry Aldridge, professor, communication and theatre arts;
- Dennis Beagen, head of the department of communication and theatre arts;
- Gary Evans, professor, communication and theatre arts;
- Sally McCracken, professor, communication and theatre arts; and
- Patricia Zimmer, professor, communication and theatre arts.

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** 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 stand and be recognized.

(Faculty stands then sits down.)

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** And finally, I would like to introduce Jeffrey Pluta who will serve as sign language interpreter for our hearing impaired guests.

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

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Graduates, your presence here today signifies a significant milestone – an accomplishment that many would envy. It will become one of the most important and memorable moments you'll ever experience. On behalf of the entire University community, congratulations.

I don't have to tell you that an education is crucial in today's world. Many of you – and your families – endured unbelievable sacrifices to be here today.

Believe me when I say that that perseverance will pay off. Your educational experience, combined with a degree, will enrich your lives in ways you can only begin to imagine.

When you first entered Eastern Michigan, you began a new phase in your life; just as I did nearly one year ago. If you think back, you were probably a bit nervous and worried about what the road ahead would bring. I know I was.

But, somehow, before you knew it, you had jumped into college life and put those fears and worries behind you. I mention this for an important reason. I believe it demonstrates how life's possibilities will open before you if you are willing to take a risk.



Mind you, I didn't say be foolhardy, but to step forward and challenge yourself to be open to new opportunities. I know that that isn't always easy to do.

But, as Beverly Sills, one of the world's greatest opera singers, said, "There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."

Now, you are ready for the next step – be that graduate, law or medical school, or a position in your chosen profession.

You've had a good beginning. The education and hands-on experiences provided by these outstanding faculty seated before you have prepared you to be successful in your careers and life, and to be better citizens.

Each of you seated before me today is a living testimony to the opportunities and possibilities available to all people at EMU, regardless of age, gender, creed or color. Each of you has had a unique, yet in many ways, similar Eastern experience.

Time doesn't permit me to tell all of your stories, but I'd like to share with you the stories of three students who are graduating today.

Would **Nicole MacLean** (mack-lane) please stand?

Thirty-six-year-old Nicole MacLean, of Canton, Mich. initially came to the United States from her native country of Guyana in South America. She lived in New York for several years until settling with her family in Toronto, Ontario. She moved to Michigan several years ago when her husband, Ian, accepted a job here.

Nicole was working as a network administrator when she decided that since the Michigan economy was so bad, she could either wait to get laid off or go back to school.

It wasn't a difficult decision to make. She transferred previous credits from the State University of New York-Buffalo and enrolled part-time in EMU's 150-hour program through the College of Business.

The 150-hour program is unique because students receive two degrees – a bachelor's in business administration and a master's of science in accounting.

After deciding to attend school fulltime, she left her job and, as she described it, “decided to squeeze as much value out of her education as she could.” That meant becoming part of University life so she could become more well rounded.

She joined Beta Alpha Psi, the student accounting fraternity, and served as its president and communications person. That experience, she said, improved her public speaking skills and helped her on both a personal and professional basis. She also enjoyed interacting with students of all ages.

Nicole graduates today with a 3.98 overall GPA and a 4.0 for her master's portion.

Now that she'll have some time, Nicole will spend the summer preparing for the rigorous CPA exam and then

start at Plante Moran, an accounting firm, in August. She hopes to specialize in management accounting and internal audits.

And although today was special, Nicole and her husband, who is Canadian, also have another reason to celebrate. They will soon become U.S citizens.

Congratulations, Nicole.

Would **Edwin Huby** (hugh-bee) please stand?

Eastern Michigan plays a prominent role in the lives of thirty-nine-year-old Edwin Huby, of Detroit, and his family.

His mother, Charlotte, who is here today, earned her bachelor's in education in 1994 and a master's in education in 1998. His wife, Stephanie, has two relatives who are E-M-U graduates. And now, Edwin is graduating cum laude, with a 3.64 GPA and a bachelor's degree in social work.

While at E-M-U, Edwin was accepted into the Honors College; he garnered departmental honors in social work; presented his research at the prestigious Undergraduate Symposium and he'll be featured in the May issue of the University's magazine, *Exemplar*.

But if you asked him 20 years ago if he would be graduating from college with honors, he would have laughed at you.

College was the farthest thing from Edwin's mind when he graduated from Romulus High School in 1984. He wanted to work, so he became a skilled tradesman, specializing in heating and cooling. It was a good job, but he had some rough times. Eventually, he got back on his feet and started volunteering in his community.

When Edwin first began volunteering at a church community outreach program, he met the CEO of a company that provided authorizations for substance abuse treatment for Detroit residents. The CEO was impressed by Edwin's efforts and not only offered him a

job, but also encouraged him to go back to school.

When Edwin began working as an intake specialist at the substance abuse program, he didn't realize it would be a position that would help shape his future.

Once he started working, Edwin enrolled at Wayne County Community College. He likes to tell others that he came back to school in full force and never looked back.

After graduating from WCC with two associate degrees and honors, Edwin transferred to E-M-U and entered the social work program. What attracted him to the University was the user-friendly atmosphere, which, he says, made him feel like he belonged.

Edwin credits his family's support for helping him reach his goal of graduating today. When he was laid off from his job last February, their support and his drive to graduate kept him going. Now, he's excited because he has been called back to work and starts tomorrow.

And his life has changed in other ways. He and wife, Stephanie, are the proud parents of a premature baby, Edwin Jr., who was born just two weeks ago.

Now that Edwin has graduated, he'll take a few months off and then enter E-M-U's master's program in social work in July.

Congratulations, **Edwin**.

Would **Megan Papke** (pap-key) please stand?

Twenty-one-year-old Megan Papke, from Allen Park, Mich., always wanted to teach elementary school. Then, when she was a junior in high school, she attended a church camp where she was paired up with a man who was blind.

That experience convinced her to go into special education and ultimately led her to Eastern Michigan University.

Special education can be a challenging program at EMU. Megan had to complete two semesters of student teaching – one in a regular fifth-grade classroom and a second working with four freshman boys at Lincoln Park High School, who were either cognitively impaired and/or legally blind.

While at Lincoln Park High, Megan helped her students improve their social skills and become more independent. She soon discovered why special education is challenging – answers to a problem aren't always in textbooks because each child's needs are different.

Megan used her experience to develop an award-winning senior thesis that explored the effects of “brain gym,” a program of physical activities designed to improve learning abilities and memory. Her research was presented at this year's Undergraduate Symposium.

She also won departmental honors for developing a comprehensive packet of low-vision aids, and has conducted research on signs of autism in children with



visual impairments.

In her spare time, Megan volunteers at a center for children who are blind and have an impairment.

She is a Presidential Scholar and a recipient of the Delores Brehm Scholarship for students in special education. She also is a member of the Honors College and Kappa Delta Pi, the educational honor society.

Megan graduates summa cum laude today, with a 3.95 GPA. She hopes to begin teaching in Lincoln Park after graduation and is looking forward to coming back to E-M-U for a master's degree.

Congratulations, **Megan**.

No matter how you arrived at this day – whether it was the multiyear plan, or the fast track, we are proud to have helped you reach your goal.

**(Pause and change pace)**

Now, it is my pleasure to introduce two very special people – Representative John D. Dingell, Jr., who is in Washington today and will be joining us via the wonders of modern technology, and his wife, Debbie Dingell, who is vice chair of the General Motors Foundation, and GM’s executive director of Global Community Relations and Government Relations.

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Jr. represents Michigan’s 15th District in the United States House of Representatives, a district that includes Eastern Michigan University.

This past December, Congressman Dingell celebrated 50 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. As the longest-serving member in Congress, he is often referred to as the “Dean of the House.”

Our commencement speaker today, Debbie Dingell, is well known in her own right.

In addition to her positions as vice chair of the General

Motors Foundation, and GM's executive director of Global Community Relations and Government Relations, Debbie Dingell devotes much of her energy to issues affecting women and children.

As a civic and community leader in both Washington D.C. and Michigan, she focuses on ethical issues and social responsibility as it relates to government and business.

Ms. Dingell's passion for women's issues spans more than 20 years, when she first discovered that there were virtually no major studies documenting women's health issues. At that time, funding was practically nonexistent for breast cancer research and other health-related concerns facing women.

Thanks to her advocacy efforts, researchers are now conducting major studies specifically with women for women, instead of relying on assumptions derived from studies using only male subjects.

While she continues to be a strong advocate for women's causes, Ms. Dingell is now expanding her efforts to include mental health issues.

Ms. Dingell is co-founder of the Children's Inn, a private, nonprofit residence for pediatric outpatients at the National Institutes of Health, which allows seriously ill children to stay with their families during treatment, thereby reducing stress levels and promoting healing.

Ms. Dingell is a past member of the National Institutes of Health's Advisory Panel for Women's Research, and serves on the advisory boards of the Susan G. Komen (koh-men) Breast Cancer Foundation and the Michigan Women's Foundation.

For her efforts on behalf of cancer treatment and care, Ms. Dingell was presented with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's Connie Mack Public Policy Award in 2004, and was honored by the Cancer Research Foundation of America's Congressional Families Action for Cancer Awareness Program.

Ms. Dingell founded the U.S. House of Representatives Child Day Care Center and currently sits on its board.

A graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, she earned a master's in liberal studies from Georgetown in 1998. She and Congressman John Dingell have been married for 24 years.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very honored to present to you, our commencement speaker, Debbie Dingell.

(President Fallon is seated. Ms. Dingell assumes lectern.)

**MS. DINGELL:** (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS) Ms. Dingell will begin speech, introduce the video and then resume her speech.

(Following the commencement address, Ms. Dingell returns to her chair. President Fallon assumes lectern.)

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Thank you, Debbie, 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 high esteem of their colleagues and communities.

Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon The Honorable John D. Dingell, Jr. the honorary degree – doctor of public service.

Accepting the degree on behalf of Congressman Dingell will be Debbie Dingell.

To confer the degree, I call upon Regent Karen Valvo, chair of the Board of Regents. Dr. Donald Loppnow, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Hartmut Hoft, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will assist Regent Valvo.

(President Fallon steps to his left; Regent Valvo assumes the lectern. Provost Loppnow and Dr. Hoft pick up the citation and diploma from under Dr. Hoft's chair. Both escort Ms. Dingell to a position behind and to the right of the President. Dr. Hoft hands the citation to Regent Valvo.)

**REGENT VALVO:** John Dingell is a distinguished legislator, civic leader and humanitarian who has devoted his life to public service as a tenacious and tireless advocate for the

people of the State of Michigan.

As the longest-serving member of Congress, he established a reputation as a champion for working families; a crusader for our nation's heritage; and the leading voice in Congress for making health care affordable and accessible to all families.

His leadership and advocacy for these important issues has improved the lives of thousands of citizens and will have long-lasting impact on the state and nation.

Upon the recommendation and authority of the Board of Regents, Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon John D. Dingell, Jr., the honorary degree, doctor of public service, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

We wish the Congressman could have received these personally but we trust you'll share our deep appreciation for his work, and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

(Regent Valvo hands citation and diploma to Ms. Dingell. Provost Loppnow hands hood to Ms. Dingell. Regent Valvo returns to her chair. Provost Loppnow and Dean Hoft escort Ms. Dingell to her chair. Fallon and Hoft are seated. Provost Loppnow assumes the lectern.)

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** President Fallon, it is my honor to present the Deans for the presentation of the Class of 2006.

(The President stands at his chair. Provost Loppnow steps away from the lectern. Deans Mielke, Thomas and Polite will present the graduates from their college. The President will give an academic salute. The Deans then return to their seat.)

**DEAN MIELKE:** President Fallon, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Business. Graduates, please stand and be recognized. (Dean Mielke and President Fallon give academic salutes.) Thank you. Please be seated.

**DEAN POLITE:** President Fallon, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Education. Graduates, please stand to be recognized. (Dean Polite and President Fallon give academic salute.) Thank you. Please be seated.



**DEAN THOMAS:** President Fallon, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Health and Human Services. Graduates, please stand to be recognized. (Dean Thomas and President Fallon give academic salute.) Thank you. Please be seated.

(President Fallon is seated. Provost Loppnow takes the lectern.)

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** Members of the Board of Regents, President Fallon, faculty, students guests, it is my pleasure to present E-M-U's four 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.

Chair of the Board of Regent, Karen Valvo, 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. Associate Vice President Holkeboer stands in front of his chair. Provost Loppnow steps back. Regent Valvo assumes the lectern.)

**REGENT VALVO:** 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 Loppnow assumes the lectern. Regent Valvo 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 LOPPNOW:** The first candidate is **Barbara Hoogenboom**, who is accompanied by Dr. Jacklynn Tracy, professor of leadership and counseling. Dr. Tracy is representing Ms. Hoogenboom's dissertation chair, Dr. Charles Achilles, professor of leadership and counseling.

Ms. Hoogenboom is an assistant professor of physical therapy at Grand Valley State University. Her dissertation is entitled, “Student Perceptions and Performances in the First Year of a Mixed Physical Therapy Curriculum.”

Congratulations, Dr. Hoogenboom.

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

Our second candidate is **Donald Staub**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. David Anderson, associate professor of leadership and counseling.

Mr. Staub is a grants writer at Carteret (car-ter-ay) Community College in Morehead City, North Carolina. His dissertation is entitled, “Success and Succession: A Case of the Sustainability of International Institutional Linkages.

Congratulations, Dr. Staub.

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

Our third candidate is **Nan-Chi Tiao** (naan-chee chow), who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Martha Tack, professor of leadership and counseling.

Ms. Tiao (chow) is a full-time lecturer at the Chin Min Institute of Technology in Taiwan. Her dissertation is entitled, "Senior Women Leaders in Higher Education: Overcoming Barriers to Success."

Congratulations, Dr. Tiao.

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

Our fourth candidate is **Brian Wickstrom**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Helen Ditzhazy, professor of leadership and counseling.

Mr. Wickstrom is the assistant athletics director – development and business partnerships at the University of Michigan. His dissertation is entitled, “Athletics Donors’ Preferences for an Athletics Director’s Leadership Characteristics and Behaviors.”

Congratulations, Dr. Wickstrom.

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

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

Regents Karen Valvo and Thomas Sidlik will confer the degrees. Academic deans will assist them.

(Provost Loppnow returns to his seat. Dr. Holkeboer assumes the lectern. Regent Sidlik comes forward and stands to the left of Dr. Holkeboer. Regent Valvo stands at her chair.)

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

(Pause - Candidates rise.)

**DR. HOLKEBOER:** Regent Sidlik, 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 Sidlik assumes lectern.)

**REGENT SIDLIK:** 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 Polite go down the stairs to the presentation stage left. Regent Sidlik and Dean Thomas 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 Polite hands Regent Valvo, and Dean Thomas hands Regent Sidlik, the diplomas for the students.)

(Regents Valvo and Sidlik will shake the hands of the students and hand them their diplomas. When all specialists, certificate and master's candidates have walked across the stage, all presenters are seated and Associate Vice President Ellene Tratras Contis assumes the lectern.)

**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT CONTIS:** We work very hard at Eastern Michigan University to create an environment that maximizes our students' chances for academic success. The University Honors College attracts academically gifted students to the University and provides them with intellectual challenges and opportunities to excel.

**Eighty-three** students are graduating from the University Honors College this semester. In addition to completing their undergraduate requirements with an exceptional grade point average, these students 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 College**. 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)

Regents Jan Brandon and Floyd Clack, assisted by the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Dr. Contis is seated and Provost Loppnow takes the lectern. Regent Brandon approaches the lectern and stands slightly behind the lectern stage right. Regent Clack and Deans Hoft, Boone, Thomas, Mielke and Polite stand at their chairs.)

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** 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 2006 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees to which they are appropriately entitled.

(Provost Loppnow 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

(Loppnow is seated.)

(Regent Brandon and Dean Mielke go to presentation stage right. Dean Thomas and Regent Clack 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.)

## **ROTATION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS**

Dean Mielke hands Regent Brandon and Dean Thomas hands Regent Clack the diplomas. Regents Brandon and Clack shake the students' hands and give them their diplomas.

**About one-quarter of the way through the bachelor's candidates,** Regent Sidlik replaces Regent Brandon. Regent Valvo replaces Clack. Dean Mielke and Dean Thomas remain in their positions.

**About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,** Dean Polite replaces Dean Mielke. Dean Mielke replaces Regent Sidlik. Dean Boone replaces Dean Thomas. Dean Thomas replaces Regent Valvo.

**About three-quarters of the way through,** Ms. Cheng replaces Dean Polite. Dean Polite replaces Dean Hoft. Dean Hoft replaces Dean Boone. Dean Boone replaces Dean Thomas.

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

### **PRESIDENT FALLON: Congratulations Class of 2006.**

At this time, it's appropriate that we recognize some very special people – the parents, spouses and significant others, grandparents and other family members who have played a major influence in your lives. Would you all please stand and be recognized?

(Applause)

I now present the honorable Karen Valvo, chair of the

Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents, who will address the graduates.

**REGENT VALVO:** Recognizing your excitement to get on with the celebration, on behalf of the Board of Regents, I would like to quickly share five axioms for success. They're words of wisdom from H. Jackson Brown, Jr. who wrote "Life's Little Instruction Book," as a gift for his son who was leaving for college.

Ready?

- First, don't say you never have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Helen Keller, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson and Albert Einstein.

- Second, remember that winners do what losers don't want to do.

- Third, give yourself an hour to cool off before responding to someone who has provoked you. If it involves something really important, give yourself overnight.
- Fourth, when starting out, don't worry about not having enough money. Limited funds are a blessing, not a curse. Nothing encourages creative thinking in quite the same way.
- And finally, and I think this is most important, take care of your reputation. It's your most valuable asset.

Congratulations. Now, go out and give it your best.

(Regent Valvo returns to seat. President Fallon assumes lectern.)

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Mr. Jerry Gemignani (gem-ih-nah-ni), president-elect of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, and a 1994 graduate, will welcome you as E-M-U's newest alumni.

(President Fallon returns to seat. Mr. Gemignani assumes the lectern.)

**MR. GEMIGNANI:** Congratulations and welcome to the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association. I am honored to extend an invitation to each of you to stay involved and engaged in the Eastern Michigan family.

As president-elect of the Alumni Association, to which you now belong, I'm proud to represent more than 130,000 graduates of Eastern Michigan University.

Throughout the years that I have been associated with E-M-U, I have come to appreciate the many contributions that so many people have made to create this great University and provide opportunities we enjoyed as students.

I have felt privileged and proud to play a small part as a student, as student body president and now as an active member and officer of the Alumni Association. I hope you will join me and other members of the Alumni Association by enjoying its benefits, sustaining the University and creating opportunities for others who will follow us.

My very best wishes to all of you and again, my congratulations.

(Mr. Gemignani returns to seat. President Fallon assumes lectern.)

**PRESIDENT FALLON:** Thank you, Jerry.

This day, to be certain, is joyous for you and your families. I'm sure, that in your excitement, you'll probably forget most of what was said today. That's to be expected.

But if I was to give my own children some parting advice – which I pray I'll be doing if and when they graduate in a few years – I would fall back on what that wonderfully wise and witty author, Dr. Seuss, once told another graduating class:

- You have brains in your head.
- You have feet in your shoes.
- You can steer yourself  
in any direction you choose.
- You're on your own.
- And you know what you know.
- YOU are the one who'll decide where to go.

**Decide well.** Congratulations and Godspeed.

We will conclude the commencement ceremonies with our alma mater, *Our Pledge*, led by Professor Brandon. 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. Guests, please meet your graduates **outside** of the Convocation Center.

(Pause)

Please rise.

(Pause)

Professor Brandon.

(President Fallon returns to seat, remains standing and removes his hat. Professor Brandon assumes lectern.)

**PROFESSOR BRANDON:**

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 Brandon 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