

2007

PM Ceremonial Script, April 29, 2007

Eastern Michigan University

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Sunday, April 29, 2007

Convocation Center

1:40 p.m. – Processional

2 p.m. – Ceremony

(Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony)

Grand Marshal Ann Orr 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 Marshall 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 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 2007 Spring Commencement.

Please join Glenda Kirkland, professor of music, in singing our national anthem. The Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony, conducted by Scott Boerma, will accompany Professor Kirkland.

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

PROFESSOR KIRKLAND: (Leads singing of the national anthem)

(All remain standing. Professor Kirkland 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 the EMU students who have died this year, including Corporal Mark Kidd who died Jan. 25 in Iraq. Mark would have graduated today with a bachelor's degree. Upon the recommendation of the faculty, the Board of Regents conferred Mark's degree posthumously at this morning's ceremony.

(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:

- Thomas Sidlik of Ann Arbor, chair;
- Floyd Clack of Flint;
- Gary Hawks of East Lansing;
-
- Francine Parker of St. Clair Shores; and
- James Stapleton of Ann Arbor

(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, stand, then be seated.)

PRESIDENT FALLON: Leading our procession today is Grand Marshal Ann Orr, assistant professor, special education.

(Professor Orr stands)

PRESIDENT FALLON: Dr. Orr was recently awarded EMU's highest faculty award, the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Teaching I Award for exemplary teachers. Dr. Orr specializes in the use of assistive technology to help overcome barriers between students and learning. Her passions are teaching, learning and technology.

Thank you, Dr. Orr.

(Professor Orr sits down.)

PRESIDENT FALLON: Our faculty marshals are:

David Anderson, associate professor of leadership and counseling; and

Nancy Copeland, assistant professor, teacher education.

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

PRESIDENT FALLON: The marshals of the students are:

Betty Brown-Chappell, professor, social work;

Phillip Cardon, associate professor, technology;

Robert Okopny, professor, accounting and finance

Brenda Riemer, assistant professor, health promotion and human performance;

Andrew Ross, assistant professor, mathematics;

Deborah Silverman, assistant professor, health sciences;

Toni Stokes-Jones, associate professor, department of teacher education; and

Paula Storm, assistant professor, university library.

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

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

Dennis Beagen, head of the department of communication and theatre arts;

Jessica Alexander, associate professor, communication and theatre arts;

Randal Baier, associate professor, university library;

Sally McCracken, professor, communication and theatre arts

Mary Ann Watson, professor, communication and theatre arts; and

Patricia Zimmer, professor, communication and theatre arts.

(Readers rise and sit down.)

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. I predict this 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 economy. Many of you – and your families – endured many sacrifices to be here today.

But I can assure you that dedication will pay off. Your educational experience will enrich your lives in ways you can only begin to imagine.

When you first entered Eastern Michigan, you began a new stage in your life. If you think back, you were probably a bit nervous and worried about what the year would bring.

But, somehow, before you knew it, you became involved with college life and put those worries behind you. I

mention this for an important reason. I believe it demonstrates how life's opportunities will open before you if you are willing to take a chance.

Remember though, I didn't say be foolish, but I'm encouraging you to step forward and challenge yourself to be open to new opportunities. I know that isn't always easy to do.

Now, you are ready for the next step – whether it is graduate school or a position in your chosen profession.

You've had a good foundation. 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 is a living testimony to the opportunities and possibilities available to all people at EMU, regardless of age, gender, creed or color. And each of you has had a unique, yet in many ways, similar Eastern experience.

Although I'm unable to tell all of your stories, I'd like to share with you the stories of three students who are graduating today.

Would **Shana Baber** (Shay nah Bay ber) please stand?

Consider what it would be like if you had an impairment that prevented you from hearing or speaking properly. If you did and were in school, chances are you would be working with a speech pathologist or students studying speech-language pathology.

That's where Shana Baber comes in. Shana, who is 21 years old, is from Livonia, Mich. She graduates today with a 3.98 GPA and a major in speech-language pathology.

A member of the Honors College, she first came to E-M-U four years ago as a Presidential Scholar. She says she was attracted to E-M-U's family atmosphere, small classes, and the marching band because she could play her flute.

Graduating in four years can be extremely challenging in today's world. Shana, however, not only managed to do it, but she also packed in numerous volunteer activities in addition to her schoolwork. Many of these activities tied in with her major.

For example, she has participated in three alternative spring breaks with the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, working with students with multiple impairments.

She also spent two years at the Holman Learning Center, working as a reader and writer for students with disabilities.

But that's not all. Shana has worked at two camps for people with special needs. Since 2005, she has been working as a counselor every other weekend at the Fowler Center for Outdoor Learning, helping children and adults with impairments participate in daily living activities and camp programs.

I'm amazed that she accomplished all of this and still graduated with honors.

While at Eastern, Shana has won numerous awards, including the College of Education's Recognition of Academic Excellence in the Department of Special Education; she's been on the Dean's list since 2003 and was named to Phi Kappa Phi, the service-oriented honor society for educators.

Finally, Shana presented her honors thesis at this year's prestigious Undergraduate Symposium. For her project, she researched Cued Speech, a teaching technique used with deaf students, and its use by speech pathologists.

As for the future, Shana will attend E-M-U's graduate school for speech and language pathology. She hopes to work in public schools as a speech pathologist once she earns her master's degree.

Thank you, Shana.

Would **Gregory Pratt** please stand?

Greg, a resident of Ann Arbor, graduates today with a bachelor's degree in social work. He has earned departmental honors and has a 3.92 GPA.

Thirty-five-year-old Greg first came to E-M-U in 1990. He stayed one year at E-M-U before transferring to Western Michigan University. By 1993, though, school wasn't a priority because he thought he found the perfect career.

He wanted to be a rock star! With that goal in mind, Greg dropped out of school and traveled around the region, putting his skills to work by playing drums and guitar in such bands as The Reflecting Skin.

About ten years later, he realized that dream of being a national rock star was just a dream. He needed to reassess his life and support himself.

That's when Greg began volunteering with SOS Community Services as a crisis counselor, and went back to school at Washtenaw Community College.

Through an agreement with Washtenaw Community College, Greg was eventually able to transfer his credits to E-M-U in 2003, entering the Honors College and the social work program.

Going back to school after all those years wasn't easy. Greg attended school fulltime while holding a fulltime job as a buyer at a small grocery store in Ann Arbor. As he puts it, he had very little social life.

His extreme schedule, however, didn't prevent Greg from volunteering at a new organization, the Washtenaw County Workers Center. His volunteer experiences ended up providing him with research for his honors thesis, "Can Union Goals Meet Service Workers Needs?" The thesis, which was presented at the Undergraduate Symposium, won the Senior Thesis Award for winter 2007.

Other honors include the Maxine and Donald Barr Endowed Scholarship; two undergraduate fellowships to support his research and being on the dean's list.

Greg isn't stopping with his bachelor's degree. After graduation, he plans on earning a master's in social work, eventually specializing in community organization and labor organizing. To top off a hectic schedule, he also will be getting married July 6.

Thank you, Greg.

Our final student is **Crosby Houpt (how pt)**. Would you please stand, Crosby?

Crosby, who is from Mt. Gilead, Ohio, graduates today with a 3.8 GPA and a dual degree: a bachelor's of arts and a bachelor's in business administration. His major is language and world business.

If you've ever read about the FBI, the work appears

tough, but exciting. But to get real insight into how the Agency functions, just ask Crosby.

He was one of only two Michigan students accepted for a prestigious national internship with the FBI last summer. Out of 10,000 applicants, only 132 interns nationwide were chosen. While there, Crosby worked in the language services section doing quality control, an experience he describes as phenomenal.

Phenomenal is probably the word to use for Crosby's five years at E-M-U. While at E-M-U, he has worked in the Department of Management at the College of Business, translating summaries of press releases from English to Spanish; and served on the grade grievance committee.

He has also worked as an office manager for the Towers Complex and as a registration clerk at an Ohio hospital.

His list of volunteer activities alone makes you wonder if he ever sleeps, let alone find time to study.

He is a co-founder and active member of Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity; he was involved with student government and the Spanish Club; he played on the Ultimate Frisbee club team, and was the stadium announcer for varsity softball.

He also was a delegate for the inter-fraternity council; a mentor with the first year mentor program; and was an opinions columnist for the Eastern Echo for a short while.

Among his honors, he was named a prestigious Merlanti Ethics Scholar; he won the Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award for Academics; was Greek Man of the Year for 2006; and was a Darrell H. Cooper Leadership Scholar for 2006. He also has been on the Dean's List for nine consecutive semesters and is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society.

And he's not stopping there. Crosby has applied for officer candidate school for the Marine Corps. If accepted and he passes a ten-week summer course, he

- would be commissioned as a second lieutenant.

Congratulations, Crosby.

No matter how you arrived at this day – whether it was on the multi-year plan like Greg Pratt, or the fast track like Shana, we are proud to have helped you reach your goal.

(Pause and change pace)

Now, it is my honor to introduce today's commencement speaker.

We are pleased to have one of our state's most prominent journalists with us today.

Mary Kramer is the publisher of Crain's Detroit Business, a weekly business publication with a circulation of more than 35,000 and a readership of nearly 150,000.

It is what I would call a "must read" publication for

anyone interested in or involved in business because it covers business news in the five-county metropolitan Detroit area.

A Grand Rapids native, Ms. Kramer began her reporting career at the Grand Rapids Press. She completed college by attending night classes at Grand Valley State University. She worked for daily newspapers for 16 years before joining Crain's Detroit Business in April 1989.

Ms. Kramer was named associate publisher in 1991 and was named vice president of Crain Communications Inc. in 1994. She became publisher in 2005.

An active member of the community, she currently serves on several boards, including Wayne State University's Board of Visitors; the Grand Valley State University Foundation; the Detroit Metro Sports Commission; the Michigan College Foundation and the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, among others.

Ms. Kramer is the recipient of numerous honors and

awards including the 2003 Corporate Citizenship Award from Wayne State University; the 2002 Distinguished Alumnae Award from Grand Valley State University; the Founders Award from the Women's Economic Club; and the Modeling the Way Award from Leadership Detroit among others.

She has a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University and a degree from the Northwestern University Newspaper Management Center.

And I'm proud to say that Ms. Kramer is currently working on a master's degree in integrated marketing and communications at Eastern Michigan University.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very honored to present to you, our commencement speaker, Mary Kramer.

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

MS. KRAMER: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

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

PRESIDENT FALLON: Thank you, Mary, 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 Mary Kramer, the honorary degree – doctor of humanities.

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

(President Fallon steps to his left; Regent Sidlik assumes the lectern. Provost Loppnow picks up the hood from under his chair. Dr. Hoft picks up the citation and diploma from under his chair. Both escort Ms. Kramer to a position behind and to the right of the President. Dr. Hoft hands the citation to Regent Sidlik. At the appropriate time, Provost Loppnow assists with the

hooding.)

REGENT SIDLIK: Mary Kramer, distinguished journalist and community leader, you have devoted your life to serving the citizens of Michigan, both professionally and personally.

As a respected leader in the journalistic field, you have demonstrated honesty and championed excellence throughout your exemplary career.

Upon the recommendation and authority of the Board of Regents, Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon you, Mary Kramer, the honorary degree, doctor of humanities, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

(Regent Sidlik hands citation and diploma to Ms. Kramer. Provost Loppnow and Dean Hoft hood Ms. Kramer. Regent Sidlik returns to his chair. Provost Loppnow and Dean Hoft escort Ms. Kramer 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 2007.

(The President stands at his chair. Provost Loppnow steps away from the lectern. Dean Mielke, Assoc. Dean Quilter and Assoc. Dean Schultz 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 to be recognized. (Dean Mielke and President Fallon give academic salute.)

Thank you. Please be seated.

ASSOCIATE DEAN QUILTER: President Fallon, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Education. Graduates, please stand to be recognized.

(Assoc. Dean Quilter and President Fallon give academic salute.)

Thank you. Please be seated.

ASSOCIATE DEAN SCHULTZ: 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. (Assoc. Dean Schultz 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 in leadership and counseling.

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 Regents, Thomas Sidlik, will confer the doctor of education degrees. Dr. Deb deLaski-Smith, interim dean of the graduate school, will assist.

(Reader moves to microphone. Candidates and faculty chair (chair has hood) walk to bottom of ramp at side of stage. Dean deLaski-Smith stands in front of her chair. Provost Loppnow steps back. Regent Sidlik assumes the lectern.)

REGENT SIDLIK: 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 Sidlik and Dean deLaski-Smith 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 **Usenime**

Akpanudo (Ou sin Auck pan oo doe), who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. James Barott, professor of leadership and counseling.

Mr. Akpanudo (Auk pan oo doe) is an assistant professor at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. His dissertation is entitled, "Institutional Isomorphism in the Evolution of Organizational Forms: A Study of Schools

Affiliated with the Churches of Christ in Southeastern Nigeria.”

Congratulations, Dr. Akpanudo (Auck pan oo doe)

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

Our second candidate is **Robert Becker**, who is accompanied by Dr. Ella Burton, associate professor of leadership and counseling. Dr. Burton is representing Mr. Becker’s dissertation chair, Dr. Charles Achilles, professor of leadership and counseling.

Mr. Becker is assistant superintendent of the Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools. His dissertation is entitled, “ Student Achievement as a Function of Class Size and Pupil-Teacher Ration.”

Congratulations, Dr. Becker.

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

Our third candidate is **Wallace Boeve** (Boo vay), who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Elizabeth Broughton, associate professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Boeve (Boo vay) is program director and assistant director of Physician Assistant Studies at Grand Valley State University.

Mr. Boeve's dissertation is entitled, "A National Study of Job Satisfaction Factors Among Faculty in Physician Assistant Education."

Congratulations, Dr. Boeve (Boo vay).

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Mr. Boeve and Dr. Broughton move up the ramp and stop in front of Dr. deLaski-Smith. Dr. deLaski-Smith and Dr. Broughton hood Mr. Boeve. Dr. Boeve accepts diploma cover from Regent and shakes Regent's hand. Dr. Boeve ascends

down the center ramp, followed by Dr. Broughton. They return to their seats.)

Our fourth candidate is **Greg Wieman** (wee man), who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, professor of leadership and counseling.

Mr. Wieman is principal of Macatawa Bay Middle School, West Ottawa Public Schools. His dissertation is entitled, “Standardized Tests as Indicators and Estimates of Future Performance.”

Congratulations, Dr. Wieman.

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking. Mr. Wieman and Dr. Williamson move up the ramp and stop in front of Dr. deLaski-Smith. Dr. deLaski-Smith and Dr. Williamson hood Mr. Wieman. Dr. Wieman accepts diploma cover from Regent and shakes Regent’s hand. Dr. Wieman ascends down the center ramp, followed by Dr. Williamson. 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. Deb deLaski-Smith.

Regents Thomas Sidlik and Gary Hawks will confer the degrees. Academic deans will assist them.

(Provost Lopnow returns to his seat. Dr. deLaski-Smith assumes the lectern. Regent Hawks comes forward and stands to the left of Dr. deLaski-Smith. Regent Sidlik stands at his chair.)

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

(Pause - Candidates rise.)

DR. DeLASKI-SMITH: Regent Sidlik, each of these candidates has completed a program of advanced studies. The faculty of Eastern Michigan University recommends them for graduate degrees and certificates they have earned. I present them to you now for the conferring of degrees.

(Dr. deLaski-Smith 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. deLaski-Smith is seated. Regent Sidlik and Dean Mielke go down the stairs to the presentation stage left. Regent Hawks and Assoc. Dean Schultz 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 Mielke hands Regent Sidlik, and Assoc. Dean Schultz hands Regent Hawks the diplomas for the students.)

(Regents Sidlik and Hawks 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. Provost Loppnow returns to lectern.)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Dr. James Knapp, director of the Honors College, will now recognize the honors students.

(Provost Loppnow returns to seat. Dr. Knapp assumes the lectern.)

DR. KNAPP: 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-two 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.

(Dr. Knapp returns to seat; Provost Loppnow returns to lectern)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Thank you, Dr. Knapp. Associate Provost Robert Neely will now recognize those undergraduate students who are graduating with academic honors.

(Provost Loppnow returns to seat. Assoc. Provost Neely assumes lectern.)

ASSOC. PROVOST NEELY: In addition to the outstanding work completed by students in the Honors College, we will now recognize all undergraduate students who have attained outstanding academic success and 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)

Eight 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.

Seven of these students were recognized during the morning ceremony and **one** is being recognized this afternoon. Will our new **second lieutenant** please stand and be recognized?

(Pause) Thank you.

(Dr. Neely returns to seat. Provost Loppnow returns to lectern.)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Thank you, Dr. Neely. I would now like to ask Daniel Cicchini, outgoing president of student government, to say a few words.

(Dr. Loppnow is seated and Mr. Cicchini takes the lectern.)

MR. CICCHINI: (REMARKS TO STUDENTS)

(Mr. Cicchini returns to seat. Provost Loppnow returns to lectern)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Thank you, Dan.

The Regents, assisted by the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

Regents Sidlik, Stapleton, Parker, Hawks and Clack, and Deans Hoft, Boone, Schultz, Mielke and Quilter stand at their chairs.)

Will the candidates for the bachelor's degree, please rise?

(Pause)

(Candidates rise)

Regent Stapleton, 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 2007 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees to which they are appropriately entitled.

(Provost Loppnow is seated. Regent Stapleton assumes the lectern.)

REGENT STAPLETON: 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 Stapleton and Assoc. Dean Quilter go to presentation stage right. Assoc. Dean Schultz 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

Assoc. Dean Quilter hands Regent Stapleton and Assoc. Dean Schultz hands Regent Clack the diplomas. Regents Stapleton and Clack shake the students' hands and give them their diplomas.

About one-quarter of the way through the bachelor's candidates, Regent Hawks replaces Regent Stapleton shaking hands.

Regent Parker replaces Regent Clack shaking hands. Assoc. Dean Quilter and Assoc. Dean Schultz remain in their positions passing diplomas to the Regents.

About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,
Dean Mielke replaces Assoc. Dean Quilter. Assoc. Dean Quilter moves forward, replacing Regent Hawks shaking hands.

Dean Hoft replaces Assoc. Dean Schultz. Assoc. Dean Schultz moves forward, replacing Regent Parker shaking hands.

About three-quarters of the way through,
Dean Marz replaces Dean Mielke. Dean Mielke moves forward, replacing Assoc. Dean Quilter shaking hands.

Dean Boone replaces Dean Hoft. Dean Hoft moves forward replacing Assoc. Dean Schultz shaking hands.

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

PRESIDENT FALLON: Congratulations, Class of 2007.

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

REGENT SIDLIK: 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 University as professionals in your chosen field.

Knowing that you are excited to get on with the celebration, I would like share four brief recommendations for success from one of our greatest Americans, Abraham Lincoln.

Ready?

- Number One: Diligence is the leading rule. In other words, leave nothing for tomorrow, which can be done today. Stay active.
- Second: Be honest at all times.

- Third: Education is the most important subject, which we as a people can be engaged in. The fact that you are graduating today proves this.

- Fourth: Reading is one of the keys to already-solved problems. It gives us an enthusiasm and ability for successfully pursuing the yet unsolved ones.

Congratulations for reaching this milestone. Now, go out and make a difference!

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

PRESIDENT FALLON: Mr. Jerry Gemignani (gem-ih-nah-ni), president 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 of the Alumni Association, to which you now belong, I'm proud to represent more than 120,000 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 am privileged and proud to have played 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 were 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 Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, once wrote:

“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do.”

Remember that when you reach the next phase in your life. Congratulations. I know you'll do well.

We will conclude the commencement ceremonies 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. Guests, please meet your graduates **outside** of the Convocation Center.

(Pause)

Please rise.

(Pause)

Professor Kirkland.

(President Fallon returns to seat, remains standing and removes his hat. 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.)

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