

2008

PM Ceremonial Script, April 27, 2008

Eastern Michigan University

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Sunday, April 27, 2008

Convocation Center

2 p.m. PROCESSIONAL

(Eastern Michigan Wind Symphony)

Grand Marshal Marvin Johnson 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, 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. Regent Thomas Sidlik enters and assumes the lectern.

REGENT SIDLIK: Good afternoon. I'm Tom Sidlik, Chairman of the Board of Regents, of Eastern Michigan University.

The Board of Regents is appointed by the Governor of Michigan to have final authority in the governance of this great university. As such, we are the degree-granting authority of Eastern Michigan University.

Therefore, as the representative of my fellow Regents, the governor and the people of Michigan, I formally open the Eastern Michigan University 2008 Spring commencement.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our distinguished faculty, staff, families, friends, and of course, our soon-to-be graduates. It is now my pleasure to introduce the honorable members of the Board of Regents who are here with us today.

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

- Gary Hawks of East Lansing
- Philip Incarnati of Clarkston, and
- James Stapleton of Ann Arbor.

Kathleen Segar, a lecturer in music, will sing our national anthem. She will be accompanied by the renowned Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony, conducted by John P. Zastoupil (zass toh pill).

(Men remove caps. Regent Sidlik steps back. Professor Segar assumes the lectern. Colors are dipped during the National Anthem.)

PROFESSOR SEGAR: (Leads singing of National Anthem)

(All remain standing. Professor Segar returns to chair and remains standing. Regent Sidlik assumes the lectern.)

REGENT SIDLIK: I would now like to introduce Donald Loppnow, executive vice president and provost at EMU, who will preside over today's commencement ceremony.

(Regent Sidlik sits down; Provost Loppnow goes to lectern)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Thank you, Regent Sidlik.

I would now like to acknowledge the vice presidents, academic officers and deans. Please stand and be recognized.

(Vice presidents, academic officers and deans stand briefly)

Leading our procession today is Grand Marshal Marvin Johnson.

(Professor Johnson stands)

Dr. Johnson is professor emeritus of the School of Health Promotion and Human Performance. He retired from EMU in 2004 after 42 years of service.

Dr. Johnson has played a significant role in the growth of the School of Health Promotion and Human Performance. He was the varsity gymnastics coach until 1986, when he became the

gymnastics club adviser and co-coach until he retired.

He is responsible for the growth of the National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Club, and currently devotes much of his time to the development of the national association and gymnastics programs in schools.

Thank you, Dr. Johnson.

(Professor Johnson sits down.)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Our faculty marshals are:

- David Clifford, professor, health sciences; and
- Mahmud Rahman, professor, accounting and finance;

Please rise and be recognized.

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

PROVOST LOPPNOW: The marshals of the students are:

- Roberta Faust, associate professor, Health Promotion and Human Performance;
- Myung-sook Koh, assistant professor, special education;
- Jon Margerum-Lyes, associate professor, teacher education;
- Enos Massie, associate professor, social work;
- Rao Tummala, professor, computer information systems;

- Mary Vielhaber, professor, management;

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

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Faculty members reading the graduates' names as they are presented today are:

- Randal Baier (buyer), associate professor, university library;
- Dennis Beagen, head of the department of communication and theatre arts;
- Wallace Bridges, professor, communication and theatre arts;
- Ronald Cere, professor, foreign languages and bilingual studies;
- Jenny Kindred, assistant professor, communication and theatre arts; and
- Sally McCracken, professor, communication and theatre arts.

(Readers rise and sit down.)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: 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.)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: 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. Provost pauses to change pace.)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Graduates, your presence here today is a significant milestone. This will be one of the most important moments you'll ever experience. On behalf of the entire University community, congratulations.

Education is crucial in today's world. Many of you – and your families – endured tremendous sacrifices in order for you to reach your goal of a college degree.

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

You've had an excellent foundation. EMU's education-first experiences provided by your outstanding faculty have prepared you to be successful in your careers and lives, and to be better citizens.

I'd like to share with you the stories of three students who are

graduating today, and who exemplify the wide range of experiences among our graduates.

Would **Rebecca Clark de Castillo (they cast ee oh)** please stand?

Thirty-eight-year-old **Becky Clark de Castillo (they cast ee oh)** is from Onsted, Michigan, in the Irish Hills. She graduates today with a 3.93 grade point average and a master's degree in human resources and organizational development.

Becky first came to EMU in May 2006 after living in Mexico City for 14 years. She had gone there as an exchange student for two semesters while at Notre Dame. One year later, she married and eventually had two children, Mikey (mike-ee), now 12 and Joey, now 9.

While in Mexico City, Becky taught English to business professionals; and worked in Sears' Mexican corporate offices and at an IBM subsidiary.

After she and her husband divorced, Becky returned home with her children and decided to change careers.

It was a challenge being a single mother with two children; moving back to the United States; and then going back into an academic setting as a student again.

But after looking around, she found the perfect program at EMU that dealt with human resources and organizational development.

While in school, Becky learned to balance her children's schooling and scouting activities with her own responsibilities, such as working as a graduate assistant in the management department where she learned to conduct research, develop teaching materials and help run an assessment program.

Despite her heavy schedule, Becky also found time to participate in extracurricular activities. She is the outgoing president of EMU's student chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management; served as vice president of membership; graduate student editor for her program's newsletter; and was a member of the Dean's Board of Student Advisers.

She also served on the planning and publications committees for the College of Business' Ethos Week, and presented at the

2007 and 2008 Undergraduate Symposiums.

For her final project, Becky is using her skills and talents to help Goodwill Industries of southeastern Michigan prepare for ISO certification. Her responsibilities include helping Goodwill look at job descriptions for light industries, and then developing those into presentations and training materials.

Among Becky's many honors are the Gerri Collins Medal for Excellence in Graduate Assistantship; and Outstanding Society for Human Resource Management Student Award.

Her future plans include consulting and exploring doctoral programs.

Congratulations, Becky.

Would Angela Gamalski please stand?

Angie Gamalski, age 21, is from Shelby Township, Michigan. She graduates today with a 3.4 GPA and a bachelor's degree in health administration.

Angie first came to EMU in fall 2004 and was accepted into the Honors College. While a junior in high school, she and her mom visited several universities, but after experiencing EMU, she knew this was the only university for her.

As with many students, Angie wasn't initially sure of her major. She considered teaching or nursing. She soon decided nursing wasn't a good choice because needles, as she put it, freaked her out.

Then she thought about history, but her dad jokingly said she should get a degree that would help with getting a job because he didn't want adult children at home.

Angie soon found something that suited her love of history, politics, finance and health care - health care administration.

Her dad also told her she was going to have to be on the four-year plan because her brother will be starting college this fall. Angie says it was a pretty strong motivator to go to school year-round.

During her time at EMU, Angie worked part-time on campus

and as a campus lifeguard. She also finished two internships: one for Thomson Health Care which helps health care companies make better decisions; and Next Services, where she assisted in managing billing operations for a doctor's office.

Angie was nominated for the 2007 Undergraduate Symposium, where she presented her research on Hispanic teen pregnancy in Washtenaw County. In 2008, she presented her senior Honors thesis, "Research Methodology in Health Care Management: An Evaluation of Research Methodology in Literature," at the Symposium.

Using her research skills, Angie also worked with the Corner Health Center in Ypsilanti, compiling data that demonstrated that the Center saved the Washtenaw community \$1 million a year through the health care services they provided.

After graduation, Angie will begin to work on her master's degree in public health at the University of Michigan. Her long-term goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in health policy, which combines her love of research and teaching.

Congratulations, Angie.

Would **Allison Dery** please stand?

Twenty-two-year-old Allison Dery is from Livonia, Michigan. She graduates today with an undergraduate degree in special education with a focus on speech and language pathology. She has a 3.87 GPA; is graduating after four years, and is in the Honors College.

Allison came to EMU with the thought of working with children. That meant looking into social work, nursing or occupational therapy. She had never considered speech and language pathology until she investigated the special education program.

The beauty of EMU's special education department, she says, is that there is every special education program concentration you can think of. As she put it, EMU has it all.

It took Allison a bit of time to determine her area of special education. She explored both the hearing and visual impairment programs before deciding on speech and language pathology.

Speech and language pathology was perfect for her, she says, because it incorporates her love of science, technology, mathematics and linguistics. She also had a great role model. Her mother, Carolyn, graduated from EMU with a degree in special education with a focus on cognitive impairment.

Allison recently won the Undergraduate Symposium Award for Research and the Honors Senior Thesis Award for research on autism therapy. In addition, she won the Omega Phi Alpha Service Award for her out-of-classroom activities.

These activities include working with Omega Phi Alpha's community service projects. She was active with the Adams Academy Project, which helps at-need children at the school. As part of her volunteer work, she managed a clothing drive and helped with both bottle and box top drives to raise money for Adams.

Allision has been active with Relay for Life and she volunteered for the Honors College's alternate spring break program in Florida. During that time, Allison was a site leader where students built a boardwalk in a flooded area. At the Disney Wilderness Preserve, she helped clean up invasive plant species

in collaboration with EMU's VISION Office.

She also proudly notes that she was one of the leaders for Pirate Week two years ago, which, she says was hard work coordinating activities throughout campus.

Allision volunteers throughout campus, depending on the need. She works in the Eagle Card Office and leads campus tours. In fact, she volunteered at today's morning commencement ceremony, despite the fact she was graduating this afternoon.

Her goal is to work in health care, evaluating swallowing and voice disorders. She will attend Michigan State University in the fall to work on her master's degree in speech pathology.

Congratulations, Allison.

These three students are extraordinary examples of that ability to persevere and find your dream, despite tremendous odds.

There is someone else I would like to recognize today.

Would **Robert Holman** please stand?

Many of you may recognize Bob Holman's name. He is an EMU graduate in business and recently retired as executive vice president for Discount Tire Company, Inc. Due to his generosity, the Holman Learning Center was formed in the Bruce T. Halle Library, and named in his honor. He continues to provide support for this much needed student service.

You are probably wondering why Bob Holman is among the graduates if he already has a degree. There is a wonderful story I would like to briefly share with you – one that truly demonstrates the commitment of our past and present students.

Bob's mother wanted a college graduate in the family and, as he said, he was the chosen one. He attended Cleary College, studying accounting, while working fulltime. After graduation, he was hired to work in a factory.

On the way home, Bob stopped at a Discount Tire store in Ann Arbor to see a high school friend and tell him about the new job. The friend just happened to mention that the company was looking for an accountant. The rest was history. That began his long association with Discount Tire.

When Bruce T. Halle – chairman of Discount Tire and an EMU graduate – moved to Arizona, it looked like the firm's headquarters would relocate. That's when Bob thought long and hard about his future. He decided he'd better earn a bachelor's in business administration degree at EMU.

Bob says he wasn't a great student because he had to always work while in school. It was a challenging time. He had to drive to school each morning; look for that evasive free parking space; attend class and be to work by noon. He worked six hours a day and nine hours on Saturday.

Learning to deal with people and learning the value of time, however, made him realize what he didn't know, so education became his main focus.

- Discount Tire Company's corporate headquarters eventually moved to Arizona. Shortly after Bob finished his degree, he transferred to corporate headquarters and was promoted to vice president. That meant missing commencement because he had to pack up, drive to Arizona and be at work right away.

He always regretted that he never had a chance to participate in commencement. Now that dream has come true.

Bob cites his boss, Bruce Halle, as the greatest influence in his life because Halle started with very little and worked his way up. He also gave back to the community and EMU.

Bob wanted to honor his boss while helping EMU at the same time, and the Learning Center was the perfect answer.

He said he realized that he was the type of student who would have benefited from the Learning Center, which is why he wanted to contribute to the Center's success. These students work hard to succeed, he says, and no matter what they do after Eastern Michigan, they will have an effect on the world.

Thank you, Bob, and welcome home to EMU. We are pleased you are finally able to participate in commencement.

(Pause to change pace)

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

We are pleased to have one of our most distinguished graduates as our speaker today.

Michael Morris is chairman, president and chief executive officer of American Electric Power Co., Inc. Since joining AEP in January 2004, Mr. Morris has led AEP's efforts to build an integrated gasification combined cycle plant – the first commercial-scale use of this technology to generate power and the largest plant of its type.

Mr. Morris was chairman, president and CEO of Northeast Utilities System from 1997 to 2003, where he led the company during its \$1.3 billion sale of the Millstone Station nuclear plant in 2001; a \$679 million merger with Yankee Energy System Inc.; and the acquisition of Connecticut Valley Electric Co.

Before joining Northeast Utilities, Mr. Morris served as president and CEO of Consumers Energy, the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy, and president of CMS Marketing, Services and Trading. He also was founder and president of ANR Gathering Co., one of the first gas marketing companies in the United States.

Mr. Morris is past chairman of the Edison Electric Institute, and serves on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board; the National Governors Association's Task Force on Electricity Infrastructure; the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations; and the Columbus Downtown Development Association.

A native of Fremont, Ohio, Mr. Morris graduated from Eastern Michigan with a bachelor's and a master's degree in science, and earned a law degree cum laude from the Detroit College of Law.

He served as a member of the EMU Board of Regents and, in 1995, received the University's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very honored to present to you – and welcome home - our commencement speaker, Michael Morris.

(Provost Loppnow is seated. Mr. Morris assumes lectern.)

MR. MORRIS: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

(Following the commencement address, Mr. Morris returns to his chair. Provost Loppnow assumes lectern.)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Thank you, Michael, for your inspiring message to our graduates. Mr. Morris was honored at this morning's ceremony with an honorary doctor of public service degree.

Graduates and family members, now is the moment you've been waiting for. Would Associate Provost Bob Neely please begin the presentation of our soon-to-be graduates?

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

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: Provost Loppnow, it is my honor to present the deans for the presentation of the Class of 2008.

(The Provost stands at his chair.

Neely steps away from the lectern.

Each Dean will present the graduates from their college.

The Provost will give an academic salute.

The Deans then return to their seats.)

DEAN MIELKE: Provost Loppnow, on behalf of the faculty, I

present the graduates from the College of Business. Graduates, please stand to be recognized.

(Dean Mielke and Provost Loppnow give academic salute)

Thank you. Please be seated.

DEAN POLITE: Provost Loppnow, on behalf of the faculty, I

present the graduates from the College of Education. Graduates, please stand to be recognized.

(Dean Polite and Provost Loppnow give academic salute)

Thank you. Please be seated.

DEAN THOMAS: Provost Loppnow, 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 Provost Loppnow give academic salute)

Thank you. Please be seated

(Provost Loppnow is seated. Associate Provost Neely takes the lectern.)

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: Regent Stapleton, Provost

Loppnow, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present E-M-U's two 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.

Regent Stapleton will confer the doctoral degrees. Dr. Deb deLaski-Smith, interim dean of the graduate school, will assist.

(Candidates and faculty chair [chair has hood] walk to bottom of ramp at side of stage. Dr. deLaski Smith stands in front of chair. Associate Provost Neely steps back. Regent Stapleton assumes the lectern.)

REGENT STAPLETON: 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 to which you are entitled with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto. Please come forward to receive your diplomas.

(Associate Provost Neely assumes the lectern. Regent Stapleton and Dr. deLaski-Smith descend the stairs to the lower center stage.)

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

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: The first candidate is **Ryan**

Cunningham, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Cunningham is principal of Leonard Ovid-Elsie School District.

His dissertation is entitled, “An Examination of the Relationship Between Servant-Leadership Behavior of the Elementary School Principal, School Climate and Student Achievement as Measured by the 4th Grade Michigan Educational Assessment Program.”

Congratulations, Dr. Cunningham.

(The following is happening while the Associate Provost is speaking: Mr. Cunningham and Dr. Williamson move up the ramp and stop in front of Dr. deLaski-Smith. Dr. deLaski-Smith and Dr. Williamson hood Mr. Cunningham. Dr. Cunningham accepts diploma cover from Regent Stapleton and shakes Regent's hand. Dr. Cunningham ascends down the center ramp and returns to his seat. Dr. Williamson goes down the side ramp to meet Ms. Lutrey.)

Our second candidate is **Joyce Lutrey**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Lutrey is superintendent of the Higley Unified School District in Higley, Arizona.

Her dissertation is entitled, “An Examination of the Relationship of School Grade Configuration on Eighth Grade Achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.”

Congratulations, Dr. Lutrey.

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

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: The presentation of candidates for graduate certificates, advanced graduate certificates, master’s degrees, master of fine arts degrees and specialist degrees will be conducted by Dr. Deb deLaski-Smith.

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

(Associate Provost Neely returns to stand by his seat. Dr. deLaski-Smith assumes the lectern. Regent Hawks comes forward and stands to the left of Dr. deLaski-Smith.)

DR. DELASKI SMITH: 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. DELASKI SMITH: Regent Hawks, each of these candidates has completed a program of advanced studies. The faculty of Eastern Michigan University recommends them for graduation. I present them to you now for the conferring of degrees.

(Dr. deLaski-Smith steps back, and Regent Hawks assumes lectern.)

REGENT HAWKS: 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 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 Hawks and Dean Boone go down the stairs to the presentation stage left. Regent Sidlik and Dean Hoft 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 Boone hands Regent Hawks, and Dean Hoft hands Regent Sidlik the diplomas for the

students.)

(Regents Hawks and Sidlik 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. Associate Provost Neely returns to the lectern.)

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

Sixty-five 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.

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: 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.

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)

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: I would now like to ask Greg Jones, president of student government, to say a few words. Greg received his bachelor's degree in political science during this morning's ceremony.

(Dr. Neely is seated and Mr. Jones takes the lectern.)

MR. JONES: (REMARKS TO STUDENTS)

(Mr. Jones returns to seat. Associate Provost Neely returns to lectern)

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: Regent Philip Incarnati, assisted by Regents Gary Hawks, Thomas Sidlik, James Stapleton, and the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Regents Incarnati, Hawks, Sidlik and Stapleton, and Deans Hoft, Boone, Thomas, Mielke and Polite stand at their chairs.)

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: Will the candidates for the bachelor's degree please rise?

(Pause)

(Candidates rise)

Regent Incarnati, 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 2008 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees to which they are appropriately entitled.

(Associate Provost Neely 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 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 Incarnati and Dean Mielke go to presentation stage right. Dean Polite and Regent Hawks 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 Incarnati and Dean Polite hands Regent Hawks the diplomas. Regent Incarnati and Regent Hawks shake the students' hands and give them their diplomas.

About one-quarter of the way through the bachelor's candidates,

Dean Thomas replaces Dean Mielke. Regent Sidlik replaces Regent Incarnati shaking hands.

Dean Boone replaces Dean Polite. Regent Stapleton replaces Regent Hawks shaking hands.

About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,

Dean Hoft replaces Dean Thomas. Dean Thomas moves forward, replacing Regent Sidlik shaking hands.

Dean deLaski-Smith replaces Dean Boone. Dean Boone moves forward, replacing Regent Stapleton shaking hands.

About three-quarters of the way through,

Director Jim Knapp replaces Dean Hoft. Dean Hoft moves forward, replacing Dean Thomas shaking hands.

Dean Byron Bond replaces Dean deLaski-Smith. Dean deLaski-Smith moves forward, replacing Dean Boone shaking hands.

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

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Congratulations, Class of 2008. At this time, it's appropriate that we recognize some very special people – the parents, spouses and significant others, grandparents, children and other family members who have played a major influence in your lives. Would you all please stand and be recognized?

(Applause)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Mr. Gerald Gemignani, president of the Eastern Michigan University alumni association, and a 1994 graduate, will welcome you as E-M-U's newest alumni.

(Provost Loppnow returns to seat. Mr. Gemignani assumes the lectern.)

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

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.

Throughout the years that I have been associated with EMU, I have come to appreciate the many wonderful contributions that so many people have made to create this great University and provide the opportunities we enjoyed as students. As the years have gone by, I have also realized how much of my own success I owe to those who paved the paths I have traveled, with their knowledge and generosity.

I invite you to be an active member of the Alumni Association. Our association provides outstanding opportunities to stay in touch with your friends and network with more than 130,000 Eastern Michigan alumni.

We have chapters of alumni across the nation and here in metro Detroit that bring alumni with common interests together to advance their careers and the University.

I hope you will join with me and other members of the Alumni Association by enjoying its benefits, sustaining the University and creating opportunities for others who will follow.

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

(Mr. Gemignani returns to seat. Provost Loppnow assumes lectern.)

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Thank you, Jerry.

This day, to be certain, is joyous for all of you and your families.

This is a wonderful moment, because you are now poised to take on this world from a new position – a position of strength. We know that you will be successful in all that you pursue.

Congratulations.

We will conclude the commencement ceremonies with our alma mater, *Our Pledge*, led by Professor Segar. The words are found on page nine of your program.

Following the alma mater, we request you remain in your seats until the recessional is completed. Please meet your families outside of the Convocation Center.

(Pause)

Please rise.

(Pause)

Professor Segar.

(Provost Lopnow returns to seat, remains standing and removes his hat. Professor Segar assumes lectern.)

PROFESSOR SEGAR: 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 Segar 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