

2008

## **Ceremonial Script, December 14, 2008**

Eastern Michigan University

# EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

**Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008**

**Convocation Center**

2 p.m. PROCESSIONAL  
(Eastern Michigan Symphonic Band)

**Grand Marshal Russell Larson 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 Winter 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
- Francine Parker of St. Clair Shores

Emery Stephens (stevens), a lecturer in music, will sing our national anthem. He will be accompanied by the renowned Eastern Michigan University Symphonic Band, conducted by John P. Zastoupil (zass toh pill).

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

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

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

**REGENT SIDLIK:** I would now like to introduce Susan W. Martin, President of Eastern Michigan University, who will preside over today's commencement ceremony.

*(Regent Sidlik sits down; Dr. Martin goes to lectern)*

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** 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 Russell Larson.

*(Professor Larson stands)*

Dr. Larson is professor of English Language and Literature, and president of the Faculty Council.

Dr. Larson joined Eastern as a faculty member in 1970. In addition to his distinguished career as a faculty member, he served as head of the Department of English Language and Literature at EMU for seven years; director of First-Year Courses in the English Department; and director of writing

programs. He also has served at Graduate Studies Coordinator.

Thank you, Dr. Larson.

*(Professor Larson sits down.)*

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** Our faculty marshals are:

- Jon Margerum-Leys, (marj er um-lays) associate professor, Dept. of Teacher Education; and
- Deanna Mihaly (mi hale ee), assistant professor, World Languages.

Please rise and be recognized.

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

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

- David Anderson, associate professor, Leadership and Counseling;
- Mary Brake, professor, School of Engineering Technology;
- Nancy Copeland, associate professor, teacher education;
- Roberta Faust, associate professor, School of Health Promotion and Human Performance;
- Susan Gregory, professor, School of Technology Studies;
- Robert Hanson, professor, accounting and finance;
- Flora Hoodin, professor, psychology;

- Sharon Pendleton-Moore, instructor, School of Health Promotion and Human Performance;
- Alida Westman, professor, psychology; and
- Linda Woodland, professor, accounting and finance.

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

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

- Jessica Alexander, associate professor, communication, media and theatre arts;
- Dennis Beagen, head of the department of communication, media and theatre arts;
- Wallace Bridges, professor, communication, media and theatre arts;
- Gary Evans, professor, communication, media and theatre arts;
- Sally McCracken, professor, communication, media and theatre arts; and
- Betsy Morgan, professor, World Languages.

*(Readers rise and sit down.)*

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** 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 MARTIN:** 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 MARTIN:** Graduates, your presence here today is a significant milestone. This will be one of the most important moments of your life. On behalf of the entire University community, congratulations.

Education is critical 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 that 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 to be better citizens.

I'd like to share with you the stories of four students who are graduating today, and who exemplify the wide range of experiences among our graduates.

Would **Amy Hill** please stand?

Twenty-two-year-old **Amy Hill** is from Marysville, Michigan. She graduates today with a 3.81 grade point average and an undergraduate degree in special education, focusing on the physically and otherwise health impaired.

Amy transferred to Eastern from St. Clair County Community College in 2005, because, she says, she knew Eastern offered one of the best education programs in the state.

The special education program at EMU is challenging, but that didn't stop Amy from participating in all areas of campus life. She joined Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity, and is secretary of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in



Education. She also worked with the SEEUS (Students Eyes and Ears for University Safety) program, and was an office manager in housing.

Amy and a classmate co-presented at the March 2008 prestigious Undergraduate Symposium. Her research focused on the perspectives of parents and students on inclusion of students with and without disabilities in the general education classroom. Her research also tied into her Honors College thesis dealing with inclusion.

Amy was awarded the Delores Soderquist Brehm and the Martha Horton Ramsey Scholarships; and was invited to participate in a special education charette, where participants from throughout the United States brainstormed ideas for the future of special education.

In her spare time, she was on the Relay for Life committee from 2006 to 2007 and was the captain in 2008. It was, she says, a way of honoring her grandmother and grandfather who had cancer, and her aunt who is an oncology nurse.

She also just finished up 1-½ years of student teaching. Her most recent assignment found her working with children with special needs in a K-5 classroom.

Now that Amy is graduating, she plans to substitute teach and coach softball in the spring until she finds a job. Eventually, she'll go back to school and earn a master's in an area of special education.

Congratulations, **Amy**.

Eastern Michigan University is proud of its diversity and the many countries represented by our international students. One such student is **Hochul (ho chool) Lim**.

**Hochul (ho chool)**, would you please stand?

Imagine coming to a new country, not knowing anyone, and discovering that the language is different from what you had studied. That's exactly what happened to Hochul (ho chool) when he came to Eastern Michigan from Korea in 2007.

Twenty-five-year-old Ho, as his friends call him, is one of seven Korean students who enrolled in a new joint degree program sponsored by Eastern's College of Business and **Keimyung (kim young) University** in Korea. He graduates today with a 3.79 grade point average and a bachelor's degree in supply chain management. In two months, he'll receive a bachelor's degree in management from Keimyung (kim young) University.

Ho was attracted to the dual program because he wanted to experience the educational system in the United States. In Korea, he says, the universities promote more theory, while in the United States, there is more of a focus on the practical aspects. This is why foreign students want to study here.

It wasn't easy, though, to move halfway around the world. This was the first time in the U.S. for Ho and his fellow students. And although he had studied English in Korea, Ho initially found it difficult to understand because Americans spoke more quickly and used different words than he had learned.

Once he acclimated to American culture, though, Ho said he enjoyed his classes because they were very good and he easily understood the professors. He also was impressed with case

analyses that were presented in class, which aren't used in Korean universities. He became active in the finance club, and served as president of the Korean Student Association

He's now looking forward to using his Eastern degree. Supply chain management is a new field in his country, he says, and many companies are now beginning to realize its importance. His future goal is to either work in supply chain management or at an investment company. Eventually he'd love to come back to the United States and possibly work on a master's degree.

Ho's mother, father and younger brother were unable to join him here today, but I'm sure your parents are proud of you.

Congratulations, **Hochul (ho chool)**.

Our next student, **Hermina (her meen ah) Monroe**, is a thirty-year-old from Romania. Hermina graduates today with a 4.0 grade point average and a bachelor of science in individualized studies, focusing on business, behavioral development, and health and wellness.

**Hermina (her meen ah)** came to the United States in 2000 by herself as part of a working program for students. A three-time Romanian National Champion in fencing, she was asked to teach fencing at a summer program in California. Her ability to teach fencing helped her adjust to the United States, despite knowing only a small amount of English.

Her goal was to remain in California, but that changed when she met someone online who was Romanian and living in Michigan. She was surprised to learn that there was a large Romanian community in this state and decided to take a chance and move.

Hermina first came to Eastern in fall 2006 with only about \$20 in her pocket. The good news was that she was able to transfer credits from her university in Romania. It was a good move, she said, because she has had a great time at EMU, and loved how the professors were willing to help her.

Like many of our students, Hermina worked while going to school. But I honestly can say that I have never met a student with a job like Hermina's.

Five years ago, Hermina met some Romanian friends who were making money driving semi trucks. She thought she could do it, so she had a friend teach her. She now drives a 34-wheeler semi tanker truck hauling jet fuel all over the Midwest. That has meant working up to 14-hour days, five days a week.

How did she get through school? She worked her schedule out so she would attend school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and took more time to write her papers.

Despite these challenges, Hermina participated in the Undergraduate Symposium in March and presented research on modern day slavery. Her goal is to attend law school and possibly practice a specialty that takes advantage of her passion for human rights.

Hermina's family is in Romania today, but I know they are proud because she is the first in her immediate family to graduate from college.

Congratulations, **Hermina**.

Our final student is a remarkable woman named **Sophia Santiago**. Sophia, would you please stand?

Sophia is a 34-year-old from Detroit. She graduates today with a 3.48 grade point average with both a bachelor's of science and a master's degree in occupational therapy.

Sophia's story is one that shows how dedication and hard work can change a person's life. She grew up the second child in a family of six. Although her parents loved her and her siblings, they both had difficult childhoods and, as Sophia said, had never really healed. This led to problems when they had children.

Her father began selling drugs and her mother, a beautician, kept urging him to stop. Eventually, both parents started using drugs, which led to heroin addiction. As a result, Sophia was put in charge of her younger siblings.

As she entered high school, Sophia rebelled by hanging out with guys in a gang. She joined the gang; became pregnant at 19 and had her daughter at age 20. Once her daughter was born, she

began to learn more about herself, and eventually started taking accounting classes at Wayne State University.

Then her world changed. Her father died of AIDS when she was 22, and her mother died of AIDS three years later. Sophia was left with a 13-year-old sister and a 12-year-old brother.

There hadn't been many expectations or role models for children in her neighborhood. The only thing she knew was that she didn't want to turn out like those parents in the neighborhood who didn't work. She had to break the cycle. She wanted a career and to do something she enjoyed.

Sophia initially thought of becoming a physical therapist, but after some research, she found that Eastern offered an occupational therapy program that was a good fit.

While at Eastern, Sophia worked hard at her studies and took care of her daughter at the same time. As part of the autism collaborative at Eastern, Sophia researched a literature review of autism and intervention, and went on to present her research at the Graduate Research Fair last March.



She completed an internship at Sinai-Grace Hospital in the Detroit Medical Center and is currently finishing a second internship at the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford. She's using her skills and experience to prepare boys, ages 5 to 18, for independent living.

Now, after graduation, Sophia hopes to work at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan or in private practice. She also is thinking about earning a Ph.D. in sociology, however, she feels it's time for her family to enjoy themselves for awhile.

She credits her husband, Eduardo, and daughter, Yasmeen (yaz meen), for their constant support. **Sophia**, you are a wonderful role model for your daughter and other students.

Congratulations on reaching your goal.

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

*(Pause to change pace)*

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

We are pleased to have a distinguished former student as our speaker today.

Dann Florek is a professional actor, director and current television star of “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.” Trained at Eastern Michigan and Julliard, Mr. Florek worked steadily as an actor for 15 years in theatre, movies and television before joining the popular television series “L.A. Law” and “Law & Order.”

He has portrayed Captain Donald Cragen in both “Law & Order” and in “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” for 17 years. An active member of the Directors Guild of America, he also has directed several episodes of the hit show.

In addition to his success on television, Mr. Florek has appeared in several feature films, and has appeared in more than 50 stage and theatre roles.

A native of Flat Rock, Mich., Mr. Florek first came to Eastern in 1969. He chose EMU with plans for studying math and physics. That changed when he joined the choir and was offered

a scholarship in drama. This led to performances in a variety of plays at Eastern, including “Detective Story,” “Richard III”; and “Peer Gynt.” He also worked closely with his brother, Dave, in “I Never Sang for My Father.”

He cites his time with the EMU Theatre as a period of great pride and satisfaction. Those experiences led him to New York and the famed Julliard School.

Mr. Florek’s wife, artist Karen Kosinski, is an Eastern alumna and was a member of four national forensic championship teams. His brother, Dave, also a professional actor, carried on the family tradition by graduating from Eastern.

As a visual introduction of our commencement speaker, we have prepared a brief video clip of Dann Florek in a variety of television roles. See if you recognize these characters.

*(play two-minute video clip)*

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

*(President Martin is seated. Mr. Florek assumes lectern.)*

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

*(Following the commencement address, Mr. Florek returns to his chair. President Martin assumes lectern.)*

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** Thank you, Dann, 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 and achievements have brought them high esteem of their colleagues and communities.

Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon Daniel Leonard Florek, the honorary degree – Doctor of Arts.

To confer the degree, I call upon Regent Tom Sidlik. Regent Sidlik will be assisted by Provost and Executive Vice President Don Loppnow, and Tom Venner, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

*(President Martin steps to her left. Regent Sidlik assumes lectern.  
Provost Loppnow picks up hood from under his chair. Dean Venner picks up citation and diploma from under his chair. Provost Loppnow, Dean Venner and Mr. Florek*

*all stand. Provost Loppnow and Dean Venner escort Mr. Florek to a position behind the president and to her right.)*

*(Dean Venner hands citation to Regent Sidlik. At the appropriate time, Provost Loppnow assists with the hooding.)*

**REGENT SIDLIK:** Daniel Leonard Florek, distinguished actor and director, you have devoted your life to the arts, using your talents and training to expose your fellow citizens to the wonderful world of theatre, movies and television.

As a leader in your field, you have demonstrated dedication and excellence throughout your exemplary career.

Upon the recommendation and authority of the Board of Regents, Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon you, Daniel Leonard Florek, the honorary degree, Doctor of Arts, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

*(Dean Venner hands diploma to Regent Sidlik. Regent Sidlik hands the citation and diploma to Mr. Florek. Provost Loppnow and Dean Venner hood Mr. Florek.*

*Regent Sidlik returns to chair. Provost Loppnow and Dean Venner escort Mr. Florek to his chair.*

*Dean Venner moves to stage right.*

*Provost Loppnow assumes the lectern.)*

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** President Martin, it is now my honor to present the deans for the presentation of the Class of 2008.

*(The president stands at her chair.*

*Loppnow steps away from the lectern.*

*Each Dean will present the graduates from their college.*

*The President will give an academic salute.*

*The Deans then return to their seats.)*

**DEAN VENNER:** President Martin, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences. Graduates, please stand to be recognized.

*(Dean Venner and President Martin give academic salute)*

Thank you. Please be seated.

**DEAN MIELKE:** President Martin, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Business. Graduates, please stand to be recognized.

*(Dean Mielke and President Martin give academic salute)*

Thank you. Please be seated.

**DEAN POLITE:** President Martin, on behalf of the faculty, I

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

*(Dean Polite and President Martin give academic salute)*

Thank you. Please be seated.

**DEAN DELASKI-SMITH:** President Martin, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Health and Human Services. Graduates, please stand to be recognized.

*(Dean deLaski-Smith and President Martin give academic salute)*

Thank you. Please be seated

**DEAN BOONE:** President Martin, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Technology. Graduates, please stand to be recognized.

*(Dean Boone and President Martin give academic salute)*

*(President Martin is seated. Provost Loppnow takes the lectern.)*

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** Regent Incarnati, President Martin, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present E-M-U's eight doctoral candidates. These candidates have completed programs culminating in the doctor of education degree in

educational leadership, the doctor of philosophy in clinical psychology, and the doctor of philosophy in technology.

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

Regent Incarnati 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 her chair. Provost Loppnow steps back. Regent Incarnati assumes the lectern.)*

**RÉGENT INCARNATI:** 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.

*(Provost Loppnow assumes the lectern. Regent Incarnati and Dr. deLaski-Smith descend the stairs to the lower center stage.)*



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

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** The first candidate is **Pamela Becker**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Martha Tack, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Becker is assistant professor and program coordinator of technology management at Eastern Michigan University.

Her dissertation is entitled, “Core Curricular Elements of Effective Undergraduate Technology-Management Academic Programs.”

Congratulations, Dr. Becker.

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

Our second candidate is **Scott Robert Brown**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Alida Westman, professor of psychology. Mr. Brown is a post-doctoral psychology resident at the Oberlin College Counseling Center in Oberlin, Ohio.

His dissertation is entitled, “An Exploration of the Relationships Among Religious Orientation, Object Relations and Positive Adjustment.”

Congratulations, Dr. Brown.

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

Our third candidate is **Dawn Gallup**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Gallup is special education director for the Branch County Intermediate School District in Coldwater, Mich.

Her dissertation is entitled, “An Examination of the Relationship of Six Risk Factors Associated with Dropping Out of High School for Students with Disabilities in South Central Michigan.”

Congratulations, Dr. Gallup.

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

Our fourth candidate is **Teresa Jean Lynch**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Flora Hoodin, professor of psychology. Ms. Lynch is a postdoctoral fellow in health psychology in the consultation-liaison division of Henry Ford Health Services in Detroit.

Her dissertation is entitled, “Adolescent Adherence to Orthopedic Brace Wear: A Behavioral Assessment of High Risk Factors.”

Congratulations, Dr. Lynch.

*(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Ms. Lynch and Dr. Hoodin move up the ramp and stop in front of Dr. deLaski-Smith. Dr. deLaski-Smith and Dr. Hoodin hood Ms. Lynch. Dr. Lynch accepts diploma cover from Regent Incarnati and shakes Regent's hand. Dr. Lynch descends the center ramp, followed by Dr. Hoodin. They return to their seats.)*

Our fifth candidate is **Richard Perry**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. James Barott, professor of leadership

and counseling. Mr. Perry is assistant superintendent of the Portage Public Schools in Portage, Mich.

His dissertation is entitled, “Dissatisfaction Theory and Superintendent Turnover: An Exception to the Rule.”

Congratulations, Dr. Perry.

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

Our sixth candidate is **Martha Sutton Smith**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. David Anderson, associate professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Smith is commissioned as a United States Army Captain, and director of Nutrition Research at Baylor University.

Her dissertation is entitled, “A Survey of Registered Dietitians’ Perceptions of Constructivist and Behaviorist Instructional Approaches and Delivery Methods in Accredited Dietetics Programs.”

Congratulations, Dr. Smith.

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

Our seventh candidate is **Donald Spencer**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. James Barott, professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Spencer is superintendent, Monroe County Intermediate School District in Monroe, Mich.

His dissertation is entitled, “The Monroe County Intermediate School District: A Case Study.”

Congratulations, Dr. Spencer.

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

Our eighth candidate is **Donald Wayne Southwell**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Carol Haddad, professor, School of Technology Studies. Mr. Southwell is an

instructor of computer science and information technology at Delta College in Midland, Mich.

His dissertation is entitled, “Perceived Value of Faculty-Developed Course Websites: A Student-Faculty Comparison.”

Congratulations, Dr. Southwell.

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

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** 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 Francine Parker will confer the degrees. Academic deans will assist them.

*(Provost Loppnow 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 Parker and Dean Venner 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 Venner hands Regent Parker the diplomas for the students.)*

*(Regents Hawks and Parker 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 the lectern.)*

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** The Divisions of Academic and Student

Affairs at Eastern Michigan University work very hard to create an academic and co-curricular 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.

**Seventeen students** are graduating from the University Honors College this semester. **Two of these students** are also the first McNair Scholars to graduate. 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.

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** 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)*

**Five members** of this graduating class have completed the required courses in military science and through R.O.T.C., have been selected for commissions as second lieutenants in the United States Armed Forces. These new officers will be the first graduates in this ceremony to receive their degrees. Will our new second lieutenants please stand and be recognized?

Before we begin, please join me in a moment of silence to remember our men and women in the armed services.

*(Pause for a few seconds).*

Thank you.

**PROVOST LOPPNOW**: I would now like to ask Adam Slingwein, president of student government, to say a few words.

*(Dr. Loppow is seated and Mr. Slingwein takes the lectern.)*

**MR. SLINGWEIN**: (REMARKS TO STUDENTS)

*(Mr. Slingwein returns to seat. Provost Loppnow returns to lectern)*

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** Regent Tom Sidlik, assisted

by Regents Gary Hawks, Philip Incarnati and Francine Parker, and the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

*(Regents Hawks, Incarnati, Parker and Sidlik, and Deans Venner, Boone, deLaski-Smith, Mielke and Polite stand at their chairs.)*

**PROVOST LOPPNOW:** Will the candidates for the bachelor's degree please rise?

*(Pause)*

*(Candidates rise)*

Regent Sidlik, 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.

*(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 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 Sidlik 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 Sidlik and Dean Polite hands Regent Hawks the diplomas. Regent Sidlik and Regent Hawks shake the students' hands and give them their diplomas.*

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

*Dean deLaski-Smith replaces Dean Mielke. Regent Parker replaces Regent Sidlik*

*shaking hands.*

*Dean Boone replaces Dean Polite. Regent Incarnati replaces Regent Hawks shaking hands.*

**About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,**

*Dean Venner replaces Dean deLaski-Smith. Dean deLaski-Smith moves forward, replacing Regent Parker shaking hands.*

*Dean Polite replaces Dean Boone. Dean Boone moves forward, replacing Regent Incarnati shaking hands.*

**About three-quarters of the way through,**

*Director Jim Knapp replaces Dean Venner. Dean Venner moves forward, replacing Dean deLaski-Smith shaking hands.*

*Associate Dean Dan Gaymer replaces Dean Polite. Dean Polite moves forward, replacing Dean Boone shaking hands.*

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

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** 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)*

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** Mr. Gerald **Gemignani** (**gem ih nahn ee**) president of the Eastern Michigan University alumni association, and a 1994 graduate, will welcome you as E-M-U's newest alumni.

*(President Martin 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 140,000 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. President Martin assumes lectern.)*

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** 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 Stephens (stevens). 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 Stephens.

*(President Martin returns to seat, remains standing and removes hat. Professor Stephens assumes lectern.)*

**PROFESSOR STEPHENS:** 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 Stephens 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