

2009

PM Ceremonial Script, April 26, 2009

Eastern Michigan University

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Convocation Center

1:40 p.m. PROCESSIONAL
(Eastern Michigan Wind Symphony)

Grand Marshal Jeanne Pietig 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 her chair and remains standing.

Color guard enters center aisle, ascends stage following Grand Marshal, turns left and stands holding 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 Roy Wilbanks enters and assumes the lectern.

REGENT WILBANKS: Good afternoon. I'm Roy Wilbanks,
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 2009 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.

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

- Gary Hawks of East Lansing;
- Tom Sidlik of Ann Arbor; and
- James Stapleton of Ann Arbor.

Professor Kathleen Segar, mezzo soprano, will sing our national anthem. She will be accompanied by the renowned Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony, conducted by Mary K. Schneider, director of bands.

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

PROFESSOR SEGAR: (Leads singing of National Anthem)

(All remain standing. Immediately following anthem, Color Guard posts flags and exits left side of stage. Professor Segar returns to chair and remains standing. Regent Wilbanks assumes the lectern.)

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

(Regent Wilbanks sits down; President Martin goes to lectern)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Regent Wilbanks. I also would like to extend my thanks to everyone here for making the effort to join us at today's ceremony.

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 **Jeanne Pietig (pee tig)**.

(Professor Pietig stands)

Dr. Pietig (pee tig) is professor emeritus from the Department of Teacher Education. She first joined Eastern in 1988 as department head and taught for 21 years in the areas of Social Foundations of Education. She has distinguished herself with

more than 25 publications and more than 40 professional conference presentations. She also has served as an editor and reviewer of manuscripts for various journals and publishers.

While at Eastern Michigan, Dr. Pietig served on many university, college and department committees, and was active in the community.

Thank you, Dr. Pietig.

(Professor Pietig sits down.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Our faculty marshals are:

- Brigid Beaubien, assistant professor, teacher education; and
- Sheila Sasser, assistant professor of marketing .

Please rise and be recognized.

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: The marshals of the students are:

- Kristine Ajrouch (**az roosh**), associate professor, sociology, anthropology and criminology;
- David Anderson, associate professor, leadership and counseling;
- Judi Brooks, associate professor, health sciences;

- Nancy Copeland, associate professor, teacher education;
- Ron Delph, associate professor, history and philosophy;
- Jon Margerum-Leys, associate professor, teacher education; and
- Karen Sinclair, professor, sociology, anthropology and criminology; and
- Martin Shichtman, professor, English language and literature.

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

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

- Henry Aldridge, 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;
- Sally McCracken, professor, communication, media and theatre arts;
- Motoko Tabuse (**moe toe ko tah boo say**), world languages; and
- Mary Ann Watson, communication, media and theatre arts.

(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 milestone. This will be one of the most important moments you'll ever experience. Congratulations on a job well done.

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. That effort will pay off.

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

Would **Carmita Williams** please stand?

Thirty-four-year-old **Carmita Williams** is from Romulus by way of Highland Park, Mich. and Natchez, Miss. She graduates today with a 3.87 grade point average and her bachelor's degree in social work.

Like many of Eastern's students, Carmita started out as a traditional student at a local college, but left to concentrate on a career. She spent nine years working for Comcast as a technical supervisor.

Carmita developed a strong interest in psychology, however, so she left her job and enrolled at Washtenaw Community College. Despite her fears of going back to school, she did extremely well and graduated with honors.

But it didn't end there. Her professor encouraged her to work toward a degree in social work at Eastern. Thanks to an agreement with Washtenaw Community College, Carmita was able to transfer to EMU two years ago and continue her studies without a break.

Her life changes, she says, when she was named a McNair Scholar. McNair is a national program that encourages students with limited funds to accomplish research at the undergraduate level and then work toward a doctoral degree. This support allowed her to conduct research as an undergraduate and it gave her the incentive to consider graduate school.

Carmita is involved with an impressive array of activities that relate to her future career in social work. Her research project, "Biracial People are Subject to Complex Dual Racism," was presented at this year's prestigious Undergraduate Symposium and at a Martin Luther King Day program. She chose this

subject because her father is Mexican and her mother African American.

She volunteers as a youth basketball coach, and as a youth education instructor for Hope Center in Ypsilanti. She also was on the remodeling team for the Armstrong Youth Center, part of the Ypsilanti Housing Complex. Carmita and five other EMU students remodeled the center, which had been dormant for years.

She's also working as a rotating shelter coordinator for the Delonis Homeless Shelter. In this role, she works with churches that house homeless men who have exceeded their time limit at the shelter. She's also completed several internships, including a medical social work internship at St. Joe's Hospital.

Carmita is a member of the Honors College, and a member of the National Association of Social Work Students. She was named the National Association of Social Workers 2009 Student of the Year for the southeastern region.

She hopes to earn a master's in social work and a Ph.D. in policy and administration with a concentration on geriatrics.

Congratulations, **Carmita**.

Would **Lianna Cecil** please stand?

Lianna, who grew up in Oakland County, graduates today with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a major in accounting. She has a 3.7 grade point average and is a McNair Scholar.

Lianna has been working fulltime since she was 16 years old. Her experience ranges from working as a screen printer and sales person to an accountant for nonprofits. Her biggest challenge, though, was to work fulltime and attend school at night, which made for long 16-hour days.

Lianna originally came to EMU in 1998 with the idea of becoming a film major, but ended up dropping out after one year because of a lack of money.

When she did return in 2005, she decided to major in accounting. Although Lianna says she's not a math person, she chose accounting because she thought it would be practical.

What makes her education unusual, though, is that she combined accounting with a minor in conservation and resource use in biology. Her unusual minor came about because she wanted to learn about environmental science and sustainability.

Her dual interests attracted attention at this year's Undergraduate Symposium because her two projects represented the disciplines of accounting and biology. She tackled both corporate ethics and the environment in her presentations.

Thanks to a Symposium Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Lianna was able to expand her accounting research on voluntary corporate social reporting. Her research was accepted to the 2009 Midwest American Accounting Association's annual meeting, where it received the Best Student Paper Award.

Lianna's second project in biology also stands out. Her project, "Classification of Ecotourists on an Antarctica Cruise: Comparison with Land-Based Ecotourists," resulted from a Study Abroad program in Antarctica during the Christmas holidays.

Her research may eventually result in a new classification of tourist, along with new ideas about ecotourism as a whole. Her work has already attracted the attention of a New Zealand researcher, and she presented her paper at a professional meeting in St. Louis last week.

Lianna is a member of the Honors College, is on the Dean's List, and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the international honor society for business students.

She plans to work on a master's degree in accounting with the goal of becoming a certified public accountant, and then earn a Ph.D. in accounting.

Congratulations, Lianna.

(Pause to change pace)

We are pleased to have a distinguished executive and a native Detroiter as our speaker today.

Kenneth Fine has led a distinguished career in both business and academia including more than 25 years of executive and management experience with companies such as Intel

Corporation, Digital Equipment Corporation and Valid-Logic Systems.

Until his retirement in the late 1990s, Mr. Fine spent 14 years with the Intel Corporation, the world's largest semiconductor company. Intel is known as the inventor of a series of microprocessors found in most personal computers.

During his tenure at Intel, he served as general manager of the Microprocessor Division; and as vice president and general manager of the Semiconductor Products Group. He also was vice president and general manager of the Chandler Microcomputer/ASIC Division and general manager of Cellular Products Operations.

Mr. Fine has been a regular guest lecturer in the business school at Arizona State University, and the American Graduate School of International Management.

Although Mr. Fine did not graduate from Eastern Michigan, he began his post-secondary education here. He credits his former math professor and mentor, Robert Bridgeman, for encouraging him to study mathematics.

He holds a Ph.D, a master's degree and a bachelor's degree with highest distinction in mathematics from the University of Illinois at Urbana.

Mr. Fine and his wife, Rebecca, live on a 1,500-acre farm outside of San Antonio, where they raise emus.

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

(President Martin is seated. Mr. Fine assumes lectern.)

MR. FINE: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Kenneth, 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 Kenneth Fine, the honorary degree – Doctor of Business Administration.

To confer the degree, I call upon Regent Roy Wilbanks. Regent Wilbanks will be assisted by Dr. Donald Loppnow, provost and executive vice president, and Dr. David Mielke, dean of the College of Business.

(President Martin steps to her left.

Regent Wilbanks assumes the lectern.

Provost Loppnow picks up the hood from under his chair.

Dean Mielke picks up the citation and diploma from under his chair.

Provost Loppnow and Dean Mielke escort Mr. Fine to a position behind and to the right of the Provost.

Dean Mielke hands the citation to Regent Wilbanks.

At the appropriate time, Provost Loppnow assists with the hooding.)

REGENT WILBANKS: Kenneth Fine, distinguished business leader, you have devoted your life to helping to advance knowledge through microprocessors and the exciting possibilities that computers offer us. As a respected leader in the business field, you have demonstrated dedication, honor

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, Kenneth Fine, the honorary degree, Doctor of Business Administration, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

(Regent Wilbanks hands the citation and diploma to Mr. Fine.

Provost Loppnow and Dean Mielke hood Mr. Fine.

Regent Wilbanks returns to chair.

Provost Loppnow and Dean Mielke escort Mr. Fine to his chair.

Dean Mielke moves to stage right.

Provost Loppnow assumes the lectern).

PROVOST LOPPNOW: President Martin, it is my

honor to present the deans for the presentation of the Class of 2009.

(The President stands at her chair.

Provost 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 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 DE LASKI 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 de Laski-Smith and President Martin give academic salute)

Thank you. Please be seated.

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

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Regent Wilbanks, President Martin, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present E-M-

U's doctoral candidate. This candidate has completed a program culminating in the doctor of education degree in educational leadership.

Eight doctoral candidates, who completed a program culminating in the doctor of philosophy degree in clinical psychology and the doctor of philosophy degree in technology, were honored at this morning's commencement.

Upon recommendation of the faculty of Eastern Michigan University, I present the candidate to you for the conferring of her degree.

Regent Tom Sidlik will confer the doctoral degree. Dr. Deb de Laski-Smith, interim dean of the graduate school, will assist.

(Candidate and faculty chair [chair has hood] walk to bottom of ramp at side of stage. Dr. de Laski Smith stands in front of chair. Provost Loppnow steps back. Regent Sidlik assumes the 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 to which you are

entitled with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto. Please come forward to receive your diplomas.

(President Loppnow assumes the lectern. Regent Sidlik and Dr. de Laski-Smith descend the stairs to the lower center stage.)

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

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Today's candidate is **Minta Downing**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, **Dr. Martha Tack**, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Downing is a retired assistant principal of the Detroit Public Schools.

Her dissertation is entitled, "African American Women Superintendents: Their Point of Exit."

Congratulations, Dr. Downing

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

PROVOST LOPPNOW: The presentation of candidates

for graduate degrees will be conducted by Dr. Deb de Laski-Smith.

Regents James Stapleton and Gary Hawks will confer the degrees. Academic deans will assist them.

(Provost Loppnow returns to stand by his seat. Dr. de Laski-Smith assumes the lectern. Regent Stapleton comes forward and stands to the left of Dr. de Laski-Smith.)

DR. DE LASKI SMITH: Will the candidates for graduate certificates, master's degrees, advanced graduate certificates, master of fine arts degrees, and specialist's degrees, please rise?

(Pause - Candidates rise.)

DR. DE LASKI SMITH: Regent Stapleton, 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. de Laski-Smith steps back, and Regent Stapleton assumes 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 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. de Laski-Smith is seated. Regent Stapleton and Dean Polite go down the stairs to the presentation stage left. Regent Hawks and Dean Mielke go down the stairs to the presentation stage right. Two of the readers go down the stairs to the microphones left and right.)

(Candidates are led to the stage by the marshals of the students. Candidates present their name card to the reader, who reads the name of the candidate. Dean Polite hands Regent Stapleton, and Dean Mielke hands Regent Hawks the diplomas for the students.)

(Regents Stapleton 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. Associate Provost Neely assumes 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 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)

Seventeen 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 were the first graduates in this morning's ceremony to receive their degrees.

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.

ASSOCIATE PROVOST NEELY: I would now like to ask Adam

Slingwein, president of student government, to say a few words.
Mr. Slingwein received his diploma in this morning's
ceremony.

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

MR. SLINGWEIN: (REMARKS TO STUDENTS)

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

PROVOST LOPPNOW: Regent Gary Hawks, assisted
by Regents Wilbanks, Sidlik, and Stapleton, and the academic
deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

*(Regents Hawks, Wilbanks, Sidlik and Stapleton, and Deans Polite, Mielke and de
Laski-Smith stand at their chairs.)*

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

(Pause)

(Candidates rise)

Regent Hawks, 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 2009 for the
conferring of the bachelor's degrees to which they are
appropriately entitled.

(Provost Loppnow steps back. Regent Hawks assumes lectern.)

REGENT HAWKS: 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.

Students, please come forward, as directed by the marshals, to receive the diploma appropriate to the degree that has been conferred upon you.

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

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

Dean Polite remains in place while Regent Sidlik replaces Regent Hawks shaking hands.

Dean Mielke remains in place while Regent Stapleton replaces Regent Wilbanks shaking hands.

About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,

Dean de Laski-Smith replaces Dean Polite. Dean Polite moves forward, replacing Regent Sidlik shaking hands.

Dean Bond replaces Dean Mielke. Dean Mielke moves forward, replacing Regent Stapleton shaking hands.

About three-quarters of the way through,

Director Jim Knapp replaces Dean de Laski-Smith. Dean de Laski-Smith moves forward, replacing Dean Polite shaking hands.

Associate Provost Neely replaces Dean Bond. Dean Bond moves forward, replacing Dean Mielke 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 2009. At this time, we need to take a few moments to 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. Eric Brown, president Eastern Michigan University alumni association, and a 2003 graduate, will welcome you as E-M-U's newest alumni.

(President Martin returns to seat. Mr. Brown assumes the lectern.)

MR. BROWN: As president of the EMU Alumni Association, I am just as proud of this day as you and your families are. Whether this is your first, second or third occurrence, graduating from college is a major accomplishment and achievement.

Congratulations and welcome to the Alumni Association. I am excited to be representing the more than 140,000 graduates of this fine institution.

These are trying times right now and I have complete confidence that you will persevere and reach your goals just as the many graduates of EMU have done before you.

Please do not let today mark the end of your relationship with this institution. I am hoping that you will come to appreciate the many contributions that so many that have come before you have laid as a foundation for you to follow.

As graduates on this day, reach out to the alumni relations office, and even me for that matter, to see what can be done to assist you with achieving your career goals. Try not to be a stranger to the career services office. If there is one piece of advice that I can offer that should stick with you, learn the art of networking.

The friendships and relationships that you gained while here at EMU - use those tools to connect with other EMU graduates. Become a part of not just the Alumni Association, but also one of the many alumni chapters that we have. Stay involved and engaged to your alma mater!

Going forward, this fine institution must continue to improve upon the delivery of educational services to students and now, you are the ambassadors to assist in delivering that message. As alumni now, go forward and represent this university in the very fashion that you did as an undergraduate or graduate student on this campus.

It is now time to spread your wings, soar to the highest heights and show the world what fine graduates Eastern Michigan University produces.

Be sure to thank your families and anyone else that helped you get to this point of your life. Again, congratulations and best wishes to all of you! GO GREEN!

(Mr. Brown returns to seat. President Martin assumes lectern.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Eric.

This is a joyous day for all of you and your families. Take a look around you. You are surrounded by your friends, family and faculty members. 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.

(President Martin returns to seat, remains standing. 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.

Immediately following the alma mater, the Color Guard ascends the stage, picks up flags, and waits for Grand Marshal to begin recessional.

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