

2009

AM Ceremonial Script, December 20, 2009

Eastern Michigan University

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Sunday, December 20, 2009

Convocation Center

1:40 p.m. PROCESSIONAL
(Eastern Michigan Symphonic Band)

Grand Marshal Matthew Evett 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 Roy Wilbanks 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 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.)

- Floyd Clack of Flint
- Philip Incarnati of Clarkston,
- Thomas Sidlik of Ann Arbor,
- James Stapleton of Ann Arbor.

Robert Peavler, assistant professor in music and dance, 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 Wilbanks steps back. Professor Peavler assumes the lectern. Colors are dipped during the National Anthem.)

PROFESSOR PEAVLER: (Leads singing of National Anthem)

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

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

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Regent Wilbanks.

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 Matthew
Evet, professor of computer science and president of the
Faculty Senate.

(Professor Evett stands)

Dr. Evett joined the Eastern faculty in 1999 and has taught a wide variety of courses including artificial intelligence and computer game programming. He also has done research in computer simulation of laboratory experiments for distance education.

Dr. Evett has provided valuable leadership and service while serving on the university's Facilities Planning Commission and many other critical departmental and university task forces.

Thank you, Dr. Evett.

(Professor Evett sits down.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Our faculty marshals, chosen from the ranks of Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Award winners, are:

- Karen Paciorek, professor, Department of Teacher Education; and
- Michael Paciorek, professor, Health Promotion and Human Performance.

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;
- Martha Baiyee, (**bay ee**) associate professor, Department of Teacher Education;
- Mary Brake, professor, Engineering Technology;
- Nancy Copeland, associate professor, Department of Teacher Education;
- Pamela Lemerand, assistant professor, School of Health Sciences;
- Erik Lokensgard, professor, Engineering Technology
- Julia Myers, professor, Art; and
- Brian Spolans, assistant professor, Art.

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

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

- Jo Ann Aebersold, professor, Communication, Media and Theatre Arts;
- Dennis Beagen, head of the Department of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts;

- Catherine Day, professor, World Languages;
- Gary Evans, professor, Communication, Media and Theatre Arts;
- Geoffrey Hammill, professor, Communication, Media and Theatre Arts; and
- Sally McCracken, professor, 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 represents a significant milestone in your lives. 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 step – whether it is graduate school or a position in your chosen profession.

You've had an excellent foundation. Eastern Michigan University's education-first experiences provided by your outstanding faculty have prepared you to be successful.

Eastern Michigan is proud of its students. You are independent, smart and worked hard for your education. I'd like to share with you several brief stories of students who exemplify those traits.

Would **Terrence Blevins** please stand?

Terrence, 23, has overcome numerous challenges. When he was 14, he saw his mother tragically killed. As a result, he and his siblings moved from Louisiana to Detroit to stay with their father. It was a hard transition because he helped care for his family and used sports as his outlet. Although Terrence was all-state in football during high school, he lost several major college scholarships because of his grades.

Once he came to Eastern Michigan, though, Terrence successfully focused on his class work, earned a scholarship and joined the football team as a running back. With mentoring from alumnus Pat McInnis, CEO of Fathead, and a member of Eastern's E-Gridiron group, Terrence thrived. He now hopes to pursue a career in professional football. His biggest wish? That his mother could have been here today.

Congratulations, Terrence.

Eastern Michigan University is known for its diversity and the many countries represented by our international students. I'd like to introduce you to one of those students.

Dmitriy Zelinskiy (deh meet tree zel in skee), would you please stand?

Dmitriy is from Kazakhstan and speaks both English and Russian. After transferring from Monroe Community College two years ago, Dmitriy became active in Eastern's international students group. He helped produce a video and was a group leader for orientation, and prepared booklets for initial visits by prospective students.

He also volunteered to meet international students at the airport and drive them back to Eastern Michigan and would take them out to lunch.

Demitriy graduates today with a degree in management. He will use his skills to help his family's international business enter the U.S market. We welcome his parents who flew in from Kazakhstan to be here today.

Congratulations, Dmitriy.

College can be challenging especially students with disabilities. But thanks to a variety of services at Eastern these students do well.

Our next student is **Meagan Daniels** of Lathrup Village. Meagan, would you please stand?

Meagan, who is graduating with a major in communication and a minor in general business, has never let her blindness stop her from fully participating in activities, such as her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, and her classes.

Meagan's initial challenges were navigating around campus and obtaining electronic and audio textbooks and books in Braille. That's where Eastern's Center for Adaptive Technology Lab and the Students with Disabilities Office proved invaluable.

She participated in an internship at the Voice of America and recently completed a second one at the Department of Army's Army Career and Alumni Program Headquarters.

Both internships were in Washington D.C., which meant Meagan had to learn to successfully navigate a city that can be confusing. The experiences gave her more confidence.

After graduation, Meagan will work with career services to find the right job that fits her skills.

Congratulations, Meagan.

Would **Mark Wheeler** please stand?

46-year-old Mark, of Howell, majored in social work and is a McNair Scholar. He's had several careers ranging from the military to working as an engineering design team leader in the auto industry. His final job nearly killed him after he was crushed in an industrial accident.

That accident convinced him to take a chance on his passion - going back to school so he could help others.

While at Eastern, he worked as a bereavement counselor at a hospital and earned such honors as the Flossie Whyte Scholarship for outstanding human services, and the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Mark, a Native American, used his interest in racism to publish a research paper entitled, “Stereotypes: Racism and its Effects on the 2008 Presidential Election and Our Citizens.”

Mark will be working with the Livingston County Department of Human Services as a visitation coach, helping parents improve their interaction with their children. He eventually would like to earn his Ph.D and continue his research.

Congratulations, Mark.

Many of our students spend enormous amounts of time helping out in the community. Twenty-four-year-old **Jolayna (joe lane ah) Palm** of Detroit is no exception. She graduates today with a degree in business education.

Would **Jolayna (joe lane ah)** please stand?

Jolayna has just finished student teaching at Ypsilanti High School. But that wasn't the first time she used her education to mentor students. She has been a counselor for the King Chavez Park program and a residence hall assistant for the summer incentive program, both at Eastern Michigan.

Most recently, she was involved with Gear Up, a program at Eastern that prepares high school students for college. As a result of her work at Cody High School in Detroit, Jolayna and her two classmates created a summer program that catered to young women with low self-esteem at Cody.

The six-week program featured a career fair and programs dealing with emotional development, nutrition, academic success and finance.

Her next challenge will be graduate school at Eastern, where she'll work toward a master's in educational leadership – higher education/student affairs.

Thank you, Jolayna.

These students are wonderful representatives of Eastern's students.

(Pause to change pace)

I'm sure most of you will recognize our next speaker. His commanding manner, sense of humor and down-to-earth perspectives are seen daily on the award-winning Judge Mathis show, which airs nationwide. What you might not know, though, is that he has a history at Eastern Michigan.

Judge Gregory Mathis is a distinguished alumnus, nationally known for his advocacy campaigns for equal justice.

I'm proud to note that he developed this passion while a student at Eastern Michigan University. Among his efforts were the Free South Africa campaign and his push to increase voter registration on campus. He also met his wife, Linda, at Eastern.

After graduating in 1983, Mathis earned a law degree from the University of Detroit in 1987.

While in law school, he remained active in social causes, particularly with the Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow PUSH Coalition, an organization that fights for social change in order to improve economic and educational opportunities. He currently serves as vice president of the organization. His national efforts also include serving as a board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Morehouse School of Medicine.

Mathis and his wife, Linda, also founded an organization called, Young Adults Asserting Themselves. It is an outreach initiative that provides young adults, ages 17 to 25, with career opportunities, job training and college enrollment assistance.

The story of a young man who rose from a struggling delinquent in Detroit to a Michigan District Court Judge and inspirational television star is chronicled in Mathis' autobiography, Inner City Miracle.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very honored to present to you – and welcome home - our commencement speaker, Judge Gregory Mathis.

(President Martin is seated. Judge Mathis assumes lectern.)

JUDGE MATHIS: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Greg, 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 Gregory E. Mathis, the honorary degree – Doctor of Public Service

To confer the degree, I call upon Regent Roy Wilbanks. Regent Wilbanks will be assisted by Provost and Executive Vice President Jack Kay, and Thomas Venner, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

(President Martin steps to her left. Regent Wilbanks assumes lectern. Provost Kay picks up hood from under his chair. Dean Venner picks up citation and diploma from under his chair. Provost Kay and Dean Venner escort Judge Mathis to a position behind and to the right of the president. Dean Venner hands citation to Regent Wilbanks. At the appropriate time, Provost Kay assists with the hooding.)

REGENT WILBANKS: Gregory Mathis, distinguished judge, you have devoted your life to the law, using your talents and training to promote equal justice throughout the country.

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

Upon the recommendation and authority of the Board of Regents, Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon you, Gregory E. Mathis, the honorary degree - Doctor of Public Service - with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

(Regent Wilbanks hands the citation and diploma to Judge Mathis. Provost Kay and Dean Venner hood Judge Mathis. Regent Wilbanks returns to chair.)

Provost Kay and Dean Venner escort Judge Mathis to his chair.

Dean Venner moves to stage right.

Provost Kay assumes the lectern.)

PROVOST KAY: President Martin, it is now my honor to present the deans for the presentation of the Class of 2009.

(The president stands at her chair.)

(Kay 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. *(pause)*
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. *(pause)*
Thank you. Please be seated.

ASSOC. DEAN BRETTING: President Martin, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the College of Education.

Graduates, please stand to be recognized. *(pause)*

Thank you. Please be seated.

ASSOC. DEAN SCHEFFER: 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. *(pause)* 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. *(pause)* Thank you. Please be seated.

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

PROVOST KAY: Regents, President Martin, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present Eastern Michigan's 11 doctoral candidates. These candidates have completed programs culminating in the doctor of education degree in educational leadership and the doctor of philosophy in clinical psychology.

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

Regent Sidlik will confer the doctoral degrees. Dr. Deb de Laski-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. de Laski-Smith stands in front of chair. Provost Kay steps back. Regent Sidlik assumes the lectern.)

REGENT SIDLIK: In as much as you have been recommended by the faculty, contingent upon completion of all requirements, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Regents of Eastern Michigan University and the state of Michigan, I confer upon you the degree to which you are entitled with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto. Please come forward to receive your diplomas.

(Provost Kay assumes the lectern. Regent Sidlik and Dr. de Laski-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 Sidlik, shaking of Regent's hand and back to their seats. Dissertation chair follows graduate.)

PROVOST KAY: The first candidate is **Matthew Altieri**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Silvia von Kluge, professor of psychology. Mr. Altieri is a primary care chronic pain psychologist at the Veterans' Affairs Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo, New York.

His dissertation is entitled, "Intentions to Seek Therapy, Attitudes and Stigma: An Analysis of the Theory of Reasoned Action." Congratulations, Dr. Altieri.

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

Our second candidate is **Jeanine Beasley**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Beasley is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at Grand Valley State University.

Her dissertation is entitled, "The Reliability and Validity of an Admissions Tool in Predicting Academic and Fieldwork

Achievement in Occupational Therapy Students.”

Congratulations, Dr. Beasley.

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

Our third candidate is **Marlena Bravender**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. David Anderson, associate professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Bravender is an adjunct faculty member and instructional design consultant at Eastern Michigan University. Her dissertation is entitled, “Social Learning: A Study Examining the Use of Threaded Discussions in the Online Classroom.” Congratulations, Dr. Bravender.

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

Our fourth candidate is **Andrew Cameron**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. Karen Saules, professor of psychology.

Mr. Cameron is an employee assistance counselor at Employee Resource Center, Inc. in Wisconsin.

His dissertation is entitled, “Exposure to a Computer-Hosted Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Pathological Gambling: Impact on Gambling Symptomatology and Disclosure of Gambling Participation in Required Counseling for Adults Receiving Opiate Substitution Therapy.” Congratulations, Dr. Cameron.

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Mr. Cameron and Dr. Saules move up the ramp and stop in front of Dr. de Laski-Smith. Dr. de Laski-Smith and Dr. Saules hood Mr. Cameron. Dr. Cameron accepts diploma cover from Regent Sidlik and shakes Regent’s hand. Dr. Cameron ascends down the center ramp and returns to his seat. Dr. Saules returns to the stage area.)

Our fifth candidate is **Amy Collings**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Karen Saules, professor of psychology. Ms. Collings is a health psychology postdoctoral fellow at the Consortium of Advanced Psychology Training at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc.

Her dissertation is entitled, “An Experimental Analysis of the Impact of Advertising and Food Packaging on Women’s Eating Behavior.” Congratulations, Dr. Collings.

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

Our sixth candidate is **Celeste Diehm, (dee-em)** who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. Diehm is principal of Baker Elementary School, Wayland-Union School District in Wayland, Mich.

Her dissertation is entitled, "Achievement of Boys and Girls in Single-Gender Kindergarten Classrooms at One Elementary School in Western Michigan."

Congratulations, Dr. Diehm (dee-em)

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Ms. Diehm and Dr. Williamson move up the ramp and stop in front of Dr. de Laski-Smith. Dr. de Laski-Smith and Dr. Williamson hood Ms. Diehm. Dr. Diehm accepts diploma cover from Regent Sidlik and shakes Regent's hand. Dr. Diehm ascends down the center ramp and returns to her seat. Dr. Williamson ascends ramp and returns to stage area.)

Our seventh candidate is **Dawn Gaymer**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, professor of leadership and counseling.

Ms. Gaymer is associate provost for extended university programs at Western Michigan University.

Her dissertation is entitled, “The Evolution of Eastern Michigan University: The Politics of Change and Persistence.” Congratulations, Dr. Gaymer.

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

Our eighth candidate is **Melissa Grey**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Silvia von Kluge, professor of psychology. Ms. Grey is a clinical health psychology postdoctoral fellow at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Flint.

Her dissertation is entitled, “Assimilative Demands: The Psychological Impact of Legal Decisions in Lesbians’ Lives.” Congratulations, Dr. Grey.

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

Our ninth candidate is **Shannon McBrady**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Ronald Williamson, professor of leadership and counseling. Ms. McBrady is assistant principal of Center Line High School.

Her dissertation is entitled, “Ninth Grade Interventions and the Impact on High School Graduation Rates.”

Congratulations, Dr. McBrady.

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

Our tenth candidate is **Carole Porcari**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Ellen Koch, associate professor of psychology. Ms. Porcari is a postdoctoral fellow at the Veterans Administration Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

Her dissertation is entitled, “Predictors of Help-Seeking in Returning Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans.” Congratulations, Dr. Porcari.

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

Our eleventh candidate is **William Ssozi, (suzie)** who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, Dr. James Barott, professor of leadership and counseling. Mr. Ssozi is superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Hoima (**ho-e-mah**) Diocese, in Uganda.

His dissertation is entitled, “The Genesis and Evolution of Catholic Schools in Hoima (**ho-e-mah**) Diocese, southwestern Uganda: A Case Study.” Congratulations, Dr. Ssozi (**suzie**).

(While the Provost is speaking: Mr. Ssozi and Dr. Barott move up the ramp and stop in front of Dr. de Laski-Smith. Dr. de Laski-Smith and Dr. Barott hood Mr. Ssozi. Dr. Ssozi accepts diploma cover from Regent Sidlik and shakes Regent's hand. Dr. Ssozi ascends down the center ramp, followed by Dr. Barott. They return to their seats.)

PROVOST KAY: 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 de Laski-Smith.

Regents James Stapleton and Floyd Clack will confer the degrees. Academic deans will assist them.

(Provost Kay returns to 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, advanced graduate certificates, master's degrees, 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; Regent Stapleton assumes lectern.)*

REGENT STAPLETON: 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. de Laski-Smith is seated. Regent Stapleton and Dean Mielke go down the stairs to the presentation stage left. Regent Clack and Assoc. Dean Bretting 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 name card to the reader, who reads the name of candidate. Dean Mielke hands Regent Stapleton, Assoc. Dean Bretting hands Regent Clack diplomas.)

(Regents Stapleton and Clack 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 Kay returns to the lectern.)

PROVOST KAY: 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.

Twenty-two students are graduating from the University Honors College this semester. In addition to completing their undergraduate requirements with an exceptional grade point average, these students have undertaken the special challenge of honors work that includes a major project, the senior honors thesis.

At this time, I would like to recognize the **graduates of the University Honors College**. Will these graduates please stand and be recognized? *(Pause)* Please be seated.

PROVOST KAY: 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.

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.

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 KAY: I would now like to ask Regina Royan, student government president, to say a few words.

(Dr. Kay is seated and Ms. Royan takes the lectern.)

MS. ROYAN: (REMARKS TO STUDENTS)

(Ms. Royan returns to seat. Provost Kay returns to lectern)

PROVOST KAY: Regent Philip Incarnati, assisted by Regents Floyd Clack, Thomas Sidlik and James Stapleton, and the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Regents Incarnati, Clack, Sidlik and Stapleton, and Deans Boone, Mielke, Bretting, Scheffer and Venner stand at their chairs.)

PROVOST KAY: Will the candidates for the bachelor's degree please rise? *(Pause)* 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 2009 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees to which they are appropriately entitled.
(Provost Kay returns to seat. 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 Boone go to presentation stage right. Dean Mielke and Regent Clack go to presentation stage left. All others are seated. Two of the readers go to the microphones stage left and stage right.)

(Candidates are led to the stage one row at a time by the marshals. Candidates present their name cards to the readers who read the name and any honors listed on the cards of the candidates.)

(Readers, please read University academic honors only – not program or college designations. Please read, where appropriate, summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude.)

(After the candidates receive their diplomas, they return to their seats, where they remain standing until their entire row has returned, whereupon the marshals give the signal to be seated.)

ROTATION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS

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

About one-quarter of the way through the bachelor's candidates,
Associate Dean Bretting replaces Dean Mielke. Regent Sidlik replaces Regent Incarnati shaking hands.

Associate Dean Scheffer replaces Dean Boone. Regent Stapleton replaces Regent Clack shaking hands.

About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,
Dean Venner replaces Associate Dean Bretting. Bretting moves forward, replacing Regent Stapleton shaking hands.

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

About three-quarters of the way through,
Director Jim Knapp replaces Dean Venner. Dean Venner moves forward, replacing Associate Dean Bretting shaking hands.

Associate Dean Dan Gaymer replaces Dean de Laski-Smith. Dean de Laski-Smith moves forward, replacing Associate Dean Scheffer 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, 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. Eric Brown, president of the Eastern Michigan University alumni association, and a 2003 graduate, will welcome you as Eastern's newest alumni.

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

MR. BROWN: As president of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, representing more than 140,000 graduates, "Congratulations on your accomplishment"!

It brings me joy to see that your families, friends and professors are here to share in this occasion.

Whether this is your first or tenth time going through a commencement ceremony, getting a degree from a university is a major accomplishment.

Earlier, our fellow alumnus, Judge Greg Mathis, inspired us with a magnificent speech. I hope you will take his words to heart. He is always willing to share his life's story, and to have him standing here before you is proof that dreams and determination can make the impossible, possible.

Now let me give you something to think about. In April, I stood before the graduating students who were sitting in those very seats that you are occupying and my message to them was - learn the art of networking. That is a very important skill to have in these trying times. In addition, I suggest you take a long hard look at the world today.

The world that I speak of is very different today than what it was for me when I occupied one of those seats on graduation day years ago. My future may have been a little different because I was already working in my chosen field.

Due to the current state of economic affairs, you may think that you have limited options.

Do not let the economy deter you from your dreams.
Always try to have options and keep those options open.
I encourage you to think globally; try to bring a new
approach to old problems; and take on new problems.

I want you to understand that we are not alone in the
"problems" department and many, if not all of you, have the
skills to not only tackle these problems head-on, but to
solve them as well.

There are wonderful professors here at Eastern Michigan
University and just as they prepared Judge Mathis and me
for the challenges we would be facing,

I am sure the same can be said about the preparation given
to each of you. Do not let these trying times limit your
possibilities.

I have confidence that you will persevere and reach your
goals. Eastern graduates set the world on fire on a daily
basis and you are now charged with carrying on that
tradition.

Before I close, let me ask that you do not let today mark the end of your relationship with this place of higher learning.

I hope that you will learn to appreciate the many contributions of those who have come before and laid the foundation for you to follow.

Going forward, 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.

Don't to be a stranger to the career services office and those who are now your former professors. And stay engaged and involved with your alma mater. Those friendships and relationships that you gained here - use those tools to connect with other Eastern graduates.

It is now your job to make sure this fine institution continues to provide a quality education. Be ambassadors and assist in delivering the message that this is a great place to get an education.

Go forward into society by representing this university in the very fashion that you did as a student walking the halls of 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.

Again, congratulations, best wishes to you and welcome to the Alumni Association. GO GREEN!

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Congratulations, Class of 2009.

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)

(Personal comments by President Martin continues.)

We will conclude the commencement ceremonies with our alma mater, *Our Pledge*, led by Professor Peavler. 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 Peavler.

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

PROFESSOR PEAVLER: 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 Peavler returns to seat and remains standing. Participants replace caps. Wait until the Grand Marshal and Color Guard are in place.)

(Recessional is led by the Grand Marshal, followed by the Color Guard and then the President leading participants in reverse order of the processional. Return to the robing room where you may remove your robes.)

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