

2010

AM Ceremonial Script, April 25, 2010

Eastern Michigan University

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Convocation Center

9:40 a.m. PROCESSIONAL
(Eastern Michigan Wind Symphony)

Grand Marshal Donald Pearson 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 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 morning. 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 2010 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.)

- Francine Parker of St. Clair Shores, vice chair
- Thomas Sidlik of Ann Arbor
- James Stapleton of Ann Arbor

Assistant Professor **MeeAe Nam, (mee ay naam)**, mezzo-soprano, will sing our national anthem. She will be accompanied by the renowned Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony, conducted by Dr. Mary K. Schneider, director of bands.

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

PROFESSOR NAM: (Leads singing of National Anthem)

(All remain standing. Immediately following anthem, Color Guard posts flags and

exits left side of stage. Professor Nam 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 joining 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 Donald Pearson.

(Professor Pearson stands)

Dr. Pearson has been an integral and vital part of the Department of Economics. He is known for his extensive knowledge of such labor issues as unionization, the role of minority workers, arbitration and mediation.

He also has served as director of the undergraduate program in economics, and headed up the labor studies program for many years. Dr. Pearson retired in 2010 after 41 years of teaching and research at Eastern Michigan.

Thank you, Dr. Pearson.

(Professor Pearson sits down.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Our faculty marshals are:

- Heather Neff, professor of English language and literature
- Deanna Mihaly, associate professor of 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
- Timothy Brewer, associate professor, chemistry
- Nancy Copeland, associate professor, teacher education
- Jeffrey Duncan, professor, English language & literature
- Susan Gregory, professor, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Technology Studies

- Arthur Howard, professor, chemistry
- Derek Mueller, assistant professor, English language & literature
- Aaron Liepman, assistant professor, biology

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

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

- JoAnne Aebersold, professor, world languages
- Jessica Alexander, associate professor, communication, media and theatre arts
- Dennis Beagen, head of the department of communication, media and theatre arts
- Catherine Day, professor, world languages
- Jenny Kindred, associate professor, communication, media and theatre arts
- 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 achievement. Congratulations on a job well done.

Education has always been a critical component for success. You and your families have made sacrifices over the last several years in order for you to reach your goal of a college degree.

We at Eastern know how the economy has affected our students and their parents. So, if you have family members who will attend Eastern Michigan, or you have plans to go on to graduate school here next year, I have good news.

The Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents unveiled this past Tuesday, a 0-percent, 0-percent and 0-percent increase in tuition and fees, room and board.

We believe this is the right decision at the right time, for our university and for Michigan citizens. *(pause)*

Eastern Michigan University is proud of its student body and its diversity. You are independent, smart and have worked hard for your education. I would now like to introduce several students who exemplify those traits.

Would **April Davis** please stand?

Forty-four-year-old April Davis of Ypsilanti graduates today with a degree in marketing communications.

April is known for her drive and enthusiasm. She is constantly on the go, as a wife and mother of twins, and as a student.

April owns the Breakout Marketing Group, which specializes in helping small businesses and hosting special events. But she wanted more. As April described it, she was exceeding in life, but not in education. It was time to go back to school.

She started at Washtenaw Community College and transferred to Eastern in 2005. While at Eastern, April helped to organize a sports marketing group that connects students with sports events and campus life, and for the past four years, has mentored young women.

April's future plans include enrolling either in Eastern's entrepreneur certificate program or earn a master's degree. Her long-term goal is to help women in small businesses maximize their potential.

Congratulations, **April**.

Our next student is **Yasmine (yaz-meen) Nahlawi (nah law wee)**. Would you please stand?

Originally from California, Yasmine is 20 years old and grew up in Ypsilanti. She graduates today with an undergraduate degree in political science and a minor in biology.

Yasmine is an outstanding all-around student. A recipient of Eastern's prestigious Presidential Scholarship, she also was

awarded a Michigan Merit Award; the state's Robert C. Byrd Scholarship for valedictorians and the Rosa Parks Scholarship for her essay on how Mrs. Parks' legacy inspires her.

You may recognize her as one of two student emcees for the President's MLK Day luncheon and she served as president of the Muslim Student Association.

After graduation, Yasmine will enter the doctoral program at the University of Michigan's School of Pharmacy, which accepts only 78 students a year. There also is some additional good news. She was just notified that she has won the Charles R. Walgreen Scholarship from U-M.

Congratulations, **Yasmine (yaz-meen)**.

I'd now like to call on **Andrew Hinz (hines)**.

If you ever end up in a courtroom, make sure **Andrew Hinz (hines)** is on your side. Andrew, 25, is one of Eastern's top mock trial competitors and plans on parlaying those skills into a law career. He graduates today with a major of political science and a minor in public law and government.

The Coldwater native transferred from Kellogg Community College to Eastern in winter 2008 with plans to become a criminal defense attorney.

Andrew joined the Eastern's award-winning mock trial team in fall 2009 and won the outstanding attorney award at his first tournament.

During the opening rounds of the regional championship, Andrew received a top attorney award for outstanding presentation and a top witness award for his performance under direct and cross-examination.

Due to their outstanding performances, Andrew and his fellow team members went on to compete nationally last week after beating such powerhouses as Notre Dame, Ohio State and Michigan State.

Thank you, **Andrew**.

Our fourth student is **Krystle Bednark**. Krystle is from New Boston, Mich. and graduates today with a master's degree in communications.

What is unusual about Krystle is that she is only 20 years old and has a 4.0 grade point average.

Krystle's been on a fast track since she graduated from Agape **(ah gah pay)** Christian Academy at age 16.

Krystle earned her undergraduate degree in comprehensive communications with a minor in earth system science in less than four years. She started her master's degree one year ago after receiving a university fellowship scholarship.

Life isn't all about studies, though. Krystle participated in more than 50 hours of community service for a diverse group of nonprofits, including the Ann Arbor Soup Kitchen and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Although she plans to enter a doctoral program in the next few years, Krystle hopes to channel her love of communications and earth science into a position as a meteorologist on television.

Thank you, **Krystle.**

Finally, I would like to recognize **Aunmar (on-mar) Mohammed. Aunmar**, would you please stand?

Aunmar is 22 years old and is from Ypsilanti. He graduates with a bachelor's degree in one of today's hottest fields – simulation, animation and gaming.

Aunmar was like many students when he was a freshman. He didn't know what he wanted, so he explored different majors.

Although he was interested in computer simulation and design, he also has an artistic flair and wanted to express his talent.

Then he discovered Eastern's simulation, animation and gaming program in the College of Technology. The new major was great because he could use his skills and visual talents to develop 3-D images.

Aunmar's hard work and talent garnered him the Most Outstanding Student in the Program award for 2009-2010.

Congratulations, **Aunmar**.

These students are wonderful representatives of Eastern's student body. Also worth noting is that four of the five students featured have family members who are currently attending Eastern or have graduated from this great university.

(Pause to change pace)

We are pleased to have a distinguished executive and former Michiganian as our speaker today.

Daniel J. McClory is the managing director of the Hunter Wise Financial Group, LLC, based in Irvine, California.

Hunter Wise Financial Group and Hunter Wise Securities, provide corporate finance services for small to medium-size businesses as well as select middle market, privately-held companies.

Mr. McClory has a strong background in international business. He has completed initial public offerings on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market for U.S. and international clients, as well as listings and fundraises on the U.S. over-the-counter markets, and the Toronto Stock Exchange.

He also spearheaded the opening of Hunter Wise offices in London and Beijing.

Prior to joining Hunter Wise, Mr. McClory was with CIGNA Securities, and the Ford Motor Company, where he served as a zone sales manager for the Ford and Lincoln Mercury Division.

A Detroit native, Mr. McClory received his bachelor's degree in 1981 and a master's in 1982 from Eastern Michigan University. He was a three-time captain of Eastern's NCAA Division One varsity cross country team.

He was named an Outstanding Young Alumnus of Eastern Michigan and "Eastern Man of the Year" in 2010.

Mr. McClory's 2008 gift of \$1 million to the Eastern Michigan University Men's and Women's Track and Cross Country programs was the largest contribution in our athletic department's history.

Mr. McClory is a director of the USA Track & Field Foundation Board, which provides a means to attract and guide funds to new and innovative track and field programs.

The board provides opportunities for young athletes, emerging athletes and anti-doping education. He also is a member of the foundation's Youth Committee, and the business development committee for the national governing board.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very honored to present to you – and welcome home to Eastern - our commencement speaker, Daniel McClory.

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

MR. MCCLORY: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Dan, 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 Daniel J. McClory, the honorary degree – Doctor of Public Service.

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

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

REGENT WILBANKS: Daniel McClory, distinguished business executive, you have exemplified 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, Daniel McClory, the honorary degree, Doctor of Public Service, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto.

(Regent Wilbanks hands the citation and diploma to Mr. McClory.)

Provost Kay and Dean Venner hood Mr. McClory.

At this point, Provost Kay and Dean Venner escort Mr. McClory to his seat. Regent Wilbanks returns to his seat. President moves right to podium)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: We're extremely fortunate to have another honorary degree recipient at this morning's ceremony. I would like to ask Dan McClory to tell you about Red Simmons.

(president returns to seat. Mr. McClory goes to podium).

MR. MCCLORY: It is my privilege to recognize Kenneth Simmons, a 1933 graduate who has used his outstanding leadership skills to promote women's college athletics. His love of sports has led him to a history of success as a competitor, coach, mentor and innovator.

Red, as he is affectionately called, was a championship athlete at Detroit's Redford High School. After graduating in 1929, he borrowed \$18 for tuition to attend Michigan Normal College, now Eastern Michigan.

While at Michigan Normal, Mr. Simmons was an all-around athlete. He won three varsity letters in track, the intramural boxing championship and was a three-time intramural wrestling champion. His successful career also included a trip to the 1932 Olympic trials.

After college, he worked at the Detroit Police Department for 25 years. When he retired in 1959, he began teaching at the University of Michigan.

His notable achievements include starting the Michigammes, Ann Arbor's first women's track club; developing the University of Michigan's women's track team, and serving as the U of M track coach from 1976 until he retired in 1981.

A former member of the EMU Alumni Association's Board of Directors, Mr. Simmons was elected to the EMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1979 and was the first person elected to the U of M Women's Track and Field Hall of Fame.

If this sounds like a full and successful life, you are right. Now he can add another major achievement. Red Simmons celebrated his 100th birthday in January.

(Mr. McClory returns to seat. President goes to podium)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Dan. Eastern Michigan is proud to confer upon Kenneth Simmons, the honorary degree – Doctor of Public Service.

To confer the degree, I call upon Regent Roy Wilbanks, chair of the Board of Regents. Regent Wilbanks will be assisted by Provost Jack Kay, and Thomas Venner, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

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

REGENT WILBANKS: Kenneth Simmons, distinguished civic leader, coach and athlete, you have devoted your life to eliminating gender discrimination in athletics and encouraging young athletes to excel. A recognized leader within athletics, you have made important contributions that have provided women with opportunities to compete in collegiate sports.

Your leadership and advocacy on behalf of women's sports have positively affected the lives of thousands of young athletes, both men and women. Your tireless effort on behalf of others truly serves as a model for our graduates.

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

In token thereof, I cause you to be vested with the hood of this degree *(pause for hooding)* and present you with this diploma and citation.

(Regent Wilbanks hands the citation to Mr. Simmons, then returns to his chair. Provost Kay and Dean Venner will escort Mr. Simmons to his chair. Dean Venner goes to stage right and is joined by Dean Boone. Provost Kay takes lectern.)

PROVOST KAY: President Martin, it is my honor to present the deans for the presentation of the Class of 2010.

(The President stands at her chair. Provost 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 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: Regent Wilbanks, President Martin, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present Eastern Michigan's **four doctoral candidates**. These candidates have completed a program culminating in the doctor of philosophy degree in technology and the doctor of philosophy degree in clinical psychology.

Four candidates, who completed a program culminating in the doctor of education degree in educational leadership, will be honored during this afternoon's ceremony.

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

Regent Roy Wilbanks 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 Wilbanks assumes the lectern.)

REGENT WILBANKS: 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 Kay assumes the lectern. Regent Wilbanks 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 Wilbanks, shaking of Regent's hand and back to their seats. Dissertation chair follows graduate.)

PROVOST KAY: The first candidate is **Amy Drayton**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, Dr. Michelle Byrd, associate professor of psychology. Ms. Drayton is a fellow in pediatric psychology at the University of Michigan.

Her dissertation is entitled, “Deconstructing the Time-Out: What Do Parents Understand About a Common Disciplinary Procedure.”

Congratulations, Dr. Drayton.

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

Our second candidate is **Ravi Joshi (joe shee)**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, **Dr. Vijay Kumar Mannari**, associate professor in the School of Engineering Technology. Mr. Joshi is a technical manager at the Munzing Corp. in New Jersey.

His dissertation is entitled, “Crosslinked Conventional Size and Nanoparticle Size Acrylic Latexes and Their Blends.”

Congratulations, Dr. Joshi.

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

Our third candidate is **Jennifer Boss Mainka (main – kah)**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, **Dr. Dean Lauterbach**, professor of psychology. Ms. Mainka is a psychologist at the Relationship Center of Michigan in Brighton, Michigan.

Her dissertation is entitled, “Diagnostic Efficiency of the Computerized PTSD Scale – Multimedia Version in Assessing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.”

Congratulations, Dr. Mainka.

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

Our fourth candidate is **Shauncie Skidmore**, who is accompanied by **Dr. Carol Freedman-Doan**, professor of psychology. Dr. Freedman-Doan is representing Dr. Karen Saules, professor of psychology.

Ms. Skidmore works in the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry’s substance abuse section.

Her dissertation is entitled, “The Impact of Pre-Treatment Identification of Personality Style and Personality Disorder Symptoms on Psychotherapy Outcomes in a Training Clinic.”

Congratulations, Dr. Skidmore.

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

PROVOST KAY: The presentation of candidates for graduate degrees will be conducted by Dr. Deb de Laski-Smith.

Regents James Stapleton and Francine Parker will confer the degrees. Academic deans will assist them.

(Provost Kay 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 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 Stapleton, and Dean Venner hands Regent Parker the diplomas for the students.)

(Regents Stapleton 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. 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.

Nine 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?

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 Regina Royan, president of student government, to say a few words. Ms. Royan graduates today with a bachelor of science degree in both biology and political science.

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

MS. ROYAN: (REMARKS TO STUDENTS)

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

PROVOST KAY: Regent Thomas Sidlik, assisted by Regents Francine Parker, James Stapleton and Roy Wilbanks, and the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Regents Parker, Sidlik, and Stapleton, and Deans Venner and Boone stand at their chairs.)

PROVOST KAY: 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 2010 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees to which they are appropriately entitled.

(Provost Kay steps back. Regent Sidlik assumes the lectern.)

REGENT SIDLIK: 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, beginning with Student Body President Regina Royan.

(Regent Sidlik and Dean Venner go to presentation stage right. Dean Boone and Regent Parker go to presentation stage left. All others are seated. Two of the readers go to the microphones stage left and stage right.)

(As the Regents and Deans move into place, Ms. Royan leaves the platform by way of the side stairs, and walks to the first row of undergraduates. After receiving her diploma, Ms. Royan walks down the ramp, through the first row of undergraduate

seats and returns to platform.)

(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 Venner hands Regent Sidlik and Dean Boone hands Regent Parker the diplomas. Regent Sidlik and Regent Parker shake the students' hands and give them their diplomas.

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

Dean Venner remains in place while Regent Wilbanks replaces Regent Sidlik shaking hands.

Dean Boone remains in place while Regent Stapleton replaces Regent Parker shaking hands.

About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,

Dean de Laski-Smith replaces Dean Venner. Dean Venner moves forward, replacing Regent Wilbanks shaking hands.

Dean Bretting replaces Dean Boone. Dean Boone moves forward, replacing Regent Stapleton shaking hands.

About three-quarters of the way through,

Dean de Laski-Smith remains in place as Regent Stapleton replaces Dean Venner shaking hands.

Dean Bond replaces Dean Bretting. Dean Bretting 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 2010. I now would like to have you turn the tassels on your cap to the other side, symbolizing your new transition to graduate.

We also 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 EMU's newest alumni.

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

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Dr. Martin. Good morning, graduates.

Before I began, I want each of you to turn to your neighbor and congratulate them.

Now, look into the stands to find your loved ones and extend thanks to them for all of their support.

Now, I would like all graduates to stand up and acknowledge your professors for the job they have done to see that your dreams come true. *(pause)* You may be seated now.

These fine men and women are worthy of our praise for many reasons. In addition to educating us, they have served as friends, confidants, and oftentimes as our away from home mothers and fathers.

They have listened to excuses as to why a paper was late, or why we may not have done so well on a test. They have offered words of advice, constructive criticism and provided life lessons on what life after college may be like.

It is because of these fine role models that you will be able to go forth and make a difference in today's world. Each honoree and speaker today is a testament to the professors at this University.

I am sure that Daniel McClory and Kenneth "Red" Simmons had numerous options when it came to selecting a university. Yet they chose Eastern Michigan University. And it was at this fine institution where a strong foundation was laid for them to become successful.

This is the same expectation that President Martin, the Board of Regents, professors, your loved ones, and the EMU Alumni Association have for you.

As president of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, representing more than 140,000 great graduates of this fine place, I welcome you to the fold.

I now encourage you to go out into the world and demonstrate the value of an Eastern degree. I am proof of how resilient graduates of this university are. We never give up and there is never an obstacle placed before us that we couldn't overcome.

The life skills learned here play a major role in the future success of our graduates. We keep it real and everyone knows that there is an equal playing field from day one. Because, in the end, we know that it is not the branding of a university that paves the way for you, but the character of the person whose name is on that degree.

Just as today's speakers have left this campus and become success stories, there are many of you who will be doing the same thing one day. You have accomplished one of the greatest goals that you set for yourself. As EAGLES, it is time for you to let those wings soar and make us proud of you.

On a more personal note, please don't try to ignore those calls in the future asking for your continued support of this fine university. The foundation that has been laid for you here is also with the hope that you will always be connected to your alma mater.

Again, congratulations, best of luck to each and every one of you and always stay true to yourself. I wish you well and as always, Go Green.

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Eric.

This is a day of celebration for everyone here today. Take a look around you. You are surrounded by your friends, family and faculty members.

It's been said: "You all have powers you never dreamed of. You can do things you never thought you could do. There are no limitations in what you can do except the limitations in your own mind. Don't think you cannot. Think you can."

Enjoy and savor this time, because you are now poised to take on new challenges from 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 **MeeAe Nam (mee ay naam)**. 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 Nam.

(President Martin returns to seat, remains standing. Professor Nam assumes lectern.)

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

(As soon as Professor Nam finishes singing, Color Guard ascends 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.)

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