

2011

AM Ceremonial Script, April 16, 2011

Eastern Michigan University

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Convocation Center

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

Grand Marshal Gary Evans 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. Please be seated. I'm Roy Wilbanks, Chair 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 2011 Spring commencement.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our distinguished faculty, staff, families, friends, and 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 remain standing after your name is called.

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

- Francine Parker of St. Clair Shores, vice chair
- Floyd Clack of Flint
- Beth Fitzsimmons of Ann Arbor
- Michael Hawks of Lansing
- Thomas Sidlik of Ann Arbor
- James Stapleton of Ann Arbor

Assistant Professor **MeeAe Nam**, (**mee ay naam**), mezzo-soprano, will sing our national anthem. The renowned Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony, conducted by Dr. Mary K. Schneider, director of bands and assistant professor of music,

will accompany her. Please stand for the anthem.

(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 ceremony.

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Regent Wilbanks. I also would like to welcome you here today.

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 **Gary Evans**, professor emeritus of communication, media and theatre arts.

(Professor Evans stands)

Dr. Evans retired from Eastern last January after 45 years of distinguished service. Known throughout campus as “Doc” Evans, he has won numerous national and local awards for making a significant impact in the classroom.

Dr. Evans is one of those special teachers who became involved with all students whether it was participating in efforts to establish a black studies program to working with student groups during the Vietnam War.

His motto is, “People who get involved do things we can’t even conceive.”

Thank you, Dr. Evans.

(Professor Evans sits down.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Our faculty marshals are:

- **Deborah Heyl-Clegg**, professor of chemistry
- **Andrew Ross**, associate professor of mathematics

Please rise and be recognized.

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: The student marshals are:

- **David Anderson**, associate professor, leadership and counseling
- **Michelle Byrd**, associate professor, psychology
- **Rita Chattopadhyay (chut to padh yay)** professor, mathematics
- **Nancy Copeland**, associate professor, teacher education
- **Paul Howard**, professor, mathematics
- **Diane Jacobs**, professor, physics and astronomy
- **Joanna McNamara**, professor, music and dance
- **Kenneth Rusiniak**, professor, psychology

(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
- **Jessica Alexander**, associate professor, communication, media and theatre arts
- **Dennis Beagen**, head of the department of communication, media and theatre arts

- **John Cooper**, professor, communication, media and theatre arts
- **Cathy Day**, professor, world languages
- **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 Eastern Michigan's academic departments 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, today's ceremony honors your hard work and achievement. Congratulations on a job well done.

Education, combined with perseverance, has always been the key to success and never more so than in today's economy.

I'm proud of our students who are independent and smart, and who work hard to earn an Eastern Michigan degree. I would now like to introduce several of your classmates who exemplify those Eastern Michigan traits.

Would **Bethany Feldman** please stand? Bethany is 22 years old and graduates today with university honors from the Honors College.

With her love of both psychology and art, Bethany said she wasn't willing to compromise, so she graduates today with undergraduate degrees in both disciplines. Her 3.86 grade point average reflects her devotion to her studies.

Bethany recently participated in a comprehensive class research project on bariatric surgery and its relationship to substance abuse. Her poster presentation will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, a prominent national research society. This is quite an achievement.

She plans to pursue her studies in clinical psychology and has received offers of admission from three top graduate programs.

Thank you, **Bethany**.

I would now like to call on **Connie Speck**. Connie, would you please stand? Connie is a 43-year-old resident of Whitmore Lake who is graduating from the interior design program.

Connie wasn't sure of her academic path when she began taking business classes at Washtenaw Community College in the late 1980s. She eventually left school to get married and raise three children.

When Connie resumed her studies 13 years later, she discovered a love and talent for design while taking a 3D class. She transferred to Eastern and dove headfirst into her studies, showing exceptional skill in creating exciting interior spaces and earning a 4.0 grade point average.

During this time, Connie cared for her family, launched an interior design consulting company and completed an internship at an architectural firm. She also took first place in the sophomore portfolio review and won the Virginia Seaver Scholarship in her junior year for best student portfolio. Her

future plans include working for a large design firm and earning her certification.

Thank you, **Connie**.

Our final student is **Katie Feltner**. Katie, would you please stand? Katie is a 28-year-old resident of Ypsilanti. She's also the model of perseverance.

After ten years of hard work, she graduates today with a degree in communications and a minor in psychology. During that time, Katie helped care for her disabled brother and a grandparent with Alzheimer's, worked full time, married and became a mother.

Katie's husband, Steve, is a graduate student in Eastern's K-12 educational leadership program. The couple says it's important that they set an example for their young son by completing their academic studies. She and her husband are the first in their families to earn college degrees.

Katie has assisted many of her fellow graduates over the years. While taking classes part-time, she's worked as a student

service representative for our online degree programs, helping students complete the registration process. She plans to continue working at Eastern and explore opportunities for growth within the university.

Thank you, **Katie**.

These students are wonderful representatives of Eastern's diverse student body. Congratulations to all of you. *(Pause to change pace)*

We are pleased to have a distinguished retail executive, artist and alumnus as our speaker today.

Steven Tapper is vice president of Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry, based in West Bloomfield.

Mr. Tapper is the perfect example of how art and business skills can successfully meld, and he credits the knowledge and experience he gained at Eastern for his success.

As Mr. Tapper notes, his personal life is dedicated to a wide range of creative pursuits whether in business, social networking, sales development or hands-on involvement with custom jewelry design.

His art has been widely exhibited and is included in a variety of corporate and private collections.

Prior to joining his family's business, Mr. Tapper studied at The Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. He then spent a year living and working on an Israeli kibbutz before returning home to complete his undergraduate degree at Eastern.

Mr. Tapper graduated in 1976 with a dual degree in education, with an emphasis in fine arts education. His focus was on ceramic design and photography.

Mr. Tapper also is active in the community. He is a volunteer mentor with the Detroit Public Schools, a board member of the West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and a member of the West Bloomfield Optimist Club.

He lives in West Bloomfield with his wife, Patti, who also is an artist and designer. They have three children, Julia Meryl, Alexander David and Shayna Rose.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present to you – and welcome home to Eastern - our commencement speaker, Steven Tapper.

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

MR. TAPPER: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Steve, for your wonderful 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 Steven Tapper the honorary degree – Doctor of Fine Arts.

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. Tapper 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: Steven Tapper, distinguished artist and 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, Steven Tapper, the honorary degree, Doctor of Fine Arts, with all its rights, privileges and responsibilities.

(Regent Wilbanks hands the citation and diploma to Mr. Tapper. Provost Kay and Dean Venner hood Mr. Tapper. At this point, Provost Kay and Dean Venner escort Mr. Tapper to his seat. Regent Wilbanks returns to his seat. President moves right to podium)

PROVOST KAY: President Martin, it is my honor to present the deans for the presentation of the Class of 2011.

*(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 **two doctoral candidates from the College of
Technology.** These candidates have completed a program
culminating in the doctor of philosophy degree in technology.

Two 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 its rights, privileges and responsibilities. Please come forward to receive your diplomas and certificates.

(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: Our first candidate is **Abubaker Mohamed**

Haddud, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, **Dr. John Dugger**, professor in Technology Studies. Mr. Haddud, who is from Tripoli, Libya, currently is a doctoral fellow in the College of Technology.

His dissertation is entitled, “A Study of the Relationship Between Radio Frequency Identification Technology and Lean Manufacturing.”

Congratulations, Dr. Haddud.

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

Our second candidate is **Marwan Issa**, who is accompanied by his dissertation chair, **Dr. John Dugger**, professor in Technology Studies. Mr. Issa is technology coordinator for Global Educational Excellence in Ann Arbor.

His dissertation is entitled, “Exploring a Paperless Business Administrative System Implementation in a K-12 School.”

Congratulations, Dr. Issa.

(The following is happening while the Provost is speaking: Mr. Issa and Dr. Dugger move up the ramp and stop in front of Dr. de Laski-Smith. Dr. de Laski-Smith and Dr. Dugger hood Mr. Issa. Dr. Issa accepts diploma cover from Regent Wilbanks and shakes Regent's hand. Dr. Issa ascends down the center ramp, followed by Dr. Dugger. 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 its rights, privileges and responsibilities. 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. Provost Kay assumes the lectern.)

PROVOST KAY: Eastern Michigan's faculty demonstrates a passion and strong commitment to our students. This dedication is especially seen in the University's Honors College. The

College attracts academically gifted students to the University and provides them with the intellectual challenges and opportunities to excel.

We are pleased that **sixty-three students** are graduating from the University Honors College this semester. Not only do these undergraduate have an exceptional grade point average, they also completed the special challenge of honors work that included a senior honors thesis.

At this time, I am proud to recognize the **graduates of the University Honors College**. Will you 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 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 with 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.

Eight 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.

PROVOST KAY: I would now like to ask Antonio Cosme, president of student government, to say a few words. Mr. Cosme graduates today with a bachelor's degree in political science.

(Dr. Kay is seated and Mr. Cosme takes the lectern.)

MR. COSME: (REMARKS TO STUDENTS)

(Mr. Cosme returns to seat. Provost Kay takes the lectern)

PROVOST KAY: Regent Francine Parker, assisted by Regents Floyd Clack, Beth Fitzsimmons and Michael Hawks, and the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Regents Clack, Fitzsimmons and Hawks, 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 Parker, 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 2011 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees.

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

REGENT PARKER: 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 its rights, privileges and responsibilities.

Students, please come forward, as directed by the marshals, to receive your diploma, beginning with Student Body President Antonio Cosme.

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

(As the Regents and Deans move into place, Mr. Cosme leaves the platform by way of the side stairs, and walks to the first row of undergraduates. After receiving his diploma, Mr. Cosme 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.)

ROTC candidates will be the last to receive their diplomas; readers, please hold the first ROTC candidate until the last regular undergraduate has received his or her diploma cover. President assumes lecture, announces the presentation of diplomas to ROTC.

(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 Parker and Dean Boone hands Regent Clack the diplomas.

Regent Parker and Regent Clack 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 Fitzsimmons replaces Regent Parker shaking hands.

Dean Boone remains in place while Regent Hawks replaces Regent Clack shaking hands.

About halfway through the bachelor's candidates,

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

Dean Murali Nair replaces Dean Boone. Dean Boone moves forward, replacing Regent Hawks shaking hands.

(When all bachelors' candidates- except ROTC - have walked across the stage, readers will pause. President Martin assumes lectern and announces presentation of diplomas to ROTC students.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: I would now like to have the ROTC candidates come forward to receive their diplomas.

(President remains at lectern. After the president's announcement, readers begin reading the names of the ROTC students. Following the presentation to ROTC, all presenters and readers are seated.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Congratulations, Class of 2011. Now Greg Sheldon, president of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, and a 1996 graduate, will welcome you as EMU's newest alumni.

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

MR. SHELDON: Thank you, Dr. Martin. Good afternoon, graduates. On behalf of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, I welcome you to our family of more than 140,000 graduates. This valuable network will be a source of inspiration.

Some of you have already begun your roles as active alumni. This semester, students had the opportunity to contribute to **Invest, Inspire**, the campaign for Eastern Michigan University, by giving a gift before graduation.

In return, students received an alumni spirit tassel *(hold up tassel)*, a mark of distinction and pride that they are wearing today. In the coming years, we hope you'll give back to the university we love, both as donors and volunteers.

As you leave today, you all will receive an EMU pin from the Alumni Association that you can wear with pride.
Congratulations! Go Green!

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, Greg. This is a day of celebration for all of us. I now would like you to turn the tassels on your cap to the other side, symbolizing your transition to graduate. *(Pause for celebration)*

We also need to take a few moments to thank some very special people in the audience – the parents, spouses and significant others, grandparents and other family members who have influenced your lives. Would you all please stand and be recognized? *(Applause)*

Most commencement speeches urge graduates to pursue their dreams and emphasize how education holds the key to a successful future. That's excellent advice, but writer George Eliot, really said it best, "It is never too late to be what you might have been."

That's what's so beautiful about education. Some of you are embarking on second careers while others are just starting out. It doesn't matter. There are no limits to what you can achieve.

(Space for additional presidential comments)

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 while the band plays a few bars of the EMU Fight Song. 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.)

(When the Fight Song is over and recessional music begins, 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

