

2014

PM Ceremonial Script, April 27, 2014

Eastern Michigan University

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Convocation Center

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

Grand Marshal Barbara Scheffer enters center aisle, ascends stage, turns left and remains standing in front of table at center of stage holding mace. When procession is over, Grand Marshal places mace on table, goes to 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, undergraduates, faculty. Participants remain standing in front of chairs.

Platform participants enter center aisle, ascend stage and remain standing in front of chairs. Chairman Francine Parker enters, assumes the lectern. Arena lights dim on floor; stay bright on platform.

CHAIRMAN PARKER: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

I'm Francine Parker, Chairman of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents is appointed by the Governor of Michigan as 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 2014 spring commencement.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our faculty, staff, families, friends, and our graduates-to-be.

It is my pleasure to introduce the honorable members of the Board of Regents who are here with us today. Please hold your applause until all Regents have been introduced. Regents, please remain standing after your name is called. (*Regents, please rise as name is called.*)

- **Floyd Clack** of Flint,
- **Beth Fitzsimmons** of Ann Arbor,
- **Michael Hawks** of Okemos,
- **James Stapleton** of Ann Arbor,
- **Mary Treder Lang** of Grosse Pointe Farms, and
- **James Webb** of Northville

I would also like to introduce our emeritus regent:

- **Dr. Mildred Smith** of Flint

Thank you for your dedication to Eastern Michigan University.

Mezzo-soprano **Renaë Murphy**, who is working on her bachelor's degree in music therapy, will sing our national anthem.

The Eastern Michigan Wind Symphony, conducted by **Dr. Mary Schneider**, director of bands and associate professor of music, will accompany her. Would the members of the Symphony please stand?

Thank you. *(pause)* Would everyone please stand for the anthem?

(Please remove caps and/or place right hand over heart. Chairman Parker steps back. Ms. Murphy begins singing in position near symphony. Colors are dipped during anthem.)

MS. MURPHY: (Leads singing of National Anthem)

(All remain standing. Immediately following anthem, Color Guard posts flags and exits left side of stage. Ms. Murphy returns to position near symphony. Chairman Parker assumes lectern.)

CHAIRMAN PARKER: Please be seated. I would now like to introduce **Dr. Susan Martin**, President of Eastern Michigan University, who will preside over today's ceremony.

(Chairman Parker sits down; President Martin goes to lectern)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, **Chairman Parker**. Welcome, everyone. I would like to acknowledge the vice presidents, academic officers, deans and faculty on the platform. Please stand. *(Vice presidents, academic officers, deans and faculty stand briefly)*

Leading our procession today is **Grand Marshal Barbara Scheffer**, professor emeritus of the School of Nursing. **Dr. Scheffer**, would you please stand?

Dr. Scheffer began her Eastern career 37 years ago as a faculty member in the Department of Nursing Education. She has served as the interim school director and as associate dean for the College of Health & Human Services.

She was instrumental in establishing the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program between the School of Nursing and the Department of Teacher Education.

Dr. Scheffer has taught thousands of nursing students over the years and mentored numerous faculty members. She has worked tirelessly as an advocate for the faculty and for the university as an administrator, and is a noted scholar, researcher and author.

Thank you, **Dr. Scheffer**. (*Professor Scheffer sits down.*)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Our marshals of the faculty are:

- **Elizabeth Johnson**, professor, teacher education, and
- **Kay Woodiel**, professor, health promotion & human performance.

Please rise and be recognized.

PRESIDENT MARTIN: The marshals of the students are:

- **David Anderson**, professor, leadership and counseling,
- **Pamela Becker**, associate professor, technology studies,
- **Judi Brooks**, associate professor, dietetics,
- **Nancy Copeland**, professor, teacher education,
- **Michael McVey**, professor, teacher education,
- **Anahita (ahn a hee tah) Mistry**, associate professor, dietetics,
- **Stevan (Stefan) Mrdalij (mer daahl)**, professor, computer information systems,
- **Kathlyn Parker**, assistant professor, special education, and
- **Christina Wall**, assistant professor, technology studies.

Please rise and be recognized.

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Faculty members reading the graduates'

names as they are presented are:

- **Jessica “Decky” Alexander**, professor, communication, media & theatre arts,
- **Susan Badger-Booth**, associate professor, communication, media & theatre arts,

- **Wallace Bridges**, professor, communication, media & theatre arts,
- **Christine Tanner**, associate professor, communication, media & theatre arts, and

Please rise and be recognized. *(Readers rise and sit down.)*

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Seated at the front are **members of the faculty** who represent Eastern Michigan's outstanding academic departments. Faculty members, please stand and be recognized.

(Faculty stands, then sits down.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: And finally, I would like to introduce **Andrea Purola (purr oh lah)** and **Cristine Saunders**, our sign language interpreters today.

(Interpreters stand and sit down. President pauses.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Graduates, today's ceremony is more than just a celebration. It is a time when you are being honored for a major accomplishment – earning that hard-won college degree. Your goal may have seemed unattainable at times, but you did it. You finally reached this important milestone.

We have more than 2,700 students eligible to participate in today's ceremonies. Your faculty and I are proud of you for your intelligence and achievements. You now join the ranks of our alumni who are known for their practical experience and for "hitting the ground running" after they graduate.

I would now like to briefly introduce several of your classmates who share those Eastern Michigan traits.

(Each student is on an individual page)

Would **Mechelle (muh shell) Lauren** please stand?

Mechelle is from Dexter and graduates today with a bachelor's degree in elementary education – social studies.

She has spent this semester student teaching at South Meadows Elementary in Chelsea. In addition to student teaching, Mechelle worked nearly 30 hours a week and still took classes to finish her degree.

Mechelle believes that all teachers have the ability to change the course of a child's life. When she walks into her classroom, she strives to make a positive impact on her students and help them learn to believe in themselves.

Congratulations, **Mechelle**.

Next, I'd like to call on **Sarah Mueller (mew ler)**. Would you please stand?

Sarah is from Sterling Heights and graduates Summa Cum Laude, with a bachelor's degree in secondary cognitive impairment.

Sarah was the coordinator of Best Buddies, a program that pairs students with people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. In this role, she coordinated campus workshops and an Alternative Spring Break trip.

As a result of her hard work, EMU's Best Buddies program was honored by WWJ Radio in a special segment highlighting difference-makers in the community.

Thank you, **Sarah**.

Would **Marcia (mar SEE ah) Molett (moh LET)** please stand?

Marcia is from Pontiac and graduates Magna Cum Laude, with a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology. Marcia's mother worked three jobs, but her parents still stressed the importance of education.

In 2013, Marcia was one of 50 students from across the nation to participate in the Future Public Health Leaders Program, designed to engage undergraduate students in a range of activities related to public health.

Marcia plans to earn a master's degree in minority and urban education. She aspires to work in inner-city schools and wants to help children have an inclusive classroom experience.

Congratulations, **Marcia**.

Our next graduate is **Ann Hyman (HI man)**. Would you please stand?

Ann has traveled to Ypsilanti from the State of Washington for today's ceremony. She is graduating with a master's degree in human nutrition.

Before coming to EMU, Ann was an emergency medicine physician, but her career was abruptly halted due to a profound hearing loss. But Ann knew that another career waited and it was simply a matter of finding a new passion.

She found EMU's online program in human nutrition and plans to use her knowledge to develop an online resource for people dealing with dietary restrictions caused by health challenges.

Thank you, **Ann**.

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Next, I'd like to call on **Melissa Heatlie (heat lee)**. Would you please stand?

Melissa is from Ann Arbor and graduates today with her MBA. She earned her bachelor's degree in apparel, textiles and merchandising from EMU in 2011.

She was a recipient of the EMU Foundation's Legacy Scholarship. Her parents are graduates of EMU and she is proud to have continued the family tradition.

Melissa worked as an intern for the College of Business this year to promote its innovative curriculum and global graduate business programs. She plans to pursue a job in marketing and brand management.

Congratulations, **Melissa**.

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

We are pleased to have a distinguished alumnus speak to you today.

David Provost is president and chief executive officer of Talmer Bankcorp Inc. and serves as chairman, president and CEO of Talmer Bank & Trust.

Under David's leadership, Talmer Bancorp completed seven acquisitions to become the third largest bank headquartered in Michigan, with 94 branch offices and 11 lending offices located primarily in the Midwest.

An active member of the community, he serves on the Board of Directors for The RESTORE Foundation and the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan. He also was named one of Crain's Detroit Business' *2010 Newsmakers of the Year*.

David earned his master's in business administration from Eastern, a bachelor's degree from Alma College and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Banking.

David and his wife, Christine, live in Birmingham and have two children.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present to you, our commencement speaker and fellow alumnus, **David Provost**.

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

MR. PROVOST: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

(Following address, Mr. Provost returns to chair. President Martin returns to lectern.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, David, for your advice and encouragement to our newest alumni.

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 **David Provost** the honorary degree – **Doctor of Business**.

To confer the degree, I call upon **Regent Fran Parker**. Provost and Executive Vice President **Kim Schatzel**, and **Michael Tidwell**, Dean of the College of Business, will assist **Regent Parker**.

(President Martin steps to left. Regent Parker assumes lectern. Provost Schatzel picks up hood from under chair. Dean Tidwell picks up citation and diploma from under chair. Provost Schatzel and Dean Tidwell escort Mr. Provost to a position behind and to right of President. Dean Tidwell hands citation to Regent Parker.)

CHAIRMAN PARKER: David Provost, distinguished businessman and civic leader, you have exemplified dedication and excellence throughout your illustrious banking career.

Upon the recommendation and authority of the Board of Regents, Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon you, **David T. Provost**, the honorary degree, Doctor of Business.

(Regent Parker hands citation and diploma to Mr. Provost. Provost Schatzel and Dean Tidwell hood Mr. Provost. At this point, Provost Schatzel and Dean Tidwell escort Mr. Provost to seat. Regent Parker returns to seat. Provost Schatzel goes to lectern. President Martin stays at lectern.)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: We're extremely fortunate to have one other honorary degree recipient at today's ceremony – **His Excellency Khalifa Mohamed Al Kindi**.

His Excellency is chairman of Invest AD – the Abu Dhabi Investment Company - and has more than 25 years of investment experience at the heart of the United Arab Emirates Investment Community.

His Excellency also is managing director of Invest AD's parent, the Abu Dhabi Investment Council, and holds a number of directorships, including at the International Petroleum Investment Company, the Abu Dhabi Fund and as chairman of the Abu Dhabi National Insurance Co.

After graduating from Eastern Michigan with a degree in economics, **His Excellency** began his career in Treasury at the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, served as finance director of Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. for two years before returning to the Investment Authority to head its treasury department, and then as its deputy-managing director.

Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon **His Excellency Khalifa Mohamed Al Kindi**, the honorary degree - **Doctor of Business.**

To confer the degree, I call upon **Regent James Webb. Provost and Executive Vice President Kim Schatzel and Dean Michael Tidwell**, from the College of Business, will assist **Regent Webb.**

(President Martin steps to left. Regent Webb assumes lectern. Provost picks up hood from under chair. Dean Tidwell picks up citation and diploma from under chair. Provost Schatzel and Dean Tidwell escort His Excellency to a position behind and to right of President. Dean Tidwell hands citation to Regent Webb.)

REGENT WEBB: His Excellency Khalifa (kahl leaf ah) Mohamed Al Kindi, distinguished banker and public servant, you have exemplified excellence and dedication in your field.

Upon the recommendation and authority of the Board of Regents, Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon you, **His Excellency Khalifa Mohamed Al Kindi**, the honorary degree, **Doctor of Business**, with all its rights, privileges and responsibilities.

(Regent Webb hands the citation and diploma to His Excellency. Provost Schatzel and Dean Tidwell hood His Excellency. At this point, Provost Schatzel and Dean Tidwell escort His Excellency to his seat. Regent Webb returns to his seat. Provost Schatzel goes to lectern. President returns to chair and remains standing.) Arena lights go up.

PROVOST SCHATZEL: President Martin, it is my honor to present the deans for the presentation of the Class of 2014.

(President stands at chair. Provost Schatzel steps away from lectern. Each dean presents graduates from their college. The President acknowledges deans, who then return to seats.)

DEAN TIDWELL: **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 QUILTER: 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.

DEAN NAIR: 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.

(President Martin is seated. Provost Schatzel returns to lectern.)

**PROVOST SCHATZEL: Members of the Board of Regents, President
Martin**, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present
Eastern Michigan's **doctoral candidates** from the College of
Education.

These candidates have completed a program culminating in a doctor
of education degree in educational leadership or a doctor of
philosophy in educational studies with a concentration in urban
education.

Upon recommendation of the faculty of Eastern Michigan
University, I present the candidates who are here today for the
conferring of their degrees. Candidates, please stand.

Regent Mary Treder Lang will confer the doctoral degrees.

Jeffrey Kentor, associate provost and associate vice president for graduate studies and research, will assist.

(Candidates and faculty chair with hood walk to ramp at side of stage and form a line. Associate Provost Kentor stands in front of chair. Provost Schatzel steps back. Regent Treder Lang assumes lectern.)

REGENT TREDER LANG: In as much as you have been recommended by the faculty, 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. Please come forward to receive your diplomas.

(Provost Schatzel assumes lectern. Regent Treder Lang and Dr. Kentor descend to lower center stage. As Provost calls candidate's name, candidate moves forward up ramp followed by dissertation chair, and stops in front of Dr. Kentor. Dissertation chair hands Dr. Kentor doctoral hood, and assists Dr. Kentor with hooding. Dr. Kentor shakes hands. Candidate accepts diploma cover from Regent Treder Lang, then descends center ramp followed by dissertation chair, and return to seats.)

PROVOST SCHATZEL: Our first candidate is **Valerie Renee Culler**, who is accompanied by **Dr. David Anderson**, professor of leadership and counseling. Dr. Anderson is representing Ms. Culler's dissertation chair **Dr. James Barott**, professor of leadership and counseling. **Ms. Culler** is director of financial aid at Monroe Community College in Monroe, Mich.

Her dissertation is entitled, "Interim Administrative Appointments in a Post-Secondary Organization."

Congratulations, **Dr. Culler**.

PROVOST SCHATZEL: Our next candidate is **Imandeep (ee-mahn-dheep) Kaur (kahr) Grewal (grey wall)**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, **Dr. Valerie Polakow**, professor in the Department of Teacher Education. **Ms. Grewal (grey wall)** is a lecturer in the Department of Teacher Education at Eastern Michigan.

Her dissertation is entitled, “The Environment of Poverty and the Limits of Girlhood: The Struggle for the Right to an Education in North India.”

Congratulations, **Dr. Grewal (grey wall)**.

PROVOST SCHATZEL: Our next candidate is **Celeste Hawkins**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, **Dr. Valerie Polakow**, professor in the Department of Teacher Education. **Ms. Hawkins** is an assistant professor with the School of Social Work at Eastern Michigan.

Her dissertation is entitled, “From the Margins to Mattering: Exclusion and Its Impact on Academic Achievement Among African American Students.”

Congratulations, **Dr. Hawkins.**

PROVOST SCHATZEL: Our next candidate is **Susan Procter**, who is accompanied by her dissertation chair, **Dr. David Anderson**, professor of leadership and counseling. **Ms. Procter** is a senior instructional technologist at Eastern Michigan University.

Her dissertation is entitled, “The Relationship Between Usability Assessment and Motivation to Learn in Online Learning.”

Congratulations, **Dr. Procter**.

PROVOST SCHATZEL: **Jeffrey Kentor**, associate provost and associate vice president for graduate studies and research, will now present the candidates for graduate degrees. Regents **James Stapleton and Francine Parker** will confer the degrees. Academic deans will assist them.

(Provost Schatzel returns to stand by her seat. Dr. Kentor assumes lectern. Regent Stapleton comes forward, stands to left of Dr. Kentor.)

ASSOC. PROVOST KENTOR: Will the candidates for graduate certificates, master's degrees, advanced graduate certificates, and specialist's degrees, please rise? *(Pause)*

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 for the conferring of degrees. *(Dr. Kentor steps back. Regent Stapleton assumes lectern.)*

REGENT STAPLETON: In as much as you have been recommended by the faculty 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. Please come forward to receive your diplomas and certificates.

(Dr. Kentor is seated. Regent Stapleton and Dean Nair go to presentation stage left. Regent Parker and Dean Tidwell go to presentation stage right. Two readers go to microphones)

(Marshals lead candidates to stage. Candidates present name card to reader. Dean Nair hands Regent Stapleton, and Dean Tidwell hands Regent Parker diplomas.)

(Regents Stapleton and Parker shake students' hands, present diplomas. When all candidates have walked across stage, presenters are seated. Provost Schatzel assumes lectern.)

PROVOST SCHATZEL: 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 a total of **97 students** are graduating from the University **Honors College** in our morning and afternoon ceremonies. Not only do these undergraduates 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 SCHATZEL: 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.

Seven members of this graduating class, who completed the required courses in military science and through R.O.T.C., have been selected for commissioning as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. They were honored at this morning's ceremony.

We also have **60 veterans** graduating today. Would those veterans who are graduating, please stand? Thank you for serving our country.

PROVOST SCHATZEL: I would now like to ask **Antonino Monea**, outgoing vice president of student government, to say a few words. Nino is graduating today with a bachelor's degree in political science and economics. He excelled in EMU's nationally-recognized Mock Trial and Moot Court programs, and he will take those important skills with him when he attends Harvard Law School in the fall.

(Provost is seated, Mr. Monea takes lectern.)

MR. MONEA: Graduation. This day is the culmination of thousands of dollars in investments, years of hard work, and countless hours of struggle. And now, at the end of it all, as your final reward, some brief remarks by yours truly. Seems a little unfair.

We are gathered here together for commencement. We usually think of this ceremony as an end. But remember, the word commencement doesn't mean end, it means beginning. It's the beginning of a bold new chapter in our lives. As you pick up the pen, put it to paper and begin to write the next page, know that there are no limits to what you can achieve.

Now, some of us want to stay local. Some of us want to go international. Some of us want to out on the public stage. Some of us want to work behind the scenes. Some of us want to make the world a better place. Some of us want to be lawyers.

But whatever you want to do, let us not forget that while today is a day of congratulations, first and foremost, it should be a day of gratitude. Because, when I reflect on everything I have been able to achieve in life, and everything I have to look forward to, I know that nobody is able to do it alone. We've all had help on this journey.

So let us give thanks to our friends, standing beside us, who helped push us to be better people. To our parents, standing above us, who sacrificed so much so that we could be so blessed as to be here today. And to our professors, standing in front of us, who taught us so much and watched us grow. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you!

(Mr. Monea returns to seat. Provost Schatzel returns to lectern)

PROVOST SCHATZEL: Regent **Michael Hawks**, assisted by Regents **Floyd Clack, Beth Fitzsimmons, James Stapleton, Mary Treder Lang and James Webb**, and the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Regents Hawks, Clack, Fitzsimmons, Stapleton, Treder Lang and Webb, and Deans Nair, Tidwell, Venner and Quilter stand at their chairs.)

PROVOST SCHATZEL: Will the candidates for the bachelor's degree please rise? *(Pause)* **Regent Hawks**, it is an honor and a distinct privilege, on behalf of the faculty of Eastern Michigan University, to present to you the members of the undergraduate class of 2014 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees.

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

REGENT HAWKS: In as much as you have been recommended by the faculty, 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. Students, please come forward to receive your diploma.

(Regent Hawks and Dean Tidwell go to presentation stage right. Dean Nair and Regent Fitzsimmons go to presentation stage left. All others are seated.)

(Two readers go to stage left and right microphones. Candidates are led to stage one row at a time and present name cards to readers.)

***** Regent Webb will present diploma to Brittany Frescoln.**

ROTATION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS (*V. Reaume will tap regents on shoulder when time to change. When tapped to be replaced, please return to seat.*)

Stage Right

Back of Stage

Stage Left

Tidwell - hand diploma to regent
Hawks- hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

Nair - hand diploma to regent
Webb - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

*After 1/3
bachelor's
candidates*



Tidwell- hand diploma
Treder Lang - shake hands

Nair- hand diploma
Stapleton - shake hands

*After 2/3
bachelor's
candidates*

Venner - hand diploma
Clack- shake hands

Quilter - hand diploma
Fitzsimmons - shake hands

Front of Stage

(When finished, President steps up to lectern)

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Congratulations, Class of 2014. How does it feel to be an Eastern graduate? Now, **Patrick J. Barry Jr.**, president-elect of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, and both a 1971 and 1973 graduate, will welcome you as our newest alumni. *(President Martin returns to seat. Mr. Barry assumes lectern.)*

MR. BARRY: Thank you, Dr. Martin. Graduates, welcome to the family!

As you leave here in a few moments, know that you are now a member of a very large extended family: the nearly 160,000 men and women who are EMU graduates. On behalf of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, once again: Welcome to this family. Your TRUEMU family.

And what a family it is! Our graduates make a difference in their communities and in their professions. Members of your new family are recognized for their skills, talents and commitment to success. And they have been for 164 years. The more you get to know these family members, the more inspired you will be.

Most of our family lives in Michigan, Southeast Michigan in particular. We have reunions here on campus to bring you together, back home at EMU. Throughout the year at Homecoming, at

sporting events and at events that show our artistic endeavors, you will be welcome back to your home away from home. You will find our graduates throughout the United States and the world. This year, our students come from 43 states as well as 79 countries. When they return home, you will have family there, too.

We will work hard to stay connected with you, no matter where you may live. We have more than 30 alumni chapters that connect members of the family by department, affinity and geography. We communicate monthly via the E-Edge and three times a year by Eastern, the magazine.

Family is a powerful word. EMU is proud of its extended family. We are proud of you, our newest members of the TruEMU family. Best wishes, today and always.

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

PRESIDENT MARTIN: Thank you, **Patrick**. This is a time for celebrating because more than **2,700** students are eligible to participate in today's ceremonies. I would now like you to turn your tassels to the other side, symbolizing your transition to graduate.

(Pause)

Would all parents, spouses, significant others, grandparents and other family members who have influenced the lives of our new graduates, please stand and be recognized. Thank you.

(Additional page for presidential notes follows)

We conclude today's ceremony with our alma mater, *Our Pledge*, led by **Renaë Murphy**. The words are found on **page 8** of your program.

Following the alma mater, we request that you remain in your seats until the recessional is completed. Graduates, please meet your families outside of the Convocation Center. *(Pause)* Please rise. *(Pause)*
Ms. Murphy.

(President Martin returns to seat, remains standing. Ms. Murphy stands in back near symphony.)

MS. MURPHY: 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.

(Ms. Murphy remains standing. Participants replace caps while the band plays bars of the EMU Fight Song. Wait until Grand Marshal and Color Guard are in place. As soon as Ms. Murphy finishes singing, Color Guard ascends stage, picks up flags and waits for Grand Marshal to begin recessional.)

(When Fight Song is over and recessional music begins, recessional is led by Grand Marshal, followed by Color Guard. President leads participants in reverse order of the processional. Return to robing room.)

RECESSIONAL

