

2015

## **PM Ceremonial Script, April 26, 2015**

Eastern Michigan University

# COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

## Sunday, April 26, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

**Grand Marshal 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 Mike Morris** assumes lectern. Arena lights dim on floor; stay bright on platform.

**CHAIRMAN MORRIS:** Good afternoon. I want to extend a warm welcome to our faculty, staff, families, friends, and our graduates-to-be. Please be seated.

I'm Mike Morris, 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 2015 spring commencement.

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 rise as name is called.)*

- **Dennis Beagen** of Northville,
- **Michelle Crumm** of Ann Arbor,
- **Beth Fitzsimmons** of Ann Arbor,
- **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.

**CHAIRMAN MORRIS:** Ms. Jolene Green, a student in the master's degree program for vocal performance, will sing our national anthem.

She will be accompanied by the Eastern Michigan Symphonic Band, conducted by **Dr. Brandon Johnson**, director of choral activities and assistant professor of music.

Please stand for the national anthem.

*(Remove caps and/or place right hand over heart. Regent Morris steps back. Vocalist stands in position near symphony. Colors are dipped during anthem.)*

**MS. GREEN:** (Leads singing of National Anthem)

*(All remain standing. Immediately following anthem, Color Guard posts flags and exits left side of stage. Regent Morris assumes lectern.)*

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

*(Regent Morris sits down. President Martin goes to lectern.)*

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

*(Academic officers, deans, faculty, vice presidents and administrators stand briefly.)*

Leading our procession today is **Grand Marshal Donald Loppnow**, professor emeritus of social work. **Dr. Loppnow**, would you please stand?

**Dr. Loppnow** has proudly served for 41 years at Eastern. He was a founder and director of the School of Social Work, as well as a respected professor, department head and accomplished researcher. He guided the development of the bachelor's program and launched the master's program. His vision and leadership are a living legacy in the School, which now serves more than 700 students each year.

He also provided distinguished leadership as an interim University president, as provost, and in advancement, strategic planning, extended learning, and research roles.

**Dr. Loppnow's** dedication has enriched life opportunities for hundreds of students, faculty and professionals in the field of social work. Both the campus community and local organizations have greatly benefitted from his boundless generosity and graciousness.

Thank you, **Dr. Loppnow**. (*Dr. Loppnow sits down.*)

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** Our distinguished marshals of the faculty are:

- **Dr. Linda Burilovich** (burr REAL oh vitch)
- **Dr. Kay Woodiel**

Our marshals of the students are:

- **Dr. David Anderson**
- **Dr. Martha Baiyee** (buy ee)
- **Dr. Jean Bush-Bacelis** (bush bah cell us)
- **Dr. Nancy Copeland**
- **Dr. Michael McVey**
- **Dr. Caroline Peltz**
- **Dr. Jens Stephan** (yens steff uhn)
- **Dr. Lizbeth Stevens**

Would all Marshals please stand and be recognized? *(Marshals stand briefly.)*

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

- **Dr. Sadaf Ali** (sah dahf ah lee)
- **Professor Wallace Bridges**
- **Dr. Christine Tanner**
- **Dr. Kay Woodiel**

Please stand and be recognized. *(Readers stand briefly.)*

**PRESIDENT MARTIN: Seated before you are **members of the faculty** who represent Eastern Michigan's outstanding academic departments. Faculty members, please stand and be recognized. *(Faculty stands briefly.)***

**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 **2,400** students eligible to participate in today's ceremonies. Your faculty and I are proud of you for your 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.)*



First, I'd like to call on **Jaimie (jay mee) Howard**. Jaimie, would you please stand?

Jaimie is from Leesburg, Ohio and graduates today with a master's degree in orthotics and prosthetics.

Jaimie chose Eastern because of the hands-on training that is a hallmark of our program. In the O&P lab, she gained extensive experience fabricating and fitting devices.

She helped plan Eastern's annual First Swim, Paddle and Dive event, which provides adapted recreational opportunities for people with physical challenges. Watching participants succeed at scuba diving, swimming, and kayaking has shown Jaimie how she can make a difference as a professional.

She will complete her residency at a prosthetics facility in the fall.

Thank you, **Jaimie**.

Our next graduate is **Reginald Caldwell, Jr.** Reginald, would you please stand?

Reginald is from Detroit and graduates today with a bachelor of business administration degree in business management.

Reginald has been developing business plans since he was four years old. As an undergraduate, he started three businesses -- a property management company, a consulting business, and an electronics business.

He perfected the art of time management, and found that his business classes opened his eyes to creative problem solving.

Reginald will take his entrepreneurial spirit and move to Chicago after graduation to work for a large, international consulting firm.

Congratulations, **Reginald.**

Our next graduate is **Lindsay Grace**. Lindsay, would you please stand?

Lindsay is from Ann Arbor and today earns a master's degree in reading specialty, having previously earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education here at Eastern.

As head counselor for Eastern's Summer Fun Camp for local children, she developed new educational learning components for the program, and gained invaluable leadership experience.

Lindsay also participated in the "Teach and Learn in Korea" program, where she taught for six months in rural Korean schools. She found the experience to be so rewarding that she plans to return to Korea to teach for another two years.

Congratulations, **Lindsay**.

Our next graduates are **Mateen (muh teen) Jaffer (jaff ur)** and **Nabeela (nah bee lah) Jaffer**.

Mateen and Nabeela, would you please stand?

Mateen and Nabeela are from Ypsilanti, are husband and wife, and both are earning master's degrees today. Mateen graduates with an MBA, and Nabeela graduates with a master's degree in Information Systems.

For the past three years, they have worked to balance the challenges of raising five children and running a small business, while completing their graduate work.

They plan to use their degrees to expand their business and help grow the region's economy.

Congratulations, **Mateen and Nabeela**.



Next, I would like to call on **Aaron Suganuma (soo gah new mah)**.

Aaron, would you please stand?

Aaron, from Ann Arbor, earned his bachelor's degree in social work from Eastern, and today earns a master's degree in social work -- mental health and chemical dependency.

Aaron has a genuine, soulful passion for social work. He is a recipient of the Evans-Strand Award for promoting cultural diversity, and co-founded Eastern's Students for Recovery organization.

He just completed an internship at Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital where he used his skills to create a mentoring program for people who are struggling in our community. With several job opportunities available to him, he plans to continue his family's legacy of public service through social work.

Congratulations, **Aaron**.

Next, I'd like to call on **Rachel Morrissey**. Rachel, would you please stand?

Rachel is from Ypsilanti and is the seventh Eastern graduate in her family. She graduates today with a master's degree in human resource management and organizational development. She also earned her BBA in management as an Eastern undergraduate.

As a rowing team athlete, Rachel learned to be disciplined and dedicated. She credits Eastern with providing opportunities for her to grow personally, academically and professionally.

Rachel earned an internship with Ford Motor Company last summer, and will return to Ford in May as a full-time HR professional.

Thank you, **Rachel**.

Our next graduate is **Brandon Britt**. Brandon, would you please stand?

Brandon is from Flint and graduates magna cum laude today with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. He is a member of the Honors College and is a McNair Scholar.

He became interested in teaching after interviewing an educator and tutoring a fellow high school student, spurring the young man on to graduate. Encouraged and supported by his mother and grandmother, Brandon chose to become a teacher.

Brandon feels that Eastern has prepared him academically, emotionally, and experientially. He plans to attend graduate school for a master's degree in higher education.

Congratulations, **Brandon**.

**All of these students are wonderful representatives of Eastern's talented and diverse student body. Congratulations to all of you.**

*(Pause)*



**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** We are pleased to have a distinguished alumnus join us today.

**Mr. Charlie Batch** is a community advocate, author, media personality, entrepreneur, professional speaker and a former NFL quarterback.

His NFL career spanned 15 years, with 60 touchdowns and more than 11,000 passing yards. He set numerous Eastern and MAC conference records during his college career, and was drafted as a starting quarterback for the Detroit Lions in 1998. His leadership within the NFL included executive positions, and he also continues to be a respected strategist and commentator for national sports media.

As a professional speaker, Mr. Batch takes his “Expect Your Best” message across the country, inspiring audiences with his personal stories of loss, perseverance and victories on and off the field.

As a philanthropist and community advocate, Mr. Batch established his Best of the Batch Foundation in 1999. The Foundation gives Pittsburgh city kids safe places to learn and grow through programs such as a summer basketball league focusing on good sportsmanship and life skills; a year-long reading and computer literacy program; and a Batch-packs for Kids school supply program.

A native of the Pittsburgh area, he puts as much energy and enthusiasm into making sure his community is winning, as he put into winning on the field.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present to you, today's commencement speaker and fellow alumnus, **Mr. Charlie Batch.**

*(President Martin is seated. Mr. Batch assumes lectern.)*

**MR. BATCH: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)**

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

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** Thank you, **Mr. Batch**, 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 **Charles D’Donte Batch** the honorary degree – **Doctor of Public Service**.

I now call upon **Chairman Mike Morris** to confer the degree. Provost and Executive Vice President **Kim Schatzel**, and **Murali Nair**, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, will assist **Chairman Morris**.

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

**CHAIRMAN MORRIS: Charles D'Donte Batch**, distinguished community advocate, entrepreneur and sportsman, you have exemplified dedication and excellence throughout your career.

Upon the recommendation and authority of the Board of Regents, Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon you, **Charles D'Donte Batch**, the honorary degree, **Doctor of Public Service**.

*(Regent Morris hands diploma and citation to Mr. Batch. Provost Schatzel and Dean Nair hood Mr. Batch.)*

*(Provost Schatzel and Dean Venner escort Mr. Batch to seat. Regent Morris returns to seat. President Martin moves over to chair and remains standing. Provost Schatzel goes to lectern.)*

**PROVOST SCHATZEL:** I am Kim Schatzel, provost and executive vice president of Eastern Michigan University. President Martin, it is my honor to present the Deans for the presentation of the Class of 2015.

*(President stands at chair. Provost Schatzel steps away from lectern. Deans stand up and take turns at 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.

**INTERIM 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 the **doctoral candidates** from the **College of Education**.

These candidates have completed a program culminating in a doctor of education degree in educational leadership.

Upon recommendation of the faculty of Eastern Michigan University, I present the candidates for the conferring of their degrees. Candidates, please stand. *(Pause)*

**Regent Mary Treder Lang** will confer the doctoral degrees.

**Dr. 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 Associate Provost Kentor descend to lower center stage.)*

*(As Provost calls each candidate's name, each candidate moves forward up ramp followed by dissertation chair, and stops in front of Associate Provost Kentor. Dissertation Chair hands Associate Provost Kentor doctoral hood, and assists Associate Provost Kentor with hooding. Associate Provost Kentor shakes hands. Candidate accepts diploma cover from Regent Treder Lang. Candidate descends center ramp followed by dissertation chair, and return to seats.)*

*The following doctoral candidates are eligible for hooding, and may participate in ceremony.*

**MORNING:**

- Sarah Ahlfs-Dunn
- Carol Farver
- David Kelly

**AFTERNOON:**

- Jasmina Camo-Biogradlija
- Angela Elkordy
- Diane Fox
- Adam Hartley
- Julie Helber
- Antoinette Pearson
- Kathleen Senita
- Shanna Speakman-Spickard
- Cynthia Williams-LaNier

*(Provost Schatzel remains at lectern. Regent Treder Lang and Associate Provost Kentor return to their-seats.)*

**PROVOST SCHATZEL:** It is now my pleasure to introduce **Dr. Steven Ramold**, professor of history and Eastern's nominee for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award, to speak on behalf of our illustrious and dedicated faculty.

*(Provost Schatzel is seated. Dr. Ramold assumes lectern.)*

**DR. RAMOLD:** (Faculty Message)

*(Following address, Dr. Ramold returns to chair. Provost Schatzel returns to lectern.)*



**PROVOST SCHATZEL:** **Dr. 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 **James Webb**, assisted by the **academic deans**, will confer the degrees.

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

*(Associate Provost 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.

*(Associate Provost Kentor is seated. Regent Stapleton and Dean Nair go to stage RIGHT. Regent Webb and Dean Tidwell go to stage LEFT. Two readers go to microphones.)*

*(Marshals lead candidates to stage. Candidates present name cards to readers. Dean Nair hands Regent Stapleton diplomas and Dean Tidwell hands Regent Webb diplomas.)*

*(Regents Stapleton and Webb 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 a strong commitment to our students. This dedication is especially seen in the University's **Honors College**.

We are pleased that a total of **91 students** are graduating from the **Honors College** in our morning and afternoon ceremonies. Not only do these undergraduates have an exceptional grade point average, they also completed special 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 with 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.

Six members of the 2015 graduating class have completed the required courses in military science and through R.O.T.C., and have been selected for commissioning as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. They were honored at this morning's ceremony.

We also have **40 military veterans** graduating today.

Would all of you in the AUDIENCE who have also served please stand along with our graduating veterans?

*(Applause.)*

Thank you for serving our country.

**PROVOST SCHATZEL:** I would now like to ask **Desmond Miller**, president of student government, to address the graduates. Desmond graduated this morning with a bachelor's degree in public administration.

*(Provost is seated, Mr. Miller takes lectern.)*

**MR. MILLER:** Good afternoon fellow graduates.

This day has finally arrived: our graduation day.

No longer will you have to speed walk past our infamous geese.

No longer will you have to receive an email from Geoff Larcom and debate whether or not you should read it.

And no longer will you have to spend time searching for a parking spot.

Now it's time to tackle the world.

Like most, one of my favorite TV shows growing up was Boy Meets World. On the last episode, the character Mr. Feeny gives the group one final piece of advice: "Believe in yourselves. Dream. Try. Do good."

Another character named Topanga responds "Don't you mean do well?" Mr. Feeny replies and says, "No, I mean do good".

I didn't understand what that meant until I came to EMU. So often our culture has told us to get a college degree and make as much money as possible to be happy that we neglect the fact that we have a moral obligation to do good in this world while we're here.

They say we're the generation that's over-stimulated by technology, reality TV shows, and all things Beyonce. And although that may be true, I also believe we're the generation of dreamers, innovators, and risk takers.

A generation that has what it takes to leave a lasting, positive impact on this world by fully utilizing our gifts, talents, and intellect to do good. The sooner we realize we're no longer the future, but the new leaders of today, the sooner we will experience serious change and see brighter days.

So I leave you with this: Believe in yourselves. Dream. Try. Be well, and do good. Until we meet again, my fellow Eagles, thank you and let's go do good.

*(Mr. Miller returns to seat. Provost Schatzel returns to lectern.)*

**PROVOST SCHATZEL:** Thank you, **Desmond.**

**PROVOST SCHATZEL:** Regent **Beth Fitzsimmons**, assisted by Regents **Dennis Beagen, Michelle Crumm, James Stapleton, Mary Treder Lang, James Webb**, and the **academic deans**, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

*(Regents and Deans stand at their chairs.)*

**PROVOST SCHATZEL:** Will the candidates for the bachelor's degree please rise? *(Pause)* **Regent Fitzsimmons**, 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 2015 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees.

*(Provost Schatzel steps back. Regent Fitzsimmons assumes lectern.)*

**REGENT FITZSIMMONS:** 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.

*(Regent Fitzsimmons and Dean Nair go to stage RIGHT.*

*Regent Beagen and Dean Tidwell go to stage LEFT.*

*All others are seated. Two readers go to stage left and right microphones.)*

*(The Marshals lead candidates to the stage one row at a time. Candidates present their name cards to readers.)*



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**PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR DEGREES**

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**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 LEFT**

**Front of Stage**

**STAGE RIGHT**

**Tidwell** - hand diploma to regent  
**Beagen**- hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

**Nair** - hand diploma to regent  
**Fitzsimmons** - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

*After 1/3  
bachelor's  
candidates*

**Tidwell**- hand diploma to regent  
**Crumm** - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

**Nair**- hand diploma to regent  
**Stapleton** - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

*After 2/3  
bachelor's  
candidates*

**Venner** - hand diploma to regent  
**Treder Lang** - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

**Quilter**- hand diploma to regent  
**Webb**- hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

**Back of Stage**

*(Regents and Deans return to seats. President Martin returns to lectern.)*

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** Congratulations, Class of 2015. How does it feel to be an Eastern graduate? Now, **Patrick Barry**, president-elect of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, a 1971 and 1973 graduate, and lecturer in the Communications, Media & Theater Arts department, will welcome you as our newest alumni.

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

**MR. BARRY:** Thank you, President Martin. Good afternoon, Graduates!!

As president-elect of the EMU Alumni Association, I would like to congratulate you on your graduation from Eastern. This is quite an accomplishment, one that should reveal true pride in your EMU education.

My message today is quite simple. Your relationship with Eastern does not end today, in fact, it is just beginning.

As a graduate of EMU, you are now a member of our Alumni Association comprised of over 160,000 members. The Alumni Association reflects the diversity of experiences happening across campus with alumni making a difference all over the globe – in schools, hospitals, non-profits, small companies, and major corporations.

We are proud of the difference our graduates make in their communities and in their professions. We're even more proud when our alumni come back to share their experiences with us. So don't be a stranger. Take the time to activate your EMU alumni membership, join one of our alumni chapters, come back to campus each year to help cheer on our teams!

And even if you can't make it back to campus, show your EMU pride wherever you go, so that those around you will know ... you are TRUE EMU!

Congratulations ... best wishes on your future endeavors ... and as always  
Go Green!

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

**PRESIDENT MARTIN:** Thank you, **Patrick.** This is a time for celebrating. I would now like you to turn your tassels from the right side to the left side, symbolizing your commencement. *(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. *(Pause)*

Thank you for your love and support.

*(President's remarks continue.)*

We conclude today's ceremony with our alma mater, *Our Pledge*, led by **Ms. Jolene Green**. The words are found on **page 8** of your program and on the video screens.

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.

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

**MS. GREEN:** 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.

*(Vocalist remains standing. The band plays bars of the EMU Fight Song. Participants wait.)*

*(Grand Marshal stands, picks up mace and waits. Color Guard ascends stage, picks up flags. When Color Guard is in place and recessional music begins, Grand Marshal begins leading recessional, followed by Color Guard.)*

*(President leads participants in reverse order of the processional. Return to robing room.)*

## RECESSIONAL