

2016

Ceremonial Script, December 17, 2016

Eastern Michigan University

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Saturday, December 17, 2016, 10:00 a.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.

When the **President** reaches his chair and is standing, **Board Chairman Mike Morris** assumes lectern and waits for the music to stop. Arena lights dim on floor; stay bright on platform.

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

I am 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 2016 winter 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.

Thank you for your dedication to Eastern Michigan University.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: Ms. Jennifer O’Neal, a senior in the music education – vocal program, will sing our national anthem.

She will be accompanied by the Eastern Michigan University Symphonic Band, conducted by **Dr. Amy Knopps (kah nahps)**, associate director of bands and associate professor of music education.

Please stand for the national anthem.

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

MS. O’NEAL: (Leads singing of national anthem)

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

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: Please be seated. I would now like to introduce **Dr. James Smith**, president of Eastern Michigan University, who will preside over today’s ceremony.

(Chairman Morris sits down. President Smith goes to lectern.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: 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 Ray Quiel** (kwee uhl), associate professor of communication, media and theatre arts, and vice president of the Faculty Senate. **Dr. Quiel**, would you please stand?

Dr. Quiel is a 43-year veteran of Eastern, and is the current director of debate for Eastern's nationally-recognized forensics program.

He has helped bring home 11 national team championships, with more than 70 students earning individual championships. Dr. Quiel has been a dedicated advocate for the program, ensuring its tradition of success for years to come.

Thank you, **Dr. Quiel.**

(Grand Marshal sits down.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: Our marshals of the faculty are:

- **Dr. Peter Higgins,** and,
- **Dr. Anthony Moreno** (muh ray no)

Our marshals of the students are:

- **Dr. David Anderson**
- **Dr. Jean Bush-Bacelis** (bah cell us)
- **Dr. Philip Cardon** (car dun)
- **Dr. Nancy Copeland**
- **Dr. Megan Endres** (mee gun ahn dress)
- **Dr. Michael McVey,** and
- **Dr. Eric Paradis** (para dee)

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

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

- **Professor Jessica Alexander**
- **Dr. Geoffrey Hammill**
- **Dr. Jeannette Kindred,** and
- **Dr. Donald Ritzenhein** (ritz zen hine)

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

PRESIDENT SMITH: 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 SMITH: Graduates, today's ceremony is more than just a celebration. It is a time when you are being honored for a major accomplishment – earning your degree – and not just any university degree, but an Eastern Michigan degree that is nationally recognized for academic excellence.

We have more than **1,600** 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 strong academic accomplishments, practical experience and community engagement.

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

(Each student is on an individual page.)

(President Smith continues.)

First, I would like to call on **Mary Perotta** (purr wrote ah). **Mary**, would you please stand?

Mary is from Superior Township, and graduates today summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Communications, with a double minor in Marketing and Non-profit Administration.

She is a member of the Honors College, was the recipient of the Glenna Frank Miller Award for Collegiate Leadership, and presented four times at three Undergraduate Symposiums.

She chose Eastern because of its deep commitment to the local community and its citizens. She intends to make that same kind of commitment in the non-profit sector.

After graduation **Mary** will begin working at Renewal Ministries, and plans to return to Eastern for a master's degree.

Congratulations, **Mary**.

(President Smith continues.)

Would our next graduate, **Mikael** (michael) **Dunn**, please stand?

Mikael is from Midland and graduates today with a bachelor's degree in Biology, with a double major in Mathematics, and a minor in Chemistry.

After a freshman biology class sparked his curiosity, Eastern's faculty inspired him to begin a three-year journey of serious research. He has published a peer-reviewed article as a primary author on fragile sites in DNA and the origins of cancer, and was the only undergraduate presenter at the 2015 Environmental Mutagenesis (mute uh gen uh sis) and Genomics (gen no micks) Society national conference.

After graduation, **Mikael** plans to pursue a Ph.D., but also wants to pay it forward by mentoring and inspiring students who are just beginning their journeys in the sciences, like he was four years ago.

Congratulations, **Mikael** (michael).

(President Smith continues.)

Next, I would like to call on **Joy Qiao** (chow). **Joy**, would you please stand?

Joy is from Shanghai, China and graduates today with a master's degree in Accounting. This is her third degree from Eastern, having previously earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and an MBA.

She found the mentoring from Eastern's devoted faculty to be extraordinary, and she has, in turn, volunteered with local organizations to support others, in the way that Eastern supported her.

Joy works for the Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley, where she is able to use her business knowledge to help enrich our community.

It should come as no surprise that **Joy** also plans to return to Eastern in January to earn a fourth degree from Eastern – a Ph.D.

Congratulations, **Joy**.

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

PRESIDENT SMITH: We are pleased to have a distinguished public servant join us today.

The Honorable Bridget Mary McCormack has served as a Justice in the Michigan Supreme Court since 2013. Before her election to the Court, she was a law professor and dean at the University of Michigan Law School, and continues to teach there.

At the Law School, she expanded the school's practical offerings, launching clinics focused on entrepreneurship, mediation, human trafficking, juvenile justice, domestic violence and pediatric health advocacy.

Before joining the Michigan Supreme Court, she co-founded the Michigan Innocence Clinic, where law students represent wrongfully convicted Michiganders, shining a light on important justice issues.

PRESIDENT SMITH: Throughout her career, Justice McCormack has been a champion for affordable legal representation. As an esteemed educator, she has inspired young law students and facilitated opportunities for them to have lasting impact on future generations.

I am honored to present to you today's commencement speaker,
Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack.

(President Smith is seated. Justice McCormack assumes lectern.)

JUSTICE MCCORMACK: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

(Following address, Justice McCormack returns to chair. President Smith returns to lectern.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: Thank you, **Justice McCormack**, 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.

I now call upon **Regent Mike Morris** to confer the degree.

Dr. Michael Tew (too) , interim director of undergraduate studies, and **Dr. Kathleen Stacey**, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will assist **Regent Morris**.

(President Smith steps to left. Regent Morris assumes lectern.

Dr. Tew picks up hood from under his chair. Dean Stacey picks up diploma from under her chair.)

(Dr. Tew and Dean Stacey escort Justice McCormack to a position behind and to right of President.

Dean Stacey hands diploma to Regent Morris.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: **Bridget Mary McCormack**, distinguished public servant and unwavering advocate for justice, you have demonstrated a life-long commitment to the State of Michigan and its citizens.

Upon the recommendation and authority of the Board of Regents, Eastern Michigan University is proud to confer upon you, **Bridget Mary McCormack**, the honorary degree – **Doctor of Public Service**.

(Regent Morris hands diploma to Justice McCormack. Dr. Tew and Dean Stacey hood Justice McCormack.)

(Dr. Tew and Dean Stacey escort Justice McCormack to seat. Dean Stacey returns to seat. Regent Morris returns to seat.)

(Dr. Tew goes to lectern.)

DR. TEW: I am **Michael Tew**, interim director of undergraduate studies.

President Smith, it is my honor to present the Deans for the presentation of the Class of 2016.

(President Smith stands at chair. Dr. Tew steps away from lectern. In turn, each Dean stands up and goes to lectern. Each Dean presents graduates from their college. President Smith acknowledges each Dean, who then returns to seat.)

DEAN STACEY: President Smith, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the **College of Arts & Sciences**. Graduates, please stand to be recognized. *(Pause)*

Thank you. Please be seated.

DEAN TIDWELL: President Smith, 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.

DEAN SAYLER: President Smith, 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 Smith, on behalf of the faculty, I present the graduates from the **College of Health and Human Services**. Graduates, please stand to be recognized. *(Pause)*

Thank you. Please be seated.

DEAN QATU: President Smith, 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 Smith is seated. Dr. Tew returns to lectern.)

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

DR. TEW: Members of the Board of Regents, President Smith, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present **doctoral candidates** from the **College of Arts & Sciences**, the **College of Education** and the **College of Technology**.

These candidates have completed a program culminating in a doctor of philosophy degree in clinical psychology, educational leadership, educational studies, or technology. The
be found in the program

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

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.

(Dr. Lang and Dr. Tornquist descend to lower center stage.)

*... followed by dissertation chair,
and assists Dr.
Trededer Lang.*

FACULTY MESSAGE

*(After last doctorate degree is presented, Regent Treder Lang and Dr. Tornquist return to seats.)
(Dr. Tew remains at lectern.)*

DR. TEW: It is now my pleasure to introduce

Dr. Linda Burilovich (burr real oh vitch), professor of accounting and finance, to speak on behalf of our distinguished faculty.

(Dr. Tew is seated. Dr. Burilovich assumes lectern.)

DR. BURILOVICH: (Faculty Message)

(Following address, Dr. Burilovich returns to chair. Dr. Tew returns to lectern.)

DR. TEW: It is now my honor to present the candidates for graduate degrees. **Regent James Stapleton** and **Regent Michelle Crumm**, assisted by the **academic deans**, will confer the degrees.

(Regent Stapleton comes forward, stands left of Dr. Tew.)

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

11:16

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. Tew 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. Tew is seated. Regent Stapleton and Dean Stacey go to stage RIGHT. Regent Crumm and Dean Nair go to stage LEFT. Two readers go to microphones.)

(Marshals lead candidates to stage. Candidates present name cards to readers.)

(Dean Stacey hands Regent Stapleton diplomas and Dean Nair hands Regent Crumm diplomas.)

(Regents Stapleton and Crumm shake students' hands, present diplomas. When all candidates have walked across stage, presenters are seated.)

(President Smith assumes lectern.)

DR. TEW: We are proud to recognize members of today's graduating class who 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. Would all the new **Second Lieutenants** please stand?

(Applause.)

We are also honored to have **45 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.

(Dr. Tew remains at lectern.)

DR. TEW: I would now like to ask **Tanasia Morton**, president of student government, to address our graduates.

(Dr. Tew is seated, Ms. Morton takes lectern.)

MS. MORTON: Good morning, class of 2016!

I thought I'd begin this speech with an enlightening quote to sum up our journey over the last 4, 5 or 6 years.

“Started from the bottom now we're here.”

It's amazing to think how the days have turned into months, and months into years. Sometimes, time has crawled by, other times it walked by, and often time has just ran by in our race to get our education, to grow up, and to move into adulthood.

What I see today before me are not just the leaders of the future, but the leaders of now! There are innovators, educators, dreamers, and risk takers who have led the way through college and are now ready to lead the way through the world.

(Ms. Morton continues.)

I leave you with a quote from Ellen DeGeneres:

“Usually when you’re wearing a robe at 10 in the morning, it means you’ve given up.”

So, I would like to congratulate you all on even this very huge accomplishment -- and I do not mean simply getting out of bed and being on time this morning. But being strong enough to never give up.

Congratulations, and forever, go Eagles!

(Ms. Morton returns to seat. Dr. Tew assumes lectern.)

DR. TEW: Thank you, Tanasia.

DR. TEW: Regent Beth Fitzsimmons, assisted by Regents Dennis

Beagen, Michelle Crumm, James Stapleton, James Webb and the academic deans, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Regents Beagen, Crumm, Fitzsimmons, Stapleton, Webb, and Deans Nair, Qatu, Saylor, Stacey, Tidwell, stand at their chairs.)

DR. TEW: 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 2016 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees.

(Dr. Tew 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: Graduates, please be seated until the marshals reach your row.

*(Regent Beagen and Dean Stacey go to stage LEFT.
Regent Crumm and Dean Nair go to stage RIGHT.)*

(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.)

PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR DEGREES

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

Stacey - hand diploma to Regent
***Beagen** - hand diploma to **Family of Student Receiving Posthumous Degree**, shake hands, and then continue with other students

Nair - hand diploma to Regent
****Crumm** - hand diploma to **Zachary Badger-House** and shake hands
****Crumm** - hand diploma to **Nakaya Clark**, shake hands, and then continue with other students

*After 1/3
bachelor's
candidates*

Qatu - hand diploma to Regent
Stapleton - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

Sayler - hand diploma to Regent
Webb - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

*After 2/3
bachelor's
candidates*

Qatu - hand diploma to Regent
Beagen - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

Tidwell - hand diploma to Regent
Fitzsimmons - hand diploma to candidate and shake hands

Back of Stage

(*Regent Beagen hands diploma to FAMILY of student receiving posthumous degree on STAGE LEFT, House Right)

(**Regent Crumm hands diplomas to NAKAYA CLARK and ZACHARY BADGER-HOUSE on STAGE RIGHT, House Left)

(ROTC candidates should approach to STAGE LEFT, House Right and WAIT.)

(When all Bachelor's candidates – EXCEPT ROTC – have walked, readers pause. Regent Beagen, Regent Fitzsimmons, and Dean Tidwell return to seats.

(Dean Qatu remains on stage LEFT where ROTC candidates are waiting.)

(Regent Morris assumes lectern.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: It is my honor to present diplomas to the **ROTC candidates** who have completed the required courses in military science and have been selected for commissioning as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army.

(Regent Morris waits with Dean Qatu. Dean Qatu hands diplomas to Regent Morris. Regent Morris hands diploma to candidate and shakes hand. Readers read names of ROTC students as they receive diplomas. When complete, all presenters and readers are seated.)

(President Smith returns to lectern.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: This is a time for celebrating. Would ALL the graduates please stand?

I would now like you to turn your tassels to the other side, symbolizing your transition to college graduate. *(Pause)*

Congratulations, graduates! We are all so proud of you and what you have accomplished here at Eastern.

And now, would all parents, spouses, significant others, grandparents, other family members and friends who have influenced the lives of our new graduates, **please stand and be recognized**. Thank you for your love and support. *(Pause)*

(Grand Marshal stands, walks to Mace at front of stage and waits. Grand Marshal picks up Mace when Alma Mater begins.)

We conclude today's ceremony with our alma mater, *Our Pledge*, led by **Eastern student Jennifer O'Neal**. The words are found on **page 2** of your program.

CONCLUSION OF CEREMONY

(President Smith continues.)

Following the alma mater, we request that you remain in your seats until the recessional is completed.

The graduates will exit out to the south side of the Convocation Center, and will meet their families outside the building.

Families should exit through the atrium as well as numerous side doors that are located on the west side of the Convocation Center, and meet graduates outside in the south parking lot.

(Pause) Please rise.

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

(Grand Marshal picks up Mace and holds during Alma Mater.)

(Color Guard ascends stage and stands by Colors during Alma Mater.)

CONCLUSION OF CEREMONY

MS. O'NEAL: 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.

(When RECESSIONAL music begins and William Pollard signals, Grand Marshal begins leading recessional, followed immediately by Color Guard. President and platform participants immediately follow Color Guard.)

(Vocalist remains standing. The band plays recessional music.)

RECESSIONAL