

2017

PM Ceremonial Script, April 22, 2017

Eastern Michigan University

COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

Saturday, April 22, 2017, 1:30 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.

ROTC 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 Vice Chair Mary Treder Lang** assumes lectern and waits for the music to stop. Arena lights dim on floor; stay bright on platform.

VICE CHAIR TREDER LANG: Good afternoon. I want to extend a warm welcome to our faculty, staff, families, friends, and our graduates-to-be. Please be seated.

I am Mary Treder Lang, vice chair 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 2017 Spring Commencement.

VICE CHAIR TREDER LANG: 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 stand briefly when name is called.)

- **Dennis Beagen** of Northville,
- **Eunice Jeffries** of Farmington Hills,
- **Alexander Simpson** of Southfield, and,
- **James Webb** of Northville.

VICE CHAIR TREDER LANG: Thank you for your dedication to Eastern Michigan University.

VICE CHAIR TREDER LANG: **Ms. Rebecca Myers**, a senior who graduates today with a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance, will sing our national anthem.

The Eastern Michigan University Wind Symphony will be conducted by **Dr. Mary Schneider**, director of bands and associate professor of music.

Please stand for the national anthem.

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

VOCALIST: (Leads singing of national anthem)

(All remain standing. Immediately following anthem, Color Guard posts flags and exits left side of stage. Vice Chair Treder Lang assumes lectern.)

VICE CHAIR TREDER LANG: Please be seated. I would now like to introduce **Dr. James Smith**, president of Eastern Michigan University, who will preside over today's ceremony.

(Vice Chair Treder Lang sits down. President Smith goes to lectern.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: Thank you, **Vice Chair Treder Lang.**

Would everyone please join me in thanking the **Eastern Michigan Wind Symphony** for the beautiful music today. They are an outstanding example of the superb music program we have here at EMU.

(President Smith gestures to the Band and applauds. Band and Conductor stand and take a bow.)

I would also 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.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: Leading our procession today is **Grand Marshal Jean Bush-Bacelis** (bah cell us), professor emeritus of Management. **Dr. Bush-Bacelis**, would you please stand?

Dr. Bush-Bacelis taught for 32 years in the College of Business, exemplifying excellence in the classroom.

She pioneered inclusion of academic service learning into the college experience, inspiring her students to apply their knowledge toward meaningful community service – a mission that is still part of the Eastern experience today.

Thank you, **Dr. Bush-Bacelis** (bah cell us).

(Grand Marshal sits down.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: Our marshals of the faculty are:

- Dr. Michael McVey (mac vay), and,
- Dr. Denise Tanguay (tang way)

Our marshals of the students are:

- Dr. David Anderson
- Dr. Martha Baiyee (buy ee)
- Professor Wendy Beattie (beet ee)
- Dr. Philip Cardon (car dun)
- Dr. Dorothy McAllen
- Dr. Stevan Mrdalj (steh vun mur dawl)
- Dr. John Palladino, and,
- Dr. Caroline Peltz.

**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:

- **Dr. Heather Neff**
- **Dr. Deron (darren) Overpeck**
- **Dr. Michael Tew (too), and,**
- **Dr. Patricia Zimmer**

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 an Eastern Michigan degree that is nationally recognized for academic excellence.

We have more than **2,500** students eligible to participate in today's ceremonies. Your faculty and I are very proud of you for your achievements.

You will now join the ranks of our alumni who are known for their strong academic accomplishments, practical experience and community engagement.

I would like to briefly introduce several of your classmates who share those Eastern Michigan traits. Please hold your applause until ALL of the students have been introduced.

(Students will stand when named, and will remain standing until all students are recognized.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: Among those graduating today is **Brandie Bentley** from Detroit, who is graduating magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Brandie is an Honors College Fellow and a McNair Scholar.

She participated in the University of Nebraska Minority Health Disparities Summer Research Program, and will attend the University of Illinois for a master's degree, focusing on mental health needs in communities of color.

Geoffrey Smith from Ypsilanti graduates today with a master's degree in Orthotics and Prosthetics, and will head to Oregon to complete his residency in Orthotics. The life-like models he developed are being utilized for national certification exams, helping bring more national recognition to Eastern's highly-respected program.

PRESIDENT SMITH: Emily Burks from Flushing, Michigan also graduates today, magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Special Education - Emotional Impairment. She plans to work with young people in the justice system. Her dedication, leadership, and compassion are indicative of the graduates from our nationally-recognized Special Education program, which was founded in 1914.

Along with students from nearly every state, Eastern also welcomes students from more than 80 countries.

Graduating today with an MBA, with Supply Chain Management and Finance specialization, is **Abdi** (ab dee) **Mohsenin** (moh suh nen) from Iran. He was president of the Graduate Business Students Association, and helped coordinate the college's annual Business of the Year Awards, where he also presented.

PRESIDENT SMITH: A member of the Honors College and a McNair Scholar, **Victoria Fisher** from Taylor will graduate cum laude today with a bachelor's degree in Accounting.

While at Eastern, she has researched corporate social responsibility, and international business ethics and environmental practices. She plans to complete a master's degree and work as a Forensic Accountant.

(Students will stand when named, and will remain standing until all students are recognized.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: **These students are wonderful representatives of Eastern's talented and diverse student body. Congratulations to ALL of our EMU students who are graduating today.** *(Pause for applause.)*

(All students will remain standing for applause.)

Thank you, please be seated.

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

Barbara McQuade served as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for seven years.

In her leadership role, she tackled cases that would impact the quality of life for Michigan citizens –

- cases of public corruption by elected officials, in order to rebuild confidence in our government
- environmental cases that would result in protection of our waters, and
- cases related to crime, to make our communities safer.

PRESIDENT SMITH: During her tenure, Ms. McQuade aggressively prosecuted high-profile cases, but simultaneously worked to support initiatives to reduce community violence and protect those who had fallen victim to civil rights violations.

Before being named as the first woman to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Detroit, and was the Deputy Chief of the National Security Unit.

Ms. McQuade is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and the University of Michigan Law School.

PRESIDENT SMITH: Respected by both sides of the bar and bench, she has left behind a legacy of public service in the U.S. Attorney's office. She built a team of outstanding lawyers who will continue to work to protect Michigan citizens and our state's resources, as she has done for the past seven years.

I am honored to present to you today's commencement speaker, former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and current Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School – **Barbara McQuade.**

(President Smith is seated. Ms. McQuade assumes lectern.)

Ms. McQUADE: (COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS)

(Following address, Ms. McQuade returns to chair. President Smith returns to lectern.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: Thank you, **Ms. McQuade**, for your advice and encouragement for 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 the highest esteem of their colleagues and communities.

PRESIDENT SMITH: I now call upon **Regent Mary Treder Lang** to confer the degree.

Dr. Rhonda Longworth, provost and executive vice president for academic and student affairs, and

Dr. Kathleen Stacey, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will assist **Regent Treder Lang**.

(President Smith returns to seat. Regent Treder Lang assumes lectern.)

Provost Longworth picks up hood from under chair. Dean Stacey picks up diploma from under chair. Provost Longworth and Dean Stacey escort Ms. McQuade to a position behind and to right of President. Dean Stacey hands diploma to Regent Treder Lang.)

VICE CHAIR TREDER LANG: **Barbara McQuade**, 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, **Barbara McQuade**, the honorary degree – **Doctor of Public Service.**

(Regent Treder Lang hands diploma to Barbara McQuade. Provost Longworth and Dean Stacey hood Barbara McQuade.)

(Provost Longworth and Dean Stacey escort Barbara McQuade to seat. Dean Stacey returns to seat. Regent Treder Lang returns to seat.)

(Provost Longworth goes to lectern.)

PROVOST LONGWORTH: I am **Rhonda Longworth**, provost and executive vice president of academic and student affairs. **President Smith**, it is my honor to present the Deans for the presentation of the Class of 2017.

(Provost Longworth 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 with a nod from his chair.)

DEAN BALAZS: 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.

(Deans return to seats. President Smith remains seated. Provost Longworth returns to lectern.)

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Members of the Board of Regents, President Smith, faculty, students and guests, it is my pleasure to present **doctoral candidates** from the **College of Education.**

These candidates have completed a program culminating in a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership, or educational studies. The titles of their dissertations can be found in the program.

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

PROVOST LONGWORTH: **Regent Dennis Beagen** will confer the doctoral degrees. **Dr. Wade Tornquist**, interim 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.)

(Dr. Tornquist stands in front of chair. Provost Longworth steps back. Regent Beagen assumes lectern.)

REGENT BEAGEN: 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 Longworth assumes lectern. Regent Beagen and Dr. Tornquist descend to lower center stage.)

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

Doctorate #1

CONFIRMED
Regalia Yes

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Our first candidate is **Amanda Bell** who has earned a doctor of philosophy degree in educational studies.

She is accompanied by **Dr. Joe Bishop**, professor of teacher education.

Congratulations, **Dr. Bell.**

Doctorate #2

CONFIRMED
Regalia Yes

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Our next candidate is **Michael Bender** who has earned a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership.

He is accompanied by **Dr. David Anderson**, professor of leadership and counseling.

Congratulations, **Dr. Bender.**

Doctorate #3

CONFIRMED
Regalia Yes

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Our next candidate is **Julie Clark** who has earned a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership.

He is accompanied by **Dr. Ronald Williamson**, professor of leadership and counseling.

Congratulations, **Dr. Clark.**

Doctorate #4

CONFIRMED
Regalia Yes

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Our next candidate is **Linden Moore** who has earned a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership.

He is accompanied by **Dr. David Anderson**, professor of leadership and counseling.

Congratulations, **Dr. Moore**.

Doctorate #5

CONFIRMED
Regalia Yes

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Our next candidate is **Alexander Ofili** (oh fee lee) who has earned a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership.

He is accompanied by **Dr. Ella Burton**, professor of leadership and counseling.

Congratulations, **Dr. Ofili** (oh fee lee).

Doctorate #6

CONFIRMED
Regalia ?

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Our next candidate is **Phillip Pittman** who has earned a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership.

He is accompanied by **Dr. David Anderson**, professor of leadership and counseling.

Congratulations, **Dr. Pittman.**

Doctorate #7

CONFIRMED
Regalia Yes

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Our next candidate is **Stephen Prissel** (prize uhl) who has earned a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership.

He is accompanied by **Dr. Ronald Williamson**, professor of leadership and counseling.

Congratulations, **Dr. Prissel** (prize uhl).

Doctorate #8

CONFIRMED
Regalia Yes

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Our next candidate is

Makeda (mah key dah) **Turner** who has earned
a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership.

She is accompanied by **Dr. Barbara Bleyaert**,
associate professor of leadership and counseling.

Congratulations, **Dr. Turner**.

*(After last doctorate degree is presented, **Regent Beagen** and **Dr. Tornquist** return to seats.)*

*(**Provost Longworth** remains at lectern.)*

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Next, I would like to introduce **Patrick Barry**, president of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association, and a 1971 and 1973 graduate, who will welcome our graduates to the family of Eastern alumni.

(Provost returns to seat. Mr. Barry assumes lectern.)

MR. BARRY: Thank you. Good morning, graduates!

I am excited and honored to speak to you today. I walked across this stage 45 years ago and still remember the happiness and pride I felt.

When you leave here today you will be a member of a very large extended family: the more than 165,000 men and women who are EMU graduates.

On behalf of the Eastern Michigan University Alumni Association: Welcome to this family. Your TRUEMU family.

(Mr. Barry continues.)

For 168 years, your new family members have been recognized for their skills, talents and commitment to improving our world. The more you get to know these family members, the more inspired you will be.

We work hard to stay connected with you. We begin today with a memento as you leave. We host events on campus and in the community. We stay connected through alumni chapters. We communicate monthly via the E-Edge and three times a year by Eastern, the magazine. We look forward to you activating your free membership so we can begin communicating with you.

Family is a powerful word. EMU is proud of its extended family. We are proud of you, our newest members of the TRUEMU alumni family.

Best wishes, today and always.

(Mr. Barry returns to seat. Provost assumes lectern.)

PROVOST LONGWORTH: It is now my honor to present the candidates for graduate degrees. **Regent James Webb** and **Regent Mary Treder Lang** assisted by the **academic deans**, will confer the degrees.

(Regent Webb comes forward, stands left of Provost Longworth.)

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

Regent Webb, 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.

(Provost Longworth steps back. Regent Webb assumes lectern.)

REGENT WEBB: 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 graduate degree or certificate to which you are entitled.

(Pause)

REGENT WEBB: **Graduates, please be seated until the marshals reach your row.**

(Provost Longworth is seated. Regent Webb and Dean Saylor go to stage RIGHT. Regent Treder Lang and Dean Nair go to stage LEFT. Two readers go to microphones.)

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

(Deans hand diplomas to Regents. Regents shake students' hands, present diplomas. When all candidates have walked across stage, presenters are seated.)

(Regent Webb hands diploma to MEGAN O'BRIEN on STAGE RIGHT, House Left)

(Regent Treder Lang hands diplomas to TASHEEMA JONES MURRAY on STAGE LEFT, House Right)

(Assistant Vice President Sipe assumes lectern.)

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT SIPE: I am **Rebecca Sipe**, assistant vice president of the Honors College.

Eastern Michigan's faculty and staff demonstrate extraordinary commitment to our students. This dedication is especially seen in the **Honors College**, where both educational and cultural experiences are provided through challenging Honors courses and activities that encourage scholarly curiosity, leadership, diversity, and civic engagement.

We are pleased that **132 students** from the **Honors College** are participating in two Commencement ceremonies today. Not only do these undergraduates have exceptional grade point averages, they also completed special honors work that included a senior honors thesis.

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT SIPE: 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.

(Assistant Vice President Sipe returns to seat. Provost Longworth assumes lectern.)

PROVOST LONGWORTH: We will now 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.

(Provost Longworth remains at lectern.)

PROVOST LONGWORTH: During this morning's ceremony, we were proud to recognize members of today's graduating class who 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.

We are also honored to have **55 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 Longworth remains at lectern.)

PROVOST LONGWORTH: I would now like to ask **Joshua Starr**, vice president of student government, to address our graduates. Joshua is graduating today cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

(Provost Longworth is seated. Mr. Starr takes lectern.)

MR. STARR: Good morning, class of 2017!

As I look around the room, I see some of you smiling, some anxiously waiting for me to get off stage so you can get your diploma, and one of you sleeping ... you know who you are. But don't worry, I'll keep it short.

You all know the saying, "It's a marathon not a sprint." Which of course applies to college. I don't know about the rest of you, but once January hit I was sprinting to this point!

(Mr. Starr continues.)

Things will only get harder.

Harder to get away with falling asleep in public places like the library, Student Center or class, which of course none of us ever did.

But I know you are all up for the challenge because you've made it this far.

I will leave you with a piece of advice by Teddy Roosevelt
"Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em Hell
Yes I Can! Then get busy and find out how to do it."

Thank you!

(Mr. Starr returns to seat. Provost Longworth assumes lectern.)

(Mr. Starr returns to seat. Provost Longworth assumes lectern.)

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Thank you, **Joshua.**

PROVOST LONGWORTH: **Regent Beagen**, assisted by **Regents Eunice Jeffries, Alexander Simpson, Mary Treder Lang, James Webb** and the **academic deans**, will now confer the bachelor's degrees.

(Regents Beagen, Jeffries, Simpson, Treder Lang and Webb, and Deans Stacey, Qatu, Saylor, Balazs, and Nair stand at their chairs.)

PROVOST LONGWORTH: Will the candidates for the bachelor's degrees please rise? *(Pause)* **Regent Beagen**, 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 2017 for the conferring of the bachelor's degrees.

(Provost Longworth steps back. Regent Beagen assumes lectern.)

REGENT BEAGEN: 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.

(Pause)

REGENT BEAGEN: **Graduates, please be seated until the marshals reach your row.**

*(Regent Webb and Dean Saylor go to stage LEFT.
Regent Simpson and Dean Nair go to stage RIGHT.)*

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

(Mr. Starr leaves the platform via Stage RIGHT and joins line of undergraduates heading to receive diploma. After receiving diploma, Mr. Starr walks down the ramp and then back around to return to platform.)

(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

*(Vicki Reaume will tap Regents and Deans on shoulders when time to change.
When tapped to be replaced, please return to seat.)*

STAGE LEFT

Sayler - hand diploma to Regent
***Webb** - hand diploma to **Jordan
Newton**, shake hands, and then continue
with other students

*After 1/3
bachelor's
candidates*

Balazs - hand diploma to Regent
Jeffries - hand diploma to candidate and
shake hands

*After 2/3
bachelor's
candidates*

Balazs - hand diploma to Regent
Simpson - hand diploma to candidate
and shake hands

STAGE RIGHT

Nair - hand diploma to Regent
****Simpson** - hand diploma to
An'Johnette Love, shake hands, and
then continue with other students

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

Sayler - hand diploma to Regent
Treder Lang - hand diploma to
candidate and shake hands

**(*Regent Webb hands diplomas to JORDAN NEWTON on STAGE LEFT, House
Right)**

(Regent Simpson hands diplomas to AN'JOHNETTE LOVE on STAGE RIGHT,
House Left)**

(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 from the right to the left 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 even though you THINK you are leaving us – believe me – as graduates, you will be hearing from us – OFTEN!

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.)

PRESIDENT SMITH: We conclude today's ceremony with our alma mater, *Our Pledge*, led by **Eastern graduate Rebecca Myers**. The words can be found on **page 2** of your program.

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. *(Motions toward back of stage.)*

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.)

VOCALIST: 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 Sherry Owens 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