

Double Bill

Presidents Clinton, Shelton highlight historical graduation

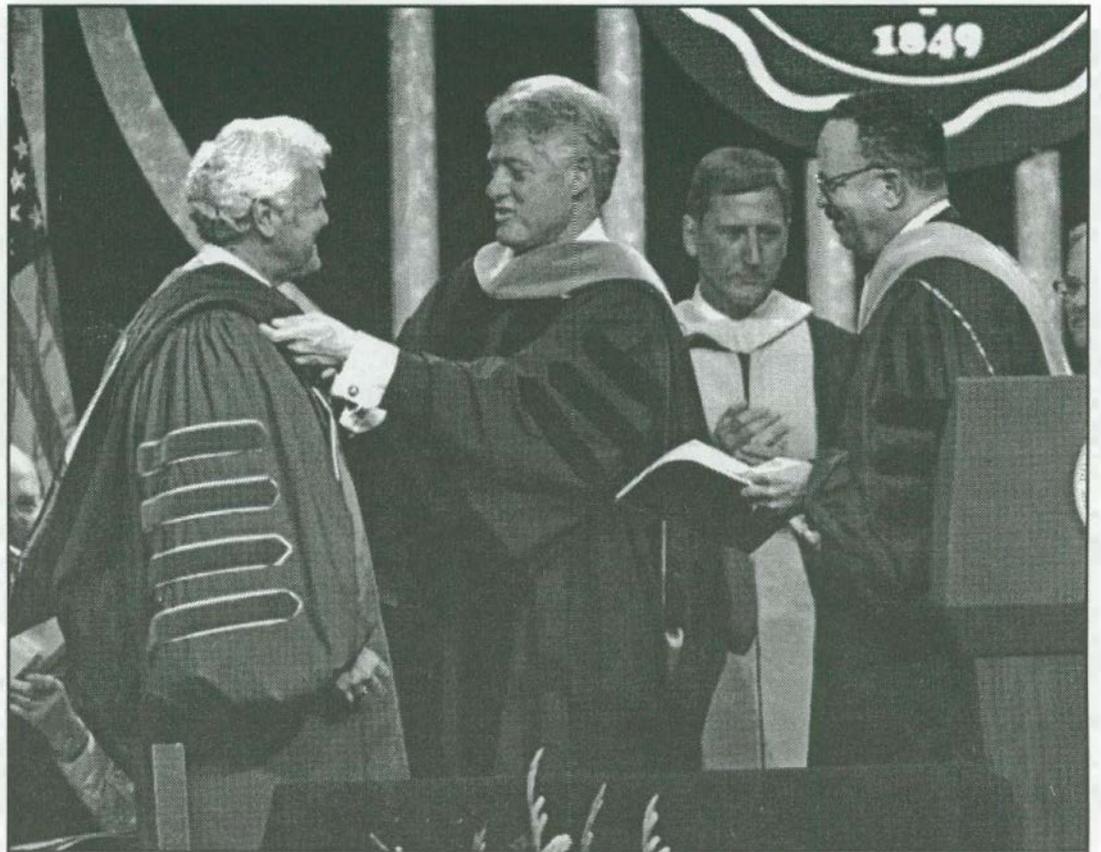
By Ron Podell

The technology revolution is providing information opportunities in ways previously never imagined. However, those same technological advances are also raising serious questions about threats to public privacy, said President William Jefferson Clinton during his commencement address to more than 1,300 Eastern Michigan University graduates April 30.

"Today, as information technology opens new worlds of possibilities, it also challenges privacy in ways we might never have imagined just a few years ago," Clinton said. "For example, the same genetic code that offers hopes for millions can also be used to deny health insurance. The same technology that links distant places can also be used to track our every move online."

The standing-room-only crowd did the usual neck-straining and flashbulb popping as the graduates marched into Eastern Michigan's Convocation Center. But there was an extra electricity in the air, as the crowd buzzed with anticipation for President Clinton's arrival.

The event marked the first time in Eastern Michigan's 150-year history that a sitting president addressed a commencement ceremony. The presidential visit marked the second time in four years that



President Bill Clinton (right) adjusts EMU President William Shelton's robe during the winter commencement ceremony April 30. Clinton addressed more than 1,300 graduates.

Clinton had been to Eastern Michigan. He came to EMU's Bowen Field House in October 1996 to make a major policy announcement.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, a 1977 EMU graduate, introduced the president and fondly reminisced on his EMU experience.

"Eastern taught me that nothing, nothing was impossible," Slater said of his road from EMU to working with Clinton when he was then-

governor of Arkansas, and then to the White House. "As a graduate of this institution, I will always be part of EMU and will always be proud of that fact."

Although not as well-publicized, two other distinguished EMU graduates were present. John Coburn, one of only eight four-star generals in the United States Army, and Eugene Conti, Jr., assistant secretary for transportation policy, attended the afternoon ceremony. Coburn

was a 1962 EMU graduate while Conti received his degree in 1971.

Clinton, who waved to the crowd and smiled as he was introduced amid a constant smattering of flashbulbs, took the opportunity to inform the crowd and graduates of legislation he plans to introduce in the near future. The legislation would protect the public's personal financial and medical information.

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Provost Ron Collins announces retirement

By Ron Podell

Eastern Michigan University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Ron Collins has announced his retirement, effective May 1, 2001. Collins has served the University in a number of capacities for nearly 35 years, the last 17 as provost.

"It has been a tremendous honor to serve in this position for 17 years, and I have enjoyed every minute of it," Collins said. "It has been exciting and challenging, and the position has changed tremendously during the past 17 years."

"I have had the opportunity to serve under two presidents for whom I have tremendous respect and, under their leadership, we have made tremendous progress as an institution," Collins continued. "I believe we built a strong aca-

democratic team, which has served the interests of students well."

Collins, who will turn 65 next February, said he has contemplated this decision every day since Gerrie Collins, his wife of 39 years, passed away last August.

"The time is right to make a change in my life," he said. "I am looking forward to having a new president come in and pledge my full support to (incoming EMU president) Dr. (Samuel A.) Kirkpatrick."

Collins' decision to stay one more year stems from his desire to see doctorate programs in clinical psychology and technology fully implemented before he leaves. In addition, he wanted to remain until preparations were completed for the North Central Association site visit

in Spring 2001.

"It seemed appropriate to commit to staying through the NCA visit, and to retire as provost next May, or at such time as my successor is selected," Collins said.

During his tenure as provost, the University's first doctoral program was approved, the Honors Program was initiated, a World College was created and the Department of African American Studies was established. In addition, the Basic Studies (general education) requirements were revised; a Faculty Center for Instructional Excellence and a Center for Instructional Computing were established; a comprehensive program review process was implemented; and

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Grads react to president's commencement address

By Ron Podell

Tracey Edwards had no intention of attending her graduation ceremony at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center. That is, until she heard the president of the United States was going to be the commencement speaker.

"That's why I decided to walk (in the ceremony)," said Edwards, who received her degree in criminal justice administration. "I wasn't going to walk, but I ran out to get my cap and gown after that."

Edwards, like many other EMU graduates who scattered into the afternoon sun outside the Convocation Center after receiving their degrees, thought President Clinton's visit added an extra special touch to an already memorable event in their lives.

Edwards said it was President Clinton's policies on financial aid that allowed her to go back to school years after she left that pursuit to have a family and raise her children.

"I couldn't have finished (otherwise)," Edwards said. "I was eligible for more grants and I could take out loans."

Rosalyn Green, who received her master's in public administration, said Clinton's speech on technology was appropriate since "we are the people who are going to make the difference in the nation."

Green also appreciated the fact that Clinton didn't downplay the graduates' day with his appearance. During his speech, Clinton highlighted a few students' accomplishments and said he felt a special kin with the EMU grads.

"We felt he was here for us," Green said.

Holly Fischer said the president's speech on privacy of personal information was important "to him, sure, and to us, too. It was an honor for EMU to be recognized."

Fischer also was inspired by Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater's speech. Slater graduated from EMU in 1977.

"It made me realize you can come from EMU and do something big," said Fischer, who majored in English and received her degree from the University's College of Arts and Sciences.

Roman Welter, who received his degree in public safety administration, gave a thumbs-up to Clinton's comments about preserving the environment.

"I'm a big outdoorsman and I'm in favor of anything we can do for the environment to make it better for our children and grandchildren," Welter said.

For Alice Blasky, the experience of having the president speak to her graduating class is something she said



President Bill Clinton embraces Rodney Slater ('77), secretary of transportation, during commencement April 30.

she will better appreciate as time passes.

"In a few years, it will be more memorable," said Blasky, who earned her degree in biology.

And while many students were impressed by Clinton's appearance, others who worked behind the scenes gave kudos to EMU for its orchestration of the event.

CBS News producer Thomas Tillman was happy with work done by University officials to create a transmission room that would allow ample room to hook up 40 cases of

equipment and to be able to carry live feeds for several other networks.

"This is actually one of the better locations I've been to," said Tillman. "This place seems to have everything we need."

"We lucked out with this building because it's a new facility," Ameritech large business technician Jim Chatterton said of the Convocation Center's ability to handle additional, temporary phone lines needed by the national and local media. "We had the cable facilities to handle all of the phone lines."

Ceremony broadcast on Web

For the first time ever, Eastern Michigan University simulcast this spring's commencement over the University's web site.

And while the simulcast was planned months before it was known the president was going to be in town, it coincidentally provided an alternative means for people to view the pomp and presidential circumstance.

The Web simulcast received about 30 "hits" during the afternoon ceremony, said Richard Bush, director of learning technologies, user and network operations.

Bush said the Webcast "went off without a hitch" and it's likely future commencements and perhaps other EMU events will be simulcast over the Web in the future.

The Web cast is available on EMU's Web site at www.emich.edu.

CLINTON, from page 1

Under his proposal, a person would receive notice before one financial institution shared that person's financial information with another, and "you could say no," Clinton said.

The same constraints would be placed on the sharing of medical records between banks and insurance companies, as well as "your personal spending identity," a list of every purchase one makes by check or credit card.

In addition, citizens would have access to their own records that are compiled by financial institutions and would be able to correct any mistakes in their records.

"In this information age, we can't let new opportunities erode old fundamental rights," he said. "We can't let breakthroughs in technology break down walls of privacy. Our response to this challenge will affect the lives of every single member of this graduating class and the lives of your children."

Clinton also spiced his comments with a local flavor. Because many of those receiving their degrees had to work their way through school, and needed help in the form of loans,

grants and work-study positions, Clinton said he identified with them.

"I also identify with your class because I may be the only president of the United States who ever studied here," Clinton said. "I came here to prepare for my (presidential) debates in 1992. And like you, I passed. And I thank you very much for the contribution you made to my education and to my years here."

Because the graduates he addressed were from the University's College of Technology and College of Arts and Sciences, he took the opportunity to highlight a few of their individual accomplishments.

"Todd Pasquale, of the College of Arts and Sciences, wasn't going to let anything stop him from earning his degree today — not even navigating his wheelchair through the Michigan snows," Clinton said. "Thanks to EMU On-Line, he took his winter courses at home. Now, he plans to give back to the community by working as a counselor to people in prisons, because he could access technology."

Clinton also cited Randy Short, who earned her master's degree with honors in web site design, and hopes to start her own business and help teach women to use computers. Her

accomplishment is all the more significant because she went to school while raising her three sons alone, after her husband passed away, he said.

EMU President William E. Shelton presided over both the morning and afternoon ceremonies. The April 30 commencement marked Shelton's last, as he is in his 11th and final year at Eastern Michigan.

To mark the occasion, Shelton was originally slated as the afternoon commencement speaker. But he good-naturedly shared his predicament with the audience.

"It's not every day I have the president of the United States wanting to replace me," he said, a comment that drew a hearty chuckle from President Clinton.

Clinton assisted with the presentation of an honorary doctorate of humane letters that was awarded to Shelton by the University.

In turn, Clinton was awarded a doctorate of public service by Shelton. During the awarding of his honor, Clinton looked up briefly as his green hood was draped around his neck by Shelton. He shook hands with Shelton and then, with a wave of his hand off of his forehead, Clinton signed off to the crowd. And then he was gone.

Pray-Harrold denizens relocate to trailers near Bowen

By Ron Podell

Less than a month after an accidental fire caused damage to the roof of the Pray-Harrold classroom building in March, a plan was created to ensure the educational routine of displaced Eastern Michigan University faculty and students wouldn't be interrupted.

For the spring and summer terms, that means students are treading a new path to class and faculty will be working out of temporary trailer offices.

"It was a challenge we were under to vacate a building that was, at one time, the largest classroom building in the state of Michigan," said Barry Fish, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "We had two weeks to do it."

The March 18 fire started as maintenance work was being done on part of the building's cooling system. The majority of the damage was contained to the roof, with smoke and very minor water damage on the sixth and seventh floors, which are primarily faculty offices.

The building also houses the departments of economics, English language and literature, history, philosophy and the administrative offices of the College of Arts and Sciences.

For the spring term, more than 175 classes had to be moved from Pray-Harrold and relocated to other sites on campus, Fish said. For the summer term, another 90 classes normally held in Pray-Harrold also have been reassigned elsewhere on campus.

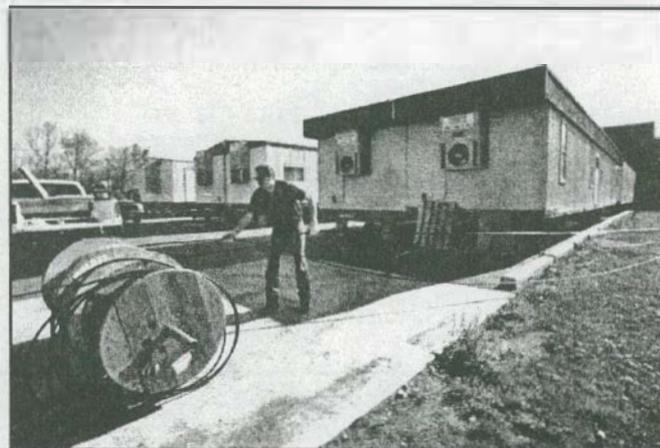
"Probably the most challenging (courses) to relocate were the computer science classes and computer labs," Fish said, explaining there was no one single facility where all those classes could be moved. "We had 9,000 to 10,000 students a day in those (classes) during the fall and winter terms. That (student) number will be smaller in the summer."

The bulk of those computer-themed classes have been relocated to Bruce T. Halle Library and the John W. Porter College of Education, Fish said.

As for the faculty, 17 office trailers were situated in the parking lot near Bowen Field House during the first week of May.

"The assumption is they will move us back into Pray-Harrold by the middle of August," Fish said.

TRAILER PARK



A worker helps anchor one of the temporary office trailers in the Bowen parking lot. The trailers will house faculty and staff from Pray-Harrold.

Information about class locations for the spring semester can be found at:

- Kiosks located throughout campus
- Postings on the doors of Pray-Harrold
- Through academic departments
- Eastern Michigan University's Web site at www.emich.edu. Click on the "Class Schedules through Fall 2000" link and follow the steps to pull up the desired college division or academic department.
- Eastern Echo online at easternecho.com. Check under the link "class location changes."

"We hope people will be patient with us as we move to the trailers and get things up and running,"

**— Dean Barry Fish,
College of Arts and Sciences**

In the interim, 120 faculty members will use the trailers as office space. A dozen of the trailers will house offices for faculty that normally had working space on the fifth, sixth and seventh floors of Pray-Harrold. The other five trailers will serve as offices for Fish and his staff, as well as 10 other departments.

Those departments are African American studies, computer science, economics, English, history, mathematics, political science, women's studies; sociology, anthropology and criminology; and a portion of communication and theater arts, Fish said.

Displaced faculty members, department heads and Dean Fish and his staff will still be able to be reached at their current phone numbers, said Dawn Clark, Fish's administrative secretary.

Like some other faculty members she's talked with, Mildred Lintner, professor of computer science, acknowledges the move is an inconvenience. But she's looking on the bright side.

"I've spent years wishing for an opportunity to look through stuff and get rid of things I've never had time to do in years," Lintner said. "When I move back (to Pray-Harrold) this fall, it will be a lot less strenuous. I'll only have half of my stuff to move back. And it will be organized."

Because of the need for temporary office space, the Bowen Lot has been off limits to vehicles since late April and will continue to be until probably sometime in August. The parking structure just west of Bowen Lot is still available.

"We hope people will be patient with us as we move to the trailers and get things up and running," Fish said. "It won't be business as usual for awhile."

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For a more extensive listing of University events, go to the Office of Public Information home page at www.emich.edu/public/public_information/

Golf outing to benefit football endowment

Sixty years of football will be celebrated at the Eastern Michigan University Football Golf Outing, scheduled for Friday, June 9, Eagle Crest Golf Club, Ypsilanti. Registration and lunch will be at 11 a.m.

Sponsored by the EMU Foundation, the event raises funds for the football endowment.

The cost of the outing is \$175 per person, which includes lunch, 18 holes of golf, cart, prizes, gifts, beverages on the course, dinner and a contribution to the endowment.

For reservations or sponsorship information, contact Julie Babington, at 484-3237.

Law and order

Eastern Michigan University supervisory staff are invited to hear important updates on employment law from attorney Stephen Hirschfeld.

A session for academic administrators is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 8 a.m.-noon. Another session for non-academic administrators is scheduled from 1-5 p.m. Both sessions will be at the McKenny Union Tower Room. Refreshments and materials will be provided.

To register, contact Human Resource Development at 487-4249.

Annual alumni awards

The 39th Annual Alumni Awards Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 6 p.m., Ypsilanti Marriott at Eagle Crest. Reservation deadline is Monday, May 8. Tickets are \$45/person.

Awardees include: Anne Esposito, Paul McMullen, Dale Heydlauff, Gerald Grady, Shirley Spork, Gerald Welch, Ron Oestrike and Dennis Beagen. Call 487-0250

Corrections

In the April 25 issue of FOCUS EMU on page 4, a reference was made to NCATE. NCATE stands for the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

JOBSLINE

An Affirmative Action/
Equal Opportunity Employer

To be considered for vacant positions, all Promotional Openings Application Forms MUST BE SUBMITTED directly to the Compensation/Employment Services Office and received no later than 4:45 p.m., Monday, May 15. NOTE: LATE OR INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Vacancy information may also be obtained by calling our 24-hour Jobs Line at 487-0016. Compensation/Employment Services office hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

CLERICAL/SECRETARIAL

(Hiring Rate)

CSAA2045 CS-04 \$20,547
Library Assistant II, Learning Resources and Technologies.

CSBF2025 CS-04 \$20,547
Cashier, Cashier's Office.

CSAA2046 CS-05 \$23,218
Senior Secretary, HPER&D.

CSAA2047 CS-06 \$25,321
Administrative Secretary Graduate School.

PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL

(Hiring Range)

PTSA2026 PT-05 \$22,651-\$26,048
Manager Apartments: Leasing Coordinator, Housing.

PTSA2027 PT-06 \$25,534-\$29,822
Area Complex Director, Housing.

PTBF2007 PT-07 \$29,363-\$34,531
Accountant II, Cashier's Office. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Experience in FFELP program desirable.

ATHLETIC COACHING

(Hiring Range)

ACPR2006 AC-15 \$30,915-\$37,717
Head Coach: Women's Crew, Athletics.

The pay rates stated above reflect the hiring rate or range for a newly hired EMU employee. The pay rate or salary for current employees will be established according to the respective employee group union contract, and/or University salary administration policy guidelines.

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the formation of the extended programs area was achieved.

President William E. Shelton lauded Collins for his lengthy service to the University.

"I want to extend my personal and professional gratitude to Dr. Collins for his support during my tenure as president," Shelton said. "He provided tremendous academic leadership during the 80s and 90s, and his commitment to academic excellence is sincerely appreciated."

"He has played an integral role in numerous initiatives that focused on learning and scholarly activities," Shelton continued. "I treasure Dr. Collins as a colleague and as a friend, and know the University community will benefit from his service of more than three decades."

Collins joined the EMU faculty as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1965. He was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and a full professor in 1971. Collins served as acting head of the chemistry department from 1977 to 1978, and was named head of the department in 1979. A year later, he was promoted to associate vice president for academic affairs and he served as acting vice president from 1982 to 1983. Collins was named provost and vice president of academic affairs in August 1983.

Collins earned his bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Dayton and a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from Indiana University. Prior to joining EMU, Collins was employed for four years as an inorganic research chemist at Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation in Wyandotte, Mich.

Collins is a nationally-recognized scholar and expert in the field of instructional computer usage. In 1977, he received Eastern Michigan University's first Distinguished Faculty Award. He also received the University of Dayton Alumni Association Special Achievement Award in 1979. A year later, he was awarded the Chemical Manufacturers Association Catalyst Award, a national honor presented to only four faculty members each year.

Why I work at Eastern Michigan University

I came here while I was at school at U of M. I was on leave from another position to go to school as a doctoral candidate. I surely didn't come with the intention of staying forever.

This is a people place. I do get the opportunity to meet a lot of different people.

I enjoy the opportunity to meet with and talk with students, to help guide them through the maze and deal with their legitimate concerns.

I've been here since 1971, and at this point I get parents who bring their kids back and say: You helped me when I was here, and this is my son.

If you're active and working with younger people, it helps you keep perspective and keeps your feet on the ground.

I'm appreciative of the faculty here. Many times we really don't think about what they contribute to the University. We have a productive and concerned faculty and they're well equipped and well prepared. We don't give enough credit to our faculty or our students.



Velma G. Clark,
Office of the Dean,
College of Arts and Sciences

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
The Learning Edge