

**EGSC Graduation Fall 2015  
Bob Boehmer's Script  
12/12/2015 -- 10am Gymnasium**

**Brass quartet plays music preceding ceremony while guests are seated**

**Student lights a candle preceding the ceremony.**

**Announcement is made by Student Affairs preceding ceremony about behavior during the graduation ceremony**

**Ceremony begins promptly at 10 am**

**Processional Music Begins to Play (Susan Westberry)**

**Processional begins as soon as processional music begins – I will follow John Blackburn and David Gribbin up the center aisle. They will turn off before they reach the stage. I wait while David places mace in the stand. I then proceed up to the right side of stage (facing the stage), go up on stage and stand in front of the furthest chair to the right (facing audience) – All remain standing**

**After music stops, I walk to podium**

## Welcome

Good Morning!

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of East Georgia State College, welcome to our **Fall 2015 commencement**. This graduating class, 149, is the largest ever at East Georgia State College. This is due to the incredibly hard work of our faculty and staff and these graduates. Give them a well-deserved round of applause.

The ceremony is being recorded so each graduate will be able to share it with family and friends.

Please remain standing as Mr. Gilbert Westberry, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Swainsboro and Music Instructor for East Georgia State College, sings *God Bless America*. Mr. Westberry will then deliver our invocation.

**Invocation** – Mr. Westberry will ask all to be seated at the conclusion.

Thank you, Mr. Westberry. We hope you have all enjoyed the music this morning provided by our pianist, Susan Westberry, and our brass quartet composed of Bill Sasser Jonathan Scott, Charles Lawrence and Robert Agress. We are honored to have such talent in our East Georgia State College community, and deeply appreciate their contribution to our commencement ceremony.

In addition, our Student Marshall, Maggie London Bell, and our student ushers are listed on the last page of your program. Thank you to all of these individuals for participating in this commencement and making today a memorable one for our graduates and their supporters. Please join me in thanking all of these musicians and students with a warm round of applause.

Please take note of students wearing academic insignia this morning in recognition of their special achievements:

- Green tassels adorn the mortarboards of our graduates receiving the Associate in Arts degree;
- Golden yellow tassels adorn the mortarboards of our graduates receiving the Bachelor of Science degree;
- Gold cords signify honor graduates. These are students who have earned a 3.5 cumulative or higher GPA. Cum laude graduates have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher, Magna Cum Laude graduates have earned 3.8 or higher and Summa Cum Laude have earned a 3.9 or higher;
- Medallions worn by (g2)2 graduates, Get to Graduation in Two Years, signify completion of the associate degree in two years;
- Medallions worn by Finish in Four graduates, signify completion of a bachelor's degree in four years.
- Gold and blue cords signify membership in Beta Iota Beta, the East Georgia State College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society;
- Navy colored cords signify graduates who are active or retired military;
- Black cords signify participation in the African American Male Initiative;

- Purple, green, and gold cords are worn by our East Georgia State College Ambassadors.
- Service to community is part of who we are at East Georgia State College. The Service Seal of Distinction is presented to those students who volunteered and acted as models for building a culture of service by encouraging others to serve.

As we begin this morning's ceremony, I would like to first take time to recognize two of our colleagues who have retired:

- Dr. Bob Brown, who has served this college since 2002, and.
- Dr. Glenn Stracher, who has served this college since 1992.

Both of these men are treasured colleagues who love to work with students and help them achieve. Both are scholars who are widely recognized for their cutting edge research in their discipline.

Dr. Bob Brown is retiring after 14 years teaching mathematics. He will now serve as Emeritus Dean of the School of Mathematics and Science and Professor Emeritus of Mathematics.

Dr. Bob Brown loves to help students achieve real understanding of mathematics and how it underpins the technologies that shape our lives. Bob grew up in Lyons, Georgia and is a triple Yellow Jacket having earned his bachelors, masters and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech. He spent 31 years in research and development at Bell Telephone Laboratories. The

large projects he managed include Telstar 302 which was launched on the first mission of space Shuttle Discovery. He is now Professor of Mathematics and Dean of the School of Mathematics & Natural Science at East Georgia State College. Under his leadership, the College successfully initiated its first bachelors degree program – a B.S. in Biology.

Dr. Glenn Stracher recently retired from EGSC after 23 years of teaching geology and physics. He will now serve as Professor Emeritus of Geology.

Dr. Stracher has received numerous awards and recognitions for his research on coal and peat fires. He is considered the nation's foremost researcher of uncontrolled coal fires, an issue of global importance that has environmental and human health consequences. He has authored many articles and books on the topic and has been featured both on television and in numerous magazines, as well as in several films.

Dr. Brown and Dr. Stracher will always remain part of the East Georgia State College community and we deeply appreciate their contributions. Please join me in giving them a warm round of applause.

Graduates, few days as special as this take place in a lifetime. As we begin this momentous ceremony

- Breathe deeply and enjoy this moment that you have earned

- Quickly recall a special learning moment at East Georgia State College
- Smile and commit that moment to memory
- Silently commit to say thank you today to all those who helped you achieve
- Tonight, dream in vivid colors about the exciting future that awaits you.

Family and supporters of the graduates, earning a college degree is difficult. Currently, only about 1/3 of adults in the United States achieve a college degree. As you participate in this ceremony, you deserve to take great pride in your graduate as they enter the Academy of Scholars.

At practice yesterday, the graduates and I discussed that today's ceremony is an initiation into the world-wide Academy of Scholars. It is a solemn occasion worthy of decorum and order.

This initiation ceremony has long-standing traditions, and unique trappings: robes, hoods, hats with tassels, medallions, a gonfalon and a mace. The traditions are observed today to demonstrate the respect that all present today have for your accomplishments. They are described in your program and are consistent the world-over.

### **I introduce Alumni speaker**

It now gives me great pleasure at this time to introduce our alumni speaker, Dr. Jim Wedincamp. Dr. Wedincamp is truly one of our own. Dr. Wedincamp graduated with his associates degree from EGSC in 1988. He then earned his bachelor's and

master's degrees in biology from Georgia Southern University. He earned his Ph.D. in entomology from Louisiana State University.

Dr. Wedincamp is a proud veteran as well. He served in the United States Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom and has continued to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Services Corps since 1998.

The Entomological Society of America recognizes Dr. Wedincamp as a Board Certified Entomologist (BCE) with a specialty in Medical and Veterinary Entomology.

Dr. Wedincamp was named Distinguished Faculty of the Year in the Mathematics and Sciences Division of East Georgia State College. Later, he was recognized with the Georgia Southern University Department of Biology Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Please join me in a warm East Georgia State College welcome to Dr. Jim Wedincamp

**I walk to podium**  
**I introduce Student Speaker**

Caitlan Coleman is the Student Government Association President of East Georgia State College. She is from Kite, Ga and is in her second year at EGSC. Upon her graduation in May she hopes to go to the University of Georgia to pursue a bachelors degree in Political Science and one day attend law school.

Caitlan Coleman will now deliver remarks on behalf of our remarkable East Georgia State College students.

## **I walk to podium**

## **I introduce commencement speaker**

East Georgia State College is privileged to have Dr. Lee Cheek as this morning's commencement speaker.

Dr. H. Lee Cheek, Jr., is Dean of the Social Sciences and Professor of Political Science and History at East Georgia State College.

Dr. Cheek received his bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University, his masters in divinity from Duke University, his masters in public administration from Western Carolina University, and his Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America.

Prior to joining us at EGSC, Dean Cheek has a long and distinguished academic career. He previously served as Dean of the School of Social Sciences at the University of North Georgia; as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Athens State University in Alabama; and Vice-President for College Advancement and Professor of Political Science at Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Georgia. During this career, Dr. Cheek has been recognized often for his teaching excellence. The student body of Brewton-Parker College selected Cheek as Professor of the Year; and, later, the Jordon Excellence in Teaching was bestowed upon him by the College's faculty and administration. In 2002, Dr. Cheek was given Lee University's



Excellence in Scholarship award; and in 2004, he received Lee University's Excellence in Advising award. In 2008, Western Carolina University presented Dr. Cheek with the University's Distinguished Alumni Award for Academic and Professional Achievement.

While compiling this record of excellence in teaching and administration, Dr. Cheek has also published a wide range of books and scholarly articles on politics and religion.

Most recently, he completed a major new study of the origins of the American political system, The Founding of the American Republic.

He is a Senior Fellow of the Alexander Hamilton Institute, and as a Fellow of the Academy of Philosophy and Letters.

He is a senior minister in the United Methodist Church, and a former U.S Army chaplain. Dr. Cheek lives in Vidalia, Georgia, with his wife, Kathy B. Cheek, a teacher of dance and yoga.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Cheek as he comes to the podium.

**Dr. Cheek delivers Commencement Address**

**I return to podium and shake Dr. Cheek's hand**

**Thank Dean Cheek**

**I remind the audience about behavior**

In a moment we will award the diplomas. It is what we have all gathered here to witness – your son, your daughter, your spouse, your parent, your relative, your friend, walking across the stage with diploma in hand. It is East Georgia State College’s tradition to call out each graduates name individually and give them the well-deserved opportunity to walk across the stage and receive their diploma. It is a joyous occasion, but one that calls for proper respect and decorum, which appropriately reflects the importance of this major milestone in the lives of these graduates.

So, on behalf of the graduates and the College, I ask you to join me in giving each of these amazing students their moment in the sun. Let’s all agree not to use noisemakers or whistles or shouts. Let’s wait to celebrate loudly until all names have been read, so each name can be heard by their families and friends and the graduates can receive their diplomas in a setting truly befitting this significant high occasion.

Not to worry, we will have an opportunity at the end for applause and exaltation that I trust will raise the roof. At that time, after all graduates have been recognized individually, let’s also agree that we will truly raise the roof to celebrate the achievements of the students.

Dr. Tim Goodman, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, will now present the degree candidates.

Dr. Goodman comes to podium

**I remain at podium immediately to the right of Dr. Goodman.**

## **Presentation of Candidates**

*Dr. Goodman:* Will the candidates for the degrees of Associate in Arts please rise? President Boehmer, these candidates have completed all the coursework required for their degree and have been approved by the faculty. It is my distinct pleasure to present them to you for the conferring of their degree. (**TIP HAT**)

*President Boehmer:* By the authority vested in me by the Chancellor and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I confer upon you the Associate Degree with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities appertaining there unto.

Please come forward and receive your diploma.

**STUDENTS WALK ON STAGE FOR DIPLOMAS.**

**I walk back to the table on which the degrees are located and Donald Avery walks to the back of that table.**

As each student comes across the stage, I hold the diploma in my left hand and shake the students hand with my right hand – Student and I face the photographer to the right of the stage for photo.

**When the last row of students have all returned to their seats and are standing, I return to the podium immediately to the right of Dr. Goodman and the student marshall returns to the center of the floor.**

*Dr. Goodman:* Will the candidates for the degree of Bachelors of Science in Biology please rise? President Boehmer, these candidates have completed all the coursework required for their degree and have been approved by the faculty. It is my distinct pleasure to present these student to you for the conferring of the B.S. degree. **(TIP HAT)**

*President Boehmer:* By the authority vested in me by the Chancellor and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I confer upon you the Bachelor of Science degree with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities appertaining there unto.

Please come forward and receive your diploma.

**STUDENTS WALK ON STAGE FOR DIPLOMAS.**

**I walk back to the table on which the degrees are located and Donald Avery walks to the back of that table.**

As each student comes across the stage, I hold the diploma in my left hand and shake the students hand with my right hand – Student and I face the photographer to the right of the stage for photo.

**When the last row of students have all returned to their seats and are standing, I return to the podium and the student marshall returns to the center of the floor.**

*President Boehmer:* Will all of our graduates, associates degree and bachelor degree, please rise? It is a longstanding tradition that after receiving a postsecondary degree the cap tassel is shifted **from the right side to the left side** of the cap. This signifies to *all* the completion of the degree.

Graduates, please move your tassels.

Ladies and Gentlemen, family and friends, I present to you the Fall 2015 graduating class of East Georgia State College.

Graduates, raise the roof!

*President Boehmer:* Graduates, your family and friends, who helped and supported you as you earned your degree, have just extended their congratulations to you.

It is fitting that you recognize them for the support they have given you.

(APPLAUSE)

(PAUSE) Graduates, the remarkable faculty and staff who led you on the educational journey you completed today, have come today in their academic regalia to honor you.

Please recognize them for their efforts on your behalf.

(APPLAUSE)

*President Boehmer:*

Following the singing of our alma mater and the recessional by faculty, staff and students, please join us for a reception to honor our graduates. It is an East Georgia State College tradition that, immediately following the ceremony, the faculty and staff will form a corridor outside the entrance to this building as the graduates exit through that corridor and proceed to the Jean Anderson Morgan Student Center for the reception. Please follow the graduates to the reception.

Do all the good that you can  
By all the means that you can  
In all the ways that you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times that you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can

John Wesley

**Will the audience please rise** and join the graduates as Mr. Westberry leads us in the singing of the East Georgia State College Alma Mater. The words are on the back of your program.

**I return to my seat**

**Gibert Westberry comes to podium to lead the alma mater.**

**Following alma mater, John Blackburn and David Gribbin will proceed to the area in the front of the center aisle. I will then exit to the right side of the stage and proceed to follow**

**John and David out of the building --- do not stop in the entry area. All go outside immediately.**