

**EGSC Graduation Fall 2017
Bob Boehmer's Script
12/09/2017 -- 10am Gymnasium**

Elizabeth Nordan 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 (Elizabeth Nordan)**

Processional begins as soon as processional music begins – I will follow Alan Brasher and Paul Cerpovicz up the center aisle. They will turn off before they reach the stage. I wait while Paul 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 2017 commencement.

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

Please remain standing as Miss Naomi Mason, daughter of Dr. Walt Mason, Professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in the School of Social Sciences and the late Dr. Emily Pestana-Mason sings *God Bless America*. Naomi is graduating this morning with her Associate of Arts Degree in Exercise and Health Science. She began at EGSC as a Move On When Ready student and while here Naomi was a Correll Scholar, President of the EGSC Ambassadors, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and a peer mentor with the CHOICE Program. As she continues her education, Naomi plans to eventually become a Doctor of Physical Therapy in hopes of one day helping athletes all over the country. Following Miss Mason, please remain standing as Dr. Sylvia Rozier delivers our invocation. Dr. Rozier has been a nurse for 41 years and a nurse educator for 28 years. She began her career in nursing in 1975 at Swainsboro Area Vocational School. After graduating from Swainsboro Area Vocational School, she earned an Associate degree in nursing from Middle Georgia College, Bachelor and Master degrees in nursing from Georgia College & State University, and a

Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a concentration in Acute Gerontology-Acute Care Nurse Practitioner from the Medical College of Georgia. In 2002, Dr. Rozier graduated from the Covenant Life Theological Seminary of Gainesville, GA. She currently serves as Associate Pastor of Living Hope Word Church of East Dublin, GA. In August 2016 she became part of the East Georgia State College family as the Director of Nursing for the RN-BSN Program. And now.... Miss Mason.

Invocation – Dr. Rozier will take the podium immediately following Naomi. Dr. Rozier will ask all to be seated at the conclusion of the invocation.

Thank you, **Dr. Rozier**. We hope you have all enjoyed the music this morning provided by our pianist, **Mrs. Elizabeth Nordan**. Additionally, we have **Mr. Robert Nordan**, who is the Assistant Director First Year Experience/CATS program and Instructor of Music at our Augusta campus. Mr. Nordan will lead us in the singing of our Alma Mater following our graduates receiving their diplomas. We are honored to have such talent in our East Georgia State College family, and deeply appreciate their contribution to our commencement ceremony.

In addition, our Student Marshals, **Dillon Price and Hannah Cranman**, along with 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.

Today we celebrate another historical milestone and significant long term enhancement for East Georgia State College and our region.

The road to this point began in 2014, when East Georgia State College identified a need for a bachelor's degree program for firefighters, emergency responders, and governmental service professionals seeking advanced educational opportunities beyond basic certification or an associate's degree.

With great excitement, we are awarding our first Bachelor of Arts in Fire and Emergency Service Administration Degrees to Philip Brigham and David Kimbrell.

These four-year degrees are a reality because of the expertise and tireless efforts of our distinguished faculty. Please join me in recognizing Dr. H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Dean of the School of Social Sciences, who chaired the taskforce that created the program; Professor Beverley Walker, Director of the program, who has provided exemplary leadership; and, all other School of Social Sciences faculty who have contributed to the program. Please rise and be recognized.

East Georgia State College takes great pride in our FESA program and our first two bachelor degree recipients. These students—as well as our future graduates—are extremely

well-prepared for their careers. They have completed an academically rigorous program taught by highly qualified faculty in our School of Social Sciences. We are confident that many other students will be inspired by their academic success. As these well-prepared students enter or continue in the work force, they are poised to contribute to the economic vitality of the region and assume a significant role in transforming public service.

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**;
- **Peacock tassels** adorn the mortarboards of our graduates receiving the **Bachelor of Arts degree in Fire and Emergency Services Administration**;
- **Golden yellow tassels** adorn the mortarboards of our graduates receiving the **Bachelor of Science degree**;
- **Gold cords** signify honor graduates. 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**;
- **Nile Green cords** signify graduates who are **Correll Scholars** who excel in academics, leadership and service.
- **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 **College Ambassadors**;
- **Red, White, and Blue cords** are worn by our graduates who have served on the **Student Government Association**;
- 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.

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. Andrew Darley**. Dr. Darley wrote the words to the East Georgia State College Alma Mater that we will sing at the end of our ceremony this morning.

Andrew Darley is Associate Director of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy in Athens, Georgia. He coordinates introductory hospital experiences for Doctor of Pharmacy students across the state. As a faculty member, he instructs students in experiential,

skills, and didactic components of the pharmacy doctoral curriculum.

Dr. Darley is a native of Toombs County, a 2006 graduate of Toombs County High School and a 2008 graduate of East Georgia College. He earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Georgia in 2012 and completed a postgraduate pharmacy practice residency at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah. He then worked as a Clinical Pharmacist in internal medicine at Memorial before joining the UGA faculty in 2014. In 2017, he received the Outstanding Young Health-System Pharmacist of the Year Award from the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Please join me in a warm East Georgia State College welcome to **Dr. Andrew Darley.**

I walk to podium

I introduce Student Speaker

Kandanasia McNeal (“Kandy”) was elected to represent the EGSC study body as the Student Government Association President in April of this year. She is also serving EGSC as an Ambassador. Kandy is the 19-year-old daughter of Keta McNeal and Anthony Goodman, and is from Claxton, Georgia. She is majoring in Business Administration. Following her graduation from East Georgia State College in the Spring, she will attend Valdosta State University to

pursue a Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Management and minor in Business Law. Her hobbies include volunteering in her local community with numerous events, helping her fellow EGSC bobcat peers, competing in pageants and hanging out with friends and family. Let's welcome Ms. McNeal to speak to us today. Mrs. McNeal, please stand and allow us to recognize you as Kandy comes to the podium.

I walk to podium

I introduce commencement speaker

East Georgia State College is privileged to have **Mr. Antre' Drummer** as this morning's commencement speaker.

Antre' Drummer is a native of Millen, GA. He is the son of Teretha A. Drummer and is married to Grace E. Drummer. Antre' received his high school diploma from Jenkins County High School in 2003. In the Fall of 2006 he received an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies from East Georgia College. He continued his education at Georgia Southern University where he earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Mathematics. Later, Antre' was inspired to pursue an additional path and he earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2017.

In 2012, Antre' became a faculty member at East Georgia State College, teaching Mathematics in the school of Math

and Sciences. He has excelled in the classroom and dedicated his heart to the development of young minds. He inspires his students to pursue a lifetime of education to become leaders. He takes his passion beyond the classroom by serving as the Director of the College's African American Male Initiative. He works tirelessly to improve the narrative of young black males in our region. He has a passion to understand the needs of our students and to be a role model for young men. Our students have chosen him to speak to us today. That is a great honor and I believe our students have made an outstanding choice.

Antre' is committed to the East Georgia State College mission of providing quality education for deserving students. His dedication has not waivered and his contributions are life changing.

Antre's wife, Grace, and his mother, Teretha, are with us today. Grace, a former EGSC student, graduated yesterday from Georgia Southern University. Antre' and Grace are expecting their first child to arrive in 2018. Grace and Teretha, please stand and be recognized as Antre' comes to the podium.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Antre' Drummer, our Fall 2017 commencement speaker.

Mr. Drummer delivers Commencement Address

I return to podium and shake Mr. Drummer hand

Thank Mr. Drummer

I remind the audience about behavior

In a moment we will award the diplomas. At yesterday's graduation practice, each of the graduates received a book of messages from faculty, staff and students – "A Word Before You Go." The message from the members of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is

"As you prepare to walk across the stage, celebrate yourself and what makes you beautiful, including the amazing achievement of earning a degree from East Georgia State College."

Graduates, please keep those words in mind as you each cross the stage. Family members and supporters of the graduates, this moment 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. Deborah Vess, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, will now present the degree candidates.

Dr. Vess comes to podium

I remain at podium immediately to the right of Dr. Vess.

Presentation of Candidates

Dr. Vess: 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. Vess** and the student marshal returns to the center of the floor.

Note to Bob: Do not use this section if there are no bachelor degrees awarded.

Dr. Vess: Will the candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Fire and Emergency Service Administration 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 students to you for the conferring of the B.A. 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 Arts 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. **NOTE: Professor Beverley Walker will join you to present the 2 diplomas.

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. Vess and the student marshal returns to the center of the floor.

Dr. Vess: Will the candidates for the degree of Bachelor 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 students 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 marshals returns to the center of the floor.

****There are no CHOICE candidates receiving certificates****

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. Vess and the student marshals return 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 2017 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:

As we bring this ceremony to a close, I again remind you of the book given to graduates yesterday – “A Word Before You Go.” Let’s close by listening to the words written by one of your faculty members, Dr. Dee McKinney:

“One of my favorite authors is J.K. Rowling. Over the past 15 years, she has delighted children and adults worldwide with her wisdom via the world of Harry Potter. This quote to me sums up what life is like after you reach the milestone of graduation: ‘It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default.’ So go forth and be bold. Don’t be afraid to try new things. Refrain from being shy about challenges. These are the essence of what makes us grow as humans. Congratulations and best of luck in your new journeys!”

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.

Will the audience please rise and join the graduates as Mr. Nordan 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

Rob Nordan comes to podium to lead the alma mater.

Following alma mater, Alan Brasher and Paul Cerpovicz 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 Alan and Paul out of the building --- do not stop in the entry area. All go outside immediately.