

EGSC Graduation Fall 2018
Bob Boehmer's Script – Draft as of 12/4/2018
12/08/2018 – 10am Gymnasium
Arrive at 2:20pm on Friday, 12/07/2018 for Practice
Be at Gym by 9:10am for Faculty Photo

Elizabeth Nordan plays music preceding ceremony while guests are seated.

Student Marshall 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 2018 commencement.

The ceremony is being recorded so that family members unable to attend this special event will be able to enjoy it and so that graduates, at a later date, will be able to look back and remember this special day.

East Georgia State College is a special place and all of you are a special community devoted to assuring that every student in our region has the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Thank you for being here this morning to celebrate the amazing students who have had the tenacity and dedication to take full advantage of the opportunities presented to them.

From the time of our first graduation ceremony in 1974, until today, 4,561 students have graduated from East Georgia State College. 22% of these graduates have earned their degrees in the last 5 years of this history. Today, these students become part of that growing family of EGSC alumni.

Please remain standing at this time as **Morgan and Megan Bryant** prepare to sing *God Bless America*.

Morgan and Megan are from Reidsville and are 2018 graduates from Tattnall County High School. Both Morgan and Megan are

future Nursing majors and are planning to transfer to Augusta University next fall.

They are active members in SGA, Students Ambassadors, African American Union and managers for the Lady Bobcats. They are known around campus as the dynamic duo.

Morgan and Megan are accompanied by their mother, Phyllis Norman, their father, George Brown and their sister Phinesse. Will Morgan and Megan's family please rise so that the East Georgia State College family can welcome you to campus?

Following *God Bless America*, please remain standing as Mr. Antre' Drummer delivers our invocation.

Antre' Drummer is a native of Millen. He is the son of Teretha A. Drummer and is married to Grace E. Drummer. Antre' is truly one of our own. He graduated from Jenkins County High School, received an Associates degree from East Georgia College; and went on from there to Georgia Southern University where he earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Professor Drummer became a faculty member at East Georgia State College in 2012. 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.

Professor Drummer is joined today by his wife, Grace, his mother, Teretha, and his son Deuce. Will Professor Drummer's family please rise so that the East Georgia State College family can welcome you?

And now.... **Morgan and Megan Bryant.**

God Bless America is sung.

Invocation – Mr. Drummer will take the podium immediately following Morgan and Megan Bryant. Mr. Drummer will ask all to be seated at the conclusion of the invocation.

Thank you, **Morgan and Megan** and **Professor Drummer.**

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

In addition, our Student Marshals, **Alex Hutton** and **Hannah Tanner,** both Correll Scholars, along with our student ushers are listed on the last page of your program. Thank you to all of these

amazing East Georgia State College Students for participating in this commencement and making today a memorable one for our graduates and their supporters.

Please join me in thanking Moran and Megan Bryant, Professor Drummer, Mrs. Nordan and Mr. Nordan and all of these student leaders with a warm round of applause.

This morning, we celebrate a milestone for the college. In addition to two students earning bachelors degrees in biology, ten nursing students will receive their nursing pins and bachelors degrees from East Georgia State College. These are the colleges first nursing graduates and they are all poised to now make even greater contributions to health care in this region.

Please take note of students wearing academic insignia this morning in recognition of their special achievements: You will find the descriptions of these Academic & Leadership Distinctions on pages 8 & 9 in your program.

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 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.

I introduce Alumni speaker

It now gives me great pleasure at this time to introduce our **alumni speaker, Mr. Matt Donaldson.**

Matt Donaldson graduated Cum Laude from East Georgia State College with an Associates degree in Business Administration. After completing his time at EGSC, Matt continued his education at Georgia Southern University and earned a Bachelors degree in Business Administration in Finance. Matt was recently recognized by Georgia Southern University as one of its most distinguished young alumni. He has also graduated from the Georgia Banking School at the University of Georgia and will soon graduate from the Graduate School of Banking program at Louisiana State University.

Matt began working with Durden Banking Company in 2006, while still in high school, and has been there ever since. He currently serves as Assistant Vice President and Controller.

Matt is actively involved with East Georgia State College, serving as the founding member and President of the East Georgia State College Alumni Association. He also serves on the East Georgia State College Foundation Board of Trustees.

Matt was elected to public office in 2016. He is now Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Twin City.

Please join me in a warm East Georgia State College welcome to **Mr. Matt Donaldson**.

I walk to podium

I introduce Student Speaker

Our student representative this morning is **Rebecca Mason**.

Becky is a freshman at East Georgia State College. She graduated from Swainsboro High School this past spring. As the daughter of one EGSC's long time professors, Dr. Walt Mason, **Becky** has had the opportunity to watch East Georgia State College grow. From an early age she has been on this campus and has always been eager to be involved in anything that she could volunteer to help with or that her dad volunteered her to do.

Her early involvement on campus did not come to a halt once she became an EGSC student. In fact, **Becky** is as involved as

ever. She is currently serving as Vice President of the Student Government Association, she is an EGSC Ambassador, a Correll Scholar, and a peer mentor with our CHOICE program.

Becky is majoring in Business Administration. She plans to graduate from East Georgia State College in the fall of 2019 and continue her education by expanding her major into Marketing and Interior Design.

Let's welcome **Ms. Rebeca Mason** to speak to us today.

I walk to podium

I introduce commencement speaker

East Georgia State College is privileged to have **Dr. Jeff Howell** as this morning's commencement speaker.

Dr. Howell has served at East Georgia State College for nine years. He is an Associate Professor of History on the Statesboro Campus. Dr. Howell earned his bachelors degree in history from the University of Mississippi. He went on to earn a masters degree in divinity and later a masters and Ph.D in history from Mississippi State University. Dr. Howell spent the first 15 years of his professional career as a Baptist Minister. As a native of Mississippi, Dr. Howell has a deep interest in the history of race and the struggle for civil rights. He is the author of *Hazel Brannon Smith the Female Crusading Scalawag*, a biography about a leading white female newspaper editor in Mississippi during the Civil Rights Era. He has also coauthored *The*

American Road, a US History textbook, and *Our Western World*, a Western Civilization textbook. Dr. Howell is an excellent example of the multi-talented faculty who daily inspire our students to learn and grow.

During the past 10 years as a History Professor at East Georgia State College Statesboro, Dr. Howell has actively participated in plays under the direction of EGSC Professor Sebastian Verdis. Most recently his role was “the bad guy” in *Murder Ahoy*, A Murder Mystery Dessert Theatre. He has also been an active participant in the Works in Progress Readers Theatre performances also under the direction of Professor Verdis who developed the innovative and creative project to bring the arts community and college together in order to showcase the talent of students and local playwrights.

Dr. Howell has been married to his wife Anita for 24 years, and is the proud father of an 11-year-old boy named Justin.

Please join me in welcoming **Dr. Jeff Howell**, our Fall 2018 commencement speaker.

Dr. Howell delivers Commencement Address

I return to podium and shake Dr. Howell’s hand

Thank Dr. Howell

I remind the audience about behavior

In a moment we will award the diplomas. The college published a book of advice to graduates entitled “A Word Before You Go.” The message from the members of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society to our students in that book 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, and one that calls for proper respect and decorum, which appropriately reflects the importance of this major milestone in the lives of these graduates.

So, 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 & Student 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

(1.) Present Associate of Arts Degrees (95 walking)

Dr. Vess: Will the candidates for the degrees of Associate of 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 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 Karen Jones 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.

(2.) Present Associate of Science Degrees (6 walking)

Dr. Vess: Will the candidates for the degree of **Associate of Science** 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 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 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 Karen Jones 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.

(3.) Present Bachelors Degrees – Biology (2 walking)

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 Karen Jones 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.

(4.) Present Bachelors Degrees – Nursing (8 walking)

Dr. Vess: Will the candidates for the degree of **Bachelor of Science in Nursing** 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 Karen Jones 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.

(5.) All Graduates Move Tassels

President Boehmer: Will all of our graduates, associates of arts and associates of science degrees, and bachelors degrees, 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.

(6.) Present Graduates

Ladies and Gentlemen, family and friends, I present to you the Fall 2018 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)

Graduates, in the words of John Wesley

**“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”**

President Boehmer:

Will the audience now 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.

I return to podium.

Due to inclement weather, we are going to continue an East Georgia tradition inside. Faculty, as you process out, please create the corridor starting at the last row of graduates on the right side. Student ushers will assist you in creating the corridor.

OR

We are going to continue an East Georgia tradition today. The faculty will create a corridor just outside the building. Graduates, please walk through that corridor and accept our congratulations for your achievement.

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 to the left of the students and out of the building --- do not stop in the entry area. All go outside immediately.