

**EGSC Graduation Spring 2017
Bob Boehmer's Script
Friday, 05/05/2017 -- 7 pm Gymnasium**

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

Student lights a candle preceding the ceremony.

Ceremony begins promptly at 7 pm

Susan Westberry plays prelude

Processional Music (Pomp and Circumstance) Begins to Play (Susan Westberry). Audience stands.

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 Evening!

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of East Georgia State College, welcome to our **Spring 2017** commencement. This graduating class, **196 Associate of Arts degree recipients and 4 bachelors degree recipients and 2 recipients of certificates of accomplishment in workforce readiness skills**, is an amazing and accomplished group. This is due to their hard work and talent and the hard work and talent of our faculty and staff. Please give all of these people 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.

I return to my chair and remain standing.

God Bless America- Gilbert Westberry

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

I return to the podium.

Remarks

Thank you, Mr. Westberry.

We hope you all enjoy the music this evening provided by our pianist, Susan Westberry. We are honored to have such talent in both Mrs. and Mr. Westberry. We deeply appreciate her contribution to our commencement ceremony.

In addition, our Student Marshalls, Karly McDonald and Breanna Smith, and our student ushers are listed on the last page of your program. Thank you to all these individuals for participating in this commencement and making today a memorable one for our graduates and their supporters. Please join me in thanking them with a warm round of applause.

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

- Green tassels adorn the mortarboards of our graduates receiving the Associate of Arts degree;
- Golden yellow tassels adorn the mortarboards of our graduates receiving the Bachelor of Science in Biology degree;
- Green, Gold and White tassels adorn the mortarboards of our graduates receiving the Certificate of Accomplishment in Work Readiness Skills through our CHOICE program;
- 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;
- 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;
- Medallions worn by AAMI participants signify a GPA of 3.5 or higher;
- Purple, green, and gold cords are worn by our College Ambassadors;
- Red, white and blue cords signify members of the Student Government Association;
- Light green colored cords signify members of our Correll Scholars Program;
- 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 what you celebrate tonight
- 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 – Lisa Bertoch

It gives me great pleasure at this time to introduce our alumni speaker, Lisa Fields Bertoch.

Lisa received her Associate of Arts degree from East Georgia College in 1993. During her time at East Georgia, she served as sophomore representative for the Student Government Association. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Georgia College and State University.

Lisa is currently employed at Yeomans & Associates Insurance Agency. She serves as Vice President, Agency Manager and as a producing property and casualty agent. Last June, she celebrated her 25-year anniversary with the agency.

Lisa is joined today by her guests Dr. Willie Gunn (EGSC President Emeritus), Dr. Jean Bridges (former EGSC professor), Mr. Nathan Bridges, Mr. Gene Fields, Ms. Patsy Fields, Ms. Jennifer Fields, Ms. Karen Curl, Ms. Amy Fields, Ms. Annie Russell Callum and Mr. Al Callum. I would appreciate it if all of you would please stand and be recognized as Lisa comes to the podium.

Please join me in welcoming our alumni speaker Lisa Bertoch.

I walk to podium

I introduce Student Speaker – Miley Keaton

Our student speaker today, representing all of the college's amazing students, is Miley Keyton. Miley is the 18-year-old daughter of Lyn and Pam Keyton of Swainsboro. She is the current Miss East Georgia State College and will soon be competing in the Miss Georgia Pageant.

Pursuing her college degree, dance and preparing to compete in the Miss Georgia Pageant keep her extremely busy. She is also an active member and Youth Leader of the Hawhammock Baptist Church youth ministries.

After graduating from East Georgia, Miley plans to attend Augusta University to pursue a degree in nursing. She plans to later become a neonatal surgeon.

Miley is joined today by her parents, Mrs. Pam Keaton and Mr. Lyn Keaton. Pam and Lyn, please stand and be recognized as Miley comes to the podium.

Please join me in welcoming our student speaker Miley Keaton.

I walk to podium

I introduce commencement speaker Dr. Timothy Goodman

East Georgia State College is privileged to have Dr. Tim Goodman as this evening's commencement speaker.

Dr. Goodman will soon retire from East Georgia State College after a long and distinguished 44 year career in higher education. I believe this graduation/Pine Tree Festival weekend paints a clear picture of the way Dr. Goodman has approached virtually every day of that 44 year career. I arrived at the office very early and, as usual, he was there before me. During the day, a steady flow of students, faculty and staff proceeded to his office to present matters being big and small, but all needing immediate

attention. He hasn't been home yet and he will be up well before dawn tomorrow to go to the Pine Tree Festival run underway by 7AM. Also, I suspect that Dr. Goodman will fit in a run of his own sometime before the Pine Tree Festival Run begins since he is an accomplished marathoner. Dr. Goodman, all of us deeply appreciate your work ethic, your deep knowledge of higher education, your passion for East Georgia and your service to your community.

Dr. Goodman was born in Etowah, Tennessee, and grew up in the foothills of the Smokey Mountains. He graduated from Englewood High School, then attended and graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a mathematics minor. He went on to receive his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Tennessee. He began his academic career as a Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Tennessee. At that time, he was using a wooden slide rule – not a small phone – in his classes.

Attracted to the mission of a small two-year college, Dr. Goodman soon moved on to Bainbridge Junior College as an Instructor in Chemistry and Physics. While at Bainbridge, he was promoted to Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Physics. In his time at Bainbridge, along with being an Assistant Professor, he was the Acting Coordinator of Student Services, Admissions, and Registrar. He then became Chairperson of the Division of Mathematics and Sciences at Waycross Junior College and was promoted to Associate Professor of Chemistry. He next became Professor of Chemistry and Chairperson of the Division of Arts and Sciences at what had become Waycross College.

All of this preparation ultimately led Dr. Goodman to join East Georgia College as Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has been a fixture in that position and in this community ever since.

While performing all of his teaching and administrative duties, Dr. Goodman somehow found time to publish articles on topics such as Photoelectron Spectroscopy and make professional presentations on things like the role of the chief academic officer in accreditation.

He has also been a leader in the south in accreditation. Dr. Goodman has taken part in 27 on-site and off-site accreditation teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges.

In addition, to all of his contributions to higher education, Dr. Goodman has been a leader in the community. He is not only a leader, he is one of those community servants who is working day in every day, get his hands dirty and get the work done. He has been active in the community with both the Boy Scouts and with Kiwanis. In the Boy Scouts of America, he has held virtually every role from Den Leader to Scoutmaster. He has been recognized for his service to Scouting by many awards including the Silver Beaver, the Scoutmaster's Award of Merit, the Order of the Arrow Vigil honor and the Founder's Award.

Among his many Kiwanis accomplishments, he is a two-time President of the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, a three-time Lt. Governor in the Georgia District, a Distinguished Kiwanian two times, an Outstanding Kiwanian three times, an Outstanding District Leadership award winner, and twice Kiwanian-of-the-Year.

Dr. Goodman and Cheryl have been married for almost 45 years. They have three children, Emily, Jennifer, and Jeremy, and four grandchildren, Luke, Logan, Elise, and Jack.

Dr. Goodman is joined today by his wife, Cheryl Goodman. Cheryl, please stand and be recognized as Dr. Goodman comes to the podium

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Tim Goodman.

Dr. Goodman delivers Commencement Address

I return to podium and shake Dr. Goodman's hand. I ask Dr. Goodman to remain with me at the podium for a special presentation.

Dr. Goodman, it is my honor to deliver to you at this time a certificate formally conferring upon you the status of Vice-President Emeritus of Academic Affairs. Congratulations!

Thank Dr. Goodman.

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 graduate's 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 all agree that we will truly raise the roof to celebrate the achievements of the students.

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 degree 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.

It is now time to award our Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology. Our first such degree was awarded in fall 2014. The four recipients of this degree today represent the 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th recipients of this degree.

Dr. Goodman: Will the candidates for the degrees of Bachelor 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 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 Bachelor 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 marshal returns to the center of the floor.

Dr. Goodman: Will the candidates for the Certificate of Accomplishment in Work Readiness Skills please rise? President Boehmer, these candidates have completed all the coursework required for their certificate and have been approved by the faculty. It is my distinct pleasure to present them to you for the conferring of their certificate. (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 a Certificate of Accomplishment with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities appertaining there unto.

Please come forward and receive your certificate.

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 marshal returns to the center of the floor.

At this time, we would like to take a few moments to honor the memory of a young man who is no longer with us. Gary Wesley Bragg was a former East Georgia State College student and staff member at our Statesboro campus. In the past two years, Wesley was employed by the Georgia Forestry Commission as a forest ranger and wildland firefighter but he was most well-known for his musical talent which included vocalist, songwriter, guitarist

and harmonica player. His love and passion for all things music brought him and those around him such joy.

Wesley's parents, Angela and Wesley Bragg, his brother Dylan and Jessica Williamson, a valued member of our EGSC Statesboro staff are here today to honor Wesley. I would like to invite Dylan Bragg, Wesley's brother, to the stage to accept the Associate of Arts degree on his behalf.

President Boehmer: Will all of our graduates 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 Spring 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:

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. 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 celebrating green and gold balloons are released in their honor. Please follow the graduates through the corridor and across the street to the Jean Anderson Morgan Student Center for 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 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

Gilbert 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.