

**EGSC Graduation Spring 2018
Bob Boehmer's Script
5/04/2018 – 6pm Gymnasium**

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 6 pm

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 Evening!

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of East Georgia State College, welcome to our Spring 2018 commencement.

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

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 evening to celebrate the amazing students who have had the tenacity and dedication to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by this special place and people.

Additionally, we would like for all of you to join us in downtown Swainsboro for Rhythm and Pines – part of the Pine Tree festivities following the ceremony.

Please remain standing at this time as Mr. Roosevelt Young sings *God Bless America*. Roosevelt Young, known as Rosey to his East Georgia State College family, is a Spring 2013 graduate of East Georgia State College. He is now employed by the Emanuel County Board of Education as a paraprofessional at Swainsboro Middle School as well as the school's assistant football coach. Rosey is also the assistant girls' varsity basketball coach at Swainsboro High School.

Rosey's positive attitude, willingness to help students succeed, and compassion are character traits that made him a joy to all of us in his years as an East Georgia student and now allow him to easily relate to his students and co-workers.

Rosey has a powerful impact on the athletic fields at Swainsboro Middle School and Swainsboro High School. Rosey was selected as one of Emanuel County's 20 under 40 for 2017.

During his years as an EGSC student, Rosey often used his voice to inspire us. Rosey, a member of the St. Paul-Noah's Ark AME Church in Summertown, Georgia now uses his voice at his church to express his faith and inspire others. Today, he will lead us as we join him in *God Bless America*.

Following Mr. Young, please remain standing as Dr. Jeff Howell delivers our invocation. Dr. Howell has served at East Georgia State College for nine years and is an Associate Professor of History on the Statesboro Campus. 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. Before becoming one of East Georgia State College's outstanding faculty members, Dr. Howell served fifteen years as a Baptist minister in several churches in Mississippi. Dr. Howell is an excellent example of the multi-talented faculty who daily inspire our students to learn and

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

And now.... Mr. Young.

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

Thank you, Mr. Young and Dr. Howell.

We hope you have all enjoyed the music this evening provided by our pianist, **Mrs. Elizabeth Nordan**. Additionally, we have with us this evening **Mr. Robert 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, **Shawn Smith** and **Cameron Chalker**, 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 Mr. Young, Dr. Howell, Mrs. Nordan and Mr. Nordan and all of these student leaders with a warm round of applause.

Today we celebrate another historical milestone and significant long term enhancement for East Georgia State College and its students. We will present our first Associate degrees with specific designations as either an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. This designation recognizes formally the specific areas in which each student's studies have focused.

Another milestone is the award this evening of associates degrees to 6 dually enrolled students. These students have completed their college degree while completing high school. They will each graduate from East Georgia State College tonight and will graduate later this month from high school. Congratulations to:

Perri Deal
Ian Marchinton
Emily Nipper
Hannon Shepard
Mandy Williams
Madison Wimberly

Please take note of students wearing academic insignia this evening 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.

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 another member of the Young family. Our **alumni speaker is Ms. Sara Young.**

Swainsboro native Sara Young is a 2010 graduate of East Georgia State College and is currently employed as Student Affairs Communication Specialist in Enrollment Management. Prior to changing career paths, Ms. Young worked in healthcare in Patient Access for ten years at Emanuel Medical Center in Swainsboro and Navicent Health in Byron.

Ms. Young is extremely active in her community, as well. In 2017, she worked with Emanuel County Relay for Life as the Public Relations Coordinator. She worked exceptionally hard to promote the relay, even interviewing local cancer survivors and collaborating with *The Forest-Blade* to publish these stories. In 2018, she was named Co-Chair of Emanuel County Relay for Life and has worked hard to execute events and raise money for the American Cancer Society.

In February 2018, Ms. Young was named one of “Emanuel County’s 20 under 40” for her leadership and commitment. She is an active member with Community Action for Youth, South Central Alumni Chapter of the Fort Valley State University, Emanuel County CSRA Head Start Community Representative, School Council at Swainsboro Elementary School, and Sounds of Gabriel gospel choir. She is a member of St. Paul-Noah’s Ark A.M.E. Church in Summertown, Georgia where she serves on the Finance Committee and Missionary.

When she is not busy being a single mother to her daughter, Zaylin, she can be found in the community lending a helping hand, coordinating a wedding or event, or blogging. In 2016, Sara launched her personal blog under the pen name “*SaraSaray*” promoting self-esteem and encouraging women to love themselves as they are. “*There is nothing more rare, nor more beautiful, than a woman being unapologetically herself; comfortable in her perfect imperfection.*” That Steve Maraboli quote heads Sara’s blog of Young’s devoted to her message of positivity and self-confidence.

Svetta Young, the mother of Sara and Rosey Young, is present today. As Sara comes to the stage to address us, Mrs. Young, please stand and be recognized.

Please join me in a warm East Georgia State College welcome to **Ms. Sara Young**.

I walk to podium

I introduce Student Speaker

Our student representative this evening is **Krystal Perry**.

Krystal is the President of East Georgia State College’s Student Government Association. A native of Hinesville, she is a General Studies major at East Georgia State College. After completing her associates degree, Krystal plans to pursue her Bachelor’s in Nursing. Her goal is to become a travel nurse.

Krystal’s educational path is an outstanding example of the reason this great college exists and flourishes. Krystal is first

laying a sound foundation for her career by completing her associates degree, will then move forward to pursue her passion, earn a nursing degree and contribute to her community. Krystal, we are proud of the wise choices you are making and are honored to have you represent our amazing students today.

Valerie Lewis, mother of Krystal is present today. As Krystal comes to the stage to address us, Ms. Lewis, please stand and be recognized.

Let's welcome **Ms. Krystal Perry** to speak to us today.

I walk to podium

I introduce commencement speaker

East Georgia State College is privileged to have **Mr. Denny Key** as this evening's commencement speaker.

Denny is a life-long resident of Swainsboro. He is a 1966 graduate of Swainsboro High School and married his sweetheart, Peggy Young, in 1967. They moved to Athens and both graduated from the University of Georgia in 1970. After graduation, Denny received his commission to the US Air Force.

Following his service, Denny and Peggy returned to Swainsboro in 1973 and went to work on the "ground floor" in his family's business, Dolores and Woody's Shops. After mastering the art of retail management, Denny became a partner in the "Seven Shops in One" at the corner of Main and Green Street. Dolores and Woody's attracted loyal customers from all over the region and

grew to become a rich tradition in the legacy of Emanuel County, as did the Key's commitment to the community.

After the closing of Dolores and Woody's, Denny became the Vice President of CBS Financial Services, a subsidiary of the Citizens Bank of Swainsboro. He quickly became everyone's "go-to insurance guy" and continued to be a quiet driving force for progress and the creation of a better life for all people in our region.

Denny is the current chair of the East Georgia State College Foundation and has served on the Board of Trustees for more than 20 years. Denny is joined tonight by other trustees of the college's foundation. Please join me in thanking these trustees, **Matt Donaldson, Richard McNeely and Juanita Porter** for their service to this great college. Denny is also the Executive Director of the Mill Creek Foundation, a trustee of the Emanuel Medical Center Foundation, serves on the Board of Directors of Citizens Bank, an active Rotarian, active member of Swainsboro First United Methodist Church and was named Person of the Year by the Swainsboro-Emanuel Chamber of Commerce. And somehow, he still finds the time to play golf in his standing weekly game!

Denny's leadership of the EGSC Foundation has provided direction for the college to grow and expand while still holding true to the strong roots that anchor the mission of providing a quality education at an affordable price to all who study here. He has a vision for the future that supports new ideas and innovation and is willing to go the extra mile to see that it happens.

With all the accolades and recognition that Denny has been honored with, he will tell you that his greatest blessings are family and friends; the people that motivate him to never stop giving. For that, we are always, grateful.

Denny is joined this evening by his wife of 50 years, Peggy, son, Brian and his wife, Karol, his son, Dennis and granddaughters Evans and Etta along with his sister, Faye. Will all of you please stand and be recognized as Denny comes to the podium.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Denny Key, our Spring 2018 commencement speaker.

Mr. Key delivers Commencement Address

I return to podium and shake Mr. Key's hand

Thank Mr. Key

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 & 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

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 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.

(2.) Present Associate of Science Degrees

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 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.

****There are CHOICE candidates receiving certificates****

(3.) Present CHOICE Certificates

Dr. Vess: Will the candidates for the Certificate of Accomplishment in Work Readiness Skills through our CHOICE program 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 CERTIFICATES.

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

As each student comes across the stage, I hold the certificate 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 marshals return to the center of the floor.

(4.) All Graduates Move Tassels

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

(5.) Present Graduates

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

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.