

6-4-77
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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
1977 Commencement Program

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Wilson Hall Auditorium

JUNE 4, 1977

10:00 A.M.

About Honors and Awards

On the occasion of Commencement, the University offers special recognition to those students who have attained outstanding levels of academic achievement and service.

Students who have demonstrated superior performance in the courses of their major subject area are designated to graduate with Departmental Honors. The faculty of the School of Engineering has elected several graduating seniors to receive Departmental Honors in Engineering or in Computer Science.

The Faculty Senate of Oakland University has established three levels of special distinction to recognize sustained superior academic performance in all subject areas. Students who have completed at least 62 credits of study at Oakland University and whose cumulative grade-point average ranges between 3.60 and 3.74 graduate *cum laude*. A student who has earned a grade-point average between 3.75 and 3.89 graduates *magna cum laude*. Students attaining the highest academic level, grade-point averages of 3.90 and above, graduate *summa cum laude*.

Additionally, the faculty of the School of Engineering has created several special awards to honor graduating seniors who have distinguished themselves by truly outstanding scholarship in engineering studies, by outstanding technical development toward the engineering profession and by exemplary service to the School of Engineering. These special awards are marked by the presentation of certificates and prizes to the recipients and also by the engraving of the recipients' names on permanent commemorative plaques in Dodge Hall of Engineering.

The faculty extends most hearty congratulations to all of the students receiving honors and awards at this commencement exercise.

On Academic Regalia

An edifying note contributed by a certain anonymous doctor of philosophy

On at least two solemn occasions during the academic calendar — spring and fall commencement — the faculty of the university publicly displays its full academic regalia and participates in the liturgy of processional and recessional, that curious coming and going that symbolizes the ceremony of commencement. The purposes of commencement are well known, but the reasons for the peculiar garb of the celebrants and their odd order of march are often as obscure to the audience as they are, in fact, to the faculty itself. This note may serve to explain academic dress and the professorial pecking order it costumes.

Contemporary academics are descendants of clerical schoolmen in the universities of medieval Europe. Like the clergy, members of the bench and bar, and other learned professions, the medieval scholar clothed himself in heavy robes to stay warm in unheated stone buildings. Like all members of an hierarchical society, the medieval faculties rejoiced in visible insignia of rank. These outward signs of accomplishment and authority were tailored into the robes. Although the need for such voluminous garments to keep the scholar from freezing is long past, the use of them as emblems of dignity remains.

You will observe that all caps and gowns worn by our faculty are black, with certain disturbing exceptions. Black was the color adopted by mutual agreement among American universities at the end of the nineteenth century. In Europe each university has its own distinctive gown, varying in color and cut from all others. A European academic assemblage is a far gaudier occasion than its counterpart in America. Recently, certain universities in this country rashly broke the agreement and authorized robes in their own colors: for example, the crimson of Harvard and the green of Wayne State may be seen in our ranks. This unsuitable spontaneity has been frowned on by sister institutions, yet the mavericks not only persist in their madness, but gain adherents to their ranks with each passing year.

There are three basic academic degrees: the baccalaureate or bachelor's degree, the master's degree, and the doctorate. A special style of robe is prescribed for each. The bachelor's gown is sparsely cut, neat, but a bit skimpy and unadorned, as befits apprentices. The master's gown is still simple, but fuller, sports a sleeve of extraordi-

nary design impossible to describe, and has a hood draped from the shoulders down the back. Once used to keep the frost from the tonsured heads of medieval clerks, the hood now is solely a badge of a degree of scholarly achievement. The master's hood is small and narrow, but displays the colors of the institution that awarded the degree. If you knew the colors of American universities, you could easily identify from whence came our masters. The doctoral robe is the most handsome of academic raiment. Generous of cut, of fine aristocratic stuff, it is faced with velvet and emblazoned with velvet chevrons on the ample sleeves. You will note that most of the velvet facings and chevrons are black, but that some are of other colors. According to personal taste, the doctor may display the color of his doctoral degree on his sleeves and facings: green for medicine, purple for law, scarlet for theology, and many more. The royal blue of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is the most commonly seen in a liberal arts institution such as Oakland. The doctor's hood is the most elegant of all academic appurtenances. Large and graceful, it is lined in satin with the colors of the university that awarded the degree and is bordered with the color of the degree itself. Most academic costumes include the square cap called a mortarboard; the doctor's tassel may be either black or gold — tassels of all other degrees are black and stringy.

To instructed eyes, the order of march in the processional and recessional reveals the standing of individuals in the institution's formal hierarchy. In the processional the order of entrance into the hall is, quite fittingly, from most junior to most senior. The baccalaureate candidates enter first, followed successively by the masters and doctoral candidates with the whole separated from the faculty by a decent interval. In the faculty order, the instructors precede the assistant professors who in turn are followed by the associate professors. The august full professors bring up the rear. After a respectful distance, come the deans who in turn are separated by significant space from the awful majesty of the platform party, the president, the vice-president, and the members of the board of trustees. All remain standing until the board is seated. After the ceremony the order of recessional is the reverse of the processional. The greatest dignitaries stream out of the hall first, with the artfully organized ranks of priority wallowing in their wake.

It is hoped that these notes may make more intelligible the spectacle you are witnessing today. A discerning intelligence may detect in it many clues to an understanding of the academic profession as it confronts the ambiguities of the future with ancient wisdom and dignified confidence.

DEGREES GRANTED DECEMBER 1976

MASTER OF SCIENCE — ENGINEERING

James Boyd Rigney

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE — ENGINEERING

Kurt Michael Bambach

Gary LaVern Barrie*

Gary Joseph Burlak

Carl Michael Foster

Youssef Haghparast

Richard George Hammond

Willard Ray Hendrickson

Thomas Wilfrid Herbertson

Arthur Lowell Johnson III*

Michael Anthony Kappaz

Phillip John Page

Michael Raymond Whitmore

Douglas Reed Wilmot

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE — COMPUTER SCIENCE

Thomas Wilfrid Herbertson*

Paul Anthony Hoffman

Robert William Withers*

UNIVERSITY HONORS AWARDED DECEMBER 1976

CUM LAUDE

Gary LaVern Barrie

** indicates departmental honors*

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APRIL 1977

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Harold John Miller
Leonard D. Reichel

David B. Sprague
Dale Charles Wetzel

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James Blythe
Joanna Marie Caito*
Steven J. Conn
Kenneth Warren Dick
Michael Joseph Fitz
John Ferdinand Flick*
Susan Carol Gallie
David Joel Gonda
Israel M. Grinwald
William George Hofmann*
Maureen Jordan*
Timothy Michael Machak
Monzy C. Mathews
John Raymond Menzies
Daniel Paul Mesaros
Rodney Alvin Mitchell
Paul Walter Moilanen*

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Kenneth Robert Pike
Martin Eric Pogue
George Savic
Larry Max Schmidt*
Timothy David Schram*
Russell Odell Stevick
Jessie Ray Taylor
Michael Joseph Thomas*
Dennis Peter Trupski*
Lawrence Jay Tucker*
Daniel Joseph Ugorcak
James Francis Williams IV*
Connie Lee Wills
Debra Yale
Thomas Alexander Yatooma

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE — COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ann Elizabeth Asuncion*
Stephen Eric Cannon
Karen Ann Capriotti*
William Allen Hinton*

Larry Martin Lindsey
Gregory Dale Lynn
Michael Lee Northcutt
Karen Ann Pontack*

UNIVERSITY HONORS AWARDED APRIL 1977

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Karen Ann Capriotti
William George Hofmann

CUM LAUDE

Joanna Marie Caito
Maureen Jordan
Karen Ann Pontack
Timothy David Schram

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