

Oakland University Commencement 1982



The motto, **Seguir Virtute E Canoscenza**, has a very distinguished origin, Canto XXVI, l. 120, of Dante's *Inferno*. These are the final words of Ulysses' great speech to his men urging them to sail on and on in pursuit of knowledge and experience of the world—even beyond the pillars of Hercules, traditionally the frontier and limit of legitimate exploration.

This is the three-line stanza:

*Considerate la vostra semenza
Fatti non foste a viver come bruti
Ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza.*

*Consider your birth
You were not made to live like brutes
But to follow courage and knowledge.*



Paula and Woody Varner Hall

10:00 a.m.

June 5, 1982

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF NURSING

On May 22, 1974, the Oakland University Board of Trustees, acting on the recommendation of the President and the University Senate, established the Oakland University School of Nursing and the Faculty of Nursing, effective July 1, 1974.

The study of nursing at Oakland combines general education in the humanities and the behavioral, biological, and physical sciences with special education in the theory and practice of nursing.

The major purposes of the program are:

- To prepare practitioners capable of independent functioning, able to develop nursing regimens and to enter the health care system for the purpose of meeting the nursing needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities.

- To inculcate the nature and operation of identity in conduct for an image of self that is consistent, believable, and sustainable.

- To prepare individuals capable of self-directed inquiry who view learning as a lifelong process.

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL..... *Trumpet Voluntary*

Carol Milewski, *Marshal*
Peter Evarts, *Guest Marshal*
George Feeman, *Guest Marshal*

EXORDIUM

Andrea R. Lindell, *Dean*

PERORATION

Joan Guy
Associate Executive Director of Michigan Nurses Association

INVESTITURE

Joseph E. Champagne, *President*

VALEDICTION

Barbara Lewin
Oakland University Nursing Alumni Association
Joseph E. Champagne, *President*

RECESSIONAL

The audience is requested to stand and remain standing during the processional and the recessional.

MUSICAL ARTISTS

Brice Baxter, *Trombone*
Dino Jackson, *French Horn*
Randy A. Ladkau, *Trumpet*

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 professional 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 Dartmouth 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 extraordinary 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 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: light blue for education, pink for music, apricot for nursing, orange for engineering, 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 a 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.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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SCHOOL OF NURSING
HONORS
AWARDED APRIL 1982

Sue A. Rogers

UNIVERSITY
HONORS
AWARDED APRIL 1982

Cum Laude
Annette M. Hanna
Linda M. LeRoux
Sue A. Rogers

SCHOOL OF NURSING AWARD

Oakland University Nursing Alumni Association:
Geraldene Felton Award for Leadership—1981/82

James L. Kohn

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The Board of Trustees of Oakland University, appointed by the Governor of the State of Michigan, has final responsibility of approving all university policies, maintaining the university's financial integrity, and insuring its overall advancement. The president of Oakland University and the secretary and the treasurer of the board are appointed by the board.

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