

Oakland University Commencement 1978





The motto, **Sequir Virtute E Canoskenza**, has a very distinguished origin, Canto XXVI, 1. 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 canoskenza.

Consider your birth

You were not made to live like brutes

But to follow courage and knowledge.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

1:30 p.m.

June 3, 1978

HOWARD C. BALDWIN MEMORIAL PAVILION

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Rochester, Michigan

Musical Selections

- Trumpet Voluntary* Henry Purcell-Corley
Ricercar (The Musical Offering) J. S. Bach-King
Allegro (The Water Music) George Frederick Handel-King

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Jean S. Braun, *Marshal*
Oakland University Brass Ensemble
James Dawson, *Director*

EXORDIUM

Abraham R. Liboff, *Chairman*
Department of Physics

PERORATION

Reuben Torch, *Dean*
College of Arts and Sciences

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

ALUMNI WELCOME

Robert White, *President*
Oakland University Alumni Association

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL AWARDS

Reuben Torch

Frederick W. Obear
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

INVESTITURE

Graduate Degrees
G. Philip Johnson, *Dean*
Graduate Study

Undergraduate Degrees
Reuben Torch

VALEDICTION

William Schwab, *Chairman*
Department of Linguistics

RECESSIONAL

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

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 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 steam 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.

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At each Commencement Oakland University extends special recognition to those students who have attained outstanding levels of academic achievement.

The University Senate, acting on the advice of its Committee on Academic Standing and Honors, authorizes University Honors at three levels for those students who have completed 62 credits or more at Oakland, with cumulative averages as follows:

<i>Cum Laude</i>	3.60 - 3.74
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<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	3.75 - 3.89
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<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	3.90 - 4.00
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Each student who has a record of superior achievement in a major field of study is designated as graduating with departmental honors.

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Mary E. Binienda
Bonnie Lou Caryl
Timothy M. Chandler
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Marilyn Demaray
Harriet Ilene Jaslove
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Andrea Lynne Schkloven
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HISTORY

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Juliette W. Reilly
James Leonard Sanders, Jr.

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Dennis Damaske
Mary Lou Dorsey
Lora H. Haske
Marilyn Krainen
Edith Elmore McIlvride
Susan Irene Piotrowski
Robert Edward Ross
Rudolph Joseph Schroeder
Patrice Kathleen Shaughnessy

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Barbara Lee Boike
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Nelma Cracchiolo
James M. Donoghue
Scott David Edwards
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Bill Ward
Martha Gene Winkel
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Mary Elizabeth Zipp
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Ronald John Rheaume
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Sally Anne Pierce
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Martha Gene Winkel
Irene Saima Wisti

HISTORY

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Martha Gene Winkel
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