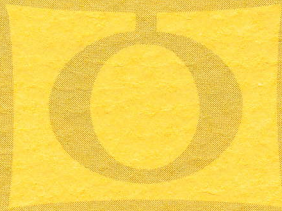


5-31-75

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
1975 Commencement Program



The motto, **Seguir Virtute E Canoscenza**, 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 canoscenza.

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

SCHOOL
OF
ENGINEERING

Dodge Hall of Engineering

MAY 31, 1975

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Howard R. Witt, *Marshal*

WELCOME

Paul R. Paslay, *Dean*

EXORDIUM

Frederick W. Obear, *Provost*

PRESENTATION OF UNIVERSITY HONORS

Howard R. Witt, *Assistant Dean*

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL AWARDS

Keith R. Kleckner, *Assistant Dean*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE MS DEGREE

Keith R. Kleckner, *Assistant Dean*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE BS DEGREE

Howard R. Witt, *Assistant Dean*

ALUMNI WELCOME

Robert A. White, *President, Engineering Alumni*

REMARKS

Paul R. Paslay, *Dean*

RECESSIONAL

Howard R. Witt, *Marshal*

RECEPTION

About Honors and Awards

On the occasion of Commencement, the University offers special recognition to those students who have attained an outstanding level 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 commencement and fall convocation — the faculty of the university publicly displays its full academic regalia and participates in the liturgical measures of processional and recessional. the purposes of commencement and convocation 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 professionals, the medieval scholar clothed himself in heavy robes to keep out the draught from unheated, windowless buildings. like all members of a hierarchical society, the medieval faculties rejoiced in visible insignia of rank. these outward signs of accomplishment and authority were tailored into the robes. the need for such voluminous garments to keep the scholar from catching a cold is long past; the use of them to symbolize the dignity of the wearer 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 gowns, varying in color and cut with each institution. a european academic assemblage is a far gaudier occasion than its counterpart in america. recently, a few universities in this country rashly broke the agreement and authorized robes in their own colors: the crimson of harvard and the blue of yale may be seen in our ranks. this unsuitable spontaneity has been frowned on by sister institutions, but harvard and yale persist in their madness.

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 tonsured heads of medieval clerks from freezing, 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: royal blue for philosophy, 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. all academic costume includes the square cap called a mortarboard; the doctor's tassel may be either black or gold — tassels of all other degrees are black and a bit 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, 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 chancellors, presidents, and members of the board of trustees. all remain standing until the board is seated. after the ceremonies 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 following 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 1974

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*Marcia A. Devon
Howard S. Fishman
Jennifer L. Gaines
Duane R. Knysz

Sandra L. Lenz
*Lawrence R. Morgan
*Duane J. Ribant
William C. Wibby

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

APRIL 1975

MASTER OF SCIENCE — ENGINEERING

Eric G. Anderson
Mark C. Bowers
Michael Cunningham
Alan J. Hutchenreuther

Feroz I. Kahn
Ernest S. Lee
Thomas A. Persha
Christopher G. Waclawski

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT — ENGINEERING

Wesley R. Parker

**indicates departmental honors*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE — ENGINEERING

*John E. Bloom

*Daniel J. Dembinski

Robert J. Dziewit

*Richard H. Foxlee

John G. Garrett

*Gregory M. Greenman

Gregory R. Hamel

*Robert A. Herrmann

*David Jordan

Albert L. Kozleski

Jerry E. Marsh

*Frank G. Maskey, Jr.

Theodore J. Mills

Joe S. Nissley

Kim G. Ohlmann

Pamela D. Oliver

Mark R. Pepler

Mark A. Roberts

Ernest E. Schwarz

Michael K. Stinson

Kathy S. Stuk

Sharon L. Von Rusten

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE — COMPUTER SCIENCE

*Diane M. Johnson

RECIPIENTS OF UNIVERSITY HONORS

Daniel J. Dembinski

Marcia A. Devon

Gregory M. Greenman

Magna Cum Laude

Cum Laude

Magna Cum Laude

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