

## Commencement-Fall-1990

### Welcome

On behalf of the entire University of Michigan community,  
it is my very great pleasure to welcome each of you  
to our 1990 Winter Commencement.

Let me extend a special welcome to:

...today's graduates

...to their families and friends

...and to our Honorary Degree recipients,

Dr. Robert E. Nederlander

Dr. Jerome Karle

Frances Moore Lappe"

Dr. Amnuay Viravan

Winter Commencement falls during

the darkest moment of the year...and also, not coincidentally,  
the brightest and most festive point in our calendar

It is a time of hope when we mark the passing of an old year  
and the bright promise of the new one to come.

...We are surrounded by signs and symbols of the season...

...fresh-fallen snow...(?)

...the candles of Hanakkuh

...the trees of Christmas

...I used to say the Roses of New Years...

...but I guess it will have to be the alligators of Florida...

...renewed commitments to peace and goodwill among all people.

...and what could be a more appropriate added symbol

for this changing season and renewal of life

than the cap and gown which marks the rite of

passage represented by University commencement.

Importance to graduates:

For our graduates, today's ceremony should be a highlight of your senior year.

It celebrates the culmination of many years of your dedication, hard work, and high achievement.

It represents the

fulfillment of long held hopes and aspirations...

for your educational and personal growth.

And now the moment is finally here.

Perhaps made poignant by the impending leavetaking but also sweet in its well earned sense of accomplishment and anticipation of what is to come next.

For our faculty, today is also very important since it

allows us to pause at least for a moment to share and reflect on this transition with their graduates, reveling in your success, confident in your future and grateful for the opportunity you gave to us to teach, work with, and learn from you during your years at the University.

I suspect, however, that the group for whom this day means

the most is not the graduates or the faculty...

...but rather the families of today's graduates.

And, surely the families and loved ones also deserve our congratulations

It has been your support...emotional, intellectual, and, of course financial...that ultimately has made this moment possible for our graduates today.

In a very real sense, today is your day as much as it

is your graduates'...and I hope you feel the pride  
you deserve in their achievement.

For that reason, before we proceed further any with this  
ceremony, I believe it very important that we all  
stop for a moment and join together in recognizing  
your contributions --certainly to your student,  
but also to our University.

Because it is the exceptional and unique gifts,  
energy, character and ability  
brought by each individual student  
that makes our University collectively  
such an exciting and productive center of learning.

In this instance, the whole is definitely the sum of its parts.

We know it isn't easy to raise a child to maturity  
in these times.

We also know there is no more important task  
in any society than the careful nurturing of children.  
because they are our future.

You deserve our respect and congratulations.

Now, I would first ask the parents of today's graduates  
to please rise...and be recognized by the graduating students,  
the faculty and all of us present.

Next, I would ask the grandparents, spouses, partners, children, relatives,  
and friends of the graduates to all stand so that we may also  
recognize all of you...

On behalf of all of us in the University, then,  
thank you for sending us these wonderful students.

We hope what they have learned here will lead them to fulfilling lives

and that they will help make our world a better place.

Thank you very much....

Now let me turn to the introduction of today's commencement speaker.

### **Nederlander Introduction**

Our speaker today is truly a “man for all seasons”.

As a Michigan undergraduate, Robert Nederlander earned distinction for his outstanding academic and athletic performance.

Today, he is known around the world as a leader in the theater and arts, education, in business and in philanthropy, and now has entered on a yet another incarnation one equally central to national life, as one of the “lords” of baseball ...the successor to George Steinbrenner as the managing partner of the New York Yankees!

With all his world wide fame and influence, his many abilities, achievements and accolades, he is that great rarity, a most modest, thoughtful, kind and decent human being.

He selflessly serves many important causes, particularly education, out of a deep concern for youth and the future of our country.

And no University ever had a better friend and supporter than Bob Nederlander.

He served as Regent for sixteen years, providing strong and visionary direction during one of the most critical periods of University history.

As Chair of the Campaign for Michigan, he helped to raise more than \$200 million dollars to support critically needed new facilities, programs

and student financial aid.

Today, along with his many pressing national responsibilities,  
he continues to serve the University as  
its national Development Chairman.

Speaking personally as President, I can tell you  
that Bob Nederlander is someone  
who is always there when he is needed.

His loyalty and devotion to the University have been extraordinary  
and every one of us--President, students, faculty and staff--  
benefit deeply from his support and leadership.

....And so will many generations who come after us.

Bob Nederlander has helped to keep the promise  
of quality public higher education  
alive and well in Michigan  
and I know of no one who better exemplifies the best of our  
University "spirit" than he does.

He deserves our gratitude in abundance  
along and any honors we bestow  
have been well and truly earned.

Please join me in welcoming Robert Nederlander as our speaker  
today.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Before we conclude our program, I would like  
to address a few final words to the graduates.

There is little doubt that college has as much impact as  
anything in our lives...

It sets us on a career course...

Many of your college friends will remain close to you throughout your lives.

Many of us meet our lifetime partners in college...  
roughly one-third of Michigan graduates meet their  
spouses at Michigan

Throughout our career and our lives our college experience  
provides us with an anchor, a tie, to the knowledge, values and  
accumulated human wisdom that should guide our lives...

And, of course, provides us with something to do on  
Saturday afternoons in the fall...  
...and on New Year's Day!!!

Although most of you will be leaving Ann Arbor following  
your graduation, I suspect you will find yourself  
returning time and time again.

You know, one of the most moving moments on this  
campus occurs in early September when the Ann Arbor  
merchants put up banners along State Street and  
South University welcoming back students at the  
beginning of the fall term with the simple phrase:  
"Welcome home"...

In a very real sense, this University has become your  
home...you will forever be a member of the Michigan family.

Today you are joining that long line of maize and blue alumni...

over 350,000 strong, one out of every thousand Americans...

And if there is single common theme that seems to characterize the lives of Michigan graduates, it is the theme of leadership...

And an unusual commitment to both intellectual and humane values while achieving excellence that we are proud to see governing the lives of our graduates as they take up leadership in every aspect of our society.

As a Michigan graduate, as a leader, you will face a future of great challenge and responsibility... but it will also be a future of great opportunity and excitement.

Today we celebrate your accomplishments... but even more, we look forward with great anticipation to your achievements in the years ahead.

There is an old saying that...

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it!"..

That is the real challenge before you!

We hope your education has prepared you to now assume the roles of leadership that is your heritage, your destiny, as graduates of the University of Michigan...

To go out into that exciting world full of challenge and opportunity... ..and to invent a better future for our planet!

We welcome you to the Michigan family.

We wish you health, happiness, and the satisfaction of a rewarding and meaningful life...

You know, it has been said that there are really only

two types of folks in this world:

Those who always say "Why?"

And those who always say "Why not!"

I hope that your years here in Michigan have prepared

you to always answer in the latter spirit...

the "let's go for it" spirit of the Maize and Blue.

Congratulations...

Godspeed...

...and Go-Blue...

## Luncheon Remarks

Let me welcome you to the Luncheon for the  
Winter Commencement...

This is always such a special time of year...

fresh fallen snow...the anticipation of the holiday season...

It is most appropriate that we come together to celebrate  
the rites of passage for our graduates represented by  
University commencement...

Today we are joined at this luncheon by

...the Regents of the University...

...Paul and Meg Brown

...Tom and Sally Roach

...Deane and Marilyn Baker

...Neal and Paula Nielsen

...Philip Power

and former Regents

...Trudy Huebner

...Gene Power

...David Laro--Nancy, Marlene, and Rachel

...we also have in attendance the officers of the University

...Vice President for Finance Farris Womack and Anne

...Vice President for Research Bill and Olga Kelly

...Vice President for Government Relations Dick Kennedy and Ann

...Vice President for University Affairs Henry Johnson and Billie

...Vice President for Student Affairs, Mary Ann and Don Swain

...Vice President for Development Jon Cosovich and Timmie

...Vice Provost for Medical Affairs George Zuidema and Joan

...and co-President for everything, Anne Duderstadt

...several members of the faculty are also here

...several students

...Invocation

...the folks who put this together...

...Anita Miller

...Pam Korniski

...and, one of the University's great treasures...the president  
of the University alumni association...general of that  
army of 300,000 maize and blue...

And, of course, most important of all, we have today's honorary  
degree recipients...

Although these will be honored in the ceremony to follow, it is  
customary to recognize their achievements in this luncheon...

Let me first make some introductions...

Logistics...

Buses

Robing