

5. **INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNOR** by James J. Duderstadt:  
*Brief remarks, then introduction of Governor John Engler.*

"Welcome to the University of Michigan's Spring Commencement. It is a particular honor to welcome

- the President of the United States, George Bush, and our First Lady, Barbara Bush;
- Governor John Engler and his wife Michelle;
- 1991 graduates and their families;
- and all the Michigan family--faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends.

Let me also welcome you to this, the first official event held in the “new” Michigan Stadium

with its playing field lowered almost five feet so that you will now be able to see over the football players like Strepenek, Elliot, and Dingman...

and its new “prescription athletic turf” installed.

Now I realize that the new turf might feel a bit hard underfoot.

But by using computer controls we can adjust the valves and pipes under the field to get just the right hardness and traction.

Today we’ve got the knobs turned up all the way---just the way it will be in our home opener against Notre Dame in September!

Well, graduates, you made it.

And the achievement is so remarkable that the President of the United States had to come to see for himself!

Are you excited about graduating from Michigan?

Are you a little sentimental about leaving us?

Are you worried that the faculty may have made a mistake in recommending your degrees?

Not to worry. Let me assure you that they have not!

For yours has been an exceptional class--strong in talent, in energy, creativity, and dedication.

You leave our University community better than you found it. From athletics to the Marching Band, from politics to creative arts and performance, from the Residence Halls to the Greek system and, yes, even to the Michigan Daily, you graduating students have made a big difference here.

You leave behind lasting accomplishments.

You are also a class strong in your commitment to serving others, something President and Mrs. Bush have called forth from our nation.

Mr. President, probably no class in our history has labored harder or longer in community action programs.

Service is a hallmark of a Michigan education.

Because we are a public institution, I think our students are conscious always of our obligations to use learning to serve great public purposes.

Graduates, the world will need your commitment, talents, and leadership.

Rarely in history has society faced more profound transformations in its activities, its people, or its obligations in the world.

Educated people and the ideas they produce have become the wealth of nations as we prepare to enter an age of knowledge.

You are a significant part of that wealth and we trust you will use your knowledge wisely and unstintingly for the good of others.

Of one thing I can be certain.

You are equal to the challenges ahead.

You have the essential ingredient:

You have that unique Michigan spirit, a will to achieve excellence, to set high ethical standards, to take risks and make sacrifices, to go all out.

To borrow a phrase from our fight song, The Victors, you are, indeed, the "leaders and the best."

We will miss you. But we will be watching your future achievements with pride-  
-and, of course, sending you a few requests for donations from time to time.

Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, we have heaped praise on our graduates.

But I think you would agree that the real heroes of this day are the parents--the families--of our those before us.

You, the families, are the ones who have cared and worked and provided; you have loved and hoped, helped and sacrificed to bring these students to this moment.

The selflessness that parenthood requires might seem a bit out-of-fashion of late. But all the while, families like yours just kept going, struggling and striving to give your children, and through them, our society, a better future.

Feel proud. This is really your day.

You have earned the gratitude and respect of everyone in this stadium.

Would all of the family members of today's graduates please rise and let us show our appreciation.



Thank you.

Now it is my great pleasure to welcome a man who took risks and defied the odds to take up leadership of our state.

He did so at a critical turning point in our history.

He did so at a time of great difficulty for our state.

He has had the courage to recognize that it is children and their education that are the keys to a prosperous and fulfilling future for Michigan.

And for this he has earned the special gratitude of parents and educators and of all those who are determined to make Michigan a better place for coming generations.

Please welcome our new Governor, John Engler.