

## Commencement-Fall-1988

### Welcome

On behalf of the entire University of Michigan community,  
it is my very great pleasure to welcome each of you  
to our 1988 Winter Commencement.

I would like to extend a special welcome to:

...today's graduates

...to their families and friends

...and to our Honorary Degree recipients,

Mr. Joseph Brodsky

Professor Stephen Spurr

Winter Commencement falls during the most festive  
of times...

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

...fresh-fallen snow...

...the candles of Hannakuh

...the trees of Christmas

...the roses of Pasadena and the New Year

...and what could be more appropriate than

to include also the symbols of the cap

and gown that mark the rites of

passage represented by University commencement.

For our graduates, today's ceremony represents the  
culmination of their hopes and aspirations...

...not to mention years of diligent work.

For our faculty, today is also an important sign of

**held 3 - is a moment of pride and transition` `s thy share this**

event with (their graduates, taking pride in our accomplishments

and reflecting on their role in teaching you, working with you, and

learning from you during your years at the University.

I should note that this Commencement takes on a particular  
significance for me, since it is my first as President of the  
University.

...It also falls almost exactly 25 years after my own

commencement...a quarter of a century...

and hence reminds me of how rapidly time flies...

...Hence I feel a particular bond to you as graduates...

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.

Because it is you who probably deserve the most congratulations  
It has been your support...emotional, intellectual, and, of course  
financial...that ultimately has made this moment  
possible for the graduates today.

In a very real sense, today is your day as much as it  
is your graduates...and you should take great pride in it.

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.

Hence, I would first like for the parents of today's graduates  
to please rise...and be recognized by the graduating students  
and the faculty.

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

Thank you very much....

Now I would like to turn to the introduction of today's commencement  
speaker.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Before we conclude our program, it seems appropriate that I  
use this occasion to address a few final words to the graduates.

You are graduating at a truly extraordinary time...

Think about it for a moment...

While you were born in the 20th Century, you will  
be spending the majority of your life in the 21st Century...  
(unlike those of us who have been educating you...)

You will inherit a future of great change, challenge, and opportunity

i) A future in which our nation rapidly evolves into a truly  
multicultural society, with a cultural, racial, and  
ethnic diversity that will be truly extraordinary in our history...

ii) A future in which America becomes "internationalized",  
in which every aspect of American life must be viewed  
within the broader context of an interdependent global  
community...as America becomes a truly "world nation",  
with not only economic and political, but as well ethnic  
ties to all parts of the globe...

iii) A future in which we rapidly evolve to a new post-industrial  
society in which knowledge--that is, educated people and  
their ideas--will become the primary keys to our prosperity,

security, and social well-being...

iv) A future in which permanence and stability become  
less valued than flexibility and creativity...  
in which the only certainty will be the presence of continual  
change itself.

In this future it seems clear that while your Michigan education  
will provide a foundation for your future lives,  
it will also serve only as the stepping stone to a process of  
lifelong education...  
and the ability to adapt...indeed, to manage change...  
will become the most valuable skill of all.

Today you are joining that long line of maize and blue alumni...  
over 300,000 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 that governs the lives of our graduates as they  
assume leadership roles in 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.

We welcome you to the Michigan family.

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

Congratulations...

Godspeed...

...Go-Blue...

...and Go Get 'Em!!!

### **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...  
...and, of course, of the California sun and Roses...

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 water polo team member with Professor Spurr

and former Regents

...Trudy Huebner

...Gene Power

...and another water polo team member

...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 Linda Wilson and Paul

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

...Vice President for Student Services Henry Johnson and Billie

...Vice President for Development John 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

...John and Nanette Mersereau from the Slavic Studies Department

...Shaw and Nancy Livermore from History

...Philip Kearney and Julia from Education

...Beth and Harvey Reed, chair of the Faculty Senate

...several students

...Bart and Dixie Barnes

...John Bisceglia

...Invocation

...Rev. Douglas Evett and Debbie, St. Clare's Episcopal Church

...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...

...Judge Geraldine Bledsone Ford

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...

Steven Spurr...

...Patricia Spurr

...Margaret

...Adriane

...Steven

...Nathaniel

...Laura

...David

Note: Water polo...

Joseph Brodsky

Welcome back to Ann Arbor...

Logistics...

Buses

Robing

Reception at President's House afterwards