

Commencement-Fall-1989

Welcome

On behalf of the entire University of Michigan community,
it is my very great pleasure to welcome you
to our 1989 Winter Commencement.

I would like to extend a special welcome to:

- ...today's graduates
- ...to their families and friends
- ...to faculty, staff, Regents, and University families

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

- ...We are surrounded by symbols of the season...
- ...fresh-fallen snow...
- ...Hannakuh candles...
- ...Christmas trees...
- ...the roses of Pasadena and the New Year
- ...flu and larengytis
- ...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.

Of course, commencement is a time both of
celebration and of nostalgia...

Your final year of studies has been packed with memories
to last a lifetime...

Of course, there were events on the world-scale...

- The extraordinary changes in China, the Soviet Union,
and Eastern Europe.
- Who ever would have thought that the Iron Curtain
would have come tumbling down in only a few months.
- And the prospects for worldwide peace are now stronger
than ever...
- Indeed, while we generally look to the 21st Century
as the first post-industrial age for our nation,
one of my colleagues has suggested that it
may be the first "post-military" age as well.

Yet, I suspect that most of you will tend to remember
1989 not in terms of world events, but rather in
terms of images drawn from your last year at
Michigan.

And what an extraordinary year you have had...

- ...with memories to last a lifetime...

January 2nd in Pasadena...

- ...Leroy Hoard's breakaway 60 yard run that
sealed Michigan's exciting come-from-behind victory
over USC in the Rose Bowl..
- ...(or Bo Derek surprising Bo Schembechler at the
pep rally before the game...)

...What about the sight of over 10,000 students and faculty
marching together, arm in arm down S. University to
honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to
confirm Michigan's commitment to achieving new
levels of understanding, tolerance, and mutual fulfillment
for peoples of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

...and who will ever be able to forget Rumeal Robinson
stepping to the line in Seattle with 3 seconds
left in overtime and calmly sinking two free throws to
win the national championship against Seton Hall.
...and the Cinderella story of Steve Fisher and his
team "with a mission"

...or the CBS Morning News, broadcast live from

a luxury condo in East Quad!!!

... the May Festival...a remarkable series of concerts with Kurt Masur and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra...ending that final night with Jesse Norman signing Strauss's Final Four Songs...and the magical moment of silence as the audience attempted to prolong the spell

...the announcement by a Michigan research team earlier this fall of the identification and cloning of the gene responsible for cystic fibrosis...
...opening the way for a possible cure to this dreaded disease

Or EDUCOM-89 in October,
when over 3,500 people descended on our campus to participate in the largest computer conference in history...

Of course, the fall football season started off a bit rocky...
...or should I say like a rocket...as Notre Dame's Rocket Ismail ran back two kickoffs to upset Michigan in our season opener.

But then Bo and his boys marched through the rest of the schedule, winning their second consecutive Big Ten championship and the trip to the Rose Bowl...
...and possibly even positioning themselves on New Year's Day for a shot at the national championship.

Or two weeks ago, when the Michigan beat Duke in overtime in one of the most exciting games in the history of Chrisler Arena...

Or countless personal images...
...of lectures and libraries and exams
...of plays, parties, and protests
...of friends, teachers, and counselors

Of course, there is probably another image you will never forget...the headline of the Ann Arbor News...
...just slightly larger than that reserved for the announcement of an invasion from Mars...
..."Bo resigns"...and then, the image of a campus, indeed, a nation, uniting to honor the extraordinary achievements of not only one of the greatest coaches in football history...but an extraordinary teacher and leader.

But, as memorable as all of these events are, I suspect that for most of you today's ceremony will be a highlight of your final year since it celebrates the culmination of many years of hard work, dedication, and achievement.

This is also a moment of pride for our faculty as they share event with you, their graduates, taking pride on your accomplishments and reflecting on their role in teaching you, working with you, and learning 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.
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.

INTRODUCTION OF BLEND A WILSON

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 throughout your lives. Many of us meet our lifetime companions 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 values and understanding that 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 meaningful 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 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. 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 Michigan have prepared you to always answer in the latter spirit... the "let's go for it" spirit of the Maize and Blue. We welcome you to the Michigan family. We wish you health, happiness, and the satisfaction of a rewarding and meaningful life... 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... ...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 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 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