University of North Carolina Wilmington

Official Commencement Script Book
for
College of Arts and Sciences

Saturday, December 9, 2017
1 p.m.
Trask Coliseum
THE PROCESSIONAL

Once faculty, graduates and the platform party are lined up, Christina Logan will signal the Trask Emergency Exit announcement to begin. The brass quintet will begin playing immediately after the Emergency Exit announcement, the University banner carrier, and the faculty co-marshals to begin the processional. The University banner carrier will proceed down the center aisle onto the platform and place the banner. The faculty co-marshals will lead two equal lines. One will enter through the north entrance and one through the south. The faculty marshals, followed by the faculty, will proceed toward the center aisle of Trask where they will come together to form a double-file line before they reach the center aisle. They will march down the center aisle until they reach the front row of chairs. Directed by the marshals, the right line will turn to fill up the seats on the right, and the left side will turn to fill up the seats on the left, completing the rows from front to back. All remain standing until after the meditation and Dr. Sartarelli directs everyone to be seated.

The graduate school banner carrier is signaled and will process down the center aisle and onto the platform and place the banner. The graduate student marshals, followed by the doctoral degree candidates and then the master’s degree candidates will proceed toward the center aisle of Trask and come together to form a double-file line when they reach the center aisle. They will march down the center aisle double file until they reach the next available row of chairs. Directed by the graduate student marshals, the right line will turn to fill up seats on the right, and the left line will turn to fill up seats on the left, completing the rows from front to back. All remain standing.

The College of Arts and Sciences banner carrier is signaled by Barbie Cowan and will process down the center aisle and onto the platform to place the banner.

The undergraduate student marshals, followed by the College of Arts & Sciences undergraduate degree candidates, will proceed toward the center aisle of Trask and come together to form a double-file line when they reach the center aisle. They will march down the center aisle double file until they reach the next available row of chairs. Directed by the student marshals, the right line will turn to fill up seats on the right, and the left line will turn to fill up seats on the left, completing the rows from front to back. All remain standing.

Once the undergraduates are all in their rows waiting to be seated, Barbie Cowan will signal the brass quintet to stop playing. The Highland piper will begin the processional for the platform party. The platform party will follow the Chief Faculty Marshal using the order of the line listed on the front page. They will be in a single line entering from the south door. The platform party will stand in front of their seats filling in from back to front. The Chief Marshall will follow the Chancellor onto the stage, place the mace on the table, and stand with the platform party. All remain standing until after the national anthem and Chancellor Sartarelli directs everyone to be seated.

NATIONAL ANTHEM, MEDITATION, & WELCOMING COMMENTS
While the audience is standing, Dr. Sartarelli will step to the stage left lectern and say:
Good afternoon. I am Jose Sartarelli, chancellor of this great university, and I am honored to celebrate commencement with the Class of 2017. To continue our ceremony, please join me in standing for the National Anthem.

National anthem performed
Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Thank you and please be seated.

Today is a momentous occasion, both in the life of these graduates before me and in the life of this institution.

Each commencement is special, and it is appropriate for us to give thanks, in our own ways, for the success of these graduates. Please join me in a moment of silent meditation in honor of the occasion.
Moment of silence

Graduates, commencement marks a milestone in your lives. As you begin this new journey, please join me in thanking a very important group of people: your parents, family members and friends. They are also guests of honor at today’s celebration. (Lead applause)

We have many veterans, active-duty military personnel and military family members with us today. Please stand if you are on active duty, retired or a veteran. On behalf of UNC Wilmington, thank you for your service to our country. (Lead applause)

Graduates, I have a few words of wisdom to share with you: first, always remember that you are Seahawks. Second, no matter where your life takes you, give flight to your imagination. Third, when you achieve new heights, remember to share your success with your family, your community and your alma mater.
Class of 2017, our faculty and staff have been your teachers, mentors and supporters during your time at UNCW. Let’s take a moment to recognize them and their contributions to your success. *(Lead applause)*

You are the first class in UNCW history to participate in the Chancellor’s Challenge, a new giving effort announced in November. Through the challenge, which is part of the Senior Class Giving Campaign, I am matching your gifts to UNCW dollar for dollar. You are supporting the programs of greatest importance to you and I am supporting scholarships. The Chancellor’s Challenge is now a part of your great legacy at UNCW. Thank you for investing in the university and the Seahawks who will come after you. UNCW is proud of you. Congratulations, Class of 2017!

And now, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce our platform party.

First, let me introduce members of the UNCW Board of Trustees. I will ask the members to stand and remain standing until all names are called. Please hold your applause until all Trustees are introduced.

Mrs. Wilma Daniels  
Mr. Michael Drummond  
Mr. Carlton Fisher  
Mrs. Gidget Kidd  
Mr. Ronnie McNeill  
Mr. Hank Miller  
Mr. Bobby Rippy  
Miss Ottillie Mensah, who is also the Student Government Association President

Thank you. Will you please take your seats?

Several administrative and academic leaders from the university are also seated on the platform. I will ask these colleagues to stand and remain standing until all names are called.

Please hold your applause until all are introduced.  
Dr. Stephen Meinhold, President of the Faculty Senate  
Dr. Robert Burrus, Dean of the Cameron School of Business  
Dr. Van Dempsey, Dean of the Watson College of Education  
Dr. Chris Lantz, interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the College of Health and Human Services
Thank you. Will you please take your seats?

Other members of the platform party will be introduced as they participate in various parts of this ceremony.

Now it is my great pleasure to introduce Mrs. Wendy Murphy who will bring greetings from the Office of the President and the UNC Board of Governors.

DR. SARTARELLI will be seated.

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MRS. MURPHY will stand and say:

Good afternoon. In my service as a member of the UNC Board of Governors, I am honored to bring greetings on behalf of Chairman Louis Bissette and President Margaret Spellings to the UNCW Board of Trustees; Chancellor Sartarelli; Provost Sheerer; distinguished guests, faculty, staff and students, especially the Class of 2017.

As an alumna of UNCW, I know that your degree represents hard work and dedication to an important goal. You have a lot to be proud of and so does your alma mater.

UNCW was founded as a small public college program with 238 students enrolled the first year. This year, the university celebrate its 70th anniversary with nearly 16,500 students attending UNCW, which has grown into a robust university that serves the State of North Carolina with distinction.

UNCW has an outstanding reputation within the UNC system, posting some of the best graduation and retention rates in the state. This university is known for its strategic growth, efficient management, excellent students and dedicated faculty and staff. I toured UNCW earlier this semester with President Spellings, Chairman Bissette and many new members of the Board of Governors. We were energized by the Seahawks we met across campus.
Graduates, the University of North Carolina salutes your hard work, applauds your accomplishments, and looks forward to your contributions to our state and our nation. Congratulations and best wishes for the future!

**MRS. MURPHY** will be seated.

**GREETINGS FROM THE UNCW SENIOR CLASS**

**DR. SARTARELLI** will stand and say:

Thank you, Mrs. Murphy, and thank you for your service to North Carolina.

I am very pleased to introduce Meredith Lewis, the Senior Class President. Meredith is from Charlotte, NC and is majoring in Political Science and Communication Studies. She will bring greetings from the Class of 2017.

**DR. SARTARELLI** will be seated.

**MISS LEWIS** will walk to the lectern and say:

Friends, family, alumni, faculty, staff, and honored guests—welcome from the graduating class of 2017! It is my great privilege to represent my peers today to honor our soon to be graduates here at UNCW.

Throughout our time as students, we have laughed, we have cried, and we have worked hard to achieve our goal of walking across this stage today. Most importantly, we have learned much from our esteemed faculty and fellow students. With these relationships and the knowledge that grew from them, we take the next step into our futures.

We’d like to give our heartfelt thanks to all of the people along the way who have encouraged us, supported us, and pushed us to do and be our best. No matter where our next steps may take us, we will always remember our time spent here as Seahawks. Wings up!!

**MISS LEWIS** will be seated.

**RECOGNIZING STUDENTS GRADUATING WITH DISTINCTION AND HONORS**

**DR. SARTARELLI** will step to the lectern and say:

Thank you for those inspiring comments Miss Lewis. It is now my pleasure to introduce our Provost, Dr. Marilyn Sheerer.

**DR. SARTARELLI** will be seated.

**DR. SHEERER** will step to the guest lectern say:

Before I focus on our students who have achieved honors, I’d like to take a moment of personal privilege and join our Chancellor in recognizing our excellent faculty. We have the
privilege of standing up here and congratulating our wonderful students. But, it is our faculty
who do the outstanding teaching, mentor our students, engage our students in research, and
support them to reach their goals, in this case, graduation. I’d like our faculty to stand and be
acknowledged.

A number of students graduating today have brought distinction to themselves and to the
university through their academic achievements. Students who earned an overall grade point
average of at least 3.5 but less than 3.7 receive the distinction of Cum Laude. Students who
earned an overall grade point average of at least 3.7 but less than 3.9 receive the distinction
of Magna Cum Laude. Students who earned an overall grade point average of 3.9 and above
receive the distinction of Summa Cum Laude. Will all students graduating with the
distinction of Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Cum Laude, please stand?

To the audience: Let’s give them a round of applause.
To the students: You may be seated.

We would also like to recognize our students who are graduating with Honors or have
completed the Honors Scholars Program. Will you please stand?

To the audience: Let’s give them a round of applause.
To the students: You may be seated.

It is my pleasure to introduce Dr. Stuart Borrett who will give the commencement address.

Stuart Borrett is a systems ecologist who received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia
and was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. An Associate Professor, currently in
his 10th year in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology and the Center for Marine
Science, he also serves as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Duke University Network
Analysis Center. His research laboratory focuses on understanding the processes that create,
constrain, and sustain ecological systems, and building a formal science of environment to
understand the causes and consequences of both local and global environmental
changes. Dr. Borrett has authored 45 science publications and two software packages. As a
recognized scientist, he taught and spoke internationally at Beijing Normal University, in
India and in Germany. When not teaching and researching, he and his family enjoy outdoor
sports and traveling.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Stuart Borrett.
DR. SHEERER will be seated.
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

DR. BORRETT will step to the lectern and say:

Welcome: Importance of Graduation

Thank you, Chancellor Sartarelli, Provost Sheerer, Dean Volety, and the platform party. Welcome graduates, family and friends, and fellow faculty and staff.

Wait, wait, wait a minute. Commencements start by thanking the platform party. This is a party? …and a celebration of your graduation? Clearly it’s time to break out my party hat [Put on hat]. That’s better. Ahhh, I see that you too have brought your academic party hats. While the mortar-board you are wearing likely has some interesting history and possibly some deep philosophical meaning, my favorite feature is how the graduates decorate and embellish them each year. I see a number of you have continued this tradition – well done!

In all seriousness [take hat off], I am honored to celebrate with you today. Graduation is an important event. It’s important not just to celebrate your accomplishments – which we are – but to mark your completion and this transition point in a powerful way. For some of you, what you did last week – finishing a number of course projects, term papers, and final exams -- is pretty similar to what you did last semester, and the semester before that, and the semester before that, …and really pretty much what you have done since you entered kindergarten. Thus, it can be hard to realize – deep down – that you are completing a leg of your formal education. Even for those of you who took longer more complicated routes to today, I suspect, it may be hard to recognize the significance of your accomplishments. This moment needs an exclamation point and a party hat to make it feel more real. This is part of what graduation is about, and whatever your path was to get here, I say to you -- Congratulations. Well done.

Commencement addresses are a funny kind of creative challenge. One of the general expectations is that the speaker will impart some sort of wisdom or advice. The danger with this is that you might end up with advice like my grandmother always gave:

“Never stand when you can sit, and never sit when you can lie down”

It’s meaningful and well intentioned, but not always practical.

Another danger is that you end up with conflicting advice like we see in proverbs like:

“Life is what you make of it” but “what will be, will be”, or

“Knowledge is power” but “Ignorance is bliss”

I must confess that this conflicting advice leaves me frustrated.
Given these dangers, I am going to tread lightly with formal advice, but I am going to offer you two insights that I hope you will find useful in this transition time. One insight is about learning and the other is about rights and responsibilities.

**Life is Learning Journey**

I will start with learning. *Learning* is a life-long adventure. It’s an adventure that provides us an opportunity to investigate, critically contemplate, and appreciate the beautiful and dynamic world that envelops us. Today does not mark the end of your learning journey, but a waypoint. You will need to continue to learn to be successful in the work world, to keep up with our rapidly changing culture and technology, to be good citizens, and to care for one another.

I can illustrate what I mean by this-with a recent personal example. When I was asked to be today’s commencement speaker, I was honored and quickly agreed. I then stopped to consider what I had agreed to do … and panicked. I have never given a commencement address. In fact, I can’t recall the last time I did a public presentation that was not about ecology or at least science. It was probably in college, but it might have been 8th grade. What do you mean I can’t have the crutches of slides and pretty pictures? This was the start of a new learning adventure – how do you write and deliver an excellent (or at least decent) commencement address? To move forward, I applied my learning skills. I started by investigating what the experts thought were the essential elements of a commencement address. I consulted colleagues in Communication Studies, and polled my Facebook friends about what advice to give. I scribbled down thoughts for weeks, and I tested idea fragments on friends and family, and unsuspecting passersby. I procrastinated a bit, dove into the project, wrote, edited, practiced, and today you can judge the success of the outcome.

I am confident that you too will encounter opportunities in your lives when you will be asked to do something new. At that point, I hope you will say yes to the opportunity. I hope that you will be brave enough to say “I don’t know how to do that”, and follow up with the confidence that you can learn how to make it happen. It will take effort, you are going to make mistakes, you are going to learn, and do some amazing things.

Ultimately, I am not sure where your paths will take you, but given your success completing your degree, you should be well prepared for this learning journey. While we often frame it differently, at the core of your college education you were learning how to learn, to learn more and to learn better. Our work in higher education is to prepare you not just for your first job, but to educate you for a lifetime, which includes your last jobs – many of which probably don't exist today. I can’t wait to learn what you do with this education.
Rights & Responsibilities
This brings me to my second item for your consideration. In a moment, the Chancellor will confer your degree upon you with all of the “rights and responsibilities” that go with it. Reflect on that phrase for a moment: rights and responsibilities. What are the rights and responsibilities that accompany a college education?

Look to your left; now look to your right. There is a very strong likelihood that the adults you are sitting next to in this coliseum have a college education. Given that so many of the people you have been spending time with either have or are in the process of earning a college education, it can be easy to forget what an achievement this is. According to the US Census bureau, in 2016 31% of adults in the United States had completed a college education. 31%. Perhaps more striking, approximately 7% of the world’s 7.6 billion people are estimated to have a college education.

There are two lenses we can use to consider this information. With the first lens, we see that you are joining an elite group today. You have done a lot of work and performed well to get here. Again, well done. This level of education prepares you to excel in your careers, and hopefully lead lives not of “quiet desperation” but of meaning and purpose.

I encourage you to both enjoy the fruits of your labor, and also respond with gratitude, compassion, and humility. Don’t forget that many people have supported you along the way – some in obvious ways, some in less obvious ways. Take a moment to acknowledge and thank your families & friends you have helped you get to this point. Give them a-round of applause. Consider the Faculty and Staff who have challenged you, supported you, and helped you grow. Please tell them thank you when you see them after the ceremony, keep in touch, and occasionally let us know what you are up to as your journey continues. We revel in your successes.

While a UNCW degree has again been rated a “Best Value” by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, I know it’s still expensive. Part of why UNCW is a best value is because the State of North Carolina – the citizens of North Carolina – those with and without college degrees - have also significantly invested in your education. We have high hopes and expectations for you. What will you do with your learning, your lives? Like previous alumni some of you will become teachers, doctors, parents, lawyers, scientists, inventors, entrepreneurs, artists,

1 https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2016/demo/education-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html
2 http://www.100people.org/statistics_100stats.php?section=statistics
musicians, and public servants. Maybe you will be more than one of these. Further, I suspect that you will become leaders in your fields and in your communities, and that you will consider how your work, … your lives, make a difference. This is part of the rights and responsibilities that go with your degree.

Our second lens shows us that even if only 7% of the global adult population has earned a college degree – that is about 532 million people to both work with and compete with. Your college education prepares you for success, but it does not guarantee it. You will have to continue working hard, working smart, learning, and being creative to be successful. Again, because you are completing your degree today, I am confident you can do it.

Closing
Those are my insights for you: life is a learning journey and carefully consider the rights and responsibilities of the degree you are receiving today. I hope you find these thoughts useful, but as I said insights and advice are tricky things. I recently found myself trapped in one of those click-bait type internet articles about the “10 things you should never wear to work”. This was in Forbes magazine, so I had higher expectations, but they had some interesting suggestions. For example, one of the top items they suggested that you should never wear to work was flip-flops. All I could think about is that the author had clearly never lived in southeastern North Carolina. I mean clearly you wouldn't wear your beach flops to work, but your dress or formal flip-flops are surely appropriate, right? I trust that you will apply your critical thinking skills to figure this out at your next stop on your journey.

This future is on our horizon, but today we recognize your accomplishments [put hat on]. Dust off your party hats and dancing shoes – even if they are flip-flops – and let’s celebrate. Congratulations again, and thank you.

DR. BORRETT will be seated.

AUTHORIZATION TO CONFER DEGREES

DR. SARTARELLI will stand and say:
Thank you Dr. Borrett. It is now my pleasure to introduce Mrs. Wilma Daniels, Chair of the UNCW Board of Trustees.

DR. SARTARELLI will be seated.

MRS. DANIELS will step to the lectern and say:
Chancellor Sartarelli, distinguished guests, parents, friends and graduates.
On behalf of the UNCW Board of Trustees, I am proud to congratulate the Class of 2017. Whether you earned a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, you’ve achieved an important goal, one that will serve as a strong foundation for your future.

Your alma mater is a well-respected university, not only in this community, but also across our state and nation and, increasingly, around the world. No matter where you plan to go next, the many wonderful learning experiences you had at this university will serve you well in your future endeavors. Congratulations to the Class of 2017.

Speaking for the Board of Trustees of this university and acting under the delegation of powers by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina, I authorize you, Chancellor Sartarelli, to confer the appropriate degrees upon the candidates as approved by the faculties.

MRS. DANIELS will be seated.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRAL OF DEGREES OF GRADUATE DEGREES

DR. SHEERER steps to the podium and says:
We will now confer the degrees by college beginning with the graduate degrees. Degree candidates will be presented and the Chancellor will confer the degree. We will then ask students to come forward and be individually recognized.

Dr. Ron Vetter, Associate Provost of Research and Dean of the Graduate School, will present the candidates for master’s degrees

DR. SHEERER will be seated.

DR. SARTARELLI will step to the lectern and DR. VETTER will step to the guest lectern.

DR. VETTER will say:
I have the honor to present and to recommend the graduates of the Marine Biology Doctoral Program. Will you please stand?

Chancellor Sartarelli, I present these candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy in Marine Biology.
DR. SARTARELLI will say:
Acting on the recommendation of the faculties concerned and by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees and the president of the University of North Carolina, I hereby confer upon each of you the degree earned, with all of its rights, honors, and responsibilities. Welcome to the guild of scholars.

DR. VETTER will say:
Will the candidates and their advisors please come forward for the hooding?

All candidates and their advisors will approach the stage and line-up in alphabetical order. DR. VETTER will read the dissertation title of each student and the advisor will hood the student as his or her name is called, and DR. SARTARELLI, DR. SHEERER, and DR. VOLETY will stand to shake the students’ hands as they move across the stage. The candidates and advisors will return to their seats.

William Richard Collier II successfully defended a dissertation entitled: Fisheries Biology of Kingfishes (Menticirrhus spp.) in Coastal North Carolina Waters

Verena H. Wang successfully defended a dissertation entitled: Population Structure and Connectivity of Southern Flounder in the U.S. South Atlantic

After the hooding, DR. SHEERER and DR. VOLETY will return to their seats. DR. SARTARELLI will return to his lectern.

DR. VETTER will say:
Congratulations!

DR. VETTER will say:
Dr. Sartarelli, I have the honor to present and to recommend the following candidates for the appropriate master’s degrees. Will all the master’s candidates please stand for the conferral of your degrees?

DR. SARTARELLI will say:
Acting on the recommendation of the faculties concerned and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees and the president of the University of North Carolina, I hereby confer upon each of you the degree earned, with all of its rights, honors, and responsibilities. Congratulations graduates.
DR. VETTER will say:
Graduates, please come forward as directed by the student marshals as your name is called.

DR. SARTARELLI, DR. SHEERER, DR. VETTER and DR. VOLETY will move to their designated X’s on the stage. Facing the graduates, DR. SARTARELLI will stand at center stage, with DR. SHEERER, DR. VETTER and DR. VOLETY standing to his left. DR. SARTARELLI will hand each student a scroll as he shakes their hand. The graduate school name reader will read from cards and call each graduate in front of the stage. The students will begin to proceed with the help of the student marshals and commencement coordinators. The students will proceed by row to have a photo taken in front of a UNCW Banner, and then proceed to receive a scroll and have a photo taken with DR. SARTARELLI. As the graduates approach, they will be greeted and handed their scroll by DR. SARTARELLI and then greeted by DR. SHEERER, DR. VETTER and DR. VOLETY who will shake hands with each graduate. The student will return to his/her seat and sit down. DR. SARTARELLI, DR. VETTER and DR. VOLETY will return to their seats. DR. SHEERER will return to the lectern.

DR. SHEERER will step to the guest lectern and say:
Congratulations graduates!

(If the students are not seated) - Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRAL OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

DR. SHEERER will then say:
Candidates for undergraduate degrees will be presented by department within the College of Arts and Sciences. At this time, I am pleased to ask Dr. Aswani Volety, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to present the candidates for baccalaureate degrees from the College of Arts and Sciences.

DR. SHEERER will be seated.

DR. VOLETY will approach the same lectern and say:
Will the candidates recommended to receive the degree Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, or Bachelor of Fine Arts with majors in the College of Arts and Sciences please stand as your program or department is called and remain standing?

- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Art and Art History
- Department of Biology and Marine Biology
Dr. Sartarelli, on behalf of the faculty, I have the honor to present and to recommend these candidates for the appropriate degree.

DR. SARTARELLI will step to the lecetern and say to the candidates:
Acting on the recommendation of the faculties concerned and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees and the president of the University of North Carolina, I hereby confer upon each of you the degree earned, with all of its rights, honors, and responsibilities. Congratulations graduates.

DR. VOLETY will then say:
To signify your graduation, will you please move your tassels from the right to the left?

Graduates please be seated and then follow the student marshals as they guide you in the procession. Family members and guests, I ask that you please remain in your seats during the procession; this will ensure that all of our audience members have unobstructed views. A photographer is taking a picture of each graduate. Also, we ask that you hold your
applause until all of the graduates have been called to ensure all graduates’ names will be heard.

DR. SARTARELLI, DR. SHEERER, DR. VOLETY and designated TRUSTEE will move to their designated X’s on the stage. DR. SARTARELLI will stand on the left X and DR. SHEERER will stand on the right X. DR. VOLETY will stand on the left X at the front of the stage; TRUSTEE will stand at the right X at the front of the stage. The readers will announce the names. The students will begin to process with the help of the student marshals and commencement coordinators. The students will proceed by row to have a photo taken in front of a UNCW Banner, and then proceed to receive a scroll and have a photo taken with DR. SARTARELLI or DR. SHEERER and then DR. VOLETY and TRUSTEE will shake the students’ hands as they alternate on each side. The student will proceed down the center aisle where they will return to their seat. After all of the students’ names have been called, DR. SARTARELLI, DR. VOLETY and TRUSTEE will return to their seats.

DR. SHEERER will return to the guest lectern.
Congratulations graduates.
(If the students are not seated) - Please be seated.

It is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Bradley Heath, treasurer of the UNCW Alumni Association and graduate of the classes of 1996 and 2007, who will bring greetings from the alumni.

DR. SHEERER will be seated.

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MR. HEATH will step to the lectern and say:
Chancellor Sartarelli, distinguished guests, families, friends and, most importantly, Class of 2017 graduates. I am honored to be the first Seahawk to officially call you alumni!

Welcome to the UNCW Alumni Association! Today is a historic occasion for you and us; with the addition of you, the Class of 2017, we are soaring to nearly 80,000 Seahawk alumni.

We’re a great networking organization. The Alumni Association is like a family. We look out for each other. We help each other. We inspire each other to give back and get involved in the life of the university. Thank you to those of you who took part or will take part in the
Chancellor’s Challenge; what a wonderful way to begin your Alumni journey. And we stay in touch with each other, just as I hope you will always remain connected to UNCW.

The Alumni Association makes it easy to stay involved by offering programs, chapters, events and services to keep you engaged with UNCW throughout your life. We wish you well as you continue on your paths! Go Seahawks!

Please stand and join me in singing our alma mater. The words are printed in your program.

**UNCW Alma Mater performed**

_Hail we proudly sing to thee who guides our green and gold._
_
_Though future years may part us, fond memories we shall hold._
_
_For our hearts will cherish all your service done:_
_All hail our alma mater praise thee, O Wilmington!_
_Here we stand as one together voices raised in song._
_Our loyal hearts praise thee as God doth lead us on._
_Dare to learn and dare to soar, Seahawks brave and true:_
_All hail our alma mater praise teal, gold and blue_

MR. HEATH will be seated.

**RECESSIONAL**

DR. SARTARELLI will return to the lectern and say:

Thank you, Mr. Heath. Let’s congratulate all of today’s candidates one more time. On behalf of the university, I thank everyone for attending today and taking part in this wonderful ceremony.

Please refer to your program for exact times and locations for departmental events. If you plan to drive to these events, parking lot suggestions are listed on the reception location page.

Parents and guests, please remain seated during the recessional. Graduates and faculty, please stand for the academic recessional.

Male members of the platform party will put on their academic hats for the recessional.

Following DR. SARTARELLI’S announcement, the CHIEF FACULTY MARSHAL will immediately pick up the mace from the table, leave the stage the same way as
entered, fall in line behind the Highland Piper, and lead the platform party into the lobby of Trask, and down the hall to the Media Room. The platform party will form a single line and follow the chief marshal.

The academic recessional will be in the following order:

1. The Platform Party
2. The Faculty
3. The Degree Recipients