School of Graduate Studies
Winter 2012 Commencement Ceremony
H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center
Friday, December 14, 2012 • 7 p.m.

Opening Remarks

GOOD EVENING GRADUATES, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND GUESTS. I'M BILL RUUD, PRESIDENT OF THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY. WELCOME TO SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY'S TWO THOUSAND AND TWELVE WINTER COMMENCEMENT FOR MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AS WE HONOR THESE GRADUATES FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN EARNING THEIR DEGREE.

BEFORE WE START OUR PROGRAM, I AM SURE YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF THE HORRIFIC TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED EARLIER TODAY AT THE SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NEWTOWN CONNECTICUT. IT IS ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE TO THINK THAT SUCH AN ACT CAN OCCUR AND THAT IT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE MOST VULNERABLE AND THE MOST PRECIOUS AMONG US — OUR CHILDREN. TONIGHT, PLEASE KEEP THE VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE OTHERS AFFECTED IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. PLEASE JOIN ME IN A MOMENT OF SILENCE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE WELCOME THE MACE BEARER DR. WILLIAM KINGSLEY AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF TWO THOUSAND AND TWELVE.

Processional

PLEASE STAND FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, WHICH WILL BE SUNG BY ETHAN GOLDBACH OF GREENCASTLE, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND A MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 2013. PLEASE REMAIN STANDING FOR THE INVOCATION OFFERED BY THE REVEREND JAN BYE, CAMPUS MINISTER.

Introduction of Guest Speaker

THANK YOU ETHAN AND REVEREND BYE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AT THIS TIME I AM HONORED TO PRESENT TO YOU OUR GUEST SPEAKER.

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY IS PROUD OF ITS MORE THAN 60,000 ALUMNI AND WE APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO HIGHLIGHT THESE OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS.

OUR SPEAKER TONIGHT HAS USED HIS SHIPPENSBURG EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION TO ENHANCE THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD AS AN EDUCATOR AND A LEADER.

DAVID CHRISTOPHER EARNED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN 2008 AND LATER HIS PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATE AND SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER OF ELIGIBILITY FROM SHIPPENSBURG. IN 2011, THE EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTED HIM WITH ITS OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD.

SINCE HIS GRADUATION, HE HAS SERVED AS AN ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, AND ACTING SUPERINTENDENT PRIOR TO BEGINNING HIS TENURE LAST MAY AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE JUNIATA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ALEXANDRIA IN NEARBY HUNTINGDON COUNTY.

THANKS TO HIS LEADERSHIP, THE DISTRICT IMPROVED EVEN AS IT DEALT WITH DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES AND OTHER CHALLENGES FACED BY ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN PENNSYLVANIA. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 2012 THE HIGH SCHOOL WAS LISTED AS A U. S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORTS BRONZE AWARD WINNING SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STUDENTS.

IN ADDITION TO HIS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, HE ALSO SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HUNTINGDON COUNTY UNITED WAY AND IS THE CHAIR OF ITS STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE. HE IS A 1996 CUM LAUDE GRADUATE OF JUNIATA COLLEGE AND A 1992 GRADUATE OF ELIZABETHTOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE WELCOME DAVID CHRISTOPHER**.**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, DAVID. I APPRECIATE YOUR WORDS AND THANK YOU AGAIN FOR SHARING YOUR WISDOM AND INSIGHT WITH US.

Introduction of Other Speakers

WE ARE ALSO HONORED TONIGHT TO HAVE TWO MEMBERS OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY PRESENT REMARKS. FIRST, PLEASE WELCOME NICOLE M. TRITSCH OF IRWIN PENNSYLAVNIA WHO RECEIVES HER MASTERS DEGREE TONIGHT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION.

THANK YOU, NICOLE. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE FACULTY WILL BE DOCTOR CHRISTOPHER J. WOLTEMADE, PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCE.

THANK YOU, CHRIS.

Introduction of Special Guests

AT THIS TIME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF SOME VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED US FOR THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM.

WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE WITH US MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES. THEY ARE SECRETARY WILLIAM PIPER AND TRUSTEES CHARLES GOODHART AND GENE HERRITT.

I ALSO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE TONIGHT OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION. IT IS THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS THAT YOU AS GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS DISTINCTION TONIGHT. WOULD THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

Conferring of Degrees

DR. BARBARA LYMAN, PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, WILL PRESENT THE CANDIDATES FOR MASTERS' DEGREES.

Congratulations and Remarks

BEFORE I CONTINUE, I ASK THAT ALL OF THE GRADUATES PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED AGAIN AS A GROUP.

NOW, I ASK THAT THE GRADUATES GIVE YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT DURING YOUR YEARS HERE.

MOMENTS AGO, EACH OF YOU ACHIEVED ONE OF YOUR GOALS AND FULFILLED ONE OF YOUR DREAMS. YOU COMBINED HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND PERSEVERANCE WITH THE RESULT BEING THE SUCCESS YOU ACHIEVED TONIGHT.

THE REASONS YOU WANTED TO EARN A SHIPPENSBURG DEGREE ARE AS VARIED AS YOU ARE. FOR SOME IT'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. FOR OTHERS IT WILL ALLOW YOU A BETTER OPPORTUNITY FOR JOB ADVANCEMENT. YOU HAVE GAINED NEW SKILLS AND ENHANCED THOSE YOU ALREADY POSSESSED. ALL OF YOU, HOWEVER, ALSO SHARE A NEW OPPORTUNITY — TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER.

ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON:

"YOU ARE NOT HERE MERELY TO MAKE A LIVING. YOU ARE HERE IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE WORLD TO LIVE MORE AMPLY, WITH GREATER VISION, WITH A FINER SPIRIT OF HOPE AND ACHIEVEMENT. YOU ARE HERE TO ENRICH THE WORLD, AND YOU IMPOVERISH YOURSELF IF YOU FORGET THIS ERRAND."

OR, AS INVENTOR THOMAS EDISON SAID:

"I NEVER PERFECTED AN INVENTION THAT I DID NOT THINK ABOUT IN TERMS OF SERVICE IT MIGHT GIVE OTHERS. I FIND OUT WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS, THEN I PROCEED TO INVENT."

YOU NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENRICH THE WORLD, TO BRING TO IT A NEW SPIRIT. YOU ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THE WORLD, FIND WHAT NEEDS TO BE INVENTED — AND INVENT. BE CREATIVE – LIVE—ENJOY – AND MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. YOUR SHIP EDUCATION ALLOWS YOU TO DO JUST THAT, AND YOUR SHIP EXPERIENCES GIVE YOU THE CHARACTER YOU NEED TO REACH OUT AND SERVE OTHERS.

EACH YEAR, A NEW GROUP OF STUDENTS ENTERS SHIP EVEN AS OTHERS, LIKE YOU, LEAVE TO FULFILL DREAMS. IN DOING SO, YOU HAVE GIVEN OF YOURSELF AND LEFT A LITTLE BIT OF YOURSELF HERE. YOU ARE NOW PART OF THE LEGACY THAT SYMBOLIZES THE SHIP FAMILY.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING SHIP TO BE PART OF YOUR LIFE, AND THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR US.

Introduction of Alma Mater and Benediction

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE RISE AND JOIN US IN THE SINGING OF THE ALMA MATER, WHICH WILL BE SUNG BY ETHAN GOLDBACH. THE WORDS ARE ON THE BACK OF YOUR PROGRAM. THE *ALMA MATER* WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE BENEDICTION BY REVEREND BYE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TONIGHT. ON BEHALF OF THE SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY FAMILY, I OFFER OUR BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON. I ALSO INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A CELEBRATORY RECEPTION IN THE TUSCARORA ROOM IN REISNER DINING HALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS PROGRAM. TO MAKE EXITING EASIER, I ASK THAT THE GRADUATES MEET THEIR FAMILIES THERE INSTEAD OF IN THIS BUILDING. THIS CONCLUDES THE GRADUATION CEREMONY. GUESTS PLEASE REMAIN SEATED FOR THE RECESSIONAL.

Recessional