FALL CONVOCATION

Monday, August 30

Breslin Student Events Center

ORDER OF EVENTS

Processional and Welcome
Welcome Message
Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Land Acknowledgment
Emily Sorroche, Ph.D.
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Master of Ceremonies
Mark Largent, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education & Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Faculty Remarks
Marcos (Danny) Caballero, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Physics Education
College of Natural Science

Student Remarks
Addison Walton
English and Arts & Humanities
College of Arts & Letters and Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

Poem: “Precious”
Georgia Frost
ASMSU President
Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy
James Madison College

Nikunj Agarwal
International Student Association President
Environmental Economics and Agribusiness Management
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Ishwari Kapale
Freshman Class Council 2021 President
Computer Engineering
College of Engineering

Remarks and Induction of the Class
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

Introduction to Traditions
Singing of MSU Shadows

Recessional

MSU Spartan Jazz Nonet
The Spartan Jazz Nonet is a young, swinging college group performing the repertoire of the great jazz masters as well as a wide range of soul, swing, blues and gospel. Recent appearances include: Dizzy’s Club Coca Cola-New York, NY, Detroit International Jazz Festival, Jazz @ the Center Series-Detroit, MI, Detroit Symphony Club Series @ the Max, Notre Dame, Monterey, Elmhurst, Jazz @ Lincoln Center’s Jack Rudin Collegiate Festivals, Trinidad Tobago and Japan-International tours, and numerous venues throughout the State of Michigan.
FALL CONVOCATION
A Formal Academic Ceremony

The Fall Convocation you are attending today and the Commencement ceremony that you will attend upon graduation are intended to be bookends to your college experience. Both are formal academic ceremonies that feature members of the university’s faculty and administration in academic regalia.

The regalia that each faculty member and administrator wears communicates specific information about their level of education, their academic discipline, and the institution that awarded their degree. The majority of the faculty and administrators seated on stage have earned doctoral degrees. Those who have earned their doctorate wear robes bearing three bars of velvet on each sleeve and velvet panels on the front of the robe.

In addition to the robe, the hood also communicates information about the accomplishments of the person who wears it. The color of the velvet edging of the hood (visible around the neck in the front and down the back) signifies the discipline studied. Similarly, the tassel that you will wear when you graduate from MSU will be the color of the discipline of your major. Some of the colors and corresponding disciplines that you may see include:

Agriculture — Maize
Arts and Letters — White
Business — Drab (Tan)
Communication — Royal Blue
Education — Light Blue
Engineering — Orange
Law — Purple

Medicine — Green
Music — Pink
Nursing — Apricot
Philosophy — Dark Blue
Science — Gold
Social Science — Citron
Veterinary Medicine — Gray

Many institutions that award advanced degrees, such as the Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree or Medical Degree, use hoods that have dark blue velvet edging signifying the discipline of Philosophy or Medicine. Other institutions award hoods for the Ph.D. and the M.D. that use the color of the actual discipline studied. President Stanley earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and his hood bears the color crimson.
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Introduction to Traditions
Singing of MSU Shadows
Spartan Dischords

Recessional
MSU SHADOWS

MSU we love thy shadows when twilight silence falls. Flushing deep and softly paling O’er ivy covered halls. Beneath the pines we’ll gather to give our faith so true. Sing our love of Alma Mater and thy praises MSU.

When from these scenes we wander and twilight shadows fade, Our memory still will linger where light and shadows played. In the evening oft we’ll gather and pledge our faith a new, Sing our love for Alma Mater and our praises MSU.

SPECIAL THANKS

Announcer: David Brown, Staff Emeritus, MSU Alumni Office
Sign Language Interpreters: Annescia Dillard and Mieken VanderWaerden
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SPARTAN CODE OF HONOR
ACADEMIC PLEDGE

“As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.”