

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

SECTION: 6

DATE:

October 24, 2008

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Dann Florek, professional actor, director and current television star of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, December 14, 2008 commencement ceremonies. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Arts to Mr. Florek.

SUMMARY

Mr. Florek's biography follows on the next page.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and it is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive ~~Officer~~
Provost and Executive Vice President

Date



Dann Florek is a professional actor, director and current television star of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. Trained at EMU and Julliard, Dann worked steadily as an actor for 15 years in theatre, movies and television before garnering attention on the popular television series *L.A. Law* and *Law & Order*. He has portrayed Captain Donald Cragen in both *Law & Order* (1990-'93) and in *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* (since 1999). An active member of the Directors Guild of America, he has directed several episodes of the hit show. In addition to his success on stage and television, he has appeared in several feature films including *Moon Over Parador*, *Sweet Liberty*, *Angel Heart*, *Hard Rain* and *Beautiful Joe*. Dann attended EMU in the late 1960's and early 70's before leaving to study at Julliard in New York. Dann, and his wife Karen Kosinski (also an EMU alum and member of four national forensic championship teams) have homes in both New York and California. Dann has been with *Law & Order* for seventeen years – a series that is one of the longest running dramatic series in television history.

Dann Florek came to EMU from Flat Rock High School. In a recent interview, he indicated that he chose EMU because he had taken three math advanced placement classes as a senior at Flat Rock. These advance placement classes were the deciding factor on attending Eastern Michigan University.

In the same interview, Dann spoke fondly of his time at EMU. Although he initially declared Math and Physics as his areas of study, his interest in theatre and performance prevailed. He indicated that his professional career includes over 300 episodes on numerous television series – in particular *Law & Order*, a dozen films and more than 50 stage/theater roles. Yet, he claims his “most fulfilling role and performance” was in EMU Theatre’s 1974 production of *Richard III*, which he played Richard.