



WILLIAMS
COLLEGE
IVY
EXERCISES

June 1, 2024

Order of Exercises

Hosted by the Senior Class Officers

PROCESSIONAL*

IVY PLANTING

Zoe Belinda Getzin

OPENING REMARKS

Grace Paulette Knight Garcia and William Ding

AWARDING OF OLMSTED PRIZES

Gretchen Long
Dean of the College

Olmsted Prize Recipients

Geoffrey Coleman
*Potsdam High School,
Potsdam, NY*

Nominators

Sylvain James Koehler Foisy

Ray Gormally
*Collins Hill High School,
Suwanee, GA*

Megan Elizabeth Groomes

Leslie Smith
*John A. Rowland High School,
Rowland Heights, CA*

Milo Chang

Josh Waymire
*Valley High School
West Des Moines, IA*

Gwyneth Adelaide Chilcoat

CLASS POEM

Ethan Tyler Richmond

AWARDING OF STUDENT PRIZES

Gretchen Long
Dean of the College

CLASS HISTORY

Hikaru Wakeel Hayakawa

AWARDING OF STUDENT PRIZES

Gretchen Long
Dean of the College

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Three Hyacinths
Performed by Adithya Koshy Vaidhyan
Accompaniment by Emilio V. Anamos,
Jesse Cohen-Greenberg, William M. Royce

AWARDING OF STUDENT PRIZES

Gretchen Long
Dean of the College

CLOSING REMARKS

Shangbo Jing

* Prerecorded music by the Zambezi Marimba Band of Williams College

THE MOUNTAINS

1. O, proudly rise the monarchs of our mountain land,
With their kingly forest robes, to the sky,
Where Alma Mater dwelleth with her chosen band,
And the peaceful river floweth gently by.

The mountains! The mountains! We greet them with a song,
Whose echoes rebounding their woodland heights along,
Shall mingle with anthems that winds and fountains sing,
Till hill and valley gaily, gaily ring.

2. Beneath their peaceful shadows may old Williams stand,
Till suns and mountains nevermore shall be,
The glory and the honor of our mountain land,
And the dwelling of the gallant and the free.

–Washington Gladden, Class of 1859

RINGING OF THE COLLEGE BELLS Paige Anna Busse, Paul Kim, Sara N. Stebbins

WATCH DROPPING Daniela Galvez-Cepeda, Jaeun Lee,
Obinna F. Nwako

Goodman’s Jewelers generously donated the watch for this ceremony.

Ivy Planting

A member of the graduating class plants ivy next to a wall or building as part of the Ivy Exercises, held the day before Commencement. Although the precise date the tradition began is unknown, the College Archives mentions ivy planting as well as an ivy song and oration as early as 1862. The ivy appears to symbolize eternal friendship, as in the following “ivy song”:

“... Eternal friendship’s symbol thou, Whenever scattered through the land
Frail tiny plant we leave thee now; Unite our disunited band,
But, token of enduring love That through thee, Ivy, we may be
When thou hast reached thy niche above, One class to all Eternity.”
With clustering tendril spreading wide,
Entwine our heart on ev’ry side, –James A. Holden, Class of 1885

Watch Dropping

The tradition of watch dropping began in 1916. At each Commencement, a watch is dropped from the 80-foot spire of Thompson Memorial Chapel. If the watch breaks, tradition holds that the class will be lucky. The stopping of time will capture the happiness of this momentous occasion forever.

Class Representatives

CLASS ARTIST

Devika Goel

CLASS BELL RINGERS

Paige Anna Busse

Paul Kim

Sara N. Stebbins

CLASS GARDENER

Zoe Belinda Getzin

CLASS HISTORIAN

Hikaru Wakeel Hayakawa

CLASS MARSHALS

Hannah Bae

Gwyneth Adelaide Chilcoat

Obinna F. Nwako

George M. Taylor

CLASS MUSICIAN

Adithya Koshy Vaidhyan

CLASS POET

Ethan Tyler Richmond

CLASS SPEAKER

Jahnvi Nayar Kirtane

CLASS TOASTERS

Ryan Austin Crants

Megan Elizabeth Groomes

Obinna F. Nwako

Kedar Veeraswamy

CLASS PRESIDENTS

Grace Paulette Knight Garcia

Shangbo Jing

Obinna F. Nwako

CLASS VICE PRESIDENTS

William Ding

Daniela Galvez-Cepeda

Jaeun Lee

CLASS SECRETARIES

Shayla James

Jamie B. Liu

Gabriel Mora

Berenize Garcia Nueva

CLASS TREASURER

Milo Chang

AGENTS

Hannah Bae

Emma Charlotte Caruso

Theo Cicero Detweiler

Hikaru Wakeel Hayakawa

Shizah Kashif

Timmy Kelly

Chan Lee