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

Ray Gormally
Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA

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

Josh Waymire
Valley High School, West Des Moines, IA

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, Jaeeun 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,
   Frail tiny plant we leave thee now;
   But, token of enduring love
   When thou hast reached thy niche above,
   With clustering tendril spreading wide,
   Entwine our heart on ev’ry side,

   Whenever scattered through the land
   Unite our disunited band,
   That through thee, Ivy, we may be
   One class to all Eternity.”

   —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.

Information on ivy planting and watch dropping courtesy of Williams Archives and Special Collections
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
Jaeeun 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