Greetings to Graduating Seniors -
Commencement is fast approaching. We look forward to helping you celebrate your Williams graduation with your classmates and your families. This is the first of several communications I will send to you about Commencement Weekend. Please read through the end for important information about tickets and caps and gowns.

Below is a summary of major events on June 3 and 4. Please mark your calendar and share with your family and friends.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Ivy Exercises. Seniors assemble in the First-Year Quad at 12:50 p.m., the ceremony begins at 1:10 p.m. on the Library Quadrangle.

Refreshments on Chapin Lawn, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

A Conversation with Honorary Degree Recipients Gina McCarthy and Gavin A. Schmidt, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Baccalaureate. Seniors assemble in front of the Faculty House at 4:30 p.m., the ceremony begins at 5:00 p.m. in Chapin Hall.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Commencement. Seniors assemble in the First-Year Quad at 9:00 a.m., the ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. on the Library Quadrangle.

President’s Reception: a picnic lunch on Chapin Lawn, immediately following Commencement (~12:15 p.m.)

Seniors process into Ivy Exercises, Baccalaureate, and Commencement in their caps and gowns. The Class Artist, Amalie Dougish, carries the class banner at the front of each procession.

Ivy Exercises is an informal celebration of the Class and its achievements. The Class Officers organize it and preside. Class Gardener Brett Bidstrup plants the ivy, Class Poet Ariel Chu presents a poem, Class Historian Nico MacDougall speaks, Class Musician Scott Daniel performs, Dean Marlene Sandstrom awards over 100 prizes, Class Bell Ringer Nathaniel Vilas rings the bells, and two Class Officers drop a watch from the tower of Thompson Chapel.

Baccalaureate is the interdenominational service held Saturday afternoon. Billy Collins, Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001-20013, delivers the Baccalaureate Address.

Commencement on Sunday morning begins with an academic procession across campus and culminates with awarding your degrees. Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, delivers the Commencement Address.
TICKETS
All of the official events of Commencement Weekend are free of charge and most do not require tickets. In particular, tickets are not required for Ivy Exercises, outdoor Commencement, the Conversation, or the President's Reception.

Tickets for indoor Commencement: Weather permitting, Commencement is held outdoors on the Library Quadrangle (facing Stetson Hall) and no tickets are required. The ceremony is also simulcast into Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall and live stream for friends and family who cannot attend. In case of heavy rain, the ceremony is held in the Lansing-Chapman Ice Rink. When picking up a cap and gown, each senior receives three guest tickets for the ice rink. Additional seating is available in Chandler Gymnasium where the ceremony is broadcast on a large screen. Tickets are not required for seating in Chandler. We favor an outdoor ceremony even under threatening skies and/or light rain.

Tickets for Baccalaureate: Members of the senior class do not need tickets to attend this event. Due to the limited seating capacity of Chapin Hall, we are unable to seat all of your guests in Chapin. Each senior may request one guest ticket online as described below. We simulcast the Baccalaureate ceremony into Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall and the MainStage at the ’62 CTD. No tickets are necessary for these venues. Baccalaureate is also live streamed.

Request tickets online until May
19. Starting now, seniors may request Baccalaureate tickets at the following webpage: https://webapps.williams.edu/admin-forms/ephpubevent/
Be sure to complete the entire process, including responding to an email within 15 minutes to confirm your request. There is no need to reserve indoor Commencement tickets. All tickets will be distributed when seniors pick up their caps and gowns.

CAPS AND GOWNS
The college supplies caps and gowns free of charge to all graduating seniors. If you attended Fall Convocation and returned your cap and gown, we have them for you. If you did not attend Fall Convocation, we will measure you for a cap and gown. You may pick up caps and gowns and tickets in the Paresky Center Baxter Great Hall at the following times:
Wednesday, May 31, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Resource Fair (only for seniors who were measured in the fall at Convocation)
Thursday, June 1, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Friday, June 2, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 3, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 4, 8:45 a.m. Last minute pickup!

I will email you with more information in May.

For more information about Commencement, please see our web site:

commencement.williams.edu/

If you have questions, please contact Carrie Greene (Carrie.Greene@williams.edu) or me.
Cheers,
Jay Thoman, College Marshal
***********************************************************
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