Greetings to those who completed graduation requirements earlier this academic year -

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. Where you read “seniors”, you may add “and others who will be graduating June 2018” (meaning YOU).

If you are NOT attending graduation, meaning you will be graduating “in absentia”, you should already have filled out an online form for the Registrar. If you have at some point provided a current address, then in June we will send you a copy of the Commencement Program as well as your diploma.

If you plan to receive your diploma at graduation and need housing, then please contact Gail Rondeau Hebert (grondeau@williams.edu) in the Office of Student Life.

If you have not previously participated in Senior Week activities, then you are eligible to participate this year. To participate, you must register with the Office of Student Life, in May: https://student-life.williams.edu/events/senior-class-events/

Below is a summary of the major weekend events. Please mark your calendar and share with your family and friends.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

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.

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 3

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

President's Reception. Enjoy 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, Justin Sardo, 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 Jonah Levy plants the eponymous ivy, Class Poet Jordan Jace presents a poem, Class Historian Daniel Maes speaks, Class Musician Anna DeLoi performs, Dean Marlene Sandstrom awards over 100 prizes, Class Bell Ringers Kurt Pfrommer and Abigail Soloway ring the bells, and in a 100-year-old tradition, two Class Officers drop a watch from the tower of Thompson Chapel.

Baccalaureate is the interdenominational service held Saturday afternoon. Civil rights activist Janet Murguía, President of UnidosUS, delivers the Baccalaureate Address.
Commencement on Sunday morning begins with an academic procession across campus and culminates with awarding your degrees. Television journalist Bob Schieffer 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, 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 Chapin Hall and Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall and live streamed for friends and family who cannot attend. In case of snow extreme weather, the ceremony is held in the Lansing-Chapman Ice Rink. When picking up a cap and gown, each senior receives four 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 in cap and gown 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://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdo1ZSooTtf9v1rRcz2MFNB7_6ZtvzTLaJ4D5PRZ5_J99IV5A/viewform

Be sure to complete the entire process. 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 30, 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, May 31, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Friday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 2, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 3, 8:45 a.m. Last minute pickup!

I will email you with more information in May. In the meantime, please visit the Commencement web site:

commencement.williams.edu

If you have questions, please send email to commencement@williams.edu or contact me.

Cheers,
Jay Thoman, College Marshal

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