Dear graduating senior,

Greetings! We look forward to helping you celebrate your college graduation with your classmates and your families. This is the first of two communications I will send to you about Commencement Weekend. Please read through the end for important information about tickets and caps and gowns. Ticket reservations will be available online starting on Wednesday, April 16.

Here is a brief summary of the events on June 7 and 8. Please mark them on your calendar.

**Saturday, June 7**

- **Ivy Exercises.** Seniors assemble on Hoxsey Street at 12:50 p.m., the ceremony begins at 1:10 p.m.
  
  Refreshments on Chapin Lawn, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
  Senior Athlete Recognition Reception, Goodrich Hall, 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.  
  Conversation with Steven Chu, '62 Center Main Stage (tickets required), 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. (tickets required for guests)

**Sunday, June 8**

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

- **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. Ivy Exercises is an informal celebration of the Class and its achievements. The Class Officers organize it and preside. Class Gardener Jacob Addelson will plant the ivy, Class Poet Marty Clarke will present a poem, Class Historian Frank Pagliaro will speak, Class Musician Frankie Simms will perform, Dean Sarah Bolton will award over 100 prizes, Class Bell Ringer Sam Austin will ring the bells, and Class Presidents Emily Calkins and Kaitlyn Carrigan will drop a watch from the tower of Thompson Chapel. Baccalaureate is the interdenominational service held Saturday afternoon. Commencement on Sunday morning begins with an academic procession across campus and culminates with awarding your degrees.

**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 will be held outdoors on West College Lawn (the Science Quad) and no tickets will be required. In case of heavy rain, the ceremony will be held in the Lansing-Chapman Ice Rink. When he or she picks up a cap and gown, each senior will receive four guest tickets for the ice rink. Additional seating will be available in Chandler Gymnasium where the ceremony will be 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: Seniors do not need tickets to attend this event. Due to the limited seating capacity of Chapin Hall, we are unable to seat all of the guests in Chapin. Each senior may request 2 guest tickets online as described below. We will distribute guest tickets for Chapin while the supply lasts. After we have exhausted the Chapin tickets we will issue tickets for Brooks-Rogers Auditorium where the ceremony will be televised on a large screen.

Tickets for the Conversation with Steven Chu, honorary degree recipient: Seniors and their guests who wish to attend this event in the '62 Center Main Stage will need tickets. Each senior may request up to 3 tickets online while the limited supply lasts. Please note that refreshments will be available on Chapin Lawn and that the Senior Athlete Recognition Reception is at the same time as this event.

**Request tickets online April 16 - 30.**

Starting Wednesday, April 16, seniors may request Baccalaureate tickets or Steven Chu tickets at the following webpage:
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 Great Hall at the following times:

- Wednesday, June 4, 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 5, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 6, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 8, 8:45 a.m. Last minute pickup!

I will email you with more information about caps and gowns in May.

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

[http://commencement.williams.edu/](http://commencement.williams.edu/)

If you have questions, please contact Carrie Greene ([Carrie.Greene@williams.edu](mailto:Carrie.Greene@williams.edu)) or me.

Regards,
Jeff Strait
College Marshal

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