

November 28, 2008

To Parents of the Class of 2009:

On behalf of the University community, it is my pleasure to invite you to attend the University of Rochester's one hundred fifty-ninth College Commencement ceremony, which will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2009. We welcome you to participate in both the formal and informal events during graduation weekend.

The College Commencement ceremony, a colorful celebration with pageantry and music, will be held outdoors on the Eastman Quadrangle of the River Campus. A concert prelude will begin at 8:40 a.m., and the academic procession will enter the quadrangle at 9:00 a.m. The formal ceremony, at which the President officially admits the Bachelors and Masters candidates in Arts, Sciences, and Engineering, begins at 9:15 a.m. On Sunday afternoon, individual departments and schools will hold ceremonies to present diplomas, honors, and awards. You are encouraged to attend both ceremonies. These Commencement celebrations are for those who will have earned their degrees in October 2008 and February 2009 as well as May 2009 graduates.

In April, we will send parents a formal invitation and schedule which will include diploma ceremony times and locations. In addition, both students and parents will receive a graduation week schedule containing complete information about activities, meals, parking, local transportation, religious services, etc. Please visit our Web site at [www.rochester.edu/commencement](http://www.rochester.edu/commencement) for up-to-date information. Please note: tickets are not necessary to attend the morning outdoor ceremony. In case of severe weather, the morning Commencement ceremony will be canceled. All candidates will still receive their diplomas at the scheduled afternoon department ceremonies, which are held indoors.

We suggest you make lodging and travel reservations early, particularly since other area colleges will conduct their Commencement ceremonies on the same weekend. A hotel/motel list is enclosed; inclusion of an establishment does not imply a University endorsement. Please call the establishment directly to make your reservation, and mention your attendance at the University of Rochester Commencement in the event that a discount may apply.

We are working to make this a memorable weekend for the graduates and their guests. We hope you can join us.

Cordially,

Richard Feldman  
Dean of the College

Enclosure