

April 8, 2009

To Members of the Graduating Class:

Enclosed is a copy of the Graduation Week Brochure. The brochure lists times and locations of Senior Week activities, diploma ceremonies, and associated events. It also lists transportation, parking, and shuttle information that is pertinent to family and friends attending the festivities. Please read the important information below regarding your Commencement ceremony.

BRIEFING SESSION

A Commencement briefing for all Bachelor's and Master's degree candidates will take place at 12:00 Noon on Friday, May 15 in Strong Auditorium. If you plan to participate in the May 17 Commencement ceremony, you are expected to attend this briefing.

TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Commencement 2009 will be held on the River Campus Eastman Quadrangle on Sunday, May 17 for Bachelor's and Master's degree candidates of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering. Seating opens at 7:45 a.m., and the ceremonial procession begins at 8:45 a.m. Seating will only be reserved for those who have mobility impairments or special needs. Students with guests in need of special assistance should have notified the Conference and Events Office by April 3, 2009 to obtain tickets as indicated in the March mailing.

WEATHER CONTINGENCIES

PLAN A – RAIN CONTINGENCY PLAN: We anticipate fair weather, but Commencement will be held on the Eastman Quadrangle come rain or shine. If Plan A is implemented, due to inclement weather, the ceremony will be shortened. The 8:15 a.m. lineup time will not change.

PLAN B – VILE WEATHER CONTINGENCY PLAN: Only in the event of a dangerous storm or vile weather on Sunday, May 17 will the outdoor Commencement Ceremony be canceled. Should this occur, the regularly scheduled Diploma Ceremonies will take place as planned. These ceremonies are listed in the Graduation Week Brochure. If contingency plan B is to be used, an announcement will be made no later than 6:00 a.m. Commencement morning, via the communications network at (585) 275-6000 and the Web at www.rochester.edu/commencement.

ASSEMBLY

Degree candidates should arrive at the west lawn of Wilson Commons by 8:10 a.m. Lineup will begin no later than 8:15 a.m. Candidates should assemble, as directed by signs on the lawn, into columns by school or college and degree. The procession begins at 8:30 a.m.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

Academic attire is required for graduates' participation in the Commencement ceremony. Regalia information was sent to you in an earlier mailing. If you have any questions, please contact the Bookstore. Please dress appropriately for both the occasion and the weather conditions. Since part of the academic procession will be across lawn areas, low-heeled shoes are recommended.

When picking up caps, gowns, and hoods, make certain that you receive all three items and that the color of the velveteen trim on the hood is appropriate to the college or school and the degree. All degree candidates will wear their hoods for the procession and during the ceremony. Below are the specific trim colors:

Arts and Sciences B.A., M.A. – White Arts and Sciences B.S., M.S. – Gold Engineering B.S., M.S. – Orange

PLEASE – NO SMOKING – NO ALCOHOL

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted. No beverage containers are allowed on the Eastman Quadrangle. As a courtesy to all, we ask that guests not smoke on the Eastman Quadrangle.

PROCESSIONAL

Column 1 – Arts and Sciences Bachelor's

Column 2 – SEAS Bachelor's, AS Bachelor's

Column 3 – SEAS and AS Master’s, SEAS Bachelor’s, AS Bachelor’s

Column 4 – Arts and Sciences Bachelor’s

At the signal, all four columns will proceed to a hold point on Wilson Boulevard. The procession will continue to the Chapel, then left onto the walkway towards the Eastman Quadrangle. Faculty, Trustees, the Provost, and the President will greet the Graduates as they pass by. The columns will then move down the sidewalks to their respective seating aisles and will be seated by the marshal. Faculty will proceed to their seats with the Platform Party. Upon arrival at their seats, all degree candidates should be seated. Male participants will remove caps while seated, during the Invocation, and during the singing of “The Genesee.”

PLATFORM PARTY

Upon the playing of the second fanfare, which will announce the platform party and faculty, everyone will stand and remain standing until after the Invocation. The platform party and faculty will proceed to the front of the library. The University and Associate Marshal will escort the platform party up to the stage; the Faculty Marshals will seat the remainder of the platform party and faculty in the risers at the front of the library.

CEREMONY

After the Invocation, everyone will be seated. The ceremony will continue with the President’s greetings, citations and responses, and the Commencement Speakers; after which candidates will be admitted to their respective degrees.

Admission to Bachelors’ and Master’s degrees: The chief student marshals will ask the Bachelor’s and Master’s candidates to rise and the candidates will be presented to the President: the President will admit the candidates to their degrees, and the group will be seated.

RECESSIONAL

Recessional Order: Platform Party, Faculty, and Graduates. After “The Genesee”, the platform party will exit the stage. As the last member of the platform party passes the graduate seating, the graduates will follow beginning with those in the front rows. Columns 1-4 will recess in reverse order along the walkways; Column 1 will exit at the Lattimore steps, Column 2-3 at the center Quad steps, and Column 4 at the Dewey steps moving west to Wilson Boulevard at the Chapel. Graduates are requested to move away from the Quad so the entire group can leave without hindrance.

COMMENCEMENT BRUNCH

The Commencement Brunch, a festive buffet for graduates and their guests, will be available from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Danforth Dining Center. Tickets are \$14.25 for adults and \$7.25 for children 4-10 years of age when purchased in advance. They will be \$15.75 for adults and \$8.00 for children 4-10 years of age at the door. Children under the age of four years are free. Students can purchase advanced tickets from a designated cashier at the Pit in Wilson Commons. Advanced purchase of brunch tickets is recommended, but a limited number may be available at the door.

DVD SALES

DVD copies of the May 17 College Commencement Ceremony will be available for purchase online. Visit www.rochester.edu/commencement/webcast/ to pre-order your copy beginning May 1.

If you have questions regarding your degree candidacy, please contact Katie Kovar in the Registrar’s Office at katie.kovar@rochester.edu.

For questions regarding the Commencement ceremonies, you can contact the Conference & Events Office at 275-4111 or go to the Commencement Web site at www.rochester.edu/commencement.

On behalf of the Commencement Committee, congratulations and best wishes for your continued success and happiness.

The Conference and Events Office

Enclosure