

SPRING COMMENCEMENT AND HOODING CEREMONY INFORMATION

TO: Members of the Faculty and Administration

FROM: Jill Kasle, University Marshal

DATE: March 23, 2009

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE HOODING CEREMONY (FRIDAY, MAY 15) AND/OR COMMENCEMENT (SUNDAY, MAY 17), YOU MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY EVENTS BY MONDAY, APRIL 27, AND USE THE FORM AT THE END OF THIS MEMO.

THE FULL SCHEDULE OF COMMENCEMENT EVENTS IS ON THE GW WEB SITE AT COMMENCEMENT.GWU.EDU

I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COMMENCEMENT

A. Date, time, place: The Spring Commencement in the 188th year of The George Washington University will be held on SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009, AT 10:00 A.M. ON THE NATIONAL MALL BETWEEN 4TH AND 7TH STREETS. You are most cordially invited to participate.

All schools of the university will participate in the unified commencement ceremony. The event will honor some 5,000 graduates and the audience will consist of more than 20,000 proud parents, family members and friends.

To reduce last-minute chaos, we need to have a head count of attendees that is as accurate as possible. Accordingly, if you plan to attend the doctoral hooding ceremony and/or commencement, please fill out the form at the end of this memo and e-mail it to commencement@gwu.edu no later than Monday, April 27.

B. The latest updates on May 17: Commencement will be held on the National Mall rain or shine. However, if the weather on the morning of commencement could truly be described as catastrophic (in other words, if you see animals marching two by two down Pennsylvania Avenue looking for an ark and a man named Noah) and you question whether sensible people could truly hold an event outdoors, please call 994-5050 to get the latest update on the location of commencement. Information will also be available on radio station WTOP (103.5 FM).

Please remember that the weather is not the only factor that affects the location and starting time of the commencement ceremony; a street near the National Mall may be closed at the last minute, for example, causing a significant traffic jam and requiring us to delay the start of commencement on the National Mall or move to the alternate site. So, given the uncertainties of the weather, the complexities of the event, and the unpredictability of life in Washington, I suggest that you check the location of commencement before you leave home and then arrive at the correct location at the correct hour in flat shoes, without valuables (such as a purse or briefcase), and with a sense of humor.

C. Alternate sites: The university plans to use the Verizon Center (located at 9th and F Streets, NW - Gallery Place Metro on the red, yellow, and green lines) as the backup location for commencement. As you may know, our use of the Verizon Center is dependent, to a certain extent, on the outcome of the regular seasons of the Washington Wizards and Washington Capitals and the schedule of post-season tournament games which are held in the Verizon Center. We hope to have a decision from the management of the Verizon Center by early May.

If we can't use the Verizon Center and if circumstances prevent us from holding commencement on the National Mall, the platform party, the speakers, the faculty, and the graduates will proceed to the Smith

Center where the ceremony will take place. The guests of the graduates will view the ceremony from viewing locations around campus.

If we know in advance that the ceremony is to be held at an alternate location, that information will be publicized on campus, available at the information numbers listed above, and listed on the GW web site at commencement.gwu.edu. But please remember that we may not know until the morning of commencement that the ceremony must be moved so please check the location of the event before you leave home on May 17.

D. Academic processions: Faculty and administrators will be part of the academic procession. For the ceremony on the National Mall, faculty and administrators will assemble at 9:00 A.M. in a tent on the National Mall adjacent to the stage ((located at 4th Street) that will be identified as the faculty tent. Light refreshments will be offered. The academic procession will be organized by Professor David Grier, Lead Faculty Marshal, and Professor Michael King and Professor Kathryn E. Newcomer, Co-Lead Faculty Marshals. The academic processions begin promptly at 9:30 A.M. If we hold the ceremony at the Verizon Center, the academic procession will assemble in a holding room near the stage. If we hold the ceremony at the Smith Center, the academic procession will assemble in Funger/Duques.

E. Transportation: Parking near the National Mall will be extremely difficult. On-street parking in the neighborhoods near the National Mall is available only if you arrive VERY EARLY (before 7:30 AM). To encourage you to park on campus, free shuttle bus service between campus and the National Mall (or the Verizon Center, if necessary) will be available from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM on May 17. The buses will depart from Rice Hall. You may also take Metro (which begins running at 7:00 A.M.) to campus or to the National Mall. The closest Metro stops to our location on the National Mall are the Archives, Smithsonian, and L'Enfant Plaza stations.

F. Graduate seating: On the National Mall, the graduates will sit in sections identified by flags in the school colors, as follows:

Columbian College bachelor's degrees	-white
Columbian College master's and doctoral degrees	- gold
Elliott School of International Affairs	- red
School of Business	- royal blue
School of Engineering and Applied Science	- orange
Grad. School of Educ.& Human Development	- light blue
School of Medicine and Health Sciences	- green
School of Public Health and Health Services	- salmon
Law School	- purple
College of Professional Studies	- taupe

G. Tickets for faculty guests: All seating for guests at commencement--whether guests of the graduates or guests of the faculty--is on a first-come, first-served basis. The size of the audience at commencement means that each faculty member may receive one guest ticket. Be sure your guest knows in advance where you will be after the ceremony and where to meet you. Be sure to specify a meeting place for the National Mall, the Verizon Center, and the Smith Center ceremonies (for example, at the foot of the stage).

II. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOODING CEREMONY:

A. Date, time, place: As part of Commencement Weekend, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of Public Health and Health Services, the School of Business, the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (Health Sciences division) will hold a unified HOODING CEREMONY for their graduates on FRIDAY, MAY 15, AT 1:30 P.M. IN LISNER AUDITORIUM. A reception will follow. (Please note: this is a hooding ceremony for graduates who are receiving Psy.D. and Ph.D degrees, not M.D. degrees.)

The Hooding Ceremony will begin with an academic procession. The doctoral candidates will be presented for hooding by their advocates and will receive their hoods on stage. All faculty members (advocates and other faculty) should meet at Lisner Auditorium at 1:00 P.M. to form the academic procession under the direction of Professor Michael King.

III. REGALIA RENTAL FOR FACULTY:

FOR ALL FACULTY MEMBERS EXCEPT THOSE IN THE LAW SCHOOL (The Law School has different procedures for renting faculty regalia): THIS YEAR, FACULTY CAN RENT REGALIA ONLINE ONLY. FACULTY WHO WISH TO RENT ACADEMIC REGALIA MUST DO SO BY 11:59 P.M. ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7. PLEASE VISIT www.herffjones.com/capgown/facultydirect FOR REGALIA RENTAL ORDERS.

IV. SCHOOL CEREMONIES:

All schools of the university will also hold ceremonies during commencement weekend celebrating student achievement. You will receive separate information from your school about these events.

V. MONUMENTAL CELEBRATION:

Monumental Celebration, the university's grand commencement eve party, will be held at Union Station from 8:30 P.M. to 11:30 PM on Saturday, May 16. To purchase tickets, please call 4-7411 or visit commencement.gwu.edu.

VI. RESPONSE FORM:

PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT NO LATER THAN MONDAY, APRIL 27, TO commencement@gwu.edu

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND 2009 - FACULTY PARTICIPATION FORM

I will be at the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony: YES _____ NO _____

I will be at Spring Commencement: YES _____ NO _____

NAME _____ CAMPUS PHONE _____

SCHOOL _____ CAMPUS ADDRESS _____

HOME/MOBILE PHONE (in the event of any last-minute changes) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

I would like ONE guest ticket to commencement: YES_____NO_____

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You have received this email from a GWUMC Medical Center Faculty email list.
To change your email address go to <http://nova.gwumc.edu/email>.
For assistance, please send email to oitjib@gwumc.edu.