



## IMPORTANT COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION – 2009

**Date:** May 1, 2009

**To:** Graduating Seniors and Other Degree Candidates

**From:** Lori Bettison-Varga, Provost and Dean of the Faculty

**cc:** College Marshal, Commencement Marshals, Faculty Marshals, Student Marshals, Jason Arp, Jon Loney, Martha Holt, Kathy Rogers, Jed Schwendiman, Ruth Wardwell, President's Office, Human Resources Office, Business Office, Registrar's Office, Security Office

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### BACCALAUREATE -- 3:30 p.m., Saturday, May 23, Cordiner Hall

**Presentations:** Adam Kirtley, Stuart Coordinator of Religious and Spiritual Life  
Varga Fox, Director of Financial Aid Services  
Justin K. Hayashi, '09 and Aisha Fukushima, Class of '09  
Ulysses "U.J." Sofia, William K. and Diane R. Deshler Chair of Astronomy

**Musicians:** Katie Moyer, '09, piano and Justin Greenberg, '09, piano

### COMMENCEMENT - Sunday, May 24, 11:00 a.m.

Commencement will be held on the Boyer-side lawn of Memorial Building. **All degree candidates are required to attend the Commencement ceremony.**

#### CAPS AND GOWNS

The traditional academic attire will be worn at Commencement. Caps and gowns may be obtained free of charge in the basement of Cordiner Hall. Please take the northeast entrance (toward Clarette's) and proceed downstairs. Caps and gowns may be picked up during the following hours:

<b>Thursday, May 21</b>	<b>1:00 - 3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, May 22</b>	<b>1:00 - 3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, May 23</b>	<b>1:00 - 3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, May 24</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>

**Please obtain your cap and gown EARLY to avoid a "last minute" rush.** They should be returned to the robe room in Cordiner Hall **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY** (honor students also need to return their honor stoles) If you cannot return your cap and gown following the ceremony, you can return them as follows:

- **Monday, May 25** (Memorial Day Holiday) between 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, please call security at 527-5777 and make arrangements to deliver your cap/gown to their office located in Mem. Building #117.
- **Tuesday, May 26** between 10:00 a.m – 12:00 noon your cap/gown can be returned to the robe room in the basement of Cordiner Hall
- **Beginning Wednesday, May 27** you should return your cap/gown to Judy Arbanas in the Business Office located in Mem. Building #217 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Monday ~ Friday).

There will be a **\$75.00** replacement fee charged to your account if your cap/gown are not returned by Tuesday, May 26. A replacement fee of **\$75.00** will also be charged to honor students who do not return their honor stoles by Tuesday, May 26.

**Remaining contingency fees of seniors will be distributed by mail during the month of June.**

**(OVER)**

On Sunday, May 24, a **class picture** will be taken prior to the Commencement ceremony. **Assemble on Ankeny Field near the Hall of Science promptly at 9:50 a.m., as the picture will be taken at 10:00 a.m. sharp** (wear your cap and gown). Following the picture taking, the class will move immediately to the sidewalk on the south (Boyer Avenue) side of Maxey Hall, beside Lakum Duckum. There, you will pick up your program that indicates your seat number. You must be at this location **no later than 10:15 a.m.** **Your tassel should be on the right side of your mortarboard.** The Faculty and Commencement Marshals will line the seniors up in two rows in alphabetical order.

**\*You will receive an email on Friday, May 22 telling you if you are graduating summa cum laude, magna cum laude or cum laude. Honor stoles for these graduates may be obtained when you pick up your program.**

Once you have found your proper place in line it is **most important** that you remain in line and in alphabetical order for the processional and seating. **You must sit in your assigned seat.** Following the Student Marshals' seating instructions, **file into the row as rapidly as possible.** During the conferring of degrees, the President will ask all graduating seniors to stand. After the conferring of degrees you will be asked to be seated. During the presentation of diplomas, each row of graduates will stand as a unit; upon returning to your row, you may be seated immediately. A professional photographer will take a picture of each senior as his or her diploma is presented. The photographer will contact each of you regarding these pictures and DVDs of the commencement ceremony. Toward the end of the ceremony, President Bridges will instruct you to **move your tassel from the right side to the left side of your mortarboard.** **In order to reduce the likelihood of injury, DO NOT throw your mortarboards at the conclusion of the ceremony.**

Please advise your guests that they will be outdoors, in the sun (we hope). General seating on bleachers and chairs will be available. Your family members may want to bring blankets, hats, umbrellas, etc. Commencement will be interpreted in sign language and the front row of the guest seating to the right of the platform will be reserved for the hearing impaired. Self-contained motor homes are welcome to park in any of the campus parking lots for Commencement weekend.

**Senior Survey:** As part of the graduation process, a **Senior Exit Survey** will be distributed via e-mail. Each year the college seeks information from graduating seniors in order to assess their future goals, opinions on various aspects of campus life, and how effectively Whitman has enhanced their level of knowledge, personal development, and general preparation for employment or graduate school. **Upon completing the survey, you will be able to pick up your rain tickets for commencement** (see below).

**Rain Tickets:** Only in extreme weather conditions will Commencement be moved inside. In the event of inclement weather, commencement will be held in Cordiner Hall at noon instead of 11:00 a.m. Because of limited seating, each student will receive **two rain tickets** for the commencement ceremony to distribute to family members or friends. **Once you complete your Senior Exit Survey you will be able to pick up your tickets from the Registrar's Office.** The signal for moving the ceremony to Cordiner Hall will be the continuous ringing of the College bell at 10:30 a.m. Should it be necessary to use Cordiner Hall for Commencement, seniors will form the line of march on the North side of Cordiner Hall. Overflow seating will be available in the Reid Campus Center, Maxey Auditorium, and the Kimball Auditorium. In all conditions, the ceremony will be webcast in the Reid Campus Center Ballroom and Kimball Auditorium for those who prefer to be inside.

We are pleased to invite you to participate in all of the regular Commencement weekend activities. You are encouraged to take a look at the Commencement Website: <http://www.whitman.edu/content/commencement>. The most up-to-date version of the commencement schedule, detailed instructions and resources for seniors and frequently-asked-questions are all posted on this website.

***Best wishes for a wonderful Commencement weekend!***