



IMPORTANT COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION – 2012

Date: May 7, 2012
To: Graduating Seniors and Other Degree Candidates
From: Timothy Kaufman-Osborn, Provost and Dean of the Faculty
Cc: College and Commencement Marshals, Jason Arp, Jon Loney, Mara Sorkin, Dan Park, Zoey Smith, Ruth Wardwell, Registrar's Office, Security Office

BACCALAUREATE - Saturday, May 19, 3:30 pm, Cordiner Hall

Speakers: Adam Kirtley, Stuart Coordinator of Religious and Spiritual Life and Adjunct Instructor of General Studies;
Richard N. Jacks, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Students: Health and Wellness and Director of Counseling;
Patrick R. Frierson, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Garrett Fellow;
Elana Congress '12; **Musicians:** Carrie Sloane '12, cellist; Sam Epstein '12, saxophonist

Immediately following Baccalaureate – 4:30 p.m., Reid Ballroom

Commencement Speaker Eric Schlosser will offer a reading, discussion session, and book signing.
Graduating seniors and their families are encourage to attend

COMMENCEMENT - Sunday, May 20, 11:00 a.m., Memorial Building South Lawn

Speaker: Eric Schlosser

All degree candidates are required to attend the Commencement ceremony.

CAPS AND GOWNS

Graduation caps and gowns will be distributed on Friday, May 18, from 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in the Whitman College Bookstore. This is also the time to purchase a gown if you have not already done so. The vendor will be selling caps and gowns on site for \$40 and can accept cash only. Extra caps and gowns and tassels will be available at this time in case of loss or damage.

CLASS PICTURE

On Sunday, May 20, a class picture will be taken prior to the Commencement ceremony. Assemble on Ankeny Field near the Hall of Science promptly at 9:50 am; the picture will be taken at 10 a.m. sharp (wear your cap and gown, with the tassel on the right side of your mortarboard).

PROCESSION

Following the class picture, seniors will move immediately to the sidewalk on the south (Boyer Avenue) side of Maxey Hall, beside Lakum Duckum. You must be at this location no later than 10:15 a.m. There you will pick up your program that indicates your **individual seat number**. **Programs must be picked up by the individual senior and will not be given out to anyone other than the graduate.** The Faculty and Commencement Marshals will line the seniors up in two rows in alphabetical order, with approximately the first half of the alphabet forming the first row and the second half of the alphabet forming the second row.

You will receive an email on Friday, May 18, 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.

(OVER)

SEATING

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.**

GUESTS

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, water, 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. For those who prefer to be seated inside, the ceremony will be webcast in the Reid Campus Center and Kimball Auditorium, Hunter Conservatory. 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, you will receive an email directing you to an online Senior Exit Survey. 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. This is a chance for your voice to be heard! Please fill out this survey as soon as possible. The survey will be open through Friday, May 18. Upon completing the survey, students may pick up Extreme Weather Plan tickets in the Registrar's Office to be used in the event Commencement is moved indoors. Questions about the survey may be addressed to Neal Christopherson, Director of Institutional Research (christnj@whitman.edu).

EXTREME WEATHER PLAN

ONLY in extreme weather conditions will Commencement be moved indoors to Cordiner Hall. In the event of extreme weather, defined as conditions which are unsafe, such as severe winds, lightning or hail, as opposed to conditions which are uncomfortable such as rain, heat or cold, the Commencement ceremony will **begin at 12 noon** instead of 11 a.m. The signal for moving the ceremony inside will be the continuous ringing of the College bell at 10:30 a.m. Seniors will meet in the multi-purpose gym in Sherwood Center to pick up packets from the Registrar, take the senior class photo and line up for the processional. Because of limited seating, each senior will receive two Extreme Weather Plan tickets prior to Commencement, upon completion and submission of his or her senior survey. Parents, families and guests of graduating seniors without Extreme Weather Plan tickets may view the ceremony from the following locations: Last names beginning A-G: Ballroom in Reid Campus Center; Last names beginning H-L: Olin Hall 130; Last names beginning M-S: Maxey Auditorium; Last names beginning T-Z: Harper Joy Theatre.

We are pleased to invite you to participate in all of the regular Commencement weekend activities. You are encouraged to consult the Commencement website: <http://www.whitman.edu/content/commencement> for more details on the Commencement schedule, instructions and resources for seniors, and answers to frequently-asked-questions.

Best wishes for a wonderful Commencement weekend!