



GENEVA COLLEGE

March 12, 2014

Dear Geneva Parents:

Commencement weekend is rapidly approaching. While we will give this information to the students at Grad Finale (March 31st, 11:00am-5:00 pm in the Benedum Room), we realize this kind of communication does not always find its way home. Thus, we are sending this directly to you.

The information contained in this letter is also available on www.geneva.edu (follow the Commencement link on the home page). We will be posting late breaking information at this website. Please check it periodically and certainly before you come to campus in May.

Senior Send-Off

This student-only celebration will kick-off the weekend's activities and be held on Thursday, May 8 at the Columbian Room in Wexford, PA. All graduating seniors are invited to attend this event. Registration will begin at Grad Finale and the cost is \$15 per student.

Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate will be held on Friday, May 9 at 7:00 PM in Metheny Fieldhouse. The program is a worship service and an appropriate way to thank God for His provisions to our students and to commit them to His care for all their future endeavors. We encourage you to come for this special worship celebration. Please note that graduates will process in cap and gown.

Commencement

This year we are planning to hold commencement outside in Reeves Stadium. It is scheduled for 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 10, and typically lasts for approximately 2 hours. If the weather does not cooperate, the ceremony will be moved into Metheny Fieldhouse. You can check the Commencement Hotline (724-847-6100) for location updates.

- Students who are graduating must be in Old Main – John H. White Chapel – by 8:45 AM to receive instructions. Please help them be on time!
- This year's commencement speaker is Greg Baylor, senior counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom in Washington, D.C., who is dedicated to preserving freedom of religion for Americans. Mr. Baylor litigates cases to protect the rights of Christian students, faculty, and staff at colleges and universities across the nation. He represents Geneva College in its case against the Obama administration, challenging the mandate that requires the college to provide abortion-inducing medications as part of its health-care coverage to employees and students.
- The ceremony in Reeves Stadium will not be ticketed. You may bring an unlimited number of family members and other guests. However, if the event must be moved indoors due to weather, **a ticket will be required** to enter the Fieldhouse. Each graduate will receive six (6) tickets. If your graduate does not need all six tickets, we ask that they be returned to the Events office. Extra tickets will be given out on a first come, first served basis starting May 1. You can receive extra tickets by contacting Heather Jones either in person (Office of Events Planning) or by calling 724-847-6520 starting at 8:00 AM on May 1. Please do not send an email. We will be strictly enforcing this system, so thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.
- The bleachers in both the Fieldhouse and Reeves Stadium are hard and do not have seat backs. You are welcome to bring a stadium cushion or stadium seat with a back.
- Everyone is invited to a light refreshment reception held immediately following the ceremony at various sites around campus.

- The **campus store** will be open 8:30 am to 6:00 pm on commencement day.
- **Parking and traffic flow** are always a special challenge at Commencement. If your family is able to walk, please park on the street or in one of the peripheral campus parking lots. Please be courteous to our neighbors and do not block private driveways or park in the lots of the local business establishments. Traffic is always heavy on Commencement morning and it is advisable to give yourself an extra 20-30 minutes so that you arrive on time.
- Information for persons with **disabilities or limited mobility**
 - **Parking:** There are limited spaces available for individuals with physical disabilities and special needs. If you require special parking accommodations, even if you have a license plate or placard, please complete the request for parking accommodations on the “Special request” section of the Commencement webpage. Those with a Geneva Commencement parking pass displayed on their dashboard will be directed to the drop off location where staff will be present to assist you in parking and unloading.
 - **Seating:** Special seating is available for those unable to climb bleachers. Limited space for wheelchairs is also available. Since space is limited, we ask that **only one** family member sit with this person during the ceremony. Please arrive early to secure seating accessibility. A special seating pass does not guarantee a seat for those arriving late. Remember, bleacher seating is without a backrest, so some sort of stadium seat with a back may be helpful.
 - **Hearing Impaired:** If you would benefit from the service of an interpreter for Baccalaureate or Commencement, please make this request as soon as possible and no later than April 11, so that we can make proper arrangements.
 - **Tickets:** In the event that the ceremony is held indoors, a ticket will be required. Special seating and parking passes do not take the place of an actual ticket.
 - Overall, it is very helpful if you can inform us in advance (no later than April 23) if you have special needs so that we can provide the proper support. All special requests listed above, may be requested on the Special Request section of the Commencement webpage. www.geneva.edu/object/commence_special_request
- If your graduate is unable to attend Commencement, please notify the Registrar’s Office at 724-847-6576 as soon as possible. This information is critical for accurate planning.
- A **professional photographer** will take a picture of each graduate with the President. The proofs are sent to the graduate a short time after graduation; however, you are under no obligation to make a purchase. Use of a photographer has worked well as it reduces congestion around the podium and makes a better experience for all concerned. In order to be respectful to all graduates and their family and friends, no one is permitted to approach the podium to take pictures. You are welcome to take photographs from your seat.
- The commencement ceremony will be **videotaped** and will be available for purchase. An order form is available on the Commencement page of the Geneva website. We strongly urge you not to attempt to videotape the ceremony on your own.
- There are two chain **motels** located approximately 3.5 miles north of campus on Rt. 18, just off the PA Turnpike exit 13 – Holiday Inn (724- 846-3700) and Super 8 (724-843-9300). There are several other local motels in that area. In addition, there are many chain hotels and motels located in Cranberry, PA just off exit 28 on I-76. This area is approximately 20 miles from campus.

We look forward to seeing you on Commencement weekend. If you have special needs which are not addressed in this communication, please contact Heather Jones (events@geneva.edu or 724-847-6520) as soon as possible so that we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kenneth P. Carson
Provost

P.S. Please save this letter for reference when May 9 and 10 arrive!