

May 14, 2005

Dear Graduates:

Congratulations to each one of you as you complete your academic work here at Calvin—it's almost time for Commencement! It's the college's hope that you'll enjoy celebrating your accomplishments with your family and friends at Commencement. I know how you hate getting numerous Student News announcements, so I compiled all the information about graduation that has been "in the works" for this one email. You may know some of this information already. Between now and Saturday, May 21, 2005, the best place to receive the most up-to-date information for you and your Commencement guests is the Calvin Web site <http://www.calvin.edu/commencement/>.

MUST KNOW INFO:

1. **Commencement Ticket Pick Up.** Graduates may pick up their Commencement tickets at the Calvin Box Office at the following times:

- Thursday, May 19: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Friday, May 20: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Saturday, May 21: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Note: Each graduate may pick up only their own ticket order and must show their Calvin student ID. Any graduate who places tickets on the "will-call" list for a family member to pick up from the Box Office (also during the hours listed above) must leave that family member's name with the Box Office. That family member must show proper identification when picking up the tickets.

2. **Cap & Gown Pick Up.** Graduates may pick up their Commencement Cap & Gown at FAC Room 123 at the following times:

- Thursday, May 19: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Friday, May 20: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Saturday, May 21: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

3. **Required Identification for Graduates on Saturday, May 21.** In order to process into the Fieldhouse for the Commencement Ceremony each graduate must have:

- their Calvin student ID (if you don't have one, the housing office will issue one for this purpose for no charge.)
- your grey-colored ticket (issued when you pick up your Cap & Gown)
- your Commencement name card (issued when you pick up your Cap & Gown).

The Commencement name card will be used by the faculty members who will read each graduate's name during the Ceremony.

Graduates will not be allowed to enter the Fieldhouse on Saturday, May 21 without each of these three items. (It's harsh, but true.)

4. **Commencement Rehearsal is on Friday, May 20 at 3:30 pm in the Fieldhouse.**

While in years past Commencement Rehearsal was important, this year it is especially important because there will be extra procedures in place to get each graduate through the security measures. When you arrive at the Fieldhouse look for the signs outside on the northeast and northwest corners of the gym indicating where the various majors will gather and then go stand by your major. The rehearsal will allow us to practice processing in to the Fieldhouse and also share some last-minute announcements- like

when to line up on Saturday.

5. **Commencement worship service on Friday, May 20 at 5:00 pm in the Chapel.** Parents and family members have been invited as well. The service will feature a choir, seniors reflecting on their years at Calvin, a brass ensemble, a worship band, and other leaders.
6. **Commencement Cookout on Friday, May 20 from 5:30-7:00 pm.** You and your Commencement guests are invited to celebrate together at the Commencement Cookout which will be held on the Commons lawn. In case of rain the cookout will be held in the Commons and Knollcrest dining halls.
7. **Senior breakfast on Saturday, May 21 is now a brunch (more food) and begins at 10:00 am in the Commons Dining Hall.** You received a personal letter of invitation separately. This event, lasting about an hour and forty five minutes, will feature good food, wonderful fellowship and great prizes! Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff will briefly address you with an informal talk entitled "Reflections of a Scholar." Many of you wanted to hear Dr. Wolterstorff speak at Commencement.
8. **Saturday Parking and "Coat check"** Would you please park in the lot on the east side of the East Beltline? This will leave the closer, more convenient parking spaces for your parents, grandparents and guests, and they would certainly appreciate that courtesy. Due to the busyness of the day and the need to ensure that we begin the Commencement ceremony on time, we ask you to consider remaining on campus between the senior brunch and the ceremony. You could arrive at the brunch ready for Commencement or perhaps bring a change of clothes with you. **BHT** will be open and available after the brunch and before the ceremony so you can change your clothes and get ready. Also, to save time getting through the metal detectors, we will have a "coat check" system, really, a "stuff check" system, for cell phones, keys, coins, etc—anything that you won't be able to take into the Fieldhouse. These items will be secured during the ceremony can be picked up from a table on the Commons Lawn after Commencement. The only items you can carry into the Fieldhouse are your wallet and your three required security items (Calvin ID, grey ticket, and name card).
9. **Commencement begins at 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 21.** We are planning on very little time delay with the graduate procession because the "stuff" that you might normally have in your pockets will have been left at the "stuff check." Because you'll be passing through a metal detector, we ask that you not wear shoes, belts, or jewelry that may trigger the alarm. Think "airport security" and what would set off the metal detector alarms. At this time we anticipate that the faculty will process in at 1:45 pm so we can begin the ceremony at 2:00 pm. You will have processed before that time. Parents and family have been advised to plan their schedules -- arrival time, parking, passing through security, etc. -- so that all guests holding tickets to the Fieldhouse can be inside the building and seated by 1:00 pm. Because some of the details and security issues surrounding Commencement 2005 are beyond our control, we continue to advise guests and graduates to periodically refer to the Commencement Web site next week to receive updates, as all of these times and details may be subject to change next week.
10. The FAC, Gezon Auditorium and the Chapel will provide overflow seating for guests. Guests entering these venues will still need tickets, but will not have to pass through metal detectors. Please note that all venues, including the Fieldhouse, will be air conditioned this year.

MY THOUGHTS ON DISSENT AND HOSPITALITY:

The speech writer for President Bush has been in contact with us. They are serious about knowing Calvin and what we are about. They are writing a speech for us.

Some student leaders are offering a button/sticker that says, "God is not a Democrat or a Republican." They have been thoughtful about what wearing the sticker means and they will have a letter explaining it for those desiring this option.

My number one hope is that all of our Commencement visitors – your family members and guests, the President, Secret Service and other security personnel, members of the national and local press, and outside protesters -- will see that we at Calvin welcome the stranger well, and that we are a civil, loving and grace-filled people. I also long for this to be a wonderful day for you and your guests. You have been a wonderful class and we hate to see you leave. As to the rest, let's make the whole weekend a matter of prayer.

Warmly and with admiration for all you've accomplished,
Shirley V. Hoogstra
Vice President for Student Life