

Colgate University

February 8, 2018

Dear Members of the Colgate Class of 2018:

Colgate's 197th Commencement is an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments you have made as a class and as individual members of this community. This letter outlines the schedule of events for the weekend and important information leading up to Commencement Weekend 2018.

Please know that all of the information contained in this letter, as well as additional information about the weekend's events, is available on the commencement website at www.colgate.edu/commencement.

The three major events of the weekend are as follows, though there are many other events for specific groups listed on the web site.

- **First, the Baccalaureate service will take place on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. in the Memorial Chapel.** This traditional event begins the formal festivities of the weekend and will feature addresses by the member of your class chosen as the 1819 Award recipient and President Casey. This event fills the chapel, so please encourage your family members to arrive early. Graduating seniors will line up outside the chapel at 3 p.m. in gowns (no caps are needed).
- **The senior procession will be held on Saturday night at 8:30 p.m.** Graduating seniors line up on the Academic Quad at 8 p.m. and will process toward Willow Path and the reception site. At this time, as you know, the campus is still engaged in conversations about the exact form of this procession. As a result, we will communicate details about the procession later this spring. Following this event is the **President's Reception** at which graduating seniors and their guests will enjoy champagne and desserts.
- **Commencement Exercises will begin at 10:30 a.m.** on Sunday, May 20, 2018. I am pleased to announce commencement will be held outdoors in its traditional location, adjacent to Taylor Lake, weather permitting. Seniors will line-up ahead of time at 9:30 a.m. under the tent on Whitnall Field. (In the event that commencement is held indoors, students should report to the 1965 Class Arena at 9:30 a.m. for seating instructions and details about the ceremony.)

In the event that we must move commencement to the indoor location of Sanford Field House, rain tickets will be needed. You may request up to six (6) tickets for the ceremony by clicking on this [link](#). Here you will also be able to type in the phonetic spelling of your name to ensure that your name is pronounced correctly when it is called.

The deadline for to request rain tickets is Friday, March 16.

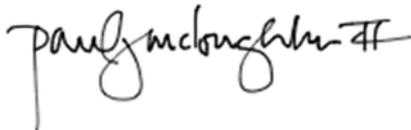
Additional Information:

- We will host a dinner for all graduates and their guests on Friday night this year, held on Whitnall Field at 6:30 p.m. This event will feature music, including Colgate's *a cappella* groups.
- **Caps and gowns** should be reserved in advance (available at no cost to you) on the [Oak Hall website](#). This is the only way to reserve your cap and gown. The deadline for ordering caps and gowns is also Friday, March 16.
- ASL Interpreters will be signing during the baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies; however, if you anticipate needing additional accommodations during Commencement Weekend, please email Michele Carney at mcarney@colgate.edu as soon as possible to help ensure our ability to meet these special requests.

Watch your inbox and www.colgate.edu/commencement for more information arriving in the next couple of months and be sure to attend the **Graduation Fair in the Coop TV Room on Tuesday, February 13 from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** where you will be able to get all your graduation needs taken care of in one stop.

I hope your final semester at Colgate is off to a great start and look forward to celebrating this important weekend with all of you this May.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. McLoughlin II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'P' and 'M'.

Paul J. McLoughlin II
Vice President and Dean of the College