Dear families of the Class of 2016:

As young and fresh-out-of high school 18-year-olds just four years ago, the year 2016 seemed inconceivably distant. President Obama still had one more term in office, the MLB and NFL Giants were world champions of their respective sports, and as the summer of 2012 wound down, we had finally arrived at the magical campus of Colgate. Between now and then, the Class of 2016 has shared countless memories together. We have created friendships and relationships to last a lifetime, we immersed ourselves in new and challenging academic disciplines, and we were quick to call Hamilton, New York our second home.

While magazines and college evaluators may be quick to include Colgate graduates on its lists for highest average incomes out of college, I believe the diploma we will be receiving this coming May represents much more than a number on a paycheck. It represents hours upon hours in the library working hard to reach paper deadlines and exam dates; it symbolizes huge commitments to extra-curricular club and athletic activities; and it is the culmination of years upon years of support from our loving family members and friends. As such, on behalf of the Class of 2016, it is my honor to invite you to this year’s commencement weekend. Please join us in celebration and appreciation of the many family, friends, and mentors who have all enabled our past and present successes, as we look to begin our exciting endeavors and journeys of tomorrow.

Below you will find an abbreviated schedule for commencement weekend, Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15, 2016. Additional information about commencement weekend is also available on our website at www.colgate.edu/commencement.

This year Colgate’s commencement ceremony will take place in Sanford Field House at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 15. Starting February 1, each senior will be able to request up to six tickets for the ceremony. Only seniors will be able to reserve tickets and each will receive detailed information explaining how to do so. For guests with special needs (hearing impaired, wheelchair, etc.), there will be reserved seating. When seniors reserve tickets, it will be important to indicate whether a guest with special needs will be attending. If this information is not given when reserving tickets, we may not be able to accommodate guests’ needs the day of commencement. A live webcast of the commencement ceremony will be available at Golden Auditorium in Little Hall, which is wheelchair accessible. A live webcast of the ceremony that can be viewed on smartphones, tablets, or computers will be hosted on the home page of Colgate.edu during the ceremony, and then archived at Colgate.edu/commencement.

A baccalaureate service will take place in the Colgate Memorial Chapel on Saturday afternoon, May 14 at 2:30 p.m. It is advised that you arrive early since seating is limited. Baccalaureate is a wonderful non-denominational event that will feature an excellent speaker.

Colgate a capella groups will perform at various locations on campus. Seating is limited and will be on a first come, first served basis.
The Torchlight Ceremony on Saturday night is one of Colgate’s oldest and most memorable traditions. In the interest of safety, recent graduating classes have made a concerted effort to reduce the level of drinking taking place prior to and during the ceremony. Cooperation from students and parents is greatly appreciated. We hope the members of the Class of 2016 and their guests will continue this effort to ensure safety and help maintain the tradition for future graduating classes.

Since Colgate is some distance from major hotels, we offer on-campus housing for guests of graduating seniors from Friday, May 13 through Monday, May 16. Families of each senior may reserve up to six (6) beds in campus residence halls. Single, double, triple, and suite-style rooms are available at a rate of $45.00 per person, per night. Requests for room assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage you to be timely in your response. To make reservations, please visit: www.colgate.edu/offices-and-services/commencement/parents or call our office at 315-228-7367. Reservations and payment in full must be received no later than Monday, April 18.

Additionally, arrangements have been made for professionals to photograph seniors as they receive their diplomas. There will also be an interpreter available at these ceremonies for the hearing impaired.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this special occasion!

Sincerely,

Adam Basciano
President, Class of 2016

Enclosures

**Colgate University 2016 Commencement Preliminary Schedule of Events**

**Saturday, May 14**
8:30-10:00 a.m.
Senior Awards Breakfast
(by invitation only)
*TBD*

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
International Students & Families Drop-In
Coffee Hour/Photo Booth
*Clark Room, James C. Colgate Hall*

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
Phi Beta Kappa Initiation
*Memorial Chapel*

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Baccalaureate Service
*Memorial Chapel*

4:30 p.m.
Catholic Mass
*Memorial Chapel*

**Evening Entertainment**
Limited seating on a first come, first served basis.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Colgate Thirteen and Swinging 'Gates, Dischords, Mantiphondrakes and Resolutions perform
*Memorial Chapel, Olin Hall, Little Hall and Dana Arts Center*

8:30 p.m.
Torchlight Procession
*Memorial Chapel and Whitnall Field*

**Sunday, May 15**
9:30 a.m.
Formation of academic procession
*Under Dunlap Stands*

10:30 a.m.
University Commencement
*Sanford Field House*

Immediately following the ceremony, an ice cream social will be held for graduates, families, and faculty.

*times & locations subject to change