MEMORANDUM TO GRADUATES ABOUT COMMENCEMENT

Graduates may invite as many guests to attend the Baccalaureate and Graduation ceremonies as they wish. No tickets are needed.

CAPS AND GOWNS

Commencement robes ordered through the Woods College of Advancing Studies office may be picked up in McGuinn 100 the week of May 14th.

FORMAL GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Formal graduation announcements are offered on-line only. They are not tickets; they merely announce the general commencement or ceremony. For relatives or friends who may not be attending, these announcements are a courtesy. Printed announcements can be purchased through the bookstore. Information regarding parking will be included in your commencement package.

BACCALAUREATE CEREMONY

The Baccalaureate Ceremony will be held Sunday, May 20th at 12:00 noon in Conte Forum. Seniors, family and friends are encouraged to participate in this Mass and religious observance. It is a memorable ceremony of thanksgiving and jubilation. I strongly encourage you and those close to you to attend. Commencement robes (no hood or caps) may be worn by those graduating. Weather permitting, immediately following the ceremony there will be light refreshments available on the O'Neill Library Plaza.

COMMENCEMENT DAY

The following details concerning your Commencement on Monday, May 21st, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. will be helpful to you and your guests.

Candidates and their guests may use the parking area on the lower campus. Allow adequate time to access campus and parking. Upon arrival, guests should go immediately to Alumni Stadium, the scene of the Commencement exercises. The ceremony will be in Alumni Stadium, rain or shine. No tickets are required.
Woods College of Advancing Studies candidates assemble by 8:15 a.m. in the North side of Conte Forum, Gate C, attired in cap and gown, carrying your hood over your left arm. It seems advisable to note that male candidates will find the best appearance is effected if a dress shirt and dark tie are worn. Women graduates should be aware that decorative jewelry or flowers should not be worn on the academic gown.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED DURING THE EXERCISES

Following the academic procession and upon reaching your place at Alumni Stadium you should be seated until the Cardinal's entrance is announced. You should then stand. Males should remove their caps. You should remain standing for the National Anthem and Invocation. Males should replace their caps when the Invocation is concluded. You sit after the Cardinal sits.

The undergraduate capping ceremony is followed immediately by the graduate representative being called forward for the graduate student capping. When the representative of the Woods College of Advancing Studies goes to the platform to receive the degree you should stand. As the degree recipient reaches the top step, all males of the Woods College of Advancing Studies should remove their caps and place them on the seat behind them. When, after having received the degree, the representative is hooded by the President, you should put on your hood. Males then replace caps when the recipient does. Turn your tassel when the representative does. All should sit when the representative has returned and is seated.

At the conclusion of the exercises, you should stand for the Benediction and males remove their caps. After the Benediction, all should remain standing for the singing of the Alma Mater. At the end of the Alma Mater, males should replace their caps.

COLLEGE OF ADVANCING STUDIES PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

Presentation of degrees to individual candidates of the College of Advancing Studies will take place at St. Ignatius Church immediately after the general university exercises: this will be about 11:45 a.m. Candidates should arrange to accompany their guests to St. Ignatius Church. There will be a professional photography service available at St. Ignatius, capturing the moment when you receive your degree. You will be contacted by Commencement Photos with the opportunity to purchase prints. The Dean will also be happy to pose with any graduate immediately following the ceremony. After the ceremony, light refreshments will be available to the graduates and their guests. A representative from the rental company will collect caps and gowns at the church; the hood and tassel may be retained.

HONORS - Bachelor's Degree Only

Honors printed in the Commencement program are based on averages at the end of the second semester, 2011-2012. The degree summa cum laude is awarded to the top 4.5% of the undergraduate graduating class, magna cum laude to the next 9.5% and cum laude to the next 15%.

The following grade point averages were the actual honors for the Class of 2011:

- Summa 4.00-3.943; magna 3.942-3.793; cum 3.792-3.628

*Remember*, this provides only a guideline as the ranges fluctuate each year.