DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF GRADUATES:

Commencement 2015 is still several months away. But our planning is in process for that very special occasion, when Boston College acknowledges our students’ achievements and gives you an opportunity to congratulate and celebrate with them as they move to the next stage of their lives.

Because each student and family’s commencement is special, we want to share with you a schedule of events and information that we hope will help you make plans for your son or daughter’s graduation.

The week before graduation is filled with special events. We consider one of particular importance: the Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, May 17, at 12:00 p.m. That is when graduates, their families, and friends join the Boston College Jesuit Community, faculty, staff, campus ministers, and students for a beautiful liturgy in Conte Forum.

University Commencement Exercises take place the following day, Monday, May 18, in Alumni Stadium. They begin at 9:15 a.m. with an academic procession into the stadium for the main ceremony. It is followed at noon by Individual School and College Diploma Ceremonies at different locations on campus.

More than 50 colleges and universities in Greater Boston hold their commencement ceremonies in May, so we urge you to make hotel reservations as soon as possible. We have included a link to a list of some area hotels, guesthouses, and reservation services in this newsletter. Please note the Boston College Commencement website address and other contact information, and do not hesitate to contact us if you need any assistance in planning for this great event.

We at Boston College are very grateful to you for the blessing your child has brought to our college community. We truly look forward to welcoming you to our campus in May for Boston College’s 139th Commencement.

Sincerely,

Terrence P. Devine, S.J.
Vice President and University Secretary

www.bc.edu/commencement
COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION AND MAILINGS
Undergraduate students will receive the Undergraduate Student Commencement Planning Guide in January and a more detailed version in March. Both will be sent via e-mail.

Parents will receive the printed Guide for Graduates and their Families at their homes in March.

All Commencement information appears on the University’s Commencement website:
www.bc.edu/commencement

DECEMBER GRADUATES
All December graduates are invited to participate in the University Commencement in May 2015.

For undergraduates completing their degrees in December, there will be a Baccalaureate Mass followed by a reception for graduates and their families. No diplomas will be presented at this time. Diplomas will be mailed in early January to the graduate’s home address as listed on Agora.

In November, additional information on the December Baccalaureate Mass will be sent to undergraduates graduating in December.

COMMENCEMENT INVITATIONS
During the month of March, each student will receive access to a specially designed electronic invitation. This invitation may be sent by the student to family and friends.

Personalized printed announcements or invitations are available through the Boston College Bookstore and can be ordered by calling 800-433-0296 or through www.cbgrad.balfour.com.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
The Commencement Speaker will be announced by the student newspaper The Heights and other University publications in mid April.

COMMENCEMENT FAIR
At the Commencement Fair, which will be held March 24 and 25 in the Murray Room, graduating students may order caps and gowns, purchase Senior Week tickets, shop for senior class rings, and buy football tickets specially priced for GOLD alumni (those who have graduated in the last decade). They will also have the opportunity to join the Senior Gift Honor Roll, sign up for or complete financial aid exit interviews, and speak with career counselors.

CAP AND GOWN RENTAL AND PICKUP
Academic regalia may be rented or purchased from the University’s vendor online or on campus during the Commencement Fair and during the following days and times:

Wednesday, May 13, 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 14, 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.
Friday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Advance online ordering is encouraged. Regardless of order method, all students must pick up their regalia in person during the days and times listed above.

Those renting will be able to drop their regalia off at a variety of sites after the conclusion of the Commencement activities.

SPECIAL AWARDS AND CEREMONIES
Students will be notified in advance if they are receiving a special award from their school or college or if they have been nominated as a Phi Beta Kappa inductee. The presentation of these awards will take place either at a special Awards Ceremony on Sunday, at the individual Diploma Ceremonies on Monday, or at the Phi Beta Kappa Initiation Ceremony on Sunday.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS
Each school and college arranges to have a photographer take a photo of each graduate receiving his or her diploma. Information on placing an order will be sent in advance.
**Parking**

For the Baccalaureate Mass on Sunday, families and guests of graduates may use the entire parking area on Lower Campus, including the two garages.

Heavy traffic can be expected traveling to campus on Monday since close to 20,000 people will attend Commencement. Please allow ample time to reach campus. Lower Campus parking, including one of the two garages, is available for graduates and their guests. However, given the significant number of attendees, there is not adequate campus parking. Two satellite sites, the Brighton Campus and the Newton Campus, are available for BC parking and shuttle bus service is provided to the stadium.

Additional parking information will be included in the March mailing.

**Students and Guests with Disabilities**

There are special arrangements for students and guests with disabilities.

Any student requiring special arrangements should contact his or her dean as soon as possible.

Guests with handicapped license plates or placards will be provided with reserved parking in the Beacon Street Garage on Commencement Day.

Special seating for those confined to wheelchairs will be provided on Commencement Day.

Those who need to reserve seating or parking may do so after April 1, 2015. Additional information will be included with the March mailing.

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**Important Contacts**

**Commencement Office**

617–552–4330 || www.bc.edu/commencement

**Office of Student Services**

Academic, Financial, and Auxiliary Services

Information about the student’s status in fulfilling degree requirements, student financial accounts, and transcripts/records

617–552–3300 or 800–294–0294

www.bc.edu/studentservices

**Office of Residential Life**

617–552–3060 || www.bc.edu/reslife

**Student Programs Office**

617–552–3492 || www.bc.edu/seniorweek

**Boston College Bookstore**

617–552–0900 or 800–978–0978

www.bc.edu/bookstore

**Boston College Police**

617–552–4444 for emergencies

617–552–4440 for general inquiries

**Hotel Accommodations**

There are many hotels close to Boston College. It is important that you make your hotel reservations as soon as possible as there are many area colleges and universities whose commencements are held at the same time.

The link below will take you to a comprehensive list of area hotels. The distance from each hotel to Boston College is noted and some will provide a discounted rate to BC parents and visitors. To access this list, please go to:

www.bc.edu/hotels
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015
9:30 a.m.
ROTC Commissioning

10:00 a.m.
Phi Beta Kappa Initiation Ceremony

10:00 a.m.
Alumni Legacy Reception

12:00 noon
Baccalaureate Mass

1:30 p.m.
Parent/Graduate Reception

2:00 p.m.
Carroll School of Management Awards Ceremony

3:00 p.m.
Connell School of Nursing Senior Convocation

3:00 p.m.
College of Arts and Sciences Awards Ceremony

3:00 p.m.
Lynch School of Education Awards Ceremony

5:00 p.m.
Graduate Nurses’ Association Commencement Dinner and Awards Ceremony

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015
9:15 a.m.
Academic Procession and University Commencement

12:00 noon
Individual School/College Diploma Ceremonies

VISIT US ONLINE AT
www.bc.edu/commencement
www.bc.edu/2015 (mobile)