

UNION
COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1795

March 1, 2018

To the Families of Graduating Students:

Union College will hold its 224th Commencement Exercises at the Roger Hull Plaza in front of Schaffer Library on Sunday, June 17. I am writing with information that I hope will assist you in planning for that weekend. Information regarding the Commencement weekend can be found at www.union.edu/commencement, where any updates will also be posted.

On Saturday, June 16, please plan to attend the Baccalaureate Commemoration at 4:00 p.m. in Memorial Chapel. This is a ceremony that includes senior class speakers and musical performances for the graduating seniors and their guests. On Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m., there will be an opportunity to gather in College Park Hall for the Garnet Gala, to which you will receive an invitation from the Alumni Office in May. Registration is required for the Garnet Gala and admission is free. For information regarding the Garnet Gala, please visit www.union.edu/garnetgala.

On Sunday, June 17, the Commencement ceremony will be held outside, weather permitting, in front of Schaffer Library, with the academic procession at 9:30 a.m. followed by the ceremony at 10:00 a.m. There will be unlimited outdoor seating as well as seating under two large tents on either side of the Nott Memorial. No tickets are required. After the Recessional, graduating seniors will go to Rugby Field, just west of the Nott Memorial, to get their diplomas from the faculty. This is an ideal opportunity for you to get close-up shots of students with their favorite faculty members, family members and friends.

In case of light rain, the ceremony will still be held outdoors. Guests can remain outdoors in the Library Plaza, or they may watch the ceremony indoors at the nearby Reamer Campus Center Auditorium.

In the event of sustained, drenching rain or severe weather, the ceremony will be held in the Memorial Field House and rain tickets marked "Memorial Field House" will be required. Due to limited indoor seating capacity, each student can request a maximum of 4 rain tickets to the Memorial Field House, which will be sent to students' campus mailboxes by the end of May. Others may seek refuge in the adjacent Messa Rink and view the ceremony on a big screen. For questions regarding rain tickets, please contact Emily Tong at tonge@union.edu.

The College will also broadcast the ceremony live, and guests can view it in real time, during good or bad weather. The link for the broadcast will appear on the main commencement web page. The unedited video archive will be posted on the College website for unlimited access.

For more information regarding the rain arrangements, please visit the Commencement website. On the morning of Commencement, you may also call (518) 388-8373 after 8:00 a.m. for a voice message or check the commencement web page for exact information about weather and ceremony location. Please bring umbrellas and other rain gear in case we face inclement weather.

We regret that parking is not available in close proximity to the ceremony on campus for all guests. Please seek parking spaces at College Park Hall on lower Nott Street and on neighboring streets. Golf cart transportation will be available for those who park at the College Park Hall lot. No reservation is needed. Another alternative for those with a handicapped parking tag is to park in one of the two designated parking lots specially assigned for handicapped parking and proceed to the Commencement site. Campus safety officers will be stationed at all entrances of the campus to direct cars to on-campus parking on a first-come, first-served basis. For drop-off, the nearest drop-off circle is outside Old Chapel. A special seating area will be available for people with disabilities; tickets are required for this area. Please contact Emily Tong at tonge@union.edu or call her at 518-388-6102 for special tickets. If there is a need for sign interpreters, please let Emily know by Monday, May 7 so that she can make such arrangements.

To recognize each student individually, we will call graduates' names in alphabetical order. This will make it easy for all to anticipate the moment at which particular names will be called. I ask that parents and friends refrain from moving up to the platform or otherwise obstructing the flow of the procession to take pictures. Grad Images (www.gradimages.com) will take three individual pictures of each graduating senior: first before crossing the stage, second while receiving diploma cases from President Ainlay, and the last while leaving the stage. Approximately two weeks after Commencement, Grad Images will send a selection of proofs to your son or daughter's union.edu email address so that you may purchase photographs if you wish. In addition, Balfour will be providing graduation announcements and other related products. Allowing these companies to provide you information is intended as a service for graduates and their families. You are under no obligation to purchase their products.

Commencement at Union is a joyous occasion. We hope that the commencement ceremony is a memorable and pleasurable celebration for you. I'm sure you'll enjoy the campus and the activities of the weekend. All of us here at Union look forward to your visit.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Strom Thacker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Strom" and last name "Thacker" clearly distinguishable.

Strom Thacker
Stephen J. and Diane K. Ciesinski Dean of the Faculty
and Vice President for Academic Affairs