

March 1, 2020

To the Families of Graduating Students:

Union College will hold its 226th Commencement Exercises at Roger Hull Plaza in front of Schaffer Library on Sunday, June 14. I am writing with information that I hope will assist you in planning for that weekend. Information regarding commencement weekend can be found at www.union.edu/commencement, where any updates will also be posted.

On Saturday, June 13, 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 Sunday, June 14, 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 front of Schaffer Library, or they may watch the ceremony indoors at the nearby Reamer Campus Center Auditorium.

In the event of sustained, heavy rain or severe weather, the ceremony will be held in Memorial Field House and rain tickets marked "Memorial Field House" will be required. Due to limited indoor seating capacity, each student can receive a maximum of 4 rain tickets to Memorial Field House, which will be sent to students' campus mailboxes by the end of May. Others may view the ceremony on a big screen in the adjacent Messa Rink and the Reamer Campus Center Auditorium. 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, regardless of 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 the most up-to-date information regarding weather and other 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 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 518-388-6102 for these tickets. If there is a need for sign interpreters, please let Emily know by Monday, May 4 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: the first before crossing the stage, the second while receiving a diploma case from President David Harris, and the last while leaving the stage. Approximately two weeks after commencement, Grad Images will send a selection of proofs to the student'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

The Schedule

(www.union.edu/commencement)

Saturday, June 13, 2020

4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Baccalaureate Commemoration, Memorial Chapel

Sunday, June 14, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Academic Procession, Schaffer Library Plaza

10 a.m.

Commencement Ceremony, Schaffer Library Plaza.

In heavy rain, the ceremony will be held in Memorial Field House.

To confirm exact location that morning, visit the website www.union.edu/commencement or call (518) 388-8373 starting at 8 a.m. for a voice message.

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First Aid and Emergencies

First aid will be available on Sunday, June 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Karp Hall Room 103. Campus Safety officers will provide assistance throughout the weekend. For emergency, call Campus Safety at (518) 388-6911.

Schaffer Library

Open Saturday, June 13 from 12:00 noon to 5 p.m.

The College Bookstore

Open Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Flowers, photos frames, T-shirts and souvenirs are available for purchase at the bookstore.