

April 30, 2009

Dear Members of the College Class of 2009:

Spring has arrived and Commencement will soon be upon us. Congratulations! This is a joyous time for the Georgetown community, and you should be very proud of all that you have achieved.

While I am sure that these days are busy ones for you with exams and preparations for graduation, I ask that you take a few moments to read this letter and to review the enclosed materials carefully. **These are the instructions that will guide you through Commencement Weekend.**

On Thursday, May 14 at 2:00 pm, the University holds Senior Convocation in McDonough Gymnasium. I encourage all of you to participate in this event, which is an important Georgetown tradition. For ticket information, contact mcevent@georgetown.edu.

All seniors and their families are invited to the College's awards ceremony, *Tropaia* on **Friday, May 15 at 12:30 pm in Gaston Hall**. Named after the Greek word for trophies, *Tropaia* is a program during which departmental excellence awards are presented. The traditional *Cohonguroton Oration* is given by the Class Valedictorian and the student-selected Bunn Award for Faculty Excellence is presented. It is an impressive ceremony—even if you are not receiving an award—and I hope that you and your family will attend. A reception for all College seniors and their families will follow in the ICC Galleria. As you know, the Senior Ball is that evening.

The College will hold its 210th Commencement on Healy Lawn on **Saturday, May 16 at 3:00 pm** with open seating. We will confer the honorary degree and have the Commencement Address. Seniors proceed across the stage as their names are read and then degrees are conferred *en masse* by the President. The program lasts approximately two hours. After the recessional, diplomas are distributed on the lawn. With the formal exercises concluded, a festive spirit dominates Copley Lawn where you will have ample time to mingle and pose for pictures with family, friends and faculty.

Enclosed, you will find detailed instructions for Commencement, as well as rain site and diploma distribution information. **Please note: in the event of inclement weather, College Commencement will be held in two parts in McDonough Gym - all students A to K at 3:00 pm and all students L to Z at 5:30 pm.** Each student will receive seven (7) tickets for Commencement seating in case of rain. The tickets are in this packet. If you have any questions about graduation, please visit the Dean's Office or contact us at 687-4043. You may also check the College's Commencement web page <http://college.georgetown.edu/persona/current/43577.html> for updated information. Should you require any assistance for handicapped visitors, please contact Ms. Keshia Woods, Academic Counselor, at 687-4043 in 108 White-Gravenor, before May 1.

Above all, I want to congratulate you again on your upcoming graduation. I look forward to visiting with many of you and your families during our Commencement celebration.

With all my best wishes in this exciting time,

Chester Gillis
Interim Dean