CommenCement in our 158th Year

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Ceremony to be held
Sunday, May 4, 2008
1:00 p.m.

Eckley Quadrangle
that seating in the Performance Arena is very limited and consists primarily of bleacher seats. Guests who wish to be seated in the Arena must have tickets in order to gain entrance to the ceremony. Four tickets are enclosed in this mailing to the family of the graduate; the student mailing does not include any tickets.

The doors to the Performance Arena will open at 11 a.m. for ticket-taking and seating. All unoccupied seats will be released at 12:15 p.m. for general seating.

Guests who do not have tickets may view the ceremony on a large-screen remote simulcast in the Shirk Center Practice Gym, located next to the Performance Arena, the Hansen Student Center (#13 on the map), located south of the Shirk Center, and the Young Main Lounge in the Memorial Center (#21).

PARKING
Convenient parking lots are located on Empire Street, Beecher Street and at the Shirk Center (see map). Commencement guests may park in any area of the University parking lots except for those designated as disabled or loading zones.

Assessment of the local weather situation is made at 9:00 a.m. on May 4. You may call the Main Desk at (309) 556-1000 after 9 a.m. if you have questions regarding where the ceremony will be held. If further review is required, a final determination is made at 11 a.m. Although we traditionally schedule an outdoor ceremony, even in light rain and cool temperatures, we strongly encourage guests to be prepared for both an outdoor and indoor ceremony. This includes appropriate clothing, rain gear, tickets for an indoor ceremony, and food items as desired before the ceremony begins.

INDOOR CEREMONY
If heavy rains or weather alerts require the ceremony to be held in the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson Street, (#32 on the map), please note stage or in general lawn chair seating, which can be accessed via sidewalks. Golf cart service is also available for one hour after the Ceremony concludes; guests may be picked up at the same drop-off spot.

Outdoor Ceremony:
A drop-off spot is available in the Shirk Center parking lot (see map) which is near the lower level entry to the Performance Arena. Guests must have a ticket in order to be seated in the Performance Arena. Wheel-chair accessible spaces will be located on the floor of the Arena (behind the reserved graduate and faculty seating) and on the balcony level. An elevator is located in the building to reach the balcony level. Because non-bleacher space is extremely limited, seating in these areas is available only to guests needing assistance or wheelchair seating; other family members will not be able to sit in the non-bleacher seating sections. The front rows of the bleachers also provide seating for those who cannot climb the bleacher steps.

PHOTOS
During the awarding of degrees, a professional photograph will be taken of each graduate as the diploma is presented and as the graduate leaves the stage. The photo studio, Chappell Studio, will mail free color proofs to the student’s home address, along with information regarding purchase of photos. Families and friends may photograph during the ceremony, but we ask that they be considerate of other guests by not blocking their view of the ceremony.

If you have special requests, please contact the President’s Office at (309) 556-3151.