

March 3, 2008

To Candidates for the Ph.D., Ed.D., D.M.A. Degrees at the 158th Annual Commencement:

I would like to extend to you a cordial invitation to participate in your Commencement, the University's one hundred fifty-eighth, on Saturday, May 17, 2008.

The University's Doctoral Degree Commencement will be held at the Eastman Theatre. This ceremony is for students from The College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering, Eastman School of Music, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development, School of Nursing, and William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration. The May 17 event begins with a concert prelude at 9:00 a.m. The formal ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m. and should end at approximately 11:00 a.m. Following the Commencement ceremony, there will be a champagne/coffee reception in the Cominsky Promenade on the second floor of the Eastman School of Music.

At Commencement, the President formally confers the degrees and presents the individual diplomas to each graduate, who is then presented with his or her doctoral hood. This event is intended to be a grand, ceremonial occasion consistent with the distinguished accomplishments of graduates who have earned the University's highest academic degrees. In addition, it is our hope that this memorable affair will be warm and personal and enable you and your guests not only to celebrate your achievements but also to meet faculty and fellow students with whom you have worked.

To participate in the Doctoral Commencement Ceremony, all candidates are required to rent or buy their University of Rochester regalia. The deadline for ordering caps and gowns is **April 7**. If you wish to purchase doctoral regalia, orders can be taken at any of the University Bookstores. Doctoral candidates that rent regalia will return full regalia and will not keep caps and tassels. **Note: If rental regalia is not returned by May 23, 2008, a fee equal to the replacement value of \$806.00 for doctoral regalia will be billed to you directly.** Any regalia returned after June 2, 2008 will not be accepted for credit to your account. All orders must be placed by Monday, April 7 to guarantee availability before your commencement ceremony.

The enclosed blue form is your participation response card. In order to participate in the ceremony, you MUST return your participation response card (the blue card) with your regalia order form. Both are to be turned in at any of the University Bookstores. These blue cards contain important information that will affect the success of the ceremony such as name pronunciation, line-up order, and awarded degree. You must arrive by 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the ceremony. Anyone arriving after 8:30 a.m. will be placed at the end of the line and will receive a blank diploma. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Tickets are not required for admission to the Saturday morning ceremony, although we do ask that you indicate on the blue response card the number of guests in your party so that we may plan accordingly. Seating is available in a reserved area for guests with special needs. Again, we ask that you notify us by indicating special needs on the blue response card. The deadline for return of this form is **April 7**.

Wheelchairs are available from several local outlets. The following two companies rent wheelchairs on a daily/weekly basis. As their inventories are limited, you should call and make arrangements promptly.

Monroe Wheelchair
3340 Monroe Avenue
(888) 546-8595
(585) 385-3920

www.monroewheelchair.com

Upstate Home Care
200 Air Park Drive
(585) 328-2050

Other University Commencement Ceremonies are scheduled as follows.

School of Nursing Commencement

Bachelor's and Master's candidates from SON

1:30 p.m. Friday, May 16, 2008

Eastman Theatre

School of Medicine and Dentistry Commencement

Medical Doctor candidates from SMD

4:00 p.m. Friday, May 16, 2008

Eastman Theatre

Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development Commencement

Master's candidates from Warner School

2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 17, 2008

Strong Auditorium, River Campus

The College Commencement

Bachelor's and Master's candidates from The College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering

9:00 a.m. Sunday, May 18, 2008

Eastman Quadrangle, River Campus

Eastman School of Music Commencement

Bachelor's and Master's candidates from ESM

11:15 a.m. Sunday, May 18, 2008

Eastman Theatre

School of Medicine and Dentistry Master's Degree Commencement

Master's candidates from SMD

2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 18, 2008

Gallery Auditorium, Memorial Art Gallery

William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration Commencement

M.B.A., E.M.B.A., and M.S. candidates from Simon School

10:00 a.m. Sunday, June 8, 2008

Eastman Theatre

If you need additional information, please call the Conference and Events Office at 275-4111 or access the Commencement Web site at www.rochester.edu/commencement for frequently asked questions and information.

We look forward to sharing in the excitement of this celebration of your success.

Cordially,

Bruce Jacobs

Vice Provost and University Dean of Graduate Studies

Enclosures