Dear Parents of the Graduating Class of 2005:

Your sons and daughters are working diligently at this point in the semester and have probably not provided you much detail about graduation. I hope this letter and brochure answer some of the questions you may have about the weekend.

Commencement exercises will be on Sunday, May 15 at 1:30 pm beside Taylor Lake (even in light rain). This year’s commencement speaker will be Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund. Given the nature of upstate New York weather, you should bring rain gear as well as comfortable walking shoes. If it rains heavily, the ceremony will take place in Sanford Field House. Indoor seating is limited to five guests per graduating senior and tickets will be distributed to seniors starting May 2 in 112 McGregory (and at the Admissions building on day of commencement). We will also have large-screen, closed-circuit viewing available at Cotterell Court for overflow guests.

Baccalaureate will be on Sunday morning at 9:30 am at the Chapel. Reverend J. Bryan Hehir, former CEO and president of Catholic Charities USA and known theologian in ethics and international relations will be providing the keynote address. Due to the size of the Chapel, guest seating for Baccalaureate is limited, so please come early.

Saturday evening three traditional student a cappella concerts will be held at various venues on campus. These are popular events and tickets are required. Seniors can pick up their tickets in 112 McGregory Hall after May 2.

The Torchlight Procession on Saturday evening will begin in the Quadrangle at approximately 9:15 p.m. Please park your car by the O’Connor Campus Center on the hill or off campus because Alumni Road will be closed to traffic until after the seniors process. The Procession is quite striking when viewed from the Taylor Lake area and many families prefer to wait by the lake rather than remain in the quadrangle. We ask your cooperation in making the Torchlight proceed as smoothly as possible.

You have already received information about the Senior Supper and Brunch. If you have purchased tickets for either meal, but your son or daughter made alternate plans, you may request a refund. Tickets must accompany refund requests and must be made no later than May 2nd to Susan Huff, Sodexho Food Service. The Coop will be open on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for breakfast and lunch.

Various galleries and facilities will be open during the weekend. Seven Oaks Golf Course is taking reservations for tee times (824-1432). Tennis, squash and racquetball courts and the Fitness Center will also be available during the day on Friday and Saturday and Lineberry Natatorium hours will be posted.

I trust the enclosures will be useful if you have any questions. In addition feel free to look at our commencement web site at www.colgate.edu/commencement for our most up to date information and further details regarding the weekend. We all look forward to welcoming you to campus.

Sincerely,

Rajesh Bellani
Coordinator, Commencement Activities

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