November 21, 2016

Dear Parent of a School of Communication Senior:

As the Class of 2017’s time at Northwestern University nears its completion, the School of Communication is preparing for graduation. The following information is very important for you and your graduate; additional updates will be provided over the course of the academic year. There are two types of graduation ceremonies at Northwestern. Commencement is the university-wide event held on Friday, June 16, 2017 at Ryan Field. The School of Communication Convocations are the school-specific events and will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Pick Staiger Concert Hall. At the School of Communication Convocation, students who have completed their degrees will receive their diplomas.

Students who complete degree requirements in December 2016 or in March, June, August or December of 2017 are invited to participate in this convocation. We are sending letters to all students who have the potential to complete degree requirements by, or before, December 2017; your student may have a different plan.

The School of Communication conducts its Convocation in two ceremonies. While we would prefer to have the entire class of 2017 together at one event, dividing the convocation allows us to increase the number of guest tickets available to each graduating student while presenting diplomas and celebrating graduation in an intimate ceremony in Northwestern’s beautiful Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, a lovely building with air conditioning and superb acoustics.

This year, the School of Communication Convocation takes place on Saturday, June 17, 2017. The departments’ ceremonies will be divided as noted:

- 1:30 p.m. Radio/Television/Film, Dance, Performance Studies and Theatre
- 5:00 p.m. Communication Studies and Communication Sciences and Disorders

All students wear caps and gowns for the event and each graduate will be photographed as they receive their diploma cover from Dean Barbara O’Keefe. Information on how to order pictures will be provided to students when they download their tickets for Convocation. Each ceremony lasts approximately two hours and is followed by an outdoor reception. Diplomas will be mailed to the permanent address as listed in CAESAR approximately 6 weeks after the student’s degree is posted.

Each senior who attends Convocation will receive five tickets for guests. Tickets will be available for download from the University’s ticketing website in early April. Tickets guarantee admission, but do not reserve specific seats. Graduating students will not require a ticket. A limited number of additional tickets will be available on the online ticketing system. Students can reserve up to 2 additional tickets, if available, on a first-come-first-served basis.

Please talk with your soon-to-be-graduate now about travel and hotel arrangements, dinner reservations, and the number of tickets that will be available to them. As you can imagine, hotels are booked and restaurants very busy during graduation weekend. Additional information is available at http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/ and another letter will be mailed to you in April. We are looking forward to celebrating your student’s achievement with you.

Sincerely,

Sally Ewing
Associate Dean for Advising and Student Affairs