February 1, 2019

Dear Parents and Graduating Seniors,

We are delighted to announce that the School of Communication (SoC) 2019 Convocation will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at the newly renovated Welsh-Ryan Arena! This represents a change in venue and time mentioned in our previous letter of November, 2018, and will be the first time in many years that all SoC undergraduates will convene for a single ceremony. SoC students attend the SoC Convocation Ceremony even if they have a second major in WCAS or another school at Northwestern.

At the Convocation Ceremony, June 2019 graduates and students who completed their degree requirements in December 2018 and March 2019 will be recognized. Students who plan to complete their degree requirements in August or December of 2019 may also participate in Convocation.

The convocation speaker this year will be Greg Berlanti. Greg Berlanti (C94) is a prolific writer, director, and producer known for such hit television shows as Dawson’s Creek, Riverdale, and You. In addition to TV, Berlanti directed Love, Simon, the first major studio film to center on a gay teenage romance. Berlanti set a Hollywood record in 2018 when his company, Berlanti Productions, had 15 live-action scripted series airing concurrently on various networks and platforms. He has been nominated for a Golden Globe, two Writers Guild Awards, and a Directors Guild Award. During the Convocation ceremony, Dean Barbara O’Keefe, Associate Dean Lori Baptista and the department chairs will congratulate each graduating senior.

University Commencement takes place on Friday, June 21st at 9:30 a.m. at Ryan Field. All family members and friends who plan to attend SoC Convocation and/or University Commencement ceremonies are required to have tickets. Graduates will not need a ticket for themselves. Welsh-Ryan is substantially larger than our previous location, therefore, we are able to offer each member of the graduating class ten guest tickets. Tickets for both University Commencement and SoC Convocation will be distributed to graduates via the University Athletic Ticketing System and may be requested at the same time. All seating is general admission: tickets guarantee admission, but do not reserve specific seats.

Based upon the number of graduates eligible to participate in Convocation, there may be a limited pool of extra tickets for each ceremony. If available, students will be able to reserve up to 2 extra tickets on a first come, first-served basis until all tickets have been distributed. Additional tickets are not guaranteed to be available. Instructions will be sent to all graduating seniors about securing their tickets in late March or early April 2019.

If you or a member of your party is unable to comfortably climb one flight of stairs, you should request assisted seating for the SoC Convocation Ceremony at Welsh-Ryan Arena. To do so, please complete and return the form included with this letter and return it to address listed below. Students will also be able to request assisted seating for the University Commencement Ceremony at Ryan Field on the ticketing website. In both instances, an assisted seating request will reserve a seat for the person needing assistance and a seat for one companion.
Graduates must wear caps and gowns to the University Commencement and to the School of Communication Convocation. Graduates will have their picture taken as they are presented with their diploma cover and congratulated by School of Communication Dean, Barbara O’Keefe. All official diplomas will be mailed to the student’s permanent mailing address on file with the Registrar’s Office approximately 6 weeks after degrees are conferred. For complete information on cap and gown rental, please visit the NU Commencement website for details: http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/index.html

If you are ordering graduation announcements, the degree you will receive is either a Bachelor of Science in Communication or a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. Latin honors (Summa, Magna, and Cum Laude) are awarded to the top twenty-five percent of your class, based on final grade-point average, and will be noted on the student’s diploma.

We look forward to celebrating this important achievement in your life on June 21st and 22nd!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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enclosures