Dear Cornell Commencement Guest:

The 148th Cornell University Commencement will be held Sunday, May 29, 2016, and we are pleased to provide arrangements to help make your visit as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. Enclosed is a permit to park in Hoy Garage at Schoellkopf Stadium. You may use your parking permit on Saturday for Senior Convocation, as well as Sunday for University Commencement. You are welcome to sit in the special seating area (chairs) in the stadium, which can also accommodate wheelchairs and walkers.

PARKING & SEATING – Saturday and Sunday

| Permit: | Place enclosed Hoy Garage yellow permit on your vehicle dash for traffic personnel to see. |
| Arrival: | **Saturday:** Convocation – Arrive at Hoy Garage by 11:00am Saturday. Convocation begins at 12:00pm and ends at 1:00pm. |
| | **Sunday:** Commencement – Plan to arrive at Hoy Garage by 9:00am Sunday. Procession of students into the stadium begins at 10:00am. Ceremony begins at 11:00am and ends at 12:00pm. |
| Directions: | Enter campus from ROUTE 366, to Hoy Road, to the Hoy Garage entrance. If using GPS, enter “Route 366 Ithaca NY 14853” as your destination to arrive correctly and avoid central campus road closures. Once you get closer to campus, follow posted traffic signs directing you the rest of the way to Mobility Impaired (MI) Parking at Hoy Garage. |
| Unloading: | Drive in and follow signs to Level 3 Mobility Impaired Unloading area. Ushers wearing red jackets will help unload your passengers when it is your vehicle’s turn to unload. Do not unload anywhere else, or you will encounter stairs and a longer walk to seating area. |
| Parking: | After unloading passengers, you’ll park in the garage where ushers direct you. If your vehicle is over 6’6”, ask staff at garage entrance for parking & unloading instructions. |
| Seating: | From Level 3, walk/wheel into stadium (level walk, no stairs) to chair area. Ushers will direct you to chair area and make room for any wheelchairs. Mobility-impaired GUEST plus ONE PERSON may sit in the chair area. Others in your party will sit in bleachers directly behind the chair area or in the Crescent. |

WHEELCHAIRS
Although you may not normally use a wheelchair or even need one inside the stadium, getting to other venues on the large, hilly campus, combined with temperatures and excitement of the weekend, may be extremely tiring. We strongly encourage mobility-restricted guests to bring a wheelchair to use as needed for campus travel throughout the long weekend, as well as for restful seating at informal events. When the Commencement Ceremony ends at noon on Sunday, you are welcome to leave your vehicle parked in Hoy Garage and retrieve your wheelchair at that time to shuttle mobility-limited family members to your next event. Please understand that even driving to unload passengers at the sidewalk may still require considerable walking to get to some buildings or tents out on the Arts Quad, Ag Quad, Engineering Quad, or along Campus Road. Bringing a wheelchair or transport chair is recommended.

WHAT TO BRING
You MUST bring your enclosed parking permit to park in Hoy Garage. Please be prepared for the possibility of several hours in the sun, light rain, or cool breezy conditions. To make the day more comfortable, you may want to consider bringing comfortable walking shoes, sun hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, umbrella, seat cushion, raincoat, or jacket for cool temperatures. You may also want to have a wheelchair in your vehicle to retrieve when needed for campus transportation to weekend events.
LARGE-SCREEN INDOOR VIEWING ON SUNDAY ONLY FOR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
We have arranged for a large video screen in the Statler Hall Auditorium to view the Commencement procession and ceremony indoors, beginning at 10:00am. You may want to consider this option in the case of extreme heat, cooler temperatures, or to avoid hours in direct sun. Any guests are welcome to watch the broadcast in the Statler Auditorium on Sunday (not available on Saturday for Convocation). There are no reservations required and no tickets needed.* To get to the Statler Auditorium, you may use your yellow permit to park in the Hoy Garage then walk or wheel down the hill to the Statler.
*If the Severe Weather Plan is enacted, then SWP tickets (see below) will be required for admission to this location.

WEBCAST
Family not traveling to Ithaca may enjoy watching the webcast of the procession and ceremony at www.cornell.edu at 10:00am. The webcast will remain online for viewing at a later time as well.

MEDICAL AND RESTROOM FACILITIES
Medical staff will be available to assist anyone in case of an emergency. A first aid station is located in a tent near the seating area. Wheelchair-accessible portable restrooms will also be near the seating area.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES
Food and beverages are available at stadium concessions. Please feel free to bring snacks or your own food to accommodate special dietary needs. (No glass bottles, please.)

SEVERE WEATHER PLAN (SWP) - SUNDAY
If the Severe Weather Plan (SWP) is enacted on Sunday morning, the university ceremony will be held in Barton Hall (not at outdoor Schoellkopf Stadium, as planned) and a broadcast of the ceremony will be shown in 2 other locations noted on SWP tickets. Only guests with a SWP ticket** will be admitted into Barton Hall or a SWP broadcast location, so plan your carpooling to campus accordingly in the event of severe weather. You may still use the yellow permit to park in Hoy Garage then walk/wheel to Barton Hall or a SWP broadcast location. Accessible seating in SWP locations is available and does not need to be reserved in advance, but remember a SWP ticket is required for admission in severe weather.
**Each student's family received 4 SWP tickets in January (2 to Barton Hall; 2 to SWP broadcast locations). The ceremony is webcast at www.cornell.edu, rain or shine, and no tickets are needed to watch online. Note: SWP tickets are for the University Ceremony on Sunday, not for college or department events.

GETTING TO COLLEGE EVENTS AFTER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY (SUNDAY)
The university ceremony will end by noon. If you will be attending a college event after the ceremony, it is best to have the graduate and other family members meet you there. It takes 30-45 minutes to get out of the stadium, so please plan on that time. College events start around 12:30-12:45pm, but please don’t feel rushed to get there immediately. You can avoid traffic congestion and delays by retrieving a wheelchair or transport chair from your vehicle at noon then wheeling to the college event.

➤ IMPORTANT: Please review detailed instructions posted online for how you will get from the stadium to your specific college event: http://commencement.cornell.edu/May/mobility.html. Turn-by-turn directions MUST be followed if driving. Some venues are NOT accessible by vehicle and will require walking from the stadium, so you may need to bring a wheelchair.

For information about Commencement Weekend, please visit www.commencement.cornell.edu, or call our office at 607-255-9541, or email us at commencement@cornell.edu. We’ll be happy to answer your questions. We hope your visit to Cornell will be a wonderful celebration enjoyed by your entire family!

Sincerely,
Connie Mabry
Director, University Commencement Events

Enclosed: 1 yellow vehicle parking permit for Hoy Garage (use for parking in Hoy Garage on Saturday and Sunday)
Online: Directions from stadium to Sunday college events: http://commencement.cornell.edu/May/mobility.html