Dear Class of 2016 Students, Parents, and Families,

I invite you to join us for our 127th Commencement activities to be held on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, 2016. This brochure contains the information you will need to successfully navigate the weekend.

As you will notice, numerous activities will take place over the course of a few days, as students complete their time on the CUA campus. We all look forward to welcoming families and friends to our beautiful campus as we pause to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, give thanks, and look ahead to the future.

It will be a great weekend at CUA, and Jeanne and I look forward to seeing you in May!

John Garvey, President
COMMENCEMENT 2016

HONORS CONVOCATION FOR UNDERGRADUATES
1 p.m., Friday, May 13, Great Upper Church, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Honors Convocation for Undergraduates recognizes those students who have been elected to membership in national honor societies, those who have completed academic tracks in the University Honors Program, and those who have achieved individual honors in their specific disciplines. Students, in academic gowns, but without hoods, should be seated no later than 12:45 p.m. Family and friends are invited to attend this convocation.

BACCALAUREATE MASS
4 p.m., Friday, May 13, Great Upper Church, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The student procession will form at 3:50 p.m. in front of McMahon Hall and then proceed promptly at 3:40 p.m. In case of inclement weather, students should proceed directly to Memorial Hall in the lower level of the Basilica to form the procession. Students are asked to wear their academic gowns without hoods.

PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION
Immediately following the Baccalaureate Mass
Friday, May 13, Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center

President and Mrs. Garvey invite all graduating students and their families to this reception honoring the Class of 2016. The reception takes place at the Pryzbyla Center, both inside and on the patio outside the center.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
10 a.m., Saturday, May 14
University Mall in front of the east entrance to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Candidates for degrees are asked to assemble no later than 9 a.m. (undergraduate arts and sciences graduates no later than 8:45 a.m.) at locations that will be communicated by the various schools (and posted on the Commencement website [commencement.cua.edu]). The Commencement procession will move at 9:30 a.m., and ushers will assist in organizing the procession. Students can verify their eligibility to participate in Commencement Exercises by contacting their academic dean’s office. Candidates wear caps (tassels to the right until their degree is conferred) and academic gowns and carry their hoods.

DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION
Following the Commencement Exercises, diplomas will be distributed to students in individual ceremonies organized by each school. The list of the times and locations of these ceremonies can be found on the Commencement website (commencement.cua.edu) and will also be printed in the Commencement program.

RAIN PLAN
In the case of severe inclement weather that precludes holding the Commencement Exercises outdoors, an announcement will be posted on the CUA website (www.cua.edu) by 8 a.m. If the rain plan goes into effect, graduates and their guests will proceed to the sites of diploma distributions, where degrees will be conferred according to the rain schedule.

OTHER COMMENCEMENT WEEK EVENTS
A few other events taking place during the Commencement week include many, but not all, graduates.

School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony
9 a.m., Thursday, May 12, Great Room, Pryzbyla Center

In keeping with a long tradition in nursing, graduating senior nursing students receive their Catholic University School of Nursing pin. The Pinning Ceremony is open to graduating seniors and their guests.

Senior Athletics Awards Banquet
5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 12, Great Room, Pryzbyla Center

Senior athletes who have distinguished themselves with outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments during their time at CUA will be honored and a number of special achievement awards, including the Harris and Donley cups, will be conferred.

Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony
10 a.m., Friday, May 13, Auditorium, Caldwell Hall

Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious collegiate academic honor society in the United States. Fewer than 10% of American colleges and universities have a chapter. Founded in 1776, the society recognizes excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. CUA’s chapter was founded in 1941.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Academic attire is worn by all those participating in the Commencement Exercises, Honors Convocation, and Baccalaureate Mass. Students may also wear military uniforms or religious habits, as appropriate.

Graduating students order their caps and gowns through the CUA Bookstore or online at herffjones.com/college/cua. Commencement Announcements may also be ordered via this website.

FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Graduating students with disabilities (including those with low vision, physical disabilities, and who are deaf/hard of hearing), who need accommodations along the procession route, in the seating area, obtaining their diploma on stage, or require alternative formats of printed materials should contact Disability Support Services at CUA-DSS@cua.edu or 202-319-5211 prior to Friday, April 15.

Guests with disabilities should refer to dss.cua.edu/commencement.cfm. There you will find information about access, seating, and parking. Requests for Braille, interpreters, and assistive listening devices must be made in advance. Please contact Disability Support Services at CUA-DSS@cua.edu or 202-319-5211 prior to Friday, April 15.

CLEARING THE WAY FOR GRADUATION
Commencement is a time of celebration and CUA wants every graduate, along with their family and friends, to enjoy this very special occasion. Graduates should understand that University policy states that diplomas may not be released to students with a “hold” on their student record. Degree candidates with holds due to unpaid student account balances should remit payment for their balance to the Office of Enrollment Services well in advance of the Commencement Exercises to ensure removal of the associated holds. Students with other holds (library, financial aid, etc.) should contact the office responsible for initiating the hold in order to resolve any issues in a timely manner. Students can review any holds on their account via the Holds box on the right-hand side of their Cardinal Station Student Center.

PARKING AND MAP
Visitors are advised that on-campus parking is limited, especially in the center of campus and areas near the various Commencement sites. Parking is available in the outlying areas of campus, limited primarily to the Marist and O’Boyle halls parking lots, the Raymond A. DuFour Athletic Center parking lot, the University Parking Garage (accessed from John McCormack Road), and street parking along both Harewood and John McCormack roads. Limited parking may also be available in the parking lot for the Basilica located at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Harewood Road, N.E. Guests may also choose to travel to Commencement activities and events via Metrorail to the Brookland/CUA stop on the Red Line.

Parking for those with disabilities who have a state-issued license plate or placard is available in front of John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library and in designated locations.

MORE INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
For additional information about Commencement, including FAQs, visit commencement.cua.edu.

USEFUL CUA CONTACT INFORMATION
Visit our website at commencement.cua.edu.

Office of Enrollment Services
202-319-5300

Department of Public Safety
202-319-5111

Disability Support Services
202-319-5211

CUA Bookstore
202-319-5232