Dear Graduating Lowellians,

Attached please find our Commencement Information and Senior Survey. In this memo you will find answers to many of your Lowell commencement questions so please read it thoroughly. Make note of details regarding commencement luncheon tickets and, of course, completing your term bill obligations. Share this with your parents, if need be, and feel free to email us any questions you have about May.

All this information (and more) is available on our website: [http://lowell.harvard.edu/2016](http://lowell.harvard.edu/2016)

Note: The Lowell survey, attached here, is not a big deal; it just helps us know a little bit more about each of you. It does not affect anything outside of Lowell House. And it is *not* the same thing as the "College Senior Survey" which will be sent to you in a few weeks from Institutional Research/College Dean's Office.

Congratulations, you are ALMOST done, spring has sprung, and we are having loads of fun!

LL,
Beth

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**Lowell House Commencement Day Schedule**

6:15 am Bagpipe alert, Lowell Courtyards

6:30 am Senior Class Breakfast! Come dressed in regalia and enjoy a hot breakfast with Deans and SCR members.

7:20 am Senior procession forms at F-Entry archway to proceed to the Yard for Chapel Service.

Noon Lunch in Lowell House Courtyard for seniors and their guests.

1:00 pm Presentation of diplomas by the Deans

**GENERAL FAQs:**

1. Not Attending the Commencement Ceremony on May 26th?
If you do *not* want to participate in the House Commencement Ceremony on May 26, call the House Office at 5-2283 right away. If you are unsure due to athletic competitions, also call us. If you prefer to have your diploma mailed to you, be sure to fill out the Diploma Mailing Request Form: http://www.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/media/Diploma%20Mailing%20Request%20Form_0.pdf

You will be charged for this diploma mailing. Please do let us know that you asked for it to be mailed.

2. Lowell House Commencement Program:

All diploma ceremony participants are listed in the Lowell House program, even if you cannot attend. As space permits, we list as many College prizes and awards as possible. Because we rely on you for information about your awards, please report any prizes and awards you have won during all your years at Harvard. List these on the attached Lowell Senior Survey and return it to the House. (Keep in mind we cannot list all prizes and will exercise discretion in this matter.)

3. Term Bills:

If you have any outstanding bills, you must settle them no later than May 16th, at the Term Bill Office, 9th Floor, Smith Campus Center (5-2739). Make sure all University bills are paid on time or you will not receive your diploma at Commencement! All you will get is a big red envelope.

4. Commencement Tickets for Morning Yard Exercises, i.e. the Big Shebang!

There are only 4 tickets per student for the Morning Yard exercises. This is university policy. Attempting to sell Morning Exercises tickets is an actionable offense so remember, do not sell them or advertise to sell them. That’s asking for trouble. (Note: there are no tickets needed for the afternoon Lowell House diploma ceremony)

5. Where do I get my Morning Exercises and other graduation-related tickets?

Class Day, Morning Exercises, Afternoon Exercises, Commencement Lunch tickets all be picked up by Seniors and Walkers in person at 124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th floor “Senior Desk” starting around May 9th after completing your online College Senior Survey. This College survey is sent to you via the Institutional Research and College Dean’s offices and you can’t pick up any tickets without completing it! You will be notified by the College Dean’s Office about this survey towards the end of April and there will be a link to it in your notification. Please be on the lookout for this email on your @college account. It is very important.

6. What about Lowell Lunch tickets on graduation day?

Please see next page for further information on that.

7. Dining Services:

The Lowell House dining hall will close after dinner on Saturday, May 14th. After that, Adams, Currier and Quincy Houses will be open to Seniors and Walkers from May 15th – 21st, lunch and dinner only. Be sure to have your HUID in hand!

8. Social Events:

The URL for updates on all Senior Class Committee events (& other events) is:
http://www.harvard2016.com/

Note: Your senior class committee representative is Preeti Srivinasan.

9. The Faculty Deans’ Reception for Lowell House seniors and their families will be held on **Wednesday, May 25th from 5 to 7 pm** in the Residence. Please plan on attending with your families. Light appetizers and drinks.

10. Caps and Gowns:

You are required to wear traditional academic caps and gowns for Commencement exercises in Harvard Yard and in Lowell House. They can be picked up (no reservations necessary) at the Coop between May 19 - May 26th.

11. Commencement Rehearsals & Security

There are no actual rehearsals for the big day; Commencement Aides and staff will be around to guide you every step of the way. Regarding Security: you must have your Harvard ID in hand at the Senior Breakfast—we will be giving each of you a special security lanyard into which you will insert your ID as you line up to march to the Yard. This is how you gain access to the Yard without being searched. So don’t forget your ID! Also please be sure NOT to bring extra bags or purses with you to morning exercises.

12. Lowell House specific ticket information:
Lunch tickets: Lowell House Commencement Day lunch is intended to be free for each senior and two guests. The luncheon tickets will be available at the SENIOR DESK (124 Mount Auburn) along with all your regular tickets. Once you have done your college survey you may go to Senior Desk and get all your tickets.

~Extra lunch tickets: You will need to purchase extra lunch tickets if you are bringing more than two guests. You can buy the extras from the Senior Desk. NB - HUDS will sell lunch tickets the day of Commencement, it’s just a long line. It’s better to do it ahead of time.

~Kosher lunches: If you need a kosher lunch you may order it directly via Luke Parker before May 13th. His email is: luke_parker@harvard.edu. Extra Kosher lunches will *not* be readily available on Commencement Day so please do be sure to order in advance if you or your family wish to have a Kosher meal.

13. Diploma Ceremony: There aren’t any tickets needed for our diploma ceremony at 1:00 pm. You are welcome to bring as many friends and relatives as you like. Tell them to grab a spot in the grass or a chair, and watch the fun.

**Diploma Ceremony, May 26th, 1:00 pm, Lowell Courtyard:**

Seniors will line up alphabetically, beginning at A-Entry, trailing down the stairs towards the Residence and alongside the Dining Hall windows. Commencement ushers will be standing at A-Entry to be sure that you are in the proper order, and to remind you to move your tassel to the left so that it will not be in the way for photographs. Diana, Dorothy & Caitlin will be standing in front of the bust of President Abbott Lawrence Lowell between A & B entries. You should wait until you hear them announce your name before you start walking. The professional photographer* will snap a picture of you receiving your diploma, and then you will follow the receiving line as members of the Senior Common Room congratulate you. Please follow the receiving line all the way to the end, in front of E Entryway.

Please be courteous and refrain from celebrating with friends or departing the ceremony until all diplomas are awarded.
Ceremony Rain Plan:

Should it rain, we will make an announcement at Senior Lunch and we will split the diploma ceremony into two segments so as to accommodate families under our tent in the small courtyard. We will line you up alphabetically (first ceremony will be A – M; second, N – Z) under the R-Entry archway and into the hall between the dining room and JCR. You will be directed by the ushers to proceed (when the time comes) to the tent where the diplomas will be presented. You should encourage your family to come to the tent to watch you receive your diploma and then to join you in the dining hall immediately after you receive it, as the tent will not be large enough to accommodate everyone’s family for the both ceremonies.

Drippy, Runny, Red Diploma Folders: Please be advised that the dye in the red folders in which the diplomas are enclosed will run if any liquid is spilled on the envelope. The actual diploma will be enclosed in protective plastic: don’t discard this protective plastic until you are done with the day. If the diploma does become stained for whatever reason, or if your name or concentration is misspelled, you must return the diploma to the Registrar’s Office, 4th floor of the Smith Center, by noon on Friday 5/27. It will be replaced at no charge. Any further delay will cost c. $150 for a new copy of the diploma.

*Photos: Arrangements have been made for Commencement Photos, Inc. to photograph each student as the diplomas are presented. Photos will be available for purchase, and information about them will be sent to your parents’ address and to your email address soon. The information will be available through a link on our website, too. You are under no obligation to buy any photos but they will be available for one year after Commencement. If your family plans to do its own photography, please ask them not to interfere with the professional photographers. Many thanks!

http://www.commencementphotos.com/

14. Senior Move Out: Sorry, but seniors are expected to move out the day after Commencement, May 27th. Please make sure you allow enough time to pack. There is no summer storage for graduates. ☺

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