Dear Class of 2013,

It’s hard to believe that Commencement is just around the corner. We would like to inform you of two special opportunities for seniors during commencement weekend: the Baccalaureate Student Address and Senior Commencement Speech. There are separate blind selection processes for each of these positions, as outlined below.

**Baccalaureate** is an interfaith service in celebration of our graduates during Commencement weekend. It takes place outdoors on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 8:30 PM, and includes a student address, an address by President Helm, and a candle lighting ceremony. Baccalaureate offers time for reflection, prayer and thanksgiving. Students of any, or no, faith tradition are very welcome, along with family and friends.

A Baccalaureate student speaker will be chosen from the Class of 2013. To submit a Baccalaureate speech for consideration, please email a draft of your speech to Tanya Schock (shock@muhlenberg.edu), Chapel Program Coordinator, by **March 1, 2013**. Please remember your speech needs to be appropriate for an interfaith audience. A team of Religious Life staff members will choose the student speaker from submissions received by the deadline. This is a blind selection process, i.e. all identifying information will be removed from drafts before consideration by the selection committee. For more information about Baccalaureate or the student address, please contact The Rev. Callista Isabelle, Chaplain, at cisabelle@muhlenberg.edu or 484-664-3120.

The second opportunity for seniors is for **Commencement Speaker**. A senior is chosen by his/her classmates to address the class during the graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 10 AM. Interested students should prepare a draft of his/her proposed commencement speech and submit it electronically to Bev MacEwan, macewan@muhlenberg.edu by Friday, **March 1, 2013**. The speech is limited to a length of 4 – 6 minutes. Again, this is a blind-selection process. All submissions will be evaluated independently by committee of faculty and staff beginning March 4, 2013. Following a meeting and deliberation, the committee will select three candidates for submission to the senior class for election in early April. The winning candidate will be the senior speaker at the Commencement ceremony.

Recognizing that there is a separate process for selection of the Baccalaureate and Commencement speakers, it has been decided that two different individuals will present these addresses. If you plan to submit an entry for both processes, please be aware of the fact that you will have to decide between the two speaker positions should you be selected for both.

If you have any questions regarding either the Baccalaureate or Commencement address, we can be contacted via email or phone.

Thank you.

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