



Framingham

STATE COLLEGE

April, 2010

Dear Graduating Student,

Members of the Class of 2010 will be graduating in a few weeks and all of us at Framingham State College look forward to Commencement at the Village Green in Framingham Centre on **Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 2 pm in the afternoon**. This letter contains important information about this occasion.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE Many students have already purchased their academic attire. For those who have not yet done so, University Cap and Gown will have representatives on campus on Thursday, May 13 from noon to 1:30 pm in the College Center lobby. You can also order your cap and gown online. Please follow this link for more Commencement information:

<http://www.framingham.edu/commencement/dates-and-times/undergraduate-ceremony.html>

COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL All graduating seniors who wish to participate in the Commencement Ceremony must attend a **mandatory rehearsal on Thursday, May 13, 2010**. Morning rehearsal is for those graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree (see attached list of majors) and starts promptly at 9:30 am. Afternoon rehearsal is for Bachelor of Science degrees and starts promptly at 12:30 pm. **Please go to the Athletic Center gym at your designated rehearsal time for check in**. These rehearsals are essential in order to ensure that Commencement will run as smoothly as it does each year. Rehearsal will last approximately two hours. PLEASE NOTE: Only students with documented emergencies will be excused from required rehearsal.

SENIOR CLASS BBQ The Alumni Association is sponsoring a BBQ for seniors on Thursday, May 13, from 11am -1 pm. This BBQ is scheduled between the morning and afternoon Commencement rehearsals and gives graduating seniors a chance to have lunch and enjoy some time together on campus. The BBQ will be held in Crocker Grove, with a rain location in the Dining Commons.

COMMENCEMENT ELIGIBILITY If you have not done so already, please complete an application for graduation as soon as possible. The form is available at the Registrar's Office and on their website. Students who participate in the graduation ceremony fall into two categories. The first group has completed all degree requirements; students in this group are graduating with a spring completion date. The second group includes those who are no more than two courses short of their degree requirements and who will complete during a subsequent semester. All students, in both groups, must have a minimum QPA of 2.00 to be eligible for graduation and/or participation in the Commencement Ceremony. During the ceremony, there will be no distinction made between graduates and candidates. Latin Honors (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) will only be listed in the program for students who have completed all degree requirements. There are no exceptions to this rule.

All students who have helped finance their education through the Federal Stafford, Perkins, and Massachusetts NIL (No Interest Loan) programs are **required to complete loan exit interviews**. Graduating seniors who do not comply with this requirement will not be eligible to participate in Commencement and will not have degrees

Melinda K. Stoops, Ph.D.

Dean of Students

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awarded until the exit interview has been completed (this is not just an FSC requirement; graduating students everywhere are required to complete the exit process).

- If you have a Massachusetts No Interest Loan (NIL), go to www.ecsi.net to complete the exit interview. Click on “View Login Credentials” under the “Borrowers/Students” tab. Input the required information and click “submit” to receive your login credentials. Click on “login page” to login to your account. Access “My Account” and then click on “Exit Interview” to complete the requirement.
- If you have a Perkins Loan, contact Michael Boyle in the Business Office at (508)626-4533.
- If you have a Stafford Loan, go to <http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/oslc/> to complete the exit interview.

If you have difficulty with this process, please contact the Office of Financial Aid for assistance. You can reach them at (508)626-4537.

GRADUATION DAY

- *Pre-ceremony Activities.* Each year, the executive board of the Senior Class arranges a morning brunch, followed by a brief “Thank-you Ceremony” in the College Center. While these activities are optional, many families and friends of graduates attend these events and enjoy a full day on campus. Seniors and their families will receive an invitation to the brunch shortly; advance reservations are required.
- *The Ceremony.* The Commencement Ceremony will take place on the Framingham Centre Village Green, which is located a short distance from campus, north of Route 9. The ceremony location is easily accessible via a foot bridge over Route 9. The Ceremony will begin promptly at 2 pm, although graduates are asked to report to the line-up area no later than 1:15 pm. The ceremony should last approximately 2 hours. We respectfully ask that guests of graduates do not go to the staging area – this helps with the complicated process of arranging graduates in correct marching order. Out of respect for the graduates and the commencement speakers, we request that all cell phones be turned off during the ceremony.
- *Parking and Shuttles.* On graduation day, parking for guests will be in the Maynard Road and Maple Street parking lots. Shuttle buses will run continuously from these lots beginning at noon. The designated parking lot for individuals with handicapped plates or decals is to the rear of O’Connor Hall on the main campus. A specially equipped shuttle for the use of individuals with physical disabilities and their families will run from O’Connor Hall to the Village Green.
- *Seating.* With the exception of seats that are reserved for faculty, graduates, and special guests, all seating inside the graduation tent will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Weather permitting, guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs for use outside of the graduation tent. There is no limit on the number of people a graduate can invite to Commencement.
- *Photography.* The College contracts with Island Photography to take photographs of each individual who crosses the platform during the Commencement ceremony. These photos will be available for purchase at a later date – Island Photography will contact graduates and provide an order form for their use. Family and friends will not be allowed to approach the stage to take photos or videos; this maintains the dignity of the ceremony and ensures that all present can enjoy the degree-granting moment for their loved ones. Once the ceremony has concluded, faculty from each academic department will gather at designated areas outside of the tent to congratulate the new graduates – this is a favorite photo-taking opportunity that should not be missed.

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We look forward to your participation in Commencement and extend congratulations to all graduating seniors and their families!

Sincerely yours,

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