Dear Parents of Students in the Class of 2016:

Spring is now in full bloom across the Wesleyan campus and students, faculty and staff are welcoming in the change of season. Classes end on Wednesday, May 4; reading period and final exams take place from May 5 through 13, followed by Senior Week from May 14 through May 21. The Commencement ceremony will take place Sunday, May 22, beginning at 11 a.m. No tickets or reservations are required; seating is unlimited and available on a first come, first served basis. In case of rain, the ceremony will be abbreviated and moved under a tent, where seating will be limited. For the full calendar of commencement-related activities taking place the weekend of May 19-22, please consult the Reunion & Commencement website.

For most seniors, graduating college is a bittersweet experience. Graduation can instill tremendous feelings of pride and personal accomplishment for all the work done and knowledge gained. At the same time, however, this elation can be tempered by a feeling that one is losing one’s community when saying farewell to a dear friend or classmate, uncertain if paths will ever cross again. There will, of course, be countless opportunities for your sons and daughters to connect with one another through Facebook, LinkedIn, class reunions, and various alumni events scattered across the globe, but as we all know there really is no substitute for a spontaneous, face-to-face conversation and a big hug. But for all the goodbyes that must be said over the next few weeks, there are new friendships to be made, and new communities to build when your sons and daughters spread their wings and transition to life beyond the Wesleyan bubble.

In the meantime, the semester is not quite over, and students still have papers to write, projects to complete, and exams to take. I have provided each senior with information on how to confirm the name that will be printed on the diploma, how to record one’s name to ensure it will be pronounced correctly at the Commencement ceremony, how and where to purchase a cap and gown, and when and where to attend student loan exit information sessions. If your son or daughter has any questions about any of these things, please encourage him or her to get in touch with me as soon as possible.

It has been a wonderful four years working with you and your sons and daughters.

See you at Commencement!

Sincerely,

David Phillips
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