

Dear May 2009 Graduates:

Congratulations!! May 9<sup>th</sup> is rapidly approaching and we know you are eager to receive some details about your upcoming Commencement ceremony. Attached is information we think will be helpful to you and your families including dates at a glance and detailed instructions regarding the actual Commencement ceremony.

The Law School will hold its ceremony on Saturday, May 9th at 4:00 PM at the Swinney Recreation Center on campus. We expect the ceremony to last about 1.5 hours at the longest. During this ceremony, degrees will be conferred and you will be hooded. There will be a reception immediately following the ceremony at the site of the Old Playhouse which is adjacent to the entrance of the Old Swinney Gym. Don't worry – there will be plenty of staff to direct you to the reception after the ceremony.. **Tickets will NOT be required for the Commencement ceremony. However, the Office of Special Events asks that you go to this website to RSVP for the number of guests you expect. This helps them determine the number of programs and staff needed for the event.** <http://www.umkc.edu/commencement/>

Robing will take place in Pierson Auditorium in the U-Center. **Please plan to arrive no earlier than 3:00 PM but no later than 3:15 as we will begin lining up to process at 3:45 so that the ceremony may begin on time at 4:00PM. You will need to have your robe, hood, cap and tassel in order to participate. In order to save you an unnecessary trip to the Bookstore, I will confirm with the Bookstore that the regalia have arrived and will email you to let you know it is available for pick-up.**

Doors to Swinney will open at 3:00 PM. Parking will be available on the U-Center lot or any other lot on campus. Since the U-Center lot will fill up quickly, I would suggest using the parking structure on Oak Street as your second option.

On Friday afternoon, May 8th, at 4:00 PM, the Christian Legal Society is sponsoring the annual Baccalaureate. This will take place at Central United Methodist Church directly across the street from the Law School. Your family and friends are invited to this ceremony. Immediately following the Baccalaureate, the Law School will host a reception with light snacks for graduates and their guests on the Law School's Truman Terrace. This will give those attending Baccalaureate an opportunity to meet and mingle with classmates and their families and will allow those attending the Awards Ceremony to go directly to that event following the reception.

At 6:00 PM Friday, May 8th, the annual Law School Awards Ceremony will take place in the Courtroom. This ceremony typically lasts 1.5-2 hours. If you are to receive an award, you will hear from Carol Pegues via email sometime early -mid April. Awards are given for various accomplishments such as Latin Honors, moot court, appellate and trial advocacy competitions, Legal Research and Writing, highest grade in the class, clinic awards, teaching assistant, structured study group, academic enrichment, leadership, emissaries, service to the Law School community, etc. Please keep in mind that there are a limited number of seats in the Courtroom, so it will be filled to capacity

Again, as we determine additional details, we will pass those along to you. Please go over the instructions and please feel free to contact me should you have questions or concerns.

I look forward to working with you on this extremely exciting and important event.

Sincerely,

Jean Klosterman  
Assistant to the Dean for Special Projects