April 25, 2013

To: Parents and Families of the Class of 2013:

Everyone at Elon University hopes to make the Commencement activities of May 23-25 a success. I hope you will be able to attend the events described in the enclosed brochure (commonly known as the “pocket guide”). Please refer to the map that shows where specific events will take place as well as the locations for public parking on Saturday morning. Additional parking will be available at the Danieley Center, the East Parking Lot, and Rhodes Stadium. The small parking area south of the Commencement site (Under the Oaks) will be closed to general parking but open to vehicles with special needs or elderly guests. Once these guests arrive, drivers will move cars to one of the nearby parking areas.

Closed circuit viewing of the Commencement activities will be available in McEwen Communications Building for elderly family members and as an alternative to the special needs section Under the Oaks. A sign interpreter will be present for the entire ceremony and an assisted hearing system is also available upon request. Please call the Office of Cultural Programs at 336-278-5605 and speak with Martha Hill or Jeffrey Clark if you need these services.

The brochure lists the Commencement weekend hours for the Campus Shop and the hours of the campus dining facilities that will be open during the weekend. Full service dining will be available at many area restaurants (reservations are recommended). Our Commencement website, www.elon.edu/commencement, has useful information for both graduates and guests. Updated information will be posted to the website as needed.

On Saturday morning from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m., graduating seniors, families and guests are invited to a continental breakfast around Fonville Fountain. Students must report to Jordan Gym at 8 a.m. and the breakfast will close at 8:45 a.m. Guests are asked to be seated by 9 a.m. The Commencement processional will begin at 9:15 a.m.

There is a reception for graduates and their families around Fonville Fountain following the ceremony. We anticipate that more than 10,000 people will attend Commencement, and locating individual graduates may be difficult. Signs for each of the academic departments will be placed above the refreshment tables. Families often meet at the location for their graduate’s academic department/degree.

Graduates were sent an important letter regarding their preparation for the ceremony to their campus mail boxes. A copy is enclosed. If you learn that they did not receive this letter, please ask them to read it on the Commencement website. The Commencement brochure is also available online.

Beginning on Monday, May 6, each graduate may request two rain location tickets for Alumni Gym from the office of the Vice President and Dean of Student Life in Alamance 109. Guests with these tickets will fill Alumni Gym. There will be two stages, one in Alumni Gym and one in Jordan Gym. Graduates will remain in Jordan Gym for the entire ceremony and will march to Alumni Gym to receive their diploma from Dr. Lambert. The entire program will be shown in both Alumni and Jordan on large screens. Faculty and guests not seated in Alumni Gym will be able to view the Commencement exercises on closed circuit television at the rain locations listed in the brochure.

The faculty shares your joy and pride in the accomplishments of Elon’s Class of 2013. We look forward to a memorable weekend.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey Clark
Executive Director
Cultural and Special Programs

Enc: Commencement Brochure
Letter to Graduates