



# Ceremonies

## **UW Standard of Excellence**

Convocation and Commencement are the only ceremonies at which the entire University—its faculty, staff, administration, and all 17 schools and colleges—unites to celebrate its *raison d'être* of providing students with a transformative educational experience and instilling a passion for learning. At these special events we honor our outstanding students, faculty and distinguished alumni as we showcase their remarkable achievements.

The UW community emerges from these celebrations with a renewed sense of its identity and purpose, and a strengthened commitment to ensure that the UW remains one of the top universities in the world.

## **Academic Community**

At Convocation, new students are introduced to the President, administrators and deans, and get their first taste of the richness of academic life. This event serves as a vehicle to inspire students and to launch them on a successful voyage of discovery.

At the conclusion of their academic journey, their achievements take center stage at Commencement as they are welcomed into the ranks of outstanding alumni.

Commencement brings together hundreds of faculty members to witness the conferring of degrees. This fosters a feeling of camaraderie among the University's faculty and validates their achievements as educators.

## **World Leaders in Research**

At Commencement we recognize outstanding faculty, students and alumni who are engaged in innovative and cutting-edge research. Our awards, programs and materials tell the stories of graduates who plan on pursuing their research as graduate students, in the private sector, or with government agencies.

## **Celebrating Place**

Every event that is held or sponsored by the Office of Ceremonies features the beauty and uniqueness of our campus.

Come rain or shine more than 4,000 students attend Commencement at Husky Stadium. Cheered on by their families and friends, they make the walk across an expansive purple and gold stage, in front of the imposing columns that symbolize the beginnings of this great university.

Graduates now have official UW portraits taken with the Quad cherry trees in full bloom or the original columns at Sylvan Grove as backdrops.

## **Spirit of Innovation**

The Office of Ceremonies is recognized by peer institutions as a leader in event innovations. In 2000 we became the first university to move its Commencement registration and cap and gown ordering process online, making it possible for students anywhere in the world to register. This has allowed us to raise more funds for the Senior Gift, and increase alumni membership. The programs we've

developed online are now being modeled by schools and colleges around the world.

New traditions are continually emerging. For example, each school and college now has the ability to showcase its best and brightest students as banner carriers during Commencement. In addition, this year's Convocation was followed by the first annual President's Picnic .

## **World Citizens**

Our graduates come from countries around the globe. Their families make extraordinary efforts to attend the Commencement ceremony. In turn, we reach out through webcasts and television to ensure that all can share this day.

The Office of Ceremonies also honors important world leaders, such as Nobel Peace Prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in special academic convocations. These events remind us of our global civic responsibility.

## **Being Public**

The events produced by the Office of Ceremonies are among the largest and most important public events held by the University. They are the vehicles through which we share our mission with the larger community and nurture a shared commitment to our winning traditions. These ceremonies offer proof that dreams can come true, that a better world awaits us, and that the future burns bright with promise.