

Interim Provost's Announcement about New Location



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December 8, 2010

Dear Graduating Class of 2011:

Many of you have heard that Commencement Ceremonies in New York City this year will be held in Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center instead of Radio City Music Hall as in years past. Radio City is unavailable (booked for an extended period of time by Cirque du Soleil) for this year's ceremonies and possibly for next year's ceremony as well.

Following a comprehensive search last fall of all possible indoor and outdoor venues, Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center was chosen by the President and Provost for several reasons: its status as one of the world's most beautiful concert halls, the very special nature of the venue to complement the very special nature of the event, and the location in the heart of New York City.

So for this year and possibly next year, we are trading one iconic New York location for another. The only other venue that we deemed suitable – i.e., large enough and special enough – was Madison Square Garden, and that, too, was unavailable this May due to scheduled renovations. Outdoor locations such as Battery Park and Governor's Island were considered and not pursued in the event of inclement weather.

There are 2738 seats in Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center. Each student will be allotted two tickets for use by families and friends, instead of the four that have been distributed to families in years past at Radio City. There will be a ticket lottery should there be extra tickets. There will also be a festive viewing venue at the Schimmel Center for the Arts, where the ceremonies will be simulcast in real-time. Those viewing the ceremonies at the Schimmel will get a birds-eye view into Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, and will feel the emotion as though they were sitting right there among the graduates.

Additionally, for the first time ever, the ceremonies will be webcast, so that families not able to travel can view the ceremonies from the comfort of their own home.

We understand the disappointment of those students who would like to be able to invite more than two people. We have tried to make up for the lack of seating space with the extra viewing at the Schimmel and with the webcast. We certainly empathize with those students who were looking forward to graduating at Radio City Music Hall.

Commencement Guides will be distributed in mid-January. Please check the website at www.pace.edu/commencement for updated information.

Sincerely,

Harriet R. Feldman, PhD, RN, FAAN
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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