



# Pomp & Circumstance 2010

Your introduction to **Ceremonies at Kenyon**

## Opening Convocation

**1:30 p.m. - Faculty Line Up on Middle Path (*Rain Site: KAC Tennis Courts*)**

**2:00 p.m. - Procession Begins**

Opening Convocation is the first of the five formal ceremonies that frame the academic year at Kenyon College. This ceremony is a deliberate reflection of the graduation ceremony that students will go through at the end of their Kenyon careers. Led by the senior faculty marshal and the flags and banners of the College, the incoming class processes down Middle Path between two rows of faculty members and administrators in full academic regalia as the student Pealers ring the bells in the steeple of the Church of the Holy Spirit.

During the ceremony, the class is presented to the assembled members of the Kenyon faculty and administration by the dean of admissions. Welcoming remarks are given by the president, the provost, the dean of students, and representatives from both the student body and the Board of Trustees. In homage to Kenyon's historical ties to the Episcopal Church, the opening and closing ceremonies of the year include both an invocation and benediction. In keeping with the College's commitment to being an open and inclusive community, offerings from participating religious leaders are consciously shaped to address a broad audience of students and families.

## **A Few Details for Faculty Attending Opening Convocation for the First Time**

Opening Convocation is held on the lawn in front of Samuel Mather Hall on South Campus and typically lasts for one hour, followed by a reception on Cromwell Cottage lawn for parents and students to meet faculty and administrators. (*Rain Site: Toan Track in the Kenyon Athletic Center.*) If we are outdoors and line up on Middle Path, the faculty will Peel. (Don't worry - just follow your neighbors!) Faculty should be arrayed in their full regalia: robe, hood, and hat. If you do not have regalia, contact Pamela Faust at [faustp@kenyon.edu](mailto:faustp@kenyon.edu) or x. 5108.

### **CLOSE UP** **Joining Past to Present: The Place of Traditional Ceremonies on a Modern Campus**

In a time when many other institutions have put aside formal ceremonies besides graduation as archaic and superfluous, Kenyon has maintained and evolved its five annual celebrations to reflect and reinforce the importance of marking each year the milestones that shape a growing and diverse community, the ways in which we stand apart from other institutions, the things that truly make us Kenyon. And, we're not just saying that! Studies of societies, institutions, and organizations have shown that shared history, experiences, and celebrations greatly contribute to creating stronger, healthier communities.

## Founders' Day

Founders' Day celebrates the unbroken line of people who have formed the College's strong foundation, and features the Matriculation Oath, a vow taken by each incoming class to support the College and one another. The Founders' Memorial, read by a member of the faculty, recalls Kenyon's founders and the faculty, staff, and students who have contributed to Kenyon's welfare through the years. A short address is given by a member of the faculty relating to an aspect of the College's history or traditions that may be unfamiliar to the community. Those faculty members celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> year at Kenyon are awarded the Bishop Philander Chase Medal. Following the ceremony, the first year class plants a tree on the College grounds to symbolize not only growth and continuity but also, as the interests of the student body evolve to reflect current issues and global concerns, the importance of preserving the campus environment for future generations.

## Honors Day

Honors Day is an annual celebration of the remarkable achievements and dedicated efforts of students, faculty members, and others in the community during the academic year. It also serves as an occasion for awarding honorary degrees to alumni and others in the Kenyon family who have distinguished themselves in their careers and in service to their communities. Every major and discipline studied at the College presents at least one prize to students who have made notable achievements in their particular fields. While many of the students honored with departmental prizes are members of the senior class, numerous awards are given to -- and, in some cases, designated specifically for -- students in their first, second, or third year at Kenyon. The Trustee Teaching Excellence Awards are presented annually at Honors Day to two members of the faculty -- one junior (with fewer than ten years of service) and one senior (with ten years of service or more).

## Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate is traditionally a worship service at which a sermon is preached for the graduating class. In recent years, the College's custom has been to expand this venerable ceremony in ways that highlight Kenyon's academic mission and make the occasion accessible to the broader College community. Academic and spiritual texts are chosen and read by senior readers to represent an aspect of their particular fields of study or to speak on behalf of communities of faith at Kenyon. In place of a sermon, an address is given by a representative of the College who has been selected by a vote of the graduating class. The invocation and benediction, which call to mind the historic purpose of Baccalaureate, are carefully framed by the participating religious leaders to reflect Kenyon's commitment to being an open and inclusive community.

## Commencement

Commencement is the formal academic ceremony at which the graduates' degrees are officially conferred. It is a ceremony that includes practices that are hundreds of years old, as well as traditions that are specific to Kenyon College. Retiring faculty members and other dignitaries receive honorary degrees, and a speaker chosen with the help of the senior class delivers an address. Commencement festivities close with a picnic lunch for students, families, guests, and the College community.

## Kenyon College

### *New Faculty Orientation*

Commencement & Convocations  
Gambier, OH 43022  
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faustp@kenyon.edu

### **Tip: Don't hesitate to ask!**

Kenyon's five ceremonies can pass in a sort of blur after a while. Please feel free to contact Pamela Faust at any time with your questions or concerns. That's what Pamela's here for - and she loves her job! Pamela can also help you with questions regarding Faculty Lunches, Fac Pac submissions, the Franklin Miller Awards, the Whiting Awards, the Trustee Teaching Excellence Awards, and the Kenyon Campus Community Development Fund (KCCDF).

Interested in learning more about the academic ceremonies and traditions practiced at Kenyon? Visit our Web site at:  
[www.kenyon.edu/commencementandconvocations](http://www.kenyon.edu/commencementandconvocations)