ACADEMIC CONVOCATION – Friday, May 19, 12:00 p.m. Gordon Field House and Activities Center

Academic Convocation is a university celebration of graduates from all nine RIT colleges, the School of Individualized Study, and the Golisano Institute for Sustainability. The program features remarks by RIT President William W. Destler; undergraduate student delegate speaker, Ms. Lydia Hays (KGCOE), graduate student delegate speaker, Ms. Tania Kleynhans (COS) and the 2017 Commencement Speaker, Austin McChord, RIT class of 2009, the founder, CEO and driving force behind Datto, a privately-held data protection company. Under his leadership, Datto has experienced incredible growth, making the coveted Inc. 500 list of fastest growing companies for three consecutive years and now employing more than 700 employees at locations around the world. Ph.D. candidates will be hooded at this ceremony. The Convocation will last about 2 hours.

Line-up is at 11:15 a.m., lower level of the Field House and the Student Life Center. Wear your cap and gown. Look for the LIGHT BLUE balloons for line-up location.

• Do not bring or plan to leave valuables as the line-up area is not secure.
• Tickets are not required and there is no limit to the number of guests who may attend.
• Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.
• Overflow seating is available in the Gene Polisseni Center where the ceremony will be live streamed.

GIS Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 19, 4:30 p.m. Sustainability Hall (SUS)
Line-up is at 4:00 p.m. 1150 Sustainability Hall (SUS)

• Wear your cap, hood and gown.
• Line-up locations are not secure. Do not plan to leave valuables, purses, cell phones, etc. in any line-up location. Do not leave personal items on your chair when you go on stage. You may not return to the same seat.
• The ceremony will last about 60 minutes and each graduate will be individually introduced and recognized. Please be respectful of your fellow graduates and their guests by returning to your seat after you cross the stage, remaining seated until the ceremony ends, and turning off electronic devices. Tickets are not required for this ceremony and there is no limit to the number of guests who may attend.
GIS Reception

Friday, May 19, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sustainability Hall (SUS)

Join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates! Menu will consist of: fruit tray with dip, cheese and crackers, spicy plum meatballs, vegetable spring rolls, chicken pesto in phyllo, assorted cookies, water, ice tea and lemonade.

Apply for Graduation!

You must “Apply for Graduation” in the Student Information System (SIS). This will initiate the review of your academic record for certification. You can’t graduate without this!

If you want your name to appear in the Commencement Program Book and on the Commencement website, you must “Apply for Graduation” by April 15, 2017.

Be sure to complete the “Diploma Name” section!

Overnight Accommodations & Rochester Visitor Information

Another area college is holding graduation ceremonies this weekend, so reservations should be made as soon as possible directly with the lodging of your choice. For information on area hotels, inns, motels, and bed and breakfast lodgings, contact Visit Rochester at 1-800-677-7282 or 585-279-8300. Locations nearest to RIT are found on Jefferson Road, West and East Henrietta Roads, White Spruce Boulevard, Lehigh Station Road, and Hylan Drive. RIT is approximately 25 minutes from downtown Rochester.
Master's Degree Candidates

- RIT’s regalia is made in the USA of 100% post-consumer recycled plastic bottles.
- There is no charge for the regalia and it is yours to keep or recycle (master’s level students only).
- You do not need to place an order or be measured.
- Pick up your regalia between Monday, April 25 and Saturday, May 21, 2016 at the Textbook Information desk on the 2nd floor of the college bookstore, Barnes & Noble @ RIT during store hours - Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday - 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
- If you cannot pick up your regalia, a friend or relative may do so for you -- be sure that person knows the following information:
  - your height and approximate weight
  - college you are graduating from (i.e. GIS)
  - type of degree you are receiving (i.e. associate, bachelor's, or master's)
  - if you are graduating with academic honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude). Note: this is different from being in the RIT Honors Program.
- If you are not in the Rochester area during the above dates, please contact the bookstore at regalia@rit.edu to arrange shipping your regalia to you (they will e-mail you an order form). Please send in your order by Friday, May 5th, to insure it arrives in time for graduation.
- There is no charge for the regalia; however, there is a shipping fee of $8.10 to ship to the lower 48 states. (Shipping outside the lower 48 will need a price quote.)
- A bookstore staff member will be at every line up to assist graduating students with their regalia and you can check out this how-to video for master’s graduates.

Ph.D. Candidates

Order regalia online (RIT login required). Questions? Email regalia@rit.edu.

- March 15, 2017: last day to order cap, gown and/or hood. RIT’s Ph.D. regalia is custom made and we cannot guarantee any orders placed after this date.
- Thursday, March 16, 2017: Contact your advisor.
- Pick up regalia: Monday, May 1 - Saturday, May 20, 2017; regalia will be distributed from the Textbook Information desk on the 2nd floor of the bookstore, Barnes and Noble@RIT, during store hours.
- We do not ship the Ph.D. gowns and tams.
- Ph.D. candidates may keep their hood, however Ph.D. gowns and tams are on loan.
- A bookstore staff member will be at every line up to assist graduating students with their regalia and you can check out this how-to video for Ph.D. candidates

Options for returning your regalia:

- Easiest: return your regalia after the ceremony to room 081-2160, Lisa Dammeyer’s Office.
- Alternate: If you want to have professional pictures taken in your regalia, you may also return your regalia to Barnes & Noble @ RIT, Textbook Information desk on the 2nd floor, any time during store hours.
- Rented regalia must be returned no later than 7:30 p.m. Wednesday May 24, 2017.
- You will be financially responsible for rented regalia that is not returned or is damaged.
- Do not iron your regalia as this will damage the velvet. We recommend using a steamer.
Senior Week Activities

Visit College Activities Board (CAB) and for Senior Week events including Senior Night.

Class Toast
Thursday, May 18, 4:30-6 p.m. in the Gene Polisseni Center (POL). The event is for all graduating students. Join fellow classmates and raise a glass in celebration of your accomplishments.

Hosted by Alumni Relations

Graduation Announcements & Class Rings

Generic graduation announcements are available at Barnes & Noble @ RIT bookstore. They can be purchased in the RIT Gift Dept. on the 1st floor or by calling 585-424-6766, ext. 205. Generic announcements are sold 10/pk.

Personalized graduation announcements and rings can be ordered from Balfour at www.balfour.com or by calling 1-877-225-3687. Balfour reps will be on campus March 22-23, 12-4 p.m. in the Student Alumni Union (SAU) and May 19, 2-7:00 p.m., May 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and May 21, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Barnes & Noble at RIT Bookstore at Park Point.

Alumni Relations Welcome Center

Friday, May 19, 2 p.m.-6 p.m., 1010 and 1015 Campus Center (CPC).
Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 1010 and 1015 Campus Center (CPC).

Complimentary professional portraits for graduates with their families will be offered during this time. Hosted by Alumni Relations.

Photographs

GradImages is the official photographer for Commencement. You will be photographed on and upon exiting the stage. There is no obligation to purchase photographs. Pre-register at GradImages.com/Preregistration to view your proofs and receive a coupon for $5 off any order of $25 or more. You may register e-mails of up to six loved ones who would like to view and order photos. Proofs will be ready to view online within 48 hours of the ceremony. Photos may be ordered online, by phone, or by mail. If you have any questions, please contact Customer Service at 800-261-2576 or by e-mail at giservice@gradimages.net.
**DVDs of Academic Convocation and College Ceremonies**

DVDs of each college ceremony and the Academic Convocation are available for purchase. The DVD for each college ceremony includes all platform speeches and the individual recognition of graduates. The DVD for the Academic Convocation includes the official conferral of degrees as well as all platform speeches.

Individual college ceremony and Academic Convocation DVDs are $26.00 each or you can purchase both together for $42.00, a savings of $10.00. All prices include tax and shipping. DVDs can be purchased at ceremony locations during Commencement Weekend. You may also order by:

- phone (585-475-2516)
- Online
- Download paper form

**Orders received and postmarked prior to June 1st will ship by the end of June.**

All orders received after June 1st must be submitted online and will be charged a late production fee of $3.00.

**Parking & Transportation Services**

Convocation will be held in the Gordon Field House (labeled GOR on campus maps) and the GIS Commencement Ceremony in Sustainability Hall (labeled SUS). Upon arrival at RIT, please use the entrances on Jefferson Road. RIT Public Safety personnel will direct you to parking areas. You can view an [interactive map](#) which shows the location of RIT parking lots.

Shuttle bus service will be available Friday, 7:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. and Saturday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. to transport guests from parking lots to the Academic Convocation, college ceremonies and most reception locations.

**Please note your bus stop number and parking lot letter when boarding your bus.** Get real-time bus information with the [RIT Mobile App](#) or go to [m.rit.edu](http://m.rit.edu). For more information about parking and shuttle, contact Adam Petzold at appfms@rit.edu.

**Disabled Parking:** G Lot is the primary lot, however limited disabled parking will be available in U Lot adjacent to the Gene Polisseni Center (POL). To enable us to best serve your needs, please submit our [Accessible Parking Request Form](#) (even if you have a disabled parking permit). See also the Accessibility section below.
Accessibility

Special Seating Needs
Both the Gordon Field House and Activities Center and the Gene Polisseni Center are accessible to those with special needs; however, guest seating is primarily in the bleachers which have steps. Our ushers will find seats on the floor together for your guests, however, please note that special needs seating is neither reserved nor guaranteed. We recommend that those with special seating needs arrive 2 hours in advance of the Academic Convocation and 90 minutes in advance of the college ceremony they plan to attend.

Wheelchairs
We do not have wheelchairs available on campus. You may rent wheelchairs from Monroe Wheelchair at 888-546-8595, Fonte Surgical Supply at 585-338-1000, or Westside Medical Supply at 585-227-8750.

Golf Carts: A limited number of golf carts operated by staff will be available to help elderly guests and others needing mobility assistance. This is a limited service and we ask that guests not requiring extra assistance please respect the needs of those that do. For safety reasons, golf carts will not take on passengers until crowds have cleared the building entrances after ceremonies. Please be aware that you may have to wait for up to 15 minutes for a golf cart immediately prior to and after the Academic Convocation and college ceremonies when demand is at its highest. Thank you for your patience.

Walking Around Campus
Please advise your guests that campus is large and considerable walking is involved from shuttle stops to ceremony and reception locations. We encourage everyone to wear comfortable shoes!

Wi-Fi
People without an RIT username can connect to the "RIT-Guest" wireless network. Please note the following about this service:

- Guests must have a phone number capable of receiving text messages in order to register (carrier text message rates may apply).
- Students, employees, and others with RIT computer accounts should continue to use the encrypted “RIT” wireless network.
- RIT-Guest access prohibits access to some internal RIT network resources.

If you have any questions about guest wireless at RIT, please contact the ITS Service Desk at servicedesk@rit.edu or 585-475-4357.

Students and staff of other universities may be eligible to access the internet via eduroam. Please visit the eduroam site for information.
Interpreting Services

The Academic Convocation and all college ceremonies will be American Sign Language interpreted and real-time captioned. The Gordon Field House and Activities Center and the Gene Polisseni Center are equipped with an FM hearing assistance system. Receivers will be available at the ticket office in the Field House and at Guest Services in the Gene Polisseni Center.

Dining on Campus

RIT Dining Services facilities and concessions stands will be open throughout the day on Friday and Saturday. Hours, location and menu information can be found at their website.

Lost and Found

For lost items, please check the ticket booth in the main lobby of the Gordon Field House and Activities Center and at Guest Services at the Gene Polisseni Center. All items will be taken to Public Safety in Grace Watson Hall (GWH) at the end of each day. Call 585-475-2853 for assistance.

Questions?

Before Commencement

- Academic questions should be directed to your academic department.
- For commencement questions, e-mail academicaffairs@rit.edu or call 585-475-5334.

During Commencement Weekend

- Information Booths will be located throughout campus for your assistance. In addition, volunteers wearing yellow ribbons will be happy to assist you.
- TEXT RITGRAD to 888777 to receive important updates throughout Commencement Weekend. Subscribers will receive event information, as well as safety, weather, traffic and emergency alerts from RIT. Your subscription is anonymous and you will be automatically unsubscribed from the service at the end of the weekend. You can unsubscribe at any time by replying STOP.
- All of the information in this newsletter and more is available on our mobile friendly website http://www.rit.edu/commencement. Bookmark it, get the RIT Mobile App for Apple and Android devices, or go to m.rit.edu.

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