CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies

365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6412, New York, NY 10016–4309
TEL 212.817.8220 FAX 212.817.1512

What a great ceremony! I enjoyed my special day and so did my family. They said it was the nicest graduation they have ever attended. Way to go CUNY BA!

Cherry Cooper ’08

Commencement was wonderful, classy, personal, and most of all, very moving.

Susan Ryan ’08

I had a great time at graduation. Thank you for putting together such an amazing event.

Kelly Gola ’08

February 2009

COMMENCEMENT INVITATION

Dear Sept. ’08 Graduates, Jan. ’09 Graduates, Potential June ’09 Graduates, and Potential Sept. ’09 Graduates:

You've waited for this day your whole life.

The CUNY Baccalaureate Program's annual commencement will take place on **Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 10:00am** in the Great Hall at The Cooper Union, 7 East 7th Street at Third Avenue in New York City. A reception will follow the ninety-minute ceremony. A rehearsal for all graduates will take place there that day at 9:00am.

Each graduate will cross the stage to receive the diploma and be greeted by Dr. William P. Kelly, President of The CUNY Graduate Center. Our ceremony is a moving, wonderful experience; I am sure you will want to be there with your family and friends. You may bring as many guests as you would like to the ceremony and reception (no tickets are required). Mentors will receive invitations soon, but we strongly encourage you to invite your mentor(s) personally.

All students wishing to march in the CUNY BA/BS commencement must complete and return the enclosed paperwork and pay the $75.00 fee by April 6, 2009. If you are renting a plain black cap and plain black gown for your home college’s ceremony, you may use the same attire for our event; in that case, your fee will be $60.00. Fill out the enclosed Commencement Order Form and return it with a check or money order.

If you need a letter from our office to a foreign embassy or consulate requesting permission for family members or friends to travel to the U.S. on a nonimmigrant visa for the ceremony, put your request in writing to Jean Myers, CUNY BA Administrative Assistant (JMyers@gc.cuny.edu) with this information:
full name(s) of relative/friend, relationship to you, name of the embassy/consulate and it's mailing address. If you are unable to find out the name and address of the embassy or consulate to which this information should be sent, refer to http://usembassy.state.gov/. We will prepare this letter for you to mail or fax. Make your request as soon as possible; there can be long waits for visas.

If you would like to represent your fellow graduates at Commencement by serving as this year's student speaker, send a 1-2 page letter of interest to my attention by April 6. Tell about your background and experiences as a CUNY Baccalaureate student, and explain why you would like to speak at the ceremony. If you are an experienced singer and wish to perform The National Anthem, please contact me by April 6 (bkneller@gc.cuny.edu).

In March, the CUNY BA/BS Registrar sends the names of graduates to the senior colleges. You are eligible to participate in your home college commencement in addition to the CUNY BA/BS ceremony. (Note: Some colleges do not allow upcoming September graduates to march in June, but CUNY BA/BS does.) If you have questions about your home college’s commencement, contact your home college.

We have arranged for a professional photographer to take your picture as you receive your diploma. You will receive an e-mail notifying you that your photographs are ready after the ceremony. You will have the option of ordering from a variety of packages and prices.

Students participating will receive an email confirming receipt of their payment/completed forms and a second email in early May with details about picking up the cap and gown, diplomas, directions to Cooper Union, etc. Details will also be posted on www.cunyba.cuny.edu.

For commencement questions (including concerns about whether or not to attend, be they academic, financial, etc.) contact Lidija Markes at 212-817-8223 or LMarkes@gc.cuny.edu.

Faculty mentors, the rest of the CUNY Baccalaureate staff, and I look forward to sharing this special occasion with you. Don't miss it!

Sincerely,

Beth G. Kneller, Deputy Director
bkneller@gc.cuny.edu

Enclosures and due dates:
1) Commencement Order Form (front & back)…..due April 6
2) Request for Letter to a Foreign Embassy or Consulate…..due April 6
3) Alumni Awards Application…..due May 15
4) Awards and Graduate School Information Form (front and back)…..due May 15
CUNY BACCALAUREATE COMMENCEMENT ORDER FORM
- You cannot submit this form if you have not had a graduation audit.
- If you are only attending your college's graduation ceremony, purchase your cap and gown from your home college, not from CUNY BA.

Please complete both sides

[ ] I WILL attend commencement

Checklist for enclosures you are to return to the CUNY BA/BS Office
1. [ ] this order form.
2. [ ] a check or money order made out to “CUNY BA/BS Program” for $75.00
   OR
3. [ ] a check or money order made out to “CUNY BA/BS Program” for $60.00 if you will be wearing your own plain black cap and black gown. (You will receive a CUNY BA stole and tassel).
4. [ ] Orders placed after April 6 require an additional 10.00 fee.

DO NOT SEND CASH. If you are unable to pay by check or money order, you may bring cash in person to the Program office, M-F, 9am-5pm.

Orders will not be accepted after May 1 and fees are nonrefundable after May 1, 2009.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY

NAME ______________________________________________________

YOUR GRADUATION DATE (circle one) SEPT. '08 JAN. '09 JUNE '09 SEPT. '09

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ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________

DAY-TIME PHONE (____)_____________ EMAIL ____________________________________________

CHECK HERE & SIGN IF THIS IS A NEW: ADDRESS ____ PHONE ____ E-MAIL __

SIGNATURE: __________________________________________________________

By April 6, Mail / Deliver all items to: CUNY BACCALAUREATE, ATTN: Jean Myers, 365 FIFTH AVENUE, ROOM 6412, NEW YORK, NY 10016
CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies

365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6412
New York, NY 10016–4309
TEL 212.817.8220 FAX 212.817.1512

The CUNY Baccalaureate may want to use your photo from commencement and related academic information about you for CUNY and/or external publicity. Accordingly, we request that you complete this form. Thank you.

CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

I hereby authorize The City University of New York (CUNY) and those acting pursuant to its authority to publish the following information on its website at cuny.edu and in other CUNY print and electronic media, including but not limited to web pages of The Graduate Center:

(1) My name; and
(2) My home college: Yes_______ No_______
(3) My area(s) of concentration: Yes_______ No_______
(4) My publications and presentations: Yes_______ No_______
(5) My honors and scholarships: Yes_______ No_______
(6) My professional and academic achievements: Yes_______ No_______
(7) Excerpts from my personal statement: Yes_______ No_______
(8) Excerpts from my resume or CV: Yes_______ No_______
(9) My photograph: Yes_______ No_______

I release CUNY and those acting pursuant to its authority from liability for any violation of any personal or proprietary right I may have in connection with such use. I understand that I may revoke this consent at any time by sending a request in writing to the Vice President for Student Affairs. I have read and fully understand the terms of this consent and release.

_______________________________________  _________________________
Signature                                      Date

_______________________________________  _________________________
Name (please print)                          Student I.D. number
ATTENTION SEPTEMBER 2008, JANUARY 2009, JUNE 2009
AND SEPTEMBER 2009 GRADUATES

SIX AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT COMMENCEMENT THIS YEAR

I. **THE DIEGO HIDALGO AWARD:** One $1,000 award will be awarded to an academically outstanding graduate going on to one of the graduate degrees at The CUNY Graduate Center in Fall 2009. Essay required; see below.

II. **THE CUNY BACCALAUREATE ALUMNI FUND AWARDS:** Thanks to the ongoing generosity of the CUNY BA/BS Alumni, two-three $500 awards will be awarded to academically outstanding graduates who are going on to graduate programs at any accredited institutions in Fall 2009. Essay required; see below.

III. **THE NAN BAUER-MAGLIN PRIZE IN LITERARY STUDIES:** One award of up to $250 will be made to a student who did exceptionally well in his/her Area of Concentration related to Literature/Literary Studies. No essay required; simply email Jean Myers, JMyers@gc.cuny.edu, by the deadline to ask to be considered. Include the title of your area(s) of concentration.

IV. **THE BARBARA KNELLER MEMORIAL AWARD:** One award of $500 will be made to a student who previously attended Kingsborough Community College and is completing the BA or BS in CUNY Baccalaureate with outstanding success. No essay required; simply email Jean Myers, JMyers@gc.cuny.edu, by the deadline to ask to be considered. Include the title of your area(s) of concentration.

V. **THE ABBY STEIN AWARD:** CUNY BA/Graduate Center Alumna Abby Stein, an adjunct professor at John Jay College, has established a $500 award. The award is given to a John Jay student, typically concentrating in an area involving the social sciences. No essay required; simply email Jean Myers, JMyers@gc.cuny.edu, by the deadline to ask to be considered. Include the title of your area(s) of concentration plus a brief statement about your academic work and career plans.

VI. **THE DAN DALEY JOURNALISM AWARD:** For the second time, CUNY BA alumnus Dan Daley, journalist and author, has designated a $500 award to be given to an upcoming graduate in journalism/communication. No essay required; simply email Jean Myers, JMyers@gc.cuny.edu, by the deadline to ask to be considered. Include the title of your area(s) of concentration plus a brief statement about your academic work and career plans.

Recipients of the awards for I and II will be selected based upon consideration of their cumulative GPA and Area GPA(s); a personal statement of not more than 2 double-spaced, typed pages; and proof of acceptance to an accredited graduate school program (for the Hidalgo Award, the graduate school must be The CUNY Graduate Center). The personal statement should address the following:

1) How did your Area(s) of Concentration influence your choice of graduate study?
2) Discuss what your specific focus will be in your graduate program.
3) Where do you see your graduate studies leading you?

Include a cover page stating your name, Area of Concentration, Graduate school and program you will be attending, daytime phone, and email contact information. All awards will be announced at Commencement and are subject to confirmation of all final grades. All awards are subject to the availability of funding.

**Award recipients MUST be present at the annual commencement ceremony.**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** 5pm, MAY 15, 2009.

**Send/bring your materials for Awards I and II to**
CUNY BACCALAUREATE, 365 Fifth Avenue, Room 6412,
New York, NY 10016 OR by Fax, 212-817-1512
**ATTN:** Lidija Markes, Scholarships Coordinator