In our advising interactions with students, we’ve noticed that some of the terms we use may be easy to confuse . . .

So we’ve designed a helpful guide for students to help ensure that you’re on top of the graduation process!

**Graduation** is when your degree is actually conferred after you meet all college and program requirements. Students can graduate in May, August, or December. **Commencement**, in contrast, is the traditional ceremony that formally honors graduates; it is held only once a year, in May. Some students with very few requirements remaining may be able to walk in commencement before they graduate (i.e., before their degree is actually conferred).

A **degree** is a title that is awarded to recognize that the recipient has satisfactorily completed a prescribed course of study. The College of Arts and Sciences awards both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. A **diploma**, on the other hand, is the actual “sheet of paper” (suitable for framing) that signifies that the recipient has earned a degree; the student typically receives the diploma 10 to 12 weeks after his or her degree is conferred. Even before students receive their diplomas, they can request official transcripts that confirm that they have completed their degree.

**Come to the Grad Fair!**

This event is an opportunity for graduating students to purchase their academic apparel, get their portraits taken, place orders for other graduation-related items (diploma frames, class rings, announcements, and more), and take advantage of discounts and freebies.

**Lake Shore Grad Fair**: March 22nd and March 23rd, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. in Gentile Center.

**Water Tower Grad Fair**: April 5th, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at Kasbeer Hall.

Apparel will also be available for purchase at both bookstores following the Grad Fair through Commencement Weekend.
We are excited to welcome Carly, CAS’s newest advisor! Carly moved to Chicago from Minneapolis this past November, and any day now she’ll be a first-time aunt to a new baby nephew. In her free time she enjoys traveling, cooking, and jogging — in fact, she just signed up for her first 5K in April. Happy (running) trails, Carly!

**CHICAGO FUN FACT:** Damen Avenue would not have its present name if not for the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Father Arnold Damen (1815-1890) was a Dutch Jesuit priest who founded Holy Family Church and Saint Ignatius College, the latter of which eventually became LUC. Father Damen had the church and college built roughly three-quarters of a mile from Mrs. O'Leary's barn, a detail that became significant after the fire broke out there on October 8, 1871. When Father Damen, who was in Brooklyn preaching at the time, heard news of the conflagration in Chicago, he prayed that both buildings be saved and vowed that if his prayers were answered, he would keep seven vigil lights burning before an image of the Virgin. Indeed, the church and college were spared, and in gratitude the City Council renamed the street after him. (Source: Chicago Straight Dope, available at http://chicago.straightdope.com/sdc20091231.php)

Hey! We want to give you a shout-out!

Do you have good news about yourself or a friend that you’d like us to share for you — perhaps an award, a new internship, a job offer, or acceptance at grad school? Send the editor an email at mkelleh@luc.edu, and we’ll consider including your shout-out in our next newsletter!

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