Dear Class of 2012 students and parents,

Congratulations! Whether you are a soon-to-be graduate or a proud parent of one, we look forward to your participation in Caltech’s 2012 commencement festivities.

Parents, you have provided boundless support to your children throughout their time at Caltech. Graduates, you have successfully completed one of the most challenging academic programs in the world and have developed knowledge, skills, and values that will be of tremendous service to society.

On behalf of the Caltech community, I salute all of your efforts and look forward to celebrating the many accomplishments of the Class of 2012 this June as you receive your diplomas and prepare to take the Caltech torch of discovery out into the world.

Yours in discovery,

Jean-Lou Chameau
President
Activities Schedule

**Thursday, June 14**

**Cap and Gown Portraits/Family Portraits (optional)**
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., marshaling area by Millikan Pond
4:00–6:00 p.m., President’s Garden, 415 South Hill Avenue

**Graduate Studies Celebration Luncheon***
MS and PhD candidates and their families
11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m., the Athenaeum

**Reception at the President’s Garden***
All graduates and their families
4:00–6:00 p.m., 415 South Hill Avenue

**Senior Graduation Banquet***
BS candidates and their families and friends
6:00 p.m., the Athenaeum

**Student Concert**
All graduates and their families and friends
8:30 p.m., Ramo Auditorium

**Friday, June 15**

**Group Photograph of 2012 BS Candidates**
8:45 a.m., Parsons-Gates

**Commencement Exercises**
10:00 a.m., Beckman Mall
Speaker: Elon Musk, founder, chief executive officer, and chief technology officer of SpaceX; cofounder, chief executive officer, and product architect of Tesla Motors; and chairman of SolarCity

**Commencement Luncheon***
All graduates and their families
12:30–2:00 p.m., the Athenaeum

*Reservations are required for the asterisked events and must be made and paid for by May 18, 2012. Please make your reservations online at commencement.caltech.edu. There is no charge for the President’s Reception.
Getting to Caltech
1200 East California Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91125

From Los Angeles International Airport (LAX):
> Travel south on Sepulveda Boulevard to the Century Freeway (105).
> Proceed east on the 105 to the Harbor/Pasadena Freeway (110).
> Drive north on the 110 until it ends at Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena.
> Continue north on Arroyo Parkway to California Boulevard.
> Turn right on California Boulevard.

Several van shuttles also offer door-to-door service from the airport.

From Downtown Los Angeles:
> Proceed north on the Harbor/Pasadena Freeway (110) until it ends at Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena.
> Continue north on Arroyo Parkway to California Boulevard.
> Turn right on California Boulevard.

From Burbank Airport (BUR) and Glendale:
> Follow the signs leaving the airport to the Golden State Freeway (5).
> Proceed south on the 5 to the Ventura Freeway (134).
> Go east on the 134 to the Foothill Freeway (210).
> Continue east on the 210 to Hill Avenue.
> Turn right on Hill Avenue and travel south until you reach campus.

From West Los Angeles:
> Travel east on the Santa Monica Freeway (10) to the Harbor/Pasadena Freeway (110).
> Go north on the 110 until it ends at Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena.
> Continue north on Arroyo Parkway to California Boulevard.
> Turn right onto California Boulevard.

From Orange County or the San Gabriel Valley:
> Drive north on the San Gabriel River Freeway (605) to the Foothill Freeway (210).
> Go west on the 210, taking the Hill Avenue exit.
> Turn left on Hill Avenue and travel south until you reach campus.
Caltech Alumni Association
Visit Caltech’s Alumni House at 345 South Hill Avenue while you are on campus. Membership in the CAA allows you to stay connected to the Caltech community no matter where you are and no matter when you graduated from the Institute.
Photographs and DVDs
GradImages will photograph each graduate as he or she crosses the stage to receive a diploma. Proofs will be made available within five business days of graduation, and there will be an opportunity to select from a variety of photo packages, with no obligation to purchase.

To streamline the photograph-ordering process, please sign up online at commencement.caltech.edu. By doing so in advance of graduation, GradImages will provide $5 off a $25 purchase.

Additional candid photos will be taken during the festivities. These images will be available for viewing on the commencement website within a few hours of the event.

Video and audio recordings of the entire ceremony will be available. For information about ordering the DVD, contact the Caltech Bookstore at citbook@caltech.edu or 626-395-6161, or visit commencement.caltech.edu.

Caps and Gowns and Other Mementos
Questions regarding caps and gowns, commencement invitations and announcements, graduation photos, DVD orders, class rings, and diploma frames should be directed to the Caltech Bookstore.

Caps and gowns are available for purchase and pick up from the Caltech Bookstore between April 18 and the morning of commencement. The cost is $28 for the bachelor’s cap, gown, and tassel; $33 for the master’s cap, gown, and tassel; $95 for the PhD cap, gown, tassel, and hood. Rentals are not available.

This year’s commencement gowns are made from recycled material and can be recycled after the event. For more information, please contact the Caltech Bookstore at citbook@caltech.edu or 626-395-6161, or visit bookstore.caltech.edu.

Hotels and Restaurants
Reduced room rates have been negotiated for graduates’ families at a number of local hotels. Accommodations are limited, and guests will need to contact the hotel directly and mention that they will be attending the California Institute of Technology commencement when making a reservation.

Participating hotels and their rates, as well as nearby restaurants, are listed online at commencement.caltech.edu.

Marshaling Areas
Candidates for degrees must reach their specified line-formation site, in cap and gown, no later than 9:00 a.m. on June 15. Commencement exercises will start promptly at 10:00 a.m., and latecomers may not be included in the processional. Detailed instructions will be distributed in the marshaling areas when the candidates sign in.

Staff will be present to coordinate the assembling of the academic procession. Candidates will form a line along the covered walk at each of these locations:

A Bachelor’s candidates: south of Parsons-Gates
B Master’s and engineer’s candidates: south end of the bridge across Millikan Pond
C PhD candidates: north of East Bridge, behind the master’s and engineer’s candidates
The marching order will be candidates for bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees, engineer’s degrees, and PhD degrees, followed by the faculty, trustees, and speakers. Candidates will follow the marshal of their respective group to their seats on Beckman Mall, where they will remain standing until Kent Kresa, chairman of the Board of Trustees, asks the audience to be seated.

At the end of the ceremony, graduates should remain standing after the Alma Mater and during the recessional march of the faculty, trustees, and speakers, until the recessional music stops. There is no formal recession for graduates.

**Commencement Parking**

Parking is available in lots and structures around campus, and will be free for guest parking on Thursday, June 14, and Friday, June 15. Please see the map for locations.

*The two-hour parking limit on surrounding streets will also be lifted on Friday, June 15.*

**Special Needs**

- **Handicapped Drop-Off:** South end of Lot 11 ☐. The area is accessible from Michigan Avenue, south of Del Mar Boulevard.

- **Handicapped Parking:** Lot 12 ☐, near the southeast corner of Del Mar Boulevard and Michigan Avenue. The lot may be entered from Wilson Avenue as well as from Michigan Avenue.

**Transportation on campus:** Campus security will provide an electric cart to transport disabled persons to the commencement site. An officer stationed at the handicapped drop-off area can arrange for service.

**Handicapped seating:** The northeast corner of the Beckman Mall, facing the stage, is reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one person may accompany the handicapped individual.

**American Sign Language (ASL)** interpreters will be signing during the exercises.

**Large-type programs and assistive listening devices (ALDs) are available at the information booth, located at the far south end of Beckman Mall.**

**Wheelchairs** are available for on-site use only to transport disabled guests to/from their seats. These wheelchairs are kept at the first-aid tent, located at the far south end of Beckman Mall. If you require a wheelchair for use beyond the commencement site, they are available from several local rental companies, including Home Medical Supplies, 626-796-5979, and Cal Oaks Pharmacy, 626-795-5956.

**Lost and Found** items may be reported and claimed at the information booth.
For Further Information
Commencement Office
phone 626-395-2352
email commencement@caltech.edu

commencement.caltech.edu