

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LIFE SCIENCES
AND
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY



GRADUATION
Ceremony

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH
5:00PM-7:00PM
THE RYAN CENTER

The [URI Commencement website](http://web.uri.edu/commencement/) includes everything you need to know related to the Graduate and Undergraduate Ceremony - eligibility, caps and gowns, photographs, accommodations, parking, maps, travel and more: <http://web.uri.edu/commencement/>

Side B- Start of Line



Undergraduate Degrees

Dept. of Natural Resources Science
Environmental Science & Management
Wildlife & Conservation Biology

Dept. of Environmental & Natural Resource Economics
Environmental & Natural Resource Economics

Dept. of Marine Affairs
Marine Affairs (B.A.)
Marine Affairs (B.S.)

Dept. of Biological Sciences
Biology (B.A.)
Biological Science
Marine Biology

The graduate at the beginning of each line will be asked to carry their major sign to hand to the reader on stage.

4:00PM South Lobby Entrance

Graduate check-in and line up



Side A- Start of the Line

GSO

PhD. Candidates

MS Candidates

MO Candidates

MOO Candidates

Graduate School

PhD. Candidates

MAMA Candidates

MMA Candidates

MS Candidates

MESM Candidates

Undergraduate Degrees

Dept. of Landscape Architecture
Landscape Architecture

Dept. of Plant Sciences & Entomology
Plant Sciences

Dept. of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Animal Science & Technology
Aquaculture and Fisheries Science
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Dept. of Geosciences
Geology and Geological Oceanography

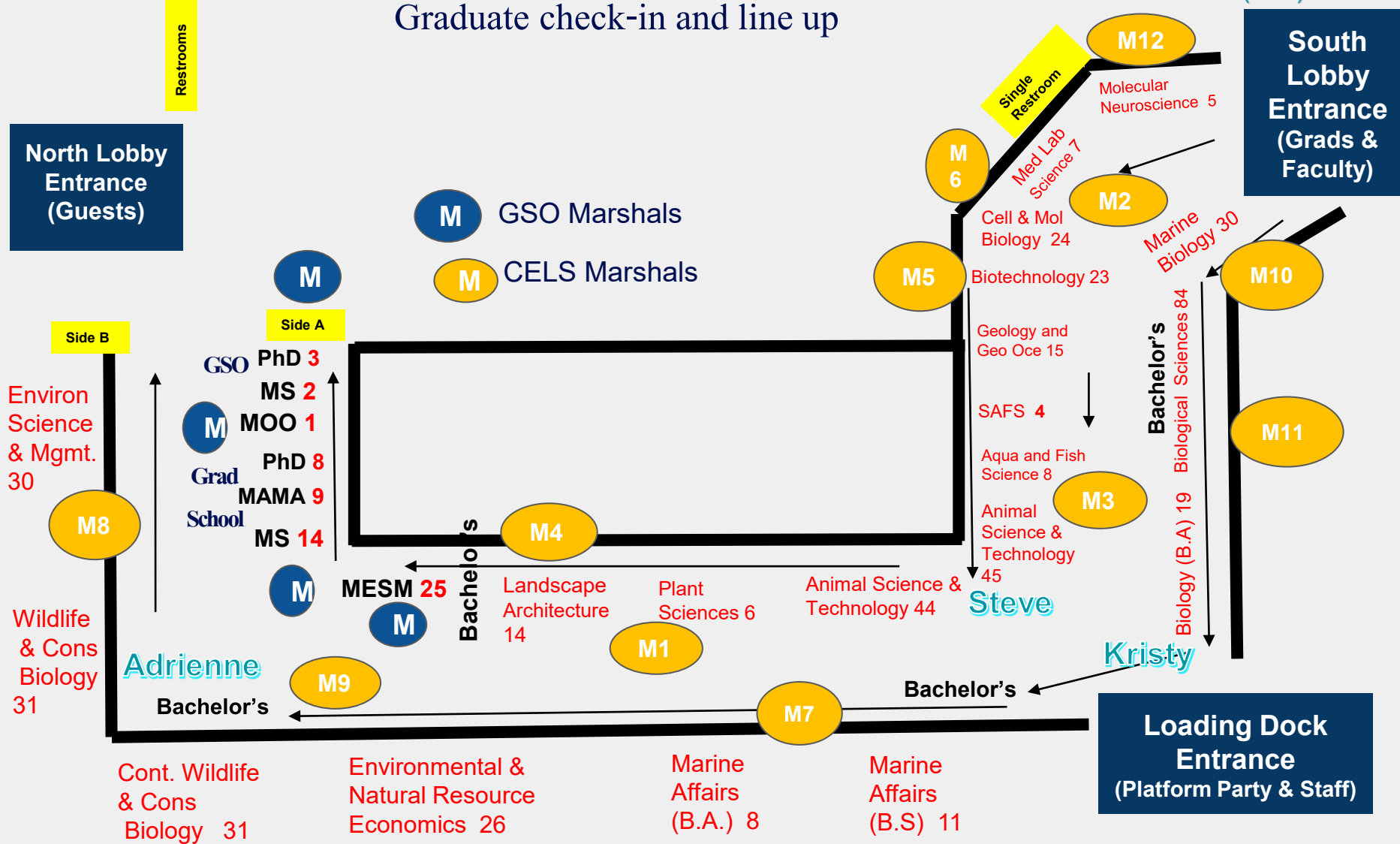
Dept. of Cell & Molecular Biology
Biotechnology
Cell & Molecular Biology
Medical Laboratory Science

Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program
Molecular Neuroscience

4:00PM South Lobby Entrance

Graduate check-in and line up

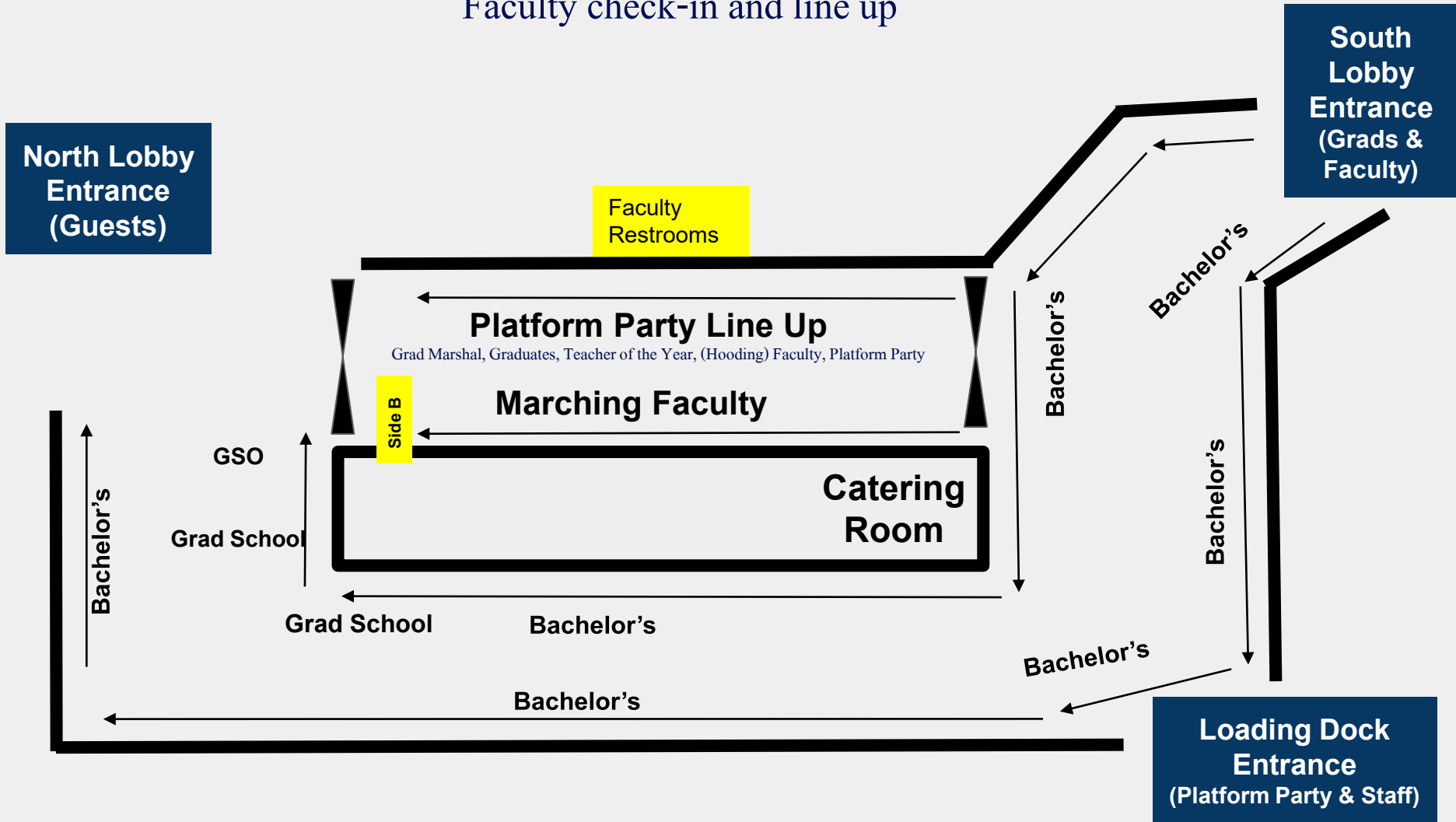
Student Check-in
 Soni Pradhanang
 Michael Deus
 Deimaris Gomez
 Meredith Clark (GSO)





4:00PM South Lobby Entrance

Faculty check-in and line up



5:00PM Processional

Grand Marshal

Undergraduates

GSO Graduates

Undergraduates

Graduate School Graduates

Undergraduates

Undergraduates

Teacher of the Year

Marching Faculty

Hooding Professors

Platform Party

Platform Party

Refrain from bringing confetti, balloons and noisemakers.

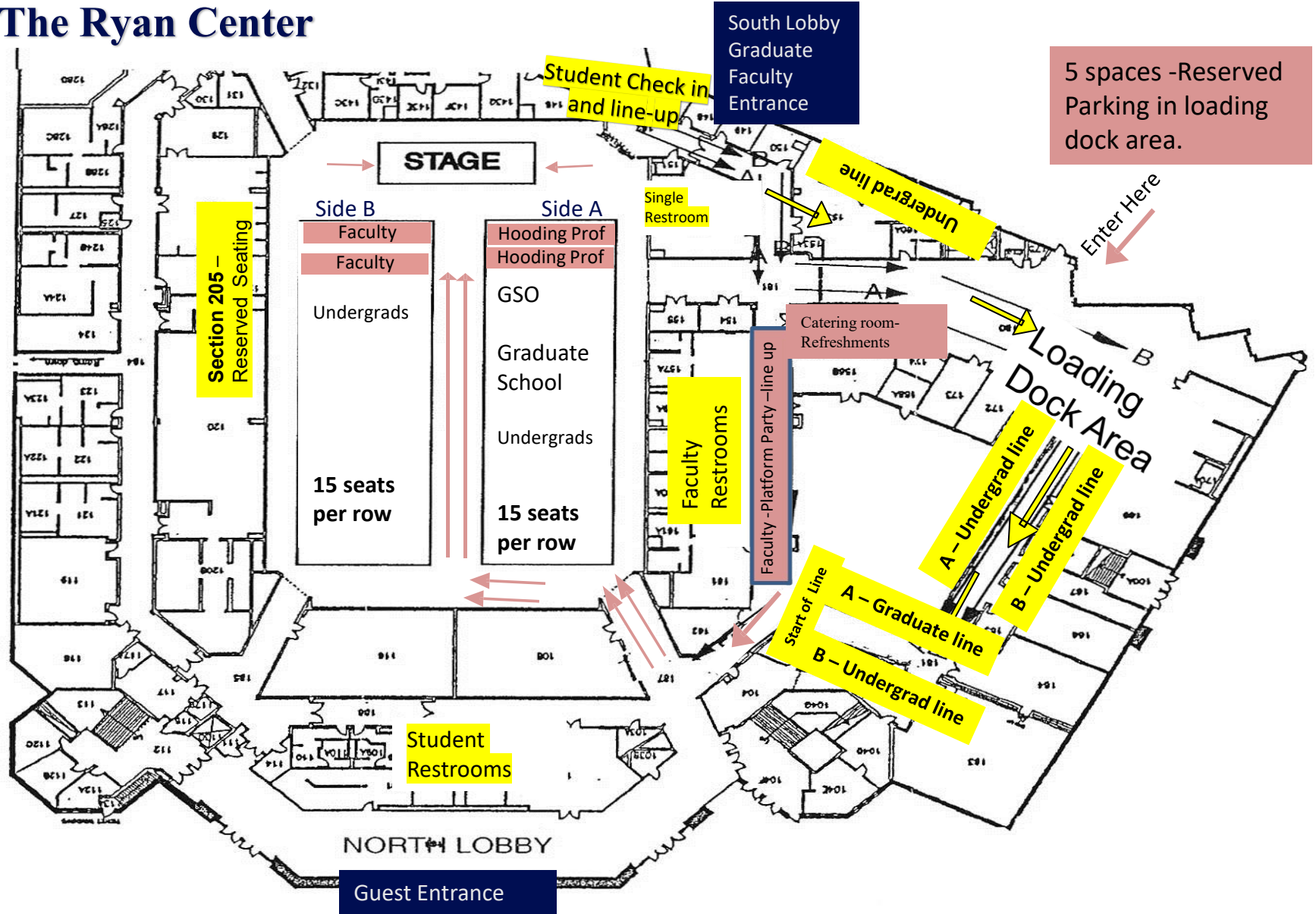
The tassel is worn on the right until the degree has been conferred, at which time it is flipped to the left side.

Please have guests remain seated as a courtesy to those students who do not walk until later in the program.

Graduate Seating

There are 15 seats per row.
Marshals will count each graduate as they enter the row to ensure every graduate has a seat.

The Ryan Center



5 spaces -Reserved Parking in loading dock area.

4:00p.m. Line up *Marshalls assist with graduate line up

5:00pm Double Line Processional

Graduate Seating - There are 15 seats per row. Marshals will count each graduate as they enter the row to ensure every graduate has a seat.

3:45 - Arrive and get in place to assist with graduate line-up

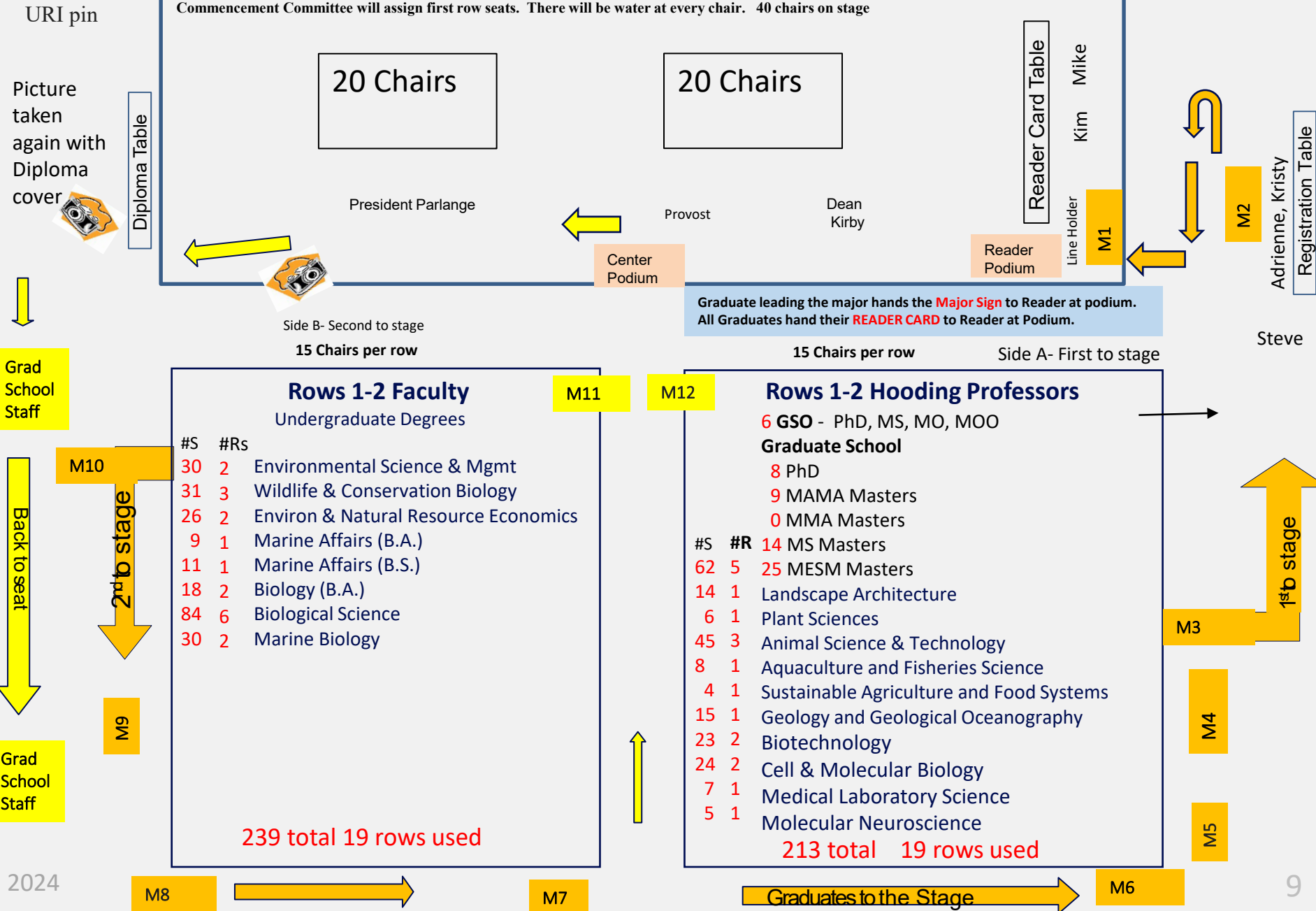
5:00pm Processional - Seat Faculty and Graduates

CELS 2024 Marshals

	M11	Alison Roberts	
	M12	Jodi Camberg	
Awarding of Degrees			
	M1	John Taylor	On stage. Assist reader and works with photographer to pace graduates crossing the stage
	M2	Claudia Fallini	To Stage
	M3	Coleen Suckling	Side A - first to stage. Send graduates one row at a time to stage
	M4	Jane Buxton	Side A - first to stage
	M5	Brian Plouffe	Side A - first to stage
	M6	Doreen Osgood-Dean	Back Row
	M7	Elizabeth Mendenhall	Back Row
	M8	Sunshine Menezes	Back Row
	M9	Tolani Olagundoye	Side B - Seconde to stage. Send graduates line by line to stage
	M10	Niels Hobbs	Side B - Seconde to stage.
Recessional			
	M11	Alison Roberts	Assists graduates one row at a time to recess
	M12	Jodi Camberg	Assists graduates one row at a time to recess
	M6	Doreen Osgood-Dean	Guide graduates to exit
	M7	Elizabeth Mendenhall	Guide graduates to exit
	M1-5		Side A - Have graduates remain seated until they are asked to stand and recess
	M8-10		Side B - Have graduates remain seated until they are asked to stand and recess

CELS Stage-Awarding of Degree

President Parlange (1), Provost Wolfe (1), Grand Marshal (1), Board of Trustees Member (1), Presiding member of the URIFAE Board (1), Members of the President's Executive Council (1-?), Teacher of the Year (1), Deans (5), CELS Chairs (10), Graduate Directors (5), Student Speaker (2). (29-?). **The URI Commencement Committee will assign first row seats. There will be water at every chair. 40 chairs on stage.**



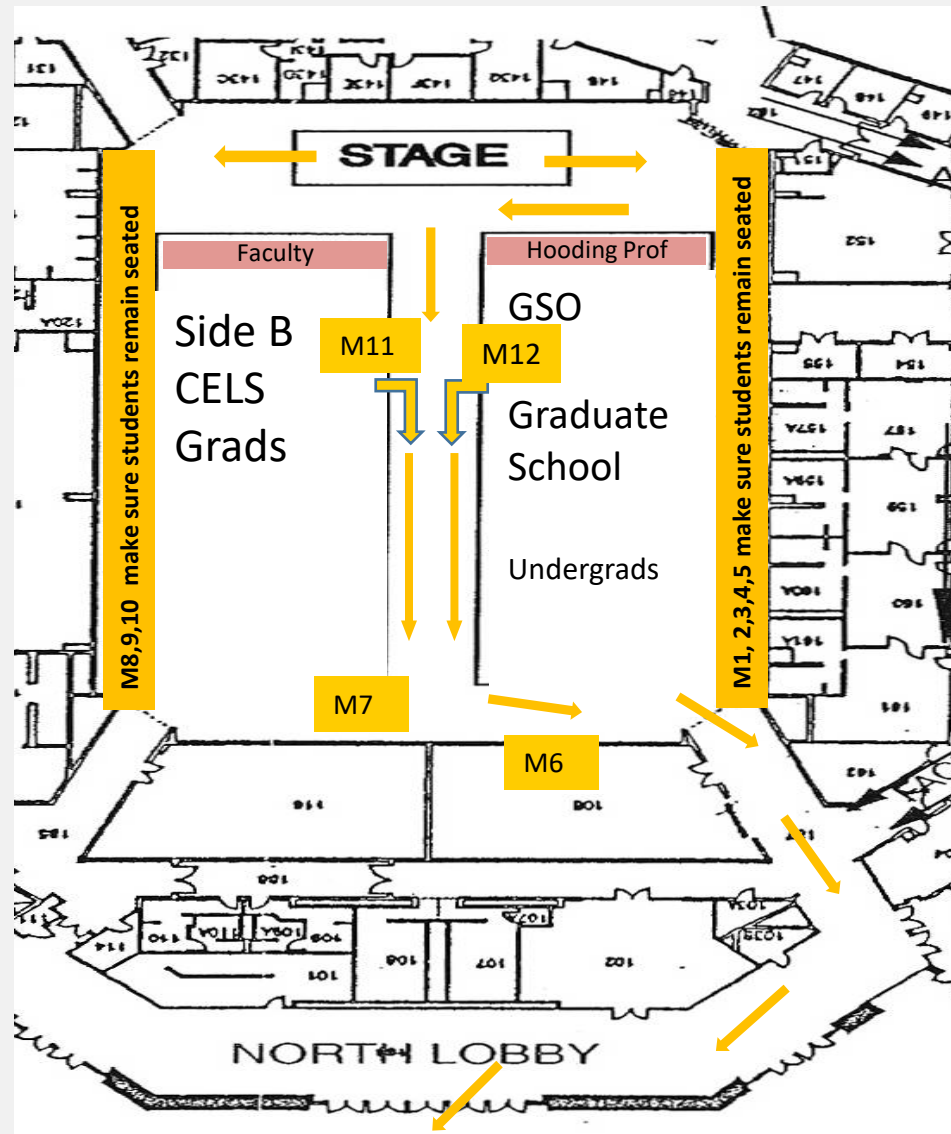
Recessional - Platform Party, Faculty then Graduates

The platform party will recess out followed by the faculty then the graduates.

Graduates remain seated

M11 and **M12** will ask graduate row to stand up, one row at a time, and exit from each side to form a double line. **M6** and **M7** will direct graduates to the exit. All other Marshals make sure students remain seated until their row is called to stand up.

Guests and family members can meet their graduate outside the Ryan Center in the parking lot.



All potential graduates must:

1. **Apply to graduate** through the College. Review the [CELS Graduation Webpage](#) for additional information.
2. [Register](#) to walk in the ceremony using their URI email address. Guest Tickets will be emailed to the student.

Please text “**Rhody**” to **401-874-7267**, email tickets@theyrancenter.com or call **401-874-RAMS** for assistance from the Ryan Center Ticket Office.

The [URI Commencement](#) website includes everything you need to know related to the Ceremony- eligibility, caps and gowns, photographs, accommodations, parking, maps, travel and more:

<http://web.uri.edu/commencement/>

For Additional Questions Contact:

CELS Office of Academic & Student Affairs

130 CBLS Building

Phone: (401) 874-5026

Platform Party: (29)

The following groups will be invited by the University Events office to participate in the Platform Party.

Responses will be shared with the college to ensure ample seating on stage.

 Grand Marshal (will be a presiding member of the faculty senate)


 President

 Provost

 Presiding Academic Deans which includes the Graduate School Dean, Brenton DeBoef

 Presiding member of the Board of Trustees


 Presiding member of the URIFAE Board

 GSO Faculty, CELS Chairs, Teacher of the Year, Grad Directors (Gomez-Chiarri, Lang and Mendenhall, Brett Still and Michelle Peach)

 Associate Vice President/Vice Provosts

 Members of the President's Executive Council

 Student Speakers - There can be one student speaker for each College.

 Name Reader (Wilga, Sartini and Grandidge) will read all names, including graduate students.

Dean Kirby

CELS Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony - This is a special part of our ceremony where we take the opportunity to recognize a few graduates for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the college. Students will be asked to stand up.

-  CELS Ambassadors
-  Seeds of Success Organization
-  Excellence Award Winners
-  Coastal, Energy, and Science & Engineering Fellows
-  Energy Certificate
-  Veterans

Conferral of Undergraduate Degrees

Graduates will cross the stage and shake hands with Dean Kirby, Provost Wolfe, and President Parlange.

Graduates will receive a diploma cover off stage and have a professional photo taken. * Note - The graduate's actual degree will be mailed 6-8 weeks after commencement after fall, j-term and spring grades are confirmed.

The Reader will Announce the Major

The graduate at the beginning of the line for each major will carry the **major Signs** to the stage. The student will hand the **major sign** and **reader card** to the **Reader at the podium** to announce the major and student name. The Reader hands each individual reader card to the person at the card table behind them. Staff at the card table will number each card and give to the photographer at the end of the ceremony.

* The tassel is worn on the right until the degree has been conferred, at which time it is flipped to the left side.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT RUN OF SHOW
COLLEGE CEREMONIES
 May 2024 | Ryan Center

The URI Commencement Committee will provide the full script and have a copy placed on the podium.

Academic procession		10 minutes
Convocation opening	Provost Barbara Wolfe	1 minute
The National Anthem		2 minutes
Land acknowledgement and introductions	Provost Wolfe	2 minutes
Welcome	President Marc Parlange	5 minutes
Remarks	College dean	5 minutes
Presentation of honorary degree recipients (if applicable)		10 minutes *
Advice to graduates (from honorary degree recipient) (if applicable)	Honorary degree recipient	10 minutes
Conferral of academic degrees (Doctoral degrees)	Conferral: Dean Brenton DeBoef presents candidates, President Parlange confers degrees Presentation of diplomas: Hooding professors and Provost Wolfe hood graduates, Dean DeBoef and President Parlange shake graduates' hands as they cross the stage	Conferral: 2 minutes Presentation: X minutes **
Conferral of academic degrees (Master's degrees)	Conferral: Dean DeBoef presents candidates, President Parlange confers degrees Presentation of diplomas: Dean DeBoef, Provost Wolfe, and President Parlange shake graduates' hands as they cross the stage	Conferral: 2 minutes Presentation: X minutes **
Conferral of academic degrees (Bachelor's degrees)	Conferral: College dean presents candidates, President Parlange confers degrees Presentation of diplomas: College dean, Provost Wolfe, and President Parlange shake graduates' hands as they cross the stage	Conferral: 2 minutes Presentation: X minutes **
Student address		3 minutes

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
 SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT RUN OF SHOW
 May 2024 | Ryan Center

Remarks	Presiding trustee	2 minutes
Alumni welcome	URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement representative	1 minute
Video		3 minutes
Closing remarks	President Parlange	3 minutes
Alma Mater		1 minute
Convocation closing / Rhody / Fight song		4 minutes
Recessional		10 minutes
	Total ceremony time:	1 hour 57 minutes <i>Assumes 45 minutes for conferrals</i>

*** Honorary degree recipient time estimates**

- 3 minutes per honoree

**** Conferral time estimates**

- Doctoral: 2 graduates per minute
- Master's and bachelor's: 10 graduates per minute

A circular logo with a white center containing the year '2024' in blue serif font and three blue stars below it. The logo is surrounded by a gold border and is set against a dark blue background with gold diagonal stripes.

2024

CELS Marshals

Jane Buxton, LAR

Jodi Camberg, CMB

Claudia Fallini, CMB

Niels Hobbs, BIO SCI

Elizabeth Mendenhall, MAF

Sunshine Menezes, NRS

Tolani Olagundoye, NRS

Doreen Osgood-Dean, CMB

Brian Plouffe, CMB

Soni Pradhanang, GEO

Alison Roberts, BIO SCI

Coleen Suckling, FAVS

John Taylor, PLS

A circular logo with a white center containing the year '2024' in blue serif font, three blue stars below it, and a blue border. The logo is set against a dark blue background with two gold diagonal stripes.

2024



CELS Commencement Committee

John Taylor, PLS, *Chair*

Jodi Camberg, CMB

Coleen Suckling, FAVS

Becky Sartini, Associate Dean *ex officio*

Kimberly Anderson, Assistant Dean *ex officio*

CELS Student Volunteers

Aren Antranik, BIO SCI

Edward De La Cruz, BIO SCI

Jessica Devlin, CMB

Abby Doster, NEU

Maris Harty, PLS

Riddhi Katore, BIOT

Imran Khalil, BIO SCI

Augustina Munter, ENRE

Alberto Paz, CMB

Bethany Pucino, GEO

Haley Reis, BIOT

Hector Santiago Alvarez, BIOT

Abigail Snee, BIOT

Why the Collegiate Class of 2024 is Different Than Any Other Class



by [Pat Molnar](#) | April 9, 2024

This spring, thousands of college graduates will put on their cap and gowns and walk across a stage to receive their diplomas. Their parents will wave proudly from the stands and post their pictures all over social media. Been there, done that, right?

No. Not really. This class, this collegiate class, deserves a little more recognition this season. You may wonder what makes them so special. The answer is simple. Many of them were the high school Class of 2020. *We all remember 2020. The Pandemic Year. The Year We Stayed Home. The Year Our Plans Changed. The Year of Cancellations.*

The Class of 2024 is unique

The teens who graduated high school that year are the same ones who will walk across the stage this spring. They are unique. The last four years of their education have been different than any other class before them. They were pioneers, innovators and guinea pigs.

There was no roadmap for them. They couldn't ask their parents or older siblings for advice on how to navigate virtual classrooms, date while social distancing, make friends when their facial expressions were covered by a mask, or how to find closure for their senior year that was cut short.

At first the high school Class of 2020 enjoyed the break from in-person classes

At first, many of the Class of 2020 probably enjoyed the thought of two weeks off from in-person classes. It would be the best senior ditch day in history. Most of the schools and teachers were not prepared for virtual classrooms. Attendance was harder to control so many didn't show up to their virtual lectures. Many of the ones that did already had an infectious case of senioritis and didn't really pay attention.

Who could blame them? Most of them were already accepted to their college of choice. Their GPA was calculated for the first 7 ½ semesters and the last one didn't count. They would enjoy this break from routine and deal with the consequences when they returned to the classroom. In the meantime, they would do online assignments in their pajamas and turn them in minutes before the midnight deadline.

Everything would just be pushed back, they were told. Their final sports seasons would start later, cutting out just a few games. That's alright, they reasoned. They would still get their varsity year, beat the school records they were so close to and be recognized on senior night. It would just be two weeks.

Two weeks off grew into one, long endless cancellation

So they waited patiently, but with the mandated social distancing, they missed their friends. They only had a few more months with these friends – many of whom they had known since kindergarten – before they headed off to college.

Some of those teens were also trying to navigate love relationships. The pandemic happened at a time of their lives when physical connections to people their age were as essential as breathing. Yes, they figured out ways to keep socializing through phone calls and FaceTime and video games, but it just wasn't the same as being in person.

The two weeks morphed into four weeks and then eight weeks. Slowly they learned that the events that they had been looking forward to for four years – that they earned – would not be happening. There would be no spring season for athletes. No final play, concert or trips. No senior lock-in. No prom. Worse yet, for many, there would be no graduation ceremony.

Most of the seniors never returned to their high schools

Most of them never saw the halls of their high schools again. They finished their classes online, without the benefit of labs, PE or group projects. Their education was suspended, partially because there was no way to hold them accountable for their work.

The contents of their lockers were boxed up and returned to them along with their diploma. The closure that they hoped for never came.

It was for the greater good, they were told. You will be going to college in the fall and the cases are starting to go down. It's almost over.

Everything will be better after the summer, they were promised again.

All of their plans were cancelled

Without the formal closure of their high school years, the seniors did their best to enjoy the summer. They spent time with their friends and family, although many public events like concerts or 4th of July celebrations did not happen.

They worked their last days at their summer jobs and stopped off at all their old haunts, knowing in months that they would be headed to their post high school plans. But soon the reality of their situation set in. None of those plans would be as they expected.

The carefree days of summer masked their reality. (No pun intended.) College in the fall of 2020 would be as unique as their senior year. Just like the previous school year, this freshman class would be guinea pigs.

The Collegiate Class of 2024 would enter college without the freshman class picture on the football field. Without freshman mixers. Without festivals on the quad. Like everything else in their pandemic-driven worlds, rushing for Greek life would take place virtually.

College is hard enough without complications

College is hard enough when you don't know anyone. We tell our teens to put yourself out there and make friends. But imagine moving to a new place where you knew no one and not being allowed to sit together at a dining table or play frisbee on the lawn.

Imagine meeting new people without the benefit of facial expressions that were hidden behind masks. Online social events and more online classrooms would give those freshmen flashbacks to the end of senior year. Would they really have to endure another year of this?

The answer is yes, they would. Many students struggled to learn in an online environment, especially those who were in hands-on fields like nursing or mechanics. Others grew frustrated having to teach themselves the curriculum they were given by professors who wouldn't or couldn't see them in person.

This class ended up being pioneers

This Collegiate Class of 2024 was once again pioneers traveling on roads that have never been taken. The roadblocks were maddening, painful and unfair. They would be met with ultimatums regarding their personal choice to take a new vaccine or not. Take it and stay in classes, Greek life and social events. Don't take it and submit to weekly testing, denial of entrance to school events and quarantine in your dorm.

The isolation got to many of them. They missed life as it used to be. Being away from their families and isolated in their dorms made them crave human interaction. All of these things left our kids reevaluating their choices – stay and see how college plays out or leave and start over with plan B.

This class will soon graduate

The Class of 2024 will soon cross the stage at their universities – many donning a cap and gown for the first time. They are not only more educated but stronger for their shared experience. They endured everything we took from them, every pivot we asked of them and every ounce of patience we expected from them. They deserve not only our applause but also our admiration.

This group of young adults showed us how to stand firm in a storm, not knowing when or how it will end. This perseverance will serve them well in their lives.

It is a lesson they could not learn in a classroom. They discovered it is the light from within them that will guide them through the darkest days.