Outdoor Commencement Preview

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Excitement is building for WKU’s first outdoor commencement ceremony since 2006.

Amy Bingham has a preview of the festivities in this week’s View from the Hill.

It’s been years since WKU hosted commencement outdoors but it’s happening one week from tomorrow. Some new elements have been added before and after the ceremony that will guarantee excitement from start to finish!

It’s commencement time on the hill.

“All the graduates are starting to get really excited.”

This year is about bringing back an old tradition.

“I think the excitement about this is that its reimagining the way we’ve done it in the past.”

Outdoor ceremonies go way back in WKU’s history but there is a twist that’s been added to this year’s festivities.

“The Topper Walk is going to be something new, and that’s a tradition President Caboni is starting. “

Graduates will gather in front of the Kentucky museum at four o’clock on Friday. The Topper Walk to Smith Stadium will begin at five.

“Each of the deans will be there in front of the line for each of their colleges. We will have the parade of flags that will be done at that time as well as the Board of regents, the platform party, so everyone will be involved with the walk.”

“Parents can either line up on the street or they can go straight into Smith Stadium, find their seat and actually watch the live feed of it in the stands.”

Another new feature – The Big Red Bash on the South Lawn beginning immediately following the hour long commencement.

“From a logistics standpoint of going to get food afterward, we’ve tried to make it easy for them where they literally just walk across the street to the Big Red Bash.”

Food, live music and even a professional photo op in the Alumni tent.

“They can get a professional head shot done in their cap and gown or a full length shot. Just depends on what they’re wanting that day.”

Finishing touches are underway for a record 32 hundred and 83 graduates who will experience the celebration.

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While the actual commencement and conferring of degrees will take place Friday May 11th, individual colleges will hold recognition ceremonies on Saturday May 12th beginning at eight am.

For a complete schedule, log onto wku.edu/commencement.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.