



May 5, 2025

At Heidelberg University, our traditions are more than just ceremonies. They bind together our community of students, alumni, faculty, and staff into one giant family, and we love to celebrate them.

When you become a Student Prince, here are a few of the unique ‘Berg traditions you’ll experience, like thousands of alumni before you:

### **Opening Convocation & T-Bridge**

As a new student, you’ll cross T-Bridge to symbolize the start of your Heidelberg journey, with a penny in hand and Heidelberg beanie on your head. Enter Seiberling Gymnasium, where you’ll be inspired at Opening Convocation as you kick off the new academic year with your new classmates.

### **Perfect pick-me-up**

Final exams can be stressful, but not too stressful with some delicious nourishment. On the eve of finals every semester, ‘Berg faculty and staff join our Parkhurst Dining partners to serve you Late-Night Breakfast, just the fuel you need to get through the grueling last week before break.

### **A rose is a rose**

When you graduate and walk across the stage to receive your diploma, you’ll also receive a white rose, the significance of which is sweet, new beginnings. Preserve it or give it to someone influential in your ‘Berg journey.

### **Applause, applause**

During Opening Convocation and again at Commencement, you’ll walk through the faculty “gauntlet” – two parallel rows of your professors – as they applaud to symbolize a beginning (Convocation) and an ending (Commencement). We promise, they’re not intimidating ... just celebrating you!

### **A colorful legacy**

Each graduating class designs a banner that represents their collective experiences during their time at the Berg. These class banners aren’t just decorative; they are artistic representations of your class’s identity and legacy. Your class banner will have a special place at Commencement and then again, every five years for your reunion.

**V for victory**

After every football victory, the bell in front of University Hall rings to signal another win. It's a symbol of achievement, 'Berg Pride and joy. We celebrate each of your successes with this same enthusiasm.

**Sweet Alma Home**

Sweet Alma Home, our alma mater, is sung at special events from Convocation to Commencement to reinforce your connection to this place, to your classmates and to the generations of students who have walked this campus before you. It's a unique tune – kind of like an earworm, but in a good way – that'll stick with you always. You'll know what we mean when you become an alum!

**The Student Prince**

Ah, yes. Siggy, the Student Prince, our unforgettable mascot. He's always ready to hype the crowd, pose for a selfie or help you feel at home during Welcome Week.

**175 and counting**

This year has been one big celebration, and if you count educating leaders, thinkers, and Opportunity Makers – that's you! – as a tradition (which we do), then you'll understand why we've had such a great time observing Heidelberg's 175th anniversary. The party's just getting started!

The banners, the beanies, the bell, the songs ... they're not just about the past. They're about you and your experience here at Heidelberg. By becoming part of these traditions, you'll help shape and add to the wonderful Heidelberg legacy.

And don't forget to hang onto that Heidelberg beanie! It'll mean something very special years from now!

In Berg Pride,

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