

# Commencement 2014

The 43rd UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 17, 2014, at 4 p.m., at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in downtown Springfield, 9th and Adams streets.

## Video

- Watch the [2014 Commencement Video on Demand](#)
- [Download the order form](#) (pdf) to purchase a DVD of the ceremony

[More great content below](#)

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## Speakers

### Commencement Address

**Donovan W. Pepper** National Director of Local Government Relations Walgreen Co. 1994 and 1996 Alumnus

- [Read the Commencement Address](#)

### Other Speakers

- Board of Trustees Representative, **Karen Hasara**
- University President, **Robert A. Easter**
- UIS Chancellor, **Susan J. Koch**
- Student Speaker, **Zachary A. Sullivan** – [Read the Remarks to Fellow Graduates](#)
- Alumni Association Representative, **John P. Lowder**

## Important Information for 2014 Graduates

- [Commencement Letter #1](#) (pdf)
  - [Commencement Letter #2](#) (pdf)
  - [Commencement Letter #3](#) (pdf)
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## About Commencement 2014

The 43rd UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 17, 2014, at 4 p.m., at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in downtown Springfield, 9th and Adams streets. See our [Visitors](#) page for directions and information for out of town guests.



- [Speakers and Marshals](#)
- [Distance Viewing](#)
- [Tickets](#)
- [Schedule of Events](#)

## Speakers and Marshals

### Commencement Address

Donovan W. Pepper, National Director of Local Government Relations Walgreen Co., 1994 and 1996 Alumnus

### Speakers

Board of Trustees Representative, **Karen Hasara**  
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### Marshals

Each year, the faculty and students from each academic program choose a graduating student to serve as program marshal. These students, who best exemplify the goals and spirit of their programs, are identifiable at the ceremony by the gold stoles they wear.

The grand marshal who leads the commencement procession is a faculty member, chosen each year by a vote of his or her colleagues.

- **Professor Donald Morris, Accountancy**

## Distance viewing

- The ceremony will be [webcast live](#) on the UIS website.
- [Download the order form](#) (pdf) to purchase a DVD of the ceremony.

## Tickets

Tickets are not required for admission into the ceremony.

## Commencement Week Schedule of Events

Check back here frequently for updates.

\* Denotes by invitation only

<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Contact</i>
* <b>Beta Gamma Sigma Ceremony:</b> Saturday, April 12, 2014	Brookens Auditorium	2:00 p.m.	Kelly Guerrero (217) 206-7872 <a href="mailto:kguer02s@uis.edu">kguer02s@uis.edu</a>
<b>Student Affairs Leadership Reception</b> Saturday, May 3, 2014	PAC Lobby	2:00 p.m.	Cynthia Thompson (217) 206-6665 <a href="mailto:cthom2@uis.edu">cthom2@uis.edu</a>
* <b>UIS Peoria Center Graduation Reception:</b> Friday, May 9, 2014	Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette	6:30 p.m.	Rhonda Bussell (309) 999-4252 <a href="mailto:bussell.rhonda@uis.edu">bussell.rhonda@uis.edu</a>
<b>All Sports Banquet</b> Saturday, May 10, 2014	TRAC Arena	6:30 p.m.	Matt Prink (217) 206-7017 <a href="mailto:mprin2@uis.edu">mprin2@uis.edu</a>
<b>Late Night Breakfast:</b> Wednesday, May 14, 2014	Food Emporium	9:00-10:30 p.m.	Cynthia Thompson (217) 206-6665 <a href="mailto:cthom2@uis.edu">cthom2@uis.edu</a>
<b>Lavender Graduation (A Celebration of LGBTQ and Allied Students, Staff, and Faculty):</b> Friday, May 16, 2014 Registration in advance at: <a href="https://www.uis.edu/lgbtq/programs/lavender/">https://www.uis.edu/lgbtq/programs/lavender/</a>	Student Life Building Multipurpose Room	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Kerry Poynter or Michael Stephens (217) 206-8316 <a href="mailto:lgbtqa@uis.edu">lgbtqa@uis.edu</a>
* <b>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Honors Reception:</b> Friday, May 16, 2014	Brookens Auditorium	4:00-6:00 p.m.	Dr. Lucia Vazquez (217) 206-6512 <a href="mailto:lvazq1@uis.edu">lvazq1@uis.edu</a>

<b>Diversity Center and International Student Services Graduation Reception</b> Friday, May 16, 2014	Student Life Building Multipurpose Room	4:00-6:00 p.m.	Jeannie Capranica (217) 206-6584 <a href="mailto:jjone1@uis.edu">jjone1@uis.edu</a>
<b>* Master of Public Health Graduate Reception</b> Friday, May 16, 2014	Winery in Rochester	TBA	Wendy Johnson (217) 206-6272 <a href="mailto:wjohn1@uis.edu">wjohn1@uis.edu</a>
<b>* Pi Sigma Alpha Reception</b> Friday, May 16, 2014 Political Science graduates (majors/minors) and families	PAC Conference Rooms C/D	5:00 p.m.	Zachary Sullivan <a href="mailto:zsull2@uis.edu">zsull2@uis.edu</a>
<b>*Master of Public Health Graduate Get Together</b> Friday, May 16, 2014 MPH graduates and parents	Winery in Rochester	TBA	Wendy Johnson (217) 206-6272 <a href="mailto:wjohn1@uis.edu">wjohn1@uis.edu</a>
<b>* CAP Honors Graduation Breakfast:</b> Saturday, May 17, 2014	Sangamon Auditorium Lobby	10:00 a.m.- Noon	Rowena Vail (217) 206-8462 <a href="mailto:rvail1@uis.edu">rvail1@uis.edu</a>
<b>*Online Degree Graduation Brunch</b> Saturday, May 17, 2014	PAC Lower Level	10:00 a.m.- Noon	Holly Fowler (217) 206-7395 <a href="mailto:hfowl01s@uis.edu">hfowl01s@uis.edu</a>
<b>Commencement 2014:</b> Saturday, May 17, 2014	Prairie Capital Convention Center	4:00 p.m.	Office of Records and Registration (217) 206-7730 <a href="mailto:registrar@uis.edu">registrar@uis.edu</a>

More events to come...

\* Denotes by invitation only

## Commencement Ceremony 2014

### Processional

Pomp and Circumstance Nos. I and IV by Elgar  
(Audience is asked to remain seated during the processional)  
Donald Morris, Grand Marshal\*  
Platform Party  
Faculty  
Students

### Musical Selections

Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key  
Illinois, Illinois by Archibald Johnson/Charles Chamberlin  
Performed by Denise Yates, 1996 and 1998 Alumna

## **Opening Remarks**

Susan J. Koch, Chancellor

## **Greetings from the University of Illinois Board of Trustees**

Karen Hasara, Trustee, 1972 and 1992 Alumna

## **Greetings from the President**

Robert A. Easter, President, University of Illinois

## **Introduction of Commencement Speaker**

Susan J. Koch, Chancellor

## **Commencement Address**

Donovan W. Pepper, National Director of Local Government Relations  
Walgreen Co., 1994 and 1996 Alumnus

## **Introduction of Student Commencement Speaker**

Timothy Barnett, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

## **Remarks to Fellow Graduates**

Zachary A. Sullivan, Class of 2014

## **Presentation of Doctoral Degree Candidate**

Lynn Pardie, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

## **Conferring of Doctoral Degree**

Robert A. Easter, President, University of Illinois

## **Presentation of Master's Degree Candidates**

Lynn Pardie, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

## **Conferring of Master's Degrees**

Robert A. Easter, President, University of Illinois

## **Presentation of Bachelor's Degree Candidates**

Lynn Pardie, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

## **Conferring of Bachelor's Degrees**

Robert A. Easter, President, University of Illinois

## **Presentation of Graduates**

(See "Student Walk Order" section for the sequence in which students will walk across the stage) \*\*

College of Business and Management  
College of Education and Human Services  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
College of Public Affairs and Administration

## **Induction into Alumni Association**

John P. Lowder, Board Member, UIS Campus Alumni Advisory Board  
University of Illinois Alumni Association, 1994 Alumnus

## **Closing Remarks**

Susan J. Koch, Chancellor

## **Recessional**

Pomp and Circumstance Nos. I and IV by Elgar  
(Students and audience are asked to remain seated during the recessional)  
Donald Morris, Grand Marshal\*  
Platform Party  
Faculty

\* Grand Marshal is an honorary title conferred each year on a professor by vote of the UIS faculty.

\*\* Graduates' names are read by Brian Mackey, WUIS Statehouse Reporter, and Tim Schweizer, Public Service Administrator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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# **Commencement Address – Donovan W. Pepper**

Prepared Remarks  
University of Illinois Springfield

May 17, 2014

Thank you, Chancellor Koch, for that really nice introduction. President Easter, Chancellor Koch, Trustee Hasara, distinguished faculty and staff, the class of 2014, I am very honored and deeply grateful to be here today to speak to you. Congratulations to each and every one of you on the beginning of what will be an amazing journey in life.

Some of you may know that last year on behalf of the university's alumni association, I gave brief remarks here at commencement, kind of like what my friend, John Lowder, who is my fellow UIS classmate and former colleague, will deliver to you in just a bit.

So late last year, when Chancellor Koch asked me if I would speak at commencement, I immediately responded, "Sure, I would be happy to give the alumni remarks again." Then she said, "No, not the alumni remarks, we want you to deliver the actual commencement address." At that moment I paused and thought, "WOW," either I really must've rocked it last year with my alumni remarks—the pressure's on John—or UIS must be lagging a bit if it hasn't graduated any distinguished alums since 1994.... and a guy who sells drugs for a living is the best they could find!

I thought, now I could understand if I were the CEO of Walgreens, or some famous celebrity, or a self-made millionaire that's ready to make a large gift to the university.... even an un-indicted politician, I could understand. Obviously, since I am here, I said yes. However, I have to confess and come clean with you all right now. I said "Yes" because I assumed that all commencement speakers were automatically bestowed an honorary doctorate—and I thought this would be the fastest way to finally become "Dr. Pepper." Last night, I asked Ms. [Eveyn Brandt] Thomas if I could trade places with her and she said no. I guess I'll have to pursue my doctorate the old- fashioned way—earn it!

Before I continue my remarks, I would be remiss if I did not recognize my mother Karen, who is with me today. My father, William, who is suffering from Alzheimer's, could not be here. But without their love and support and encouragement of academic success for me and my siblings, I would not be here. Also, my wife Heidi and our two sons, Dakota and Dillon, are here as well.

As I was preparing my remarks for today, I spoke to a friend and a colleague who is also an author and does a lot of public speaking. I asked him for some advice on public speaking and what I should say. He said he didn't know what I should talk about, but that I should always keep in mind the first rule of public speaking—remember the Five B's....Be Brief Bro', Be Brief!

I promise to remember that rule this afternoon!

I am really honored to be here and share with you my memories of UIS and how this institution prepared me personally for my career as a lobbyist and public affairs professional, working with elected and public officials across the country.

If someone would have told me 20 years ago when I graduated from UIS that one day I would work on interesting pieces of legislation or policy initiatives that would help senior citizens get access to needed prescription medication, or work on intricate telecommunications deregulation legislation, or advocate for high-speed rail and airport expansions, or even be involved in the debate about whether restaurants in Illinois should serve foie gras, I would have thought they were crazy.

My career has allowed me to meet and work with people like sitting and former presidents, U.S. senators, congressmen, governors, legislators, city councilmembers from across the country, just about every big and small city mayor in America, and even celebrities like LL Cool J, Fergie from the Black Eyed Peas, Mark Wahlberg and even Magic Johnson—sorry Donald Sterling, but I think that’s pretty cool!

This has been a career that I truly love and this path started with my education and how it taught me about the importance of sharing my time, talents and treasures.

I owe so many aspects of who I am today to this university. My involvement in Model Illinois Government is what heightened my interest in legislative and practical politics and is one of the reasons that I am a lobbyist today. My time on Student Government and as president during the transition from SSU to UIS gave me great insight into how incredible opportunity can come from challenging situations, which is something I deal with daily in my professional life.

My time as a resident assistant gave me great preparation in dealing with conflict resolution and mediation, which I use on many legislative and regulatory issues across the country in my position at Walgreens. Who knew that managing roommate arguments about room temperatures or eating someone else’s food in the refrigerator would be such a highly regarded life skill? Lastly, as you heard, my wife Heidi is also alum of UIS, whom I met while here on campus 24 years ago. This September we will have been married for 14 years and now have two sons. So not only did this institution get me started down my career path; it also got me started on my path for life as a husband and a father.

While I am appreciative to UIS for these things, I am even more grateful for something that took place 60 years ago, before I was even born and is probably the reason why I can even stand before you and address the Class of 2014. On this very day, 60 years ago, May 17, 1954, the single most important action in public education history took place: the landmark Supreme Court case, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, was handed down. And racially segregated public schools were deemed unconstitutional. There is no question that I owe my ability to attend high-quality, racially integrated public education institutions like the high school I attended or UIS to this landmark decision. I am eternally grateful and always aware that my education and career today is possible because of the justices of that court—and especially the hard work of Chief Justice Earl Warren 60 years ago today.

On a side note, some of you out here know how this decision came to be, and as a professional lobbyist, I’m equally in awe of this decision because of how Chief Justice Warren was able to fashion a unanimous decision by the entire court, which had been deeply divided on race matters on other cases, and at the beginning of this trial. To a lobbyist, this is a pretty cool accomplishment. To reach not only consensus on a divisive issue, but to reach a unanimous vote is quite simply something any good lobbyist wants every time. My apologies for digressing there for a moment, but what can I say, I’m still a political science geek.

In closing, I know that I am supposed to share with you some inspirational words that will motivate you all to go out in the world with your degree in your hand and live your dreams to the fullest, so I thought I would go back to the three “T”s that have made my career and life a happy one. I really didn’t understand until later in life, the importance of sharing these three things. In



fact, by your being here today you have already begun to do these three things: share your time, talents, and treasures. You have given your time in pursuit of education, and those countless hours of studying have paid off to get to this day. You have shared your talents with your professors, your classmates, co-workers and fellow graduates. And lastly, you or your parents out there have all given your treasures to this institution, and I am here to tell you that it is an investment well spent.

However, I am challenging you today to share your time, talents and treasures beyond your soon-to-be new or current employer, or in the pursuit of another degree, or simply with your family and friends. There are people, places and causes outside of your sphere of influence that need your time, talents and treasures.

There is a quote by Martin Luther King that really illustrates the importance of sharing the three “T”s, which I believe Dr. King’s life exemplified. Dr. King said, “Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.”

Each one of you in this room today will have a choice about the kind of life you will create and I hope you will think about how you will share your own individual time, your unique talents, and your treasures—no matter how big or small.

You can make all the difference in the world.

Thank you.

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## **Remarks to Fellow Graduates – Zachary Sullivan**

May 17, 2014

Good afternoon, everyone, and on behalf of the University of Illinois Springfield graduating class of 2014, welcome to this year’s commencement exercises. My name is Zachary Sullivan – candidate for a Master’s Degree in Political Science – and boy does it feel great to finally reach this point! I know we have a lot to get through today, so I will keep my comments brief. But before I get going here, I want to give a few quick shoutouts, and I’ll need the help of everyone in this arena. So we are going to do what I call “Give Them One.” When I say give them one, everyone clap your hands once. Let’s practice. Give yourselves one! Okay, now that we have that down, I want to give a shoutout to the administration of UIS for putting students first. Give the UIS administrators one! I know the U of I system is the largest entity of higher education in Illinois, so let’s give the U of I Board of Trustees one! I also want to give a shoutout to the staffers of the UIS community – whether it is with Residential Life, Admissions, Financial Assistance, the grounds crews, or any other staffers who have put in the time and effort to make our educational experiences as valuable and enjoyable as possible. Let’s give the staffers of UIS one! It goes without saying that none of us would be here today without the ongoing love and support of our friends and family – especially those who are able to be here today with us. Let’s

give one to our friends and families! And last but certainly not least, let's give a round of applause to those who have helped shape the UIS graduating class of 2014 into the fine group of young professionals we are today. Let's hear it for the faculty of the University of Illinois Springfield!!

Well, this is it. Sure, there are things that we as the graduating class of 2014 will not miss about being members of the UIS campus community. Countless homework assignments and exams, all-nighters, and that awkward moment when the geese arrive to UIS and you realize that those are not caterpillars on the sidewalks. On the other hand, there are so many things that we will miss. Hilarious conversations in the PAC Food Emporium, all of the Welcome Week activities on campus, the excitement felt when a major internship or a good grade would come through, and of course, the craziness known as SPRINGFEST! Unfortunately, it is my sad duty to report to you that we will not be spending nearly as much time together in the future as we have for the past few years. But although this may be the end of our journey together at UIS, it is important to remember that the friends and memories we have made together at UIS will endure throughout our lifetimes. I encourage you all to keep these friendships and memories alive as we move on to the next chapter of our lives.

Not long ago, UIS adopted a brand called Leadership Lived. Basically, it refers to the fact that our campus is a living laboratory for leadership skills, and as a result, UIS is responsible for producing some of the finest leaders not only throughout Illinois, but in the United States of America and the world abroad. When I first came to UIS as a non-traditional transfer student, I was not sure if going back to school would be worth it. My time and experiences at UIS have assured me that the time I have spent here has most definitely been well worth it, and I trust that many of my graduating colleagues feel the same way. UIS teaches students how to address problems, how to make a difference, and how to initiate community involvement. If you want proof, remember that I just convinced an arena full of people to participate in giving different members of the UIS community one, so give yourselves another one for getting involved!

One of the great things about being a UIS student are the never ending leadership opportunities this institution has to offer us. Being located in the state capitol of Illinois undoubtedly has its advantages. The internship opportunities offered by UIS are among the best in the state, and I know that several of you graduating today have benefitted from these internships in the form of being offered employment after college. Also, student organizations on campus have opened many doors for professional networking and development for us. For example, I had the privilege of being a member of the award winning Model Illinois Government delegation here at UIS. MIG is a three day simulation of state government that takes place at the capitol every spring, and the event attracts hundreds of college students from Illinois. Being a part of a group that was able to earn 7 awards and secure 6 of 9 elected statewide positions in MIG this year fills my heart with pride. The memories I made as a part of this group are among my favorite during my time at UIS. Many other graduates have similar stories about their involvement on campus and in the community, and I would advise those graduating today not to stop being involved. Involvement is the essence of Leadership Lived. Never forget that.

We now possess the tools and know-how to make profound differences in our world. Utilize these traits, and you will be fine. By getting involved on our communities, we can make this world a better place. It will require a lot of hard work, but in the long run, it will be worth it to you, and to those around you. So in closing, I would like to leave you with this quote from

President John Quincy Adams: “If your actions inspire people to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” Enjoy you day, graduates, for it belongs to us! Thank you, and go Prairie Stars!

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## Photos

Each year the University of Illinois Springfield celebrates the many outstanding students who earn degrees through stories, video and photographs of the commencement ceremony and commencement events.

- [Lavender Graduation](#)
  - [CAP Honors Graduation Breakfast](#)
  - [Online Degree Graduation Brunch](#)
  - [Commencement 2014](#)
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## Stories 2014

### From the UIS Newsroom

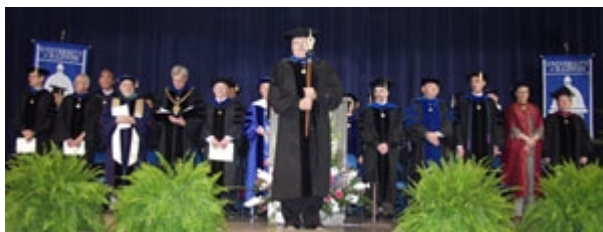
- [UIS to hold 43rd commencement ceremony on May 17 in downtown Springfield](#)
- [Online graduates travel to UIS to celebrate graduation](#)
- [43rd Commencement marks new beginning for UIS student](#)

### Related Articles

- SJR: [Benedictine, UIS hold graduation ceremonies](#)
  - SJR: [Photo Gallery of Benedictine and UIS Graduation Ceremonies](#)
  - SJR: [UIS students build Habitat home for fellow student](#)
  - WICS-TV: [Online students -Pomp And Circumstance at UIS](#)
  - WICS-TV: [Local Colleges Preparing For Graduation](#)
  - [Susan Koch: Graduating students made steep climbs to success](#)
  - WICS-TV: [UIS Student Joins UIS Police Force Before Graduation](#)
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# Information for UIS Faculty 2014

UIS held its 43rd Commencement Ceremony at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois on May 17, 2014, at 4 p.m.



## Faculty Participation/Regalia

The **online Faculty Participation and Regalia form** is no longer available. The deadline to submit the online form was Friday, February 28, 2014. If you indicated that you will be participating, commencement information will be sent to you prior to the ceremony.

## Parking

If you are a platform party or faculty member participating in the 2014 commencement ceremony, you will be allowed to park in the for the Sangamon County Parking Lot. The Sangamon County parking lot is located at the corner of 9th and Adams Streets with the entrance to the lot off Adams Street. **After 3:30 p.m. this lot will be open to the paying public.**

## Ceremony Information

Please plan to arrive in the Faculty Robing Room by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2014. The Faculty Robing Room will be located on the lower level of Prairie Capital Convention Center

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# Information for Students 2014



The 43rd UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 17, 2014, at 4pm, in the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

## Important Information for All Graduates

- **Seating Stars Marching!** – [View a Flash animation](#) of the procession plan for the ceremony.
- **Ceremony DVD**[Download the order form](#) to purchase a DVD of the ceremony. (pdf)
- **Ceremony PHOTOGRAPHS**  
Professional photography on commencement day will be provided by [GradImages](#). Questions regarding photographs following the ceremony should be addressed directly to GradImages.
- **Etiquette**  
Want to know the proper **etiquette** for Commencement? [Download the guide here](#). (pdf)
- **Student Speaker Application Information**  
**Student Commencement Speaker Application** (pdf) – The deadline to submit an application form for 2014 was Noon on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. Information regarding this year's student commencement speaker will be available soon.

## Commencement Letters

- **Commencement Letter #1** (pdf)
- **Commencement Letter #2** (pdf)
- **Commencement Letter #3**(pdf)

See the [Visitors section](#) of this website for information about special needs, distance viewing, tickets, events, directions, parking, hotels, and restaurants.

**Congratulations, Graduates!**

GradImages will be photographing graduates at the upcoming graduation ceremony. Visit our website, [www.gradimages.com](http://www.gradimages.com), and click on the Event Email Registration. Once you email and as to 8 weeks of local area who would like to share in your accomplishment by having a 3x5 white card photo. By submitting your information to us early, you can also request that your photos will be printed and delivered to you and all others registered to view as they are available after the event.

**GET \$5 OFF** on orders of \$25 or more just by registering your information with us before your event!

Are you a graduate? Visit us at [www.gradimages.com](http://www.gradimages.com) or call (800) 251-2270. You will help us make the GradImages® all yours your graduation!

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD

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## Graduate Salute Days

Graduate Salute days were held:

- **Thursday, March 27, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, March 28, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, March 29, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

## Caps, Gowns, and Announcements

You will be able to purchase your cap and gown during the upcoming Graduate Salute in the UIS Bookstore (located on the first floor of Founders Hall). Peoria students will be able to purchase their caps and gowns through the UIS Peoria Center. **Download more information.**

Without your cap and gown purchase, we will not know of your intent to participate. Therefore, you **MUST** purchase your cap and gown during Graduate Salute.

If you are making any other cap and gown arrangements (e.g., borrowing a black cap and gown from a friend), you **MUST** contact the Office of Records and Registration by emailing [registrar@uis.edu](mailto:registrar@uis.edu). **Please note that a \$25.00 late fee will be assessed to all students who order their cap and gown after the deadline (date TBA).**

## UIS Ring Program and Tradition

The Official Ring of the University of Illinois at Springfield symbolizes the educational values, heritage, and traditions of the University. The University of Illinois alumni family is united by rich traditions of loyalty, excellence, and service, and we invite you to help carry on this proud legacy through active participation in the UIS Ring Program.

The UIS Ring can be ordered by phone (866/225-3687) or online ([www.balfour.com](http://www.balfour.com)).

Balfour, the Official UIS Ring provider, will have representatives on campus during Graduate Salute to size and order rings in-person.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Graduation by calling (217) 206-7730 or by emailing [registrar@uis.edu](mailto:registrar@uis.edu).

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## **Starting Your Affordable Legacy**

It's easy to participate:

- Congratulations on the Brilliant Future ahead of you. As you go forward, please consider helping those who follow with your contributions to the UIS program of your choice. We have many wonderful giving opportunities available at any level of giving. For more information, please go to [www.uis.edu/development](http://www.uis.edu/development).
  - Or Call the Development Office at 217-206-6058.
  - Future graduates will thank you!
-

# Welcome Visitors 2014



Welcome visitors, to our most cherished tradition. The 43rd University of Illinois Springfield Commencement Ceremony was held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois, May 17, 2014. The Center is located in downtown Springfield at 9th and Adams streets.

- [Order a DVD](#)
  - [Special Needs](#)
  - [Directions to the Center](#)
  - [Parking](#)
  - [Hotels](#)
  - [Restaurants](#)
- 

## Order a DVD

- [Download the order form](#) (pdf) to purchase a DVD of the ceremony.
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## Special Needs

- **Guests** requiring special assistance should make arrangements in advance with Sarah Weaver by calling (217) 206-6666.
  - Wheelchairs for transport will **not** be available at the PCCC.
  - Graduating **students** who require special assistance should contact Darlene Harris-Kresse by calling (217) 206-8216.
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## Directions to the Center

The Center parking ramp is located at the corner of 7th and Washington streets. Other special events are being held downtown on commencement day. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you allow extra time for heavy traffic and parking (parking information can be found below).



- **Coming from the SOUTH** on I-55 (St. Louis) Take the 6th St. Exit (#92) to Downtown Springfield. Stay on 6th St.; at Washington St. turn right. Go one (1) block.
- **Coming from the NORTH** on I-55 (Chicago) Take the Clear Lake Avenue Exit (#98). Clear Lake Ave. merges with Jefferson St. Take a left on 7th St. Go one (1) block.
- **Coming from the EAST** on I-72 (Champaign) Continue straight ahead on Clear Lake Ave.; it will merge with Jefferson St. Take a left on 7th St. Go one (1) block.
- **Coming from the WEST** on I-72 (Jacksonville) Take the 6th St. Exit to Downtown Springfield. Stay on 6th St.; at Washington St. turn right. Go one (1) block.
- **Coming from the CAMPUS** Take 11th St. to 6th St. Turn right onto 6th St; at Washington St. turn right. Go one (1) block.

» [Map it with MapQuest](#)

» [Use Google Maps](#)

## Downtown Parking

### Parking Ramps

- 7th & Adams – Located next to the Convention Center and Pres. A. Lincoln Hotel
- 7th & Monroe – Located next to Hilton Hotel
- 6th & Washington – Located below the Old State Capitol- Open 7am-7pm on weekdays, Sat. 7am-6pm, closed on Sun.
- 6th & Capital
- 4th & Washington- 24 hour access
- 7th & Monroe – Located below Lincoln Library
- Abraham Lincoln Museum – 7am – 7pm, Wed. night open until 10pm

### Parking Lots

- 4th & Washington

## Downtown Hotels

The following hotels may extend discounted rates to family members and friends attending the UIS Commencement Ceremony. Please mention “UIS Commencement” when calling to make reservations.

- **Crowne Plaza** 3000 South Dirksen Pkwy Springfield, IL 62703  
877-227-6963  
[Crowne Plaza Room Information/Rates](#)
  - **Hilton Springfield** 700 East Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217-789-1530  
[Hilton Springfield Room Information/Rates](#)
  - **Holiday Inn Express** 3050 South Dirksen Pkwy Springfield, IL 62703  
888-465-4329  
[Holiday Inn Express Room Information/Rates](#)
  - **The State House Inn – An Ascend Collection Hotel** 101 East Adams Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701 217-528-5100  
[The State House Inn Room Information/Rates](#)
  - For additional **hotel** information please contact the Springfield Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at (800) 545-7300.
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## **Downtown Restaurants**

- For detailed information about **restaurants** in Springfield please contact the Springfield Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at (800) 545-7300.
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