

Commencement 2015

The 44th UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 16, 2015, at 4 p.m., at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in downtown Springfield, 9th and Adams streets.

Remarks

- [Commencement Address](#) – Thom S. Serafin
Founder and CEO, Serafin and Associates, Inc.
- [Remarks to Fellow Graduates](#) – Blake Hudson
Class of 2015

From The Newsroom

- [Chancellor Koch: Student Commencement stories](#)
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- [44th UIS Commencement ceremony breaks records](#)

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-

Important Information for 2015 Graduates

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About Commencement 2015

About Commencement 2015

The 44th UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 16, 2015, 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.



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Speakers and Marshals

Commencement Address

Founder and CEO, Serafin and Associates, Inc. and
1973 and 1993 Alumnus,
Thom M. Serafin

Speakers

Board of Trustees Representative,

Edward L. McMillan, Chairman
 University President,
Robert A. Easter
 UIS Chancellor,
Susan J. Koch
 Student Speaker,
Blake Hudson

Marshals

Each year, the faculty and students who comprise each program committee on campus select one graduating student who best exemplifies the goals and spirit of each program. Those students are then designated as program marshals for the ceremony and may be identified on commencement day by the gold stoles they wear.

The procession is led by the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal is an honorary title conferred each year on a professor by vote of the UIS faculty. The 2015 Grand Marshal is **Professor Merrill Ted Mims, Computer Science**.

Distance viewing

- The ceremony will be [webcast live](#) on the UIS website.
- To purchase a DVD of the ceremony please complete [Graduation Ceremony DVD Request here](#).

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>
* Beta Gamma Sigma Ceremony: Saturday, May 2, 2015	Brookens Auditorium	2:00 p.m.	Kelly Guerrero (217) 206-7872 kguer02s@uis.edu
* UIS Peoria Center Graduation Reception: Friday, May 8, 2015	Embassy Suites in East Peoria	6:00 p.m.	Dr. Joyce Shotick (309)999-4250 jshot2@uis.edu
Student Athlete Banquet: Sunday, May 3, 2015 (Mainly Invitation Only)	TRAC Arena	6:00 p.m.	Mallory Beck (217)341-9722 mbeck22@uis.edu
* Student Affairs Leadership Reception Sunday, May 10, 2015	Sangamon Auditorium Lobby	2:00 p.m.	Cynthia Thompson cthom2@uis.edu

<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Late Night Breakfast Wednesday, May 14, 2015	PAC Food Emporium	9:00 p.m.	Cynthia Thompson cthom2@uis.edu
Lavender Graduation (A Celebration of LGBTQ and Allied Students, Staff, and Faculty): Friday, May 15, 2015 Registration in advance at:	Student Life Building Multipurpose Room	Noon – 2:00 p.m.	Kerry Poynter or Michael Stephens (217) 206-8316 lgbtqa@uis.edu
https://www.uis.edu/lgbtq/programs/lavender/			
* College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Honors Reception: Friday, May 15, 2015	Brookens Auditorium	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Dr. Lucia Vazquez (217) 206-6512 lvazq1@uis.edu
Diversity Center and International Student Services Graduation Reception: Friday, May 15, 2015	Student Life Building Multipurpose Room	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Jeannie Capranica (217) 206-6584 jjone1@uis.edu
* Pi Sigma Alpha Reception Political Science graduates (majors/minors) and families: Friday, May 15, 2015	PAC Conference Rooms C/D	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Nathan Tarr PSC GA gaPOS@uis.edu
*Master of Public Health Graduate Get Together MPH graduates and parents: Friday, May 15, 2015	Winery in Rochester	TBA	Wendy Johnson (217) 206-6272 wjohn1@uis.edu
* CAP Honors Graduation Breakfast: Saturday, May 16, 2015	Sangamon Auditorium Lobby	10:00 a.m. – Noon	Rowena Vail (217) 206-8462 rvail1@uis.edu
*Online Degree Graduation Brunch Saturday, May 16, 2015	PAC Lower Level	10:00 a.m. – Noon	Ann Cole (217) 206-8233 acole1@uis.edu
Commencement 2015: Saturday, May 16, 2015	Prairie Capital Convention Center	4:00 p.m.	Office of Records and Registration (217) 206-7730 registrar@uis.edu

More events to come...

* Denotes by invitation only

Commencement Ceremony 2015

Processional

Pomp and Circumstance Nos. I and IV by Elgar
(Audience is asked to remain seated during the processional)
Merrill Ted Mims, 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

Edward L. McMillan, Chairman

Greetings from the President

Robert A. Easter, President, University of Illinois

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Susan J. Koch, Chancellor

Commencement Address

Thom M. Serafin, Founder and CEO, Serafin and Associates, Inc.
1973 and 1993 Alumnus

Introduction of Student Commencement Speaker

Clarice Ford, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Remarks to Fellow Graduates

Blake Hudson, Class of 2015

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 in the commencement program 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

Presidential Transition

Edward L. McMillan, Chairman, University of Illinois Board of Trustees

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)
Merrill Ted Mims, 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 Amanda Vinicky, WUIS Statehouse Bureau Chief, and Tim Schweizer, Public Service Administrator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Commencement Address - Thom S. Serafin

Prepared Remarks
University of Illinois Springfield
May 16, 2015

When I was given the honor to speak here today, I asked friends, what I should talk about. The general consensus was: "Just tell your story." But then I thought: If I tell my *whole* story, I might just ruin my reputation.

Then I considered where I would be standing, as I gave this address; here in Abraham Lincoln's hometown. I thought, perhaps I can glean some wisdom from some of Honest Abe's writings. So I read up on Abraham Lincoln and this quote jumped out: "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak out and remove all doubt."

That doesn't seem to be an option when you're invited to speak at such a wonderful celebration as this, so I will just have to take my chances.

I have not always followed that advice in my journey from the inner city of Milwaukee, to founding my own communications firm in Chicago. We do a booming business in crisis communications (some people in the media call us "Spin Doctors") — and in a world where knowledge is power, I believe in KNOWING everything I talk about ... and NOT talking about everything I KNOW. But it is my privilege to share with you a little of what I've learned along the way, as we celebrate the accomplishments that have earned you your seat here today.

I am honored to share the stage with your distinguished university leaders. And, as one of America's Best Colleges, it's no wonder that this university has been able to attract the excellent leadership represented here with us. Over the past four years, Chancellor Susan Koch, through inspiring hands-on leadership, has dramatically increased resources for the University and has brought new growth and diversity to your student body. Thank you Chancellor.

We also say thank you, and bid farewell, to our current President Dr. Robert A Easter. Dr. Easter's distinguished international career in the field of Agriculture and Animal

Science has been matched by his dedication in *furthering* the mission of this University. Please join me in expressing our gratitude to President Easter.

And very soon, Dr. Timothy Killeen will become our university's 20th President. Dr. Killeen earned his doctorate in atomic and molecular physics from University College London at the tender age 23. He's a leading researcher in geophysics and space sciences, — in other words, a rocket scientist. Now, we'll have the opportunity for this dynamic leader to propel us to new and uncharted realms. Welcome Dr. Killeen.

You are graduating today from the University of Illinois. Your degree is your ticket to get into almost any room in this country. But then, it's up to you what happens. The world you are entering, and for some of you RE-entering, needs you, to confront and help heal the divisions that have become all too common in our public and private institutions. It is your fresh approach, your energy and the special talents you each bring to the table that will shape the future for all of us.

Our university's motto is Leadership lived. UIS builds leaders.

And now that you are graduating, you need to start living your leadership. But what does that really mean?

In my life, leadership has been a personal mission, built on one-to-one relationships. I come from a humble background, stumbling along the way; but each time I ventured into deep water, someone gave me a hand, and helped me to find my path.

I am a product of Milwaukee's inner city. I attended three colleges before I found this institution. The first was Milwaukee Technical College, where I did not excel during my four month term. The administration suspended me for not attending classes. I wasn't really banned from the school ... They just wouldn't readmit me. (And that, my friends, is what folks in my business refer to as "Spin.")

Next, I thought I had found my true calling and entered St. Francis Seminary on Milwaukee's south side.

During my 18 months there, I became student body president, spending a lot of time asking challenging questions, demonstrating for civil rights, and against the Vietnam War. According to some school officials, I was a disruptive influence to the larger community, language that was included in a letter to my parents when I was not so politely asked — not to return.

So by traditional standards, I was NOT a success in the seminary. But it was there that I developed the values that would define my life's journey: A passion for politics and community service, and a desire to take a stand with people who are marginalized by their life's circumstances.

After the seminary, I relocated with my parents to Peoria and drove a truck while attending night classes at Illinois Central College.

One of the lessons I learned is we never know who will "see" us — really see us — along the way, and I count my blessings that my advisor at ICC, Mrs. Vaughn Frisk, saw something in me. She encouraged me to take my three years of accumulated credits and

pursue my education here, to UIS. I was particularly impressed when she told me the University was experimenting with a NO GRADES policy – a pass fail grading system. That was very appealing to me, since I had always struggled in a world of standardized testing.

Eventually I would earn my bachelors' in Communications with a minor in Filmmaking. I ran for student body president on the platform of 'Love'. That's right-love! My campaign literature simply said, Vote for Love, Vote for Thom. I lost by a few votes but, the consolation position of Vice President offered me the chance to keep working on issues affecting our school.

When it came time to graduate, I was invited to say a few words and afterwards, found myself at a reception at the home of the University's President, Bob Spencer. I recall the president asking me, what are you going to do now, Thom? I was bar-tending at the time. President Spencer, one of those persons who would really *see me* – offered me an opportunity. There was a new professor on campus who needed what he called, a "Girl Friday," — a right hand, an assistant. Did I want the job? The new professor was coming here to start a graduate journalism program. That man was Paul Simon, who would later become United States Senator Paul Simon, and run for President in the late '80s.

I was hired, and assigned to work for Paul Simon. For minimum wage, I ran his errands, wrote for him on his Olympia typewriter, and became totally immersed in his program and all its details. For minimum wage, I was graced with a wealth of wisdom from this storied and learned man in a role that literally changed my life. He eventually convinced me to pursue a Masters in Public Affairs reporting, and as a PAR graduate student I interned at the state capitol. I worked under Bill Miller, an icon in Illinois news broadcasting circles – in the Capitol Information Bureau, now called the Illinois Radio Network.

Here I was, a pretty good bartender and a marginal truck driver, each day mingling with the state's elite Correspondents and public officials in the Capitol press room. Then, halfway through my internship, Professor Simon resigned to run for Congress. The University wisely selected my boss Bill Miller to take over for Professor Simon, then Bill Miller recommended me for his job!! Suddenly a two-time college drop-out was now the legislative correspondent for a network of 35 radio stations.

I left the world of reporting in 1978 for political campaign work, which gave me a different kind of front row seat to history. I've shared campaign offices with a young Rahm Emmanuel, now Chicago's mayor, and Dave Wilhelm, who would go on to become Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign manager and chairman of the national Democratic Party.

I ran, or worked on, several history-making campaigns, including Senator Dick Durbin's first run for Congress, and Carol Mosley Braun's general election race to become the first female African-American Senator. I was honored to serve as press secretary for US Senator Alan J. Dixon, and learned a lot about spin control as spokesman for the powerful and controversial Congressman Dan Rostenkowski. I was the Illinois campaign manager for Colorado Senator Gary Hart's ill-fated run for president, which was derailed

by his extracurricular adventures on a yacht named Monkey business, (but that's another story!) I was privileged to accompany my old friend and mentor Paul Simon on a humanitarian mission to CUBA where we had a 6 hour luncheon meeting with President Fidel Castro. A front row seat to history ...built on a personal relationships. One at a time.

It's been almost 30 years since I opened my own media and public affairs consulting firm, Serafin and Associates, Inc. in the River North district of Chicago. We have run campaigns of every stripe. We specialize in an area known as crisis communications, utilizing the lessons learned over those many years on the political trail. Basically I run an ER Unit for businesses, unions, and non-profits who have been victims of communications disasters. (Sometimes the injuries are self-inflicted.) We have advised local, statewide and national political figures, as well as others such as Wal-Mart, Morgan Stanley, the Carpenters Union, Ameren Power Company, Arlington Park International Racecourse and Dynegy. But even with the biggest of corporate and political clients...the relationships I have learned must be personal; a face to face meeting is better than a phone call. A phone call is better than a letter. And a letter is better than an email.

I help my clients understand the sophisticated science of communications in today's world. Although I no longer do campaign work, I stay in touch and involved. I am constantly on the air as a political analyst on TV and radio in Chicago. My longtime personal relationships with members of the media and my business partners and clients are the foundation for every success I've enjoyed.

So I guess I have told my story after all, and I hope Honest Abe's words of wisdom have not applied in this case.

Today you receive your degree for the University of Illinois. The University of Illinois – that's a big deal. As you leave the safe haven that has been your stomping ground over the past few years, and for some of you leave your family home as well, you enter a world where you no longer have people scheduling your time and making decisions for you. There is so much in store for you, much of which you cannot even imagine now as you hit the highway to your future.

With the speed of information flow, innovation and technology, you need to constantly be reading and educating yourself, but this isn't new — it's just more accelerated. Our new age will make it easy to overlook the human relationships I have been emphasizing this afternoon. Do not make that mistake. Know who you are. I know who I am...I am an average guy, who works harder than most folks at work worth doing. (Teddy R)

Most of you will not travel a straight road. There will be detours along the way; not everything will work out for you. You're not going to win every issue you encounter. But if you understand you are building bridges, you win the respect of those you encounter. And in today's world of the Internet, this knowledge will travel swiftly creating your story to the world – your signature.

I hope you will accept the hand that reaches out to help you, and I hope when you're able, you will extend your hand to another. You need to keep your eyes open for those who truly see you...and open them even wider to truly see others along the way. One to one.

I encourage you, every one of you, to place your faith in something much greater than yourself. Whether an organized religion or a spiritual practice — find it and let it guide you on your journey. New York Times columnist David Brooks, who is also a best-selling author, recently wrote an OP ED piece headlined, The Moral Bucket List, a thoughtful account of his search for what makes a person good. His list really resonated with me, as I considered that I would soon be standing here today, trying to inspire, to encourage, and to challenge you as you take this leap from academia to the realities of life.

Brooks wrote: “Commencement speakers are always telling young people to follow their passions. Be true to yourself. This is vision of life the begins with self and ends with self. But people on the road to inner light do not find their vocations by asking, what do I want from life? They ask, what is life asking of me? How can I match my intrinsic talent with one of the world's deep needs?”

And he said: “It occurred to me that there were two sets of virtues, the résumé virtues and the eulogy virtues.

The résumé virtues are the skills you bring to the marketplace. The eulogy virtues are the ones that are talked about at your funeral — whether you were kind, brave, honest or faithful. Were you capable of deep love?”

How will you build your virtues? The answer to this question will develop over the course of your entire life, *one person at a time*.

I wish all of you – success – but more importantly, a joyful, meaningful and productive life of Leadership lived.

Thank you.

Remarks to Fellow Graduates – Blake Hudson

May 16, 2015

There is a lot of talk of self-made men and women. But no one truly achieves greatness on their own. The only things that truly last are people and relationships. So before I go on I want to take this moment to thank everyone who makes a day like this possible. Our

Administration, Staff, Teachers, Friends and Family. Without your sacrifices and support we would not be here today, and the least we graduates can do is offer you our gratitude.

Today I want to talk to the graduates about the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead. But, I must remind you that often times the greatest opportunities in life, are simply masquerading as obstacles. There's a story of a 22 year old from East Moline, Illinois named Chad. Chad grew up with the shores of the Mississippi River as his backyard. When he looked out his window Chad saw thousands of tires, tons of trash, and no trees. Until one day.... He just got sick of seeing it and said "I wanna do something about this," Now we're gonna leave Chad's story there for now. But as I continue to reveal the truths in Chad's story I want you to put yourself in his shoes and see your story in his.

The Millennial Generation, is defined as being born roughly between 1980-2000. We are young, educated and optimistic. And we as a generation have a choice, will we keep to ourselves and watch history unfold on our Facebook news feed? Or will we RISE UP AND LEAD!?! See, each of us is capable of changing our world, but this requires us to come together and offer our unique contributions to the world. I know Millennials like things brief, Cuz, if you can't Tweet it, they don't wanna hear it. So today I want to give you 3 simple words that just might change your lives.

1. Embrace
2. Endure
3. Enjoy

Like Chad, before you can ever set out to fix a problem, you must first **embrace** the fact that one exists. For example, it's easy to look at me now and think my story begins in success, but every great success, begins with great struggle.

- I was born to a 21 year old single mother. I grew up in a neighborhood, that was far more hood than neighbor. My house was shot into from drivebys. Our homes were broken into multiple times and I'll never forget watching my mother fight for her and her children's lives as she was the victim of a violent home invasion. But see everybody has a past, and while our past's may explain us, they don't define us!
- Eventually I embraced this environment and took ownership for my community, I realized that the problems that persist might not be my fault, but they are my responsibility!

This brings me to my second point, we must **endure** and transform our obstacles into opportunities. After Chad realized that something needed to be done he rolled up his sleeves and he tried to clean the river...by himself! And all too often we try and fix our problems by ourselves and our first efforts are futile.

- I knew that I wanted to make my community a better place but I had to get an education first. While I excelled in school initially, I hit some bumps along the way. I got distracted and lost focus. And once I got to High School, to say I struggled is putting it lightly. My H.S. GPA was a 1. Please Let Me Out. Did I graduate, BARELY! In fact, there might still be some homework assignments I

need to turn in. But I made it out and I got a fresh start at my local community college. I got involved and became a member of my institution not just a student. But as soon as I turned things around and finally started to see the light, I was knocked back down. At the end of freshman year, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. Truthfully, I wanted to quit, because life just seemed unfair. But I endured! I spent my sophomore year as a full time student working six different jobs at the same time, to help my mother and my family make ends meet. My mom also endured! And today she is cancer free!

- But here's the cool thing about endurance, when you set out to accomplish something on your own that's bigger than your capacity, other people get inspired and come serve right beside you.

This brings me to my final point we can **enjoy** the new environment we create. For those of you wondering how Chad's story ends, Chad realized he could not fix the problem on his own. But, today, through his warm embrace of the problem, and great endurance to fix it, he has attracted over 80 thousand volunteers who've recycled 8 million pounds of trash and – planted 1 million trees. And Just 2 years ago Chad Pregracke was named CNN's American Hero. And remember he was just a 22 year old kid! By a show of hands how many 22 year olds do we have here today? Don't let anybody tell you you're too young to achieve greatness! So I say to you graduates **embrace** the reality of a cause you believe in, and **endure** through the struggle until you can **enjoy** the success!

- For me, as an MPA grad, my river is Illinois Politics. Going into that field many people ask me what do you want to be Blake, President? Governor? But I say to them it's not about the position I'm pursuing, it's about the person I'm becoming. And for us here today, it's about the passions we're perfecting! We must always allow the passion for service to lead us into position.

So as I close today, Graduates I have good news for you! The job market isn't nearly as bad as it seems. In fact there's a job for each and every graduate in this room. You might not see an ad in the paper, you might not see a sign in the window. But Help is no longer wanted, it's needed! We NEED you! SO CLASS OF 2015, OUR MOTTO IS LEADERSHIP LIVED, AND NOW'S THE TIME, TO RISE UP AND LEAD!

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 2015](#)
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Stories 2015

From The UIS Newsroom

- [Chancellor Koch: Student Commencement stories](#)
- [UIS to hold 44th commencement ceremony on May 16 in downtown Springfield](#)
- [44th UIS Commencement ceremony breaks records](#)

Related Stories

- WICS-TV: [UIS Drawing in Record Breaking Numbers of International Students](#)
 - SJR: [UIS holds largest commencement ceremony in school's history](#)
 - WICS-TV: [Online Students Walk Across the Aisle for UIS Graduation](#)
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Information for UIS Faculty 2015

UIS held its 44th Commencement Ceremony at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois on May 16, 2015, 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 27, 2015. 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 2015 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 16, 2015. The Faculty Robing Room will be located on the lower level of Prairie Capital Convention Center (The Center) in Room B11A.

Information for Students 2015

The 44th UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 16, 2015, 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**To purchase a DVD of the ceremony please complete [Graduation Ceremony DVD Request here](#).
- **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** – The deadline to submit an application form for 2015 was Noon on Monday, March 23, 2015. This year's Student Commencement Speaker will be Blake Hudson.

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, directions, parking, hotels, and restaurants.

Congratulations, Graduates!
GradImages® will be photographing all graduates at the upcoming graduation ceremony. Visit our website, www.gradimages.com, and click on **Pre-Event Email Registration**. Enter your email and up to 6 emails of loved ones who would like to share in your accomplishment by viewing and ordering your photos.

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

After graduation, order online at www.gradimages.com or call (800) 261-2576.

GRAD-IMAGES
Professional Photography

The advertisement includes three photographs of graduates in caps and gowns: one in the top right, one in the middle right, and one in the bottom right.

Graduate Salute Days

Graduate Salute days were held:

- **Thursday, March 26, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, March 27, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Caps, Gowns, and Announcements

Students were able to purchase a cap and gown during the Graduate Salute in the UIS Bookstore (located on the first floor of Founders Hall). Peoria students were able to purchase their caps and gowns through the UIS Peoria Center.

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. Please note that a late fee will be assessed by the UIS Bookstore to all students who order their cap and gown after Graduate Salute (students will be assessed a \$10 late fee during the first week after Graduate Salute and a \$20 late fee for any orders placed thereafter).

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).

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.

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 visit the Advancement website](#).
 - Or Call the Development Office at 217-206-6058.
 - Future graduates will thank you!
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Welcome Visitors 2015

Welcome visitors, to our most cherished tradition.

The 44th University of Illinois Springfield Commencement Ceremony was held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois, May 16, 2015.

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

- To purchase a DVD of the ceremony please complete [Graduation Ceremony DVD Request here](#).

Special Needs

- **Guests** requiring special assistance should make arrangements in advance with Disability Services by calling (217) 206-6666.
- Wheelchairs for transport will **not** be available at the PCCC.
- Graduating **students** who require special assistance should contact Graduation by calling (217) 206-7730.

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.

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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