

Commencement 2016

The 45th UIS commencement ceremony was held on **May 14, 2016, at 4 p.m., at the Prairie Capital Convention Center** in downtown Springfield, 9th and Adams streets.

- [Read more about Commencement 2016](#)

Remarks

- [Commencement Address](#) – Donna K. Sollenberger
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, The University of Texas Medical Branch, 1971 and 1974 Alumna
- [Remarks to Fellow Graduates](#) – Robyn Nicole Crutchfield
Class of 2016

From The Newsroom

- [UIS to hold 45th commencement ceremony on May 14 in downtown Springfield](#)
- [More than 1,100 earn degrees at 45th UIS Commencement ceremony](#)

Related Stories

- WAND-TV: [UIS To Hold 45th Commencement Ceremony](#)
- SJR Column: [Commencement, May 2016](#)
- WICS-TV: [UIS To Host Graduation at Prairie Capital Convention Center](#)
- WICS-TV: [Largest UIS Graduation Expected Saturday](#)
- SJR: [UIS Commencement](#)
- WICS-TV: [More Than One-Thousand UIS Students Graduate](#)
- SJR: [Speaker tells UIS graduates to follow their heart](#)



Photos

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

- [Commencement 2016](#)

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- [UIS Facebook](#)
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Video

- [UIS Commencement 2016](#)
- [Purchase a DVD of the Graduation Ceremony](#)

Important Information for 2016 Graduates

[Commencement Letter #1](#) (pdf)

[Commencement Letter #2](#) (pdf)

[Commencement Letter #3](#) (pdf)

Special Information for International Students

Commencement information for international students (including information for inviting guests) can be found on the [International Student Services](#) website.

About Commencement 2016

The 45th UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 14, 2016, 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

Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, The University of Texas Medical Branch, 1971 and 1974 Alumna

Donna K. Sollenberger

Speakers

Board of Trustees Representative,

Karen Hasara, Trustee

University President,

Timothy L. Killeen

UIS Chancellor,

Susan J. Koch

Student Speaker,

Robyn Nicole Crutchfield

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 2016 Grand Marshal is **Lynn Fisher**

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, April 23, 2016	Brookens Auditorium	2:00 p.m.	Kelly Guerrero (217) 206-7872 kguer02s@uis.edu
UIS Theatre End of Year Celebration: Wednesday, May 4, 2016	PAC Restaurant	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Eric Thibodeaux- Thompson (217) 206-6613 ethib1@uis.edu

* UIS Peoria Center Graduation Reception: Friday, May 6, 2016	Embassy Suites in East Peoria	6:30 p.m.	Rhonda Bussell (309) 999-4252 rjohn4@uis.edu
International Student Graduation Party: Wednesday, May 11, 2016	PAC C/D	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	International Student Services (217) 206-6678 iss@uis.edu
IEP Graduation and Reception: Thursday, May 12, 2016	PAC Restaurant	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Badria Luteify (217) 206-8577 blute2@uis.edu
Diversity Center End of the Year Luncheon: Friday, May 13, 2016	SLB Gym	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Malayzja Anderson mande26@uis.edu (217) 206-8422
* College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Honors Reception: Friday, May 13, 2016	Brookens Auditorium	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Bev Weddle (217) 206-6512 bwedd1@uis.edu
* PhD Graduation Reception: Friday, May 13, 2016	PAC Restaurant	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Josiah Alamu (217) 206-8485 jalam3@uis.edu
Congratulatory Dinner Friday, May 13, 2016	Sangamon Auditorium Lobby	5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Maricela Arce (217) 206-6678 arce3@uis.edu
* Political Science Department Banquet and Reception (for Political Science Faculty and Graduates, student may bring family members): Friday, May 13, 2016	PAC C/D	5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Richard Gilman- Opalsky (217) 206-8328 rgilm3@uis.edu
Bye-Bye UIS Friday, May 13, 2016	SLB Gym	8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Maricela Arce (217) 206-6678 arce3@uis.edu
* Capital Scholars Honors Graduation Breakfast: Saturday, May 14, 2016	Sangamon Auditorium Lobby	10:00 a.m. – Noon	Rowena Vail (217) 206-8462 rvail1@uis.edu
* Online Graduate Brunch: Saturday, May 14, 2016	PAC Lower Level (Cafeteria)	10:00 a.m. – Noon	John Freml (217) 206-7360 jfrem2@uis.edu
Commencement 2016: Saturday, May 14, 2016	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 2016

Processional

Pomp and Circumstance Nos. I and IV by Elgar
(Students and audience are asked to remain seated during the processional)
Lynn Fisher, Grand Marshal*
Platform Party
Faculty

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

Timothy L. Killeen, President, University of Illinois

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Susan J. Koch, Chancellor

Commencement Address

Donna K. Sollenberger, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, The University of Texas Medical Branch, 1971 and 1974 Alumna

Introduction of Student Commencement Speaker

Clarice Ford, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Remarks to Fellow Graduates

Robyn Nicole Crutchfield, Class of 2016

Presentation of Doctoral Degree Candidate

Lynn Pardie, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Doctoral Degree

Timothy L. Killeen, President, University of Illinois

Presentation of Master's Degree Candidates

Lynn Pardie, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Master's Degrees

Timothy L. Killeen, President, University of Illinois

Presentation of Bachelor's Degree Candidates

Lynn Pardie, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Bachelor's Degrees

Timothy L. Killeen, 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

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)

Lynn Fisher, 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, NPR Illinois Statehouse Reporter, Apeksha Mallipeddi, ITTA Application Programmer, and Tim Schweizer, Public Service Administrator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Commencement Address – Donna K. Sollenberger

Prepared Remarks
University of Illinois Springfield
May 14, 2016

Thank you Chancellor Koch. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the graduates, and their families and friends who are here today to support them. It is an honor to be back at UIS and to celebrate with you today!

In the spring of 2001, I had the opportunity to provide some advice to a young woman. Her name was Shannon, and she was about to graduate with an MBA from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Shannon was bright and talented, and she already had several job offers on the table. The first was from a consulting firm, the second was from a Houston-based energy firm, and the third was from a not-for-profit organization.

As Shannon contemplated her choices, she felt increasingly conflicted about which job she should accept. She knew this was a critical life decision, so she sought the advice of many friends, mentors and family members to help her decide what path she should take.

The first two jobs were exceptional and well-paying opportunities, and all of her friends encouraged her to take the job with either the consulting firm or the energy company. After all, why would she pass up two jobs that would allow her to start her career at twice the salary of the not-for-profit?

But Shannon's heart kept calling her back to the job at the not-for-profit. Her friends scoffed at her reasons for this choice. She began to doubt herself and her ability to make the right decision. Was she making a mistake?

All throughout high school and college, Shannon had the opportunity to attend many fundraising events. Many of these benefits were for MD Anderson Cancer Center and City of Hope National Medical Center, both comprehensive cancer centers devoted to finding cures for cancer and delivering life-saving patient care. She felt inspired by the idea of working in philanthropy to help raise money for a worthy organization. You could say this is what ignited her passion. So she decided to pursue an MBA in order to work successfully with donors, who were often successful business people. She wanted to bring them a good business case to assure that their donations would be sound investments.

On the eve of her graduation with her long sought after MBA, Shannon still had a nagging feeling that she might make a mistake in her job choice. She wasn't sure what the right choice was. That's when she talked to me.

I asked her which of the jobs energized her. What job ignited her passion? Which job would make her want to get out of bed every day and go to work? After all, we spend as much time at work as we do at home, if not more.

Shannon weighed the pros and cons of each. When she talked about the consulting firm or the energy company, she mentioned three things that appealed to her: (1) she would make a great salary at both right out of college; (2) they both offered great opportunities for advancement, so she would get a bigger title and more money sooner; and (3) they were both outstanding and well-known organizations. Shannon's reasonable and rational arguments were compelling. Shouldn't reason prevail, she asked?

Then, she began to talk about what it would be like to work at the not-for-profit organization. As we talked, I could immediately see the answer in her eyes. They lit up. She became animated, smiling broadly as she thought about how her work would help change lives. There was a spark of energy as she thought about how she could find endless opportunities for others to come to the aid of those less fortunate or down on their luck. There were so many worthy causes.

"Take the job at the United Way," I said.

Shannon was taken aback at my answer. Why would I say that?

"Shannon, you have many years of work ahead of you – maybe 40 to 50 years," I told her. "Make the most of those years. Do what inspires you; do what ignites the fire of your passion for life and for work. We spend too much time at work not to be passionate about what we do with our careers. Yes, money helps pay the bills, but it should not be the sole or primary reason for your decision. Your happiness and fulfillment in life matters more. As I watched you talk to me about the job at United Way, it was clear that this is the job for you. Follow your dreams. Do your best, and be driven in your journey by your passion to help others."

The next day, Shannon accepted the job at the United Way, and she has never looked back. That same day she ceased her job pursuit at the other two organizations. By the way, those other two organizations were Arthur Anderson Consulting and Enron, both of which are now out of business as a result of some very public and poor choices. And to be completely transparent, I am Shannon's mother.

Shannon has had a wonderful career so far, helping philanthropists understand how their contributions can benefit others and, through that financial support, she helps assure that the organizations for whom she has worked will continue to thrive and improve their community. Today, she helps fundraise for an eight-state area with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. She is by any measure a success.

So why do I tell you Shannon's story?

You may be thinking, “I already have a job”; or “I don’t have the benefit of choosing like Shannon did. I have to take whatever job is offered to me because I have a family to support; I have to pay my bills; I have student debt to repay.”

While this may be true, what I want you to remember is that the choices you make will become the story of your life. Those choices and decisions will shape your life and the lives of so many others.

Some of you today will follow in your parent’s footsteps. For others, you will become the first person in your family to finish college, or the first person in your family to receive a master’s degree. For some of you, today you will have earned the degree that enables you to pursue your lifelong dream, and you’re ready to shoot out of the starting gate like a thoroughbred. Some of you will start new businesses. And some of you will find ways to pursue your passion through volunteer opportunities in your community. This will be your story, and it begins today. As your stories unfold, they will define who you are and will show the world why you are so important.

Looking back, my story has been a journey of firsts: I was the first in my family to finish college. I was in the first graduating class of UIS, then Sangamon State University. I became the first female vice president in the University of Texas System. And I was the first female to lead an academic medical center in Wisconsin. But, in between those accomplishments, there are chapters in my story that are about making professional decisions that involved some risk, having the courage to take on new assignments even when I wasn’t really sure I knew enough to complete them, and changing courses on the path I was traveling when I encountered unexpected circumstances and the realities of life.

When I was in my late thirties, I worked at a job I loved. I was managing life as a career woman and as a wife and mother of an 8-year old. I had been at my job less than four months when I learned I was two months pregnant...with twins. Then, three months into the pregnancy, I was put on bed rest for several weeks; ultimately, the twins arrived seven weeks early. It was not an easy time. It was even harder when I returned to work two months after they were born. But my husband and I learned to manage as we traveled down this unexpected path. Managing those first five years was not easy, but we made it work. And it became a defining chapter in the story of my life.

Years later when the twins were in high school and we lived in Wisconsin, I was serving as president and CEO of the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics. Because of my position, many predominantly female organizations invited me to tell my story. Almost always, someone would ask me the inevitable question: “How have you managed to ‘have it all?’”

And my answer to that question is that no one really ever “has it all”. We make choices that suit us and our circumstances. We make it work by making the choices that are best for us, specifically and individually, while taking the opportunities that help us grow. And sometimes we stay the course, even in the face of challenges. These are some of the ways we shape our own unique story.

Today you are receiving your degree. This is the first big step toward a new journey; it is the next big chapter in the story of your life, and the pages are blank. So here are some words of advice to take with you when you leave today.

First, shape your story; do not let the story shape you. Second, if you are unsure about a decision, follow your heart. So long as you follow your heart, you will make the right choices.

Third, no matter how impossible or improbable an idea may seem, if it is your passion driving you forward, go! You will end up where you are meant to be; where you desire to be. Don't listen to the naysayers. Increase your resolve and go forth—after all, it is your story, not theirs!

And finally, don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and take a few risks. Many times something that once seemed impossible becomes possible with hard work, determination, resilience – and with some creativity thrown in.

I would like to leave you with a quote by Deodatta Shenai-Khatkhate that has helped me shape my own life story:

“It's impossible,” said pride.

“It's risky,” said experience.

“It's pointless,” said reason.

“Give it a try,” whispered the heart.

As you leave today with a blank page in a new chapter of your life's story, listen to the whispers of your heart. It is then, and only then, that you will achieve your fullest potential – the best possible story of you!

Thank you for letting me be part of your story today. Congratulations, graduates and all of those who are here today supporting you!

Remarks to Fellow Graduates – Robyn Nicole Crutchfield

May 14, 2016

To president Killeen, the board of Trustees, Chancellor Koch, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Ford and everybody gathered here today, Good Afternoon and Welcome!!

Class of 2016, family, friends, professors, administrators and staff; we made it. We, because this graduating class could not have done it without all of you! This graduating class has experienced an amazing degree of support from those around us both directly and indirectly.

Whether it was encouraging words, a couple of dollars towards our books or baked goods over the holidays. We thank you.

Graduating is one of the most exciting and trying times in our lives. On one hand, we've gotten this degree that we've worked so hard on despite each and every one of our circumstances. We've written papers, taken tests and took part of discussions to be able to call ourselves experts. On the other hand, our loved ones favorite question is "what are you going to do next?" and for quite a few of us those few words are terrifying because we simply don't know. Some of us are afraid, some of us are anxious and some of us are just excited and ready to go. So to all of you, I encourage you to just LIVE.

Live. The 'L' is for Love. There is so much heartache and pain in this world, but I truly believe that the best form of combat is a love driven people. Love on the people around you. Be compassionate in your words and your actions. Something as little as a smile or a note can change a person's whole day for the better. Love is listening, love is patient, love is kindness, love is appreciation, love is helpful, love is hugging, love is kissing, love is fun.

'I' is for Inspire. Don't be afraid to tell your story. You have already conquered unimaginable things in your life and you are still pressing forward, so don't be afraid to be a light for someone else. Yes, this is a huge undertaking, but you'd be amazed at how many people already look up to you. Some of you are graduating with children and to them and me you are super mom or super dad. Some of you have little cousins and when they grow up they want to be just like you. Some of you are first-generation college students and you've shown your family that truly anything is possible. I think I can even safely say that all of you have inspired your professors in some way. They've watched you grow and want to be better teachers because of it. So while being a constant inspiration may seem like a huge weight, you're already doing it perfectly, just keep being you.

'V' is for vocalize. Find your voice amongst those closest to you, but also figure out where your voice is needed in this world. It is your civic responsibility to know what is happening around you, to vote and to speak up for those who may not be able to speak for themselves. Be an advocate. Be a revolutionist. Be an activist. And do this in every walk of life. Recognize injustices in the work place, at school or even walking down the street and call it out. While social media is a great way to be vocal and get your friends involved, you must go beyond the keys on the keyboard. Not everyone wants to be the next president of the United States and that is ok, but your voice can be heard through your everyday actions, by volunteering and educating those around you.

Finally, the E is for experience. There are so many people to meet and so many things to do outside of our hometowns and beyond the bubble of UIS campus. So, I encourage you to get a little uncomfortable. Get out and do something new. Check some things off of your bucket list, travel, plan a picnic, drive across the country, fall in love, go to a concert, get another degree, read a book, learn a new language, run a marathon. Whatever you do, never ever stop doing what makes you happy. The world is yours.

Whether you have been here for 1 year, 4 years, 8 or 11 years, be proud of the education you have received. UIS taught us that leadership lived and each and every one of us exemplifies that. You have shown up and shown out in your classrooms, in your student orgs, on the job and

in your personal lives. Be proud of your alma mater and remember the time you spent here for the rest of your life. Remember all the horseshoes you ate and probably shouldn't have. Remember the breakfast potatoes in PAC. Remember all the times you said "if I make it through this paper, then I will never procrastinate again" only to find yourself pulling an all nighter again the next week. Remember the days when the power went out in Lincoln and how this campus (students included) came together to make sure we all showered. Remember ordering cheese pizzas and late nights smack talking with your friends. Remember Homecomings and Springfest. Remember the struggles, the days when you thought things couldn't possibly get any worse and then they did; but also remember how gracefully you overcame those days. These memories you have will be stories to tell for a lifetime.

So, again I implore you to live.

Love, inspire, vocalize and experience.

With that, I'll leave you with a quote from Dr. Seuss.

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

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 2016](#)
-

Stories 2016

From The Newsroom

- [UIS to hold 45th commencement ceremony on May 14 in downtown Springfield](#)
- [More than 1,100 earn degrees at 45th UIS Commencement ceremony](#)

Related Stories

- WAND-TV: [UIS To Hold 45th Commencement Ceremony](#)
 - [SJR Column: Commencement, May 2016](#)
 - WICS-TV: [UIS To Host Graduation at Prairie Capital Convention Center](#)
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 - SJR: [Speaker tells UIS graduates to follow their heart](#)
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Information for UIS Faculty 2016

UIS will hold its 45th Commencement Ceremony at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois on May 14, 2016, 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 Monday, February 29, 2016. 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 2016 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 14, 2016. The Faculty Robing Room will be located on the lower level of Prairie Capital Convention Center (The Center) in a Room B-11A.

Information for Students 2016

The 45th UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 14, 2016, at 4 pm, in the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

Important Information for All Graduates

- **Access to Your NetID**
Your NetID will remain active for three (3) semesters after graduation. After that time, you will no longer be able to use your NetID to access email,

Blackboard, or other campus services such as Box, lynda, Office 365, etc. Please see the [User Account Lifecycle for NetIDs](#) policy for more information.

- **Ceremony DVD**To purchase a DVD of the ceremony, please complete [Graduation Ceremony DVD Request here](#).
 - **Etiquette**
Want to know the proper **etiquette** for Commencement? [Download the guide here](#). (pdf)
 - **First Destination Survey (FDS)**
The First Destination Survey (FDS) is a national survey that is meant to gain knowledge about what activities students are engaging in after graduation from college. The information gained from the survey helps to determine institution effectiveness and provide data for reporting needs, to enhance UIS academic offerings, and support career exploration for current and future students. Prior to graduation day, you will receive emails with additional information and be asked to complete the Outcomes Survey. By completing the survey, you will qualify to win a variety of prizes including iPads and gift cards. For further information, you may visit the [UIS Career Development website](#).
 - **Photographs**
Professional photography on commencement day will be provided by [GradImages](#). Questions regarding photographs following the ceremony should be addressed directly to GradImages.
 - **Student Speaker Application Information**
The deadline to submit a **Student Commencement Speaker Application** form for 2016 was Noon on Monday, March 21, 2016. This year's Student Commencement Speaker is **Robyn Nicole Crutchfield**.
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Commencement Letters

- **Commencement Letter #1**
- **Commencement Letter #2**
- **Commencement Letter #3**

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



How to Participate/ Graduate Salute Days for Purchasing Caps and Gowns

Those planning to participate in the commencement ceremony ARE REQUIRED to complete the following TWO steps:

1. Confirm their participation by submitting an online intent to participate. Students could submit their intent via the commencement website **between March 7 and March 22**. Only those who are eligible will be able to submit their intent to participate. Also, if you are making special cap and gown arrangements (e.g., borrowing a black cap and gown), you **MUST** still confirm your participation.
2. Purchase a cap and gown during the “Graduate Salute” to be held in the UIS Bookstore (located on the first floor of Founders Hall) during the dates listed below.

Students are 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 are able to purchase their caps and gowns through the UIS Peoria Center. Graduate Salute days are as follows:

- Thursday, March 24, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Friday, March 25, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Starting Your Affordable Legacy

For the sake of those who follow, start your affordable legacy.

- Congratulations on your achievement, and best wishes for the future. As you go forward, please consider helping those who follow with your

contributions to the UIS program of your choice. Future graduates will thank you!

- You can find many wonderful giving opportunities available at any level of giving on the [Office of Advancement](#) website. Use the “Choose Where to Give” tab at the top to see a list of many opportunities. The UIS Fund, which provides support for programs and students throughout campus, is always an excellent choice.
- You’ll be receiving updates from the Office of Advancement with campus stories of students and special opportunities for giving.
- If you have questions, please feel free to call us at (217) 206-6058.

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.

Welcome Visitors 2016



Welcome visitors, to our most cherished tradition.

The 45th University of Illinois Springfield Commencement Ceremony will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois, May 14, 2016.

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
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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](#)
- **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](#)
- **Wyndham Springfield City Centre**
700 East Adams
Springfield, IL 62701
217-789-1530
[Wyndham Springfield City Centre Room Information/Rates](#)
- For additional **hotel** information please contact the Springfield Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at (800) 545-7300.

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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