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## Official city holiday ornament depicting UIS unveiled

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**THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

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A three-dimensional depiction of the colonnade on the quadrangle at the University of Illinois Springfield is featured on the 2010 City of Springfield ornament.

The design, unveiled at a press conference at the colonnade Wednesday, is the 18th in a series of collectible ornaments depicting local buildings and landmarks.

The series is a project of St. Joseph's Home, a not-for-profit nursing home established in 1903. Sales of the ornament support the home.

The 2¼-inch tall ornament depicts the colonnade, constructed on the north side of the UIS Quad in 2005, as well as a base commemorating the 40th anniversary of UIS.

Terri Hempstead, development coordinator of St. Joseph's Home, said the university a year ago suggested that the home consider spotlighting UIS.

"We were thrilled," she said. "It is a worthy addition to the group of buildings and landmarks that define the identity of Springfield."

UIS Chancellor Richard Ringeisen, who is retiring at the end of the month, said the colonnade and fountain are "a very special place."

When University Hall was constructed, the university decided to create a quadrangle, and Ringeisen said he wanted some type of fountain in it.

"It's a very personal thing to me," he said. "Hanson Engineers designed all this and took my idea of having something special and turned it into something extra-special. It is the type of thing people mention when they say this feels like a campus."

UIS has awarded more than 32,600 degrees since its inception and has alumni living in all 50 states and 44 foreign countries. Almost 10,000 alumni live in Sangamon County alone.

"We hope this year's ornament appeals to Springfield residents, SSU/UIS staff and alumni and our series collectors all over the country," Hempstead said.

Hempstead said each of the previous 17 ornaments has brought in \$25,000 to \$55,000 annually to St. Joseph's Home.

"Philanthropy is an essential element in St. Joseph's Home's history," Hempstead said.

The Old State Capitol was featured on the first official city ornament in 1993. Subjects since then have ranged from Lincoln sites and events to the Main Gate at the state fairgrounds, St. John's Hospital and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in 2009.

The 2010 ornament, which is 24-karat gold-plated, costs \$29 and comes in a velvet-lined box with a signed and numbered certificate of authenticity. No more than 5,000 ornaments will be produced.

"There is no better Christmas gift you can give right now," said Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin, who read a proclamation designating the 2010 ornament design.

Chris Dettro can be reached at 788-1510.

### Ornament sales

The 2010 City of Springfield ornament is available at St. Joseph's Home, the UIS Bookstore, Pease's Candy (four locations), Bank of Springfield (three locations), Heartland Credit Union (two locations), St. John's Hospital Gift Shops, Pleasant Nursery, Wild Birds Unlimited, It's All About Wine, Vono Medical Supply, the Illinois State Museum Store and Tinsley Dry Goods.

The fifth through 17th ornaments also are available at St. Joseph's Home, but not at the other locations. The first four ornaments in the series have been retired.

Ornaments can be ordered online at <http://www.saintjosephshome.org/ornament.shtml> or at [www.abelincoln.com](http://www.abelincoln.com).

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