Commencement 2008

The 37th University of Illinois at Springfield Commencement Ceremony will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center.

The Center is located in downtown Springfield at 9th and Adams streets. See our Visitors page for directions and more information for out of town guests.

- Speakers and Marshals
- Distance Viewing
- Tickets
- Schedule of Events

Speakers and Marshals

2008 Graduation Ceremony Speaker – Justice Anne M. Burke

Throughout her many years in public service, Justice Anne M. Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court’s First District has provided a voice for society’s most fragile citizens – especially children. She was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court on July 6, 2006 after serving 11 years as a Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court. Her judicial career began in 1987 when she was appointed the first woman Justice of the Illinois Court of Claims.

Before becoming a member of the judiciary, Justice Burke was a leading advocate on behalf of Chicago’s most vulnerable young people. She began as a physical education teacher with the Chicago Park District, working with mentally disabled children. Out of that experience, she founded the Chicago Special Olympics in
1968 and later served as a director of that organization as it grew to become the International Special Olympics, which now operates in more than 160 countries.

Following her graduation from Chicago-Kent College of Law, Anne began a neighborhood law practice that included representing the interests of children and families involving issues of neglect, abuse, delinquency and parental custody. Her diverse practice also included civil and criminal trial work.

Prior to becoming a Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, Justice Burke led a successful effort to reshape and improve the Illinois juvenile justice system. After a series of shocking scandals involving the state's child welfare programs, Governor Jim Edgar appointed her Special Counsel for Child Welfare Services and a member of his Legislative Committee on Juvenile Justice. Later, following revelations of the nationwide clergy abuse scandal, Justice Burke served for two years as Interim Chair of the National Review Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, investigating abuse by clergy and helping to establish guidelines and policies for its prevention.

Justice Burke has served on the board of Rush Medical Center, DePaul University, the Chicago Bar Association, Loyola University, the Chicago Public Library, St. Xavier University, Persons with Disabilities Fund of the Chicago Community Trust, River North Dance Company, the Lincoln Park Zoological Society, and the St. Rose School for the Mentally Disabled. She was president of Special Children’s Charities and the Caritas Foundation. In recognition of her many achievements, Justice Burke has received honorary degrees from Aurora University, the Catholic Theological Union, the College of the Holy Cross, DePaul University and St. Ambrose University.

Justice Burke and her husband, Alderman Ed Burke, have five children: Jennifer, Eddie, Sarah, the late Emmett, and Travis. They live on Chicago’s Southwest Side and attend St. Simon The Apostle Church.

Other Speakers

In addition to the main speaker, a student representative, a representative of the Board of Trustees, the University president, and the chancellor will speak.

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.

**Marshals Rehearsal for Commencement**

Studio Theater  
Wednesday, May 7  
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

For info, call: Aleta Carlberg  
217- 206- 8295

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**Distance viewing**

The ceremony will be [webcast live](#) on the UIS website.

Download the order form to purchase a Video or DVD of the ceremony.

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**Tickets**

In order to ensure that family members of each graduate have a seat, tickets will be required for admission until 15 minutes prior to the ceremony. Seating will be general admission on a first-come, first-served basis. The doors will open to the main floor of The Center at 1 p.m.

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### Commencement Week Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, May 2, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Peoria Graduation Reception</td>
<td>Embassy Suite Hotel and Conference Center</td>
<td>6:30 – 12:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Jana Wise 309-694-5339</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 3, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chi Sigma Iota, Counseling Program</td>
<td>PAC Restaurant</td>
<td>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Holly Thompson 217-206-7568</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, May 4, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lavender Graduation</td>
<td>PAC Restaurant</td>
<td>3:00 – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Beth Hoag 217-206-6665</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, May 7, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Night Breakfast</td>
<td>Food Emporium</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Cynthia Thompson 217-206-6665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshals Rehearsal for Commencement</td>
<td>Studio Theater</td>
<td>5:00 – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Aleta Carlbeg 217-206-8295</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, May 8, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Ring and Student Leadership Award Recognition Ceremony</td>
<td>PAC Restaurant</td>
<td>5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Mary Caroline Mitchell 206-7395</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, May 9, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>College of LAS – Commencement and Honors Reception</td>
<td>UHB 1st floor lounge</td>
<td>4:00 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Terry Bodenhorn 217-206-7435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of LAS – Honors Ceremony</td>
<td>UHB 2008 and 2034</td>
<td>5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Terry Bodenhorn 206-7435</td>
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<tr>
<td>POS Honors Banquet</td>
<td>Island Bay Yacht Club</td>
<td>5:30 – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Program Office 206-6646</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday Morning, May 10, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Degree Graduates Brunch</td>
<td>Sangamon Auditorium Lobby</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Mary Caroline Mitchell 206-7395</td>
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<tr>
<td>EHS College Reception</td>
<td>Saputo’s</td>
<td>5:00 – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Natalie Taylor 206-6784</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prior Events</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, April 27, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lambda Pi Eta, Communication By invitation only</td>
<td>PAC C/D</td>
<td>2:00 – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hank Nicholson 217-206-6790</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, April 27, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beta Gamma Sigma Induction Ceremony</td>
<td>BRK Auditorium</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Patricia Sanchez 217-206-7872</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Business and Management</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, April 13, 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha Phi Sigma</td>
<td>PAC Restaurant</td>
<td>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Leanne Brecklin</td>
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Commencement Ceremony 2008

Processional

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

Grand Marshal*

Dr. Henry E. Nicholson, Professor, Communication

National Anthem

Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key
Performed by Denise Yates, Class of 1999

Presiding

Chancellor Richard D. Ringeisen

Greetings from the University of Illinois Board of Trustees

Trustee David V. Dorris

Greetings

President B. Joseph White

Commencement Address

The Honorable Anne M. Burke, Illinois Supreme Court, First District

Remarks to Fellow Graduates

Denean Vreeland, Class of 2008

Presentation of Master’s Degree Candidates

Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Harry J. Berman

Conferring of Master’s Degrees
President B. Joseph White

**Presentation of Bachelor’s Degree Candidates**

Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Harry J. Berman

**Conferring of Bachelor’s Degrees**

President B. Joseph White

**Induction to Alumni Association**

Dr. Linda Renee Baker, Member of UIS Alumni Advisory Board, Class of 2004

**Presentation of Graduates**

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

**Closing Music**

Illinois, Illinois by Archibald Johnston/Charles Chamberlin
Performed by Denise Yates, Class of 1999

**Recessional**

Pomp and Circumstance Nos. I and IV by Elgar
(Audience is asked to remain seated during the recessional)

*Grand Marshal is an honorary title conferred each year on a professor by vote of the University’s faculty.*

**Graduates’ names are read by Kavitha Cardoza, Springfield Bureau Chief, WUIS/WIPA, and Tim Schweizer, Public Service Administrator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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**Commencement Address 2008**

**By Justice Anne Burke (Illinois Supreme Court)**

Good afternoon, graduates.
President White, Chancellor Ringeisen, distinguished members of the Board of Trustees; Deans, Department Chairs, members of the faculty, family and friends of today’s graduates.

I am exceedingly honored to have this opportunity of addressing you at such a profound moment in your lives. I am particularly delighted to be a part of the life of this remarkable Illinois educational institution and doubly happy to be here in Springfield – a place I have come to look upon as a second home.

Not far from here, my Supreme Court colleagues and I conduct matters of the court. Our imposing court building turned one hundred years old this past February. It is there that the six other justices and I reside when the Supreme Court is in full session in Springfield five times a year. I have come to know Springfield and appreciate its history and heartland significance.

Like you, I have come to know Springfield through the life and legend of its most remarkable citizen: Abraham Lincoln. Next year, 2009, America will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of this courageous American patriot from Illinois.

I hope that during your time here in our capital you have made some personal discoveries for yourselves about our 16th president. How remarkable it would be if you could carry home with you a piece of his American values and virtues. How important for what lies ahead for you would it be if some word of his — the man who saved the Union — touched your hearts. I say that because I believe his thoughts, some spoken in the most perilous moments in our nation’s history, might give you courage for the future and fuel for your journey.

I have my own favorite words of Lincoln — short, sweet and to the point. I have tried to remember and practice them throughout my professional life. He said, “We should be too big to take offense and too noble to give it.”

Springfield occupied a unique place in the heart of President Lincoln. He arrived here just as the city was made our third state capital in 1839. I suspect much of what he relied on for strength in his later life had its origins here along Springfield’s dusty streets. It was, after all, the home of the love of his life, Mary Todd.

Here was his home, his work, his finest family days, his worthiest friends, and his final place of rest. Here, today, (just down the street from here) is his extraordinary Presidential Library and Museum.

I am so pleased that you chose to come here to this special place so tied to President Lincoln’s life, for your college education. Even if you did not go looking for him while you have been here, maybe he has been looking for you. Perhaps his spirit and energy was at work as you made fresh discoveries yourselves; about the future; about government; about our heartland capital and about what lies ahead for you.
There’s an old Irish saying: You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was.

This is good advice in any family; but it also is a good assessment of what you have been about these past four years.

All of us come to our life’s work shaped and guided by the lives and loves of many people. But no matter what gifts or challenges we are given in life, what we encounter in the pathways before us must be tested on our own. Guided by the good will of others, we must still live life as we find it. I suspect that is what makes today’s celebration one of such hope.

The Irish poet William Butler Yeats wrote, “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

It is that “fire” in you that we have come to celebrate today. It is the fire of bright intelligence; remarkable accomplishment and wide excitement for the future. Remember the words also of another poet, Seamus Heaney, who wrote, “There is risk and truth to yourselves and the world before you.”

Out of such “risk and truth” can come your confidence, your hope and your direction. I hope that “risk and truth” will become the twin pillars of your success and happiness. Be idealists without illusions. Be generous to others; quick to forgive and easy with understanding. It will make you trusted and popular wherever you go.

Martin Luther King, Jr., used to say that the most essential thing we could do in our lives was also the scariest: the task to simply begin. Take the first step in faith, he would say. You don’t have to see the whole staircase. Just take the first step.

Is that not what you have come to discover here at the University of Illinois? I’m a grandmother, and I am not sure how often in my life I have ever seen the whole staircase. But I have always been able to find the first stair and I think that was always enough.

Years ago this led me to organize the first Chicago Special Olympics; and then led me back to college after having four children; then to law school; and still later to start a family law practice and a lifetime of child advocacy. I will be honest with you: Never in a million years did I think the staircase I was on would lead to the Illinois Supreme Court.

That came about not through one great decision on my part, but rather in response to thousands of moments of risk and truth in my life. It unfolded in the countless opportunities and decisions, usually involving hard work, which led me into the lives of others, many in very vulnerable places in their lives.

I believe it is like that for all of us. Our commitment to our professions comes about in many ways – failures and successes – but always most clearly
demonstrated when we do things for others. Your excellence always is best when it opens up good things for others.

“Do not pray for an easy life,” John F. Kennedy was fond of saying. “Pray to be a stronger person.” That is my great wish for you today: you will know the direction of your journey by the effort and commitment you make to others; and that you will always have your eyes on that first stair.

Congratulations on all you have accomplished.

I wish you well in all that lies ahead. Most of all, I encourage you to make risk and truth a part of all you do. Remember what President Lincoln said: “The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.”

Thank you for the honor of [having me] speaking today. I cherish this with all my heart.

Photos 2008

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.

- Photos from Pre-ceremony Activities
- Photos from the Ceremony

Photos from Pre-ceremony Activities

Chancellor Ringeisen, Provost Berman, speaker Anne Burke, and others prepare for the commencement ceremony.

- Check out a video and story from the online students brunch
- Also see photos from the ceremony
Photos from the Ceremony

Photos from the 37th UIS Commencement Ceremony.

• Check out a video and story from the online students brunch
• Also see photos from the pre-ceremony activities
Photos from the Online Students Brunch 2008

Photos taken during the online brunch held on the UIS campus on Saturday morning. Graduates from California, Delaware, Florida and other far-away places were present.

• Check out a [video and story from the online students brunch](#)
• Also see [pre-ceremony](#) and [ceremony](#) photos.