

Commencement 2012

The 41st **UIS commencement ceremony** was held on May 12, 2012 at the *Prairie Capital Convention Center* in downtown Springfield,



Illinois.

- Purchase [DVD of complete ceremony](#)

Guess the Steps:

The winner of our *Guess the Steps* contest was **Carrie Lee-Branson!** Grad event planner Joan Sestak's final step count was 23,114 steps.

"Today is a celebration of not only all that we have accomplished here at this University, but all that we will continue to achieve and strive for throughout our ongoing pursuit of knowledge."

Jessica A. Odigie, Class of 2012

Remarks to Fellow Graduates

From the UIS Newsroom:

The commencement speaker was UIS Public Affairs Reporting alum **Wenguang Huang**, a Chicago-based journalist, writer and translator. He is the author of *The Little Red Guard*, a memoir that chronicles his growing up in central China during the 1970s.

- [News Story: Hundreds of UIS students celebrate during 41st Commencement](#)
- [News Story: Unique UIS graduation event brings online students together](#)

More:

- [Grad 2012 on Facebook](#)
 - [Search Twitter](#) for #UIS
 - [News release](#) about the commencement speaker and a complete list of marshals.
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About Commencement 2012



The 41st UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 12, 2012, at 2pm, 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

Journalist, Author, and Translator, 1991 Alumnus, **Wenguang Huang**

- [Read about the speaker and see a list of marshals](#)

Speakers

Board of Trustees Representative, **Karen Hasara**

University President-designate, **Robert A. Easter**

UIS Chancellor, **Susan J. Koch**

Student Speaker, **Jessica A. Odigie**

Alumni Association Representative, **Thomas E. Livingston**

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.

You can view the list of program marshals **soon**.

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

- **Professor Stephen Schwark, Political Science**
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Distance viewing



- The ceremony will be [webcast live](#) on the UIS website.
 - [Download the order form](#) (pdf) to purchase a DVD of the ceremony.
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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>
*CBM – Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society Induction Ceremony Saturday, May 5, 2012	Brookens Auditorium	1:30 p.m.	Pat Sanchez (217) 206-7872
*Peoria Graduation Reception Friday, May 4, 2012	Embassy Suites East Peoria	6:30 p.m.	Jana Wise (309) 999-4250
Diversity Center Graduation Reception Friday, May 11, 2012	Diversity Center	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Jeannie Capranica (217) 206-6333

Lavender Graduation Friday, May 11, 2012	Student Life Building Multipurpose Rm	Noon – 2:00 p.m.	Kerry Poynter (217) 206-8316
Liberal Arts & Sciences Honors Reception Friday, May 11, 2012	UHB First Floor Lobby	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Keith Burton (217) 206-7435
*CPAA – Political Science Graduation Reception Friday, May 11, 2012	PAC C & D	5:30 p.m.	Nathan Franklin Nfran3@uis.edu
*CAP Honors Graduation Breakfast Saturday, May 12, 2012	PAC Cafeteria	10:00 a.m. – Noon	Rowena Vail (217) 206-8462
*Online Degree Graduation Brunch Saturday, May 12, 2012	Sangamon Auditorium Lobby	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Carol Bloemer (217) 206-8379
Commencement 2012 Saturday, May 12, 2012	Prairie Capital Convention Center	2:00 p.m.	Office of Records and Registration (217) 206-7730 or registrar@uis.edu

More events to come...

* Denotes by invitation only

Commencement Ceremony 2012

Processional

Pomp and Circumstance Nos. I and IV by Elgar
(Audience is asked to remain seated during the processional)
Stephen Schwark, 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-designate, University of Illinois

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Susan J. Koch, Chancellor

Commencement Address

Wenguang Huang, Journalist, Author, and Translator, 1991 Alumnus

Introduction of Student Commencement Speaker

Timothy Barnett, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Remarks to Fellow Graduates

Jessica A. Odigie, Class of 2012

Presentation of Doctoral Degree Candidate

Lynn Pardie, Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Doctoral Degree

Robert A. Easter, President-designate, University of Illinois

Presentation of Master's Degree Candidates

Lynn Pardie, Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Master's Degrees

Robert A. Easter, President-designate, University of Illinois

Presentation of Bachelor's Degree Candidates

Lynn Pardie, Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Bachelor's Degrees

Robert A. Easter, President-designate, 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 to Alumni Association

Thomas E. Livingston, Chairman, Board of Directors,
University of Illinois Alumni Association, 1990 and 1997 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)
Stephen Schwark, 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.*

Commencement Address - Wenguang Huang

Commencement Remarks
University of Illinois Springfield
May 12, 2012

President Easter, Chancellor Koch, members of the faculty, proud families and, above all, graduates:

Thank you so much for this tremendous honor, and my warmest congratulations to the class of 2012. In my native China, it is the year of the dragon, which we see as a powerful, lucky and magic creature. Many couples plan their families around this year so they can have a baby blessed under this auspicious sign. It could not be a more auspicious time to begin a career—in any country. Think big and act in accordance with your life's dreams.

For me, having the opportunity to address you today fulfills a personal wish. There is a Chinese saying – when you taste sweet water, don't forget the person who dug the well. I want to thank this university, which gave me the skills and confidence to write successfully in a new language. This community embraced me warmly and helped me flourish in the country, which I now call home.

I arrived in Springfield from China in February 1990. Eight months before, I had participated in the Tiananmen Square student uprising, an event similar to last year's Arab Spring. Marching peacefully and with passion, my classmates and I demanded democratic reforms and pressed for freedom in China.

When tanks and government troops notoriously crushed the demonstrations in Beijing, our hopes and dreams also lay smashed. The grim repression that followed and the premature death of my father from cancer prompted me to look to America for a new chapter in life.

Professor Robert Crowley, whom I had met in China, and a close college friend, who had come here a year before, introduced me to what was then Sangamon State University. I had never heard of it before, so I imagined a towering campus with neoclassical buildings, just as I had seen in the movies. I also liked the name of the city, Springfield, which translated to Chinese meant the land of spring. In China, where the political environment had turned colder and harsher, the land of spring and Abraham Lincoln sounded both appealing and noble.

So I gave away all my possessions and arrived in Illinois with 70 U.S. dollars.

The first day on campus, I searched in vain for my imagined Sangamon State. All I found was a long red brick building surrounded by a vast expanse of cornfield. Downtown, I didn't see a single skyscraper and the street looked deserted at dusk. For someone who had just arrived from a city of 23 million people, I felt lonely and disoriented.

However, the university without any grand buildings and the community without any skyscrapers did not disappoint. Many foreign students and I received more personal attention and care than would have been imaginable in a bigger university. In Chinese, "Sangamon" sounds like the characters meaning "Three Doors." In fact, the three-door university did hold three doors wide open for me.

Through the first door, I embarked on the path of journalism. Professor Mary Bohlen, who is sitting here today, and the late Bill Miller decided to take a chance on me and recruited me as the first international student for the public affairs reporting program – it was a dream I had nurtured ever since reading *All the President's Men*. I longed to pursue journalism in the land where reporters could even have the power to bring down a president.

It was here in the school newspaper that I published my first article in English, a report on the landmark moment when Sangamon State reached a 4,000-student enrollment. The article that I had labored for three days gave me the confidence to continue to publish my work in English.

I also had a taste of the sweetness of free speech when I submitted an article to the *Illinois Times*, criticizing the Western media for their sensationalized coverage of the student movement in China. Instead of getting into trouble for holding dissenting views, as I would have in my native country, my editor, several professors and readers praised my honesty. Those two articles are now framed and hang in my study.

Through the second door at Sangamon, I was ushered into the American way of life – I attended my first Christmas celebration with my new friend Bill and his mother, had my first Thanksgiving dinner on a farm with Bruce, whose mother, Mrs. Kinnette, proclaimed herself my American mother. At the Bohlen's apple orchard, I learned the different types of apples, and saw my first high-school musical at Springfield High with the Klemens. At the time of my graduation, when none of my family members could make it, Charlene Lambert and the Shereikis' showed up at my graduation party with cards and envelopes.

The Crowley's took me to the Illinois State Fair, where I first saw a butter cow. Even now, many of my Chicago and New York friends have no idea what I am talking about.

I earned my first dollar from bussing tables at a Chinese restaurant on South Grand. I started the second day after my arrival. I was fired on the third day because I wasn't fast enough, and, when a customer asked for a cocktail onion for his martini, I dutifully brought out a full-sized one...And, for the first time in my life, I saw a fortune cookie.

Through the third door, I walked into the proverbial "sausage factory" of politics. "Laws are like sausages," goes the famous quote, "It is better not to see them being made." But for me, getting an in-depth look of law-making was enlightening. If democracy was only an abstract idea when I protested in China, I grasped its true meanings while interning with the General Assembly. Having grown up in a country where senior leaders were appointed rather than elected, I witnessed up close the 1990 gubernatorial election. Despite the political bickering that characterized Illinois politics and despite the fact that two of the last four governors landed in jail, the political process energized me. The experience prompted me to

become a U.S. citizen in 1998. When I cast my first vote in the presidential election, I teared up.

For many of you who are graduating today, our backgrounds might differ, but I'm sure we all share similar feelings for UIS. As you leave here today, I would like to inspire you with the teachings of someone who never had the chance to see America, but whose stories pointed to universal truths.

He was my father, whom I recently featured in my memoir. He died before he could see me graduate and before I had the chance to tell him how much he had influenced me.

One of my father's favorite stories began with a frog who lived comfortably at the bottom of a well. The frog thought the sky was as big as the mouth of the well. One day a crow perches on the edge, and the frog asked curiously, "Where are you from?" The crow answered, "I fly from the sky." The frog was surprised and refused to believe that other creatures existed beyond what he saw every day. So, the crow invited the frog to jump out and see for himself. When the frog reluctantly emerged from the well, he was shocked to see how huge the world could be.

That tale always encouraged me to risk jumping out of my comfort zone and to take a broader perspective on life. Most of us have frog-like fears, but when we consider the crow's vantage point, new horizons can be both physically far away or a leap in activity. The world is your pond.

Twenty years ago, thousands of foreign students came here in search of better opportunities because America was the most advanced country with the best education systems. Today, the world is getting smaller. When you plan your future, look beyond Springfield and even the boundaries of our country, and compete for opportunities in Shanghai, Sao Paulo, Nairobi and New Delhi, whether to take up a corporate job, teach English or to help people in need. For those who choose to work locally, I urge you to learn a foreign language. Being open-minded about other cultures will also open up a new array of opportunities.

My last insight comes in the form of another of my father's sayings, which is that "A person depends on his parents at home and on his friends outside." When many of you pack and move back in with your parents today, be grateful. Take a break from your iPhone or iPad, help with the dishes or drive your mother to the White Oaks Mall, if asked. In this way, when you reach my age, you don't have to write a book about your guilt and regrets about not spending time with your parents or listening to their advice. Trust me!

At work or school, we have been taught how to stand out and show our individuality, which is perceived as a strength in this country. However, humility and collaboration, which are much treasured in the East, will also serve you well. Be a good listener and learn before rushing into any quick judgment. At work, it wouldn't kill you if you pick up a cup of coffee for your boss or help a coworker who might not know how to create an Excel spreadsheet. If you are attentive to

others, you'll find yourself surrounded by a network of friends who will be there for you and who will cover for you if you make a mistake. They will also contact you when new opportunities arise.

Legend has it that a dragon is powerful because it draws its strength and shapes from many different animals such as a tiger, snake or eagle. Similarly, the knowledge and skill you have gained from UIS, your parents and the community will carry you very far—especially when combined with the Midwestern sincerity and warmth. I sincerely hope that your lives—and careers—take off like the flying dragon.

Thank you and congratulations again.

by Wenguang Huang

Remarks to Fellow Graduates - Jessica Odigie

A Pursuit of Knowledge
May 12, 2012

Welcome:

Good afternoon. I would first like to start by welcoming, and thanking, the friends, family, and all those assisting the graduates in being able to participate in the 2012 commencement ceremony of the University of Illinois-Springfield. It is a great honor to stand before the largest commencement ceremony audience in UIS history.

Introduction:

It has been a long journey. Some journey's more extensive than others, stretching longer than the average four or five years, and some journey's presenting more trials and tribulations than others. Nonetheless, we have ALL managed to accomplish what it is we have set forth to do, and that is receive our college education.

So apart from the "commencement ceremony", what is the true meaning of today? Today is a celebration of not only all that we have accomplished here at this University, but all that we will continue to achieve and strive for throughout our ongoing pursuit of knowledge; wherever that pursuit of knowledge may take us: graduate school, medical school, law school, the work force, or one of the other various paths UIS students have taken.

Regardless of what form of education we plan to further pursue (either formally or in the real world), which state in which we plan to pursue it, and every other variable that will differ from graduate to graduate, today is the day of OUR commencement ceremony. Today is the day that we can check off “get a college education” from our list of things to do. Today is the day that we move from one level to the next.

Reflection:

Around this time four years ago, we were spread out around the world; or around the Midwest may be a little more accurate. Although all entering as the incoming class of the University of Illinois-Springfield, we were all in different places, having different mindsets. Some of us still getting over the shock of being accepted into a university, while others began devising a plan to take over the world. At the time, I did not exactly know where I fit in on the spectrum, but it would soon be apparent to me that God had great things in store for me here at UIS- from making the Dean’s List, to making history by bringing social fraternities and sororities to UIS alongside Kyle Palmer, Robert Dixon, and a woman we would have NEVER been able to do it without- Dr. Clarice Ford.

Looking around this auditorium, I know each graduate has various memories. Speaking personally, as I reflect back to August of 2008, when my parents moved me into room 205 of Founders Residence Hall, I was overly anxious for them to leave me to explore the campus, which was much larger to me then, than it is now. Regardless of my desire to emerge myself into this new college life on my own, the two of them had another plan. It was explained to all parents to be out of the residence halls before 3:00 that afternoon. However, my parents, reluctant to let me go, somehow managed to break the ONLY rule, and spend the night in the residence hall. After they left the next morning, I was ready for anything thrown my way...or so I thought. Just a couple weeks later, I was begging them to take me home with them. The stresses of college had already gotten to me. At that point, like many other points throughout my time at UIS, the support of my family and friends became essential. I want to give a sincere THANK YOU to my parents and brother for encouraging me to work harder than I ever thought possible in order to achieve what I’ve always dreamed of...and as I remember the late nights spent studying and writing papers in room 205 of Founders Residence Hall with Justin Rose, Ashley Scott, and Gozie Umeadi, I thank them as well for their support and encouragement.

Although I would have NEVER admitted it at the time, I had NO IDEA what these past four years had in store for me. As I prepare to enter another three years of the unknown, otherwise known as law school, I feel confident that the knowledge I’ve acquired, and the lessons I’ve learned at UIS, both inside and outside of the classroom, will only continue to be built upon, and I am positive that my fellow graduates feel the same.

The meaning of this is that we all come from diverse backgrounds with a wide variety of experiences, bringing different ways of thinking, or different knowledge to the table. Now that we have all dipped into each other's pools of knowledge, we are ready to enter the "real world" that these past four years have so thoroughly prepared us for.

Future:

So where do we end up? Our final destination is not something that can be determined at our "commencement ceremony". Our final destination will become more clear to us as we progress and acquire more knowledge. Although today is graduation day, today is not the end mark of our education. The world awaits us graduates of the class of 2012.

Conclusion:

With that being said, I offer my sincere CONGRATULATIONS to the graduating class of 2012!

Thank you.

by Jessica Odigie

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.

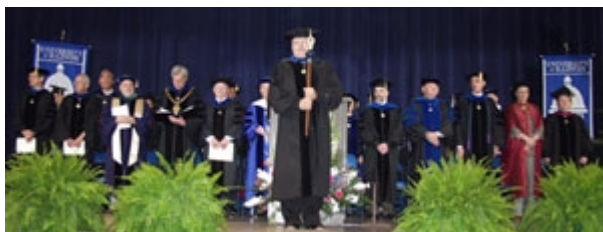
- [Black Graduation Celebration](#)
 - [Lavender Graduation](#)
 - [Diversity Center Graduation Party](#)
 - [Online Graduate Brunch](#)
 - [CAP Honors Graduation Breakfast](#)
 - [Commencement Pre-Ceremony](#)
 - [Commencement Ceremony](#)
 - [State Journal Register: UIS 41st Commencement at PCCC](#)
-

Stories

- [State Journal Register: Chinese writer, SSU grad, to speak at UIS graduation](#)
 - [Chicago Tribune: 'Little Red Guard' author Wen Huang has come to terms with his father, and with China](#)
 - [Illinois Times: Growing up in the Cultural Revolution](#)
 - [WUIS: Author Interview: Wen Huang, UIS Commencement Speaker](#)
 - **WICS-TV 20: Advice for College Grads**
 - [State Journal Register: Twins 'start together, end together' at UIS graduation](#)
 - **WICS-TV 20: Double the Excitement at UIS Graduation**
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Information for UIS Faculty 2012

UIS held its 41st Commencement Ceremony at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois on May 12, 2012 at 2pm.



Faculty Participation/Regalia

Faculty should have submitted the [online Faculty Participation and Regalia](#) form to indicate whether or not they will be participating in commencement and if so, whether or not regalia is needed. The deadline to submit the online form was Friday, March 2, 2012.

Parking

If you are a platform party or faculty member participating in the 2012 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 1:30 p.m. this lot will be open to the paying public.**

Ceremony Information

Please plan to arrive in the Faculty Robing Room by 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, 2012. The Faculty Robing Room will be located on the lower level of Prairie Capital Convention Center (The Center) in Room B11A.

Robe return will be down the hall in Room B11B.

Information for Students 2012



The 41st UIS commencement ceremony was held on May 12, 2012, at 2pm, in the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

Important Information for All Graduates

- **Stars Marching!** – [View a Flash animation](#) of the procession plan for the ceremony.
- Want to know the proper **etiquette** for Commencement? [Download the guide here.](#) (pdf)
- [Download the order form](#) to purchase a DVD of the ceremony. (pdf)
- [Student Commencement Speaker Application](#) (pdf)

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.

An advertisement for Grad Images. On the left, there is a red and white graphic with the text "Congratulations, Graduates!" and a promotional offer: "GET \$5 OFF on orders of \$25 or more just by registering your information with us before your event!". Below this is the Grad Images logo. On the right, there is a collage of four photographs: a graduate with a laptop, a group of graduates sitting on a stage, a graduate in a gown, and a close-up of a graduate's face.

Graduate Salute Days

Graduate Salute days were held:

- **March 29, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm**
- **March 30, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm**
- **March 31, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Caps, Gowns, and Announcements

You should have purchased your cap and gown at the Graduate Salute in the UIS Bookstore (located on the first floor of Founders Hall). Peoria students should have purchased 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. **Please note that a \$25.00 late fee will be assessed to all students who order their cap and gown after March 31.**

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.



THE UIS RING TRADITION IS SPONSORED BY  THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The custom crafted design of the Official Ring of the University of Illinois Springfield symbolizes the values, heritage and traditions of the University.



Reserved exclusively for the students and graduates of the University of Illinois Springfield, the inside of each ring may be personalized by engraving the recipient's name, initials, degree or graduation year, up to 18 characters.

Please place your order by:

- calling 1-866-BALLFOR (1-866-225-3667) weekdays from 9:30 am - 7 pm CST
- visit our website - www.ballfor.com
- in person at the UIS Bookstore during Graduate Sales on March 29 (11 am - 7 pm), March 30 (10 am - 6 pm) and March 31 (9 am - 7 pm)

An interest free monthly installment plan is available.

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 go to www.uis.edu/development.
 - Or Call the Development Office at 217-206-6058.
 - Future graduates will thank you!
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Welcome Visitors 2012



Welcome visitors, to our most cherished tradition.

The 41st University of Illinois Springfield Commencement Ceremony was held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois, May 12, 2012.

The Center is located in downtown Springfield at 9th and Adams streets.

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

Order a Video or DVD

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

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.

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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Downtown Hotels

The following hotels have agreed to 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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