Commencement

UIS

53rd Annual Commencement

Friday, May 10 &
Saturday, May 11, 2024
Greetings

Donald J. Edwards
Chairman, University of Illinois Board of Trustees

On behalf of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, and as a proud alumnus, I am honored to bring greetings and congratulations to the Class of 2024.

I hope that these past few years and your experiences here at UIS have been some of the best, most rewarding … and most challenging … of your lives.

Although it has been quite a few years since I sat in your seat at my own graduation, I still remember the mix of excitement and anxiety I felt, not knowing exactly what the future would hold. That is understandable.

But rest assured that your experiences here, both in and out of the classroom, have provided you with the foundation to succeed and flourish.

Now take that foundation and build on it. Follow your passions, find your path, and never stop learning.

As you take the next steps in your life’s journey, know that you carry a bond that forever connects you to your years on this remarkable campus. You are joining one of the world’s largest alumni networks—more than 800,000 strong from across the University of Illinois System’s three best-in-class universities. You will find us in just about every country on Earth.

I hope you will carry our flag with pride, with your successes adding to our global reputation for excellence and attracting the new generations of students who want to follow in your footsteps. I hope you also will come back to our beautiful Springfield campus often to share your achievements, your experiences, and your insights.

And, as you are out there building your career and making the world a better place, know that those of us back here at the U of I will still be working for you, ensuring that the value and prestige of your UIS degree will continue to grow.

Congratulations again, Class of 2024!

Dr. Timothy L. Killeen
President, University of Illinois

To the Class of 2024, congratulations!

This day has been many years in the making. But as new graduates of the University of Illinois Springfield, you are ready for the opportunities now ahead of you.

The memories you have made on the way to this day, the friends and colleagues who have become part of your lives, and your journey of discovery have transformed you and given you the tools to navigate what comes next.
Greetings to the Class of 2024!

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone—your commencement! It’s truly an honor to share in this moment of celebration alongside you, your loved ones and the entire UIS community. Today marks a timeless tradition, one that symbolizes the culmination of your hard work and dedication over the years.

Your perseverance has led you to this moment, and I couldn’t be prouder of your accomplishments. I extend my gratitude to the faculty, staff, family and friends who have supported you along this journey. Together, we gather to recognize your achievements and celebrate your success.

At UIS, our vision is to be a pathway to opportunity, a catalyst for change and a space of possibility where learners become ethical and passionate scholars, leaders and citizens capable of transforming their local and global communities. As you venture forth, may the leadership lessons learned here serve as a guiding light.

To you and all those joining in today’s festivities, I send my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. Congratulations on earning your degree!
Carly Hawkins ’05 CPAE  
Capital Scholars Honors Program Graduate 
Chair, University of Illinois Springfield Alumni Board

Congratulations on your graduation, and welcome to the UIS Alumni family!

Graduation is a big milestone in a person’s life. You have defined yourself, in part, as someone who is a critical thinker, as one who is dedicated and disciplined, and one who embraces learning. As a result, you have an extremely exciting journey ahead. Doors will open which you never knew existed and new opportunities will appear as you pursue your life’s dreams, passions, and ambitions.

Graduation is an impressive achievement. Reflect and celebrate your hard work. Give thanks to all those incredibly special people who have supported you along the way. Enjoy this special day!

As you embark upon new beginnings, be confident knowing you share a common bond with a global UIS Alumni community of over 44,000 graduates. Early on in your journey, share your Prairie Star power!

• Proudly display your diploma. You earned it – be proud and show the world you are a graduate of UIS, and what it means to you. Education is to be celebrated.

• Recruit a new student to UIS. The value of our degree will continue to grow with intelligent, hardworking students from diverse backgrounds coming through the doors of our Alma mater.

• Join UIS Unite (unite.uis.edu), the new online community connecting UIS alumni and students for career success and community.

• Make a gift to UIS (www.uis.edu/give) in honor of someone who has supported you.

• Join the Illinois Connection legislative advocacy network: uillinois.edu/erc/advocacy

Wherever life takes you, you will be among those who have earned a University of Illinois degree. Over 850,000 living graduates of the UI System are making a difference in their neighborhoods, their communities, and the world. The UI System is a powerhouse for education and discovery, and widely recognized among the most innovative universities in the world.

Congratulations, Class of 2024! It is your time to embrace all the possibilities which are before you.

Work hard. Be bold. Stay true. Be UIS.
Burks Oakley II is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. From 1997 until 2007, Oakley served as an Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois. He was the founding director of the University of Illinois Online initiative, a program designed to facilitate the development and delivery of University of Illinois courses, degrees, and public service resources over the Internet. While active as a faculty member and administrator, his areas of interest included distance education and educational technologies. Through his innovative use of technology in teaching, Professor Oakley earned a national reputation as a practitioner and promoter of Internet-based learning environments.

Oakley received his B.S. degree from Northwestern University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. He has received numerous awards for his teaching and for his innovative use of technology in education, including the Luckman Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award from UIUC in 1993, the Outstanding Teacher Award from the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) in 1993, the Educom Medal in 1996, the Educational Activities Board Major Educational Innovation Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in 1996, the Meritorious Service Award from the IEEE Education Society in 1998, the Third Millennium Medal from the IEEE in 2000, the Engineering Alumni Society Merit Award from the University of Michigan in 2003, and the Sloan-C Award for the "Most Outstanding Achievement in Online Teaching and Learning by an Individual" in 2003. He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE, a Fellow of the Online Learning Consortium, a Fellow of the ASEE, and a former Vice President of the ASEE.
2024 Commencement Ceremonies

Processional

Pomp and Circumstance Nos. 1 and IV by Elgar (Graduates and audience are asked to remain seated)

Pamela Salela, Grand Marshal*

Platform Party

Faculty

Musical Selections

Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key, performed by Amelia Curtis
Illinois, Illinois by Aarchibald Johnson/Charles Chamberlin, performed by Amelia Curtis and Marcus Wilkins

Opening Remarks

Brandon E. Schwab, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
(7 p.m. May 10 ceremony)

Janet L. Gooch, Chancellor
(May 11 ceremonies)

Greetings from the University of Illinois Board of Trustees

Tami Craig Schilling, University of Illinois Board of Trustees
(May 11 ceremonies)

Greetings from the University of Illinois System

Nicholas P. Jones, Executive Vice President, University of Illinois
(7 p.m. May 10, 10 a.m. May 11 ceremonies)

Timothy L. Killeen, President, University of Illinois
(3 p.m. May 11 ceremony)

Conferring of Honorary Degree

Doctor of Humane Letters Burks Oakley II (10 a.m. May 11 ceremony)

Introduction of Student Commencement Speaker

Jamarco R. Clark, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Remarks to Fellow Graduates

Daisy S. Solorzano, Class of 2024

Presentation of Graduate Degree Candidates

Brandon E. Schwab, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
2024 Commencement Ceremonies

Conferring of Graduate Degrees
Nicholas P. Jones, Executive Vice President, University of Illinois
(7 p.m. May 10, 10 a.m. May 11 ceremonies)
Timothy L. Killeen, President, University of Illinois
(3 p.m. May 11 ceremony)

Presentation of Undergraduate Degree Candidates
Brandon E. Schwab, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

Conferring of Undergraduate Degrees
Nicholas P. Jones, Executive Vice President, University of Illinois
(7 p.m. May 10, 10 a.m. May 11 ceremonies)
Timothy L. Killeen, President, University of Illinois
(3 p.m. May 11 ceremony)

Presentation of Graduates**
Graduates will walk across the stage and be presented with a diploma cover

Closing Remarks
Brandon E. Schwab, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
(7 p.m. May 10 ceremony)
Janet L. Gooch, Chancellor
(May 11 ceremonies)

Recessional
Pomp and Circumstance Nos. 1 and IV by Elgar (Graduates and audience are asked to remain seated)
Pamela Salela, 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 Tim Schweizer, Broadcaster for Sports Radio 92.3/1450 in Springfield, and Apeksha Mallipeddi, Alumni/Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education.
The Marshals

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 have been designated as program marshals and may be identified by the gold stoles they wear.

College of Business and Management

Accounting
Nathan A. Clark – B.A.
Mary Joyce Godley – M.A.

Business Administration
Shama Mahjabeen
Reddington – B.B.A.
Heena Rose Dries – M.B.A.

Cybersecurity Management
Joseph Wesley Sebright – M.S.

Finance
Jeffrey Escobar Gutierrez – M.S.

Healthcare Informatics
Katie Rose Nkect – M.S.

Human Resource Management
Erica Delyn Tims – M.S.

Management Information Systems
Jacqueline Marie Bruzzese – B.S.
Tanmai Reddy Remala – M.S.

College of Health, Science and Technology

Athletic Training
Katherine Lyn Brandt – M.A.T.R.

Biochemistry
Erol Deniz Ikiz – B.S.

Biology
Clark David Morgan – B.S.

Chemistry
Thomas Pinedo – B.S.

Computer Science
Elti Nicholas Exner – B.S.
Samuel Robert Francisco
Malawy – M.S.

Data Analytics
Aravind Reddy Velumula – M.S.

Environmental Health
Joshua Ufuoama
Egbeliumame – M.P.H.

Environmental Sciences
Lara Hakam – M.S.

Environmental Studies
Salome J. Wortman – B.A.

Exercise Science
Sophia Delaney Margelot – B.S.

Information Systems Security
Charlotte Anne Kristina
Medina – B.S.

Mathematical Sciences
Michael James Kalmbach – B.A.

Medical Laboratory Science
Peter Joseph Salvo – B.S.

Philosophy
Ethan Edward Riffle – B.A.

Psychology
Romina Alejandra Trujillo
Agostini – B.A.

Public Health
Matthew Wayne
Kruger – M.P.H.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Criminology and Criminal Justice
Jessalyn Marie Bjorling – B.A.

English
Breanna Elizabeth Scott – B.A.

History
Lilian Marjorie Georgiou – B.A.
Adam James Kral – M.A.

Human Development Counseling
Alyssa Le-Ann Shaw – M.A.

Liberal Studies
Emma Katherine
Domescik-Rink – B.A.

Social Work
Karina M. Bueno – B.S.W.

Sociology/Anthropology
Audra M. Liniger – B.A.

Theatre
Damaris Tovar – B.A.

Visual Arts
Savannah R. Saltsgaver – B.A.

College of Public Affairs and Education

Communication
Michelle Lovie Crawhorn – B.A.
Andrew Nicol – M.A.

Education
Michael Daniel Mroz – M.A.

Educational Leadership
Michelle Renee Joyce – M.A.

Educational Studies
Évan Joseph Keeney – B.A.

Elementary Education
Laney Bel Air Gowin – B.A.

Global Studies
Hannah Baity – B.A.

Human Services
Kim Lee Perkins – M.A.

Legal Studies
Rudie Jean Logerquist – B.A.

Middle Grades Education
Nicole Pedigo – B.A.

Secondary History Education
Durick A. McNear – B.A.

Political Science
Max R. Pernitsky – B.A.
Mimi Theresa Pham – M.A.

Public Administration
Samantha Marie Pierce – M.P.A.
Kathleen Marie Jacoby – D.P.A.

Public Policy
Molly Grace Harms – B.A.
Claudia Melissa Falcon
Adanaque – M.P.P.

Public Affairs Reporting
Alexis Paige Abbeduto – M.A.

Public and Nonprofit Administration
Skye Lynn Kretzinger – B.A.
Graduate Academic Honors Awards

Alexis Paige Abbeduto ................................ Outstanding Student in Public Affairs Reporting
Bright Akuamoah Boateng ............................. Academic Excellence in Public Administration
William Ian Bade ..................................... Outstanding Student in Environmental Science
Samuel Osayomwanbor Bright-Agbonze .......... Outstanding Academic Achievement
Joshua Scott Calhoun ................................ Outstanding Student in Management Information Systems
Donna K. Coleman .................................... Outstanding Student in Healthcare Informatics
Marie Elizabeth Coobs ................................ Academic Excellence in Human Services
Ayomide D. Daramola ................................ Outstanding Student in Management Information Systems
Dana L. Davidson ..................................... Outstanding Masters of Business Administration Student
Joshua Clyde Fippen ................................ Highest Honors in Legal Studies
Mary Joyce Godley .................................... Academic Honor in Accounting
Hayley J. Goebel ...................................... Masters of History with Distinction
Andrew Murray Goldstein ........................ Outstanding Master Thesis
Emmanuel Gorza Ferreira ........................... Outstanding Academic Achievement
Taylor McKay Grantham ............................... Outstanding Student
Jeffrey Escobar Gutierrez ............................ Academic Honor in Finance
Tracy Lynn Hall ....................................... Outstanding Academic Achievement
Alberto Hernandez Gomez ........................... Outstanding Capstone
Noah William Houtchens ............................ Outstanding Student in Computer Science
Ifthichar Ali Kalanther Meerasa ................ Outstanding Student in Computer Science
Rohit Kaushik ......................................... Outstanding Student in Data Analytics
Robert R. Kerr ........................................ Academic Excellence in Public Administration
Maksim Konoplyanko ................................ Outstanding Student
Marianela Landi ...................................... Outstanding Student in Data Analytics
Cole William Longcor ................................ Outstanding Student in Public Affairs Reporting
James Mensah ........................................ Outstanding Student in Environmental Science
Ashley B. Moore ...................................... Academic Excellence in Human Services
Nicholas T. Nielson .................................... Outstanding Dedication to the Discipline
Meredith Mae Niermann .............................. Outstanding Student in Healthcare Informatics
Oluchukwu Oba ....................................... Service to the School of Communication and Media
McKenna Kay Servis ................................ Masters of History with Distinction
Yamani Jelaan Maree Shareef ....................... Outstanding Masters of Business Administration Student
Brandon Michael Smith ............................... Outstanding Clinical Performance
Ericka Snopko .......................................... Outstanding Student in Cybersecurity Management
Jinny Mae Swedberg ................................ Academic Excellence in Public Administration
Amanda Christine Temir-Young ................ Outstanding Academic Achievement
Onyeka Mary Ukpoju-Ebonyi ....................... Outstanding Academic Achievement
Taylor Nicole Lykins Workman .................... Outstanding Academic Achievement
Jennifer Mindy Zimmerman ......................... Outstanding Student in Cybersecurity Management
Honors are a means of recognizing and encouraging superior academic achievement among baccalaureate candidates. Final designation of honors is subject to change due to final semester grades.

- Summa cum laude
- Magna cum laude
- Cum laude
- Capital Scholars Honors Student
- Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

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**Doctor of Public Administration**

- James Arthur
- Kathleen Marie Jacoby
- Robert R. Kerr
- Keyria Lashawn Rodgers
- Manuel Ivan Roman-Basora
- Amy Brooke Wheeler

**Certificate of Advanced Studies**

- Codi Conway
- Mindi Leah Ritchie
- Amy Elizabeth Van Hoose

**Master of Arts**

- Alexis Paige Abbeduto
- Mervice Alah Abung
- Md Junaedul Alam
- Godwin Omoghena Aluyor
- Modou Lamin Badjan
- Jon Baxter
- Joshua Noel Beauchamp
- Pelumi Korede Bello
- Jasmine Khalil Biary
- Susan K. Biary
- Meghan Michelle Hart Boente
- Grace Kelly Bollinger
- Rachel Breann Brown
- Amaria Alexis Marquita
- Chambers
- Xaver Clarke
- Marie Elizabeth Coobs
- Dana L. Davidson
- Jasmine Davis
- Elizabeth Davis
- Shelby Dodson
- Houston Eugen Donald
- Siarra Angel Dorsey
- Hailey Brooke Dryden
- Julie Dzubin
- Isaac William Farhadian
- Joshua Clyde Fippen
- Jocelyn Fluker
- Kellie Foy
- Allie N. Fry
- Hope E. Gadson
- Alexander V. Genova
- Anthony L. Giordano
- Mary Joyce Godley
- Hayley J. Goebel
- Andrew Murray Goldstein
- Emmanoel Gorza Ferreira
- Donna M. Greer
- Rebecca Marie Guth
- Valerie Patrice Hampton
- Patrick Michael Harlan
- Autumn Nicole Harris
- Kelsi Lee Hayes
- Alyssa Marie Herzing
- Hibtes T. Hibtes
- Jayson Alan Hoffman
- Ahja R. Howard
- Kelsey Frances Hunter
- Toluwanimi Olaniji Idowu
- Jacqueline Simone Jarju
- Chadwick Huntley Jenkins
- Jinwon Jeon
- Joan Johnson
- Morgan Elizabeth Johnson
- Sainabou Joof
- Michelle Renee Joyce
- Junior Kabange Nkongolo
- Michael E. Karnath
- Conor James Kelly
- Susan Kopacz
- Adam James Krall
- Garry Dale Krause
- Arianna Elisa Lawson
- Jeffrey Lee
- Gracen Autumn Lee
Master of Athletic Training

Katherine Lyn Brandt
Cristian Matthew Cabrera
Garrett Wayne Fritz
Geoffrey Chance Gilbreth
Charles Henry Witman
Morgan Irene Worker

Master of Business Administration

Mary Song Abundo
Pablo Adrian Adames
Adedoyin Adedolapo Adekanmbi
Yewande Ayomide Adetola
Adezen Simeon Adeyemi
Taiwo Samson Adeyemo
Olufunmilayo Mary Ajayi
Hazem A. Albassam
Oscar Alvarado
William Everett Aman
Tyler Aring
Roderick Arms
Kosmo M. Arnold-Green
Ignacio Ascarrunz
Dallas A. Ashford
Courtney Nicole Avery
Faiza Azmath
Elizabeth Laney Baldo
Jason A. Bane
Brandon Scott Bannon
Abdullah Basith
Benjamin Earl Bernhardt
Patrick David Besler
Coby L. Blaylock
Krystina Camille Blue
Brian Andrew Bonick
Dana Marie Bradley
Matt Bredin
Amanda Kay Brenizer
James Brenner
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**Master of Public Administration**

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### Master of Public Health

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Therese Mundongo Zuehlke

Bachelor of Social Work

Kaily Ann Brown
Karina M. Bueno
Alleson Lauren Christian
Oluwakemi Cherice Fayemi
Travis Marquis Gipson
Lazerric A. Hartzog
Paulina Michelle Henderson
Jessica Ann Jungels
Timeka Nicole McBride
Robert M. Rickey
Anna Kathryn Slater
Allyssa Nichole Yard
Faculty Emeritus

The bestowal of Professor Emeritus status is a recognition of the value the University places on the experience, knowledge, and ability of its retiring faculty. This status is awarded in accordance with the University of Illinois statutes and University of Illinois Springfield policy. The following individuals have been selected to receive Faculty Emeritus status this year.

Kathy DeBarr
Dr. Kathy DeBarr received a Bachelor of Arts in Health Services Administration from Sangamon State University in 1988, a Master of Science in Health Education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1990, and a doctorate in Health Education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1993. Dr. DeBarr joined the University of Illinois Springfield as Assistant Professor of Health Services Administration in 1993 and was promoted to Associate Professor of Public Health in 2001. Dr. DeBarr has long-standing teaching and research interests in health education, health administration and public health policy. She has been an active scholar and has made significant service contributions to the university, community and her profession. Before her retirement on January 1, 2024, Dr. Kathy DeBarr had served the university for 31 years.
The academic costume worn at American university exercises has its origin in medieval times. The general garment worn by all, at the time, was a gown or robe, a cape with attached hood (cowl) worn over the gown for warmth, and a cap. Color and other adornments added to the garments indicated social status or wealth. The attire worn by students and teachers was strongly influenced by the cathedrals near the center of study. As schools grew in size and diversity of subjects, teacher guilds began designating their field of study by color, and the color of the garments took on an additional designation. By the 14th century, a cap, pileus quadratus (four-cornered cap), became the standard head dress. Through time, these vestments changed in style but the three items, the cap, gown, and hood, remain in academic costumes.

THE CAP: The pileus quadratus went through its own changes. Originally introduced in Paris, the four corners were long and hung down over the head. Later, the corners were pointed upright and then were stiffened outward by a board (the mortar board). The mortar board, or Oxford style, is the traditional cap worn in American universities.

The cap is black in American universities and is constructed of cloth, with velvet reserved for the doctorate. Various items have been attached to the cap, but the tassel is now standard. The color of the tassel is black for any degree, with gold metallic thread restricted to doctors and governing officials. Occasionally, the color of the tassel will indicate honors.

THE GOWN: The cut of the gown designates the degree. The gown color in American universities – except Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, and a few others – is black. The bachelor’s degree gown is relatively simple, falling in straight lines and distinguished by long pointed sleeves. The master’s gown is also relatively straight, but the arm opening is at the elbow, allowing the rest of the sleeve to hang down. Until 1960, the arm emerged through a slit at the elbow, a sleeve was added which closes at the wrist. The original sleeve still hangs down to about the knee. The doctor’s gown is rather elaborate, marked by bell sleeves with three velvet bars and velvet panels around the neck and down the front. The cut is also fuller than other gowns. The sleeve bars and trim may be black or of subject color.

THE HOOD: Of the three components of academic costume, the hood conveys the most information. The level of the degree is indicated by the length of the hood and the width of the trim. The bachelor’s hood is three feet long with two-inch velvet trim, the master’s is three and one-half feet long with three-inch trim, and the doctor’s is four feet long with five-inch trim. At UIS, bachelor’s degree candidates do not wear hoods.

The color of the trim indicates the subject area of the degree: white signifies Arts; peacock blue signifies Public Administration, tan for Business Administration, salmon pink for Public Health, light blue for Education, pink for Music, scarlet for Theology, lemon for Library Science, and so on. There are 35 such designations.

The final information conveyed by the hood is the institution that awarded the degree to the wearer. The color designation for UIS is a royal blue field with a white chevron. Each school has its own color designator. For example, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a navy blue field with two orange chevrons. Although there is an attempt not to overlap color designators, a number of schools may have the same colors. For example, 39 universities in addition to UIS have royal blue field with white chevron.

The colored cords worn by participants identify students as scholars of distinction who have demonstrated a commitment to learning at a high level of achievement. It is believed by some historians that the wearing of honors cords is older and more traditional than the stoles that are also used by Greek honor societies since the cord recalls the teaching and contemplative orders of the Middle Ages when members of these honor societies wore knotted cords to remind them of their duties. The students who wear these honors cords in our commencement ceremonies today symbolize the University of Illinois Springfield’s historical success in attracting capable students who are exemplary scholars committed to a life of learning.
Development of the Campus

The University of Illinois Springfield is located on 746 acres on the southeast side of the capital city, near Lake Springfield. The campus comprises:

The Legacy Campus, built in the early 1970s, is home to the university’s first buildings. Originally intended as “temporary,” these buildings have been renovated for many purposes over the years. Among their current occupants are Health Services, International Student Services, Diversity Center, NPR Illinois radio, Cox Children’s Center, art studios and music rehearsal rooms, Human Resources, and the exercise science, athletic training, and nursing academic programs.

Norris L Brookens Library was completed in 1975. A major learning/resource center designed to support the university’s academic programs, the library also houses Brookens Auditorium; the Center for Online Learning, Research and Service; and the Center for Academic Success and Advising.

Public Affairs Center, opened in 1980, houses the College of Public Affairs and Education, the university’s administrative offices, the Center for State Policy and Leadership, and the UIS Performing Arts Center, which hosts more than 100 music, theater and dance performances annually.

Health and Sciences Building, opened in 1992, houses UIS biological and physical sciences and the computer science program in high-tech labs. The building is also home to the College of Health, Science and Technology and the UIS Visual Arts Gallery.

Lincoln Residence Hall, completed in 2001, is a residential facility for freshmen and sophomores.

University Hall, opened in 2004, is home to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, College of Business and Management, and the offices within the Division of Enrollment and Retention Management, including Admission, Financial Assistance and Office of the Registrar.

The Recreation and Athletic Center, opened in 2007, houses a sports arena, fitness facilities, and an indoor track. The arena is home to the UIS Prairie Stars men’s and women’s basketball teams and the volleyball team.

Founders Residence Hall, opened in 2008, houses freshmen and sophomores. The 200-bed facility also features classrooms, the Esports Arena and the administrative offices of the Division of Student Affairs.

The UIS Student Union, opened in January 2018 on the south end of the quad. The two-story, 50,000-square-foot facility is a hub for student life and fosters a sense of community on campus. It includes dining services, a coffee shop, a ballroom, the Student Leadership Center, volunteer offices and workspaces for student organizations.
About the University of Illinois Springfield

The University of Illinois Springfield was established in 1970 as Sangamon State University and became the third university in the University of Illinois System in 1995. For its first 30 years, the university was an “upper division” university, enrolling only juniors, seniors and graduate students. It quickly became renowned for its focus on serving the needs of adults who wanted to finish their undergraduate degrees or earn a master’s degree.

UIS enrolled its first class of Capital Scholars Honors freshmen in 2001 and then expanded the freshman class significantly in the fall of 2006. With today’s graduating class, UIS now has over 44,000 alumni worldwide. UIS enrolls about 4,600 students annually with more than 100 programs of study.

UIS is a place where leadership is lived every day by faculty, staff and students, who have an abundance of opportunities to collaborate in a supportive community environment. The result is a graduating class comprising today’s and tomorrow’s leaders.

Congratulations to all of our graduates.

Professional photography was provided today by GradImages. Questions regarding photographs should be addressed directly to GradImages (gradimages.com). Photographs of today’s ceremony will also be available on the UIS Commencement website (uis.edu/commencement).

If you would like to purchase a ceremony DVD, contact the Office of Electronic Media at 217-206-6799.

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