University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Office of the Chancellor
Committee on Commencement
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820

January 2013

Dear Parent(s):

Congratulations! The Office of the Registrar indicates that based on the number of hours completed, your son or daughter may be eligible to participate in the May 2013 Commencement exercises of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. If, for any reason, your student is not planning to graduate this spring, please disregard this letter. All necessary information pertaining to Commencement activities will be sent directly to your student's campus address in March and may be found at www.illinois.edu/commencement. However, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some basic information.

Because of the large number of graduates, there are two campuswide ceremonies scheduled for Sunday, May 12 in the Assembly Hall. The morning ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the afternoon ceremony at 2:00 p.m. Each ceremony will last approximately one and one-half hours. The enclosed schedule indicates in which ceremony each college participates. All guests must present an admission ticket and there is no limit on the number of tickets a student may request.

In addition to the campuswide ceremonies, many individual colleges, schools, and departments host separate convocations. A listing of these ceremonies is enclosed for your information. Convocation ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12. Convocations do not conflict with the campuswide Commencement exercises, allowing students and their families and friends the opportunity to participate in all activities. Tickets and/or advance registration are required for most convocations and because of their popularity some units must restrict the number of guest tickets provided each student. Students should receive information regarding convocations directly from the sponsoring unit in late March. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to fully participate in Commencement events may contact the Committee on Commencement at commencement@illinois.edu or 217/333-8834.

Several other events that may interest you are scheduled for Commencement Weekend. La Casa Cultural Latina, the Native American House, and the African American Cultural Program will each host a formal congratulatory program Saturday evening. The President and Chancellor will host a reception for all graduates and their families at The President's House on Sunday morning from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

A cap and gown are required and must be ordered by April 11 for participation in Commencement exercises. Herff Jones has been contracted to provide rental custom academic attire for all graduates. The Bachelor's attire consists of a blue gown with matching mortarboard, a stole of gratitude, and a tassel indicating the student's college/field of study. To ensure appropriate attire, students should order their academic attire online at www.herffjones.com/illinois by April 11. Additional ordering instructions are provided at www.illinois.edu/commencement. Announcements may be ordered through the Herff Jones website or through a printer of your choice.

Most hotels begin taking reservations for Commencement Weekend very early and are already filled in the Champaign-Urbana area. The Champaign County Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.visitchampaigncounty.org may be able to assist with accommodations.

I hope you find this information helpful in making arrangements for Commencement Weekend.

Sincerely,

Babette M. Hiles
Director of Special Events