



Dear Engineering Graduates:

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the UIC College of Engineering, congratulations! This weekend is a celebration of your hard work and persistence in one of the most demanding curricula at this university. It is an achievement of which you and your family can be justly proud.

I know you will find that your education has prepared you well for the demands of our profession. You will find that you can compete with anyone out there in the work place. You will also find that the time management skills you have had to develop as an engineering student will set you apart from others. Many UIC engineering graduates have risen rapidly in their careers, and I know many of you will do the same. However, remember that your education does not end when your formal education is over. The rapid changes in technology, coupled with global competitiveness, will require a commitment to lifelong learning and to the applications of a new and expanding body of knowledge.

So, welcome to the ranks of the 17,000 plus men and women who have graduated from the UIC College of Engineering. I encourage you to become active alumni, to come back often, and to continue to engage with our students and faculty.

With most sincere congratulations and best wishes for success in your careers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Peter Nelson
Dean and Professor

MASTER OF CEREMONIES **Michael McNallan**
Associate Dean

PROCESSIONAL **Music by Adam Moen’s
Brass Octet**

Students Led by Faculty Marshals

All MS, MEng, and PhD graduates are led by the grand marshal and banner carrier.
Groups of BS graduates are led by their respective departmental faculty marshals.

Patrick Rousche	Bioengineering
Ludwig Nitsche	Chemical Engineering
Eduard Karpov	Civil and Materials Engineering
Jakob Eriksson	Computer Science
Wenjin Rao	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Michael Scott	Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Howard Wolfman	Professional Master of Engineering

DEANS, FACULTY, ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES, AND HONORED GUESTS

SINGING AND PLAYING OF “THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” (words on page 44)

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS **Peter Nelson**
Dean and Professor

R. Michael Tanner
Provost and Vice Chancellor for
Academic Affairs

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS **William Foster**
United States Congressman,
14th District, Illinois

UIC SILVER CIRCLE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD **Vladimir Goncharoff**
Lecturer, Department of Electrical
and Computer Engineering

HAROLD A. SIMON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING **Abolfazl “Kouros”
Mohammadian**
Associate Professor, Department of
Civil and Materials Engineering

BELL HONOR AWARD **Rebecca M. Williams**
BS in Bioengineering
Summer 2008

Anthony J. Rotolo
BS in Computer Science
Fall 2008

Peter J. Ifft
BS in Bioengineering
Spring 2009

Tim J. O’Brien
BS in Chemical Engineering
Spring 2009

Tadas Saudargas
BS in Civil Engineering
Spring 2009

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**MEMBERS OF ALPHA ETA MU BETA, ETA KAPPA NU, PI TAU SIGMA,
TAU BETA PI, AND THE HONORS COLLEGE** **Michael McNallan**

STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Jonathan R. Abon

Jonathan R. Abon, of Tellabs., is a 1996 graduate of UIC with a BS in electrical engineering. He received his master's in electrical engineering in 2002 from UIC. He is currently pursuing his MBA from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. Abon is a member of the Engineering Alumni Association (EAA).

The **Engineering Alumni Association** (EAA) welcomes the graduates and invites them to become active members.

STUDENT ADDRESS FOR THE CLASS OF 2009 **Tim J. O'Brien**

DEGREE PRESENTATIONS, HOODING, AND CONFERRALS (see list on page 20)

PRESENTATION OF PhD DEGREE CANDIDATES **Clark Hulse**
Dean, Graduate College

PRESENTATION OF MS DEGREE CANDIDATES **Clark Hulse**

**PRESENTATION OF PROFESSIONAL MEng DEGREE
CANDIDATES** **Peter Nelson**

PRESENTATION OF BS DEGREE CANDIDATES **Peter Nelson**

DEGREE CONFERRALS **R. Michael Tanner**

Department Heads

Richard Magin Bioengineering

Sohail Murad Chemical Engineering

Farhad Ansari Civil and Materials Engineering

Robert Sloan Computer Science

Mitra Dutta Electrical and Computer Engineering

William Worek Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

CLOSING REMARKS **Michael McNallan**

RECESSIONAL **Music by Adam Moen's Brass
Octet**

RECEPTION **Student Services Building**
Immediately following ceremony

ENGINEERING HONORS

Bell Honor Award represents the oldest tradition in the College of Engineering, predating the formation of the university on the current site. The award has been given since 1951 to the engineering student with the highest projected cumulative grade point average of each semester's graduating class. Recipients' names were formerly inscribed on a historic locomotive bell donated by friends of the university. Since no room for engraving remains on the bell, recipients' names are now added to a permanent plaque donated by the Engineering Alumni Association.

Alpha Eta Mu Beta is the national honor society for biomedical engineers. Election to the National Biomedical Engineering Honor Society is based upon distinguished scholarship, leadership, and exemplary character.

Eta Kappa Nu is the international honor society for electrical engineers. Election is based upon scholarship, character, voluntary service, and distinguished accomplishments.

Pi Tau Sigma is the national honor society for mechanical engineers. The society values ethics, concern for the environment, and community as important characteristics for membership.

Tau Beta Pi is the national engineering honor society to which students are elected by their peers on the basis of outstanding scholastic achievement, exemplary character, and community service.

Student Leaders in the college and elected student leaders in one of the professional engineering societies are recognized for their contributions.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER—WILLIAM FOSTER



Representative Bill Foster was elected to fill the remaining term of former Speaker Dennis Hastert in one of the most closely watched special elections in more than a decade. His stunning victory was hailed by analysts across the country as a sign of the changing landscape of 2008. He was sworn in to represent the people of Illinois's 14th Congressional District for the second time in January 2009 as a member of 111th Congress.

Before being elected Congressman, Rep. Foster worked as a researcher at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) for 22 years. At Fermilab, Foster started his distinguished career by helping discover the top quark, the heaviest known form of matter. He also led the team that designed and built several scientific facilities and detectors still in use today, including the Recycler Ring, a giant particle accelerator.

At 19 years old, Foster started a company out of his basement with his brother Fred. In 1975, they invested \$500 and built ETC, Inc., a theater lighting company, into a firm that now manufactures more than half of all the theater lighting equipment in the United States.

Rep. Foster is especially proud of his family and is happy to follow in his parents' footsteps by choosing public service. Bill's children, Billy and Christine, were born and raised in the Fox Valley and attended

Batavia High School and Illinois Math and Science Academy respectively. Billy currently resides in Madison, Wisconsin, and works for a leading medical imaging and radiation therapy firm while Christine is majoring in biochemistry at Stanford University.

Bill Foster was born October 7, 1955, in Madison, Wisconsin. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1976 and graduated from Harvard University with a PhD in physics in 1983. He has been elected a fellow of the American Physical Society, received the Rossi Prize for Cosmic Ray Physics for the discovery of the neutrino burst from Supernova SN1987a, received the Particle Accelerator Technology Prize from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and was awarded an Energy Conservation award from the U.S. Department of Energy for his invention and application of permanent magnets for Fermilab's accelerator.

Rep. Foster currently resides in Batavia.