



Michael B. Mikhail
Dean

Dear Graduates:

Congratulations and best wishes to all our graduates! This wonderful achievement is the culmination of all of your hard work. But this is not an ending. We call it commencement because it is the beginning of your journey. You will now take the skills and lessons you learned from your professors and classmates out into the business world to share with your new colleagues.

At UIC, you have had the opportunity to learn with classmates from around the world. I hope you recognize the value in diversity. In our global economy, knowing how to interact with diverse groups is a valuable asset. You will always come out ahead when you can accept and respect other cultures and customs. Recognizing and meeting the changing needs of diverse clients will help you thrive in your careers. I hope you will take this experience and build on it. Have the courage to meet people of different faiths, nationalities, and opinions. Don't silo yourself in the workplace, but have an open mind and you will succeed in building positive relationships.

You now join an impressive network of alumni, many of whom reside in Chicago and others who have spread across the globe. Through various industries, they are making their mark on the global economy. They are examples of the success a UIC business degree can bring. With the knowledge and experience you have gained over your years here, you can set out on a unique path to success. Reach out to other alumni and use them as examples of what you can do with your career. Set goals and then exceed them. Set a path and then change it. Take risks. The business world is constantly changing, as should you. Take advantage of every connection. Keep in touch with our career center. Even though you celebrate the achievement of graduation today, never stop learning. Keep up with changing trends. Get an advanced degree. Always stay competitive.

Thank you for choosing UIC as your home for the past few years. You have added to our legacy of diverse, hardworking students. As you start down the path to becoming tomorrow's business leaders, I hope that you will keep in mind those who come after you. Stay in contact, share with us your successes, and tell us how we can continue to support you as your alma mater.

On behalf of the entire College of Business Administration, I wish you success and happiness in whatever path you choose. Congratulations again!

Dean Michael B. Mikhail and the College of Business Administration faculty and staff welcome you to the spring commencement exercises, recognizing the accomplishments of our graduate and undergraduate students.

Processional	UIC Wind Ensemble JOSÉ RIOJAS, DIRECTOR OF BANDS
Banner Carriers	Gene Livshin MBA Guadalupe Gómez BS, FINANCE
Order of Exercises	Angela Prazza Winters ASSISTANT DEAN, STUDENT SERVICES
Singing of “America the Beautiful” (WORDS ON PAGE 44)	Audience Led by Scott Schneider ACADEMIC ADVISOR, LIAUTAUD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Welcome and Opening Remarks	Michael B. Mikhail DEAN
Greetings from the Board of Trustees	Edward L. McMillan CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Introduction of the Chancellor.	Michael B. Mikhail DEAN
Greetings from the Chancellor	Michael D. Amiridis CHANCELLOR
Introduction of the First Keynote Speaker	Michael B. Mikhail DEAN
First Keynote Speaker	Ricardo Estrada UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS TRUSTEE, MBA '97 PRESIDENT AND CEO, METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES
Introduction of the Second Keynote Speaker	Michael B. Mikhail DEAN
Second Keynote Speaker	Joseph V. Tortorice, Jr. FOUNDER, JASON'S DELI PRESIDENT, DELL MANAGEMENT, INC.
Introduction of the Student Speaker	Angela Prazza Winters ASSISTANT DEAN, STUDENT SERVICES
Response from the Graduating Class.	Christine Knox MBA, MPH
Silver Circle Award Honoree	Ozgun Arslan-Ayaydin CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, FINANCE
Presentation of Candidates	Karen J. Colley DEAN, GRADUATE COLLEGE Michael B. Mikhail DEAN
Conferral of Degrees	Susan Poser PROVOST AND VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES (SEE LIST ON PAGE 12)	
Name Readers	Ozgun Arslan-Ayaydin CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, FINANCE William R. Kohler LECTURER, MANAGERIAL STUDIES

Name Readers (continued)

Unsal Ozdogru
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
INFORMATION AND DECISION SCIENCES
Michael Popowits
DIRECTOR, STUDENT PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPEMENT
Jelena Spanjol
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MARKETING

DOCTORAL AND GRADUATE DEGREES

PhD in Management Information Systems

Mary Beth Watson-Manheim
PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, PHD IN
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

PhD in Business Administration

Robert C. Liden
PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
PHD PROGRAMS

Master of Science in Accounting

Ram Ramakrishnan
PROFESSOR, ACCOUNTING

Master of Science in Business Analytics

Sid Bhattacharyya
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
DEPARTMENT HEAD, INFORMATION AND
DECISION SCIENCES

Master of Science in Finance

Hsiu-Lang Chen
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, FINANCE

Master of Science in Management Information Systems

Ranga Chandrasekaran
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, INFORMATION
AND DECISION SCIENCES

Master of Business Administration

Shari Holmer Lewis
ASSISTANT DEAN, CORPORATE MBA

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Business Administration

John Fyfe
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES

Accounting

Michael Kirschenheiter
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
INTERIM DEPARTMENT HEAD

Entrepreneurship

Mark Shanley
ASSOCIATE DEAN AND
INTERIM DEPARTMENT HEAD

Finance

Gib Bassett
PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT HEAD

Information and Decision Sciences

Sid Bhattacharyya
PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT HEAD

Management

Mark Shanley
ASSOCIATE DEAN AND
INTERIM DEPARTMENT HEAD

Marketing

Mark Shanley
ASSOCIATE DEAN AND
INTERIM DEPARTMENT HEAD

CLOSING REMARKS

Angela Prazza Winters
ASSISTANT DEAN, STUDENT SERVICES

RECESSIONAL

UIC Wind Ensemble
JOSÉ RIOJAS, DIRECTOR OF BANDS

AUDIENCE IS REQUESTED TO REMAIN SEATED UNTIL THE ACADEMIC RECESSION IS COMPLETED.

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW. Reception tent (half block east of the pavilion parking structure).



Ricardo Estrada, MBA '97
University of Illinois Trustee
President and CEO, Metropolitan
Family Services

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Ricardo "Ric" Estrada, MBA '97, is a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. He currently serves as president and CEO of Metropolitan Family Services, one of Chicago's first and strongest human services agencies.

During his tenure at Metropolitan, Estrada has led the expansion of Metropolitan's client base by 25,000 and overseen the growth of the agency's budget from \$32 million to \$50 million. Estrada spearheaded efforts to secure funding to establish an early childhood facility on Chicago's southwest side, the state's area of highest need for such facilities. In 2015, he also led the launch of the Campaign to Mpower Families, a bold \$25 million initiative to reach more families and strengthen Metropolitan's communities with better services and an even stronger organization.

Estrada has more than two decades of leadership experience in human services, philanthropy and government. Prior to joining Metropolitan Estrada served as first deputy commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services. Before that, he served as executive director of Erie Neighborhood House in Chicago, where his accomplishments included creating Erie Elementary Charter School.

Estrada's other civic engagements include vice president, Board of Directors, Leadership Greater Chicago; board member, Woods Fund of Chicago; board member, Cook County Health and Hospital System; board member, Donors Forum of Chicago; board member, Latino Policy Forum; member, Chicago Council on Global Affairs selection committee, Emerging Leaders Program; Illinois Childcare Advisory Council, executive committee; and American Marshall Memorial Fellow.

Estrada's awards include receiving the City Club of Chicago John A. McDermott Award for Distinguished Social Leadership and the Citibank Hispanic Heritage Award; being honored by the Chicago Bears with an NFL Hispanic Heritage Award; selected as one of Crain's Chicago Business's "40 under 40" in 2002; and recognized as the Person of the Year by the Corporate Responsibility Group of Greater Chicago. Estrada's educational background is grounded in social services and business, including an MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago, an MA in policy and administration from the University of Chicago, and a BS in psychology from Loyola University Chicago.



Joseph V. Tortorice, Jr.
Founder, Jason's Deli
President, Dell Management, Inc.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Joe Totorice, Jr., founded Jason's Deli in 1976, and today the company operates more than 260 delis in 30 states. The company is family owned and community focused.

Totorice's mission to make Jason's Deli a healthy place to eat was recognized with awards such as the Best Sandwich Concept in the United States, Consumers' Choice in Chains Award, Golden Chain Award, Top Ten Healthiest Restaurant in United States, and the Silver Plate Award in Chain Fast Service Category.

In addition to being a great place to for customers, Tortorice follows the practice of servant leadership, working to ensure that his employees are valued, and for this Jason's Deli has been recognized as a Best Place to Work and awarded Best People Practices.

Tortorice received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University in 1970 and his Master of Business Administration from Lamar University in 1971. He served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 to 1973.

He has received numerous awards from for his business and civic engagements, including Outstanding Restaurateur of the Year, Executive of the Year, Conn Family Distinguished New Venture Leader Award, First Annual Faithful Citizen, Texas A&M Corps Hall of Honor, and a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas.