



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 23,000-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 with a large, stylized initial "P".

Peter Nelson
Dean and Professor

Class of 2015

MASTER OF CEREMONIES	Michael McNallan Associate Dean
PROCESSIONAL	UIC Wind Ensemble José O. Riojas, Director
<i>Deans, Faculty, and Honored Guests</i>	
Led by Faculty Marshals	
Vladimir Goncharoff	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Houshang Darabi	Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
<i>Students</i>	
All MS, MEng, and PhD graduates are led by a marshal and grand marshal. Groups of BS graduates are led by their respective departmental faculty marshals and grand marshal.	
Department Faculty Marshals	
Hananeh Esmailbeigi	Bioengineering
Alan Zdunek	Chemical Engineering
Sheng-Wei Chi	Civil and Materials Engineering
G. Elisabeta Marai	Computer Science
Mahshid Amirabadi	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Jie Xu	Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Natasha Devroye	PhD, Master of Science, Master of Energy Engineering, and Master of Engineering
SINGING AND PLAYING OF “THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER”	UIC Wind Ensemble Kathy Corcos, Engineering Career Center
(words on the page 47)	
WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS	Peter Nelson Dean and Professor
GREETINGS FROM THE UNIVERSITY	Michael D. Amiridis Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Jenny Zhao Director of Engineering, Google
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	Peter Nelson
UIC Silver Circle Award for Excellence in Teaching	Joseph Hummel Research Associate Professor Computer Science
Harold A. Simon Award for Excellence in Teaching	Belinda Akpa Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering

Bell Honor Award

Rafael Romero

BS in Bioengineering
Magna cum Laude
Summer 2014

Naveed Naimipour

BS in Electrical Engineering
Summa cum Laude
Spring 2015

Abdul Aziz Yakubu

BS in Electrical Engineering
Spring 2015

Mark R. Blewett

BS in Electrical Engineering
Summa cum Laude
Fall 2014

Hari Sreedhar

BS in Bioengineering
Summa cum Laude
Spring 2015

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Michael McNallan

Associate Dean

**Members of Eta Kappa Nu, Pi Tau Sigma, Tau Beta Pi,
Alpha Eta Mu Beta, and the Honors College**

Michael McNallan

University Honors

Michael McNallan

Student Leadership Activities

Michael McNallan

STUDENT ADDRESS FOR THE CLASS OF 2015

Christopher Murphy

BS in Mechanical Engineering

DEGREE CONFERRALS (see list on page 20)

Michael D. Amiridis

Presentation of PhD Degree Candidates

Jonathan Art

Associate Dean, Graduate College

Presentation of MS Degree Candidates

Jonathan Art

Presentation of Professional MEng Degree Candidates

Peter Nelson

Presentation of BS Degree Candidates

Peter Nelson

Department Heads

Thomas Royston

Bioengineering

Ludwig Nitsche (Interim)

Chemical Engineering

Karl Rockne (Interim)

Civil and Materials Engineering

Robert Sloan

Computer Science

Rashid Ansari

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Farzad Mashayek

Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

CLOSING REMARKS

Michael McNallan

RECESSIONAL

Music by UIC Wind Ensemble

Audience is requested to remain seated until the academic recession is completed.

RECEPTION

Student Services Building

Immediately following ceremony

Slide show presentation

Ronald Fernandez

ENGINEERING HONORS

Harold A. Simon Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented by the College of Engineering to a faculty member who exemplifies the dedication, distinguished service, and excellence in teaching that were the hallmarks of the late Dr. Simon's career. This award was established in 1985 to honor the memory of Dr. Harold A. Simon, a professor of mechanical engineering who served the college during its early years.

Bell Honor Award represents the oldest tradition in the College of Engineering. It predates 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—JENNY ZHAO



Jenny Zhao oversees the general operation of Google Beijing and directs engineering for Google's Search Infrastructure technology. With more than six years at Google, she has built up multiple successful technical teams, including Performance Product Operations; APAC Maps Quality; and China Maps. She received Google's Great Manager Award in 2011.

Ms. Zhao got her start in engineering at Silicon Graphics Inc., eventually becoming the engineering director of the Advanced Graphics division, where she was responsible for the company's graphics and application program interfaces, including IRIS Performer, Optimizer, Volumizer, and OpenGL. Her most recent position before joining Google was vice president of engineering at Emdigo Inc., a start-up company developing scalable 3-D graphics and content for mobile application platforms. During her tenure at Emdigo, Ms. Zhao established the Emdigo China branch office, launched products on China Mobile and the Nokia portal, and started an art production team in Beijing. She also managed the West Coast office of Activision's subsidiary, Vicarious Visions, one of the largest handheld game developers in the United States.

In addition to her engineering career, Ms. Zhao has helped build a Chinese-English bilingual school—Yew Chung International School—in Silicon Valley and sat on the board of Dunham Academy, a K-8 school for gifted students. She earned her master's degree in computer science from Princeton University and her undergraduate degree in computer science and engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago.