Stuart School of Business
Commencement Ceremony

May 18, 2019
12 noon

Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, Illinois
Commencement Program

Processional
(Audience is requested to remain seated)

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Rosemarie Mitchell
Illinois Tech Trustee; Chair, Stuart Board of Advisors

Keynote Address
Bluford Putnam
Managing Director and Chief Economist, CME Group

Undergraduate Student Address
Ethan Kristofer Castro
Candidate for Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Public Administration

Graduate Student Address
Michelle Mikka-Van Der Stuyf
Candidate for Master of Business Administration

Recognition of Academic Degrees
John F O Bilson
Dean, Stuart School of Business

Names Read by
Li Cai
Assistant Professor, Stuart School of Business
Dinakar Jayarajan
Assistant Professor, Stuart School of Business
Yiwei Fang
Assistant Professor, Stuart School of Business
Joanne Howard
Clinical Assistant Professor, Stuart School of Business
Smriti Anand
Associate Professor, Stuart School of Business

The Presentation of Candidates
Doctoral Degrees
Master’s Degrees
Bachelor’s Degrees

Dean’s Address
John F O Bilson
Dean, Stuart School of Business

Recessional
Keynote Speaker

Bluford Putnam
Managing Director and Chief Economist, CME Group

Bluford (Blu) Putnam is Managing Director and Chief Economist of CME Group. He is responsible for leading global economic analysis and monitoring developments in the price patterns, volatility, and correlations of futures and options markets.

Prior to joining CME Group, Putnam gained more than 35 years of experience in the financial services industry with concentrations in central banking, investment research, and portfolio management. He started his career as an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and later moved to the Chase Manhattan Bank. He has served in London as Morgan Stanley's Global Bond Strategist and Kleinwort Benson’s Chief Economist. Moving into portfolio management, he has held positions as Chief Investment Officer for Equities and Asset Allocation at the Bankers Trust Company in New York and President of CDC Investment Management Corporation.

Putnam holds a Ph.D. in economics from Tulane University. He has authored five books on international finance, as well as published in such academic journals as the American Economic Review and the Journal of Finance, among many others. In the past, he has served on the adjunct faculty of several business schools, including The Wharton School, New York University, and Columbia University.

Undergraduate Student Speaker

Ethan Kristofer Castro
Candidate for Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Public Administration

Ethan Castro came to Illinois Tech’s Stuart School of Business after graduating from Elk Grove High School in the northwestern suburbs of Chicago. While he has always put his identity as a student at the forefront of his life, he had never truly identified a passion that he believed he could turn into a career. Thus, he used his time at Stuart to explore—both the world and himself.

Alongside his core business courses and curricula, which gave him a universal set of skills applicable to almost any industry, Castro used his undergraduate years to serve and lead a variety of student organizations. He served as a member-at-large for the Illinois Tech President's Student Advisory Council, secretary of the Undergraduate Business Council student organization, and secretary for the Residence Hall Association. He was elected as a senator of the Student Government Association and served as editor-in-chief of TechNews, the university student newspaper. In 2018, Castro was selected for the Clinton R. Stryker Distinguished Service Award and the American Society for Public Administration honored him in 2019 at their Greater Chicago Chapter’s annual award ceremony as Stuart’s Outstanding M.P.A. Student of the Year for his record of academic achievement and service.

Castro credits his Stuart education and extracurricular involvement for helping him find his career path—in academia. Having lived most of his life as a student first and foremost, it only seems proper that his future would be dedicated to helping others in the exact same position find their passions and future aspirations. With a Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree, thanks to Stuart’s co-terminal program, he hopes to continue his educational work in the nonprofit academic sector and perhaps even return to being a student one last time—for a doctoral degree.
Michelle Mikka-Van Der Stuyf
Candidate for Master of Business Administration

As president and CEO of BizStrat Technology Corporation, Michelle Mikka-Van Der Stuyf’s 25+ years of experience drives growth and innovation in web, e-commerce, software development, strategic systems for business, and mobile and touch screen solutions. With two patents, the software suite urEZsolutions™ is a springboard to constant technology innovation, resulting in four software spinoffs in 2019. Her clients range from startups to $1 billion companies. She recently founded FlyTall, a nonprofit focused on combining talent and experience for success, and serves on the boards for Illinois Technology Foundation, Lewis University, and Triton College, bringing industry needs to academic curricula.

As an active executive team member with TechSavvy and National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), Mikka-Van Der Stuyf provides corporate and industry support to cultivate diversity in STEM and develop future talent. She is also active in a variety of initiatives with AnitaB.org, Illinois Institute of Technology, ARA, and Chicago Innovation. Degrees in computer science, airway science, math, and now business have equipped her with the knowledge to cultivate technological change that matters. A career including CTO and VP of North America for a global software company, coupled with her innovation-focused Illinois Tech M.B.A., provides her with the tools for her next big venture!

Mikka-Van Der Stuyf has been featured in Voyage Chicago, Chicago Business Journal, Bizwomen Mentoring Monday, and on WGN Radio. Her background includes technology work for Potbelly, Morton’s Steakhouse, Target, Apple, Starbucks, and PCS Wireless, and she has evolved into strategic customer-facing business intelligence projects with Microsoft Dynamics, web-based management portals, and customer ERP systems. Married, with two college-bound teens, ages 14 and 17, there is never a dull moment.

Mentoring, keynoting, presenting, speaking, and serving on panels all contribute to paying it forward for this year’s Stuart Commencement Graduate Student Speaker.

Honored Guests

Jon Gorman, Stuart Board of Advisors
James Hill, Jr, Illinois Tech Trustee, Stuart Board of Advisors
Jim Holden, Stuart Board of Advisors
Ellen Jordan, Illinois Tech Trustee
Patricia Turnbull, Stuart Board of Advisors
Beta Gamma Sigma is the international honor society serving business programs accredited by AACSB International—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Founded in 1913, it became the exclusive honor society recognized by AASCB in 1921. Beta Gamma Sigma has over 754,000 members, selected from 540 chapters in AACSB-accredited business schools around the world.

Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB International. Membership requirements include that a student must be in the top 10 percent of a baccalaureate business program or the top 20 percent of a master’s business program. Doctoral students are eligible for membership after completing all requirements for the doctoral degree.

The 2019 Induction Ceremony, held on May 10, 2019, recognized faculty and student inductees. Alumni, faculty, students, and Illinois Tech administrators joined in celebrating this tremendous honor.

In the Commencement Ceremony today, Beta Gamma Sigma members will wear honor regalia including a blue and gold stole, blue and gold honor cords, and a gold key lapel pin.
Candidates for the Doctoral Degree

Doctor of Philosophy in Management Science

Xinyi Ge
Dissertation: “Optimal Execution Strategy with Time-varying Intraday Patterns of Liquidity Parameters”
Advisor: Ricky Cooper, Ph.D.

Shengsi Li†
Dissertation: “Sharpen Factor Investing with a Closer Look at Profitability”
Advisor: Li Cai, Ph.D.

Shouhao Li
Dissertation: “Information of Market Efficiency, Volatility, Volume, and Trend from Limit Orderbook”
Advisor: Ricky Cooper, Ph.D.

Miaomiao Pan†
Dissertation: “High-Frequency Trading and Its Impact on the U.S. Equity Market”
Advisor: Ricky Cooper, Ph.D.

Junkai Qian
Dissertation: “Momentum, Volatility, and Risk-based Allocation”
Advisor: Ricky Cooper, Ph.D.

Jingqi Zhang
Advisor: Li Cai, Ph.D.

Tianyu Zhao†
Dissertation: “Two Essays on Corporate Finance and Capital Market”
Advisor: Haizhi Wang, Ph.D.

Candidates for Master’s Degree

Master of Business Administration

Michael Agne
Mohammad Ibesh
Dhafer Dakhel M. Aldawsari
Ayesha Khalid
Ahmed Mohammed M. Alotaibi
Catherine Lanigan
Mohammed Abdullah
Abeer Faisal A. Mansho
M. Alshehri
Vidy Mantrala
Noor Talal T. Alsulamei
Michelle Mikka-Van Der Stuyf†
Albara Abdulaziz Alwegaisi
Adam Michael North
Sabah Fatima Asif
Carmen Adetokunbo Otubusin
Archana Prakash Belani
Cozette Adefunmilola Otubusin
Marisela Cadenas Facundo†
Monica Pedraza
Michael Castaldo
David Jacob Pollack
Linnette Vonda Chew
Anjuli Rabindranath
Moire Elizabeth Corcoran
Brigid Kathleen Reidy
Ersoy Erbay
Benjamin E. Shaffer
Ikbal Erbay
Yuwan Sun
Maria Claudia Escobar Jaruffe†
Chao-Hsiang Tsai
Siyuan Han
Haonan Zhao
Hailah Idreess I. Hejrini
Fan Zou
Christopher John Hoffmann†
Yizhi Zou

Master of Science in Management Science

Sanchia Cynthiana Harsha
Xiqiao Ouyang
Giyoon Kwag
Abhisheek Singh†
Kai Lyu

Master of Science in Sustainability Management

Roxan Afkar
Sukrit Mishra
Jingyan Huang
Jiashen Xu
Tian Lan
Jingyu Yang

† Beta Gamma Sigma
Candidates for Master’s Degree

Master of Science in Marketing Analytics

Marisela Cadenas Facundo†  Tianli Ren
Hang Deng†  Rittika Roy†
Devika Dhir†  Karan Sanjay Shah
Asthika Kathil  Shreyash Sanjeev Shah
Zuoyin Li  Konrad Sniezek
Chen Liu†  Jasmin Dorothea Sturzebecher
Anupriya Narayanan  Himank Sahai Varshney
Anand Nayak  Wenyan Wang
Venkata Hari Krishna  Yuang Wei†
Bharadwaj Pudipeddi  Tianshuo Yu
Yu Qiao  Yingmei Zhang

Master of Science in Finance

Utkarsh Agarwal  Fusong Liang
Chloe Therese Algan  Haoran Ling†
Mohammed Abdullah  Boning Liu
M. A. Alnitaifi  Qiwen Liu
Sarh Nabeel M. Alsaignh  Xiaoxiao Luo
Andreea T. Beca  Mahmoud Mbarak
Jiannan Cen  Aiman Moizuddin
Shoubin Chen  Ricardo Morales Torres
Xuxu Chen†  Ritika Sanjiv Nayak
Denghui Cheng†  Yujian Ning
Daniel Joseph DeRose†  Ryan Patrick O’Keefe†
Wenhao Fan  Jaykumar Babubhai Patel†
Chenhao Gao  Bastien Martin Baptiste Segot
Peng Gao  Krish Sudhakar Shetty
Ivan Alejandro Garcia Chavez  Trishala Prakash Shetty
Siyuan Han  Jingyi Shi†
Tingyu Han  Ajinkya Govind Shrikhande†
Xiaoting Huang  Surbhi Singh
Jin Jiang  Surabhi Jayesh Sutaria
Keli Jin  Madina Tahmas
Chia-Chun Lee†  Xuantaob Tang

Candidates for Master’s Degree

Anirudh Thota  Jiaqing Xu
Yaroslav Vergun†  Xuufeng Xu†
Swetha Vijayakumar  Yaping Xu†
Tianma Wang  Bin Yang
Tianshi Wang  Chi Zhang
Yihua Wang  Hengyao Zhang
Yuning Wang  Jinglin Zhang
Charles Pearson Wolfe  Tongchen Zhang
Yichen Wu  Chennao Zhou
Qingling Xiong  Lei Zhou†

Master of Mathematical Finance

Ziheng Guo  Wenqing Wan
Guoliang Ji  Jiahe Xu
Jayaprakash Kultala  Zhiyuan Xu
Wei Jie Lai  Yun Zhang
Yiqing Liu†  Zhao Zhang
Yiwen Lu  Yijun Zhao†
Yue Lyu†  Tianxiang Zheng
Chun Ou Yang

Master of Public Administration

Ethan Kristofer Castro  Ting Li
Yiliang Chen  Liang Liang
William Henry Crozier  Jinye Lin
Yixin Ding  Jiayu Liu
David L. Disselhorst  Shiyun Liu
Beth A. Giltmier  Cornelius McCaster
Robin Michelle Hackett-Bradley  Jeremiah Wahid Muhammad
Gladis Herst  Beth Anne Ontrop
Allan Huang  Jing Yang
Isaac Andre Lambert  Yang Yang
Meng Li  Tianyi Zheng
Candidates for Master’s Degree

China Scholarship Council Cohort

Liang Cai
Kaiduo Chen
Xi Ding
Chao Gu
Jiawei Gu
Luyang Han
Shanshan Han
Jingwei He
Shuyuan Jia
Xiangpei Kong
Guodong Li
Yongxin Li
Tao Lyu
Ziyue Qin

Wenli Quan
Shaokun Wang
Yifan Wang
Zhongyi Wang
Zhuoran Wang
Zihan Wang
Yunyun Wu
Zengxin Xing
Jiankan Xu
Yijun Yang
Yizhong Yao
Ye Yu
Ran Zhang
Yiou Zhou

Candidates for Bachelor’s Degree

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Chriselda A. Bell
Irvin Berriel
Evelyn Cardiel†•
Ethan Kristofer Castro†§
Nicholas G. Chavez
Ronald E. Corbin
Dominic Cutinello
Aracey Figueroa
Malik Howze
Jason Jung
Anastasios Manolis
Frank B. Miller
Aiman Moizuddin
Ricardo Morales Torres

Jason Alexander Morris
Rohit Pandit Okhandiar
Yuezhong Qiu
Scott M. Reardon
John Morgan Reeves•
Estevan Ernesto Rosas
Annie C. Simmons
Jiaxin Sun
Madina Tahmas†**
Nina N. Tamras
David Tang
Bowen Wang
Wenzhang Zhu
Roman D. Zwarycz

† Beta Gamma Sigma  § Summa Cum Laude  • Magna Cum Laude  * Cum Laude
Photography by GradImages®.
Photos from today’s ceremony will be available to view and purchase at gradimages.com as soon as 48 hours after the ceremony.