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Michael Mason to Address Illinois Wesleyan Commencement

April 7, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Michael Mason, a 1980 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and the acting executive assistant director for administration at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington D.C., will deliver the University's commencement address, "Seize the Chance to Dance," as 505 seniors receive baccalaureate degrees on Sunday, April 30.

The University's [graduation ceremony](#) in its 156th year will take place at 1 p.m. on the Eckley Quadrangle. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the Shirk Center (302 E. Emerson St., Bloomington).

About Mike Mason

On the day of his IWU commencement, graduating as an accounting major, Mason was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and achieved the rank of captain prior to his honorable discharge in December 1984.

In 1985, Mason was sworn in as a special agent for the FBI in its New Haven, Conn., field office. His initial assignments involved narcotics investigations, often working undercover, and he served on the office's SWAT team as a sniper/observer. Mason's FBI resume includes jobs at bureau headquarters and overseeing the resident agency in Syracuse, N.Y., and the field offices in both Buffalo, N.Y., and Sacramento, Calif.

In July 2003, Mason was appointed assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, the bureau's second largest, with 700 agents. The appointment put Mason in charge of some of the most important and perplexing cases facing the bureau, including anthrax and ricin investigations, cyber-crime and health-care and government fraud.

In 2004 he was the recipient of a Presidential Rank Award as a Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service.

Mason and his wife, Susan (a former FBI agent herself), have two sons.

Mason was featured in the summer 2004 issue of the Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine. [Read the article.](#)



Michael Mason