Lt. Brad Ross, U.S. Navy, is Southeastern Illinois College’s 2008 Distinguished Alumnus recipient and will be the featured speaker for SIC’s May 16 commencement exercises.

Ross graduated from Southeastern in 1997 with an Associate in Science Degree. During his time on campus, he studied biology and math and was an avid member of the Math and Science club.

Ross was also a member of a national champion Forensic team, and received a gold medal in his speech-to-entertain at the national tournament.

After graduating from SIC, Ross continued his education at SIU-Carbondale. He received a Bachelor in Physiology Degree in 1999 and was accepted into the School of Dental Medicine. It was there that he met his wife, Karen.

Ross completed a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in 2003, joined the Navy, and married in the span of only a few weeks. He went into an advanced education in general dentistry program for one year at Naval Station Great Lakes.

He was then transferred to Marine Corps air station Miramar in San Diego, where he worked on getting the Marines dentally ready for deployment.

In 2006, Ross trained for the Rock-and-Roll Marathon, and in June, he ran that race to the finish. Also that year, Ross was accepted into the Navy Endodontic Program in Bethesda, Maryland. He spent seven months in Fallujah, Iraq, working as dental department head and triage officer for mass-casualty events.

Ross is now state-side, matriculating at the National Naval Medical Center’s post-graduate dental school in their two-year endodontic program.