

# Observations

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by Robert Gentry



1957

Celebrating  
**61**  
Years

2018

Wednesday,  
May 30, 2018



*Ted Mims, Ph.D., recent retiree from the University of Illinois at Springfield, was a professor and also served as Head of the Computer Science Department.*

*"Observations" May 30, 2018 Continued:*

It's good to see a good ole Sabine Parish native go somewhere else and do well. And that is exactly what Dr. Ted Mims, who retired after 50 years as a teacher and administrator, did. And he recently dropped by for a visit. At his retirement he was Professor and Head of the Computer Science Department at the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS). He held that position for 25 years.

The UIS Computer Science Department flourished under Mims' leadership, growing from 70 to over 1,300 majors in 2017. During his time as Chair, the Computer Science Department became a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. The designation was bestowed by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

At UIS, Mims taught both online and on-campus courses, including Computer Architecture, Networks, Parallel Processing, Operating Systems and Security. In addition, he implemented and taught the CISCO Networking Academy Curriculum to UIS students, local academy high school, and community college teachers.

During his years as department chair, Dr. Ted Mims maintained an active research agenda, publishing numerous articles and making presentations at national and regional conferences.

Mims served on the Program Committee of the Annual Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education, one of the most prestigious forums on security education. He has also been interviewed on National Public Radio about computer science, presented guest lectures at NSF-sponsored workshops



on parallel processing, networking, and systems security and information assurance.

A native of Many, Mims is the son of the late Vernice Cutrer Mims and Henry A. Mims. He was married 43 years to the late Elizabeth Holley Mims. Their daughter Holley is mother to Amelia and Soren, and their son Jonathan is father to Jonathan, Jr.

Mims graduated from Many High School, received a BS and MS from Northwestern State University, a MS from Louisiana State University and his Ph.D. from the University of North Texas.

Mims began his teaching career as a graduate assistant at Northwestern State University in August 1967. He also taught math at Crowley High School, Many Junior High and Many High School. In 1978, he became an instructor in the Computer Science Department at LSU in Baton Rouge, and was Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Nicholls State University until 1990, when he moved to Springfield, Illinois to teach Computer Science at Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois Springfield.

