Welcome to a New Semester

UIS welcomed 130 students from 17 different countries during the Fall 2017 International Student Orientation. Pictured above, students met with different campus offices to learn more about resources and opportunities available to them as part of the UIS community. Below, International Ambassador Di Han assists a new student with the check in process. The International Ambassadors were a tremendous help during the rush of orientation week. They will continue to work with ISS throughout the semester, assisting with programs and events offered through our office. Thank you, Ambassadors!

Welcome (and welcome back) to UIS. We all look forward to another great semester of serving you.
Deep Mandalaywala

Where are you from?  
I'm from the city of Surat which is known as the diamond capital of world & textile capital of India.

Tell us about yourself – hobbies, interests, etc.  
I'm currently working with International Student Service & Residence Life, I love to interact with people so I can get a glimpse of their culture & ideology. Hobbies include web designing & development, curling up with a good book in a corner while listening to rock music, weightlifting & cooking food in order to maintain my healthy lifestyle.

What is your major?  
I'm a computer science grad student majoring in Networking & Security, minor in Data Science.

What is your favorite movie and why?  
My all-time favorite movie is *Fight Club* because of dark humor, surprise ending, direction, cinematography, subliminal message, story & its description.

What hashtag best describes you?  
#gujju #businessoriented #valardoharis

What is your dream car?  
Tesla

What language(s) do you speak?  
English, Hindi, Gujarati.

What tips could you offer new students?  
Study hard party harder! Firstly, focus on the academics which is the primary purpose to be in the school. Participate in the activities offered on campus. Interact with as many people as you can. Attend seminars and conferences if offered in your field of interest and you may get to meet highly talented professionals who could direct you. As a student i faced many challenges which could look petty but turn into major routine issues like managing work, study and eating healthy and all it demands is time management. A little look over your schedule can help you to resolve these issues.

Describe your home country and what you like best about it.  
India is the seventh-largest country by area, with 29 states and 7 union territories with each state defining its own multivariated-culture, symbols of ethnicity and rich cultural heritage. Indian cultural history spans for more than 4500 years. It is said that in every 10 miles in India, the food and the taste changes. With all the features describing my country makes me like it.

What is your favorite food in your home country and in the US?  
Gujarati & Punjabi cuisine are my favorite owing to its rich flavors with spices and condiments. In the US I like traditional wood burn pizza.

What does life after UIS look like for you?  
I don't want to leave UIS as I made friends with different cultural backgrounds and I felt like the world is coming together for a reason of education and we all are playing our part to make this world a better place through our individual contribution from the respective fields. As an international student, it was a whole new learning experience not just in our subject but also getting adapted to the change. The learning obtained will help me replicate it in my future career jobs and the fun part of the events will be missed.
Hispanic Heritage Month

In the month of September, many Hispanic countries celebrate Independence Day. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua will celebrate on September 15. Mexico celebrates their Independence on September 16 followed by Chile (18) and Belize (21). Honoring their cultures, heritages, and contributions, the US celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. UIS has and will continue to commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Month under the direction of several Latin@/Hispanic student organizations and the Diversity Center. Many educational and cultural events are scheduled this year as well. You can find the more detailed information at the UIS Diversity Center's Program website. Happy Independence Day to the international students from the celebrating countries. Let’s join the celebrations and learn more about Hispanic cultures.

Labor Day

In the United States, Labor day is celebrated on the first Monday of September (this year, September 4) in honor of the American Labor movement and the contributions of laborers to the well-being of the nation. Labor Day became an official federal holiday in 1894, after trade unions and the labor movement vied for a national day of celebration. The holiday signifies the unofficial end of summer. There are many outdoor festivities, including parades and picnics, to commemorate the holiday. Canada also celebrates Labour Day on the first Monday of September. Across the calendar and the globe, more than 80 countries celebrate International Worker’s Day (May 1), and several have their own Labor Day observations.
Saudi Arabian National Day: September 23, 2017

Every 23 September, Saudi Arabia remembers how it succeeded in achieving national unity. Saudi National Day is celebrated with folklore dances, songs and traditional festivals. The roads and buildings are decorated with Saudi flags and people wearing Saudi Arabian shirts. On Saudi National Day, people celebrate all over Saudi Arabia. Saudi National Day symbolizes the ideals and hopes held by the Kingdom, and also honors the people who participated in the construction of the Kingdom, and in particular the Al-Saud family, the current leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The celebration is an opportunity to learn the Saudi Arabian heritage, customs and traditions.

Durgaashtami: September 28, 2017

Durga Puja, also known as Durgotsava or Mahashtami, is a Hindu festival in South Asia that celebrates the worship of the goddess Durga. Celebrated across India, in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura, it is the biggest festival of the year and the most significant cultural event in Bengali Hindu society. Durga Puja celebrates the ten-armed mother goddess, and her victory over the evil buffalo demon, Mahishasura. The world was under threat, and to vanquish the demon, Durga emerged from the collective energies of all the gods. Each of her ten arms brandished the deadliest weapon of each god. According to Hindu mythologies it is said that Kaali Mata emerged from the forehead of Goddess Durga to kill Chanda and Munda. On the day of Durga Puja, people celebrate the festival and feast, and the triumph of goodness over all. To Hindus, Durga represents the embodiment of Shakti, the powerful feminine force that governs all cosmic creation, existence and change.
Programs Fall 2017

- Thursday, September 7th – OPT Workshop – Brookens Auditorium, 2-4pm
- Friday, September 8th – Driver’s License Workshop – PAC F, 2-3p
- Friday, September 15—Floating at Meramec State Park, 7am
- Friday, September 22—Jefferson National Expansion Memorial trip, 8:30am
- Saturday, October 14—Jack-O-Lantern Pumpkin Carving, Washington Park, 1pm
- Friday, November 3—40th Annual International Festival, TRAC, 5-8pm
- Tuesday, November 7th – OPT Workshop Spring Graduates – Brookens Auditorium, 2-4pm
- Tuesday, November 14—International Education Week, Guest Speaker Presentation, Brookens Auditorium, 5-6pm
- Tuesday, November 28th – Travel Workshop – Brookens Auditorium, 2-3pm

The Shopping Shuttle

The Shopping Shuttle to the Mall, Walmart, Barnes and Noble, Walgreens and Target will run on Sundays and Wednesdays during the fall semester beginning on August 27th through December 13th, 2017. (Except for Thanksgiving week, November 19th through 25th.) The Shopping Shuttle will continue during the Spring semester on Sundays and Wednesdays beginning on January 17th through May 6th, 2018. (Except for spring break week of March 11th through March 17th). The shuttle will run hourly round trips from UIS pick-up locations to the shopping locations and back to UIS from noon to 5 PM on Sundays and 6 PM to 10 PM on Wednesdays. There will be two UIS pick-up/drop off locations this year: Founders Residence Hall (Farnham Dr. entrance) and at the Residence Life Office (Homer Butler Commons).
This time of year, there’s plenty to do on and off campus. Pictured left, students took a break from check-in to watch the solar eclipse. Below is a list of ways to catch a break in the community during the start of this semester. More events are featured on the Illinois Times Fall Calendar.

**German Oktoberfest**
Sep 9, 12-10:30pm. Featuring German bands, German food, German bier, games, arts and crafts, kids’ games and more. Knights of Columbus 364, 2200 S. Meadowbrook Road.

**Art Spectacular**
Sep 9-10, 10am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun. Up to 50 professional artists with artwork in a variety of mediums plus music, food and more. Free admission to art fair; Kids’ Place costs $1.25 per child. carillon-rees.org, 787-3532. Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave.

**Moonlight Market Series**
Sep 13, Oct 11, 6-9pm. Featuring locally made goods by artists, craftsmen and makers. Sixth and Seventh streets.

**Opa Fest**
Sep 16, 11am-7pm. Greek festival featuring live music plus Greek food and pastries. Free. St. Anthony’s Hellenic Orthodox Church, 1600 S. Glenwood Ave.

**Music in the Park: Celtic Fest**

**Golden Eagle Intertribal Powwow**
Sep 22-24, 12-8pm Fri, 10am-8pm Sat-Sun. Gathering of many nations to honor and show respect to all veterans. Featuring storytelling for all ages, children’s dances, treats and gifts, handcrafted vendors, food and more. Free. Lake Lou Yaeger, Picnic Area 4, 4 Marina Lane, Litchfield.
Want to participate in the International Festival?

Contact our office!

Office of International Student Services

Find Us:
University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza, HRB 10
Springfield, IL 62703-5407

Office Hours:
8:30-5:00pm, Monday-Friday

Contact Us:
Phone: 217-206-6678
(country code 011)
Fax: 217-206-6680
Email: iss@uis.edu
http://www.uis.edu/internationalstudentservices/

On Facebook

Walk-In Hours
If you need to speak directly with an immigration specialist, you can come during walk-in hours, or email iss@uis.edu to make an appointment.

Monday— 2:00-4:00
Tuesday— 2:00-4:00
Wednesday— 9:30-11:30
Thursday— 2:00-4:00