Meramec Caverns in Stanton, MO is the most-visited cave in Missouri. A group of 1 domestic and 19 international students visited the caverns on Friday, March 22. It was beautiful weather there.

Everybody enjoyed the hilly scenery of a part of the Ozark Plateau on the way to the caverns, which they cannot see around Springfield, IL. The majority of international students have never been to any cave systems, even in their home countries.

Some students who have been to caves in their home countries compared the Meramec Caverns to ones in their countries. They learned about American natural beauty, dynamic geology, and some modern American culture’s in which the caverns play apart — Erika Suzuki
As the end of another school year draws to a close, we have the proud, but also sad, privilege of sending off yet another great cohort of UIS international students who have spent a brief time among us. They have learned. They have taught. They have struggled. They have celebrated. They have received. They have given. It is our hope that their time with us has impacted their journey for the rest of their lives and that they will magnify that impact wherever they go and whatever they do.

For now, we congratulate you on your accomplishments and celebrate your new beginnings. We encourage you to stay in touch and to share your important life events. You will always be a part of the UIS family.

Sincerely,

Rick Lane, Director ISS
On April 3rd, the accomplishments of GPSI interns and their mentors were celebrated at a breakfast in their honor. The Student Union Ballroom was packed with GPSI interns, mentors from various state government agencies, as well as faculty and staff from UIS.

For 45 years, the GPSI (Graduate Public Service Internship) program has provided graduate students an opportunity for invaluable work experience in state government, while receiving a tuition-free education at UIS. These highly competitive internships are eagerly sought after by both domestic and international students.

International students were well-represented at the annual breakfast, as they are in the GPSI program in general. In fact, international students comprise nearly 40% of the current crop of GPSI interns. Seven out of the twelve finalists for the Brian Milbrandt Intern Award were international students. Also, GPSI interns come from 8 different countries outside the USA. (Listed above)

A highlight of the event was the reading of the nominations for the Intern Award. These well-written nominations encapsulated the innovation and energy that GPSI interns bring to the public sector in Illinois.

Cheers to all GPSI interns for the good work you do!
-Joel Short
Where are you from? - “Made in China”

Tell us about yourself, hobbies, interests? - Working out, drawing, video editing, I also film some short video, and do computer building.

What is your dream car? - Any car that is free.

What tips could you offer new students? - Do not get out of the car when getting pulled over by a police officer.

What hashtag best describes you? - #Happy4Ever and if you want to put it in Chinese it would be 儒雅随和.

What language(s) do you speak? Mandarin Chinese, English, and I can read & write Korean.

Favorite thing to do in Springfield? - Driving around and looking at the cornfields, the blue sky, white clouds, and just enjoying the beauty of nature.

What is your favorite food in your home country and in the US? - Back home I like everything except for fake Chinese food (General Tso’s chicken, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Beijing Beef, Shanghai steak, Sesame chicken etc…) Here in the U.S. I love bacon cheese fries.
Holi is a Hindu spring festival that is also known as the “festival of colors” or the “festival of love”. Historically it has been celebrated predominantly in India and Nepal, but today many people in other areas of Asia and the Western world also celebrate the festival, and it is becoming well known all over the world. Holi celebrates the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, the end of winter, and a thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. Relationships with others are an important aspect of the festival and families and friends come together to play and laugh together. It is a time for forgiveness of past conflicts, and the repairing broken relationships. Participants celebrate by throwing colored water or powders known as “gulal”, on one another which are symbols of the Hindu Gods, and the love of Krishna and Radha.
Spring 2019 Programming

- Friday, April 5 - Jr. Blues Hockey Game, Meet at Student Union, 6:30pm - 9pm (Registration at ISS office—HRB 10—$5 Cash)
- Saturday, April 6 - Holi, REC Park, 9am –1pm (Wear clothes that can get messy)
- Friday, April 12 - Etiquette Dinner, Student Union Ballroom, 5:30 - 7:30 pm (Register by Thursday, April 4 online here)
- Tuesday, April 23 - International T-Shirt Tie-Dye, Student Life Plaza, 4pm
- Saturday, April 27 - Six Flags St. Louis, Meet at Student Union, 7am (Registration at ISS office—HRB 10)
- Friday, May 10 - International Congratulatory Ceremony, Student Union Ballroom, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
100 things to do in Springfield.