Welcome ALL!

This Fall UIS welcomes 73 international students! We are looking forward to having all of you as part of our program and on campus! While the weather slowly starts to change, enjoy the fun cultural events Erika has prepared for all of you. Keep in contact with us, we hope to be able to help make your transition to a new school and a new country a bit easier. Although these first couple weeks can seem challenging adjusting to homework and work, just remember your time here will go by quick so get connected, get involved and create self-care mechanisms to help work through these challenges!

We are looking forward to getting to know all of you better! Remember, you are ALL WELCOME here.
The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. At this point of the month, the moon appears to look extraordinarily round, big and bright so people have chosen to celebrate this day to mark the season during which the crops and fruits are all ripe and ready to be picked.

This festival has a long history in ancient China, where people believe the emperors followed the rite of offering sacrifices to the sun in spring and the moon in autumn. To properly celebrate this festival families will have dinner together than following dinner, the family members will offer sacrifices to the moon with the belief that it will bring them good fortune. There are many stories and myths families from Chinese and Vietnamese descents hold true for these festivities but no matter why myth, this festival is a way of showing gratitude to the people and good fortune around you.

Among both cultures, the sacrifices that are generally used are symbolic fruit and mooncakes. The mooncakes are round pastries that consist of a rich thick filling of red paste of lotus seed paste that often contains yolks from salted duck eggs. The round shape symbolizing the connection between friends and family while they share these delicious pastries. Another aspect of this festival is the fire dragon dance and lantern making are just some activities that are common among these festivities.

Erika, ISS event coordinator, has prepared a fun Mid-Autumn festival. Come try some mooncakes and connect with new people!
Meet our New GA

From the Director’s Desk

Seventy-three new international students have joined our UIS community this fall. If you are among them, please know how happy we are that you have chosen UIS and have brought to our community so many new perspectives and cultural gifts. If you are among those of us welcoming these new students, I hope that you will make a little extra effort to get to know them and help them to adjust to life here in Springfield. I know, from personal experience, how many life-long friendships can develop during one’s years of academic study. Don’t miss this great opportunity.

As you look through this month’s newsletter, please join me in expressing appreciation to our new newsletter editor, our recently appointed Graduate Assistant, Geraldina Mulville. Geraldina is also new to UIS and has been having a great time getting to know all of you. She is excited to become part of our team and is looking forward to seeing you all over campus. If you run into her, be sure to say “hi” and to introduce yourself.

Finally, take a look at the page on our website about upcoming Cultural and Educational Events (fun, too!) We almost always run out of space, so get your reservation in as soon as possible for each one. Their popularity is a good indicator that you, too, will enjoy them.

We are off to a great start this fall. All of you are part of the reason why.

Sincerely,

Rick Lane, Director ISS
Meet our New GA:

Geraldina Mulville

Age: 24

Nick name: G

Masters Area of Study: School Counseling, Human Development Counseling

Likes: Dogs, Nutella, It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia, Spanish, Swimming /Running

I was born in Guatemala, at the age of 5 I was adopted in the US. I have been raised by an incredible single mother, an older brother, Ricky, and a Beagle, Buddy. Last summer, I reconnected with my birth family and discovered I have two more siblings; a 15-year-old brother, Daniel and a 9-year-old sister, Abby. Being raised as the baby of the family to becoming the oldest of the family comes with much more responsibilities but throughout these responsibilities, I can expand and connect with my family.

I earned my undergrad degree in psychology and minor in Spanish at Saint Mary’s University of Winona, Minnesota. Throughout my four years of undergrad, I participated in the NCAA swim team and water polo club. After graduating in May of 2018, I accepted a position to be a TEFL assistant for an elementary school in Madrid, Spain. Teaching 3, 4, 5-year old’s and first and second grade. This opportunity enhanced my language abilities as well as adapting skills. Throughout this experience I was able to travel to 9 different countries, absorbing new cultures and new languages.

Now I am ready to earn my Master’s degree and learn from this GA position at the ISS office. In the future I would like to work abroad at an international school. This allows me to continue immersing, educating and connecting to new countries and people.
Upcoming Events

September 13 – Mid-Autumn Festival, Diversity Center, 11:30am – 1:30pm

September 27 – Trip to St. Louis – meet at Student Union, 9am

Late September/Early October – Durga Pooja w/ ISO

October 4 – New Salem Candlelight Tour, meet at Student Union, 6:30pm

October 12 – Pumpkin Carving for Carillon, Saturday,
Meet at PAC bus station at 10:30am

October 17 – Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity, Student Union Lobby, 11am – 1:30pm

Late October – Halloween and Diwali

November 1 – International Festival – TRAC, 5-8pm

November 8 – ECCE: China’s Repression of the Uyghurs, Brookens, 7:30pm

November 12 – Cambodia Water Festival, Student Union Patio, 11am – 2pm

November 18-22 – International Education Week

November 19 – International Thanksgiving Luncheon, Student Union Ballroom, 12 pm – 1 pm
Happy Mid-Autumn Festival
Join us to celebrate the festival with mooncakes!
Friday, September 13
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Diversity Center

Sponsored by the Office of International Student Services

42nd UIS International Festival
Worldwide Snapshots
@ The Recreation and Athletic Center (TRAC)
Friday, November 1, 2019 • 5 – 8 p.m.
• Free Admission
• Food Samples & Live Performances
• Halloween Theme Area

Hosted by International Student Services & International Student Association

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