At the start of the semester, we celebrated and welcomed our new international students for Spring 2020. ISA ambassadors, Maegan Flight, Joseph Kalala, Spencer Lopez, Julia Wasik, Zehra Ozkan Shahidi hosted and provided lots of laughs, a DJ, great food, and entertaining games for all students to enjoy. This is just the beginning, keep updated on the next program on the ISS calendar or contact Erika Suzuki. Along with upcoming programs, February 20, we are celebrating International Mother Language Day at Student Union North Entrance Tables between 11 am – 1 pm. Hope to see you all there!
January Programs & Events

Lunar New Year: Celebrating Lunar New Year, Year of the Rat with ISS, Asian Student of Organization, & International Student Associations. Students celebrated with traditional food, music and activities. Though Chinese New Year has its beginnings in the ancestor worship of the ancient Shang dynasty people, today, the holiday is about spending time with family and sharing blessings and abundance with loved ones. But even more than that, it’s a time to forget about work and school, light up the sky with fireworks, exchange large sums of money, and eat until you can eat no more.

Ski trip to Snowstar: International Students and Ambassadors ski adventures at Snowstar. For many student this was there first time skiing, so all students had a quick lesson on the basics of skiing then had the chance to shred some snow with their friends. This was a fun-filled program for all that participated.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Javier Milla Muñoz

Major: Business Management and Administration
What country are you from?: Chile
Spoken Languages: Spanish & English
What #hashtag best describes you?: #Passion

Tell us about yourself – hobbies, interests: I am a huge sports fan. I love watching every sport. I especially like soccer, I have played it since I have memory and now I am in UIS because of it, as I am part of the UIS Men’s Soccer Team. I am a big movie fan and also I like spending time playing sports videogames, like FIFA and NBA 2K.

What is your favorite movie and why?: The Pursuit of Happiness and The Wolf of Wall Street. I like the first one because it has a huge emotional meaning, it shows how a father does whatever it takes in order to succeed as a worker and specially as a dad. The second one I like it because I find it very funny but at the same time it is interesting how it is based on a real-life story. It is hard to believe the story of it but it is actually real.

What is your dream job?: Professional Soccer Player.

Describe your home country and what you like best about it: I find Chile to be lovely and diverse. In the north you can find the most arid desert on Earth (Atacama Desert), then beautiful beaches in the center of Chile, and in the south, there is plenty of National Parks with awesome views of the Chilean nature. People are very humble, tourists love visiting Chile. The Andes Mountains go through north to south, always providing beautiful views and awesome Ski Parks during winter. The food is also unique - the thing I most miss from home and the diversity of it is incredible.

What do you like best about Springfield?: Springfield is not a big city, it has some attraction though. I enjoy the downtown area and like to walk around there during summer. The nightlife is good, too. I also think that UIS is very nice. It’s like a small city inside Springfield and a good environment.

Were you involved in any clubs, organizations, or campus employment while at UIS? If so, please describe which club, organization, or employment and what you enjoyed or learned.: Well I am part of the UIS Men’s Soccer Team, so I have been involved in that since I came here as a freshman. It gave me the possibilities to get to know people from all around the world and getting to know cities where I have never been before. Right now, I am also employed as a student T.V. Worker. I work behind cameras in events like basketball games, concerts, and student government meetings. It is very comfortable to work here, everything is close and you get to meet nice people.

Why did you choose UIS?: I chose UIS because it offered me a very good sports and athletic scholarship for playing soccer. I also chose UIS over colleges because its academic level is a good one, professors do not want you to fail and they are very close to you. Classes are not very big, so you get to understand everything. If you pay attention and you can have a close student-professor relationship.

What tips could you offer new students?: College will go very fast, enjoy every moment because it is just 4 years. Work hard in class, do your homework, and enjoy outside class time with your friends.
FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Quite a winter, huh? Warm, cold, wet, dry, sunny, overcast, and sometimes all in the same day. Well, the good news is that it will soon be spring. The weather will still be changing and unpredictable, but it will be warmer, plants will begin to bud, and all of us will enjoy getting outside a little more.

In any case, there are good ways to make use of your time, regardless of the weather. When it snows, enjoy it – I hope many of you participated in the recent ski trip. On the other hand, I hope that those of you who are finishing your program in May did not go anywhere or do anything during our OPT workshop except attend that. Getting your application sent off to USCIS as soon as possible should be a top priority.

Speaking of priorities, don’t let the tax filing deadline sneak up on you. I do hope the workshop and the software that we have provided were helpful. Now, just get it done.

You will also want to plan ahead. Spring Break will be here before you know it. Now is the time to make some exciting plans. Now is also the time to check your immigration documents and make sure that they are all up-to-date, especially if you plan to travel outside the US. Don’t forget the travel signature on page 2 of your form I-20. That is valid for 12 months from the date it is signed for those of you enrolled in classes, but it is only good for 6 months for those on OPT. Get yours now.

The spring semester is full of great opportunities for you to get to know each other and have a lot of fun. Fit some of those into your schedule, too.

Best,
Rick Lane
Valentine's Days occurs every February 14. This festival of romantic love is celebrated across the United States and in other places around the world by exchanging cards, candy, flowers and gifts between loved ones. Common symbols of Valentine's Day are hearts, red roses and Cupid.
In the United Kingdom Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins). A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the “Pancake Bell” and is still rung today. Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, so the date varies from year to year and falls between February 3 and March 9. In 2019 Shrove Tuesday will fall on March 5th. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients. A pancake is a thin, flat cake, made of batter and fried in a frying pan. A traditional English pancake is very thin and is served immediately. Golden syrup or lemon juice and caster sugar are the usual toppings for pancakes. Many people celebrate pancakes by not only eating them, but also by entering pancake races. In such races, one has to run with a pancake in a frying pan. Come join us celebrate February 24 in the Student Union Ballroom from 3 pm - 5 pm.
On the Search:
ISS’s Next Contributor

As an office we are on a search for the NEXT BIG edition to our monthly Newsletter. We want fresh stories to share with the rest our UIS family. If you or anyone you know would like to share photos, stories, holidays, traditions or anything under the umbrella of international. You are the person we want! You do not have to be an international student or a student to contribute to our Newsletter! You will simply e-mail what you would like to share and if it is approved your story will be shared. We hope to hear from you.

If interested, contact:
Geraldina Mulville
gmulv2@uis.edu
UPCOMING EVENTS

February 20- International Mother Language Day, STU North Entrance Tables, 11am–1pm

February 24- Pancake Monday, Student Union Ballroom from 3 pm – 5 pm

February 28- Trip to St. Louis Aquarium, Meet at STU lounge 9 am- 5pm

April 3- Etiquette Dinner Workshop, Student Union Ballroom, 5:30pm–7:30pm

May 8- Congratulatory Ceremony, Student Union Ballroom, 2pm–4 pm

WALK-IN HOURS

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