Summer state of mind

Here's to all the great friendships and memories made at the University of Illinois - Springfield

UIS International Student Services

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CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2020!

#UIS20
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CLASS OF 2020!

To watch the celebration and to read messages from/to the class of 2020, go to:
https://www.uis.edu/commencement/uis20/

#UIS20
It's summertime in central Illinois, and the temperatures are rising. Flowers are in bloom. The corn is growing fast. People are out and about. Everyone is hopeful that the pandemic is on the decline and that we will all be back to some semblance of normal soon.

That said, nothing has yet been decided about how the campus will look in the fall. Check www.uis.edu often for updates and be prepared to adjust your plans quickly. For now, we are all counting on having everyone back on campus. So, plan along those lines. We will let you know if/when that changes.

International Student Services is “open for business” in the sense that we are still providing all essential immigration services from our home offices, through email, telephone, via virtual meetings, etc. You can still contact us with any needs that you have. It may take us a day or two longer than usual, but we will get to all cases and questions quickly. Watch our office website for important updates. Use iStart for forms and reporting. Write to our email address for the quickest response. Leave a voicemail message when none of those work. We will respond.

Our Educational and Cultural events wrapped up the last week of the spring semester and will be up and running again for International Orientation the week before the fall classes start. Meanwhile, you can plan for the coming year by looking back at everything that we did during the past year. There is also some great information about things to do in Springfield and links to our prior newsletters. Now would be a great time to get some of these on your calendar for fall.

Speaking of Orientation, did you know that there is a whole online/virtual orientation on our website that can help to prepare you for (or remind you of) all those things that our office, UIS, and Springfield have to offer. Check it out here. Don't miss all the linked information.

Enjoy your summer. We are looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Rick
World Bicycle day acknowledges the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle, which has been in use for two centuries, and that it is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation, fostering environmental stewardship and health, the General Assembly decided to declare 3 June World Bicycle Day.

It encouraged stakeholders to emphasize and advance the use of the bicycle as a means of fostering sustainable development, strengthening education, including physical education, for children and young people, promoting health, preventing disease, promoting tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitating social inclusion and a culture of peace.

If you have a bike, let's celebrate and ride together on June 3!
Gay pride or LGBTQ pride is the promotion of the self-affirmation, dignity, equality, and increased visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people as a social group. Pride, as opposed to shame and social stigma, is the predominant outlook that bolsters most LGBT rights movements. Pride has lent its name to LGBT-themed organizations, institutes, foundations, book titles, periodicals, a cable TV station, and the Pride Library. Around the world people celebrate with large parades to celebrate.
I am from the Philippines and I speak English and Tagalog! I am a graduate student pursuing a Master’s degree in Accounting. My dream job is to become a forensic accountant and a college professor. I dream of becoming an entrepreneur too, building a business empire that will help and sustain other people. To become a writer or a speaker to bring everyone in heaven is also a pipe dream of mine! I am a Filipina who is passionate about food, traveling, and accounting! Such passions led me to Springfield, Illinois to pursue a graduate degree whilst also exploring the side of the world far from where I was from. I love going to authentic restaurants as I believe food is a part of the culture of a country. And so, I travel the world physically and gastronomically too! A #hashtag that best describes me is #megscapades2020. For 4 years already, whenever I post photos from my travel escapades, I use that hashtag and just change the year accordingly. My favorite movie is Four Sisters and a Wedding. It is a Filipino movie about how sisters came together for their younger brother’s wedding. To me, it is very relatable as I could see myself and my siblings in the movie characters. The Philippines is a very family-oriented country and everyone just goes above and beyond for each other. The Philippines, also called the Pearl of the Orient Seas, is a country in Southeast Asia with 7,641 islands. With such a rich history, it has been a melting pot of East and West culture. The people and the food exemplify this. The people are notably respectful and family-centered like any country from the East, and hardworking and resilient just like the people from the Western hemisphere. And Filipino food, although a world on its own, has a wide variety of dishes that combine and twist Asian and West culture. Ever since I have stepped foot in this city, Springfield, I have encountered so many helpful and welcoming people! I also love the history of this place. Living in the hometown of the greatest president of the United States is a dream. I choose to attend UIS because UIS has various programs that support students in meaningful ways. I was mostly attracted by the Graduate Public Service Internship program at the university. Moreover, the university’s high academic standards, diverse student population, and opportunities to flourish in the field of Accounting are the reasons for my decision to study here in the United States. I am currently a part of the Catholic Student Organization of the university. I have been to the organization’s services and plan to join more in the future. I appreciate that they are very open to international students like me. A tip I would offer new students is to find your tribe. Make friends as much as possible! UIS has a very diverse student population and various activities that it is easy to talk to people and make friends! I have been friends with people from around the world and not only did I learn more about their culture, but it has also made me confident and outgoing too!
I’m originally from Accra, Ghana, a country situated on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea in Western Africa. I can speak my local dialect is Akan (Twi) but I’m also fluent in Fante, Ga, English and have a fair beginner-level proficiency in French. I’m pursuing a Master of Public Administration in the Department of Public Administration (MPA). My dream job is to work as a “Business Data Analyst and a Public Administration Consultant” within an SME, advanced technology sector or work in a more commercially focused role in larger organizations where a strong background in understanding of commercial and business environments is highly desirable. I’m a Physics graduate from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration in the University of Illinois, Springfield (UIS). My career objective is to develop both high-level IT competencies and key business management skills. This is especially relevant since I hope to be working as a “Business Data Analyst and a Public Administration Consultant” seeking a career within the SME advanced technology sector or a more commercially focused role in larger organizations where a strong background in understanding of commercial and business environments is highly desirable. I love working on complex and challenging projects. This interest and intrigue in melding with abstract ideas are nothing more than experimental endeavors that are intellectually stimulating. I come from a large family of ten siblings including my parents. I love each one of my siblings and my parents, they are adorable. My dad and mum belong to the Ashanti tribe in Ghana. I have always loved traveling since I was a young boy. I love traveling because it enables me to immerse myself in various cultures, languages, and traditions of cities abroad which enlightens me about new international lifestyles. Unfortunately, I’ve currently been to only been to London, Dubai and the U.S. My tip to Dubai was very interesting and extremely adventurous. It was a family vacation and so it was a nice time for my siblings and me to bond and enjoy ourselves. We lived in a hotel near Muscat Oman called Dunes Hotel. As someone who loves traveling, Dubai is the place to be because of its modern architecture. It is simply breathtaking to gaze at the Burj Al Arab, the most luxurious hotel in the world being the only 7-star hotel at that time. Also, the beautiful Burj Khalifa is the tallest building in the world. Plus, the people in Dubai are some of the most polite and nicest people I have ever met. Some other countries on my bucket list include South Africa, Hawaii, Australia, Argentina, Portugal, Germany, Norway and China, Japan, and India. I’m currently putting my traveling ambitions on hold due to the Coronavirus outbreak and hope to resume once it becomes safe to travel and most traveling bans are lifted. For sports, I love playing table tennis and soccer and a pretty good sportsman as well. I’m above average even though some of my friends may view that as a debatable notion! I also like playing video games especially soccer games on the FIFA PlayStation. I’m a very competitive person, which is due to my background in science. I’m trying to tone it down a little bit but it has served me well for a while so who knows; I may as well step it up a notch. A hashtag that best describes me is #Blessed… and that’s being modest! My favorite movie is Avengers Endgame! It was full of all the elements of a great movie. The suspense, betrayal, unplanned farewells and the unpredictable turn of events really intrigued me. A friend of mine has not been able to watch it till now because Tony Stark died in the movie and apparently, he was his favorite character. I am guilty of watching it about 6 times and can’t wait to watch it again. It’s my favorite movie also because I loved the fact that Thanos was defeated in a crushing way. Fiction or not, I hate the idea of aliens ruling the earth! My hometown of Accra, Ghana has an incredibly complex history. In 1957, Ghana became the first self-governing country on the African continent under President Kwame Nkrumah. The population of Ghana is incredibly diverse, and the government of modern Ghana recognizes many national languages. Two of the most widespread are the Twi language of the Ashanti people, which is spoken in the southern and central regions, and the Dagbani language of the Dagomba people, spoken by people in areas to the north. Modern Ghanaians communicate across linguistic barriers using English as a unifier. About half of the country speaks English, and it is one of the nation’s official languages. In fact, Ghana’s National Anthem is sung in English. Soccer is a national pastime in Ghana and its national football team, known as the “Black Stars” after the five-pointed star displayed on their flag, has been competing on an international level since the 1940s. They are the envy of many African nations, having won the Africa Cup of Nations numerous times, and regularly go toe-to-toe with accomplished national teams like Mexico and Egypt. The local folks of Ghana have a hospitality that is unparalleled. Ghana is where you live what you believe. It is loving your neighbor and loving the world at the same time. Even if it is just by greeting people that you pass on the street with a “Good Morning”, or a two-hour conversation with an elder you just met, each person you meet in Ghana has the potential to enrich your personal outlook and views. And, they’re only a warm smile away. The way the languages, including English, are spoken have a rhythm of their own and a bouncing cadence that inspires you to call people “cha/charlie”, a term equivalent to “my friend”. Some of the things I like best about Ghana is our local dishes. I really like Fufu and Ghana Jollof rice with chicken. Fufu is a national dish of pounded cassava and plantain and is usually served with hot pepper soup and is like nothing you’ve ever eaten before. It’s delicious (like many of the traditional meals), fun to eat, and a staple for most Ghanaians. Also, Ghana’s landscape is a beautiful mosaic of waterfalls, rolling mountains, crystal white beaches, and winding red dirt roads through the countryside. Whether you’re into hiking, surfing, or canoeing, the country is jam packed with breathtaking natural gems and incredible biodiversity. There are many national parks to be visited, such as Kakum National Park, which is home to the only canopy walk in all of Africa, and Mole National Park, where you could spot some wild elephants or antelopes from your jeep if you’re lucky! Ghana is also home to the Wil Falls, the tallest waterfall in all West Africa. Not only is it a beautiful natural wonder, but the strenuous hike to get to it reveals to you what you’re capable of and makes the cool rushing water of the falls all the more refreshing. My experience in Springfield has been very interesting. Springfield is a very friendly and affordable place to live. I love the historic sites, museums and everything Abraham Lincoln! I’m becoming more aware of the region’s wildlife attractions, wineries and art galleries and this is really helping me add more fun places to visit on my bucket list. I choose UIS because of its high academic standing and affordable tuition plus the availability of various scholarships that helps students complete their degrees with little financial burdens. During my search for a place to do my master’s degree, I wanted a place where I will be able to merge theoretical studies with practical experience. The Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) creates that platform for students to demonstrate their aptitude beyond books! Also, the student-professor ratio is very encouraging because classes are small, and students get to easily connect with professors on a beneficial academic level. Lastly, UIS has a beautiful campus that is easy to maneuver with a well-stocked student library and a beautiful student union building where students meet and build social connections. Currently, I’m part of the International Student Association (ISA). Joining this club was particularly appealing to me because of the opportunity to serve the incoming students this fall and help them settle effectively just the same way other members helped me settle-in. I really needed that guidance and help when I first came because student engagements and registrations can be very overwhelming. I also work as a GPSI Graduate Intern at the Capital Development Board (CDB). Lesa Branham serves as my supervisor and is the Public Information Officer at CDB. In my little time there, she has really taught me a lot about how public organizations operate in Illinois and specifically Springfield. Working under her supervision has been a great professional development and mentoring journey for me while serving as an opportunity to demonstrate my aptitude beyond books. Working as an intern at CDB is enabling me to build a much-needed professional network, long-lasting relationships with industry players, senior state officials of Illinois, and like-minded colleagues at work that will serve as great references in attaining my career objective. Some tips I have for new students are: new students should ensure they have a well laid out plan that will help them effectively immerse themselves into the UIS campus culture whiles pursuing their academic goals. Interacting with students from diverse backgrounds has been an eye-opener for me and I know it is very pertinent for building future contacts and networks. They should seek to broaden their intellectual horizon with the academic and social exposure they will be soaking from such academic and social interactions.
Canada Day (French: Fête du Canada) is the national day of Canada. A federal statutory holiday, it celebrates the anniversary of July 1, 1867, the effective date of the Constitution Act, 1867 (then called the British North America Act, 1867), which united the three separate colonies of the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into a single Dominion within the British Empire called Canada. Originally called Dominion Day (French: Le Jour de la Confédération), the holiday was renamed in 1982, the year the Canada Act was passed. Canada Day celebrations take place throughout the country, as well as in various locations around the world, attended by Canadians living abroad. Most communities across the country will host organized celebrations for Canada Day, typically outdoor public events, such as parades, carnivals, festivals, barbecues, air and maritime shows, fireworks, and free musical concerts, as well as citizenship ceremonies. There is no standard mode of celebration for Canada Day.
We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. Following its adoption, the Declaration was read to the public in various American cities. Whenever they heard it, patriots erupted in cheers and celebrations. In 1777, Philadelphians remembered the 4th of July. Bells were rung, guns fired, candles lighted, and firecrackers set off. However, while the War of Independence dragged on, July 4 celebrations were modest at best. When the war ended in 1783, July 4 became a holiday in some places. In Boston, it replaced the date of the Boston Massacre, March 5, as the major patriotic holiday. Speeches, military events, parades, and fireworks marked the day. In 1941, Congress declared July 4 a federal holiday.

Today, Americans celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. People all around America will attend or watch a firework display that included patriotic music during the show with friends and family to celebrate freedom. Fireworks are enjoyed by almost everyone. You should have your choice of several locations in your area on the Fourth, or even the day before to find a firework display. The American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) estimates that more than 14,000 fireworks displays light up the nation’s sky each Independence Day. Stay safe, fireworks are beautiful to watch but very dangerous to play around with. Stay safe and enjoy our dependence day celebration!
I am from Surat, Gujarat, India, and I can speak Gujarati, Hindi, and English. I am currently earning my Master of Science – Computer Science. My dream job would be working in the IT industry. My interest is to go for motorcycle backpacking somewhere to explore the world and my first motorcycle backpacking trip was in Bhutan from knowing their cultures to cold river rafting and a good place to experiencing peace and happiness. #Hashtags that best describe me are #fun #badass. As for hobbies, learn and meet new people with different cultures, love to play volleyball and cricket, and hanging out with friends. I don't have favorite movies, but I like watching movies that are sci-fi or drama based on history. I have seen multiple times Interstellar and The Imitation Game. I’m from Surat, Gujarat in India. Even though I have lived in many other cities, I love my city of Surat, Gujarat because there are many beaches that I sometimes go cycling with my dad for 38 miles in the morning to the beach for fun and sometimes even have quality time with my family and my cousins. Even the weather is pleasant, it’s not too hot or too cold. I'm a foodie, I like all different cuisines, in my city has its own irreplaceable dish with piquant flavor that you probably won't find in other cities in Gujarat. Even though Springfield is a small city, I find people helpful, and plus you can also try ice staking, which I haven't ever tried in my life until last December, and it's even more fun and exciting with my friends. Go out and enjoy the city as well as explore the other cities near Springfield. While my time at UIS, I've been the event planner for the International Student Association since last Fall semester. Tips I have for future students are, participate in almost every activity and event around the campus. Don't be timid and just enjoy making new friends and discovering the different cultures.
I am from Japan, and I speak Japanese and English. My major is International Development Studies. My dream job would be to get a job related to international development or international cooperation on the world stage. Thanks to that, now I can cook my favorite food wherever I am! A #hashtags that best describes me is #smiley because I like my smile and want to make everyone happy with my smile! I like cooking. Since I started living by myself 4 years ago, I had to cook every day, which naturally became my favorite time. I often tried to cook Japanese food using limited ingredients during UIS school life. My favorite movie is “Aladdin” because I was so impressed with Jasmine’s courageous behavior as a female leader. Japan is an island country belonging to East Asia. The official language is Japanese, and the capital is Tokyo. Japan is a country where you can feel the beauty of the four seasons; spring, summer, fall, and winter. So, no matter what season you come to Japan, you will surely enjoy it. I love Japanese food, especially ramen. I missed only Japanese food while in UIS. Come to Japan for a taste of real Japanese food that you can't taste at Japanese restaurants in the United States! Some of the things I like best about Springfield is the nature of Springfield, especially the sky. It had different beauty in the morning, day, and night, and I was always healed by it. The sky calmed me from the window of the room even during the quarantine life before returning to Japan. I choose UIS because my major is International Development Studies and I'm particularly interested in Gender Studies. Therefore, I chose UIS, which has a major in “Women and Gender Studies.” Besides, since there are few Japanese students, I thought that I could make friends with diverse cultures and live a better study abroad life as an exchange student. While at UIS, I participated in many ISA events and occasionally helped with the running. It gave me the opportunity to make a lot of friends and now I have precious friends in ISA connections. Especially at the International Festival and Hinamatsuri (Girl’s celebration) events, I was able to appeal to Japanese culture. All the friends I met at UIS were very forgiving and kind to me. They helped me as soon as I was in trouble and invited me whenever there was something interesting. I mean, they’ve always been with me, both when it was fun and when it was painful. So, don't worry, you'll never be alone, and you'll enjoy UIS life thanks to them for sure. I assure you that you won’t regret choosing UIS!
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

UPCOMING DATES

June 1, 2020, Monday – Summer Full-Term and First-Half Classes Begin
June 27, 2020, Saturday – Mid-Point
June 29, 2020, Monday – Last-Half Classes Begin
July 3, 2020, Friday – Independence Day Observance, Campus Closed
July 25, 2020, Saturday – Summer Semester Ends
July 29, 2020, Wednesday (Noon) – Final Grading Deadline
August 24, 2020, Monday – Full-Term and First-Half Classes Begin