Welcome new and returning students! Hope all our students are settling into a new academic year at UIS. We are looking forward to supporting all our students as we continue to follow COVID-19 procedures. There are many opportunities to get involved, stay updated on our cultural and educational events planned by Erika Suzuki and the international ambassadors. Do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or phone call for any questions and resources you may need! Looking forward to getting to know our new students and continuing to support our returning students! Fall 2020, and so the adventure begins...
From the Director’s Desk

What a strange start to the fall semester! In the many years that I have been involved in one way or another with students (pretty much since I graduated, myself), I have never experienced anything like launching a new semester in the midst of a pandemic. I would guess that would be true of all of you, as well. As we continue to struggle with the inconveniences and the extra precautions, we should all be extremely appreciative of those who have worked so hard just to make this term possible. That includes, of course, all of you. Keep up the good work. This will eventually pass.

When you do get a chance to greet one another, do so. We have new international students from all around the world, even if their numbers are small. Especially because of the small numbers, they all need your help to learn about our campus community, Springfield, and the greater United States. They also will want to make new friends to help offset the many they have left behind. Give a little extra. They will appreciate it.

Our programming will be different this fall, too. Most of our activities will be online. That does not mean that they will not be fun. I am sure that all who participated in the virtual Welcome Party enjoyed that. The Foot-in-the-Door fair certainly helped some to find needed employment. Our OPT workshop provided great guidance for those considering Optional Practical Training. Keep an eye on this page of our website, and watch the campus announcements for more great opportunities.

As the fall season approaches, there will be many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Our Events page also includes links to 100 things to do in Springfield and the Visit Springfield Illinois website. Get out to the lake (UIS has a facility there), visit Washington Park, take in one of the many Abraham Lincoln sites, or just walk the loop and enjoy all the beautiful red maple trees.

If we work together, we can make this strange semester one of the best. It will certainly be memorable.

Best,

Rick Lane, Director ISS
Hello everyone! My name is Niti Kasodariya and I am a graduate student at UIS. I'm currently pursuing a Masters degree in computer science and I am fond of learning about new technology related to cyber-security. I am originally from India and I come from an Indian Gujarati family. I love to try out new adventures and love to explore new places, both nationally and internationally. I look forward to meeting you and I am curious to find out where you come from.

Hello everyone! My name is Tran Minh Truc Quynh, but most of my friends know me as Selina. I am an international student from Vietnam. I am currently a junior at UIS with my major Business Administration and minor in Management. I enjoy hanging out with friends and participating in outdoor activities in my free time. I look forward to meeting you and being friends with all of you!

Hello! I’m Spencer Lopez! I am a Senior here at UIS and I am currently studying Political Science and Global Studies. I am an American from Chicago. I come from a mixed Mexican/American background. I love to travel internationally and I am fascinated by foreign languages, cultures, and history! I look forward to meeting you and learning about where you come from.

Hello! I’m Ocean Pangan! I am an incoming senior at UIS. I’m currently pursuing a degree in business administration and love learning about how businesses differ around the world. I am originally from Arizona and I come from a family of Filipino descent. Along with being an ambassador, I play for the UIS Women’s golf team. Being an international student ambassador has been such a joy as we get to see students connect with one another from all over the world.

Hello! I’m Julia Wasik. I am a sophomore at UIS this fall. I am studying Global Studies, diplomacy, and politics. I am an American and Irish citizen. My momma is from Ireland and my dad is from the South side of Chicago, Polish! I enjoy working as an international student ambassador for international student services because of all the new things I learn. For example, last semester, we held an event about the Japanese girl's holiday called Hinamatsuri and how to cook up some super yummy, Indian-style veggie fried rice and Lassi smoothie—among other things. I am thankful to have met so many lovely people through this job; I hope I can meet more people and do what I can to improve the international student experience at UIS and in the US. I have a lot of respect for the courage and resilience it takes to study abroad and aim to be helpful to our international student population. I hope everyone is safe this fall!

Hello everyone! My name is Niti Kasodariya and I am a graduate student at UIS. I'm currently pursuing a Masters degree in computer science and I am fond of learning about new technology related to cyber-security. I am originally from India and I come from an Indian Gujarati family. I love to try out new adventures and love to explore new places, both nationally and internationally. I look forward to meeting you and I am curious to find out where you come from.
The Regata Storica is one of the most important traditional events in Venice. It takes place every first Sunday of September, which is this year on September 6, 2020. The event consists of 2 parts: a historical boat parade and a series of rowing races. Regatas have been part of the Venetian life for a very long time. The first records go back to the 13th century, when a regata was organized for the Festa delle Marie. The origins of the Regata Storica go back to 1841, when the Municipality of Venice asked the Austrian authorities to organize an annual boat race on Canal Grande. This would give the opportunity to encourage the gondoliers and honour their skills. In 1866, when Venice became part of Italy, the focus of the event shifted towards a celebration of the history of the Republic of Venice. In 1899, the name ‘Regata Storica’ was given by Count Filippo Grimani, the mayor of Venice.
My name is Tasneem Shaik. I speak Urdu (first language), English, Telugu and Hindi. I am from Andhra Pradesh, a state in the southern part of India. India is the largest democratic country in the world. The 7th largest Country in the world, and one of the ancient Civilizations. I come from a place called Guntur which is famous for its red chili, cotton and tobacco exports and has the largest chili market yard in Asia. It is located approximately 23 miles away from the capital, Amaravati. Also, known for its tourist places. I really like India because the people of different religions and cultures live together with a great sense of brotherhood. This real sense of diversity is only found in India.

I am a Computer Science Graduate Student. After completing my studies UIS as a CS graduate, I would like to take up a position which excites me and fulfill my core competencies. I want my dream job to be an opportunity that enlightens my vision to bring in innovative solutions in the era of new emerging sophisticated technologies. My hobbies include painting, drawing, singing, trying some new DIY’s. Also, I enjoy nature. Being On-campus, gives me a great experience with deer, fawn, rabbits and geese. I have a scenic view from my room where every day I see many deer around and I just enjoy watching them while I am at my study desk. Hashtags that describe me are #creative #naturelover #adventurous. I love to watch Disney/animation movies. It, kind of takes me to an imaginary world. ‘Taare zameen par’ is one of my favorite Bollywood movies. Apart from that, I would watch any movies that carry a message for society. I am a huge fan of homemade recipes, more specifically cooked by my mom. Also, I am a huge fan of Goat Biryani. I haven’t gotten much of an opportunity to try different foods in the US, however, I like tacos and Italian.

UIS is like another home for me, I had many things to learn when I started. Firstly, I began to learn how to cook and I realized it was not very difficult. Secondly, I managed to organize things even better, as I am responsible for everything independently. Thirdly, I have built up my confidence levels from ‘Maybe it’s difficult’ to ‘I can do it’. I am an actively involved member of all on-campus events. Also, I am Vice president at Indian Students Organization (ISO) and an active member of International Students Association (ISA). I want new students to know that life is full of opportunities, try to use them and if you don’t find one then create one for yourself. Always remember the journey towards your goal, it will boost you up each time you realize that you are one more step closer to it.
Hispanic Heritage Month takes place September 15 to October 15 every year as a time to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Latino community. Beginning in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed as “Hispanic Heritage Week” under President Lyndon Johnson, but it was later extended to a month during President Ronald Reagan’s term in 1988. Since then, the month has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. The month also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries, including: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th. They also include holidays that recognize Hispanic contributions such as Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day that is celebrated in the U.S. Virgin Islands.
Hispanic Heritage Month at UIS

Your Fight is My Fight
Tu Lucha Es Mi Lucha

University of Illinois Springfield
Hispanic/LatinX Heritage Month 2020

Get to know GPhiO
Thursday, September 10th at 8pm
Student Union Ballroom

Flag Raising
Tuesday, September 15th at 7pm
Legacy Campus

LGBTQea:
Gender/Sexual Minorities Within the Latinx Community
Thursday, September 17th at 4pm
GS 333 Lounge & Virtual Option

Trivia Night With the Swans:
Noche de Juego
Thursday, September 24th 6pm to 9pm
PAC C/D

Mi Voto
Monday, September 28th at 4pm
LHN 2008

 UIS World Cup
Saturday, September 19th at 12pm
REC Park

Trivia Night With the Swans:
Noche de Juego
Thursday, September 24th 6pm to 9pm
PAC C/D

Migrant Workers
Saturday, October 3rd at 5pm
UIS Garden

Asylum Seekers and the legal system
Wednesday, October 7th
5pm to 6pm (Virtual Zoom Panel)

Toxic Masculinity:
The Cycle within Hispanic/Latinx Communities
Friday, October 9th
5pm to 7pm
Student Union Ballroom

Closing Event
Thursday, October 15th at 1pm
Diversity Center

The Diversity Center is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. Please contact us at 217-206-6333 or diversity@uis.edu to request disability accommodations. One week advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

For the most up to date information, please visit uis.edu/diversitycenter

Sponsors: Baile Monarcas, Department of Political Science, Diversity Center, Future Health Professionals, Gamma Phi Omega Int. Sorority Inc., Gender and Sexuality Student Services, Organization of Latin American Students, Residence Life, Sigma Lambda Beta Int. Fraternity Inc., Student Activities Committee, Student Life, SOTA, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Women's Center
Public Service Announcement

Scams Targeting International Students

A CALLER ID SPOOFING SCAM WAS REPORTED ON 9/1/2020, AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM AN INDIVIDUAL CLAIMING TO BE WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE. THE INDIVIDUAL STATED THAT THE STUDENT’S SOCIAL SECURITY APPLICATION WAS SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY.

THE PERPETRATORS OF THE SCAM CAN ALTER CALLER ID SYSTEMS TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE CALL IS COMING. PLEASE BE ADVISED STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY AFFILIATED WITH UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS WILL NEVER BE CALLED AND THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION OR ARREST BY “THE UIS POLICE DEPARTMENT”

IF YOU RECEIVE A CALL LIKE THIS IT IS A SCAM, PLEASE COME TO THE UIS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REPORT THIS INCIDENT IMMEDIATELY. CHECK OUT ISS WEBSITE PAGE REGARDING INFORMATION ABOUT SCAMS TARGETING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
UIS International Student Services

Social Media

Facebook: International Student Services at University of Illinois Springfield
Instagram: @uisinternational
Twitter: @UISIntlStudents
Take a virtual Tour around Campus!

https://youtu.be/rKqL6op_TMI

Find Us:
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Springfield, IL 62703-5407

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

Contact Us:
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Email: iss@uis.edu