WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS! 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! SPRING 2021, AND SO THE ADVENTURE BegiNS...
It’s a new year and a new semester for all. It is a new beginning of a new educational program for some. Others have completed their studies and have begun new practical training positions. All of us are hoping for a brighter, safer, and healthier 2021. Let’s make each day a little better than the one before.

UIS has done a great job so far of keeping everyone safe and moving along even in these difficult days. We all have much of which to be proud. Still, we cannot relax our efforts just yet. Most student programming, classes, advising, etc. will continue to occur online for the foreseeable future.

Watch our website for immigration-related news. We keep that up to date. Check regularly for new events and cultural education opportunities. Be sure to read every email that we send out. When in doubt, drop us a message, either via email or voicemail. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

For now, the office remains closed to drop-in visits. You can still arrange to pick up your government notices or updated immigration forms, but the hours are limited. Check those before making the trip.

All of us in ISS wish you the best this winter.
Let us know how we can help.

Rick Lane
I AM FROM LUSAKA, ZAMBIA. I AM ONLY FLUENT IN ENGLISH, BUT I DO PARTIALLY SPEAK NYANJA (THE NATIVE LANGUAGE OF ZAMBIA) AND HINDI (INDIAN). ZAMBIA IS A VERY SMALL AND LIVELY PLACE, BUT I LOVE THAT BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE KNOW EACH OTHER AND IT IS LIKELY THAT YOU WILL MEET SOMEBODY YOU KNOW WHEREVER YOU ARE. I AM MAJORING IN FINANCE. MY DREAM JOB WOULD EITHER TO BE A PROFESSIONAL GOLFER. I JUST LOVE TO DO ANYTHING OUTDOORS; THIS MEANS THAT I AM ALWAYS DOWN TO SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS. ONE OF MY FAVORITE MOVIES IS COACH CARTER BECAUSE OF THE DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK THAT THE STUDENTS HAVE PUT IN TO ACHIEVE WHAT THEY DO IN THE END ONLY BECAUSE THEY NEVER GAVE UP. A HASHTAG THAT BEST DESCRIBES ME IS #ONELOVE. I WOULD LOVE TO TRAVEL TO THE BAHAMAS, THE UK, AND GREECE. THE THING I LIKE THE MOST ABOUT SPRINGFIELD IS THAT IT IS A SMALL CITY THAT HAS EVERYTHING NEARBY THE UNIVERSITY. MY FAVORITE FOOD IN MY HOME COUNTRY IS NSHIMA AND CAPENTA, BUT IN THE US IT IS DEFINITELY A TEXAS BARBEQUE. I CHOOSE TO ATTEND UIS BECAUSE I AM ABLE TO EARN A HIGH NATIONALLY RANKED UNIVERSITY DEGREE WHILE PLAYING GOLF AT A DIVISION 2 LEVEL. THE UIS GOLF TEAM HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE AND FRIENDLY TEAMS I VISITED. I AM NOT ACTIVELY PART OF ANY CLUBS, BUT I DO REPRESENT UIS ON THE MEN’S GOLF TEAM. AFTER UIS, IF I CAN DO WELL IN MY GOLF CAREER I WOULD PLAY GOLF, OTHERWISE, I WOULD LOOK FOR A JOB AS AN ACCOUNTANT TO WORK MY WAY UP IN THE BUSINESS. A TIP I HAVE FOR NEW STUDENTS IS TO COME IN WITH LOW EXPECTATIONS AND JUST GO WITH THE FLOW. IF YOU ENTER A NEW ENVIRONMENT WITH AN OPEN MIND IT WILL BE VERY EASY TO ADAPT AND BEGIN TO ENJOY.
Rio Carnival celebrations are a mix of Portuguese and African traditions. It used to mark the last time to eat freely before entering the 40 days of Lent. Nowadays, the party focuses on the parades of the 200+ samba schools at the Sambadrome. They bring some 30,000 participants and there are about 90,000 seats to see the show, which starts at 10 pm and can go until dawn. Floats progress along the 700 metre runway, surrounded by the precise choreography of their followers, who show absolute dedication.
It's called the Lunar New Year because it marks the first new moon of the lunisolar calendars traditional to many east Asian countries including China and Vietnam, which are regulated by the cycles of the moon and sun. A solar year—the time it takes Earth to orbit the sun—lasts around 365 days, while a lunar year, or 12 full cycles of the Moon, is roughly 354 days. A month is still defined by the moon, but an extra month is added periodically to stay close to the solar year. This is why the new year falls on a different day within that month-long window each year. In China, the 15-day celebration kicks off on New Year's Eve with a family feast called a reunion dinner full of traditional Lunar New Year foods and culminates with the Lantern Festival. The Lunar New Year isn't only observed in China, it's celebrated across several countries and other territories in Asia, including South Korea and Singapore. In Vietnam, Lunar New Year is known as Tết, and in Tibet it's Losar. In the U.S., though, it's most commonly associated with what's often called Chinese New Year, the American version of China's 15-day-long festivities.
Taste of Culture

The U.S. celebrates Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs, and host performances and lectures.

Famous Quotes:

"We must never forget that Black History is American History."

YVETTE CLARKE, U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN

IN THE END,
WE WILL REMEMBER
NOT THE WORDS
OF OUR ENEMIES,
BUT THE SILENCE
OF OUR FRIENDS.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Your voices matter,
your dreams matter,
your lives matter.
Be the roses that
grow in the concrete.

ANGIE THOMAS, THE HATE U GIVE

“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.”

DR. MAE JEMISON,
FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE ASTRONAUT
Black History Month:
The Chicago Defender History

The Chicago Defender is a Chicago-based online African-American newspaper. It was founded in 1905 by Robert S. Abbott and was once considered the "most important" newspaper of its kind Abbott's newspaper reported and campaigned against Jim Crow era violence and urged black people in the American South to come north in what became the Great Migration. Abbott worked out an informal distribution system with Pullman porters who surreptitiously (and sometimes against southern state laws and mores) took his paper by rail far beyond Chicago, especially to African American readers in the Southern United States. Under his nephew and chosen successor, John H. Sengstake, the paper took on segregation, especially in the U.S. military, during World War II. Copies of the paper were passed along in communities, and it is estimated that at its most successful, each copy made its way into the hands of four out of five African-Americans. In 1919–1922, The Defender attracted the writing talents of Langston Hughes; from the 1940s through the 1960s Hughes also wrote an opinion column for the paper. Washington D.C and international correspondent Ethel Payne, poet Gwendolyn Brooks, author Willard Motley, journalists Ida B. Wells and Louis Lomax wrote for the paper at different times. During the height of the civil rights movement era, it was published as The Chicago Daily Defender, a daily newspaper, beginning in 1956. It returned to a weekly paper in 2008. In 2019, its publisher, Real Times Media Inc., announced that the Defender would cease its print edition but continue as an online publication. The editorial board of the Chicago Tribune, noting the impact The Defender has had in its 114 years, praised the continuation of the publication in its new form.

Read the full book to gain more knowledge on the impact the Chicago Defender had on American History!
Black History Month: 
Women behind Hidden Figures

The movie and book "Hidden Figures" highlight 3 prominent Black Women from NASA. The women of Hidden Figures each have unique stories and achievements. Katherine Johnson focuses on the movie and book. She holds many titles, such as one of the first three people to integrate West Virginia's graduate school and a summa cum laude college graduate at age 18. Her most memorable accomplishment, however, is beyond even these: she got mankind into orbit. She began her journey as a computer in an all-black computing section of a NASA lab, analyzing flight test data for a group of engineers. When these engineers were reassigned to the John Glenn mission, she went with them, launching her career in unimaginable ways. Despite the odds, Katherine Johnson soon became the one writing her own equations. John Glenn himself said that if she reviewed the equations and numbers for his flight, he felt safe and ready to take off. She worked tirelessly. Eventually, what started as a job running numbers through a calculator became the pathway to becoming one of the first women at NASA to co-author a research paper. When white men ran the world of physics and spaceflight, Katherine Johnson let nothing stop her. Working beside Johnson throughout this journey was Dorothy Vaughn. She was hired as a computer after Roosevelt signed a law banning racial discrimination in public defense. However, black computers were still segregated in a separate wing of NASA's Langley Laboratory. She was eventually promoted to lead the black female computers, making her NASA's first black supervisor. She was given access to the whole laboratory, not just the segregated wing, and her intelligence and creativity were finally allowed to flourish. She worked with white computers on projects like writing a handbook about calculating machines. When engineers had difficult tasks, they would request her specifically to work on it. She went on to work in the desegregated Analysis and Computation Division and became an expert in FORTRAN programming. Her grace and resilience in the face of discrimination are as admirable as the hundreds of different coding and computing problems she solved. One more woman's story is featured in Hidden Figures: that of Mary Jackson. Jackson fought against so much prejudice in her life and still was so successful and inspiring. As a black woman, she was never taken seriously in her desire to become an engineer. She worked under Dorothy Vaughan as a computer but wanted more. She eventually achieved this dream when she was selected to work in NASA's Supersonic Pressure Tunnel. To fulfill her duties in the position, she would need to return to school and take engineering classes. She was working full-time, so her only option was night classes at a local segregated high school. She took her case to the city court to fight for her ability to participate in an all-white class, and she won. She excelled in her courses and received her engineering qualifications. Jackson became NASA's first black female engineer. He went on to study the behavior of the layer of air around airplanes, writing around a dozen papers on the subject during her fruitful career. Hidden Figures opened up a much larger conversation about black women in STEM. These three women's stories give today's black female astrophysicists a reference point to talk about their own experiences. The movie reached a wide audience, helping to destigmatize black women discussing discrimination in STEM and non-black scientists to reflect on how they could reform their practices to be better allies to their black female colleagues.
Black History Month:

THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

CHECK OUT VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS OFFERED BY THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE
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Upcoming Events

LUNAR NEW YEAR 2021 CELEBRATION– FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 1-3 PM @ SLC

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY– FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 1-3 PM @ TBA

The IRS announced that 2021 tax filing season begins on February 12, 2021. For more information can be found here. The office of International Student Services strongly recommends all international students/nonresident for tax purposes to wait their tax filing until the IRS starts accepting it. Meanwhile, please join us at the Nonresident Tax Workshop by Paul Caselton J.D. from 3 – 4 pm on February 2 on zoom. For more information, contact Erika at esuzu2@uis.edu.
Take a virtual Tour around Campus!

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