Wow! What a great send-off for our May 2021 graduates! During this pandemic year, everything was a bit different, but we are very glad that everything improved enough for you to enjoy a “stage experience” with the Chancellor and other celebrations with your friends. Now, as you move on to the next great adventure, whether back in your home country, continuing studies on another degree, or taking advantage of F-1 Optional Practical Training, we wish for you every success possible. Please keep in touch!

Others reading this message have not yet set foot on our campus. You will love it! Ask your friends who have already attended. Also check out the new website (launching June 1). It includes a virtual tour of our beautiful campus and all that awaits you. If you have obtained your visa, upload a copy of that via iStart as soon as possible so that you can get registered for your fall courses. Registration has already begun, and some of those classes will fill quickly. If you have not yet gotten that visa, keep checking with the local US consulate. National Interest Exemptions are available for F-1 students in most countries. Emergency appointments may also be available as your travel date approaches. The consulate will have the latest information on its website.

We are already preparing for your orientation. It will take place all day on August 18. That means that you will need to arrive on campus (or at your off-campus housing) no later than August 17. Be sure to make those housing arrangements prior to your arrival. Please log into iStart and submit your arrival confirmation as soon as you have your trip planned.

And, for our returning students, know that we are doing everything possible to return to some semblance of normalcy for the fall term. We are even working on the fall International Festival (see previous festivals on our website.) We hated to have to cancel the Festival last year for the very first time since it began some 45 years ago. We are determined to make it happen in some form this fall.

We are already working on a schedule of events like those we used to have before the pandemic. There will be a Welcome Party. There will be off-campus excursions. There will be special holiday celebrations. There will be all those new, fun things that you will help us to plan. It will be a great first year at UIS.

For all of you, we continue to do things the safest way possible as we work together to put this pandemic behind us. We are still doing much of our work remotely this summer, but there are document pick-up hours and opportunities for direct contact as needed. Everyone living and working on campus is either testing every week or is fully vaccinated. The Chancellor continues to hold regular (now bi-weekly) open forums via Zoom on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 (Central Time) and is putting out update letters most weeks. New decisions are happening quickly. You will want to follow those to keep up. The forums are recorded and the information is added to the UIS website regularly.

Have a great summer, everyone. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Rick Lane
Congratulations 2021 International Graduates

Congratulations from ISS

On behalf of the Office of International Student Services and all of our staff, I would like to add our congratulations to the other voices in celebration of the end of the academic year and the new phase of your life journey. We hope that you have found the time you spend in your ISB education to be rewarding in your life and that you continue your journey towards your future goals. We hope you have enjoyed your years with us and that you stay in touch with us and get in touch with us! Your time at ISB has produced long lasting memories.

Sincerely,
Rick Lane, Director ISS

Congratulations from ISS

Congratulations! I admire every dream of you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors! I hope your education at ISS brings rewards to your life and please stay in touch.

It will be a fun and exciting occasion!

Jalene Vollmer
ISS Immigration Advisor

Congratulations from ISS

Congratulations, Class of 2021! I am so proud of you. I am so happy that I could be a part of your journey with you all. I am looking forward to hearing about everyone’s future goals. Good luck!

Geraldine Miller
Graduate Assistant

Congratulations from ISS

Congratulations, Class of 2021! I am very excited to be a proud of you. I am looking forward to hearing about everyone’s future goals. Good luck!

Erika Suzuki
Program Coordinator

¡Felicitaciones!

Félicitations!

おめでとう

Tebrikler

Herzlichen Glückwünsche!

Gratulieren!

 Applies to all languages

Congratulations from ISS

Congratulations, Class of 2021! I am very excited to be proud of you. I am looking forward to hearing about everyone’s future goals. Good luck!

Gratuluję!
2021 International Graduates

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

June 2021

JANET AFOLABI
Country of Origin: Nigeria
Major: MPA Public Administration
Favorite Memory: International experience which has been such a huge resource for me. I have got to meet so many wonderful people, and I have learned so much from them.

PRIYANKHA NARENDRA BABU
Country of Origin: India
Major: Computer Science
Favorite Memory: International experience which has been such a huge resource for me. I have got to meet so many wonderful people, and I have learned so much from them.

PRANOY BAIYA
Country of Origin: India
Major: MS Management Information Systems
Favorite Memory: I am moving to stand up as a final time job before I pass my final exams.

ASHWINI ASH BHOLE
Country of Origin: India
Major: MS Computer Science
Favorite Memory: Meeting people from all over the world.

KAMPANA BITALLI
Country of Origin: India
Major: MBA Business
Favorite Memory: Working with my colleagues and staff from the Career Development office.

RENAE CALDER
Country of Origin: Canada
Major: MS Human Development Counseling
Favorite Memory: I am moving to stand up as a final time job before I pass my final exams.

JESUS CASTILLO
Country of Origin: Spain
Major: MA Accountancy
Favorite Memory: Playing for the USC Men’s Basketball Team.

SHASHANK CHADALAVADA
Country of Origin: India
Major: MS Computer Science
Favorite Memory: Meeting people from all over the world.

ALEX CHAN
Country of Origin: United Kingdom
Major: MA Psychology
Favorite Memory: I am moving to stand up as a final time job before I pass my final exams.

TANOBLE DONGOH
Country of Origin: Nigeria
Major: MS Management Information Systems
Favorite Memory: Working with people from all over the world.

DEEPIKA GUDISE
Country of Origin: India
Major: MS Management Information Systems
Favorite Memory: Working with people from all over the world.

DOMINIKA KAMINSKA
Country of Origin: Poland
Major: MS Public Administration
Favorite Memory: I am moving to stand up as a final time job before I pass my final exams.

NITI KASODARIYA
Country of Origin: India
Major: MS Computer Science
Favorite Memory: Meeting people from all over the world.

NOUF KHALIFI
Country of Origin: Saudi Arabia
Major: MPH Public Health Environmental Health
Favorite Memory: Meeting people from all over the world.

UDAYA SRITH RISSOULI
Country of Origin: India
Major: MS Computer Science
Favorite Memory: Meeting people from all over the world.

VAMSHI “KITTU” KRISHNA KOTHA
Country of Origin: India
Major: MS Computer Science
Favorite Memory: Meeting people from all over the world.

JAIME KREISLER
Country of Origin: Spain
Major: BSc Economics
Favorite Memory: Being on the 5th Millennial Tour.

TING WEN “JAMES” LIN
Country of Origin: Taiwan
Major: MA Accountancy
Favorite Memory: Meeting people from all over the world.
I am from Bogotá, Colombia. Colombia is a unique country with a tremendous variety of landscapes, wildlife, traditions, and peoples. My favorite thing about Colombia is that there is a lot of nature around. I grew up in the city, but it does not take me long to drive to a National Park and go for a hike. In 2019, I had the chance to travel to the Amazon Rainforest and I loved it! I speak Spanish and English. I love to swim, I used to be a national champion in my country and had the opportunity to travel to other countries for swim events. A hashtag that represents me is #curious. I love learning about other cultures, and I get extremely curious sometimes. I would love to travel to many countries! I got the chance to make friends from many places. If I had the chance I would love to visit: Vietnam, India, South Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Amsterdam, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand, Morocco, Spain, France, Nepal, Ghana, Ivory Coast. In Colombia my favorite food is the Colombian BBQ, where we grill corn, plantains, meat, and arepas. In the US I love the diversity of cuisines, so I had the chance to try multiple dishes, so it is hard to pick one. So far, I was surprised by the impossible whopper, a plant-based protein burger from Burger King. It tastes just like meat! I love trying new foods from other cultures, however I do not do well with spicy food. In my country we do not eat much spicy food. My favorite movie is Spirited Away from Hayao Miyazaki. I love it because it shows a strong female character overcoming everything ahead of her, and it reminds me that there is always a way out. I am currently getting my Master of Science in Environmental Sciences focus on Environmental Planning and Management. My dream job would be to work for a major international organization that protects the environment, such as the United Nations (UNEP), World Nature Organization (WNO) or the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). I choose UIS because of the great internship opportunities and the high-quality graduate education offered. For me, graduating with a Master’s and two years of work experience is very important. UIS is unique in providing this opportunity to students that have not had too much work experience. Thanks to UIS I feel prepared and ready for a future career in Environmental Sciences. People are very friendly here! I feel very welcomed wherever I go. I noticed that in big cities, people are not that friendly, but here in Springfield it is different! I am part of the community Garden club at UIS. I am not an expert at gardening, but every time I help, I learn something new. I am also Co-vice president of the Research Society at UIS, where we encourage and support students that want to start a research project. I am also part of the Graduate Public Service Internship Program interning at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as a Source Water Protection Intern. I would recommend new students to use all the resources that the University provides, there are academic resources, mentoring, tutoring, UIS pantry food, counseling, etc... After UIS I will be in search of a job in my field. I am not sure if I will stay in Springfield or not, but I am open to any opportunities in any state.
Madaraka Day is celebrated as a national holiday in Kenya on June 1st. If June 1st falls on a Sunday, the following Monday will be a holiday. Madraka is the Swahili word for 'power' and Madraka Day is a public holiday that commemorates the day that Kenya took power when it attained internal self-rule in 1963. The first colonists from Europe to have a presence in Kenya was German. In 1890, the region came under the control of the Imperial British East Africa Company, and Kenya was part of the British East Africa protectorate from 1895 until it became a British crown colony in 1920.

Disputes over land were common, leading to the Mau Mau rebellion by the Kikuyu people in 1952, which effectively put Kenya into a state of emergency for the next seven years.

The first direct elections took place in 1957, with the Kenya African National Union led by Jomo Kenyatta, an ethnic Kikuyu, forming the first government.

On June 1st, 1963, Kenya became a self-governing country when Jomo Kenyatta became the first prime minister.

Full independence from British rule followed on December 12th, 1963 when Kenya became an independent nation.

This is one of the three national holidays created by Article 8 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. To celebrate Madaraka Day, Kenyans will gather together in their thousands at the venue that has been selected for each year's official event.

The event features military parades and singing and dancing. The most important part of the event is the Madaraka day speech, given by the President. The speech often addresses the struggle for freedom in the country and touches on other issues that are affecting the country. The national anthem is then sung to bring the celebrations to an end.
The word “picnic” probably gets its origins from the French language, specifically from the word “pique-nique”. It is believed that this type of informal outdoor meal became a popular pastime in France after the French Revolution in the mid-1800s when it was possible again to get out into the country’s royal parks. However, even if it began in France, it has become a lovely activity that has spread all over the world.

As fans of Jane Austen novels will know, 19th-century picnics in England became elaborate social occasions, with menus featuring a wide range of cold meats and pies that took days to prepare.

Over the years, picnics have sometimes come to represent the gathering of the common people in political protest. One of the more famous of these was the Pan-European Picnic that took place in the summer of 1989 at the border of Austria and Hungary. It was part of many protests against communism that year that led to the fall of the Iron Curtain.

More recently, in 2009, the Guinness Book of World Records made note of the record for the largest picnic in the world. It took place with more than 20,000 people in Lisbon, Portugal.

Today’s picnics might be a bit more casual, sometimes just a few pieces of bread and cheese thrown into a paper bag and eaten on a park bench will suffice. A picnic can be centered around just about anything the participants want it to be, including games and other outdoor activities.

International Picnic Day is celebrated in many countries—a simple opportunity to enjoy the beauty of eating outside!
Every year, during the month of June, the LGBT community celebrates in a number of different ways. Across the globe, various events are held during this special month as a way of recognizing the influence LGBT people have had around the world. Why was June chosen? Because it is when the Stonewall Riots took place, way back in 1969. The Stonewall Riots were riots prompted by a raid that took place during the early morning, at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, Manhattan. The LGBT community held a series of spontaneous, often violent demonstrations to protest against the raid and calling for the establishment of places that gays and lesbians could go and be open about their sexual orientation. In such places, there should be no fears of being arrested. The riots served as a catalyst for the rights of LGBT people, and within 6 months, 2 gay activist groups had formed in New York. Over the years since the event, many gay rights organizations have been formed. Not just in the US but around the world.

As well as being a month-long celebration, Pride month is also an opportunity to peacefully protest and raise political awareness of current issues facing the community. Parades are a prominent feature of Pride month, and there are many street parties, community events, poetry readings, public speaking, street festivals, and educational sessions all of which are covered by mainstream media and attracting millions of participants.

The New York Pride Parade is one of the largest and most well-known parades to take place, with an estimated 500,000 people participating in it by the time it had reached its 25th anniversary. Pride Month is so important because it marks the start of huge change within the LGBT+ community, as well as the wider societal implications. Although attitudes and injustice still remain, we have come a long way since the riots of 1969 and by continuing in this long-standing tradition we continue to raise awareness, improve the attitudes of society and encourage inclusiveness.
SUMMER HOURS

PICK-UP & WALK-IN
MONDAY: 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM
WEDNESDAY: 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM
FRIDAY: 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

OFFICE OPERATING HOURS:
MONDAY- FRIDAY: 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

PHONE: 217-206-6678
(COUNTRY CODE 011)
EMAIL: ISS@UIS.EDU