

UIS Parent & Family Newsletter

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New Student
Orientation and
Parent Relations

ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

2019 Fall Newsletter

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Fall Notes from the Director of New Student Orientation & Parent Relations

Can you believe we are nearing the end of the fall semester? Time has flown here in the Enrollment Management office. After orienting our largest first-year class ever, we jumped right into planning mode for Family Days. In between, I've worked on our new Preview UIS visit days (formerly Preview Days), attended some college fairs, and met with prospective students. Did you hear that UIS is waiving the application fee this year? If you know students who are in their college search let them know they can apply to UIS for free.

Thank you to everyone who came out to Family Days. We had a lot of fun at our annual carnival. Stay tuned to the NSOPR Facebook page. We hope to announce our dates for next year around the new year.

I hope everyone enjoyed the rest and relaxation during Thanksgiving break. Students have one last week of classes before final exams, so do something fun to help them relieve study stress – send a card (email or snail mail) or some yummy treats (snail mail is better for care packages) and let them know you are thinking of them. Soon enough they will be back home for their long winter's break.

Thankfully,

Lisa

uis.edu/newstudentorientation

Follow NSOPR on Facebook



facebook.com/uisnewstudentorientation





Student Insurance

UIS policy requires all students attending an on-campus or blended class to have a provable source of health insurance, which is ACA compliant and comparable to the plan offered by the university.

Any incoming students new to UIS in Spring 2020 will need to decide if they want to keep this automatically assessed insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield, or if they want to opt out of the UIS student health plan by filing an online waiver.

Students who opted out of the UIS student insurance in Fall 2019 will have coverage waived throughout the academic year ending Aug. 15, 2020.

For students who accepted/enrolled in the UIS student insurance coverage in Fall 2019, and who continue enrollment in an on-campus or blended course for Spring 2020, health insurance coverage will continue uninterrupted.

However, optional dental coverage and optional dependent coverage will need to be re-elected via the forms available on the [AcademicHealthPlan website](#).

Thank you, UIS Office of Student Insurance

Contact: Phone: 217-206-7237

Email: studentinsurance@uis.edu

UIS Women's Center

By Molly Looby, Graduate Assistant at the Women's Center

This fall semester has been a busy and fulfilling time at the Women's Center! Starting off, we participated semester launch by hosting "The Hook-Up," a comedic event aimed at fighting myths around consent and sex with engaging jokes and honest conversation. With about 300 students in attendance, it's safe to say the event was a huge success. Following The Hook-Up, we presented "It's On Us Week," with events aimed at educating the campus on bystander intervention. Throughout these events, which included consent workshops and a film screening, we collected signatures and linked them together to create a vibrant chain, totaling over 800 signatures to show that our campus stands together against sexual assault.

We also began hosting social/educational events in our lounge on the first Friday of every month, called "First Fridays." These events take on a variety of different formats, such as coloring and crafting, or

making zines with Planned Parenthood Generation Action. They are all aimed at helping students build meaningful relationships with each other and learning about important topics.

Finally, we partnered with many folks around campus to create a video raising awareness on campus regarding relationship violence prevention and support through the "#1Thing Campaign." The "#1Thing Campaign" asserts that we all have a role to play in ending relationship violence, and we can all do things to change society for the better. Many students from Greek Life, Athletics and other campus organizations and offices participated, along with staff from support offices including the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Counseling Center and the Title IX office.

We look forward to continuing to engage students in great ways in the spring!



UIS Environmental Studies Department

Six Environmental Studies students and a professor spent a week in Japan and a month in China studying energy sciences, sustainability, and Chinese culture and language. They were joined by students from UIC and UIUC (who did not go to Japan). We're doing this trip again in 2020.

Health Services introduces the new Patient Portal!

Gain access to the new Patient Portal and take a more active role in managing your care. With your online patient portal account, powered by Mediat™, you can access and manage your health information in a secure, online environment—24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Registration is Easy!

- Visit www.uis.edu/healthservices
- Click the Patient Portal graphic link shown below
- Follow the directions to register your account
- Begin accessing your records immediately

Get secure online access to:

- Obtain immunization records
- Review secure messages
- View educational materials
- Obtain walk-out statements
- View/cancel upcoming appointments
- Complete Medical History Form (new patients/annually)



ALL NEW incoming students will submit the Required Immunization Information

On the UIS Admissions web page, under Check Application Status, locate **Required Immunization Information** on the **checklist**, and follow the instructions to submit your vaccines.

www.uis.edu/admissions

Or, you can go to Health Services web page and click on the graphic link shown below.

www.uis.edu/healthservices





UIS Office of Advancement

By Lisa Whelpley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development

Reaching Stellar: The Campaign for the University of Illinois Springfield seeks to raise \$40 million to benefit students, faculty and the community.

UIS launched the public phase of the largest fundraising campaign in its history on Oct. 10, 2017. Named *Reaching Stellar: The Campaign for the University of Illinois Springfield*, this fundraising campaign is a strategy for taking UIS—with donors’ help—toward greater excellence and greater impact for our community, our state and beyond.

As of Oct. 1, 2019, the University of Illinois Foundation had received commitments of more than \$31.4 million in gifts, grants and pledges, according to Jeff Lorber, UIS vice chancellor for advancement. The campaign will continue through 2022.

The UIS Center for Lincoln Studies, a campaign priority, will be a national base for scholarship, teaching and public history about Lincoln’s life, leadership and legacy. It will incubate and sustain university-community collaborative projects, connecting UIS students with myriad opportunities available locally in Springfield, as well as connecting Lincoln to a national and international context.



REACHING STELLAR CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

Other campaign priorities include: scholarships; academic excellence; facilities and technology, including the new Student Union; and programs that contribute to the public good. These programs include outreach into the community, such as NPR Illinois, the Illinois Innocence Project, Sangamon Auditorium and others.

Visit the [Reaching Stellar](#) page if you want to learn more about giving options

UIS News

By Blake Wood, Assistant Director of Public Relations

UIS ranked the fourth best public regional university in the Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report*



The University of Illinois Springfield was ranked the fourth best public university in the Midwest Regional

category and the top public regional university in Illinois by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2020 rankings released in September.

Overall, UIS moved up three spots among public universities in the Best Regional Universities – Midwest category this year, having been ranked seventh in the 2019 rankings.

“UIS’ outstanding faculty and staff are committed to providing every student with a premier educational experience both in and out of the classroom,” said UIS Chancellor Susan Koch. “This prestigious ranking reflects the positive impact of our outgoing investments to enhance the academic quality and reputation of the University.”

continued

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, some of the factors it looked at in determining the ranking include retention and graduation rates, faculty resources (such as class size and faculty salary), academic reputation, financial resources available to students, how well students performed academically in high school (including ACT/SAT and high school percentile rank) and alumni giving.

"Our students – a dedicated mix of first-time freshmen, returning and working adults, transfer, graduate, international, online, resident and commuter scholars – bestow this honor on us by seeking out UIS to transform themselves, each other, their families and communities," said Natalie Herring, UIS associate provost for enrollment management. UIS was also ranked as one of the best ethnically diverse campuses in the Midwest category with an overall Diversity Index of 0.50. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, the closer a school's number is to one, the more diverse the student population. The data was drawn from UIS' fall 2018 total undergraduate student body.

Since 2006, UIS has been ranked consistently among the top 15 best public regional universities in the Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report*.



University of Illinois Springfield reports largest freshman class in school history

Freshman enrollment at the UIS grew by more than 18 percent, according to Fall 2019 census numbers released on Sept. 12, 2019. The total number of first-year students stands at 373, compared to 316 last fall semester, making it the largest incoming freshman class in school history.

"We are pleased to see the substantial increase in the size of our freshman class again this year," said UIS Chancellor Susan Koch. "It affirms that an increasing number of prospective students and their families are choosing UIS for a student-centered undergrad experience – an experience that provides uniquely personalized educational opportunities that prepare our graduates for success in their careers and their communities."

More than 90 percent (336) of the new freshmen are Illinois residents and 49 percent have self-reported as a minority. UIS saw an increase in the percentage of its student body (76.6 percent up from 75.5 percent last year) coming from Illinois. The university has a total of 3,276 students who are Illinois residents.

The number of students living on campus also increased by 8 percent. A total of 1,038 students are living on campus, up from 957 students in fall 2018. The campus occupancy rate is 93 percent.

There are a total of 557 African American students enrolled this semester comprising 13 percent of the student body. International students encompass 8.7 percent (373) of students enrolled. Students who self-identify as Hispanic comprise 8.1 percent (348) of this year's student body and Asian students comprise 4.6 percent (197).



UIS rebrands LGBTQIA+ training program to encourage and expand inclusion

The University of Illinois Springfield Office of Gender and Sexuality Student Services has rebranded its LGBTQIA+ training program for supportive students, faculty and staff allies on campus in an effort to encourage them to take even more actionable steps toward inclusion.

continued





Since 2001, UIS has offered Safe Zone training in several formats. However, this semester the training has been rebranded as Brave Space training in an effort to encourage difficult conversations that affirm LGBTQIA+ people with the additional expectation that participants will assess themselves, their departments and student groups for inclusive practices and policies.

“For the past 25 years, Safe Zone-type programs on college campuses have always been about supportive allies hanging a sign to show they were safe to come out to as a sexual or gender minority, while encouraging conversation with others that have questions about LGBTQIA+ people,” said Kerry Poynter, director of the UIS Office of Gender and Sexuality Student Services. “The name change reflects the UIS Safe Zone Committee’s desire for members to take brave steps to engage in difficult conversations that affirm LGBTQIA+ people.”

Participants who previously completed Safe Zone training will be asked to go through a recertification process to achieve Brave Space status. Individuals who complete the training will be given a new Brave Space sign to hang in the office or campus living space letting others know they are supportive of LGBTQIA+ people and issues.

“We think the name change and our recertification process to achieve the new sign will communicate that a supportive ally does more than just a hang a sign and support students that are coming out, but will take actionable steps for inclusion as well as advocacy,” Poynter said.

UIS celebrates 23rd annual Homecoming

The University of Illinois Springfield held its 23rd annual Homecoming celebration Oct. 10-12, 2019. Highlights included a flag football tournament, pep rally, bonfire, fireworks display, spirit sidewalk chalk painting and a homecoming dance.

The UIS men’s and women’s soccer teams and the women’s volleyball team also competed in homecoming games.



UIS ID Center

By Sara Featherlin, Assistant Director, ID Center

Does your student need to change their meal plan? If so, have them [email the ID center](#) or come see us in SAB 30! The last day to change plans for the spring semester is Jan. 25, 2020.

As a reminder, money that is left over in the fall will be rolled over to spring and added to spring money.

At the end of the spring semester, money is forfeited. Your student can get balance information at any time by going to icardwall.uis.edu, contacting the ID center, using the UIS app, or asking their cashier.

Mathematical Sciences

By Liang Kong, Associate Professor

Math Students Search for Answers to Help Glucose Monitoring

UIS students, teaming up with a technology company (DEKA Research and Development), are doing the mathematical research to evaluate therapies for diabetes. Dr. Liang Kong, associate professor of mathematics, directs the Preparation for Industrial Careers in the Mathematical Sciences (PIC Math) program through a grant from the Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

Systems of ordinary differential equations, non-linear and often time-varying, model a variety of body systems. Students use these models to gauge their effectiveness in maintaining a person's blood glucose level within an acceptable range.

"This truly is a great opportunity to prepare the students for a career in industrial mathematics,"

Liang says. "The problems posed to the students involve linear algebra, differential equations, and programming. The students must rely on creative problem solving and critical-thinking skills in a cooperative environment to make progress. The project with DEKA is a good example of how the research is carried out."

The students make a final presentation to DEKA and MAA partners, but long after the research is concluded, the problem-solving and creative thinking skills they develop will help them answer all the questions to come in their careers.

PIC Math is a program of the Mathematical Association of America and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). Support is provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF grant DMS-1722275).

USFSCO – University Student Financial Services & Cashier Operations

By Alice Seaton, Assistant Director, Customer Service & Cashier Operations

Top Questions that parents and students Ask:

When is my bill due?

Payment is due on the 28th of each month. Tuition and fee charges for fall and spring terms are billed in September and February, respectively. Summer term charges are billed in June and/or July depending on enrollment. Please check your student's account each month.

What are the payment options?

Student account balances are expected to be paid in full by the due date. A late payment charge of \$1 or 1.5%, whichever is greater, per month will be

assessed on any amount not paid when due. Such accounts will also be assessed a past due charge of \$2 per month in addition to the late payment charge. A financial hold will be placed on any delinquent student account. This hold will prevent registration, release of transcripts, and may also prevent the release of a diploma. Payment options include:

- [Online Payments](#)
- [In-Person Payments](#)
- [Payments by Mail](#)
- [International Payments](#)
- [Payment Plan](#)

continued





What is the payment address to mail a payment?

When mailing a payment, the student name and UIN (university identification number) must be written on the check. A printed copy of the payment stub must be included to ensure proper credit. Payment should be mailed at least five business days prior to the due date to allow for mail delivery and processing time. Payments may be mailed to location:

University of Illinois Payment Center
Student A/R
28393 Network Place
Chicago, IL 60673-1283

Scholarship checks should **NOT** be sent to this address. To ensure proper credit to student accounts, please direct all scholarship payment checks to the Financial Assistance Office on the recipient’s campus of attendance (UIS). Visit the [Scholarship Payments](#) section of our website for details.

Should my student enroll in the optional payment plan?

The University of Illinois provides an *optional payment plan* that allows parents/students the opportunity to spread payment of anticipated tuition, mandatory fees, room and board expenses over six installments for the fall and spring semesters. Enrollment for the spring semester began Nov. 1.

To be eligible for enrollment in the payment plan:

- Student must be in good financial standing with the University of Illinois.
- Your payment plan budget must have a minimum balance of \$500.
- You must be willing to allow automatic withdrawals from a U.S. checking or savings account.
- You must be a University of Illinois undergraduate, graduate, or professional school student, or the authorized payer of such student.

Only tuition, mandatory fees, housing and meal plan charges are eligible to be included in the payment plan budget.

How do I receive my financial aid refund?

All refunds are processed electronically by [direct deposit](#). Direct deposit is the electronic transfer of funds into a checking or savings account. It is the quickest, safest and most efficient way to receive a refund. Students may use their checking or savings account or may use their parent’s checking or savings account to receive their refund. The checking or savings account must be a U.S. account. The university maintains strict confidentiality with all bank account information. After enrolling in direct deposit, students must update their direct deposit enrollment information whenever their banking information changes.



*Front Row: Nikita Hutchings, Cathy Price and student worker Kelsey Lessen
Back Row: student worker Santiago Focil, Alice Seaton and student worker Nicholas Barnhill.*

Where are your offices located?

USFSCO is located in the Public Affairs Center (PAC) on the first floor, Room 184. Cashier Operations window is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m.) Customer Service is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m.)

For more information on all of the items discussed in this article, plus additional information regarding student billing, please visit our department’s website: paymybill.uillinois.edu.