

UIS Parent & Family Newsletter

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New Student Orientation and Parent Relations

ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

2018 Fall Newsletter

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

By: Lisa McGuire

What a busy fall semester. We welcomed a class of 326 first-year students this year. I believe it is the biggest class UIS has ever welcomed. I wanted to thank everyone who was able to come to Family Weekend. Seventy-two families, over 250 students and family members enjoyed a variety of activities that were programmed for Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13. We had a number of programs sponsored by student organizations and university departments. This really added to the variety of programs that were available. Many thanks to the College of Business, Department of Residence Life, Student Life, the UIS Observatory, UIS Clinical Lab Science Club, the Center for Academic Success and Undergraduate Research, DKE fraternity, Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc; Gamma Phi Omega sorority and the Organization of Latino Students (OLAS) for adding such great events to our program. From Pumpkin Painting to Arrow Tag and workshops on entrepreneurship to sack races, we had a wonderful time with our families and hope you will join us next year. Look for an announcement of the dates in the next few months. There are pictures from Family Weekend at the end of the newsletter.

It is hard to believe that we are already in November. We had a particularly beautiful fall here in Springfield. The trees really put on a marvelous show with their vivid reds, yellows, and oranges. But sadly, the leaves have already passed their peak and the temperatures are getting downright frigid.


The semester will be ending soon and your student will be home for a one-month break. Do you have any special plans? For first-time parents of college students don't be alarmed by some of the changes you might see in their behavior. They might spend a lot of time sleeping or wanting to hang out with friends. I recommend re-visiting house rules, expectations for family events, chores, and curfews. It might take some time for your student to adjust to family time after being on college time for so long.

I hope everyone enjoys the time spent with family and the upcoming holidays and that your student has a successful conclusion to their fall semester.

Cheers!

Lisa

www.uis.edu/newstudentorientation/

Follow NSOPR on Facebook 

www.facebook.com/uisnewstudentorientation/





Campus Recreation

By: Jay Swenson, Assistant Director – Intramural and Club Sports

The fall semester has arrived and Campus Recreation is proud to offer a large variety of programs for your students.

Affairs, every student that attended the event was given \$10 dollars towards a food truck purchase.



Our group fitness calendar is bigger than ever as we have trained instructors teaching classes such as yoga, dance, cycling and kickboxing. Kickboxing is still relatively new on campus, but we have been seeing great numbers using our brand new equipment. Students are able to attend all of the group fitness classes at no charge and there is no need to register ahead of the class. They can attend an occasional class or as many as they would like. To see a full fall semester schedule, visit www.uis.edu/campusrec/



Another great way to stay fit is by participating in intramural sports. Intramural sports are low time commitment leagues and tournaments for students that are not collegiately playing said sport. In the fall, we utilize our outdoor-lighted field for flag football, soccer and softball. This is only the second year we have had lights, which has greatly helped the scheduling of the events. Once November hits, we will be inside TRAC for volleyball and three-on-three basketball. Students are able to get involved again by visiting our website. They can sign-up individually or with their friends to form a team.



If your student has an outdoor or adventurous side, Campus Recreation offers several trips during the school year. These trips are partially covered by Campus Recreation, so while there is a fee, it is much lower than attending without UIS. This fall we will be whitewater rafting the Lower Gauley River in West Virginia along with canoeing and kayaking in southcentral Missouri. We also offer day trips to hike and canoe/kayak. These trips often fill up fast, so if interested, make sure to let your student know they register on UIS Connection.

In early September, we hosted our second annual RECPalooza event, which featured a full day of Campus Recreation activities such as paddleboard Yoga, a canoe and kayak demonstration on the UIS Pond, and sailing lessons at Island Bay Yacht club. Unfortunately, the rain forced us to postpone the street party to the following Wednesday night. The party included food trucks and live music while students were able to utilize the basketball and sand volleyball court at Rec Park among other activities. Thanks to Student

Whether it be exercising, playing sports, or heading on a trip, Campus Recreation has something to offer for every student at UIS.

Athletics

By: Daniel Newton • Photos by: Clayton Stalter

The University of Illinois Springfield athletics department had a record-setting year in 2017-18 filled with championships and countless other accomplishments.

UIS, a member of NCAA Division II and the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC), finished fifth in the GLVC Commissioner's Cup, an improvement of eight spots from just one year before. Among the other impressive numbers were four All-Americans, nine all-region performers, and 28 all-conference honorees.

The biggest success came on the diamond with the Prairie Stars baseball and softball teams. UIS baseball was one of the top teams in NCAA Division II, finishing the season with a 47-9 overall record and being ranked as high as fourth in the nation. The team led the nation in home runs, scoring, slugging percentage, and fewest hits allowed. UIS had a 23-1 conference mark and won the East Division Championship for the first time, and was the No. 1 team in the Midwest Region.

The softball team also won hardware and was one of the top teams in the region. UIS captured the GLVC Regular Season Championship, and also won its NCAA Midwest Regional Tournament. The Prairie Stars finished the year with a 40-19 overall record, and it was ranked 12th in NCAA Division II.

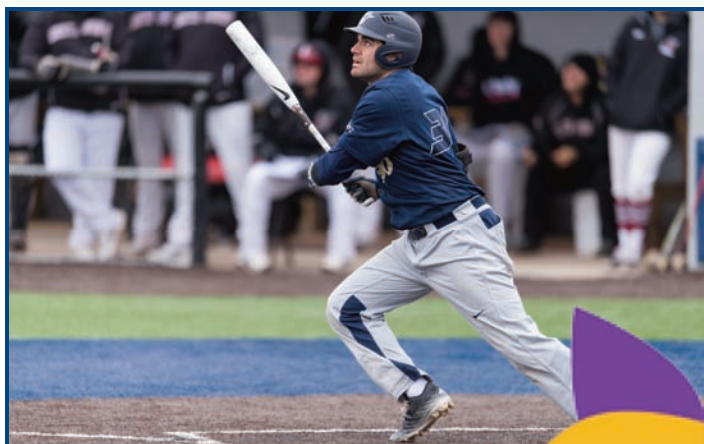
Other highlights from the year included the women's golf team making the NCAA Super Regional for the third straight year, volleyball advancing to the GLVC Semifinals for the first time, and men's and women's soccer making its inaugural appearances in the GLVC Tournament.

Baseball head coach Chris Ramirez and softball head coach Shannon Guthrie were both named Conference Coach of the Year, and Ramirez was also tabbed the National Coach of the Year. Women's golfer Ocean Pangan was named the conference Freshman of the Year. Softball player Ali Haesele was named the GLVC Pitcher of the Year, and was also nominated by the conference for the NCAA Women's of the Year award, along with women's tennis player Jane Carter.

UIS athletics success extended into the classrooms. The athletics department GPA for both semesters was 3.31, a new athletics department record. In the spring, 16 of 17 teams achieved a GPA of 3.00 or higher. A record 134 student-athletes received GLVC Academic All-Conference honors for having a 3.30 GPA or higher for the 2017-18 school year.

The Prairie Stars athletes, coaches, and staff also made a difference in the UIS and Springfield community, performing over 2,000 hours of community service. Some of the organizations helped included UIS Move-In Day, American Lung Association, Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, and Meals on Wheels.

2018-19: UIS is expecting the 2018-19 school year to be just as good as last year. The fall season is already off to a good start, led by the volleyball program. UIS was picked third in the GLVC preseason poll and is expected to contend for their first NCAA Tournament bid. Both soccer programs are looking to continue to move up in the conference standings, and the men's and women's cross country teams both opened up the year by winning the Prairie Stars Invitational race.





Residence Life Desk

By Haley Houser



Hello UIS Parents!

We are so excited for this year and for all of the great things to come. It seems like

move-in was just yesterday, but we are almost halfway through the Fall semester. Your student will be preparing for Mid-Terms soon, and we want to make sure that they are mentally prepared as they enter the second half of the semester. Your student may have mentioned their Resident Assistants will be conducting Health and Safety Inspections. Twice per semester, our staff checks to make sure students are maintaining their space and see if there are any work orders that may need to be submitted. If your student ever needs to submit a work order for either their internet/TV connection or any maintenance issues, the links are located at the bottom of our home page:

www.uis.edu/residencelife. They can also watch this helpful [video](#) if they need additional assistance.

above). Also, we have the Code Blue emergency communication system signaling devices all around campus. These devices allow students to press a button in case of an emergency and a campus police officer will arrive at their location in seconds. To see a map of locations you can visit the UIS Police website: [UIS Police website](#).

Additionally, we have updated our I-Card swipe system into the Residence Halls to ensure that only residents and their guests are entering the building. This new update will allow our staff to control who can and cannot swipe into the building, without contacting a third-party to update the system. We require all residents to sign in guests at the front desks. Whether a guest is just visiting for a few moments, or staying overnight, each student's guest must check in at the front desk and carry our Lincoln or Founders Residence Hall Guest Cards. When leaving the guest must check their guest card back in at the front desk. Students are responsible not only for their guest but the guest card that is checked out to their guest. Please remind your student to ensure their guest cards are fully checked in, as they do not want to be charged at the end of the year for a "missing" guest card.

Not only can your student's I-Card get them into their respective building, but it also allows them to pick up their packages. If you're thinking about sending your student a care package for Mid-Terms, make sure you are addressing the package correctly. First, please use the student's full name when sending a package. This allows for accurate processing and ensures the package won't be returned to you. Second, list the building's street address. This can be found on our website: www.uis.edu/residencelife/livingatuis/addresses/. Each building has its own address, so please be sure to use the correct building address listed next to the building number (Building numbers are listed as such: Bluebell Court Building 140 or Marigold Court Apartment 1-4). Third, you will need to list the student's specific unit, such as, Founders Residence Hall 120 or Bluebell Court Apt. 141. While all packages are logged at our front



While we make sure that all of the students' units are maintained, safety is our number one concern. Your student may receive email notification of upcoming Fire Drills, Fire Alarm Testing, and other safety procedures that we conduct every semester. Additionally, we provide an Emergency Action Plan, hoping to never have to use it, but preparing our students to know where to go in case of an emergency evacuation of campus. At your earliest convenience, please see our Emergency Action Plan listed on the home page of our website (see link

desks, please do not address your student's package to our main office address or to the University's general address. This will slow down the process and possibly result in your package being returned if we are unable to identify to whom the package belongs.



While you can always send a care package, it doesn't compare to actually visiting your student on campus. The Department of Residence Life is offering Guest Housing for all parents and family

members of UIS students to stay for a night or two while visiting their student. Guest Housing is available during UIS Family Weekend and Finals Week before we close for Winter Break. For more information about Guest Housing, please email us at reslife@uis.edu.

Various programs occur throughout the Fall semester for all students. They can always look forward to something fun and educational to do throughout the week after classes and on the weekends! We always do our best to keep students informed of upcoming events, dates and deadlines. They will be receiving information regarding our Contract Cancellation Deadline if they will be graduating in December. Lastly, our Winter Break information will also be available in November. Please keep in mind that campus closes during Winter Break, but if your student needs to stay on campus, we will have a request form available for them to complete. If you or your student ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at reslife@uis.edu or 217-206-6190

Career Development Center

By: Kristin Nisbet-White

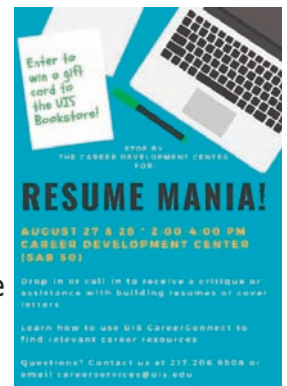
The Career Development Center has been exploding with activity in Fall 2018!



Before classes were underway the Career Development Center hosted the 2nd annual Crafts & Paths event which gave students that chance to create various craft projects that could be of benefit in their living space. Additionally, student were able to learn a little about the [Career Pathfinder](#) program which has information to help students match majors to different career paths.

On August 27 & 28th over 70 students flocked to the Career Development Center to get started on their resume or obtain feedback about their

resume draft. Students were engaged and excited make progress in their document development. Outside of our Resume Mania kickoff event, students can stop by during our weekly [Career Suite](#) hours to work on their resume or other professional documents and learn more about the various career resources our office has to offer!



Over 300 students took part in the [Foot in the Door Fair](#) on August 30th which brought over 65 organizations to campus to promote their opportunities which included campus jobs, part-time



jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities! It was exciting to see so many students take part and make great connections with participating employers! Save the date for our next career fair – The Career Connections Expo on Thursday, February 14, 2019!



An exciting event was the Meet & Eat! Student and Alumni Networking Event that was held on Monday, October 1st. This event gave students the chance to practice their networking skills with UIS Alumni and staff and learn some strategies to successfully navigate networking conversations.

November is National Career Development Month there will be several career building events taking place. One of the central events will be the Career Bytes Conference which features a keynote address featuring a UIS alum, a networking lunch, and several breakout session options on different career related topics. To stay up to date on these and other upcoming events be sure to check back regularly at www.uis.edu/career/ and like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/UISCareer and Follow us [@UISCareerCenter](https://twitter.com/UISCareerCenter) on Twitter.



Prairie Stars Family Association Corner

By: Ellin Lotspeich

PSFA is a parent group designed to help keep parents in touch with UIS. Our goal is to develop relationships among families of the students attending UIS by

- Identifying and implementing activities that will increase family/student involvement during Family Week
- Increase family and student awareness activities available at UIS
- Identifying fundraising opportunities and ways to meet the needs of students and families

If you haven't already, check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/uispsfa/

If you have not yet signed up for this great association, you can do that [online](#). Membership is free to all parents and family members of current UIS students.

This can only be done with your help!

Congratulations to the new Executive Board members that were elected during the General

Meeting at Family Weekend on October 13:

President: Ellin Lotspeich
 V. President: Joyce Nelson
 Secretary: Jill Kanka-Matoka
 Treasurer: Bibbiana Tohme

Ellin has been on the board since its inception in 2015 and has served as the Treasurer for the past 3 years. During her time, she has done the research and paperwork so UIS Prairie Stars Family Association could become a non-profit, which was accomplished last year. She has also established PSFA banking and led fundraising efforts by donating items to the silent auction for the past two years.

Joyce Nelson joined PSFA as Secretary for the 2017-18 term.

We send our thanks to outgoing President Angie Kneer and Vice President Deanna Shane. Their students have graduated and they are going on to other activities in their families and communities. Angie was also a founding member of the PSFA board serving as Vice President,

Interim President and President. Deanna served as Secretary in 2016-17 and Vice President in 2017-18.

PSFA had a very successful silent auction during Family Weekend. Thank you to everyone who donated and bid on items. You helped PSFA raise \$335. Look for our Alternative Fundraiser coming up early next year (hint, you will be so happy to not have to sell, bake, or buy anything). Minutes from the monthly general meetings will now be posted to the PSFA Facebook page so look for them starting in early December.

Don't forget to visit Facebook, and sign up! Continue to be a part of building the organization by keeping informed.



From left to right: Jill Kanka-Matoka, Bibbiana Tohme, Angie Kneer, Deanna Shane, Joyce Nelson.

Some Important Numbers

Campus Recreation campusrec@uis.edu	217/206-7103
Career Development Center careerservices@uis.edu	217/206-6508
Counseling Center counseling@uis.edu	217/206-7122
Disability Services ods@uis.edu	217/206-6666
Financial Assistance finaid@uis.edu	217/206-6724
Health Services uishealthservice@uis.edu	217/206-6676
Records registrar@uis.edu	217/206-6709
Residence Life reslife@uis.edu	217/206-6190
New Student Orientation & Parent Relations UISOrientation@uis.edu	217/206-8181
USFSCO (Student Billing) usfscohelp@uillinois.edu	217/206-6727

Important Dates to Remember: Looking Ahead

[Academic Calendars](#) are available online.

December 8	Last Day of Classes
December 10-15	Finals Week
December 15	Semester Ends
January 14	First Day of Spring Semester Classes



Family Weekend 2018



Carnival games



Attending the entrepreneurship series



Look at all her prizes



Getting ready for the sack race



Giant Connect 4 challenge



Family golf time



Family reloading bow and arrows



Ready, Set, Go



Ready, Aim, Fire