

# UIS Parent & Family Newsletter

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ILLINOIS  
SPRINGFIELD

2017 January Newsletter

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## Winter Notes from the Director of New Student Orientation & Parent Relations

Happy 2017 Prairie Stars Family!

After such a busy semester, it was nice to enjoy a short break and spend time with family and friends, relax, reflect on the year, and consider how fortunate we have been. But now it is back to work, and the Office of New Student Orientation and Parent Relations is gearing up for the spring semester this week with orientation programming for the new students who are entering UIS this spring semester. Most of you have another week with your student before sending them back to campus, so make the most of your time together!

With the New Year comes a new semester for students. After grades were posted for the fall semester your student might be feeling anywhere from elated with their success, to overwhelmed with how to bring up their grades. Where ever they are on the feelings spectrum, now is a good time to encourage your student to set academic goals and evaluate their approach to their classwork for the upcoming semester.

If your student had a successful semester first take some time to recognize their achievement – maybe celebrating a personal best or enjoying the success after all that hard work and extra effort paid off in passing that dreaded economics class. Ask them what were some of the things that they did that helped contribute to that success and how they can keep doing that in the spring semester.

If your students is feeling down because they did not meet expectations, let them know they can discuss the challenges with you and maybe you can all brainstorm on ways to address the challenges. Maybe they need to set aside specific times for studying each day. It might mean going to the [Learning Hub](#) early on for assistance with [writing papers](#), setting up meetings with a [tutor](#) for a class, or working with a peer mentor in the [Center for Academic Success](#) on [academic success strategies](#) like organizing work, managing time, or study tips.

For any student, looking ahead to next semester’s courses and thinking about an academic success strategy for each  
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class is beneficial. Consider this, not everyone who graduates high school goes on to college. So in a way, college is the academic version of the Olympics. Each student is an academic athlete who has a variety of coaches and trainers available to them to help them enhance their performance. So having to seek assistance is not a bad thing, it doesn't diminish you or make you less than someone else. College students are often embarrassed to ask for assistance because they don't want to look dumb. But an Olympic athlete seeks assistance for a competitive advantage, our students need to seek out their academic coaches with that same mindset.

In my 20 years of working with college students, I have seen very successful students run into roadblocks as the skills they brought with them from high school become insufficient for the


increasing workload and growing complexity each semester can bring. Having conversations with your student about what courses look potentially challenging and making a plan with strategies they are going to use for the next semester can help your student problem solve, plan ahead, and advocate for themselves this spring.

I hope you and your family members stay warm and enjoy the rest of winter break. We look forward to seeing your student in a couple of days!

Shine on Prairie Stars! Shine on!

*Lisa*

[www.uis.edu/newstudentorientation/](http://www.uis.edu/newstudentorientation/)

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 [www.facebook.com/uisnewstudentorientation/](https://www.facebook.com/uisnewstudentorientation/)

## UIS News

By Michelle Green, Director of Marketing, University of Illinois at Springfield

### ***UIS students Trick or Treat for canned goods and collect more than 14,000 pounds of food***

A long time tradition at UIS is for students to dress up and Trick or Treat for Canned Goods in the surrounding neighborhoods. This Halloween was no different. Hundreds of students helped to collect a record 14,085 pounds of food for the [Central Illinois Foodbank](#). The total breaks a previous record of 11,620 pounds of food collected in 2014.



A total of 18 teams, consisting of 181 students, went door-to-door in several neighborhoods collecting the canned goods. The food items were returned and weighed on campus. Prizes were awarded to the teams that collected the most food. The Central Illinois Foodbank distributes over 9 million pounds of food annually to over 150 food pantries, soup kitchens, residential programs, and after-school programs in a 21 county region.

### ***Students in the Illinois Innocence Project help win release of wrongfully convicted Decatur man imprisoned for 18 years***

A Decatur man walked free from the Macon County Courthouse in November thanks to the efforts of [the Illinois Innocence Project \(IIP\)](#) at the University of Illinois Springfield. Newly discovered DNA evidence proved that Charles Palmer did not commit the 1998 murder of William Helmbacher. The case was overturned after DNA evidence, which was never tested by police, was tested by the Illinois Innocence Project. In both cases, the DNA was not a match to Palmer.

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The Innocence Project has achieved several stunning successes in recent years and offers students in majors such as legal studies, criminal justice, and public policy with exceptional hands-on experiences as they prepare for law school and other professional pursuits.

### ***Student Union is 40 percent complete***

The steel construction is nearly complete, the concrete floors are being poured, and the roof and outside walls are ready to protect construction crews as they work this winter. "Construction is right on schedule," said Chancellor Koch. "There's a lot of work yet to be done, but there's a lot that's been accomplished." Koch and administrators and several students toured the facility in October.

UIS broke ground on the new \$21.7 million student union building on May 4, 2016. The first-ever student union will serve as a hub for student life and foster a greater sense of community on the growing campus. It's scheduled to open in January 2018.

### ***UIS named national Bicycle Friendly University***

The University of Illinois Springfield has been awarded the Bronze Bicycle Friendly University award by the League of American Bicyclists, joining more than 160 visionary colleges and universities across the country with this distinction.

The Bicycle Friendly University program recognizes institutions of higher education for promoting and providing a more bikeable campus for students, staff and visitors.

Over the past year, the UIS Bicycle Advisory Committee has developed relationships with the Springfield community to improve bicycling resources for students, faculty and staff. UIS encourages bicycling as an easy option for transportation and provides incentives such as the free STAR Bike Share program for students. The Committee has sponsored organized rides for students and staff, and has participated in health and safety fairs on campus.



"The UIS Bicycle Advisory Committee is working with [the Springfield Bicycle Club](#) and other local partners to make Springfield more bicycle-friendly, too" said Committee Chair, Megan Styles, assistant professor of Environmental Studies. "This will allow us to provide our students with better access to bicycles, better bicycle-related programming, and better infrastructure."





# Going Beyond The Library Shelves

By Sarah Sagmoen, Director of Learning Commons and User Services



As you are getting ready to send your student back to UIS, we wanted to remind you of all of the ways that [Brookens Library](#) can help your student finish out this academic year successfully. Yes, we have books and other resources, but there is so much more. Including some things, that might surprise you.

- Librarians: The most beneficial resource for your student is a librarian. Librarians are here to help your student navigate the research process and give them the tools they need to be a successful college level researcher. If your student is struggling with research, we recommend pointing them to our [Intro to Research guide](#). On that page they will not only find helpful information about conducting research successfully, but they can get additional help by going to the [research guide](#) for their subject area as well as contact their librarian
- Study Spaces: Finding “your” study spot can be a rite of passage in college. So if your student

hasn't found their spot yet, ask them if they've tried the library. We offer either quiet spaces to study alone, or collaborative spaces to meet with a study group and a variety of seating from desks, to couches. With all of those options, finding “their” spot will be easy at Brookens.



- Stress Relief: When you think of the library, you probably think of books and quiet studying. At Brookens, we believe that being successful means that you need to take study breaks too. To help them clear their minds and decompress we offer a variety of resources from Lego tables, a kinetic sand box, [a popular fiction eBook app](#), and popular movies.



So when your student calls and is upset because they wanted a better grade on their research assignment, their roommate is too loud for them to study, or they just need to take a break from the stress of classes we hope you'll ask if they've visited the library.

# The Career Connections Expo is Coming UP.

## Parents and Family – Here's How You Can Help

By Angela Evans, Career Counselor,  
UIS Career Development Center



Encourage your student to attend the 2017 Career Connections Expo to learn about careers of interest and to see what a career fair is like. With 100+ recruiters from various industries attending, this is a great opportunity to learn more about different careers, as well as network for job and internship opportunities.

Suggest to your student that he/she begin developing or updating their resume. The UIS Career Development Center offers resume reviews with career staff during Career Suite walk-in/call-in hours during the spring semester (Tuesday & Friday 1 - 4 p.m.; Wednesday & Thursday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.). This is a great way for your student to receive feedback on their resume and learn what employers expect to see.

Encourage your student to begin using their CareerConnect account. Each registered UIS

student has an account that they can log into to update their profile, upload a resume, utilize online systems including OptimalResume and Going Global, and search for and apply to jobs and internships on and off campus. New UIS students beginning in the spring 2017 semester will have access to CareerConnect beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

Remind your student to register in CareerConnect and attend events and seminars to prepare for the Career Connections Expo. Career fair prep topics include how to dress professionally, develop an elevator pitch and network, research employers, plus much more!

Visit the [UIS Career Development Center website](#) for additional details on the Career Connections Expo and supportive career resources and services.

## Residence Life – Housing Renewal Process for Fall 2017 Housing

By Haley Houser, Central Office Administrator

The Department of Residence Life (DRL) is already looking forward to the spring 2017 semester! It is our job to assure your student of feeling like they are an important part of a safe and supportive community in their home-away-from home. We certainly want your student to have the best opportunity to continue residing on-campus during the upcoming 2017-2018 Academic Year!

We'd like to remind you that current residents will have first choice at reserving their preferred space and roommates during the upcoming reapplication process. Online applications will

soon be available to current students who want to live on campus for the 2017-2018 Academic Year. Please keep in mind that UIS requires that all first year and second year/returning sophomore students live on campus, as research has consistently shown that those who do so develop the necessary skills and avail themselves of needed support resources that maximize their academic potential and persist to Graduation.

Your student will need to keep these dates in mind if they want priority consideration to live on-campus, choose  
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their roommates, and select a Living Learning Community for the 2017-2018 Academic

Year:

The 2017-2018 housing application and contract will go live **February 1, 2017 at 4 p.m.**

All specialty housing applications (Living Learning Community, Graduate, Family and/or Themed housing) are due **February 22, 2017.**

The above dates are important for all returning students so that they can also participate as part of our room selection process.

Find upcoming dates/important deadlines at the [www.uis.edu/residencelife/about/importantdates](http://www.uis.edu/residencelife/about/importantdates). Be sure to check out upcoming dates related to Spring Break Registration, cancellation dates and spring 2017 check-out!

For more information about rates, housing amenities, and the Department of Residence Life, please visit [our website](#), or like us on Facebook. If you ever have any questions, we are only a quick email [reslife@uis.edu](mailto:reslife@uis.edu) or call away (217.206.6190).

## Legal Studies Notes

By Ryan Griffiths, Graduate Assistant, Legal Studies

It was an eventful semester for Legal Studies students and faculty. It began with the Legal Studies Department's annual welcome week picnic, where students and faculty were able to meet each other and students had the opportunity to learn about extracurricular activities such as Mock Trial, the Illinois Innocence Project, and Model United Nations.

Master's student Mike Schlosser, who is also Director of the Police Training Institute in Champaign, Illinois, worked with Dr. Gwen Jordan and the staff of the Illinois Innocence Project to teach police cadets about wrongful convictions.

Master's student Joye Williams, a veteran of the United States Navy who received her B.A. in Legal studies in 2004 at UIS, was the recipient of two scholarships from UIS: a UIS Merit scholarship and the Rose Marie and Robert C. Roach Scholarship.

The Legal Studies Department welcomed Dr. Eugene McCarthy to the faculty from the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his Ph.D. in legal rhetoric. Dr. McCarthy earned a J.D. from the UCLA School of Law and also holds an M.A. in English literature from the Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. from Rutgers College majoring in philosophy and English.

Dr. Anette Sikka presented her paper, *'Being' Illegal: The Legal Regulation of Race and the Occupation of Space* at the Law & Society Annual Conference in New Orleans and presented her paper, *Law as Magician: The Shapeshifting of Manifest Destiny through the Regulation of Race and Space* at Kent University's Critical Legal Studies Conference.

Dr. Riaz Tejani's first book, *Marketing Justice (an ethnography of for-profit legal education)* will appear from Stanford University Press this spring. He has also been invited to author a new Law and Society book for University of California Press. Dr. Tejani will present on empirical research methods alongside faculty from UC Berkeley and Irvine at the Association of American Law Schools conference in January.

In August, Dr. Gwen Jordan convened a wrongful convictions policy meeting at UIS hosted by the Illinois Innocence Project. In attendance were members from the University of Chicago Exoneration Project, the Northwestern University Center for Wrongful Conviction, the Loyola University Life After Innocence program, and the Cardozo Law School Innocence Project.

Students wrapped up the semester by meeting Legal Studies faculty for pizza and drinks at the Lake Pointe Grill after completing final exams and projects.

# Shakespeare Garden Unveiling

From the Department of English and Modern Languages

On September 29, current students David Hecht and Chrissy Ferree unveiled the Shakespeare sculpture bench in our New Shakespeare Garden in honor of the 400th anniversary of the poet and playwright's death. The garden features a life-size sculpture of Shakespeare upon a bench of



Gary Lee Price created the bronze sculpture featuring Shakespeare sitting contemplatively on an ornate bench. The sculpture is a great place to sit beside Shakespeare and admire the garden as well as a great photo opportunity for those that want a selfie with Shakespeare. Price has been a sculptor for over 35 years and his work can be found across the United States.



beautifully embellished bronze, various plants paired with quotes from Shakespeare's works, and a new fountain. The garden can be found in the Patton Park area of campus just north of Brookens Library.

The unveiling included a ceremony at which UIS professors and administrators gave remarks and read Shakespeare sonnets.

"Shakespeare matters because life matters," said Dr. Tena Helton of the Department of English and Modern Languages at the unveiling. "We continue to study him because we consistently rediscover ourselves through his words, a language full of tripled and quadrupled meanings and multi-layered humanity."

"This Shakespeare Garden is giving new life to Patton Park—creating an educational resource and a place of enjoyment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campus," said UIS Chancellor Susan J. Koch. The Shakespeare Garden was made possible by a gracious donation from the University of Illinois Chester Fund.



The garden also features a variety of flowers and various plants accompanied by signs displaying Shakespeare quotes. Shakespeare famously used nature and specifically plants and gardens as metaphors, and many of his most famous scenes appear in gardens. The addition of these plants with their corresponding quotations brings Shakespeare's works to life here on the UIS campus.



# Health and Fitness – Winter Health Tips: Taking Care of Your Mental Health During The Holiday Season

By Lorie Mick, RN, UIS Health Center

For many, the holiday season is an exciting time. It is supposed to be a time of celebrating with friends and family. It should be a wonderful time of the year. But for some, that is not the case. There are many expectations and demands during the holidays-travel, parties, work schedules, shopping, and the pressures to try and catch up with all the friends and family you haven't seen. For some, it brings memories of lost loved ones. It can be an overwhelming stressful time. While there is an abundance of positive things, it can be hard to regroup and deal with the pressures when holiday stress is at its peak. It can be particularly more difficult for somebody who is already dealing with a mental health disorder.

Some early signs of depression can include difficulty getting and staying asleep, difficulty making simple decisions, loss of appetite, and reduced interest or pleasure in usual activities. If you are having any of these feelings, you should know you're not alone. Others may think you're being unreasonable, but there are reasons why you are feeling this way and strategies to help overcome them.

Tools to help reduce stress and depression during the holidays:

- *Try to maintain a normal routine, or as close to it as possible.* Eat meals at regular times; get plenty of rest/sleep.
- *Acknowledge your feelings.* If you have recently lost someone close to you or you aren't able to be with loved ones, realize it's normal and ok to feel sadness. It's ok to take time to cry or express your feelings. Don't feel pressure to force yourself to be happy just because it's the holidays.
- *Be realistic.* The holidays don't need to be perfect. Families and friends change and grow, as well as traditions. Find new ways to celebrate if you aren't able to physically get together with everyone. A simple phone call, email, or video chat can really make a difference.
- *Learn to say no.* Really, it's OK. Saying yes

when you should say no can make you feel overwhelmed. If you aren't able to participate in everything, don't feel bad and cause yourself added stress by saying yes to make someone else happy.

- *Stick to your budget.* Money can't bring happiness, which is why you should celebrate the things in life you are most grateful for. Holidays should be a time to appreciate time with friends and family.
- *Don't completely abandon healthy habits.* Overindulgence only adds to stress and guilt. Try having a healthy snack before parties to avoid going overboard on sweets or drinks. Continue with any regular exercise regimen. Exercise can reduce stress and aid in sleeping better.
- *Seek professional help if needed.* Even with your best efforts, you may still find yourself feeling sad, anxious, unable to sleep, irritable, hopeless, or unable to face routine tasks. If these feelings last for a while, see your doctor or mental health professional.

Holidays can be a magical time, but they can also be extremely draining. Don't let the holidays become something you dread. Learn to recognize your holiday stressors, such as financial pressures or personal demands so you can be prepared and avoid unnecessary emotional stress.

For more information about depression and anxiety:

[National Institute of Mental Health](#)  
[Anxiety and Depression Association of America](#)  
[Center For Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, contact the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at 1-800-273-8255.

UIS offers appointments with our medical providers and counselors to discuss any mental health concerns. Please call Health Services at 217-206-6676 and the Counseling Center at 217-206-7122.



## Student Meal Plans



UIS i-Card would like to remind parents that students can come in any time until January 30 to change their meal plan for the Spring 2017 semester. Any money remaining on their fall plan will roll over to spring and be added to the spring

plan. If your student has questions or concerns about their meal plan, encourage them to come into the i-Card office in PAC 124 and we'll be happy to assist them.

## New Year New Money



[Get Savvy](#), a Newsletter from the University of Illinois Money Management Center is available online.

You can register for their [free Webinar](#).

## Coaching Your Student Through a Financial Spring Check-up To Do List

By Alice Seaton, USFSCO Manager

Ready for your student to take more responsibility and have a greater understanding of their academic related financial obligations? Here is a handy checklist from University Student Financial Services and Cashier Operations (USFSCO) to guide parents and family members so they can coach their student through a Spring Financial Check-up to make sure they can manage their academic fiscal responsibilities this semester.

**Spring Bill Due Date.** Students will start seeing charges to their account shortly after the new year. USFSCO wants to remind parents and family members that students and authorized payers should check the student's account balance at least monthly to review any new charges and check their balance. Tuition, housing, food plan and fees for the spring semester are due on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

**Payment Plans.** If the student would like to spread their payments for their account balance over several months, they should sign up for a payment plan for the spring semester. [The USFSCO website](#) has information on payment plan options and

deadlines as well as information on how to sign up for a plan.

**Setting up Authorized Payers.** Students can give permission for a number of individuals to be Authorized Payers who will then have access to view the student's account, make online payments, enroll into a payment plan, and receive FERPA protected account information. The student can easily [complete this authorization online](#) by entering the name(s) and email address(es) for each Authorized Payer and assigning a login name and password.

**Scholarship Checks.** Scholarship monies come in real handy when it comes to paring down that tuition bill. Remind students that they should make sure all checks, including 529 Plan payments are mailed directly to the UIS Financial Assistance Office following the directions on their webpage at <https://paymybill.uillinois.edu/ScholarshipPayments>.

\*Students need to remember to include their UIN and name on the check and  
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enclose any supporting documentation from donor.

Check payments (other than scholarship checks) should be mailed to:  
University of Illinois Payment Center  
Student AR  
28393 Network Place  
Chicago, IL 60673-1283.

*Refunds Anyone?* Will your student be getting a refund after scholarships and other financial aid are credited to their bill? In order to receive a refund from the University of Illinois, students need to be enrolled into direct deposit. Direct deposit is the electronic transfer of funds into a U.S. checking or savings account. It is the quickest, safest, and most efficient way of transferring funds. The student has to set this up online at <https://paymybill.uillinois.edu/DirectDeposit> and will need their (or your) bank routing and account number. It is quick and easy.

*2016 Taxes.* Education tax credits may be available to you if you are paying education costs for yourself or a student who is a member of your immediate family. 1098-T tax forms will be available on or before January 31st. Students will have access to print their 1098-T tax form after being notified via email to their campus email address. Only students have access to the [1098-T tax form](#); therefore, please check with your student to see if they downloaded and printed the form so they (or you) can do their taxes.

Watch FREE videos! A lot of information was presented during Orientation. If you or your student can't remember it all, you can access the free, online video series anytime. These 7-10 minute videos cover a wide range of topics. USFSCO strongly recommends that you and your student watch the series to brush up on USFSCO knowledge. Go to <https://paymybill.uillinois.edu/Webisodes> to start watching today!



## UIS Institutional Scholarships – Application Deadline February 15

By Carolyn Schloemann, Interim Director, Office of Financial Assistance

The 2017-2018 UIS Institutional Scholarship Application is available to be completed online. Students can spend only a few moments of their time to complete the application online, to turn their time into money.

Over 169 scholarships are available and funds are awarded based upon a variety of criteria, including academic major, personal interests, community involvement and academic performance.

Completing the application will be TIME WELL SPENT. The deadline to apply is 11:59 pm, February 15, 2017. We encourage all students to apply as the scholarship opportunities are updated continually. Continuing students are encouraged to reapply to be eligible for renewable scholarships.

[View a complete list of available scholarships.](#)

# Winter Sports Update

By David Dalfonso, Assistant Athletic Director for Media and Communication

In the 2016 fall semester, Illinois Springfield saw seven teams compete and many rewrite the record books. The women's soccer team scored 19 goals on the season helping them set a program record for wins in a season in consecutive years (7), as well as tie the mark for GLVC wins in a season (4).



On the men's team, senior striker Zachary Allevi helped lead the team to a 7-9-2, 6-7-1 record that put them just a half game short of entering the GLVC tournament for the first time. Allevi's nine goals this season put him atop of the Prairie Star record books for most goals scored in the Division II era (14) and was also recognized as a member of the GLVC All-Conference Third-Team, becoming the first men's soccer player to accomplish that feat.



Men's golf had an exciting fall, recording three top-three finishes as a team, including winning the Dan Salisbury Memorial Invitational. Individually, Nathan Goecks was most recently named the GLVC Men's Golfer of the Week for his performance in the final week of the season. At the UIS Island Invite on October 23-25, Goecks was able to post a score of four-under on the weekend — which tied a UIS 36-Hole record — as he won the UIS Island Invite in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico by six strokes.

The women's golf team also won the Dan Salisbury Memorial Invitational, picking up their first win of the 2016-17 season. Jocelyn Matsen was also named the GLVC Golfer of the Week, after setting

the 36-hole record for the women's team and winning her first outright title at the Maryville Invite at Annbriar Golf Course in Waterloo, Illinois. Matsen lapped the field for a five-stroke victory as she posted the best score in the field on both days en route to the lowest 36-hole total in UIS history.

The volleyball team won their final four home conference matches of the season to finish sixth in the GLVC East division. Alyssa Hasler ended the season second in the conference in total blocks while freshman middle, Alli Splitt, tied for the highest hitting percentage in the conference and led the nation's freshmen in that same category.



Men's cross country took 20th in the Midwest Regional as the push was led by Eli Cook when he finished 85th. The women finished strong as well as they took 26th place in the same tournament as Krissy Finley had a final time of 22:52.80 that put her in 83rd in the 221 person race.

The winter sports are already in action as the men's basketball team, under head coach Bill Walker, is entering his third season. The Prairie Stars have made the GLVC tournament in the previous two seasons. The women's team — under the direction of second year head coach Mark Kost — is led by Shelbi Patterson who was last year named to the GLVC Third-Team last season.





# Rec 'n Roll

By James Koepp, Director Campus Recreation

It's been a busy fall semester for the Campus Recreation Department with record turnouts for multiple events. The semester started with the inaugural Prairie Star 5K, which was held on Saturday, August 27. The event, which was part of the UIS Welcome Week, had 164 registered participants, of those 97 were UIS students. It was more than just a 5K though, as the event brought the campus and community together through activities such as balloon animals, food, music, drinks and awesome medals that were given to the top three male and female winners in each age group. It was a successful event that will be repeated again next fall.



faculty and staff. This fall was the 3rd year for this event, which saw 132 students register. This was quite an increase from 2015, where there were 83 registered participants. Not only do the students enjoy the short run, or walk, they get to experience a color party at the conclusion of the race in which they get to throw color on each other, making their once white shirts a rainbow of bright colors.

Campus Recreation also offers several trips through its Outdoor Adventure program and this year the trips were 100% booked with students looking to explore the country while partaking in some adventure. The first group of the semester traveled to rural West Virginia for whitewater rafting. The students camped for two nights using equipment provided by the Campus Recreation department and rafted down the Lower Gauley River.

The second weekend trip taken by the students was a canoe and kayak trip to southern Missouri. The students stayed together in a cabin and used Campus Recreation's canoes and kayaks on both Friday and Saturday. The students were taught the basics of canoeing and kayaking along with water safety.

If a student was looking for more of a "fun run," the department also offered a Spirit Run as part of the Homecoming festivities. The run is a 1.3 mile loop through campus in which participants are doused head-to-toe in a variety of colors thrown by UIS



Throughout the semester the department also offers day hikes and canoe trips. The hiking trip to Starved Rock State Park filled very quickly, and an additional van was added which quickly filled to capacity. Both canoe trips to Sugar Creek in nearby Chatham also filled to capacity.

Next semester, along with more day canoe trips, the department will be taking weekend trips to ski in Minnesota and also to visit the caves in Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky.



# Services Available for Students with Disabilities

The [Office of Disability Services](#) (ODS) is available to serve students with a documented disability by providing academic accommodations for courses. We are happy to talk with you and give you additional detailed information about the types of

disabilities we serve and the accommodations we provide to students registered with the ODS. We can be reached at 217-206-6666, we look forward to talking with you!

## Prairie Stars Family Association Corner: Wow, What an Inaugural Year!

Hope you all had a great fall! Let me introduce myself and my new 2016-2017 Executive Board.

President - Angela Kneer  
Vice President - Anandhi Ramalingam  
Secretary - DeAnna Shane  
Treasurer - Ellin Lotspeich



We have started getting things in line to establish scholarships for students. Keep an eye out for fundraising opportunities, how you can get involved, and donation opportunities.

Don't forget to visit our [Facebook page](#). If you haven't signed up to be a member of PSFA you can do it on-line.

We were elected at the UIS Family weekend in October. We will be getting the newly appointed officers up to date in the next couple months at our regular monthly meetings. While keeping things rolling in establishing this organization and moving forward.

Hope you all had a great break with your students and a happy new year!

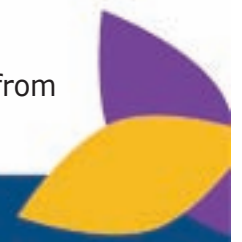
Angela Kneer  
PSFA President

## Family Weekend Notes

Our Family Weekend continues to grow at UIS. This year we had 37 students and their families participate. Starting off with the Continental Breakfast as part of the student research Breakfast of Champions presentation and ending with a wild competition during the UIS Edition of Family Feud it was a great way to spend time with family. We are still deciding about the date for next year's Family Weekend. Students have asked that we not schedule it the same weekend as

Homecoming so they can spend more time with family members. So we are looking at September 29-October 1 (which seems so soon after classes start) or the last week of October (which might be chilly). If you are reading this and have a preference, email before January 31 at [lmcg2@uis.edu](mailto:lmcg2@uis.edu).

On page 14, enjoy some pictures from Family Weekend...





## Important Dates to Remember: Looking Ahead

*Academic Calendars are available on the UIS website at [www.uis.edu/registration/calendars/](http://www.uis.edu/registration/calendars/)*

January 16, 2017	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Campus Closed
January 17	Classes Begin
January 30	Last Day to Change Meal Plans
February 15	UIS Institutional Scholarships Application Deadline at 11:59 p.m.
February 28	Spring Bill Due Date
March 11	Mid-Point of Semester
March 13-17	Monday-Friday – Spring Recess
April 15	Taxes Due
April 17-22	SpringFest
April 22	Admissions Preview Day
May 6	Last Day of Classes
May 8-13	Finals Week
May 13	Semester Ends/Commencement

## Some Important Links, Numbers & Email Addresses

<a href="#">Career Development Center</a>	217/206-6508	careerservices@uis.edu
<a href="#">Counseling Center</a>	217/206-7122	counseling@uis.edu
<a href="#">Disability Services</a>	217/206-6666	ods@uis.edu
<a href="#">Financial Assistance</a>	217/206-6724	finaid@uis.edu
<a href="#">Health Services</a>	217/206-6676	uishealthservice@uis.edu
<a href="#">Records</a>	217/206-6709	registrar@uis.edu
<a href="#">Residence Life</a>	217/206-6190	reslife@uis.edu
<a href="#">New Student Orientation &amp; Parent Relations</a>	217/206-8181	UISOrientation@uis.edu
<a href="#">USFSCO (Student Billing)</a>	217/206-6727	usfscohelp@uillinois.edu

