UIS Parent & Family Newsletter

2017 Fall Newsletter

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

It's Fall! Though you cannot tell by the temperatures lately, we are surrounded by signs of fall as farmers harvest the soybeans and corn and leaves are starting to turn. In between sneezes from the dust kicked up by the harvest, we have been keeping busy in NSOPR. Right after cleaning up from Launch Week we started right in on Family Weekend on September 30.

We had a wonderful time with our 37 families that participated in Family Weekend. A lot of folks had fun with our Carnival on the Quad – playing Arrow Tag, Laser Tag and trying their hand at the carnival games. Congratulations *continued*



First Place UIS edition of the Family Feud Paradies and Murray Families



Rusch Family competing in Family Feud

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New Student Orientation and Parent Relations ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

to our 2017 UIS Edition of Family Feud winners the Paradies (Dan, Brandon and UIS student Annabelle) and Murray Families (Kim, Dean and UIS student Sarah) and our 2017 Family Weekend Frisbee Golf Champions the Rusch Family (Lisa, Steve, Christopher, Holly Hamilton and UIS student Ryan). We hope you all had a great time too. We will hopefully have our dates set for next year's Family Weekend by March, so stay tuned to our Parents and Families webpage for the announcement.

Enjoy the rest of the fall season as we head into Halloween and Thanksgiving. Your students will be home for winter break in just 10 weeks. It will pass by faster than you can say "pumpkin pie."

Jocelyn (in blue headband)

Shine on Prairie Stars! Shine on!

Lisa <u>www.uis.edu/newstudentorientation/</u> Follow NSOPR on Facebook www.facebook.com/uisnewstudentorientation/

UIS News

By Michelle Green Undergraduate student enrollment is steady at UIS for Fall 2017

The number of undergraduate students attending UIS this fall is similar to a year ago – 2,932 compared to 2,959 in fall 2016. The number of graduate students at UIS dipped to 2,024, giving UIS a total enrollment of 4,956. Chancellor Susan Koch said, despite challenges like the uncertainty



of the state budget, she is pleased that UIS is sustaining momentum. The recent addition of several new academic programs including biochemistry, data analytics, exercise science, theatre, and nursing, are keeping enrollments healthy. The drop in graduate students is almost entirely international students, who face uncertainty with their visa status. This year, 72% of students are from Illinois, 15% are from out of state, and 13% are from foreign countries.

By Blake Wood, UIS Assistant Director of Public Relations

UIS welcomes hundreds of new students on Freshman Move-In Day

The University of Illinois Springfield welcomed more than 200 new students during Freshman Move-In Day on August 23.

"This is a really important day, especially for those new freshman who are just pulling in with their families and bringing all manner of essential items," said UIS Chancellor Susan J. Koch.

continued



UIS freshman Aundrae Williams of Springfield admits he was so excited about move-in day that he didn't sleep much the night before. He's looking forward to meeting new friends.

"I'm really just excited to start everything," said Williams. "I couldn't wait to move in. I'm just ready for it all to begin."

Fellow first-year student Kendra Peifer of McLean shares in William's excitement. She says she's grateful for all of the volunteers who helped her move into her room.

"It's kind of overwhelming, but I'm super excited," she said. "I'm ready to start the next chapter of my life."

UIS Director of Residence Life John Ringle says research shows students who live on campus their first few years of college have a better experience.

"Students who live on campus gain a sense of place, a sense of community and a sense of being grounded in the campus they've chosen," said Ringle.

UIS Student Union construction about 85 percent complete

Construction on the University of Illinois Springfield's new student union building is about 85 percent complete, according to Chuck Coderko, UIS associate chancellor for administrative affairs, facilities, & services. The facility is scheduled to open in January 2018.



The two-story, 50,000-square-foot student union will anchor the campus's south quad, providing campus dining services, a Starbucks coffee shop, a ballroom with seating for up to 450 people and a Student Leadership Center that will house student government, volunteer offices and workspaces for student organizations.

For more information on the UIS Student Union, visit <u>www.uis.edu/studentunion/</u>.

UIS students give back to the Springfield community during the Service-A-Thon

University of Illinois Springfield students volunteered at nine Springfield locations during the annual Welcome Week Service-A-Thon on Friday, September 1. The event encourages students to place community first by starting the school year off in service to others.

"It's just a great way for students to connect with their community around Springfield and meet other students on campus," said RJ Swartz, the AmeriCorps VISTA for the UIS Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center.



This year, the students volunteered with the Computer Banc, Contact Ministries, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, M.E.R.C.Y Communities Inc., the Ronald McDonald House, St. John's Breadline and the UIS Community Garden.

UIS sophomore psychology major Alexus Venegas-Rodriguez of Hoffman Estates continued



says she volunteered before coming to UIS. Now, she wants to give back to her new home.

"I just really love giving back and helping people out, so they don't have to work as hard. It just feels good to be helping and making a difference," said Venegas-Rodriguez.

Swartz hopes students who took part in the Service-A-Thon will continue to volunteer in the community throughout the school year.



UIS Cares By Rachel Mau Hello parents of new UIS students!

Sending your kid off to college can be a very fearful thing. You are worried about how they will be without you constantly in the loop. You're worried if they are staying out of trouble, getting the grades they need, and if they are eating enough. Hunger is a growing problem in universities which is affecting how students preform academically. "Roughly 10% of the 46.5 million adult clients are college students, this amounts to two million full-time college students of those surveyed by the emergency food services network, roughly 30.5% of students reported that they were forced to choose between food and educational expenses at some point over the last year" (Feeding America's report 2014).

As this new school year begins, student's food budget could suffer due to the many costs of

New downtown Springfield business discount program announced for UIS students

University of Illinois Springfield students can now take advantage of a new downtown Springfield discount program at stores and eateries. Deals vary, but many include a 10 percent discount or buy-one-get-one-free offers. All students need to do to take advantage of the discount is show their *i-card* at businesses displaying the Downtown Discounts decal.

The discount program was created by State Representative Sara Wojcicki Jimenez's Higher Education Student Advisory Committee, made up of students from UIS and Lincoln Land Community College, in partnership with downtown businesses. The Downtown Discounts program launched with 10 participating businesses, including Springfield Vintage, Custom Cup Coffee, Daisy Jane's, the Hoogland Center for the Arts, Jade's Far East Emporium, The Roost, Wild Rose, Studio 6, Z Bistro, Udder Hut, JoJo's Street Quisine and Recycled Records.

In addition to the new Downtown Discounts program, UIS has had a longtime *i-card* perks discount program with many Springfield businesses.

living. Most new students don't have the time to hold a job because of their demanding schedules, which forces them into a tough position and, most times, an empty stomach. This not only negatively affects physical health and well-being, but students' grades begin to suffer as well.

Luckily, University of Illinois Springfield has



created UIS Cares, a food pantry available to all enrolled UIS students. UIS Cares is located in the Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center, SAB 60, and is open every Friday (1-4 p.m.). It offers food, cleaning supplies, and other resources, free of charge, for students who cannot afford it on their own. Any student is allowed to benefit from UIS Cares resources. It's free and unlimited. Students with a valid issued *i-card* can take whatever they need. This allows students to get the nutrition they need in order to perform their best academically and allows them some help and support they need.

Students shouldn't have to worry about were their next meal is going to come from; they have enough to worry about academically. UIS Cares is an agency with the Central Illinois Food Bank, which means we are able to purchase food from the foodbank at a discounted rate in order to stock our pantry. Although, we rely mainly on donations from faculty, staff, and parents. Accepted donations include, but are not limited to: cleaning spray, paper towels, oatmeal/cereal, granola bars, dry noodles, and Shampoo and Conditioner. Donations from the community not only fill UIS Cares, but it also brings the community closer. Collection bins are located all around campus, and all donations are appreciated. Monetary donations (checks and gift cards) are also excepted. Checks are to be made out to UIS Cares Food Pantry/UIF. All monetary donations should be sent to the following address:

University of Illinois Springfield University of Illinois Foundation PO Box 3492 Champaign, IL 61826-9429

With your help, UIS Cares hopes to end food depravation on campus. More information can be found on the <u>UIS Cares webpage</u>.

USFSCO University Student Financial Services & Cashier Operations

https://paymybill.uillinois.edu/

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 see the <u>calendar</u> for more information.

• What are my payment options?

Student accounts balances are expected to be paid in full by the due date. A LATE PAYMENT CHARGE of \$1.00 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 \$2.00 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

• What is the payment address?

When mailing a payment, the student name and UIN 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 the following 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. Visit the <u>Scholarship</u> <u>Payments</u> section of our website for details.

continued



Top Questions that Parents and Students Ask (continued):

Why do I need to have an Authorized Payer and how do I designate someone? FERPA prohibits the University from releasing specific student account information to anyone other than the student without the student's authorization. USFSCO utilizes the Authorized Payer functionality within UI-Pay as a FERPA release authorization. Students may authorize a parent, guardian, spouse, sponsor or other individual to view their student account, make online payments, and receive FERPA protected account information.

Have your student <u>click here to login to their</u> <u>student account</u>, follow the login instructions for your campus, then select "Student Account," and then select "Authorized Payer."

Following set up, an e-mail will automatically be sent to the Authorized Payer with their login name and the link to the <u>Authorized</u> <u>Payer website</u>. However, the student must provide the password to the Authorized Payer. Authorized payers will receive a monthly email notification reminding them to view their student's account for recent activity and to pay any amount due by the due date.

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 United States 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.

Students can <u>click here to login to their</u> <u>student account</u>, follow the login instructions for your campus, then select "Direct Deposit" to enroll.

Residence Life Desk

By Haley Houser



Hello UIS Parents!

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

move-in was just yesterday, but we are almost half way through the Fall semester. Your student will be preparing for mid-terms soon, and we want to make sure they are mentally prepared as they enter the second half of the semester.

They may have mentioned their Resident Assistants will be conducting Health and Safety Inspections October 2-6 and November 13-17. A couple of times per semester, our staff likes to check in on students to make sure they are maintaining their space and see if there are any work orders that may need to be submitted. We know that WiFi connection is an issue often expressed when completing these inspections, therefore, we took action prior to the Health and Safety Inspections this year. The first week of September, our facilities staff went around with CDW to survey the WiFi, to see if we could enhance the connection to better accommodate the number of students on campus. We are still working to better our WiFi system and will hopefully have a solution in the upcoming months. If your student ever needs to submit a work order for either their internet connection or any maintenance issues, the links are located on our <u>home page</u>. They can also watch this helpful video if they need additional assistance.

While we make sure that all of the students' units are maintained, their safety is our number one concern. Your student may receive emails notifying them of upcoming Fire Drills, Fire Alarm *continued*





Testing, and other safety maintenance that we conduct every semester. Additionally, we provide an Emergency Action Plan, with hopes to never have to use it, but preparing our student to know where to evacuate in case of an emergency. When you have the time, please see our Emergency Action Plan for the different residential areas. 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. Additionally, we have updated our *i-card* swipe system into the Residence Halls to ensure that only appropriate residents 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.

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 midterms, make sure you are addressing the package correctly. First, please use the students full name when sending a package. This allows for accurate processing and ensures the package won't be returned to you. Secondly, list the buildings street address. This can be found on our <u>website</u>. 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. For example: Founders Residence Hall 120 or Bluebell Court Apt. 141. Please do not call our office for your student's specific address, due to privacy concerns we are not able to provide any information regarding your student's location on campus. While all packages are logged at our front desks, please do not address your student's package to our 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.

Sending a package to your student for mid-terms is something they look forward to, so please be sure to address it correctly! Your students should be also looking forward to information about Halloween events taking place in October. They will also be receiving information regarding our Contract Cancellation Deadline if they plan on transferring or 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 fill out. If you or your student ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: Email: reslife@uis.edu or Phone: 217-206-6190.



REC It Up

By Caitlin Osborn, Campus Recreation Graduate Student Assistant

We are a little over a month into our fall semester, and it has been a busy time for UIS and Campus Recreation. The Recreation and Athletic Center (TRAC) is celebrating its 10th anniversary, and we kicked off the school year with some big events to help celebrate that milestone.

Huge upgrades were made at Rec Park, our outdoor recreation field and in TRAC. Lights have been added to the field, so now intramural sports



can be played at night instead of just on the weekends. We can also host night events for the greater campus community. A major overhaul on our sand volleyball court was completed, adding new beach sand and new poles. Finally, test your putting at our new nine-hole miniature golf course. In TRAC, new treadmills, a new arc trainer, and a heavy bag used for boxing were added.



We kicked off the school year with a brand new event called REC-a-Palooza. This day-long event was a great way to showcase all that Campus Rec has to offer. Events included: chair massages, paddleboard yoga, yard games, sailing on Lake Springfield, and group fitness demos. The event concluded with over 600 students coming to Rec Park to listen to a live band; get free food from four area food trucks; and play bubble soccer, sand volleyball, cornhole, mini golf, and basketball. This event was a huge success and a lot of fun for the students.



The Second Annual Prairie Star 5K was held on Saturday, September 9. This was a big hit, just like last year, with over 100 participants. This event brought the campus together to participate, volunteer, and have some fun while being physically active.

Campus Recreation has programs running daily. Intramurals for the fall include: cricket, soccer, flag football, sand volleyball, and indoor volleyball. In the Spring student teams can play: basketball, arena football, volleyball, futsal, & more! Intramurals are free for your students to participate and are a great way for them to meet other students! Group fitness classes run week days both Fall and Spring semesters, you can find these classes on our schedule: Barre, Martial Arts, WERQ dance fitness, Zumba, Core Conditioning, Boot Camp, Cycling, HIIT & Lift, Yoga, and more!

Campus Rec also offers Outdoor Adventure trips to get students outdoors, having fun, and staying physically active! Fall trips include: Whitewater Rafting in West Virginia, a day hiking trip to Starved Rock State Park, weekend Canoe/Kayak trip to Missouri. Finishing the fall semester is a day trip to Bloomington for indoor rock climbing.

Your students can register and see more about our trips on <u>UIS Connection</u>. These trips fill fast, so be sure to talk to your students to see if they are interested in participating!

UIS Athletics Enjoying Success on the Field and in the Classroom

By David Dalfonso, Assistant Athletic Director for Media and Communication

Over the past year, the University of Illinois Springfield department of athletics has seen unprecedented success both on the field and in the classroom. During the course of the 2016-17 academic year, the 17 varsity programs—comprised of over 250 student-athletes—saw incredible leaps in both academic and athletic success.



Academically, UIS had 113 student-athletes earn Academic All-GLVC honors—setting a record for UIS since joining the GLVC in 2009. This broke the previous record of 89, which was set last year, and over the course of the past two seasons, UIS has increased their Academic All-GLVC total by 47 honorees.

Of the 113 Academic All-Conference recipients, 12 student-athletes garnered a perfect 4.0 GPA. With that, UIS student-athletes completed the entire academic year with a 3.3 cumulative GPA.

Seven teams were recognized by the GLVC for academic achievement over the past year, upholding a team-GPA of at least 3.30 for the entire academic year. Women's tennis led the way with an overall GPA of 3.70.

On top of the academic recognition from the GLVC, UIS had 57 student-athletes recognized by the Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2 ADA) for their academic success. The Academic Achievement Award is presented to studentathletes who had a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and have attended a minimum of two years of college level work. UIS was one of eight schools, in the then 16-team league, to have student-athletes recognized.



On the field of play, UIS saw a 56-point increase in overall winning percentage, directly contributing to a four-place jump in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Commissioners Cup. Additionally, the Prairie Stars had one athlete—Amanda Gosbeth named a CoSIDA Academic All-American, while Cole Taylor was named an American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) All-American. Three teams baseball, softball, and women's tennis—qualified for their respective conference tournaments; women's tennis doing so for the first time in program history.

Five times UIS had a student-athlete recognized as the GLVC Player of the Week, culminating in 15 All-GLVC selections at the end of the year. On top of that, UIS had four student-athletes named to their respective All-Region team. Michael Rothmund and Cole Taylor were recognized for baseball, Amanda Gosbeth for softball, and Talon Supak for men's golf.

The women's golf team qualified for the NCAA Super-Regional for the second straight season while the men's team player Talon Supak turned in a UIS record performance at the NCAA Regional.

PRAIRIE STAR NOTES: In the fall season, the women's soccer team is off to the best 10-game start in program history with a 6-2-2 record...the men's soccer team cracked into the regional rankings for the first time in program history, ranking 10th in the Midwest Region...the volleyball team is off to their best 13-game start in Division II history with an 8-5 record... Starting this fall, any Prairie Stars fans ages 12-under will receive free admission to ALL UIS home events.

Career Development Center

The Career Development Center

has been humming with activity since the start of Fall 2017. Already, students have actively engaged in career and professional development activities including:

- Resume Mania August 28 & 29 Two action packed days of targeted resume development and critiques provided by Career Development Center staff.
- Foot in the Door Fair August 31 More than 80 employers with job, internship, and volunteer opportunities participated in the Fair. Nearly 300 students attended and made professional connections. The event was put on in collaboration between the Career Development Center, Internship and Prior Learning Office, Office of Student Life, Volunteer & Civic Engagement Center, Student Employment, and International Student Services.
- Homecoming Networking and Etiquette Dinner – September 25
 Over 60 students and alumni attendees participated and were able to practice their professional networking skills and learn how to formally dine with proper etiquette and style.

If your student has yet to engage with the Career Development Center there are many opportunities yet to come. Please encourage your student to save the dates for the following events.

- Career Immersion Trip to Innovate Springfield – October 27 Students will have the chance to visit Innovate Springfield, a local business incubator, hear from entrepreneurs in residence and explore entrepreneurship as a career path. Advanced registration is required.
- Career Bytes Conference November 10 UIS students will be able to gain professional "know how" in a concentrated, customizable forum. The Conference will include sessions focused on understanding what employers are looking for when hiring, resume building, office etiquette, and more! Additionally, the Conference will include a keynote presentation by a successful alum and a networking lunch.
- Career Connections Expo February 15 (2018) The Career Connections Expo typically brings over 100 employers to campus for an exciting career fair with lots of opportunities to network and learn about exciting job and internship opportunities.

Please encourage your student to reach out or stop by if they are interested in upcoming events or if they would like to learn more about the resources available through the Career Development Center.

<u>Career Development Center</u> – SAB 50. Email: careerservices@uis.edu; phone: 217.206.6508.

Prairie Stars Family Association Corner:

Celebrating their third anniversary, the PSFA held elections during their annual General Membership meeting on Saturday, September 30. Re-elected for a second term as President was Angela Kneer; our former secretary Deanna Shane was elected Vice President, Ellin Lotspeich was elected for her third term as Treasurer, and new UIS parent Joyce Nelson was elected Secretary.

Treasurer Ellin Lotspeich has had a busy year. Last year she established a bank account for

continued





2017-2018 PSFA Board Members pictured I to rt: Ellin Lotspeich-Treasurer; Joyce Nelson-Secretary; Deanna Shane-Vice President/ (not pictured: President Angela Kneer)

PSFA, completed paperwork to register for a tax id, and is currently filing paperwork to register the UIS Prairie Stars Family Association as a notfor-profit organization. Board members also attended summer KickStart and Transfer/ Graduate Orientation sessions to promote PSFA, meet new parents and speak on the KickStart Parent Panel.

Now that the organization has established financial accounts, look in your mail for their first fundraising appeal to generate funds for the filing fee for the not-for-profit status and creating a scholarship fund for students. The alternative fundraising letter will be sent to parents/guardians at the student's permanent address shortly (so keep an eye on the mail). We appreciate any help that you can provide.

Committee Opportunities

PSFA is looking for folks to help with our major organizational initiatives. Meetings (mostly monthly or as needed) will be coordinated through conference calls – so there will be no need to drive long distances. Three to four people would be helpful in each of these three areas to help set up, organize and build a foundation for member involvement:

- Social Activities- helping parents to interact on and off campus by creating different social opportunities. Examples of on campus events would include UIS Family Weekend, The PSFA Social on Move-in Day, and one idea to have a social for parents on graduation day to celebrate. An examples of one idea for an off campus get together: potluck picnics at local parks held regionally around Illinois.
- 2. Fundraising- organizing ways to raise money for the PSFA Parents Fund which will help support PSFA scholarships, grants to the university, and PSFA activities.
- 3. Scholarships- creating two scholarships for new and returning students and structuring guidelines for the application/selection process the university will use (unfortunately scholarship sponsors cannot be on the selection committee). We have examples from other schools.

No experience necessary just a willingness to help other parents and your student. If you are interested, please email Angela Kneer janck94@comcast.net with your name, email address, phone number (with area code), student name and year, best time(s) each day for a phone conference and the committee you are interested in.

PSFA Membership

If you are interested in becoming a general member of PSFA complete the <u>online registration</u> form. Membership is FREE! Be sure to stay in touch by following the <u>PSFA Facebook Page</u>.



Important Dates to Remember: Looking Ahead

<u>Academic Calendars</u> are available online.

October 20	Fall Break	
October 21	Midterms	
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Recess	
December 9	Last Day of Classes	
December 11-16	Finals Week	
December 16	Semester Ends	

Some Important Numbers

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

Family Weekend Photo Page

















