

UIS Parent & Family Newsletter

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New Student Orientation and Parent Relations

ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

2019 Spring Newsletter

Table of Contents:

Spring Notes from the Director of NSOPR . . .	1
Student Insurance . . .	2
Health Services	2
Campus Recreation . . .	2
Department of Biology .	3
Visual Arts	4
UIS News	4
Department of Art, Music, and Theatre . . .	7
Athletics	7
Career Development Center	8
Information Technology Services (ITS)	9
College of Public Affairs and Administration . . .	9
Residence Life	11
USFSCO	13
Prairie Stars Family Association	14
Some Important Numbers	15
Important Dates to Remember: Looking Ahead	15

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

By: Lisa McGuire

It is hard to imagine that just a week ago, most of us were experiencing subzero temperatures and dangerous wind chills. I am enjoying the reprieve that Mother Nature is giving us. I look forward to seeing the first daffodils and crocuses pop up. To me, that means spring is right around the corner – never mind what Punxsutawney Phil has predicted.

they are missing prime opportunities to exercise, get their homework done, and utilize the library. I am still surprised when I hear students tell me they don't have enough time to get all their reading, homework, and studying done, but when I have them block out their commitments, big gaps of free time are left on the weekends. Spending time getting classwork done on Saturday and Sunday afternoons can ease the pressure from the rest of the week and still leave plenty of time to hang out and relax.



The cold weather makes me want to curl up in a ball on the couch, snuggled under a quilt. Unfortunately, this leads to binge watching and sleeping. So getting up and moving is important.

Your student too might prefer to just hunker down, especially on the weekends – but

The semester still feels new, but for those of you with students living on-campus, Residence Life is starting the housing selection process for the 2019-20 school year. They have been [posting information on their webpage](#), [Facebook page](#) and sending emails to students. They are encouraged to submit their contract renewal through the Student Housing Portal as soon as possible. It is important for them to pay attention to the deadlines and work with the students they want to room with next year.

Midterms are only a few weeks away. If your student gets stressed out over tests suggest they attend the "mid-Term Stress Less & Text Anxiety Tips Table hosted by the Counseling Center





Monday, March 4 from 11-1 in the Student Union. They can learn more about studying and stress reduction techniques.

Only a couple more weeks until Spring Break (March 11-15). Spring always seems busier and more stressful than the fall semester, so be prepared to listen to your student's concerns and encourage them to utilize their campus resources – they pay for them! Suggest they taking a 20-minute break to walk around campus (or the

TRAC). It will bump up the body's "feel good" endorphins improving their mood, reduce tension, and thus reducing stress!

Keep Warm Everyone!

Lisa

www.uis.edu/newstudentorientation/

Follow NSOPR on Facebook  www.facebook.com/uisnewstudentorientation/

Student Insurance

Parents, please note that UIS **automatically assesses** any student enrolled in a blended or on-campus course for the student insurance plan. The current fee is \$530 for Spring 2019. Our contract is with Blue Cross Blue Shield Illinois. If your student has current active health care coverage under an alternate plan, a [WAIVER](#) must be filed online by the February 28, 2019 deadline.

Any student interested in keeping the auto-assessed insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield may [review the plan online](#).

Thank you. UIS Office of Student Insurance.

Contact: Phone: (217) 206-7237.

Email: studentinsurance@uis.edu

Health Services

By: Linda Nixon

If your student enrolled in classes this spring semester, please remind your students to [submit their immunization records online](#).

In order to avoid a \$35 late processing fee, immunization records must be submitted by the student's 1st semester, by the 10th day of classes. If the 1st semester is Summer, records must be submitted by the 5th day of classes. It is not a requirement for ONLINE ONLY students to provide these records. However, this is a requirement if the student is taking 1 or more credit hour on campus.



Contact information:
Email: uishealthservice@uis.edu
Phone: 217-206-6676
After-hours nurse: 1-800-299-0274
Fax: 217-206-7779



Campus Recreation

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

There are exciting things happening for Campus Recreation in 2019. Students can look forward to an array of group fitness classes, intramural sports, outdoor adventure trips, special events and much more this year, but first, an update from last semester.

Fall 2018 was one of Campus Recreation's most successful semesters, and we have the students to thank who continue to support our offerings and programs. We had our second annual Rec-Palooza, which was a full day of Campus Recreation activities. Weather pushed

our street party until the next week, but we then celebrated a fun night of activities, live music and food trucks.

Does your student have a 2019 fitness related New Year's resolution? They can spring into fitness at UIS and let group fitness instructors help keep them accountable, safe, and having fun while exercising! All classes are drop-in, so they can grab their friends and head to TRAC for a great workout. Offerings include Cycle Fit, WERQ Dance Fitness, Yoga, Martial Arts & Self Defense and Body Blast.

Campus Recreation will also be offering a number of fitness-related programs this spring. The programs include Women on Weights, an educational weight training program geared towards women and the annual Health and Wellness Fair in April which is a great experience for everyone at UIS and the Springfield community to enjoy, for FREE!

Does your student enjoy the outdoors? Campus Recreation offers Outdoor Adventure trips throughout the Midwest and other parts of the country! Most universities offer outdoor trips, but UIS Campus Recreation makes sure that those trips are affordable for all students.

Our first trip will be a day ski and snowboard trip to Ski Snowstar Resort in the Quad Cities on February 1. February 8-10 we will hit the slopes again, this time in Minnesota for skiing and snowboarding. We will also be camping in Kentucky as we explore Mammoth Cave before finishing off the year in our own canoes and kayaks in nearby Sugar Creek. For more information, students can visit each trip's UIS Connection page or contact [Jay Swenson](#).

Finally, we head back into the arena as intramural sports are in full swing with basketball, indoor cricket, racquetball, futsal, volleyball, and badminton. As weather warms up we will head outdoors under our lights for a semester ending softball tournament. All of these free leagues and tournaments are open to all students and offer men's, women's and coed leagues. Students can see the full schedule and register by visiting www.uis.edu/campusrec and clicking on Intramural Sports Registrations.

Now that you've seen all that Campus Recreation has to offer this semester, I have some bad news...these are student events, not parent events. While you can't attend we hope you'll encourage your children to take advantage of our diverse programs as there is something for everyone in Campus Recreation.

Department of Biology

By: Dr. Amy B. McEuen, Associate Professor of Biology

Sarah Lindholm, from UIS's Biology department, recently completed her MS thesis and will be receiving UIS's Outstanding Thesis Award for her work. This January, she presented her findings at the Stewardship Network Conference in Lansing, MI. This conference aims to bring together restoration ecology researchers with practitioners to foster biodiversity conservation. Sarah worked at UIS in Dr. Amy McEuen's lab examining the changes in



Sarah Lindholm

plant species at tallgrass prairie restoration sites over time. Her research took place at The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon preserve near Havana, IL where UIS has a field station. She spent hot days in the prairie along with undergraduate student assistant, Jack Zinnen, sampling plots at five different restoration sites on the preserve. She used her data along with data from two previous graduate students



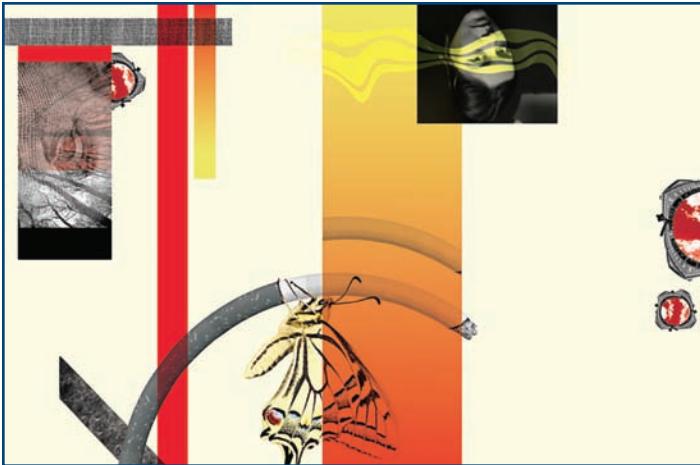


(Christy-Troxell Thomas and Emily Staley) to see how the types of plants in the sites had changed over a nine-year period. She found that some sites had increased in conservation value but others had decreased. Decreases occurred in sites that

had experienced high levels of flooding.

Sarah now works as an environmental scientist in Springfield, IL at Northwater Consulting. Jack Zinnen is now a PhD student at UIUC continuing to pursue his interests in native plant conservation.

Visual Arts Program



work by Shannon McCarthy

February 28-April 11

The Magnificently Mundane

Curated by Brytton Bjorngaard

Reception: February 28, 5:30-8 p.m.

Design is part of our everyday. It's the cereal box opened at breakfast to the junk mail when home from work...it's the mundane. It's also the invite for a friend's wedding to the art adorning the

living room wall...it's the magnificent. Whether created for a client or created for pleasure, The Magnificently Mundane showcases what it means to be graphic design.



work by 2014 graduate Kayla Ico

April 18-May 9

Annual Senior Showcase & Alumni Exhibition

Reception: April 25th, 5:30-8 p.m.

UIS News

By: Blake Wood, UIS Assistant Director of Public Relations

AIM HIGH program provides an additional \$1 million for scholarships

More high-achieving students will be able to attend the University of Illinois Springfield tuition-free thanks to a new program that will provide more than \$1 million in additional scholarship dollars for first-year and transfer students starting the 2019-20 academic year.

Illinois' AIM HIGH grant pilot program is designed to keep students in Illinois for their college



education, increase overall Illinois college student enrollment and retention, improve Illinois college affordability and reduce student loan debt.

To attend UIS tuition-free through the Capital Scholars Honors Program, a student must be a first-time incoming freshman or transfer student, have maintained a high school GPA of 3.50 or higher and have earned at least a 32 ACT or 1450 SAT score. High-performing students outside of the honors program will be eligible for up to \$12,000 a year in Lincoln Merit Scholarships. Additionally, the grant program will allow UIS for the first time to offer tuition assistance to students at various academic levels who meet the AIM HIGH program's financial requirements.

"The AIM HIGH grant will give more students access to a high-quality UIS education," said UIS Chancellor Susan J. Koch. "We hope this additional financial support will keep more Illinois students living and working in Illinois and encourage them to come to UIS."

The additional financial support provided by the AIM HIGH grant is made possible thanks to \$25 million in state funding designated for all of the state's public universities to share. UIS was allocated \$543,000 for this program, and public universities statewide have pledged to match what they receive. For UIS, that amounts to nearly \$1.1 million in additional scholarship dollars for students.

"We know the value UIS can offer students and families through our personalized learning experience, 52 academic programs, safe campus and variety of housing options," said Natalie Herring, UIS associate provost for enrollment management. "We're constantly working to make college more affordable for our students. In addition to University scholarships, UIS has also awarded 311 students with donor scholarships this academic year totaling more than \$600,000."

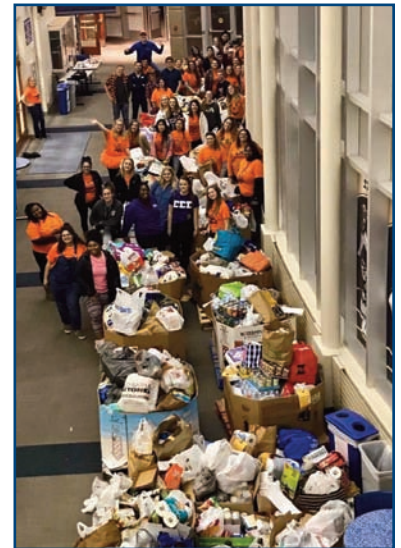
Overall, UIS is one of the most affordable public universities in Illinois. The average tuition cost at UIS per academic year is \$9,405 for Illinois residents. According to an August 2018 University of Illinois System Economic Impact report, the

annual return on investment for a UIS degree is 20.1 percent, which translates to a return of \$6.30 in higher future earnings for every dollar that students invest in their education.

For more information on the AIM HIGH grant program at UIS, prospective students and parents are encouraged to visit www.uis.edu/financialaid/ or call UIS Financial Assistance at 217/206-6724.

UIS students collect 18,095 pounds of food to help fight hunger on Halloween night

More than 200 University of Illinois Springfield students helped to collect 18,095 pounds of food to help fight hunger in central Illinois on Halloween night. The majority of the food, 17,171 pounds, was donated to the [Central Illinois Foodbank](#), while 924 pounds went to the on campus [UIS Cares Food Pantry](#).



A total of 16 teams, consisting of 262 students, went door-to-door in several Springfield neighborhoods collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items.

The teams canvassed the neighborhoods and distributed door hangers that explained the project. Collected items were returned and weighed on campus. Prizes were awarded to the teams that collected the most food. Students in the Tri-Sigma Sorority collected 3,032 pounds of food in the Westwood Forum and Mill Creek subdivisions. Leadership for Life program students collected 2,070 pounds of food in the Country Club Estates subdivision.

For a third year, the UIS Cox Children's Center participated in the fun by having the children in costume Trick-or-Treat



for Canned Goods at on campus departments. The children collected 924 pounds of food for the UIS Cares Food Pantry.

The Central Illinois Foodbank, established in 1982, distributes 9 million pounds of food annually to over 160 food pantries, soup kitchens, residential programs and after-school programs in a 21 county region.

The UIS Cares Food Pantry, located in the Student Affairs Building, room 60, was started in 2016 as a way to help students with food insecurity on campus. It is open 3 – 5 pm Tuesdays, 1 - 4 pm Fridays, 10 am – 2 pm Saturdays, and by appointment by emailing UISCares@UIS.edu



UIS Student Union wins excellence in design award from the American Institute of Architects

The University of Illinois Springfield’s new [Student Union building](#) was honored with an excellence in design award by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) during the Prairie Chapter Design Meeting and Awards Program in Bloomington, Illinois on Nov. 1, 2018.

The building was designed by [Workshop Architects](#) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and [Dewberry](#) of Peoria, Illinois to LEED® Gold guidelines, with sustainable features which include a green roof, energy efficient lighting, rainwater reclamation system and radiant flooring in select areas.

The two-story, 50,000-square-foot student union anchors 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 houses student



government, volunteer offices and workspaces for student organizations.

Since the building’s opening in January 2018, the Student Union has helped to energize campus life, creating a vibrant social environment in the heart of campus.

In evaluating the Student Union’s design, the nationally-renowned design jury commented, “The project offers a modern, fresh and spacious interactive space. The proposed program with flexible work spaces and overlapped activities seems very appropriate as a social catalyst for students on campus. The goals of the project are noble, to create a central place for what’s otherwise a commuter campus. I think they have done a great job. The building is a striking, inviting sculptural form. Its plan is well organized and the volumes within the building – for student government and the Starbucks pavilion, are nicely scaled and inviting.”

According to AIA, projects were judged by measuring the architect’s performance against each project’s potential and not against other projects. Decisions were based upon the overall excellence of design in various categories.

For more information on the 2018 Prairie Chapter Design Awards, visit www.aia.org/prairie.



Department of Art, Music, and Theatre

By: Nikkie Stefan

UIS Theatre will present Sarah Ruhl's *Dead Man's Cell Phone* directed by Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson. The production will be presented in the Studio Theatre on April 12-14 and 18-20, 2019. Performances begin at 7:30 pm, except our Sunday matinee (April 14) which begins at 2 pm. A post-show discussion will be held with company

members following Thursday's April 18 performance.

For tickets, please call 217-206-PLAY (7529) or visit the UIS Theatre website.



Athletics

By: Daniel Newton, Assistant AD for Strategic Communications

The 2018 fall sports season was a banner one for the University of Illinois Springfield Athletics Department. Four out of the five programs in the first part of the school year had their best seasons since the move to the NCAA level.

The top headline in the fall was the Prairie Stars volleyball program. UIS finished the season with a 25-8 overall record and a 15-3 GLVC mark. It won a GLVC Regular Season Championship for the first time in program history, and earned its first bid to the NCAA Division II National Tournament. UIS advanced to the GLVC Tournament semifinals for the second straight season.

Two of the team's biggest wins of the season came after falling behind by two sets in regular season matches. At home in late September, the Prairie Stars won the final three sets for a victory over No. 10 Drury, the highest-ranked opponent they have ever beaten. On the final day of the regular season, UIS had an even bigger comeback win over Bellarmine, a win that clinched a share of the regular season crown.

Among the many individual accolades won by the players throughout the year included the first two All-Americans in program history in Alyssa Hasler and Alli Splitt.

The men's soccer team was in the race for the GLVC Championship until the final week of the regular season. It finished the year with a 9-6-3

overall record, and an 8-3-2 conference mark. Both of those win totals were new program-highs for the team in its NCAA era, as was the third-place conference finish by the team.

UIS was led throughout the season by Rhys Wallace and Mario Falsone, and both of those players earned all-region honors.

The cross country teams, under first-year head coach
rable seasons. The men's team finished third at the GLVC Championships and 14th at the NCAA Regionals. Tyler Pasley and Blake Jones were both all-conference runners after top-12 finishes in the conference meet. The women's team was led by GLVC Freshman of the Year Taryn Christy. Christy finished fourth overall in her first GLVC meet, and helped the team to a seventh-place GLVC finish and a 19th-place showing at regionals.

The women's soccer team was hurt by injuries throughout the year. Despite a 3-11-3 record, it was competitive in nearly every game, with 14 of their contests being decided by a tie or just a single goal.



*Men's soccer player
Rhys Wallace*



Academic Success:

UIS student-athletes continued to have academic success in Fall of 2018. The athletics department had an overall GPA of 3.30. Every team had a GPA of 2.94 or higher, including 14 of its 17 programs having a GPA above 3.20. Women’s tennis had a team GPA of 3.732, the highest out of the Prairie Stars squads.

Volleyball player Taylor Bauer made UIS history when she was named a first-team Academic All-American in the fall. She is the first Prairie Stars athlete to earn this honor which combines on-court success with academic achievements. Bauer recorded 365 kills during the team’s great season, the most by a UIS player in its NCAA era.



Volleyball player Taylor Bauer

UIS Career Development Center

By: Angela Evans, Assistant Director of the Career Development Center

The Career Development Center is teeming with activities for students to learn and engage in professional development opportunities, and test-drive and launch into their careers in spring 2019! Check out our *Upcoming Events* and *Off-Campus Career Fairs & Career Events Calendars* at the bottom of the [career homepage](#) for current and future events and details.



Career Development Center staff

Information Technology Services (ITS)

By: Kara McElwraith, Assistant Director, Client Services, Information Technology Services

ITS Updates: ITS has recently upgraded several access points throughout campus. Additionally, we have invested in a tool which will help us tweak settings on individual access points based on usage and demand. These efforts lead towards our goal of continuous improvement in WiFi connectivity and speed.

We encourage students to reach out to ITS with any issues or concerns, including suggestions for additional services that you would like to see offered. We are available in a number of ways:

- Email – techsupport@uis.edu
- Phone – (217) 206-6000 or (877) 847-0443
- Text – (217) 206-6000
- Live chat – click the Live Help box in the lower right-hand corner of our [ITS home page](#).
- In person – lower level of Brookens Library

Click Support in the green bar across the top of the [ITS website](#) to see all our contact information and hours of operation!

College of Public Affairs and Administration

Applied Learning Opportunities with the College of Public Affairs and Administration

The College of Public Affairs and Administration (CPAA) has many applied learning opportunities that will give graduates an edge in advancing their careers. Applied learning activities help students connect what they have learned in the classroom to real world situations. Studies have shown that students taught theoretical principles, processes and skills in isolation without practice do not transfer these skills and knowledge as well to real life situations. Below are just a few of the applied learning options that the CPAA offers their students.

Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) program in the **Public Administration Department** is designed to educate the next generation of mandated reporters as well as those professionals already working in the child welfare field. The CAST curriculum includes core courses aimed at increasing knowledge of key child maltreatment concepts. Current UIS degree-seeking students in public administration, criminal justice, social work, human services, legal studies, or teacher education may select the three required courses

as electives in their program. All of the courses are offered online and on ground each semester. Under the leadership of Public Administration faculty member Dr. Betsy Goulet, the University has created a Residential Simulation Lab and mock courtroom. Both facilities are being used as tools for hands-on training in effective intervention techniques in child abuse and neglect scenarios for both professionals and students. The Simulation Lab was dedicated on April 25, 2016. A total of 582 new child protection investigators have been trained through the UIS Child Protection Training Academy. Recent CAST graduates have returned to campus as new DCFS investigators.

Students in the **Political Science or Legal Studies Departments** have the opportunity to participate in the Model Illinois Government (MIG) Moot Court. In the MIG Moot Court Competition, a two-person team of students makes appellate arguments against another two-person team, before a panel of judges, based on an extensive fact pattern and numerous legal precedents. Students are evaluated on the basis of the quality of their arguments and understanding of the legal issues, as well as their presentation skills. Students may also participate as judges. In 2015, UIS had the top two teams in the competition, after only two years of involvement, and UIS again won the competition in 2016. In 2017, a UIS team made it to the final round. The competition takes place during the MIG Simulation in March. To assist in the preparation for the competition, students may take PSC 414/LES 413: Appellate Advocacy—Moot Court in the Spring semester. If your student is interested in participating they should contact [Dr. Jason Pierceson](#), Political Science Professor.

Our CPAA **Environmental Studies** majors have many opportunities to play leadership roles in improving the sustainability of our campus. They can serve on the new student-led Green Fee Committee (GFC), which decides how to use funds



Simulation Lab





collected through our \$5/semester student green fee. Each year, UIS students, faculty, and staff submit proposals that outline their ideas for green projects on our campus and in our community.

Student Green Fee Committee members review these proposals, select which ones will be funded, and then help implement the projects.



Water Bottle Filling Station in PAC

Last year's successful projects included water bottle filling stations in the Public Affairs Center, a new kid-friendly garden at the Cox Daycare Center, a landscaping project replacing high-maintenance turf grass with native grasses and plants, and a bicycle repair station. The UIS Green Fee also pays for two students to work (under the supervision of ENS faculty member Dr. Megan Styles) as the UIS Campus Sustainability Coordinators. Serving on the GFC and working as project coordinators prepares our students for successful careers as creative and collaborative environmental professionals. For more information, check out the [UIS Green Projects webpage](#). Students can also get involved as volunteers in our UIS Campus Community Garden. For more information on this initiative, check that [website](#).

The Model United Nations Club (MUN) is for students who attend the annual National Model UN Conference in New York each spring. In the fall before the conference, the UIS delegation begins to form and members gather information about the country they will represent. In the spring, the delegation submits position papers to the National MUN and attends the conference in New York, a simulation of the United Nations Organization, where resolutions are discussed, debated, and voted upon by all countries

represented in the council and committees. The simulations are as close to reality as possible. Each delegation attempts to take on the character, as well as the policy, of its assigned country and peace treaties, caucuses, and walk-outs by dissatisfied delegates are frequent. This year UIS students will represent the State of Kuwait. **Political Science** professors, [Professor Adriana Crocker](#) and [Dr. Ali Nizamuddin](#), are the faculty advisors.

In **Legal Studies**, students in the Mock Trial Club participate in trial simulations in competition with other institutions. These mock trial tournaments provide students with the opportunity to hone valuable skills, including critical thinking, active listening, public speaking, and teamwork, as well as develop knowledge of legal practices and procedures. Judges for these events include practicing attorneys, mock trial coaches, and law professors and students. The American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) recognizes one team per tournament that best exemplifies its ideals - civility, justice, and fair play - with the Spirit of AMTA Award. In their most recent competition in January, 2019, the UIS Mock Trial team received this Spirit of AMTA award at the 1st Annual Scarlet & Cream Invitational hosted by the University of Nebraska. Additionally, senior Andrew Jarmer received an outstanding attorney award, one of approximately 10 students honored, while the team placed in the top eight of the tournament. For more information about the UIS Mock Trial Club, please contact [Coach Rex Gradeless](#).



Andrew Jarmer

To discover more hands on learning opportunities, visit the [College of Public Affairs and Administration website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#).

Residence Life

By: Haley Houser

Greetings from the Department of Residence Life! Our Room Selection process has begun, and we hope your student decides to continue to live on campus! The application process is online under our [Student Housing Portal](#), which has our theme of "Your Home Away From Home." Students can access the online application/contract via the Student Housing Portal by entering their NetID and password. When applying for on campus housing, they can request their roommates via their UINs, select a Themed Community or Living Learning Community, and even sign their contract electronically. Our Second Year Returning Sophomore - SYRI students have a residency requirement, and must reapply for on campus housing.



All Second Year Returning Sophomores - SYRI students, will have the opportunity to choose their assignments (new this year) if they do not request/require specialty housing and apply by March 8. All returning students who reapply for housing by March 8, will be a part of our [SelectRoom Process](#), which allows students to choose where they wish to live on campus for the 2019-2020 Academic Year. Students who apply by March 8 will be given an access time by March 22. This access time will allow the student to select their space on March 29. If a student does not select a unit during their selection time, they will be automatically assigned after March 29. There will be a limited number of West Campus Townhouse spaces available for selection, in addition to several residence hall spaces.

As we receive more and more Freshmen applications over the summer, your Sophomore

student may get an additional opportunity to be reassigned to a townhouse. However, this also means if we do not receive enough Freshmen applications some Sophomore - SYRI students will remain assigned to our residence halls. There will be a [Reassignment Request Form](#) available on June 1 for all Second Year Returning Sophomores - SYRI students to complete indicating their interest in being considered for reassignment to the townhouses. This is only a request, and not a guarantee. As it is a privilege to be moved to the West Campus Townhouses, we require our Second Year Returning Sophomores - SYRI to meet certain criteria to be considered for reassignment. This information can be found on our [FAQ Document](#), which all students are given during the Room Selection process and is accessible on our website.



If an upperclassman wishes to be a part of a Themed Community or has an ADA requirement, they will need to apply by February 22. This is our Specialty Housing application/contract deadline, so we can assign the student to a specific unit or area to meet their needs or place them in the Themed Community they have selected. Since they have elected for a Specialty Housing assignment, they will not be able to select their own space for the





2019-2020 Academic Year. Our Returning Students and Graduate Students have the

opportunity to choose their assignment if they do not request/require Specialty Housing and apply by March 8. All returning students who reapply for housing by March 8, will be a part of our [SelectRoom Process](#), which allows students to choose where they wish to live on campus for the 2019-2020 Academic Year. Students who apply by March 8 will be given an access time by March 22. This access time will allow the student to select their unit on March 28 and 29. If a student does not select a unit during their selection time, they will be automatically assigned after March 29.

We will have information tables for students to visit throughout the month of February for students to ask questions about their housing application/contract for the 2019-2020 Academic Year. This online application/contract is electronically signed by students, thus binding them to our Terms and Conditions– same as a lease agreement. If a student decides that they no longer wish to live on campus after applying for the 2019-2020 Academic Year, they will need to submit their Contract Cancellation Request Form by May 15, 2019 to avoid additional cancellation fees. We encourage all students to apply early to reserve a space, but also keep in mind the cancellation deadline and criteria for approved release.

What about summer? Our [Summer Housing](#) application/contract will be available beginning April 1 for students to begin reserving their space for the Summer Semester. Students will receive information regarding the Summer Housing application/contract as the 2019-2020 Room Selection process comes to an end. If your student decides to go home for the Summer Semester, keep in mind our Spring Check-out will be May 11 and 12.

This year we are offering an opportunity for parents to rent a West campus townhouse to stay during finals week to help your student



check out for the Spring 2019 semester. Each townhouse provides a fully furnished living room, a kitchen with all major appliances and bedroom with linens and shower curtains provided. This opportunity is available for \$50 per night for one bedroom; each additional bedroom needed will be an extra \$25 per occupant with a maximum of 4 occupants per townhouse (Minimum rate is \$50 per night; maximum rate with 4 people is \$125 per night). If you would like further details regarding this opportunity to rent a space on campus during our finals week (May 6-12, 2019), please contact our office: reslife@uis.edu or 217-206-6190.

We hope that you and your student decide to stay with us in the upcoming months! Please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Twitter](#) for updates on what's going on with Residence Life. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Central Office: reslife@uis.edu.



USFSCO – University Student Financial Services & Cashier Operations

By: Alice Seaton

Top Questions that Parents and Students Ask:

When is my bill due?

- Spring semester is due on or before February 28
- Summer semester is due on or before June 28
- Fall semester is due on or before September 28

What are the payment options?

Student account balances are expected to be paid in full by the due date. A late payment charge of \$1.00 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 accounts. 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](#)

Scholarship checks should **NOT** be sent to this address. To ensure proper credit to student accounts, please direct all scholarship payment checks to the Office of Financial Assistance on the recipient's campus of attendance. 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 6 installments for the Fall and Spring semesters. Enrollment for the spring semester began November 1, 2018 and runs through February 28, 2019.

To be eligible for enrollment in the payment plan:

- Student must be in good financial standing with the University of Illinois.

- The payment plan budget must have a minimum balance of \$500.
- The student must be willing to allow automatic withdrawals from a U.S. checking or savings account.
- Only tuition, mandatory fees, housing and meal plan charges are eligible to be included in the payment plan budget.
- Any University of Illinois undergraduate, graduate, or professional school student, or the authorized payer of such student, is eligible to participate in the payment plan.

When will my student receive the 1098-T tax form for 2018?

Education tax credits may be available to students if they are paying education costs for themselves or a student who is a member of your immediate family. The 1098-T enables students to determine if they qualify for one or more of these education tax credits. 1098-T tax forms will be available on or before January 31. Students are notified via their official University email when the 1098-T form is available to print/download. Only students have access to the 1098-T tax form; therefore, please check with your student to see if they have downloaded and printed the form.

Where are your offices located?

USFSCO is located in the Public Affairs Center (PAC) on the first floor, Room 184 (right across from Parking Operations). Cashier Operations window is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30–1:30 p.m.) Customer



USFSCO Staff

Service is open Monday through Friday from 8:30–5 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 refer to our department's [website: https://paymybill.uillinois.edu/](https://paymybill.uillinois.edu/).



UIS Prairie Stars Family Association

Parents, Students and the University!!

As parents, college is the last big step in education for our children. [The UIS Prairie Stars Family Association](#) wants to help you with this transition in your family life. Our goal is to develop relationships among the families of the students attending UIS by:

- Identify and implementing activities that will increase family/student involvement during Family Days
- Increase family and student awareness activities available at UIS
- Identifying fundraising opportunities and ways to meet the needs of students who do not have parent involvement

We have established our group as a non-profit organization. We have conducted several fundraisers to increase the budget to reach more parents and families, **including** our annual "Alternative Fundraiser." Instead of asking you to sell or purchase, we will be requesting a donation. **See the information below. An email will also be sent out to parents shortly.**

Keep in contact with us through our [Facebook](#) page!

Ellin Lotspeich, PSFA President

UIS Prairie Stars Family Association Alternative Fundraiser

Have ever had a child in scouts, music, athletics, or other activity that regularly forced you to corner your family, friends, and co-workers to buy cookies, candy, gift wrap, or popcorn, you might understand why we are borrowing this fundraising idea that circulated through Facebook last summer. It gave us quite a chuckle. Because we get it. We've been there: buying boxes of cookies that kill our diets, frantically making cupcakes for the bake sale the next day that your child just volunteered you for or writing a check

for all the candy your child should have sold, but ate instead.

The UIS PSFA is in its third year and we are at a stage where we want to give back to the university. We want to raise funds to support UIS PSFA programming for events like Family Weekend and sponsor scholarships for students. And we want to do it in way, so you don't have to sell door-to-door, shake down your friends and family to collect money, or buy anything you don't really want or need. Contributions in any amount will move us toward our goal. But in case you are feeling relieved that you won't have to start posting pleas on social media or passing things out at work, we hope you will consider supporting PSFA and our students by donating:

- \$5 Because you want to express your appreciation for having nothing to buy, sell, or do but fill out this form and that is about what a box of cookies would have cost.
- \$15 Because you won't have to bake and that is what you would have spent on supplies for Cupcakes.
- \$25 Because this would have been the amount you would have spent on buying wrapping paper you don't need or like.
- \$50 Because you don't have to walk, swim, or run in any "thons" and won't have another "free" t-shirt cluttering up your closet.
- \$75 Because you won't have to spend any money on a new outfit to go to a fancy dance, or a dinner that will also leave you with heartburn.
- \$100 Because you really don't want to alienate your family, friends and co-workers.
- \$_____ Because you want to share your love for UIS and were able to do it without freezing outside at a sale table or spend countless hours sorting, counting and reconciling the stuff you would have had to deliver.

Please print:

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If your company and/or spouses' company matches donation gifts, please write the name of the company name:

Amount you would like to donate to the UIS Parents Fund \$ _____ .

Address to mail checks or money orders (make payable to the **Prairie Stars Family Association**)
c/o Bibiana Tohme, Treasurer, 10300 S Kolin Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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.

March 4-8	Midterms
March 11-15	Spring Break
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 6-10	Finals Week
May 11	Semester Ends
June 3	Summer Semester Begins

