

# International Student Services Newsletter

ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2022

## STAFF

### Director:

**Rick Lane (He / Him)**

### Immigration Specialists:

**Rachael Matingi (She/Her)**

**Tracy Rakes (She/Her)**

**Joel Short (He/Him)**

**Jolene Vollmer (She/Her)**

### Program Coordinator:

**Erika Suzuki (She/Her)**

### Graduate Assistant:

**Claudia Falcon (She/Her)**

### Student Employee:

**Lynise Gutierrez (She/Her)**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**ISS past events 2**

**International Student  
Spotlight 3**

**World celebrations 4**

**Events & contacts 5**

## From the Director's Desk

It is hard to believe that October is already here. Mid-term exams, for those who have them are just around the corner. I am sure that there are a lot of projects/papers coming due this month, too. Manage your time well.

This is especially important for those who intend to complete their studies this fall. This is a good time to re-examine your form I-20, especially the program dates and the major/degree. If you will need more time than is shown on your current form I-20, be sure to request a program extension before December. If you will finish in December but have a program end date in May or another future term, please let us know so that we can shorten your program. If you are planning to apply for post-completion OPT, now is the time. USCIS is still taking 1.5 months to process around 80% of the applications. The other 20% are taking longer. There may have been other changes to the information shown on your form I-20. If so, that needs to be updated immediately.

While you are at it, go ahead and look at your visa and passport to make sure that neither of those is expiring soon. If they are, please check our website for additional information regarding these important documents.

There are several important celebrations coming this month. The biggest is, of course, our annual International Festival. This is always a very popular event both on campus and for those in the wider Springfield community. This year's Festival will be held on Saturday, October 22, in TRAC, from 2 until 5. You can see information about previous festivals on our website. You will want to participate in this one. If you haven't already started planning what you will do that afternoon, start right away.

If you have not already noticed, UIS has some high-quality athletic teams that regularly compete at the regional and national level. What is your favorite sport? It is quite likely that there is at least one UIS international student on that team. Plan to attend some of the games, especially those held in Springfield. You will enjoy cheering on the Stars.

Rick Lane

# ISS's SEPTEMBER EVENT

## Mid Autumn Festival 2022



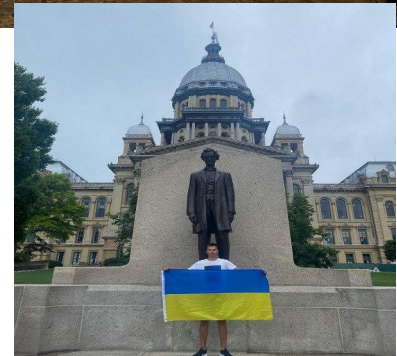
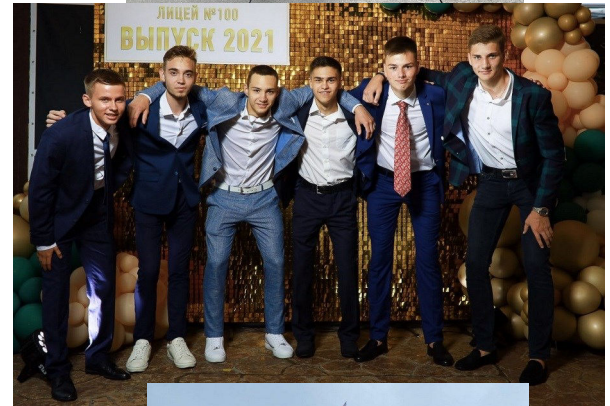
International students had the opportunity to learn about the Mid Autumn Festival. They had lots of fun with games and tried snacks related to the festival.



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## IHNAT STRILETSKYI

I am from Ukraine, city Dnipro. My country is an untidy place in the center of Europe. Amazing nature, beautiful cities, freedom and kind people who want only peace! My country is going through the most difficult moment in its history, we are fighting for independence and democracy. I definitely invite everyone to visit my country after our victory, and enjoy a summer vacation at black sea in Odessa, go skiing in the snowy Carpathians in winter, visit the capital of Ukraine Kyiv in autumn and enjoy the smell of chestnuts and a stunning European metropolis, and be sure to go kayaking on the Dnipro River! Ukraine is an incredible country and you will definitely like it here!. I speak Ukrainian, English, and Russian. My favorite Ukrainian dish is Borsch. and in the US, I really love grilled beef steaks!. Hashtag that describe me is #politician. I am a very versatile person, involved in politics and history. I am also very interested in soccer and I play for the university team. My hobbies are traveling and rafting. My favorite show is "House of Cards", which is a film about the secrets of big politics, how politics works and what a person is up to for the sake of power. This is very interesting for me because I dream of becoming a future politician and leader of my country!. My major is Political Science. A tip I can give to new students is be yourself, appreciate and enjoy every moment. After UIS I'm planning on returning to my country, share my experience and rebuild my country as a civil servant.



# WORLD CELEBRATIONS

## International Day of Non-violence: October 2

The International Day of Non-Violence spreads the message of non-violence in pursuit of a secure and peaceful culture. It doesn't take much to recognize how violent our world has become. Real-life stories involving violence are everywhere. About 1.6 million deaths a year are caused by worldwide violence. To promote International Day of Non-Violence, governments and non-government organizations around the world hold a variety of events. They spread awareness through news stories, public lectures, seminars, photo exhibitions, candlelight ceremonies, and multi-faith prayer meetings.



## United Nations Day: October 24

United Nations Day recognizes the founding of the United Nations (UN) in 1945. Today the UN consists of 193-member states and 2 observer states. Their mission is to maintain international peace and security and to protect human rights around the world. Throughout the day, the UNESCO in Paris hosts conferences and meetings, and displays exhibits of UN achievements. Likewise, schools throughout the world celebrate the diversity of their student bodies, holding cultural performances and food fairs. To participate in United Nations Day, think about how diversity makes our lives better.



## International Student Services Office

Find us:

University of Illinois  
Springfield— One  
University Plaza, MS HRB  
10 Springfield, IL 62703-  
5407

Contact us:

Phone: 217-206-6678

Email: [ISS@uis.edu](mailto:ISS@uis.edu)

[On Facebook](#)

UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
SPRINGFIELD

## Walk-In Hours

If you need to speak directly with an immigration specialist, you can come during walk-in hours, or email [ISS@uis.edu](mailto:ISS@uis.edu) to make an appointment.

Monday-Thursday 2:00-4:00pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ International Festival 2022: October 22, 2-5pm @ TRAC “Ticket to Diversity”
- ♦ Pumpkin carving: October 26, 1-3pm @ UIS Community Garden

UIS **44TH**  
INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVAL



@ TRAC | 2-5 p.m.  
**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

Free Admission • Food Samples • Live Performances  
Hosted by International Student Services & International Student Association



## PUMPKIN CARVING AT UIS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Wednesday, October 26 | 1 - 3 pm

Sponsors: UIS Community Garden, CSF, and International Student Services