

International Student Services Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

NOVEMBER 2022

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From the Director's Desk

There are just a few weeks left in this fall 2022 semester. If you have not yet made a plan for getting those projects and papers done, now is the time. Before you know it, this semester will be in the history books.

While you are planning, don't forget to include the great opportunities being offered by the ISS office and Student Activities. There are still a few more in these final weeks that you will not want to miss.

For those of you finishing your programs this semester, be sure that you have checked your immigration documents, including the program end date on your form I-20. Let us know if that needs to be shortened. And, if you are planning to apply for post-completion OPT, you should do that as soon as possible.

For those not yet done, it is important that you, too, check your documents. Some of you may need a program extension or a Change of Level. Others will be planning a trip outside the US during the break and will need a travel signature to re-enter the US. Some may also need a new visa for that purpose.

If the spring will be your final semester, and you do not need a full course load in order to complete your program, you should request the authorization for a Reduced Course Load before the start of the spring term.

Registration for the spring courses will be open in just a few days. You should register as soon as you can to be sure that there is room for you in the courses that you need. Make sure that you register for a full course load (or get the RCL) in order to maintain your F-1 status, and remember, you must have at least one on-campus course from the beginning of the semester until the end.

Enjoy the extra days without classes during the US Thanksgiving holiday. If you can try to learn a little more about that holiday and why it is important to your US classmates. It is also a great time for a little rest and relaxation prior to the upcoming week of exams.

Finally, keep in mind that you must report and changes of address within 10 days of the move. With some graduating, some changing room or apartment mates, and another big group coming in in January, you may be among those planning a move at the end of the semester. Don't let that change of address go unreported.

Rick Lane

ISS's OCTOBER EVENTS

UIS 44th International Festival— October 22nd



Pumpkin Carving—October 26th



IMPORTANT NEWS

Our UIS cricket team is going to the Nationals in Spring 2023!!!

If you know someone from the cricket team go congratulate them. Many of the players in the team are international students!

Gerlinde Coates scholarship

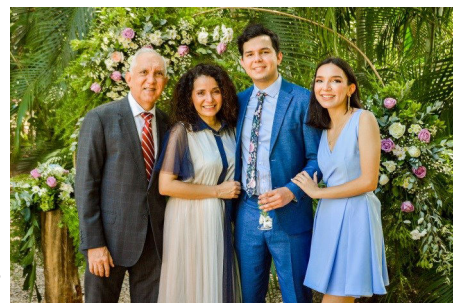
Asung Shin is an international student graduating this semester with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. Asung is the recipient of the Gerlinde Coates scholarship.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ROMINA TRUJILLO AGOSTINI

My pronouns are she/her. I speak both English and Spanish, Spanish being my native language. My major is Psychology with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. I'm from Venezuela, which is a very biodiverse country, we have the Caribbean shore, and our beaches are beautiful, we also have the end of the Mountain range "Los Andes" where you can see cities form extremely high peaks. We even have the largest waterfall in the world: Angel Falls, which was the inspiration for UP! The Disney movie. We are very resilient and warm people, everyone is welcome in Venezuela, as we were a receiving country during World War II and we have many cultural backgrounds, Europeans, Middle Easterns, Asians and even our own Latin-Americans. Right now, we are going through very tough historic times, but I hope one day we are once again the beautiful bright Venezuela we once were! What I love the most about my country is my people, even when we have nature to explore and things to see, nothing tells me more I'm home than my own people, we can always see the sun after each storm and the love and appreciation you feel when you are there is unmeasurable! Back home I can eat Empanadas (not like Mexican empanadas, these ones are different) all day long, they are fried and made with corn meal dough, filled with anything you want, and you can top them with garlic sauce! Here in the U.S I love pulled pork sandwiches and corn! Hashtag that describe me is #Bossy. My biggest hobbies are Model of United Nations (MUN) and aerial silks. I have been doing MUN since I was in 8th grade, and I really liked Humanitarian Rights committees. In MUN you have to represent a country in a committee of the United Nations, like the Security Council, and discuss in a session a world problem. I was awarded several times in committees that involved refugees, women rights and human rights, which is why I'm doing my minor In Women and Gender Studies. Aerial silks is a gymnastic sport where you create figures in the air, with the help of 2 hanging silks. I have been doing it since I was 15 and it is just a cool sport, it involves balance, flexibility and definitely not fearing heights! I have gone through different academies, but I have loved the experience from day one. My dream job is being a writer while giving private counseling practice. I chose UIS because of its affordability, great interest with International Students and small campus size! Currently, I have two jobs on campus, with International Student Services and with UIS Athletics, I'm also part of the MUN team, Psychology Club, Active Minds and Choir! A tip I can give to new students is go around and ask questions every time you feel uncertain, better be informed than not! After my bachelors I'm thinking on getting a Masters in social work or Counseling, but not quite sure yet! Life is a highway!



Interesting Facts about November throughout the years

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy, known as JFK, was fatally shot while riding along with his wife in a procession of cars. He was rushed to a hospital all too late and was pronounced dead at 1pm that day. Kennedy was the fourth US president to be assassinated, after Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, and William McKinley.



On November 19, 1978, the largest group suicide in history took place in Jonestown, Guyana. The group who took their lives were instructed so by Reverend Jim Jones, who led the suicide cult called the "People's Temple". Over 900 of the cult members drank a cyanide-laced drink, with those who refused being forced to consume it.



Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November and has been celebrated since 1621. The first Thanksgiving was a feast celebrating the first bountiful harvest of the pilgrims of Plymouth and New England. It is still celebrated in a similar way, with families coming together and sharing plentiful amounts of food traditionally available during Novem-



The beginning of the end of the War of Independence began on November 30, 1782, when a provisional treaty was signed between the newly-formed United States of America and the Kingdom of Great Britain. The final treaty wasn't completed and signed until nearly a year later in Paris on September 3, 1783.



**INTERNATIONAL
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OFFICE**

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6678

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**UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD**

Walk-In Hours

If you need to speak
directly with an immi-
gration specialist, you
can come during walk-
in hours, or email
ISS@uis.edu to make
an appointment.

Monday-Thursday
2:00-4:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ International Education Week: November 14-18 @
- ◇ OPT Workshop — Spring 2023 Graduates: November 18, 2-4pm @ Brookens Auditorium.
- ◇ Thanksgiving Lunch: November 21, 12:30-1:30pm @ Union Ballroom.



Tuesday, Nov. 15

- **Craft at Home and Abroad: From Personal Practice to Exploring Forms of Craft in the Middle East.** *Visual Arts Gallery, 2 – 3 p.m.*
Presenter: Dr. Kristi Barnwell
Department of Art, Music, & Theatre
217.206.6506
- **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas**
UIS Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.
UIS Performing Arts Center
217.206.8287

Wednesday, Nov. 16

- **The College of Public Affairs and Education (CAPE) International Education Expo**
PAC 3rd Floor Atrium, 4 – 5 p.m.
College of Public Affairs and Education
217.206.8545
- **IEW Speed Friending with CBM**
Union Center Ballroom, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
College of Business and Management
217.206.8273
- **Redefining Nepal:**
Two Ambassadors Perspectives
Illini Country Club, 7:15 p.m.
The World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI)

Thursday, Nov. 17

- **Badminton Doubles Tournament**
TRAC, 8:30 p.m.
Campus Recreation
217.206.7902

Friday, Nov. 18

- **OPT Workshop for Spring 2023 graduates**
Brookens Auditorium, 2 – 4 p.m.
Office of International Student Services
at iss@uis.edu
217.206.6678

November 14 – 17

- **Motif: Silent Language** by Turkish multidisciplinary artist Hale Ekinci
Visual Arts Gallery, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Department of Art, Music, & Theatre
217.206.6506

November 14 – 18

- **IEW Online Daily Trivia Quizzes**
Online, Time TBA(?)
Office of International Student Services
at iss@uis.edu
217.206.6678

Visit IEW.State.gov | #IEW2021



OPT WORKSHOP
Spring 2023 Graduates

Brookens Auditorium
Friday, November 18
2 pm - 4 pm

This workshop will cover Optional Practical Training (OPT) eligibility and the application process. All students graduating Spring 2023 that plan to apply for OPT must attend! It is mandatory to attend the workshop in order to apply for OPT. Contact ISS@uis.edu if you have any questions.

**Thanksgiving
Luncheon**

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | November 21
Union Center Ballroom

Office of International Student Services

