



February, 2023

# International Student Services Newsletter

The month of February in central Illinois is normally the coldest and snowiest month of the winter season. Try to stay warm, concentrate on your studies, and enjoy the snow when you can. As I write this, we do not yet know what the forecast will be for the planned ski trip. However, there is a good chance that the slopes will be ready for you. If you have never had a snow skiing experience, you will not want to miss this opportunity.

February is also the month the St. Valentine's Day is celebrated in the US. Take some time to learn more about the holiday and how you can enjoy celebrating it, even if there is no special partner in your life at this time.

Some of you are already looking forward to completing your studies at UIS at the end of this term and may be thinking about Optional Practical Training. Check out the OPT information on our website and, if you missed the workshop back in November, plan to attend the one this month. The application season opens soon, and you will want to get yours submitted as early as you can.

For those of you continuing with us in the summer and/or fall, you will want to be aware that the current COVID-related exception to the on-campus course requirement is scheduled to end at the end of the spring term. That means that in the future, you will need to plan to take all courses counting toward your full-time enrollment except one each term on campus. Some of you are doing that anyway, but some are currently taking advantage of the exception and even making some rather long commutes. Plan ahead, including taking a look at making a move to campus or at least to nearby housing.

Speaking of commuting, the Division of Student Affairs is actively seeking ways to help students who do not live on campus to get more involved with on-campus students, athletic events, social activities, etc. Most university students in the US learn and grow as much from their involvement in these kinds of things as they do from their class work. If you have some ideas about how SA can facilitate this, we want to hear from you. Submit your ideas to any SA office or send them to us, and we will pass them along. Don't miss out on half of your university education!

Finally, as you approach the mid-term toward the end of this month, this is a great time to reassess your progress in your classes. If you need help, the Learning Hub can assist you or point you in the right direction. Don't wait until it is too late to get the help that you need.

Rick

## 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 Employees:

**Valentine Bosenko (He/Him)**

**Lynise Gutierrez (She/Her)**

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# ISS's JANUARY EVENTS

## Spring 2023 Orientation



## Lunar New Year Celebration

## International Student Welcome Party





# FIRST TIME EVER: UIS cc ON THE NCCA NATIONALS MAP

After over six years of dormancy of the cricket club at UIS, **fourteen prairie stars** not only participated in the regionals tournament organized by the **National College Cricket Association (NCCA)**, but miraculously won and sealed their much-coveted spot in the nationals. The NCCA-Midwest regionals took place in **Chicago** on October 15-16 with a total of six university teams from various parts of the region – Purdue, University of Nebraska, UIUC, Toledo to name a few.

The **champion** and **runner-up** of the regional tournament would qualify for the Nationals – to be held in **Houston, Texas** during Spring 2023. UIS cc convincingly won two out of their three games and concluded their campaign as the runner-up – thereby snatching their spot in the nationals with extremely limited resources. Such a *miracle* would not be possible without brilliant individual and collective performances of all squad members, and most importantly the university spirit, self-belief, and faith in one another. The members of the team are:

Nikilesh Mallak

Sairam Katakamsetti

Bhavani Subhash Addala

RK Debaddi

Sai Chandu

Parag Sachdeva

Randhir Bhosale

Rahul Yadav

Farjad Khan

Jolif Rathod

Harsh Panchal

Rushi Patel

Hemanth Pendam

Jaswanth Bharadwaj

If you see or know them, feel free to congratulate them on their extraordinary feat!



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## MD JUNAEDUL ALAM

My pronouns are he/him. I am from Bangladesh and can speak a total of 4 languages: Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, and English. My major is Accounting. My home country is a beautiful small Asian country, where you can find the world's largest mangrove forest and rare animals like the Royal bangle tiger. The best thing I like about my country is it has six seasons, which is another exceptional factor regarding Bangladesh. My favorite food in my home country is fish curry and in the US is steak. I love to cook, go to the gym regularly, help people to achieve healthy lifestyles and fitness goals, meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds. My favorite movie is Life Is Beautiful (1997) by Director Roberto Benigni because it shows a loving father, who uses a perfect mixture of will, humor, and imagination to protect his son from the dangers around the Nazi concentration camp after becoming the victim of the Holocaust.



#Mentalhealthawareness, #personalgrowth and #selfimprovement are the hashtags that best describe me. My dream job is being the CEO of my own Audit company. I chose UIS because it is perfect for my career goals, as it would grant me not only a deep technical competency in my desired area of expertise, but also will prepare me with soft skills such as interpersonal communication and ethics using the leadership and ethics in accounting decisions, setting me apart in the job market. I was a member of the Student Organization Funding Association (SOFA), which is the guiding body for student organizations under the SGA, responsible to allocate University funds to student organizations in UIS. A tip I can give to new students is focus on your studies while enjoying university life by developing yourself physically, mentally and spiritually, so you are ready and it would be much easier to face real-world work-life challenges in the future. After graduation, hopefully I will land on my dream career path with academic knowledge and qualification obtained from UIS. Also, I will continue developing towards my lifelong goal, which is being an entrepreneur and having my own company.



# INVITATION TO UIS INVESTITURE

*Join Us*

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees  
along with  
University of Illinois System President Timothy L. Killeen  
cordially invite you and a guest to the

## **Investiture of Chancellor Janet L. Gooch University of Illinois Springfield**

Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
2:00 p.m. CST  
Sangamon Auditorium  
Public Affairs Center  
University of Illinois Springfield  
One University Plaza  
Springfield, Illinois

***Reception immediately following in the Sangamon Experience  
on the lower level of the Public Affairs Center***

Complimentary parking available in Lot E and Lot D

All International Students are invited to assist. RSVP by  
Wednesday, February 1 [here](#).

For questions or if you need accessibility-related accommodations,  
please contact [communityrelations@uis.edu](mailto:communityrelations@uis.edu) or call (217) 206-6634.



# INTERNATIONAL TAX WORKSHOPS

Be ready for the tax season!

If you worked on campus during 2022, you will need to be ready for the tax season in the coming months.

The office of International Student Services is supporting our F-1 international students with Sprintax service. Sprintax is providing Nonresident Tax Webinars until April, so we strongly encourage you to participate in the webinar and learn about the nonresident tax in the US.



## Sprintax Nonresident Tax Webinar (EAP)

Thursday, February 2nd @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)

### Sprintax Nonresident Tax Webinar (EAP)

In these tax webinars, international students, scholars and professionals will be run through everything they need to know about nonresident tax for the 2022 tax season. Topics will include who must file, tax residency, FICA, State returns, implications of misfiling as well as how to use Sprintax to prepare a compliant tax return.

- ▶ Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 4pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 4pm EST – [Register here](#)

Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)

### Sprintax Nonresident Tax Overview for OPT/CPT (E)

Topics covered in these webinars will include residency for tax purposes, tax liabilities when on OPT/CPT and pre-employment tax forms when on OPT/CPT. The Sprintax team will also provide an overview of Sprintax Forms which can be used to prepare your pre OPT/CPT employment tax documents.

- ▶ Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- ▶ Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11am EST – [Register here](#)

Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)

Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)



# WORLD CELEBRATIONS

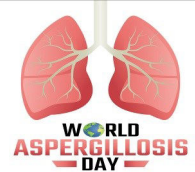
February 1st—World Hijab Day: Every year, World Hijab Day recognizes the millions of Muslim women who choose to wear a hijab. It's also a day to encourage women of all backgrounds and religions to wear and experience the hijab.

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February 1st—World Aspergillosis Day: Every year, World Aspergillosis Day aims to raise awareness about this under-diagnosed fungal infection. It's also a day to educate the general public on the signs and symptoms of aspergillosis.

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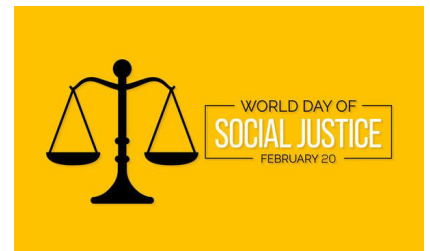
February 4th—World Cancer Day: Every year, World Cancer Day seeks to spread awareness for cancer. This day also focuses on the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. The day was founded in Paris at the World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium. Today, there are over 900 World Cancer Day events held in 127 countries.

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February 20th—World Day of Social Justice: Every year, the World Day of Social Justice promotes the importance of fair and just relations between the individual and society. The day also tackles issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, human rights, and social protections.

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February 21st—International Mother Language Day: Every year, International Mother Language Day draws awareness for linguistic and cultural diversity. It's also a day to promote multilingualism. A mother language is the first language that someone speaks. It is a way to stay connected to their homeland and their culture. Unfortunately, a mother language disappears every two weeks. When this happens, an entire cultural heritage disappears along with it.

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February 27th—International Polar Bear Day: Every year, International Polar Bear Day raises awareness for the issues that polar bears face. It's also a day to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint as a way to minimize the effects of global climate change.



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE

### FIND US:

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IL 62703-5407

### CONTACT US:

Phone: 217-206-6678

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

[On Facebook](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ OPT Workshop for Spring Grads: February 3, 2-4pm @ Brookens.
- ◇ Ski trip with Campus Rec: February 10



**OPT WORKSHOP**  
**Spring 2023 Graduates**

**Brookens Auditorium**  
**Friday, February 3**  
**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](mailto:ISS@uis.edu) if you have any questions.

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