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Volume 1, Issue 1

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

International Student Services Newsletter

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From the Director's Desk:

March winds are blowing in. That means that Spring is on its way. Climate change continues to modify weather patterns, but we can generally look forward to warmer days, budding trees and flowers, and more opportunities to get outside. Take advantage of those opportunities as they come along to recharge your energy and prepare for what remains of the semester.

There are several good programs/events planned for this month. Check those out both in this newsletter and on our website. If you can join any of them, you will be glad that you did.

And, as always, there are some immigration-related tasks to address: First, if you have not done so recently, check all your immigration documents to make sure that they are still valid. If any of them are expiring or no longer show correct information, check our website for instructions about how to get the updated.

Second, make sure that you are prepared for what comes after the end of the semester. If you are completing your studies at UIS, not only should your form I-20 show the program end date of May 13, but you should also have already made your plans for transfer, a new program, OPT, travel home, etc. If you will be continuing in the summer or fall, you should already be registered for your classes. Whatever your plans are, make sure that we know about them. We can only provide good advice if we know what you will be doing next.

Since I mentioned class registration for summer and fall, this is a good time and place to remind you that the COVID-related exceptions to some of the Code of Federal Regulations will be ending at the end of the spring term. Most importantly, that means that starting in the summer (or fall if you plan to take the summer off), All but one of your courses that you are counting toward your full course load requirement must be on campus/face-to-face. Once you have reached your full course load (12 hours for undergrads and 9 hours for grads), you may, of course, take additional online courses if your program allows. See our website page on maintaining your status or contact us if this is unclear.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter, and if you would like to be featured in an upcoming student spotlight, just let us know. We, and your fellow students, are always eager to learn more about you.

Rick

ISS'S FEBRUARY EVENTS

Ski Trip—February 10th



UIS students went to Snow Star for a skiing/snowboarding lesson for the first time. They also had the chance to enjoy the real trails at the end of the day and they had a blast!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Parag Sachdeva

My pronouns are he/him. I am from Bhattu Mandi, Haryana, India and can speak Hindi, English, Haryanvi, Punjabi or Seraiki. My major is Legal Studies. My home country for me, isn't just a piece of land that I call home. It's rather an incredible "idea" that amalgamates a plethora of cultures, religions, languages, traditions, castes, class, etc. I greatly miss the culture of happenings, helping people, and socializing. I particularly miss the beautiful early morning walks to the tea stall followed by amazing memories shared together with friends and family. I would say my favorite food is homemade tandoori roti and special lentils served right under the stars (nostalgia kicked in). Sports has always been my best friend, teacher, and passion. Although Cricket is in my heart, soul, and mind all the time, I actively play other sports such as ping-pong, badminton, chess, pool when I am not busy singing, acting, and dancing. I am also a trained Muay Thai (kickboxing) fighter. History, geography, philosophy, science, autobiographies, sociology, and many other eclectic topics fulfill my curiosity cravings. My favorite movie is 3 idiots (2009) because it shaped me how I thought about learning and growing. Hashtag that best describes me is #jugaadu . My dream job is working for my own company while empowering others. I chose UIS due to its extraordinary GPSI program, location, and public service opportunities. I am a Senator-at-Large in the SGA. I also help run the UIS cricket club. Other than that, I can either be found playing FIFA in the Union or any random sport in the TRAC. A tip I can give to new students is be 100% you. "Fail but be brave. Make mistakes but learn fast. Fit in but be yourself. At the end of the day, it's your own experiences & memories that make you who you are & what you do. Cherish them. Remember them. Share them". After graduation, I will be busy, working in public service while spending quality time with my parents, family, and friends.



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)

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 8th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Thursday, January 26th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Thursday, February 2nd @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Wednesday, February 22nd @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Wednesday, March 1st @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Tuesday, March 21st @ 4pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Wednesday, March 30th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Wednesday, April 5th @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Tuesday, April 11th @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Friday, April 14th @ 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 7th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- › Thursday, January 12th @ 11am EST – [Register here](#)

sprintax

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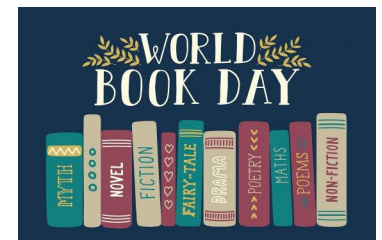
Friday, April 14th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)

WORLD CELEBRATIONS

March 1st—Zero Discrimination Day: This day celebrates the right of everyone to live their life with dignity, including living a full and productive life. Also, it is a day to highlight inclusion, compassion, and becoming a movement for change to end all forms of discrimination.



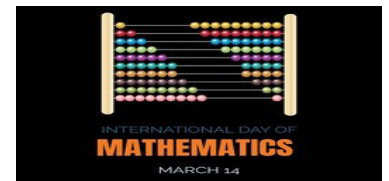
March 3rd—World Book Day: On the first Thursday of March each year, World Book Day in the United Kingdom and Ireland pursues placing a book in every child and young adult's hand. That has been their mission since 1995.



March 8th—International Women's Day: This day celebrates the social, economic, and political achievements of women around the world, and brings international awareness to gender parity. According to the World Economic Forum, global gender equality is estimated to be achieved by 2133.



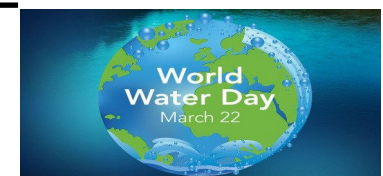
March 14th—International Day of Mathematics: Every year people around the world gather together to celebrate the importance of mathematics and everything it is used for.



March 20th—French Language Day: This day explores the influences of the language as a culture, how it marks history and celebrates achievements. Around the world, the human race communicates in numerous languages.



March 22nd—World Water Day: This day focuses our attention on the Earth's most vital resource. Ensuring clean water sources for all the world's inhabitants is the goal of World Water Day.



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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 to make an appointment.

Monday-Thursday 2:00-4:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ Etiquette Dinner with CDC: March 3, 5:30-7:30pm @ Union Ballroom.
- ◇ OPT Workshop for Summer Grads - March 24, 2-4pm @ Brookens.



OPT WORKSHOP Summer 2023 Graduates

Brookens Auditorium
Friday, March 24
2 pm - 4 pm

This workshop will cover Optional Practical Training (OPT) eligibility and the application process. All students graduating Summer 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.