

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

From the Director's Desk

Summer has arrived in central Illinois!

For current students who are remaining in and around Springfield for the summer, this is a great time to get out and enjoy our city, state, and country. There are many [parks to explore](#), both recreational and cultural. Check out the [zoo](#) or [Knight's Action Park](#). Explore all the [Lincoln-related sites](#). Get or borrow a bicycle and hit the [bike trails](#). Get a group together for a weekend trip to one of our states great parks or [historic sites](#), or go even farther to see the [Great Lakes](#), the [Great Smoky Mountains](#), or even the [Grand Canyon](#). Have some fun.

For those taking classes this summer, make sure that you are following any immigration-related regulations. See [our website](#) for more information about those, or contact us via email or telephone. We will be here all summer to assist you and to prepare for the arrival of another big group of new internationals just three months from now.

Speaking of (and to) that new group, we want you to begin to feel like you are a part of us even before you arrive. Read this and [previous newsletters](#) (on our website). Explore the website section on [Life in the US](#). Do some additional internet exploring of [Springfield, Illinois](#), and the US. Check out our [International Student Association](#). Follow our [Face-book page](#). And, of course, just ask us whatever you want

to know. We are and will always be your first point of contact at UIS. If we do not know or have the answers to your questions, we will find someone who does.

Because the summer is normally a little bit slower for the International Student Services office, everyone who works in the office tries to take at least a few vacation days. So, if you write to your advisor or to the office in general, it may take a few additional days for you to receive a response. Please be patient. We will respond as soon as possible. And, please do not send the same message multiple times or to multiple people. That actually works against you and us because it creates additional backlogs and more time-consuming work. You are important to us, and we will respond soon.

Fall registration is already open for all continuing students and for all new students who have obtained and provided us a copy of their visas. Classes are filling quickly. If you have not already registered for your classes, you will want to contact your academic advisor for guidance and get started on that as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the less likely it is that you will be able to get into the classes that you want/need for the fall semester.

One additional plea to our new fall cohort: Please do everything possible to arrive during the 30 days prior to the program start date. US Customs and Immigration will not

allow you entry into the country more than 30 days prior to the program start date shown on your form I-20. They may not allow you to enter even one day after that date. It is not worth the risk of being turned away to try to save a little money on a plane ticket. Plan ahead for a smooth transition.

And one more for current (continuing students): The 30 day rule does not apply to you. You may come and go at any time during the summer break. Just be sure to get the travel endorsement on your form I-20 and to check out the other travel-related information on our website. However, like the new student, you should plan to be back in the US and on campus for the first day of classes – August 25. A late return could also result in additional questions for you at the port of entry and will definitely impact your studies. You, too, should plan ahead.

We have a great welcome (or welcome back) planned for everyone in August. We look forward to seeing you then.

Rick Lane

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:

Mariam Abdulsalam (She/Her)

Lynise Gutierrez (She/Her)

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ISS's MAY EVENTS

International Congratulatory Ceremony

50 graduated international students this Spring 2023 were honored by our office. They could celebrate this special moment with their families.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Oreofe Daniel

My pronouns are she/her. I am from Lagos State, Nigeria, and can speak English and my native language Yoruba. Nigeria is the largest country in Africa with over 250 ethnic groups and 36 states. Across the country, about 500 languages are spoken and each state differs from the other in music, weather, dialect, food, and topography. I love my country because of the amazing cuisine and culture we have. I study Biology with Pre-med concentration and hope to become a medical scientist, which means becoming a doctor and a researcher. My favorite food in Nigeria is Pounded yam and Egusi. My favorite food in the US is the classic biscuit and gravy. In my free time, I love dancing, riding my bicycle on sunny days, playing basketball and occasionally, I crochet. I also like taking walks when it is warm out. My favorite movie is "Me before You". It is just a beautiful story of romance and forgiveness. It also explores themes like self-actualization and the importance of family. A hashtag that best describes me is #determined. I chose UIS because of the small community size. Also, the Capital Honors Program

drew me to UIS. UIS provided great financial aid for my education in the US. I am involved in organizations like Pre-health society and Research society. In addition, I am actively involved in the Christian student fellowship, and participate in the Volunteer engagement events. I would advise new students to not be scared to go out of their comfort zone. As an international student, sometimes it can be scary to move to a new country with a different culture. That's why it is important to get involved in campus organizations and events, ask questions, and not isolate yourself. After UIS, I hope to go to medical school to get my M.D/P.H. D degree.



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

This year, Juneteenth is celebrated Monday, June 19, 2023. Juneteenth is the oldest-known celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States, first recognized by the state of Texas. It is also known as “Freedom Day,” “Juneteenth Independence Day,” or “Emancipation Day.”

Early celebrations of Juneteenth included gatherings of former slaves and their descendants in Galveston and throughout Texas. As African-Americans were often barred from using public facilities, some groups and individuals pooled their money to purchase land in order to hold these events. One of the most significant and lasting was 10 acres acquired by a group of African-American ministers and businessmen in Houston. This land would become Emancipation Park, which today is the oldest park in Houston, Texas.

While Juneteenth celebrations declined during the early 1900s, including during the Great Depression, there was a resurgence of interest during and following the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s/1960s.

Today, several major cities—especially those in states throughout the South—hold public Juneteenth events that include parades and festivals.

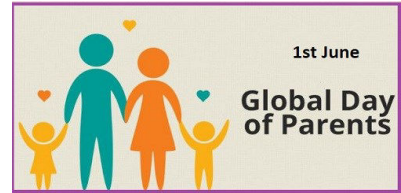
Local celebrations of Juneteenth often center on family and traditional foods, such as barbecue, tea cakes, black-eyed peas, and strawberry soda. Rodeos, street fairs, family reunions, picnics, historical reenactments, and art exhibits play a role in many of these festivities, as do public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation and works by prominent African-American authors and scholars.



Source: [almanac.com](https://www.almanac.com)

WORLD CELEBRATIONS

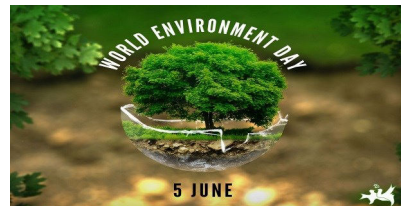
June 01-Global Day of Parents: This day provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.



June 03-World Bicycle Day: This day targets individuals as a way to promote a healthy lifestyle, especially for those with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Also, local governments are encouraged to improve road safety and integrate bicycling into transportation infrastructure planning and design.



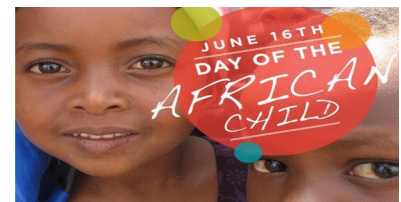
June 05-World Environment Day: This day encourages awareness and action to protect the natural environment. It draws attention to environmental issues such as marine pollution, air pollution, deforestation, and wildlife crime such as poaching.



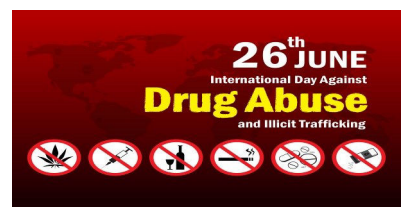
June 06-Sweden National Day: It's the day that Swedes celebrate their nationality. This is also when new Swedish citizens receive their certificate of citizenship and are welcomed by the king. Though the celebrations throughout Sweden are subdued, an annual event takes place at Skansen, the open-air museum in Stockholm, where children present the Swedish King and Queen with flowers, then the flag is raised. The royal family attends celebrations, which include traditional folk dancing, flag making, history lectures, performances, and much more.



June 16-International Day of the African Child: This day commemorates those killed during the Soweto Uprising in South Africa. The day also raises awareness of the ongoing need to improve education for children in Africa.



June 26-International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: This day raises awareness about drug abuse and the negative repercussions of illicit trafficking. According to the most recent World Drug Report, 35 million people worldwide suffer from drug abuse disorders.



International Students Services Office

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[On Facebook](#)

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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

- ◇ Virtual Admissions Open House: July 19, 2-5pm. Register [here](#).
- ◇ New International Student Orientation: August 23 @ Sangamon Auditorium.
- ◇ New International Student Welcome Party - September 1, 5-8pm @ REC Park.