

International Student Services Newsletter

University Illinois Springfield September, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

From the Director's Desk

September in the United States starts with a holiday. On Monday, September 4, we will be celebrating the contributions to our society made by those who make our lives better through their work. It is a nice long weekend break early in the semester. Enjoy some of the local festivities, but also take this opportunity to get everything caught up with your classes. You do not want to get behind in anything this early in the semester. Most offices on campus will be closed that day, including ISS. So, if you need anything from us in early September, plan ahead, and get it to us the week prior.

At the end of that very same week, the first full week in September, ISS will be offering a [workshop on Optional Practical Training](#). This workshop is designed primarily for those students completing their programs of study this December, but it is open to all who want to learn more about OPT. Join us in the Student Union ballroom at 2:00 on Friday afternoon, September 8. Don't be late. We will not admit any students who have not arrived prior to the start of the workshop.

Our Program Coordinator has several [fun events/excursions](#) planned during the latter part of the month. Check them out on our website. Get your name in as soon as possible after the sign-up is announced. Space is limited.

Oh, and I should have mentioned at the outset that our [New International Student Welcome](#)

[Party](#) is taking place on the very first day of the month over in Rec Park. It is open to all students, but we are especially hopeful that our new international students will come. We always have some special guests, some fun games, and free food (while it lasts.) You will not want to miss it.

Before I move on to some of the immigration-related issues, I will go ahead and mention another upcoming event. The annual International Festival takes place in October, but you will want to start planning your participation early in September. We always have some wonderful dances, musical performances, fashion shows, and other presentations. We also have students who enjoy having a display table and sharing information with the attendees about their home countries and cultures. We would love for you to be part of that. We expect 800-1000 attendees. Many of these will be from our campus community, but many will also come from Springfield and the surrounding area. This is your chance to share a part of yourselves that we may miss in our everyday encounters. Think about how you can be a part of this event – the longest running student-initiated event celebrated at UIS.

Now a few immigration-related reminders: 1) Your passport should remain valid for 6 months into the future throughout your stay in the US. Check yours today. If it will expire within the

next 6 months, contact your country's embassy in the US to learn how to go about renewing it. 2) It is perfectly ok for your visa to expire as long as you do everything that you are supposed to do to maintain your status. On the other hand, if it will expire while you are outside the US, you will need to obtain a new one in order to re-enter the country. Plan ahead. 3) If you are completing your program of study in December, check your form I-20 to make sure that it shows the December 16 program end date. If it does not, please let us know so that we can shorten your program to match your actual plans. 4) The opposite is also true. If your form I-20 shows a December 16 end date, but you will need an additional semester to get all your program requirements completed, now is the time to request an extension and get an updated form I-20. 5) If you have moved since you checked in with us, log into iStart right away and submit the address update form. Remember: you only have 10 days from the date of the move to get this reported to the US government.

Finally, allow me to encourage you to visit [our website](#) regularly, especially if you receive an email message from us regarding anything related to your immigration status. We are diligent about keeping the website up to date. You will find that it is the easiest and best way to get the answers to any questions that you may have. Enjoy September!

Rick

STAFF

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Welcome all students!

Welcome new and returning students! Hope all of you are settling into a new academic year at UIS. We are looking forward to supporting all our students. Stay updated on our upcoming events planned by Erika Suzuki with the support of our international ambassadors on our [Get Involved](#) website. Do not hesitate to reach out to us via e-mail or phone call for any questions, concerns and/or resources you may need. A new journey awaits you!

You can take a virtual Tour around Campus by scanning the image below!



https://youtu.be/rKqL6op_TMI

ISS's August Events

Fall 2023 Orientation—August 23rd

Our New International Student Orientation was held at the Sangamon Auditorium. Around 350 new students participated in the event and they were welcomed by our office director, Rick Lane, and the university's chancellor, Janet Gooch.



International Student Spotlight

Julien Babineau



My pronouns are he/him. I am from New Brunswick, Canada and can speak French (my native language) and English. Canada is a great country, with free access to healthcare, beautiful landscapes from the east coast shores to the Rocky Mountains on the west coast! My favorite thing about Canada is our love for hockey, pure maple syrup, and the friendly people in the smaller towns.

My major is Business Administration and I am a sophomore here at UIS. I am part of the golf team and also played intermural volleyball. I chose UIS because of the opportunity to play competitive golf while studying for my major.



My hobbies are fishing and playing hockey. My favorite food from home is lobster and fresh seafood/fish (I am fortunate to live a couple minutes from the Atlantic Ocean). My favorite food from the US is anything from Texas Roadhouse, which I just discovered this year. My favorite movie is "Miracle on Ice" because it is a great inspirational movie about hockey.

Hashtags that best describes me are #Outdoorsman, #Proudcanadian, and #Golfer. After UIS, I would like to play golf professionally in and around Florida as my dream job is to be a Professional Golfer. If not, I will move back to Canada for work. Tips I can give to new students are to stay organized, stay on top of everything, and don't procrastinate!



National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15—October 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins each year on September 15, celebrates U.S. Latinos, their culture and their history. It started in 1968 by Congress as Hispanic Heritage Week, and it was expanded to a month in 1988. This month recognizes the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements for the United States.

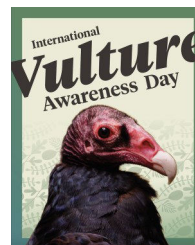


Since the beginning, the country has drawn strength and insights from Hispanic writers, scientists, soldiers, doctors, entrepreneurs, academics, and leaders in labor and government. The U.S. culture has been enriched by the rhythms, art, literature, and creativity of Hispanic peoples. This month is celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more!

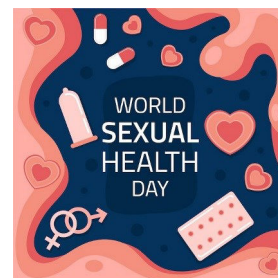


World Celebrations

September 2nd—International Turkey Vulture Awareness Day: The first Saturday in September recognizes the dwindling numbers of vultures. The day not only raises awareness about vulture numbers, but it educates the public, too. Vultures play an essential role in the ecological health of the environment.



September 4th—World Sexual Health Day: This day brings greater awareness of sexual health, celebrates sexuality and promotes sexual rights. Sexual health involves the state of physical, mental, and social well-being regarding sexuality. However, this isn't just about relationships. Our sexual health influences medical issues, education, and sexual behavior. The observance also tackles issues including unplanned pregnancies and safer sex practices.



September 5th—International Day of Charity: This day encourages organizations and individuals to help others, emphasizes increasing solidarity and promoting social responsibility. Remember "it's better to give than to receive."



September 10th—World Suicide Prevention Day: Suicide is a global phenomenon. Throughout the world, 800,000 people die each year by taking their own life. In the United States, about 47,000 people die by suicide each year. That means, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the country. Among 15-29-year-olds, suicide is the leading cause of death. Multiple risk factors impact causes for suicide. The leading risk factors include mental illness, inability to cope with life stressors, and chronic pain and illness. Some of the most vulnerable groups for committing suicide include refugees, prisoners, bullied kids, and those in the LGBT community. Therefore, this day aims to promote ways to prevent suicide.



September 15th—World Afro Day: This day celebrates this natural hairstyle, as well as the culture and identity of those who choose to wear an afro. Also, it educates others about the natural hairstyles of blacks and mixed-race people. The afro is a natural hairstyle for black people, and those who are mixed-race. The afro is recognizable as the hair stands out all around the head, like a cloud.



Important Information from the Office of Records and Registration

Students graduating in Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 must submit an online Graduation Application via student Self-Service (<https://apps.uillinois.edu/> - “Graduation” tab) by October 2, 2023 (Fall 2023) or February 16, 2024 (Spring 2024). Students **MUST** be sure to verify that all curriculum information is listed accurately **BEFORE** submitting an online Graduation Application (including major, minor, concentration, etc.).



**University Illinois
Springfield**

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[On Facebook](#)

Upcoming Events

- ◇ New International Student Welcome Party: September 1, 5-7pm @ REC Park
- ◇ OPT Workshop for Fall grads: September 8, 2-4pm @Student Union Ballroom
- ◇ Mid-Autumn Festival: September 29, 12-2pm @ Student Union Ballroom



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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

