

# International Student Services Newsletter

International Student Services Office

MARCH, 2024

## STAFF

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## Inside this issue:

Past Events	2
Tax Workshops	3
Student Spotlight	4
African Culture at AHS	5
World Celebrations	6
Criss Cross Puzzle	7
Upcoming Events	9

## From the Director's desk

There is a well-known rhyme in English that says, "March winds and April showers bring May flowers." Climate change has certainly had its impact on the normal seasonal changes, but one thing is certain: March can be a very windy month in central Illinois. Look for a mix of winter, perhaps even snow, and spring, with some of those May flowers trying to get an early start. Just plan to [check the weather](#) before going out each day and be sure to enjoy whatever early spring days you are offered.

Speaking of planning, some of you will need to be working on what is coming next, even as you are busy finishing up your current tasks. In ISS it seems like we are always doing that: finishing with immigration check-in while starting on OPT applications, helping students who are looking toward the ends of their programs of study while working with others to get started, contacting newly admitted students while congratulating those finishing up extended OPT, etc. On any given day, we are working with many of our approximately 2,500 international students who are somewhere in at least one of those groups. So, if it takes a few days to get back to you on something, you can be sure that we will as soon as possible.

You can help to make sure that you have everything that you need when you need it by submitting any requests or inquiries well ahead of when you need them. For example, if you have a current program end date of May 11, 2024, you should be checking with your academic advisor now to see if you might need an [extension](#). You might also want to get started right away on [your OPT application](#) or your admission to your next program of study. You may just want to make some tourist plans for your 60-day grace period before you return to your home country. You have a lot of options. Plan for them well in advance.

For those of you continuing at UIS during the summer or fall, you, too, should be planning ahead. Did you know that the [travel endorsement](#) on Page 2 of your form I-20 is good for 12 months (6 if you are on OPT), and you can get those now for summer travel? Will the summer term be your final term at UIS? If it is, did you know that you will need a [full course load](#) or an [RCL authorization](#) and that you must have on campus classes?

These are just some of the many reasons for you to stay in touch with [your assigned Immigration Advisor \(DSO\)](#) and to make sure that you have everything up-to-date and planned ahead. It always takes much more work on your part and ours if you risk or lose your immigration status. Let us help you to avoid that.

Enough of the immigration stuff, we have a lot of special events/programs coming your way. Watch [the "Get Involved" page](#) on our website for all the latest announcements. There are at least three good ones this month that you will not want to miss. Take a look at the photos of some of the recent activities and how international students participated in the next page of this newsletter.

Oh, and if you get a chance, [go fly a kite!](#)

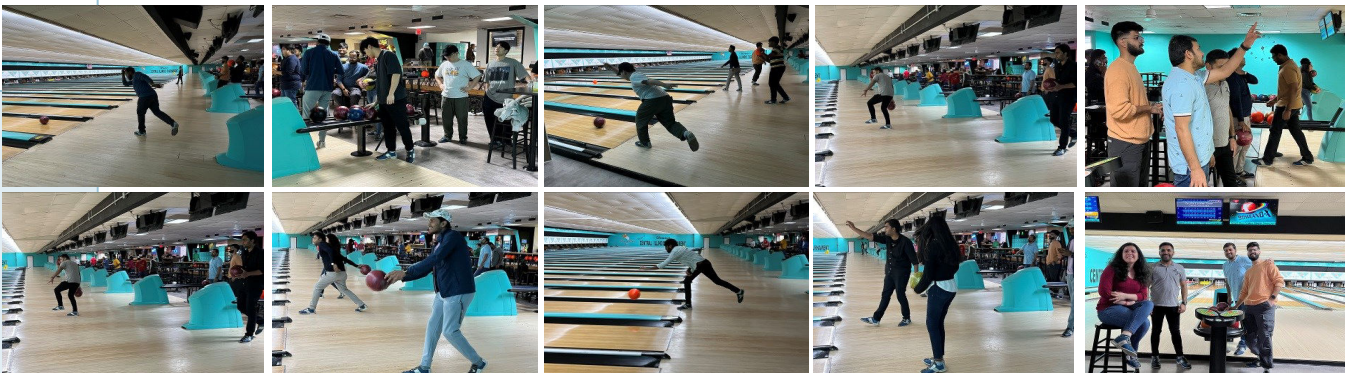
Rick

## ISS'S FEBRUARY EVENTS

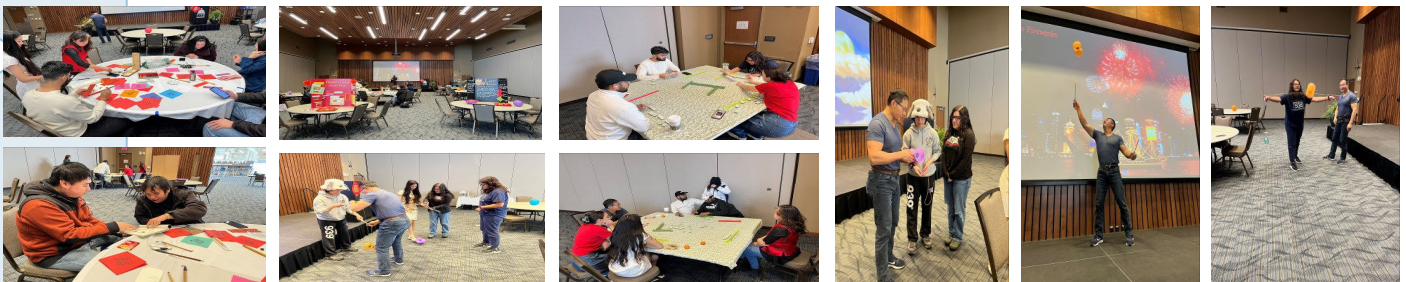
### Ski Trip–February 2nd



### Bowling–February 9th



### Lunar New Year, Year of the Dragon–February 16th



### International Mother Language Day–February 21st

Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see a video of this event!

### Carnival–February 23rd



## INTERNATIONAL TAX WORKSHOPS

If you worked on campus during year 2023, you will need to be ready for tax season.

The ISS office is planning to support our F-1 international students with Sprintax service. Sprintax will provide Nonresident Tax Webinars until April, so we strongly encourage you to participate in any of the webinars and learn about the nonresident tax in the US. **2023 tax forms must be filed by April 15, 2024!**



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

sprintax

Sprintax Webinar  
Schedule 2023/2024



### 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 2023 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 14th @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Thursday, January 25th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Wednesday, February 7th @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Wednesday, February 28th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Monday, March 11th @ 4pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Thursday, March 28th @ 3pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Wednesday, April 3rd @ 2pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Thursday, April 11th @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Monday, April 15th @ 11am EST – [Register here](#)

### Sprintax Nonresident Tax Overview for OPT/CPT

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.

- > Thursday, November 16th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Wednesday, December 13th @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Tuesday, January 23rd @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Wednesday, February 28th @ 2pm EST – [Register here](#)
- > Thursday, March 21st @ 3pm EST – [Register here](#)

### Sprintax Nonresident Tax Webinar (EAP)

March 11th @ 3pm – [Register here](#)

March 28th @ 2pm – [Register here](#)

April 3rd @ 1pm – [Register here](#)

April 11th @ 12pm – [Register here](#)

April 15th @ 10am – [Register here](#)

### Sprintax Nonresident Tax Overview for OPT/CPT

March 21st @ 2pm – [Register here](#)

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Sergio Crescenzi



I am from Ascoli Piceno, in the middle of Italy. I speak Italian and English but I can have a dialogue in Spanish too. My home country is fantastic. The people are very nice and they joke about everything. It is sunny most of the time and the food is good. There is a lot of history, so when you walk down the street it is like going back in time.

My major is Business Administration and I chose UIS because the soccer team is good and because of the GPSI program, so you can get a great experience for that. Also, the MBA is a very good program and you can find a good job after graduation. I currently play on the UIS men's soccer team.

My hobbies and interests are soccer, travel, and food. My favorite food in Italy is Tagliatelle al ragu' (meatballs). In the US, I like the donuts. My favorite movie is Interstellar because it shows what it could be like outside of our world.

A hashtag that describes me is #mammamia. My dream job is to be a famous soccer player. After UIS, I think I will go back to Italy and find a job there. I would like to spend more time with my family and friends. But this one is a great experience that I will never forget.

A tip I can give to new students would be to work hard but always with a smile and joy. This school offers great opportunities to have fun. There are many activities throughout campus, from the gym to group outings. So have fun while always doing a good job.



## AFRICAN CULTURE AT AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL

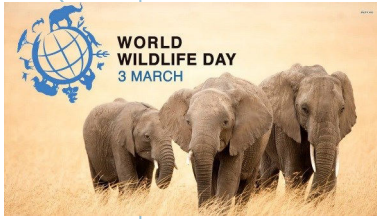
In a recent opportunity to speak with a group of students from Sandy Jones' geography class at Auburn High School (AHS), Jonathan Nanyaro and Emmanuelle Mossi Yakana accepted the invitation to offer students a firsthand glimpse into the diverse landscapes, traditions, customs, and every-day life in their respective home countries. In an engaging presentation, Jonathan hailing from Tanzania, and Emmanuelle from Cameroon, captivated the students with vivid descriptions and personal stories in hopes of fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of global diversity within the classroom.

Throughout the presentations, Jonathan and Emmanuelle seamlessly weaved together personal accounts, insights, and cultural observations, fostering a dialogue among the students of AHS. Students were eager to ask questions, seeking to deepen their understanding of life in Tanzania and Cameroon.

As the presentations came to a close, the students were appreciative of the efforts Jonathan and Emmanuelle made to bring the world closer together within the walls of AHS. Through their engaging storytelling and heartfelt reflections, Jonathan and Emmanuelle have not only broadened horizons but also fostered a sense of curiosity and respect for cultures previously unknown to the students. Their contributions serve as a testament to the transformative power of cultural exchange and the profound impact of student-driven initiatives in the classroom.



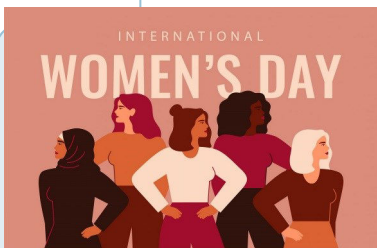
## WORLD CELEBRATIONS



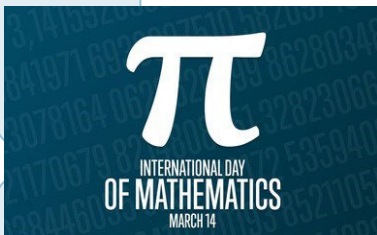
March, 3rd—World Wildlife Day: This day dedicates a celebration to all life on our planet and raises awareness about threatened and endangered plants and animals. As a planet, we currently face the issue of overexploiting our marine species. Through global mass consumption, human impact has not only generated pollution and destroyed coastal habitats but causes irreversible damage.



March, 4th—World Obesity Day: This day encourages people across the globe to respond to the obesity crisis, increasing obesity awareness, encouraging advocacy, improving policies, and sharing experiences. According to the Worldwide Health Organization (WHO), obesity affected over 650 million adults in 2016, and today, that number is closer to 800 million. Adults that have a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more are considered obese. Poor health is one of the many consequences of obesity.



March, 8th—International Women's Day: This day honors the achievements of women and promotes women's rights, especially in developing countries. Around the world, organizations, communities, and individuals organize events focused on the mission of gender parity. You can also join the celebration by organizing an event, speaking or perform at a local fundraiser, or participate in a march for women's equal rights!



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. Besides personal use, many professions use mathematics. In fact, 94% of all workers use some sort of math in their jobs and about 68% of these people use fractions, decimals, and percentages. No matter what profession students in high school and college go into, they are encouraged to study mathematics.



March, 20th—International Day of Happiness: This day promotes the idea that part of humanity's progress should include how to increase happiness and wellbeing. For far too long, progress in the world has been all about the economy. But more people are realizing that happiness is also an essential part of progress. Happiness is defined as the state of being happy. When someone is happy, they are delighted or glad. However, people might differ in what makes them happy.



March, 24th—International Day for Achievers: This day celebrates achievers and their strong sense of purpose and confidence. It's also a day to strive to become an achiever. When you achieve something, it means you have carried out something successfully. The word achieve can also mean accomplish. For some, this might simply mean reading a certain number of books in a month., others achieve a goal when it comes to losing weight or exercising. A common achievement for many people is to further their education. All of these kinds of achievements take hard work and dedication.

# CRISS CROSS PUZZLE: MOTHER LANGUAGES AT UIS

## Mother Languages at UIS



...Cont'd from Page 7

## CRISS CROSS PUZZLE: MOTHER LANGUAGES AT UIS

### ACROSS

1. A West Germanic language and the national language of Netherlands
3. A Celtic language spoken in Ireland
5. A Bantu language spoken in the African Great Lakes region. One of the major languages in Uganda
6. The official language in Myanmar
12. An Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in South Asia, the national language in Pakistan
13. An Indo-Aryan language native to the Punjab region of Pakistan and India
14. A Dravidian language Spoken by the Tamil people of South Asia for instance in southern India and north Sri Lanka
16. A Romance language, the official language of Italy, San Marino, and Vatican City
19. An Indo-Aryan language of the sub-branch of Eastern Pahari, an official language in Nepal
20. A Senegambia language in West and Central Africa, the native language of Fula people
22. A North Germanic language spoken predominantly in Norway
24. Spoken in the West Africa most prominently by Yoruba people in Nigeria
25. An East Slavic language of the Indo-European language family. an official language of Ukraine
27. The Turkic subfamily of Altaic languages. A state language of Kyrgyzstan along with the official language, Russian
31. A Romance language, the official language in France
33. A Bantu language spoken by Kamba people mainly in Kenya and Tanzania
34. A Bantu language and native language of the Swahili people. Spoken widely in the East African countries
36. One of spoken languages widely in India
38. An official language of Thailand

### DOWN

2. A variety of the Akan language spoken widely in southern and central Ghana
4. "Hola" in this language means Hello in English
6. An Indo-Aryan language spoken in the Bengal region of South Asia
7. An official language in Russia
8. The official language of Iran
9. A Dravidian language mainly spoken by Karnataka people in the southwestern region of India
10. A Semitic language of the Arabs, spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa
11. The native language of the Wolof people in Senegal, Mauritania, and Gambia.
15. A Chadic language that is spoken by the Hausa people in the Africa
17. A Dravidian language spoken mainly in southeastern India
18. The official and national language of Vietnam
21. A Bantu language spoken by people along the Congo River
23. Spoken primarily along the western coastal region of India
26. Spoken in South and North Korean
28. A West Germanic language and the official language of both Germany and Austria and one of the official languages of Switzerland
29. The official standard language in China
30. One of the Austronesian language family and the base for Pilipino, and official language of the Philippines along with English
32. An official language in Israel
35. A Bantu language spoken in Malawi and a recognized minority in Zambia and Mozambique
37. Spoken by Igbo people, an ethnic group from Eastern Nigeria.

Use the clues to fill in the words above.

Words can go across or down.

Letters are shared when the words intersect.

We will publish the solution in our next Newsletter.



## International Student Services Office

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[On Facebook](#)

## Upcoming Events

- ◇ Ice Skating at the Nelson Center: March 8, 11:30am-2pm @ Student Union Lobby.
- ◇ City Museum St. Louis: March 15, 10am @ Student Union Lobby.
- ◇ OPT Workshop for Summer 2024 Grads: March 22, 2-4pm @ Brookens Auditorium.
- ◇ Professional Etiquette Dinner Workshop: March 29, 5:30-7pm @ Student Union Ballroom.

### Ice Skating in Nelson Center



March 8, 11:30 am  
Union Lobby



### WALK-IN HOURS:

Monday-Thursday  
2:00-4:00pm

If you need to speak directly with an immigration specialist (DSO), you can come during walk-in hours, or email [ISS@uis.edu](mailto:ISS@uis.edu) to make an appointment.

### OPT WORKSHOP Summer 2024 Graduates

Brookens Auditorium  
Friday, March 22  
2 pm - 4 pm

This workshop will cover Optional Practical Training (OPT) eligibility and the application process. All students graduating Summer 2024 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.

### Professional Etiquette Dinner March 29, 5:30 pm Union Center Ballroom



Career Development Center & Office of International Student Services

