

# International Student Services Newsletter

International Student Services Office

APRIL, 2024

## 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)

## From the Director's desk

April has arrived, and with it the inevitable April Fools' Day jokes. If you don't yet know what that is, check it out [here](#). Of course, those of us in ISS hope that you do not fall victim to such jokes, and, if you are the perpetrator, that your jokes do not cause undue harm to others. Let's keep it light and fun for all. As the referenced article mentions, there are long-standing customs related to this day from all around the world. Take a moment to learn about some of those.



For those of you completing your programs of study early in May, the month of April also represents your last full month in which to finalize your post-completion plans. Will you need to [extend your program end dates](#) because you will not be finishing as planned? Do you still need to apply for [post-completion OPT](#)? Will you be starting a new program of study soon, either at UIS or [another school](#) and need an [updated form I-20](#)? Whatever your plans, be sure to contact ISS soon to make sure that we are aware of how we can best assist you.

As we look ahead toward graduation for those completing their studies, we are also looking a little farther ahead for those joining us for the first time in the fall. If you are among those and do not yet have your visa, you will want to move very quickly. The [visa appointment wait times](#) at the US consulates around the world vary from country to country. Some of you are fortunate to live near a consulate that takes only a few days to provide you with an appointment date. Others are already too late. Plan ahead. We very much hope to see you in August. If that turns out to be impossible for you because the wait times are too long, go ahead and get started on a deferral and get your form I-20 for next January now.

There are still some special programming events remaining for this semester. See the most recent list [here](#). Don't miss a great opportunity to have some fun with your friends while making new ones.

When you get a chance, this month, get outside and enjoy Spring in central Illinois. It is one of our favorite months.

Rick

## Inside this issue:

Past Events	2
Tax Workshops	3
Student Spotlight	4
Ramadan Celebration	5
World Celebrations	6
Criss Cross Puzzle Solution	7
ISS Bulletin Board	9
Holi celebration	10
Upcoming Events	11



## ISS'S MARCH EVENTS

### Ice Skating at the Nelson Center–March 8th



### City Museum St. Louis–March 15th





## INTERNATIONAL TAX WORKSHOPS



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

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

The ISS office is supporting our F-1 international students with Sprintax service. Sprintax is providing Nonresident Tax Webinars until this month, so we strongly encourage you to participate in any of the webinars and learn about the nonresident tax in the US. This is your last chance.

**2023 tax forms must be filed by April 15, 2024!**

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 Webinar (EAP)

**April 3rd @ 1pm – [Register here](#)**

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

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





## RAMADAN CELEBRATION



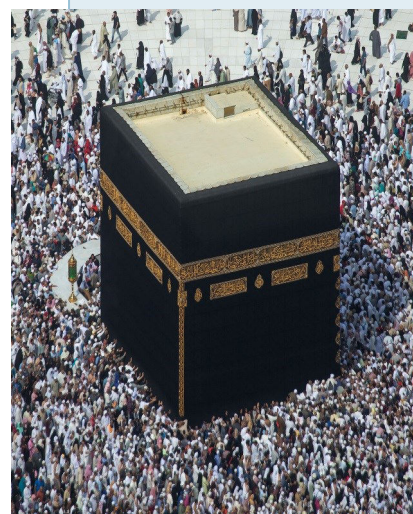
This year, Ramadan is expected to last 30 days, ending on April 9th.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and has a special significance because it is during this month that Muslims believe the first verses of the Quran (Islam's holy book) were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. During this period, Muslims are encouraged to fast, showing kindness and patience and strengthening their relationship with God, giving extra emphasis on reciting the Quran.

Fasting is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, which lay the basis for how Muslims are required to live their lives and is meant to encourage spiritual reflection. The other pillars are the profession of faith, prayer five times a day, charity, and the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca once in their lifetime.

Muslims have an early morning meal before dawn. During the day, they are not supposed to eat or drink anything, including water, until after sunset, when they break their fast with an evening meal.

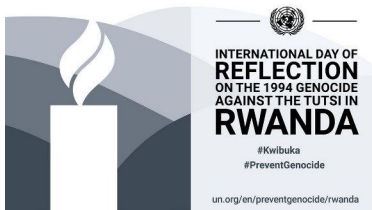
If you want to wish someone a good start of Ramadan, it is customary to say "Ramadan Mubarak", which means "Blessed Ramadan". You can also say "Ramadan Kareem", which translates as "Generous Ramadan".



## WORLD CELEBRATIONS



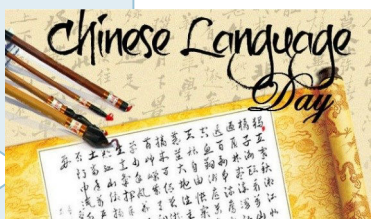
April, 6th—International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: This day celebrates how sports and physical activity contribute to education, human development, healthy lifestyles, and a peaceful world. The adoption of this Day signifies the recognition by the UN of the positive influence that sport can have on the advancement of human rights, and social and economic development.



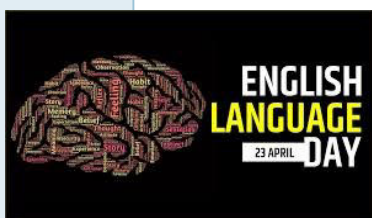
April, 7th—International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda: This day marks the start of the 1994 mass slaughter of Tutsi in Rwanda during the Rwandan Civil War, which lasted for the 100-day period to mid-July. An estimated 500,000 to 1,000,000 Rwandans were killed. The purpose of the day is to honor the memory of these victims and pay tribute to the survivors, while raising awareness among younger generations about the legacy of this genocide and the values of a culture of peace.



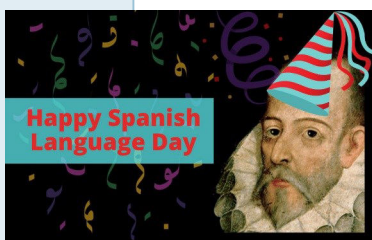
April, 11th— World Parkinson's Day: This day raises awareness for this progressive nervous system disorder and it's also a day to help the people understand the reality of this disease for those who have it. According to the Parkinson's Foundation, over 10 million people in the world have this disease and occurs when neurons in the brain break down or die, reducing dopamine levels in the brain and causing abnormal brain activity, which results in impaired movement.



April 20th—Chinese Language Day: This day explores the progress that the written and spoken Chinese word have made. Like most languages, Chinese has a diverse collection of dialects that add to the depth and character of the language. Of the seven major modern dialects, Mandarin is the most widely spoken. At 6,000 years old, the Chinese language is the oldest written language in the world and it is currently the first most spoken language in the world.



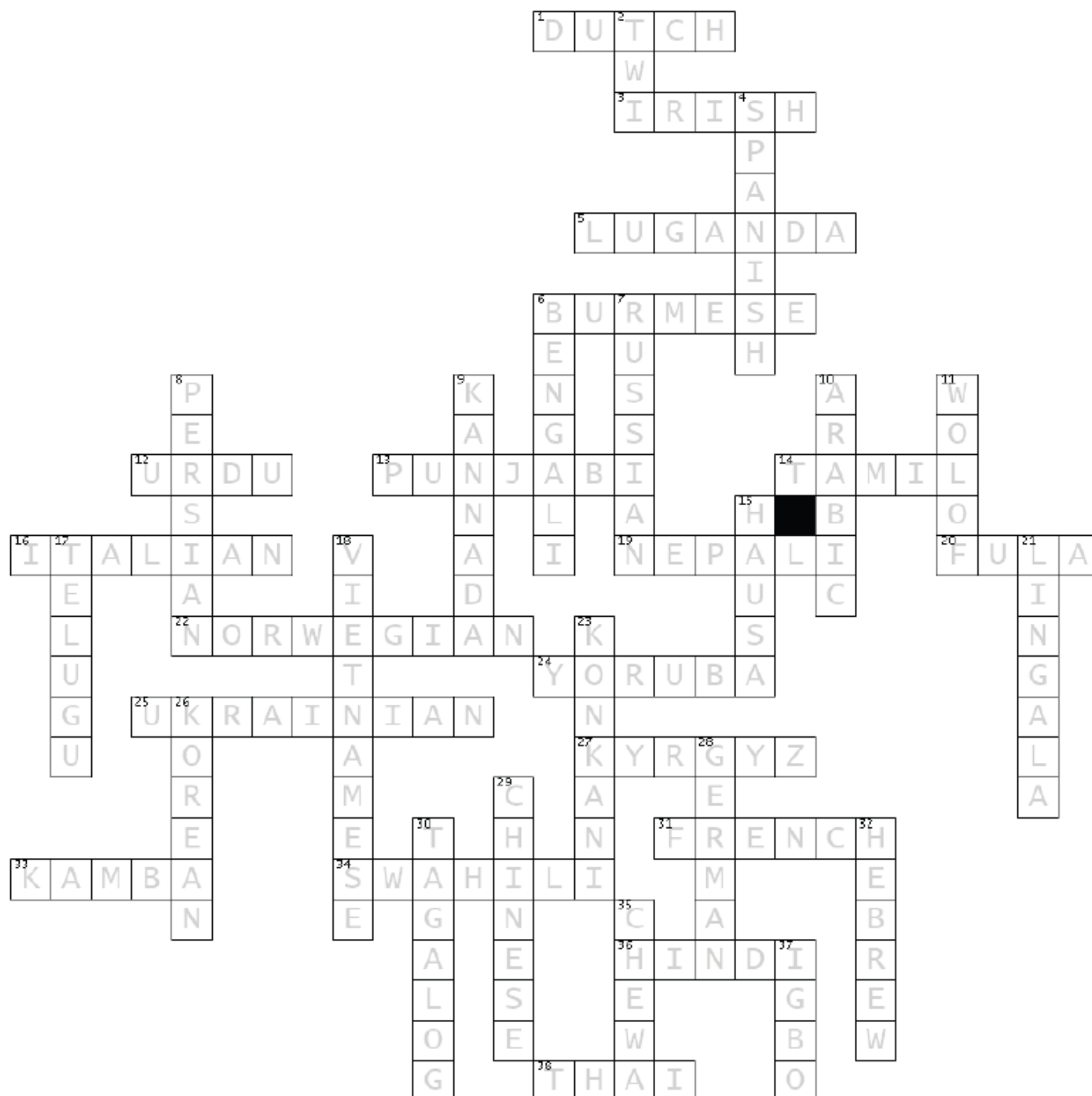
April, 23rd—English Language Day: This day explores the development, history, and culture of the English tongue. English is a Germanic language that began to develop during the 5th and 6th centuries when Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain and it is influenced by French, Latin, and many other languages. While English is the third most spoken language in the world, it is at least the second language (if not a third or fourth) for three-quarters of those who speak it.



April, 23rd—Spanish Language Day: This day celebrates the second most spoken language in the world. It's also a day to honor the most revered writer in the Spanish language, Miguel De Cervantes Saavedra. This language originated in Spain, and currently, there are more than 450 million native Spanish speakers in the world. Only the Chinese language surpasses Spanish as the most spoken language in the world. It is also the third most studied language in the world, behind English and French. About 75 million people in the world speak Spanish as their second language.

## MOTHER LANGUAGES AT UIS PUZZLE SOLUTION

## 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.

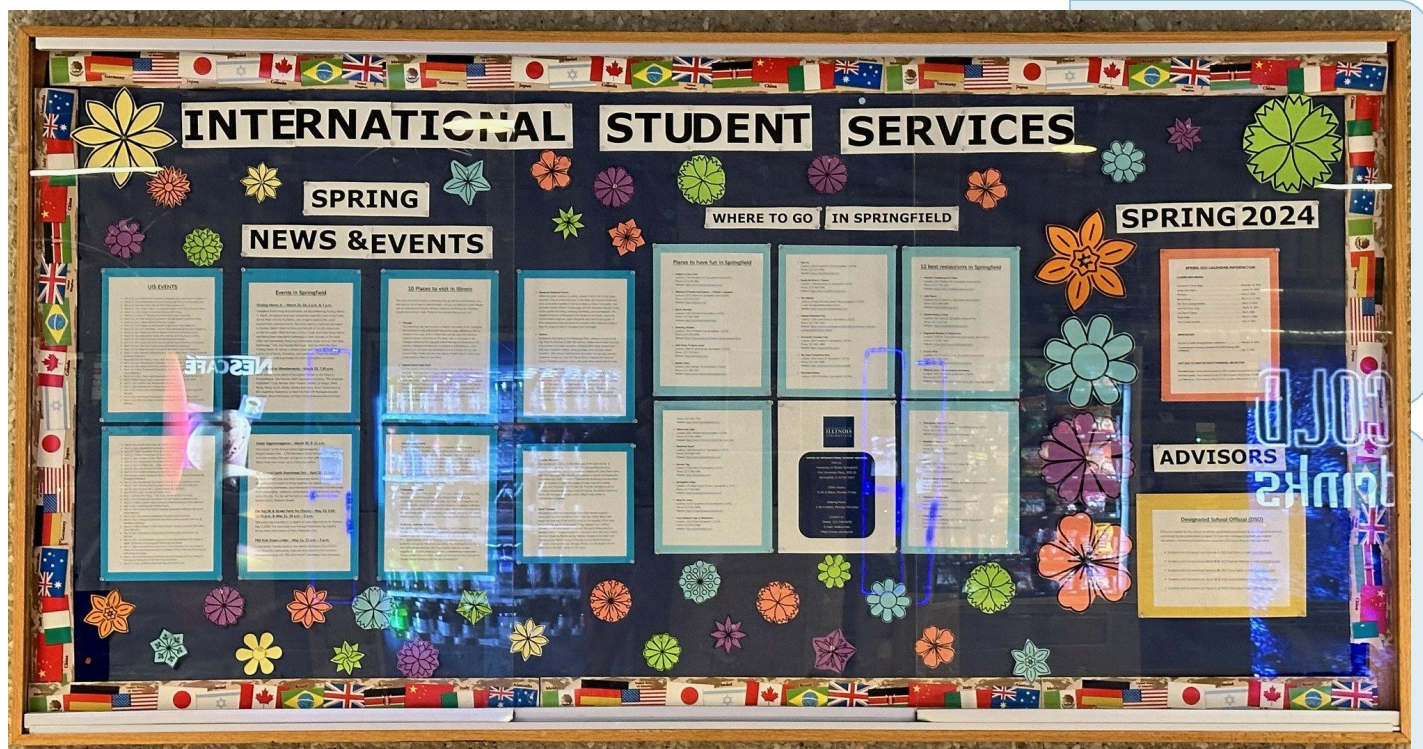
Letters are shared when the words intersect.



## ISS BULLETIN BOARD

Our Bulletin Board located in the tunnel, below the library, has been updated with spring events, activities, places to go, and important information from our office.

Go take a look at it!



## HOLI CELEBRATION



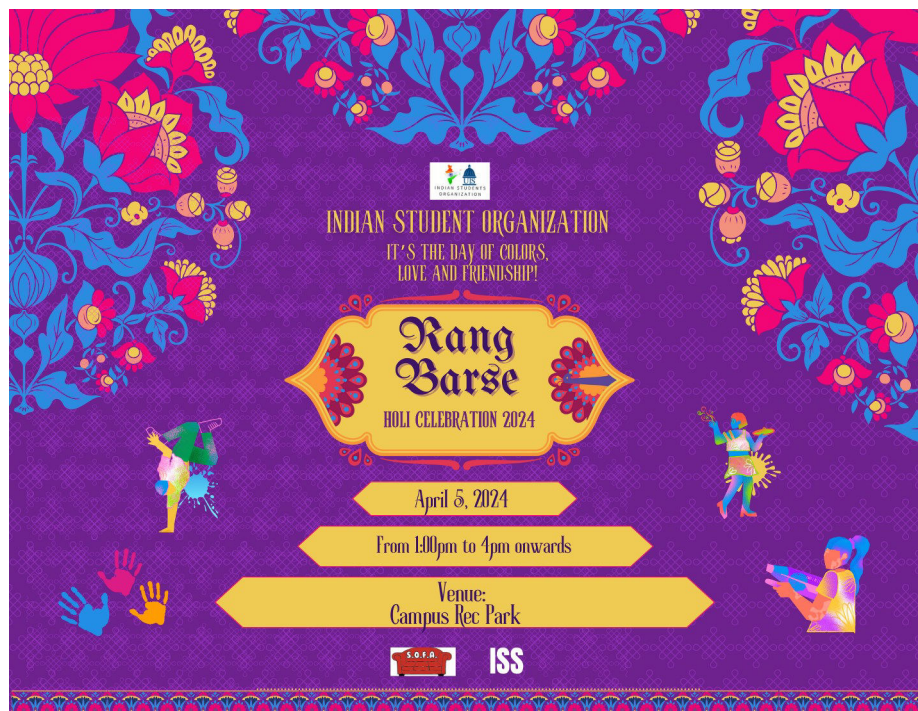
Holi, the vibrant festival of colors, is deeply rooted in Hindu mythology and culture, celebrated on the full-moon day of the Hindu month of Phalgun. On this day, social hierarchies dissolve, and people of all backgrounds come together to make merry, transcending barriers of caste, gender, age, and status.

The festival's hallmark is its exuberant display of colors, where participants joyfully smear each other with bright hues and water balloons, spreading laughter and happiness. These colors symbolize the diversity of life and encourage the shedding of inhibitions to embrace the vibrancy within.

Beyond its playful aspect, Holi holds profound spiritual significance. It commemorates the triumph of devotion and righteousness over tyranny and ego, as seen in the legend of Prahlada and Holika. Bonfires lit on the eve of Holi symbolize the destruction of evil forces, paving the way for renewal and new beginnings. In addition to its mythological roots, Holi is also associated with the love story of Hindu gods Radha and Krishna. For believers, the colors blue and red hold special significance, representing Krishna and love and fertility respectively.

Holi's inclusive nature transcends religious boundaries, bringing together people of different faiths and backgrounds in its jubilant revelry. Celebrated with fervor in countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and parts of Pakistan, as well as in Guyana and Suriname, where it is known as Phagwah, Holi has also gained popularity in Western countries, further reflecting its global appeal.

In essence, Holi is more than just a festival; it is a celebration of life, love, friendship, and forgiveness, where colors merge, hearts connect, and joy knows no bounds. Although this year Holi was celebrated on March 25, UIS HOLI 2024 is scheduled to be celebrated here on campus on Friday, April 5 at 1pm at Rec Park. Join us for the colorful festival!





## International Student Services Office

### FIND US:

University of Illinois Springfield—  
One University Plaza, MS BSB 20  
Springfield, IL 62703-5407

### CONTACT US:

Phone: 217-206-6678

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

[On Facebook](#)

## Upcoming Events

- ♦ Holi Celebration: April 5, 1-4pm  
@ REC Park.
- ♦ International Congratulatory  
Ceremony: May 10, 2-4pm @  
Union ballroom.
- ♦ Commencement ceremonies: May  
10, 7pm; May 11, 10am & 3pm  
@ PAC Sangamon Auditorium.

## Earn Your Degree Faster with Summer Classes

Take a class or two while you're home this summer to get ahead on your studies. More than [250 courses](#) are available, most of which are offered online!

Don't wait. Classes begin Monday, June 3, so [secure your spot](#) today!



**Beginning  
June 3!**

### 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.