

# International Student Services Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
SPRINGFIELD

ISSUE I

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## From the Director's Desk

It's September, and fall is on its way. I do not know about you, but I am looking forward to cooler temperatures, longer nights, changing colors, and all that the season brings to central Illinois. Get outside as much as you can and enjoy nature.

Speaking of fall coming soon, that means that a lot of work is already being done for this year's annual International Festival. International students at UIS began this event some 45 years ago, and we have managed to continue it almost every year since. More information about previous festivals can be found on this page of our website: <https://www.uis.edu/iss/get-involved/international-festival> Think about how you might like to be involved. Contact Erika Suzuki, our Program Coordinator, or one of our International Ambassadors to share your ideas. You will not want to miss it.

Also coming up soon is our OPT workshop. This one is geared primarily for those international students completing their programs of study in December, but any F-1 student is welcome to attend. Within a few days of the workshop, the application window will open for December graduates. You will want to be well-informed and will want to apply early to make sure that you receive your employment authorization before your practical training start date.

On the same day as our OPT workshop (September 9), there will be a Mid-Autumn Festival in the Union Ballroom. Watch for additional information on our website and on the UIS Calendar. See this page for everything planned for September: <https://www.uis.edu/calendar/202209>

We are very happy to have the largest group of new international students on campus this fall that we have had in several years. The January group looks to be quite large, as well. Take every opportunity that you have to help the entire campus community and Springfield itself to learn more about you and your part of the world. Our diversity is our strength. You may never again have the same kind of community in which to learn both inside and outside the classroom. What you learn here about yourself and about the world will impact everything that you do for the rest of your life. Don't pass it up.

Have a great fall semester. Plan well. Stay "ahead of the game." Let us know how we can help.

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)

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Graduate Assistant:

Claudia Falcon (She / Her)

Student Employee:

Lynise Gutierrez (She/Her)

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# ISS's August Events

## New International Students Welcome Party



## Bus trip to downtown Springfield



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### CLAUDIA FALCON

My pronouns are She/her. I speak English and Spanish. I am from Lima, Peru, which is a place of converging trends due to its culture, where you will find every corner of Peru represented. Lima is the only capital in South America that faces the sea and is hailed as the gastronomic capital of Latin America. My favorite foods in my home country are fish ceviche and rotisserie chicken. In the US, I like grilled steak with loaded baked potato. Hashtags that describe me are #FamilyFirst and #LiveTheMoment. I like going to the movies, watching Netflix, karaoke and swimming. Sometime in the future I would like to visit Australia and Japan to know more about their cultures since they are in different continents. I'm currently earning my Master's in Public Policy and my dream job is to own an import/export business. I chose UIS because of the Graduate Assistantship (GA) program, the prestige of the university as well as the location. Now, I am working for the ISS office as a GA, where am learning a lot about student immigration processes. A tip I can give to new students is always ask if you have any questions, don't remain with the doubt. After UIS I'm planning on make my dreams come true!!



## National Day of Vietnam: September 2

On September 02, 2022 Vietnam celebrates the declaration of independence from France and Japan in 1945, after the end of World War II. After Vietnam became part of French Indochina in 1887, it was occupied by the Japanese in World War II.

With the end of the war the national independence coalition called Viet Minh, launched the August Revolu-

tion and proclaimed the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The Day with historical significance is celebrated extensively with speeches, parades, fireworks, and other festivities throughout the country.



HERITAGE DAY  
SOUTH AFRICA

## Heritage Day in South Africa: September 24

Heritage Day is a public holiday on which South Africans across the spectrum are encouraged to celebrate their cultural heritage and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all its people. South Africans celebrate Heritage Day by remembering the cultural heritage of the many cultures that make up the population of South Africa. Various events are staged throughout the country to commemorate this day.

## International Student Services Office

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Mid Autumn Festival 2022: September 9, 11:30am @ Student Union Central Ballroom
- ◆ OPT Workshop—Fall 2022 Graduates: September 9, 2-4pm @ Brookens Auditorium



### 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](mailto:iss@uis.edu) to make an appointment.

Monday–Thursday 2:00-4:00pm

A poster for the OPT Workshop. It features a white desk with a globe on it and a white chair. The text on the right side reads: "OPT WORKSHOP Fall 2022 Graduates", "Brookens Auditorium", "Friday, September 9", "2 pm - 4 pm". Below this, it says: "This workshop will cover Optional Practical Training (OPT) eligibility and the application process. All students graduating Fall 2022 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."