

SEPTEMBER 2021

AND SO THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

International Student Services at the University of Illinois Springfield



WELCOME ALL STUDENTS!

Welcome new and returning students! Hope all our students are settling into a new academic year at UIS. There are many opportunities to get involved, stay updated on our cultural and educational events planned by Erika Suzuki and the international ambassadors. Do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or phone call for any questions and resources you may need! Looking forward to getting to know our new students and continuing to support our returning students! Fall 2021, **and so the adventure begins...**

STAFF

Rick Lane (He/Him)

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Rachael Matingi (She/Her)

Immigration Specialist

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From the Director's Desk



It is September in central Illinois, and everything is rolling along at the University of Illinois Springfield. We welcomed a great group of new international students last month (more than twice the number from last fall) and are already working hard to get ready for those coming in January. Everyone on campus is following a very carefully planned COVID protocol, and, so far, we are doing much better than most of the country. We are justifiably proud that our common efforts have made it safe for so many to be on campus and in in-person classes. Keep a close eye on the university website for regular updates.

September is also a month of changing weather. It is starting out quite warm, but, by the end of the month, it will end with a bit of autumn briskness in the air, especially in the early morning hours. Watch for the beautiful changing colors among all the trees on campus. If you have never seen all those red maples welcome the fall, you are in for a real treat.

For those of you who are finishing your programs at the end of this fall term, it is also time to be working on those OPT applications. Optional Practical Training is a tremendous benefit that comes as part of your F-1 status. If you missed our OPT workshop in August, you can find the same information on our website in a little different format. Feel free to email us with any questions that you may have. For those finishing next May, we will have another workshop in November so that you can start your planning.

We are busy finalizing plans for the annual International Festival. Watch for more details on our website and in Campus Connect. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to celebrate this very popular festival for the first time in some 45 years last fall. This year we are planning to hold it outside in the afternoon and really hope that we will be able to pull it off. For those who are able to come to campus, we hope that you will plan to participate. It is great fun and a learning experience for all.

If you have a need to speak to someone in person, know that our office has returned to full on-campus operations every weekday from 8:30 – 5:00. We are operating with a reduced staff each day and are taking every precaution to make sure that both you and our staff are United In Safety. Please check our website for document pick-up hours, walk-in hours, and procedures. Please wear your mask and bring your University ID card with you when you come.

This is going to be a great semester. Thank you for your cooperation and efforts to help make it so.

Rick Lane



International Student Ambassadors



Hi there, my name is Julia. Although, I'll be transitioning away from work as an International Student Ambassador this year I am grateful for the skills I've gained through this position as well as all the people I've met. What I love most about work in International Student Services is meeting new people and always learning new things-- the constant stimulation of those two aspects is a blessing in a workplace. I have so much respect for international students and all the extra work and burden they undertake to study abroad and I can only hope to be helpful in some way. Cheers to a new school year!



Hello everyone! My name is Quynh Minh Truc Tran, but most of my friends know me as Selina. I am an international student from Vietnam. I am currently a senior at UIS with my major Business Administration and minor in Management. I enjoy hanging out with friends and participating in outdoor activities in my free time. I look forward to meeting you and being friends with all of you



Hey! My name is Seiwa Murakawa and I am a junior majoring in accounting. I am an American and a Japanese citizen and I am so excited to be able to join the International Ambassador team. I can speak English, Japanese and a little bit of Spanish. I wanted to join the dream because I have always been intrigued by many cultures around the world and am honored to be able to represent UIS as an international ambassador. I enjoy watching American football, playing saxophone, hanging out with friends and much more. I look forward to meeting many new people and I want to welcome all of you to the University of Illinois at Springfield!



Hi, guys. My name is Soyeon Na. I'm from Seoul in South Korea. My major is Psychology with Global Studies minor. I became International Student Ambassador to share my experiences of being international students with others and support them. Hope to see you guys in near future(´ ▽ `)/~



New International Student Welcome Party



Groups of students came together to play, dance, eat and welcome new international student hosted by ISA's



REGATA STORICA IN VENICE, ITALY

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020



The Regata Storica is one of the most important traditional events in Venice. It takes place every first Sunday of September, which is this year on September 6, 2020. The event consists of 2 parts: a historical boat parade and a series of rowing races. Regatas have been part of the Venetian life for a very long time. The first records go back to the 13th century, when a regata was organized for the Festa delle Marie. The origins of the Regata Storica go back to 1841, when the Municipality of Venice asked the Austrian authorities to organize an annual boat race on Canal Grande. This would give the opportunity to encourage the gondoliers and honour their skills. In 1866, when Venice became part of Italy, the focus of the event shifted towards a celebration of the history of the Republic of Venice. In 1899, the name 'Regata Storica' was given by Count Filippo Grimani, the mayor of Venice.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Soyeon Na



My pronouns are She/her. I'm confident in Korean and English. I am from Seoul, South Korea. Seoul is a city of entertainment with great night culture. There is no time to be bored in Seoul. The best part for Seoul is the affordable and convenient public transportation. In Korea, I enjoyed jjajangmeon (black bean noodles) and bingsu (shaved milk ice with toppings). In the US, I love to drink horchata and eat Puerto Rican rice.

Some of my interests are listening to music like K-pop and pop songs. With music on, I try to cook new recipes to feed myself some good foods! I search and save recipes a lot in my spare time. Hashtags that best describe me are #Moderate, #AnimalLover, #BeMyself, #RequireSelf-time. Other countries I'd like to visit are Puerto Rico, although that is part of the United States territory, it is on my list. I would also like to travel to Japan to see my sister who is in Kyoto for school. I am currently majoring in Psychology with a Global Studies minor. My dream job is that I would love to work in behavioral science and clinical psychology in the future, especially for research animals. I chose UIS because I made great bonds with professors and supervisors. Springfield is a combination of urban and nature. I like it as I grew up in the city. I have been working for the Electronic Media department, recording and live streaming sports games, conferences, and more. I'm also part of the International Student Service as a student ambassador especially to support new international students. For organization, I am currently a president of the International Student Association to support the international student society in UIS. Not just because it's UIS but after being in college, the truth that I am an adult is going to hit me hard. During this time I think about how glad I am to be able to be at UIS and get support for my career in future. Tips that I have for future students are don't hesitate to ask for help and talk to others first. If you don't have courage to, close your eyes and imagine that you didn't make it, and then when you open your eyes, boom! you get the second chance. Hope you don't miss that new chance!



September 15 - October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month takes place September 15 to October 15 every year as a time to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Latino community. Beginning in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed as “Hispanic Heritage Week” under President Lyndon Johnson, but it was later extended to a month during President Ronald Reagan’s term in 1988. Since then, the month has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. The month also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries, including: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th. They also include holidays that recognize Hispanic contributions such as Virgin Islands- Puerto Rico Friendship Day that is celebrated in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Upcoming Events

Mid-Autumn Festival, Friday, September 17, 1-3 pm @ TBD

Hangul Day, Friday, October 8, 1-3 pm @ TBD

43rd International Festival, Saturday, October 23, 2 pm @ TBD

Pumpkin Carving at UIS Community Garden,
Friday, October 29, 2-4 pm, @ UIS Community
Garden

International Education Week: Nov. 15-19

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UIS
International
Student Services
SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook: International Student
Services at University of Illinois
Springfield

Instagram: @uisinternational

Twitter: @UISIntlStudents

Take a virtual Tour around Campus!



https://youtu.be/rKqL6op_TMI

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