



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

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International Student Services Newsletter

ISSUE 1

MARCH 2022

From the Director's Desk

Wow! February flew by in a hurry! How did you like all that snow? That was a lot, even for central Illinois, and there are more flakes falling even as I am writing this. Climate change appears to be doing a lot of crazy things, and I am sure that there will be more to come. March is always a windy month. Hang onto your hats (and other belongings).

Enough about the weather. I hope that you are enjoying the tremendous success of so many of our UIS sports teams. They are doing tremendously this year. Some of your fellow international students are on those teams. Get out to support them whenever you can. Then, when the weather warms up (I seem to be stuck on that theme today), get outside and play some sports/games yourself. You need it after being stuck inside for so long. You will feel better and do better in your classes if you get a little fresh air and sunshine.

The whole COVID thing seems to be trending in the right direction. For that reason, and others, it looks like our incoming class next fall will be the largest in several years. We are already expecting 100+, and Enrollment Management is working on some initiatives that promise to add to that number. You can help, too. Just let your friends and relatives back home know that there is still time to apply, get their visas and join you in August. They will want to hurry. It would be best to have everything done by June 1, and that is only 3 months away!

Hey, did you see all the upcoming events that Erika and the International Ambassadors have been working on! Check them out on our website. Some of them are on-campus and include some cultural learning that will assist you in non-student areas of life, such as entertaining or acquiring jobs. Others are both educational and fun, such as the ski trip or the visit to the St. Louis Zoo. Get them on your calendars right away, and plan well so that you can take the time to participate.

Graduation will be here before we know it. Be sure to follow all the instructions that you are receiving from the Office of the Registrar. And, if you plan to apply for Optional Practical Training, get on that as soon as possible. It is still taking USCIS 2.5 to 3.5 months to process those applications. If you have other plans, such as starting another degree program at UIS or elsewhere, etc. be sure to keep ISS informed. We want to help you to understand how to maintain your F-1 status and obtain your benefits through all the transitions.

Enjoy the beautiful springtime campus. It is coming soon.

Best,

Rick Lane

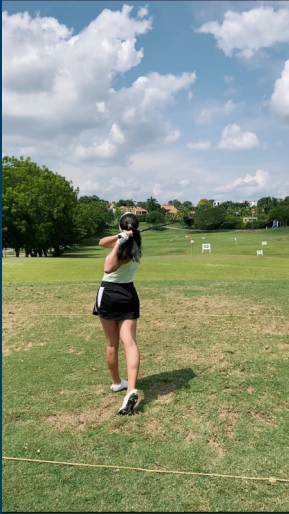
Lunar New Year



ISA's hosted a Lunar New Year event for UIS students. There was a Lunar New Year information board, red envelope give-away, and craft activities with Chinese traditional paper cutting and Chinese lantern.

International Student Spotlight:

Sara Prieto



My pronouns are she/her. I speak Spanish and English, but would love to learn more languages. I'm from Bogota, the capital of Colombia. Colombia is a country that is not only characterized by its natural diversity, but also by its resources, geography and culture. Colombia has been able to overcome years of violence, and we are known for being warm and persevering people, which is what I like the most about my country. I was raised in Bogota, a really big and crowded city with a population of 8 million people. My favorite food in Colombia is Ajiaco; a soup made from three different kinds of potatoes, chicken, and guasca leaves. It is accompanied by a plate of rice and a slice of avocado. I also love our version of empanadas and arepas. I usually spend my free time watching tv shows or documentaries. Along with this, I love cooking and baking with my family. My father has always had a passion for the kitchen and he has shared a lot of delicious recipes with me. A hashtag that would best describes me is #YouGotIt. I would love to travel around the world and visit a lot of

countries like Germany, Spain and Greece. I am currently majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. My dream job is having my own business. I chose UIS because it is the perfect combination of sports and academics. I love the view from lake Springfield and the UIS campus. I am part of the women's golf team and it has been an awesome experience so far. I have learned a lot of things about myself and created lifelong friendships. I am not sure about what life after UIS looks like for me, but I will hopefully find out in the next three years. I would tell new students to enjoy everything UIS has to offer. Even though it is a small school, there are a lot of opportunities for both personal and academic growth. Moving to Springfield was definitely a big change but it has brought me a lot of joy and incredible experiences that I would not trade it for anything in the world.

World Celebrations: Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. Women's History Month 2022 will take place from Tuesday, March 1-Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States. The actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, his-

tory and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. A few years later, the idea had caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

World Celebrations: [International Women's Day March 8th 2022](#)

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day has occurred for well over century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911. The day is not country, group or organization specific - and belongs to all

groups collectively everywhere. International Women's Day is all about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action - whatever that looks like globally at a local level. But one thing is for sure, International Women's Day has been occurring for

well over a century - and continues to grow from strength to strength. Learn about the values that guide IWD's ethos. Internationally, purple is a color for symbolizing women.

Historically the combination of purple, green and white to symbolize women's equality originated from the Women's Social and Political Union in the UK in 1908. Purple signifies justice and dignity. Green symbolizes hope. White represents purity, but is no longer used due to 'purity' being a controversial concept.

IWD 2022 campaign theme: #BreakTheBias

Imagine a gender equal world.

A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.

A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can break the bias in our communities. We can break the bias in our workplaces. We can break the bias in our schools, colleges and universities. Together, we can all break the bias - on International Women's Day (IWD) and beyond.

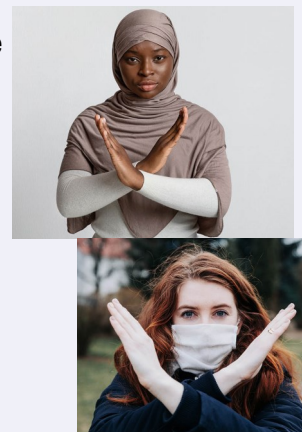
Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. Knowing that bias exists isn't enough, action is needed to level the playing field.

Are you in? Will you actively call out gender bias, discrimination and stereotyping each time you see it?

Will you help break the bias?

Cross your arms to show solidarity.

Strike the IWD 2022 pose and share your #BreakTheBias image, video, resources, presentation or articles on social media using #IWD2022 #BreakTheBias to encourage further people to commit to helping forge an inclusive world.



[Check out virtual events you can be part](#)

TASTE OF CULTURE: St. Patrick's Day March 17

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in America. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. The parade, and a St. Patrick's Day celebration a year earlier were organized by the Spanish Colony's Irish vicar Ricardo Artur. More than a century later, homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in New York City on March 17, 1772 to honor the Irish patron saint. Enthusiasm for the St. Patrick's Day parades in New York City, Boston and other early American cities only grew from there.

Today, people of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day, es-

pecially throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world in locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia. Popular St. Patrick's Day recipes include Irish soda bread, corned beef and cabbage and champ. In the United States, people often wear green on St. Patrick's Day.

One icon of the Irish holiday is the Leprechaun. The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies. Though only minor figures in Celtic folklore, leprechauns were known for their trickery, which they often used to protect their much-fabled treasure. Leprechauns have their own holiday on May 13, but are also celebrated on St. Patrick's, with many dressing up as the wily fairies.



TASTE OF CULTURE: Novruz نوروز

نوروز also known as Novruz is the Iranian New Year, also known as the Persian New Year, which is celebrated worldwide by various ethnolinguistic groups usually on or around March 21 on the Gregorian calendar. Nowruz has Iranian and Zoroastrian origins; however, it has been celebrated by diverse communities for over 3,000 years in Western Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Black Sea Basin, the Balkans, and South Asia. It is a secular holiday for most celebrants that is enjoyed by people of several different faiths but remains a holy day for Zoroastrians, Bahá'ís, and some Muslim communities. Nowruz is the day of the vernal equinox and marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. It marks

the first day of the first month (Farvardin) of the Iranian calendars. The moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator and equalizes night and day is calculated exactly every year, and families gather together to observe the rituals. Nowruz's timing in Iran is based on the Solar Hijri algorithmic calendar, which is based on precise astronomical observations, and moreover use of a sophisticated intercalation system, which makes it more accurate than its European counterpart, the Gregorian calendar.



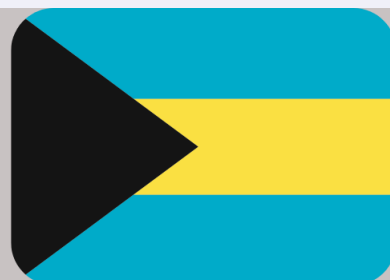
Countries Represented at UIS



Argentina



Bangladesh



Bahamas



Belgium



Cameroon



Canada



China



Colombia



Ecuador



Ethiopia



Gambia



Germany



Ghana



Guatemala



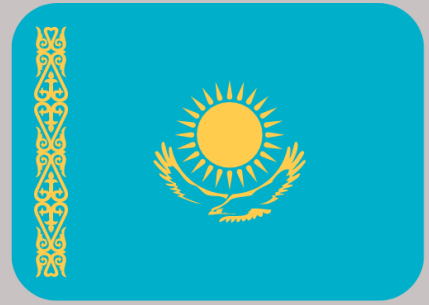
Honduras



India



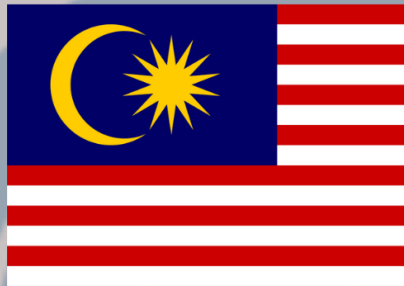
Jamaica



Kazakhstan



Lithuania



Malaysia



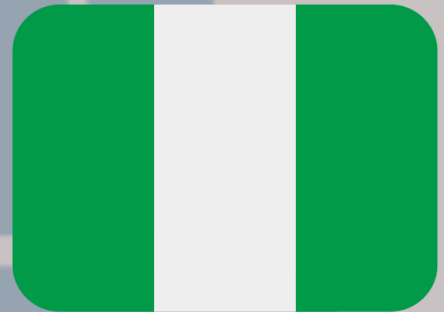
Mexico



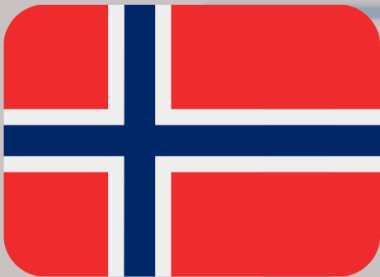
Nepal



Netherlands



Nigeria



Norway



Pakistan



Peru



Philippines



Saudi Arabia



Serbia



Singapore



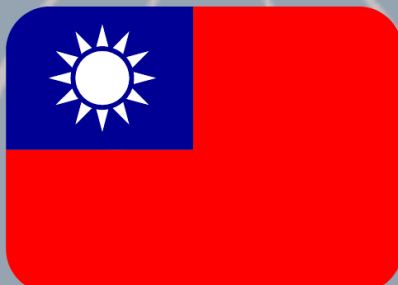
South Korea



Spain



Sweden



Taiwan



Thailand



Turkey



Ukraine



United Kingdom



Vietnam



Zambia

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ice Skating: Friday, March 11th, 11:30 am @ Student Union Lobby

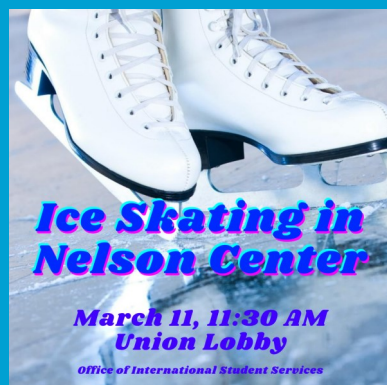
Sky Zone: Tuesday March 15th, 1:30 pm @ Student Union Lobby

Cahokia and St. Louis Zoo: Friday, March 18th, 8:30 am @ Student Union Lobby

First Day of Spring, All Around the World: Monday, March 21st @ Student Leadership Center

Etiquette Dinner Workshop: April 1st, 5:30 pm, @ Union Ballroom

International Congratulatory Ceremony: May 13th, 2pm, @ Union Ballroom



Office of International

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Hours:

Monday—Friday

8:30am—5:00pm