



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES



HELLO AUTUMN NOVEMBER 2021

Rick Lane (He / Him)

Director

Rachael Matingi (She / Her)

Immigration Specialist

Tracy Rakes (She / Her)

Immigration Specialist

Joel Short (He / Him)

Immigration Specialist

Jolene Vollmer (She / Her)

Immigration Specialist

Erika Suzuki (She / Her)

Program Coordinator

Geraldina Mulville (She / They)

Graduate Assistant

Lynise Gutierrez (She/Her)

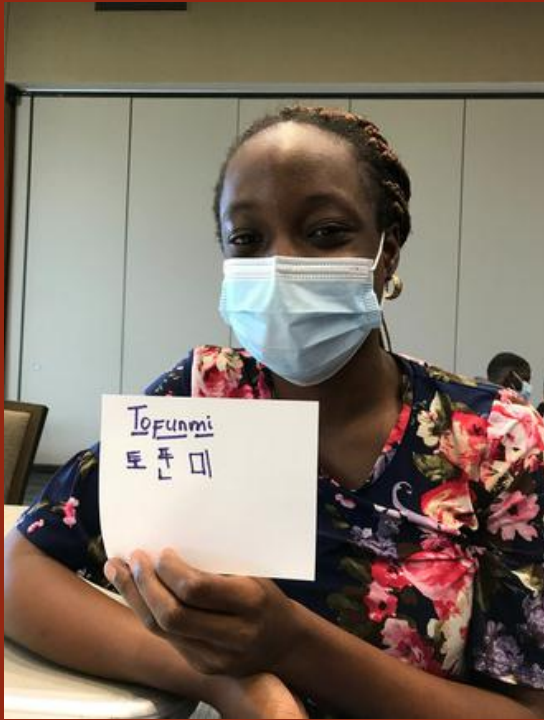
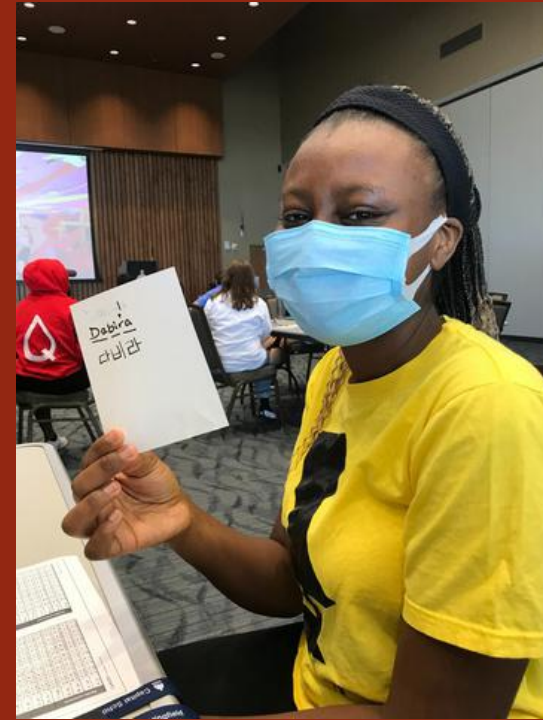
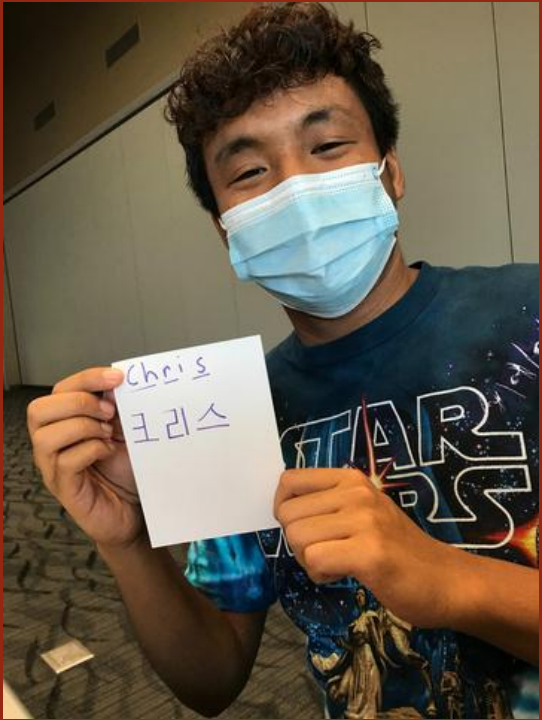
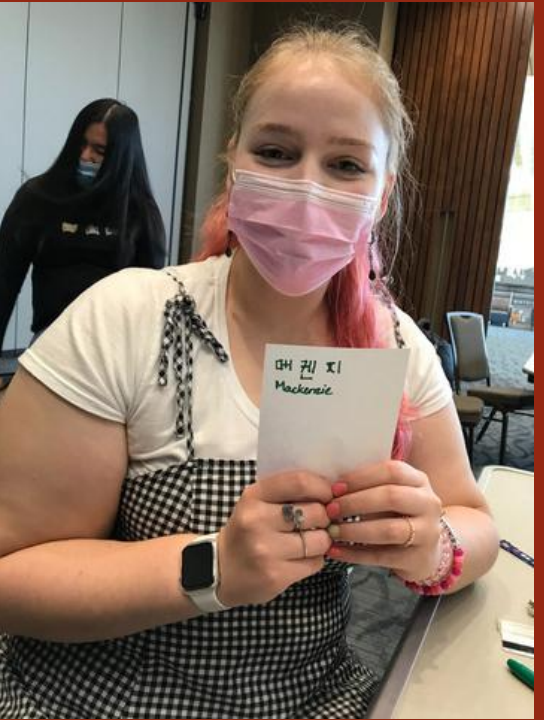
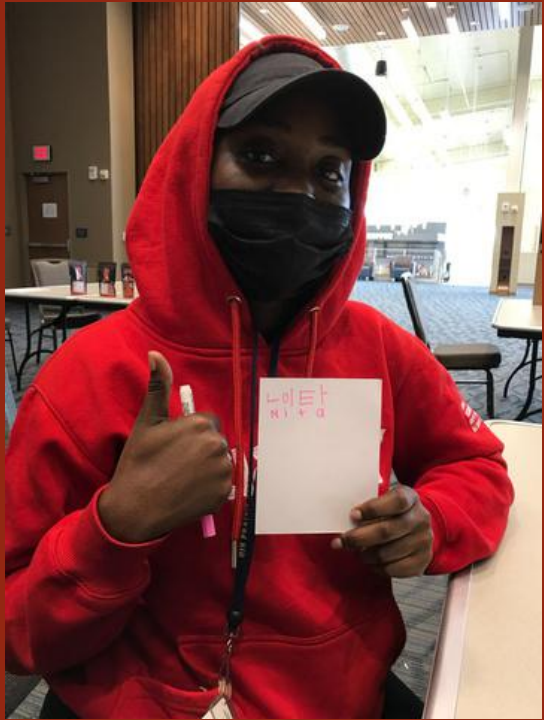
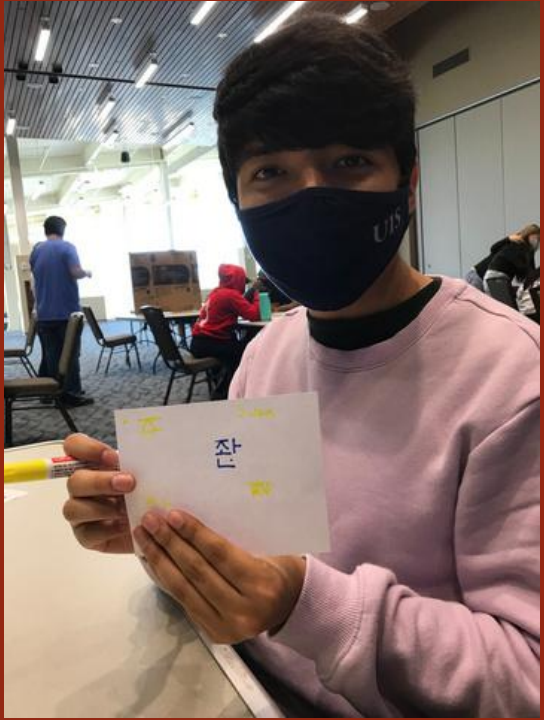
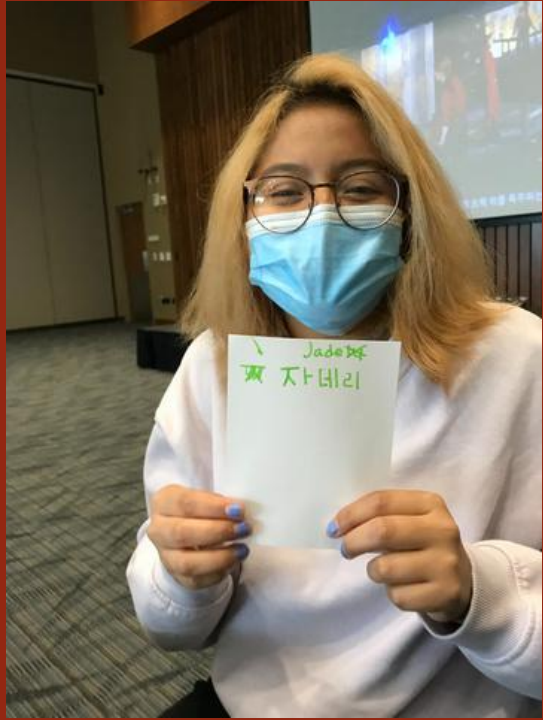
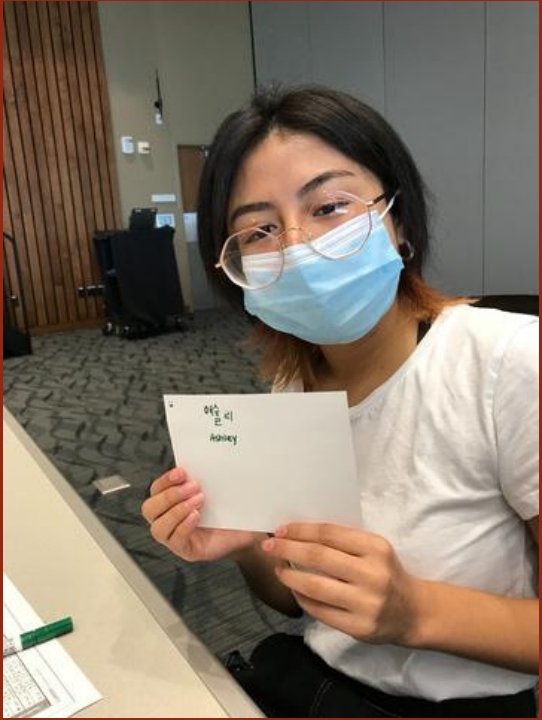
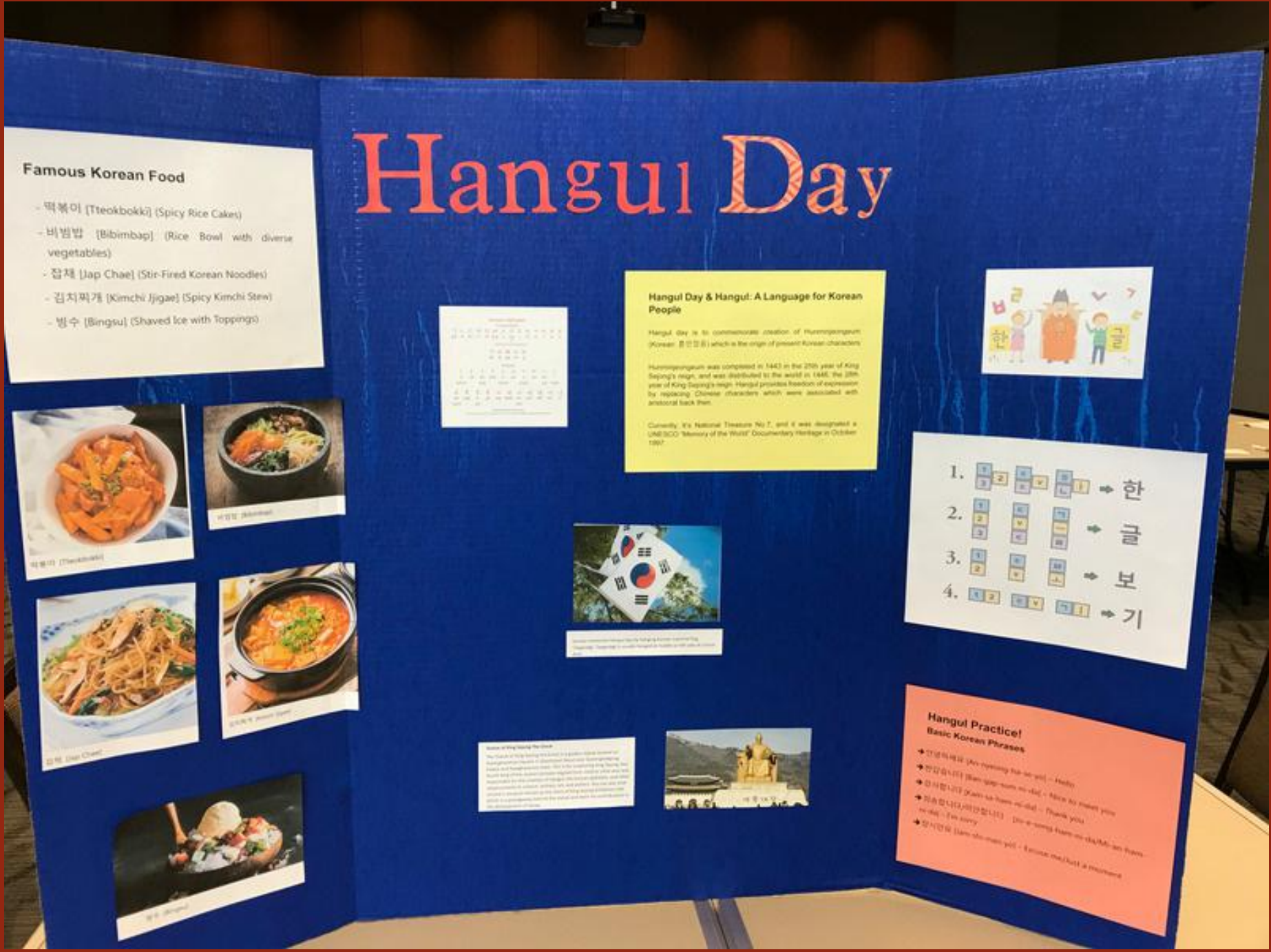
Student Worker

Miles Lumpkins (He/Him)

Student Worker

International Student Ambassadors Present:

HANGUL DAY



43RD INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Global Groove

**Afro-Beat Dance Crew ABCD
2021**



**Baile Monarcas
Cumbia mix & Folkloric**



**Springfield Chinese Culture Association –Jason
Zhang “The Shepherd at Keketuohai”**



Flag Parade



**Rajasthan Folk Dance/
Priyanshi Alle & Swapna Rathod
Ghoomer**



**Celtic Dancers of the
St. Andrew's Society of
Central Illinois**

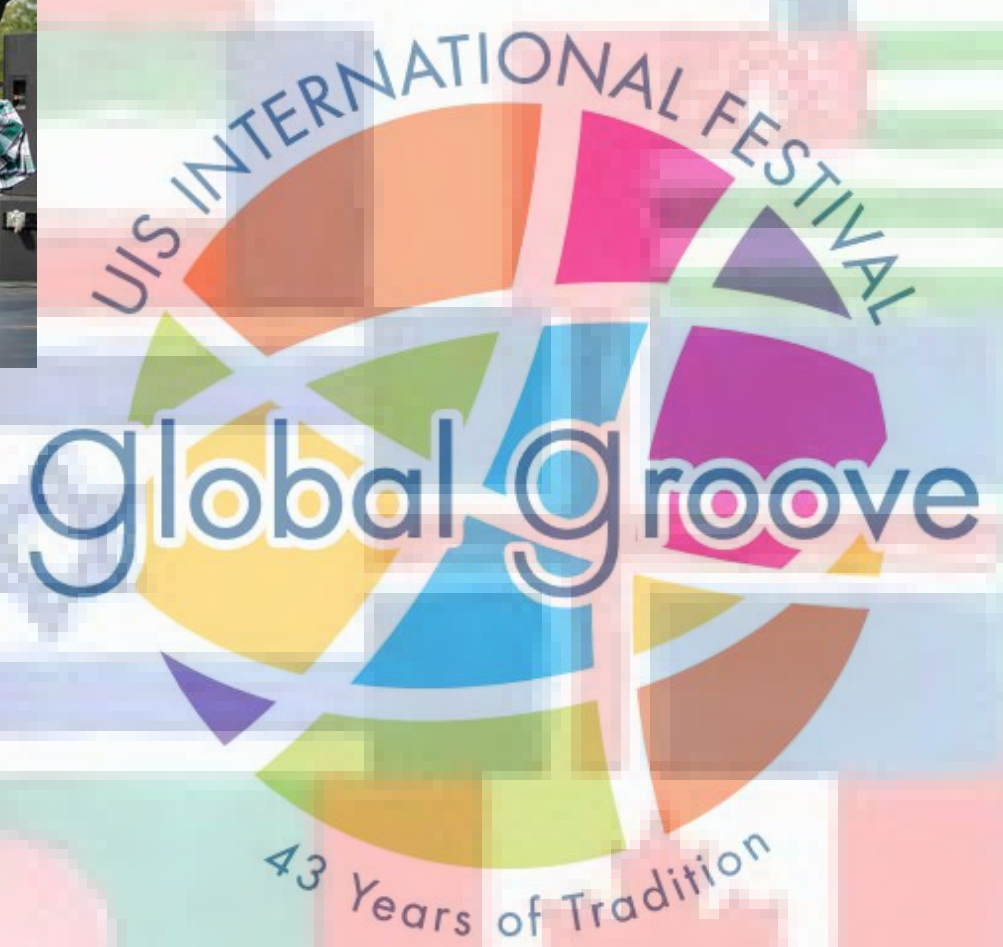
Scottish Highland Dance



Irish Traditional Dance



**Lotus Fire BellyDance
Lotus Fire Belly Dance
2021**



43RD INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Global Groove

Springfield Dance Theatre Faeries



Springfield Blue Moon Dance
Chinese Folk Dance: Rain in Spring



Maverick Moon
Maverick Moon Medley



International Student Association
International Fashion Show



"International Student Association



Indian Student Organization



CSF Discovers Music Around The World



African Student Association



World Affairs Council of Central Illinois



Islamic Society



Sister City Association of Springfield



Grab 'n Go



Taste of Japan



From the Director's Desk

It's November in central Illinois, and that means it could be sunny and warm outside with at least a few hours each day to enjoy the fall leaves and some ball games. It also means that it could snow, and you could find yourself with a lot of online game time with something warm in your cup. It definitely means that there is not much left of the fall semester, and you need to plan carefully to get all those final assignments done on time and well. Make the best of Thanksgiving month.

Every November, all across the US, universities celebrate International Education Week. This year the dates are November 15-19. Watch for additional information via Campus Connect, and plan to be involved as we celebrate together.

Speaking of celebrating, we had a great time with everyone at the 43rd International Festival. Even though we did it on a cool and breezy Saturday, there was a great crowd (over 500), and everyone enjoyed all the performances, international food, and the sharing of our many cultures. By the time you read this, there should be plenty of pictures for you to share.

Looking ahead, if you are considering travelling outside the US over the semester break, make sure that you check all the COVID protocols for entering both the country that you plan to visit and for re-entering the US. You may need vaccinations, negative tests within a couple of days of the entry, or even quarantine, depending upon where you are going. You should also take a look at your passport and visa, to make sure that those will continue to be valid. Don't forget to obtain a DSO travel signature on page 2 of your form I-20. Just plan well, and have a great time. If you need a little extra help or advice this time around, we have a Travel Workshop planned for November 19, 1-4PM, via Zoom.

If this is your final semester at UIS, you will also want to make sure that you have all your post-completion plans in place, whether those include OPT, a new degree program – at UIS or elsewhere, a Change of Status, or returning home. See our website for guidance for all of these and let us know if you have any questions.

We don't have as much traffic in the ISS office these days, due to the COVID protocols and the adaptations that we have made to our processes, but you can still come by when you need to do that. If you call or email, you may be greeted by one of our two new ISS Student Employees, Lynise Gutierrez and Miles Lumpkins. They will be happy to make your acquaintance and to assist you in getting the information/service that you need. Be sure to thank them for their help.

Best,

Rick Lane

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PRIYANSHI ALLE



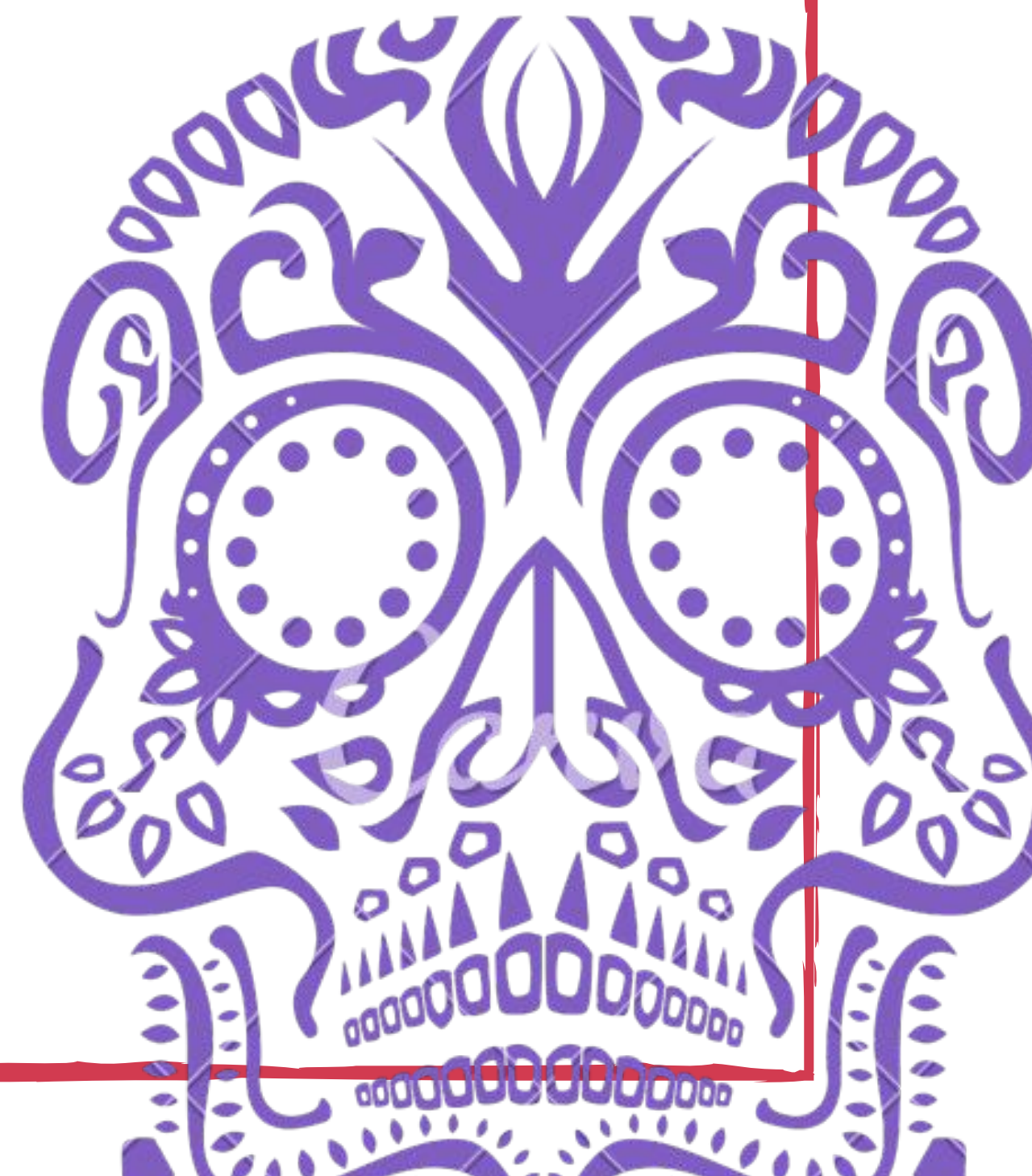
My pronouns are she/her. I speak English, Hindi, Telugu and Marathi. I am from Hyderabad, India. But I was born in Pune, which is in the Western part of India, and went to school for a few years in Mumbai and then in Bangalore. So, I have moved a lot in India. India has the largest part of my heart. The street food in every part of India is different and something you will keep asking for. There are about 22 official languages, so every place you visit in India, you hear a new language. The rituals, customs and festivals celebrated are very different around the country. So everyday feels like a festival somewhere in the country. What I miss about my country is the food, the weather and spontaneous road trips with my family. My favourite food in my home country is BIRYANI, one can never go wrong ordering it. And in the US, I really like hamburgers, Fried Chicken and Chili. The hashtag that describes me is #ALittleBitofEverything. I love dancing and singing. I also paint a little sometimes. Organizing spaces, decorating and making DIY projects are my go to pass time. Stationery shopping is something I can never say no to. And a new interest that I acquired after coming to the US is kayaking, it is so much fun. I would first like to explore all around India and the US. And then I would love to visit Greece. I am a Computer Science major. My dream job is to work as a Data Scientist. I choose UIS because of the GPSI program and also that I get to choose courses that I want to specialize in. I like the history associated with Springfield. The people are so sweet and giving. It is just so peaceful around here. I am a part of the GPSI program, which is such a great opportunity for graduate students to have practical experience along with academics. I am also a part of the International Student Friendships organization. It is an amazing organization, the people are so full of life and so helpful. I met some of the most giving people in this organization. They really give International students a feeling of home away from home. They helped me a lot during my transition here, and I'm grateful I met these people. It's too soon for me to decide what to do after UIS, since I came here only this semester. But I am ready to take up any challenge that comes my way to reach my dream goal. Some tips I can offer new students are there is so much to learn other than just your academics. Always make time to participate in different activities around the campus and meet new people. Be bold to take up new challenges and make lots of memories. Because these are the things that you will carry with you for the rest of your life.

TASTE OF CULTURE

Día de los Muertos

NOVEMBER 1- NOVEMBER 2

Day of the Dead, or Día de Muertos, is one of Mexico's most significant holidays. Day of the Dead lasts for three days every year from October 31st to November 2nd. During the holiday, it is believed the spirits of the deceased return to visit the material world, and so family and friends come together to remember deceased loved ones through a variety of rich traditions. Graves of loved ones are visited, and private altars called ofrendas are built. Ofrendas are personal and unique constructions, but typically they include pictures of the deceased, offerings of favorite foods, possessions of the deceased, or anything that may aid the deceased in their spiritual journey. Colorful and intricate decorations such as calaveras (representations of the human skull), and native flowers are used extensively. Despite its mournful subject matter, Day of the Dead is actually a cheerful celebration of reunion with the spirits of the departed. Although the modern form of the holiday is syncretic, combining indigenous Mexican and European Spanish traditions, the origins of Day of the Dead are distinctly Mesoamerican. Ancestor veneration is a key feature of Mesoamerican cultures, and Mesoamerican celebrations remembering the dead stretch back at least 3,000 years. In traditional Mexican indigenous beliefs, death is not considered an end, but rather viewed as part of a cycle in balance with life. The Aztecs held a festival every year on the ninth month of their calendar, around the beginning of August, dedicated to the goddess of the underworld, Mictēcacihuātl. Mictēcacihuātl's role in the festival was to watch over the bones of the deceased and preside over the celebration in general. Today, Mictēcacihuātl appears in the form of a female skeleton called Catrina. After the arrival of the Spanish, Day of the Dead celebrations were moved from the summer months to October 31st to coincide with the Catholic All Saints' Day. Today's Day of the Dead incorporates motifs and traditions from Catholic and native sources and is on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List. We hope you explore and enjoy the beauty of this holiday!



TASTE OF CULTURE

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States. The Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, individual colonies and states celebrated days of Thanksgiving. It wasn't until 1863, amid the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day for all to celebrate each November. Many celebrate by having friends and family over for a big dinner to give thanks for what they have.



World Celebrations

Diwali

November 4, 2021



Diwali is called the Festival of Lights and is celebrated to honor Rama-chandra, the seventh avatar (incarnation of the god Vishnu). It is believed that on this day Rama returned to his people after 14 years of exile during which he fought and won a battle against the demons and the demon king, Ravana. People lit their houses to celebrate his victory over evil (light over darkness). The goddess of happiness and good fortune, Lakshmi, also figures into the celebration. It is believed that she roams the Earth on this day and enters the house that is pure, clean, and bright. The Diwali festival in southern India often commemorates the conquering of the Asura Naraka, a powerful king of Assam, who imprisoned thousands of inhabitants. It was Krishna, a deity worshipped in Hinduism, who was finally able to subdue Naraka and free the prisoners. Diwali celebrations may vary in different communities but its significance and spiritual meaning is generally “the awareness of the inner light”. It is also the beginning of the new financial year for the business community. On the first day of the festival people pray, eat a special breakfast consisting of different foods, and the Hindu goddess Lakshmi’s statue is carried throughout the streets in procession. Children are sometimes given candy or toys from booths set up for the occasion. In southern India children wear flower wreaths on their heads or anklets of bells. Boys in some areas construct elaborate castles and forts of mud and display them for visiting guests. After dark there are fireworks and people who live near rivers float lighted lamps on tiny rafts. To add to the festival of Diwali, melas (fairs) are held throughout India. These are found in many towns and villages.



November 16, 10 AM -- **Studying Away general info**, hosted by Office of Engaged Learning - via Zoom

November 16, 7 PM -- **International Education in the Land of Lincoln**, hosted by WACCI – @ Online and Brookens Auditorium

November 17, 2 PM -- **Studying Away with UIS Exchange Partners**, hosted by Office of Engaged Learning - via Zoom

November 19, 2- 4 PM -- **OPT Workshop for Spring 2022 graduates** hosted by ISS - @ Brookens Auditorium

November 15 – 19 -- **Online Daily Trivia Quizzes** hosted by ISS

Upcoming Events



WACCI presents:
*International Education
in the Land of Lincoln*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH AT 7PM
BROOKENS AUDITORIUM AND VIA ZOOM

In part of International Education Week at UIS, various local organizations will share how they support international education in central Illinois. Learn more about these organizations and how you can get involved!

- World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI)
- Sister Cities Association of Springfield
- Springfield Commission on International Visitors
- Meridian International Center

International
Education
Week

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES
**TRAVEL
WORKSHOP**

*If you have questions or concerns about upcoming travel, please join us!

**Date: November 11th
Time: 3PM
via ZOOM**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
ISS AT 217-206-6678 OR ISS@UIS.EDU**

**OPT WORKSHOP
Spring 2022 Graduates**

**Via Zoom
Friday, November 19
2 pm - 4 pm (CDT)**

This workshop will cover Optional Practical Training (OPT) eligibility and the application process. All students graduating Spring 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 if you have any questions.

The image shows a white desk with a globe on it and a white chair.

Take a virtual tour around Campus!



<https://www.uis.edu/#virtualtour>

Find Us:

University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza, HRB 10
Springfield, IL 62703-5407

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:30-5:00pm

Contact Us:

Phone: 217-206-6678
(country code 011)
Email: iss@uis.edu