



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

STAFF

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

Parag Sachdeva (He / Him)

Student Worker

October 2021

From the Director's Desk



October brings many seasonal changes to central Illinois and the UIS campus. Once the nighttime temperatures drop to a certain level along with a decrease in the daylight hours, there will be a burst of new colors for us to enjoy. Note especially the beautiful red maple trees that line the circle on the perimeter of the campus. If you can, get out to one of the nearby parks and enjoy the crisp autumn weather.

October also marks the half-way point for this semester. It is a good time to step back from all the many daily issues occupying your time and take a look at the bigger picture.

How do you feel about how things are going for you this term? Are you making the academic progress that you anticipated? Are there some things that you can do now to improve your progress before the end of the semester? How about coping with the limitations that the pandemic has brought? Are you taking good care of your emotional and mental health? Our counseling center can help with that if needed. If this is your final term, have you made your plans for what comes next? OPT? Another degree program? A change of status? ISS can provide a lot of good advice, but don't wait until the last minute.

As always, our Program Coordinator and International Ambassadors have planned some fun activities for this month. Take advantage of as many of those as you can. They will not only offer a nice break from your normal routine, but they could also provide you with an opportunity to make new and possibly life-time friends. Check out the announcements in this newsletter and also on Campus Announcements and our website.

As things continue to slowly improve around the world, many of the US consulates are catching up with their visa application backloads. We have a great group of new international students already planning to join us in January. If you have friends or family members who are considering this option, please encourage them to get their applications in as soon as possible. Their best bet for getting everything done in time to arrive for the January term is to shoot for having their visas in hand by November 1.

Have a fun and fulfilling autumn at UIS.

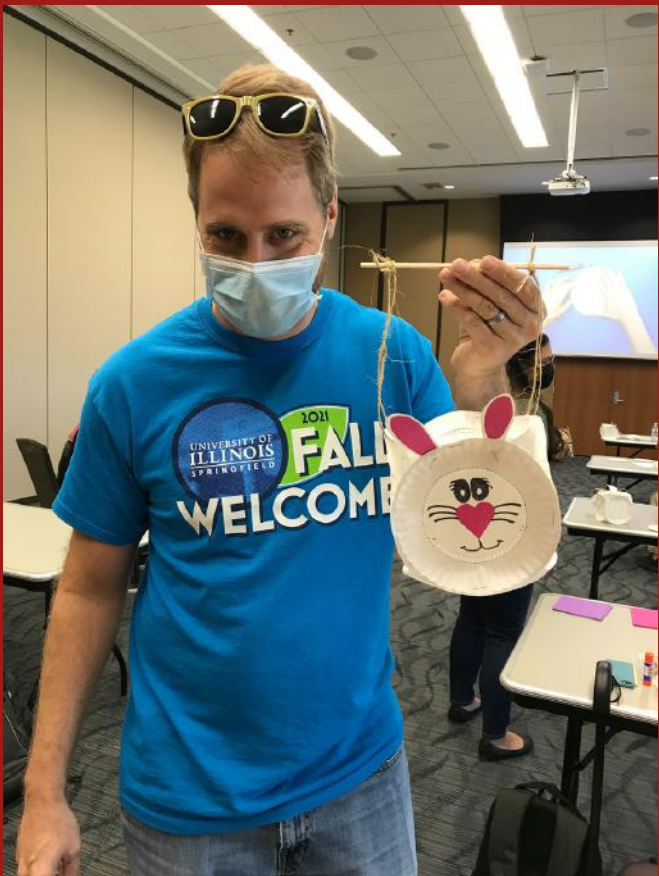
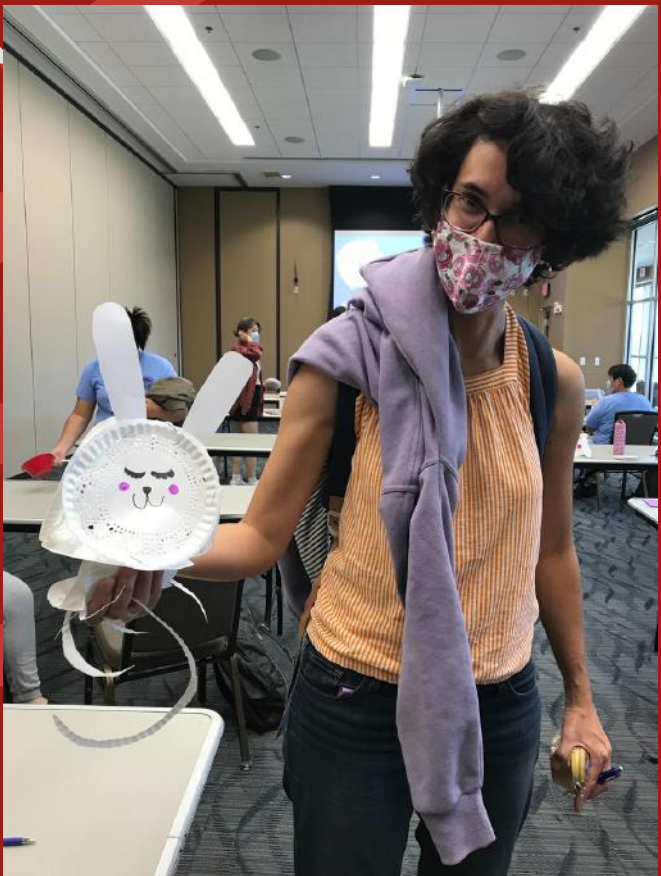
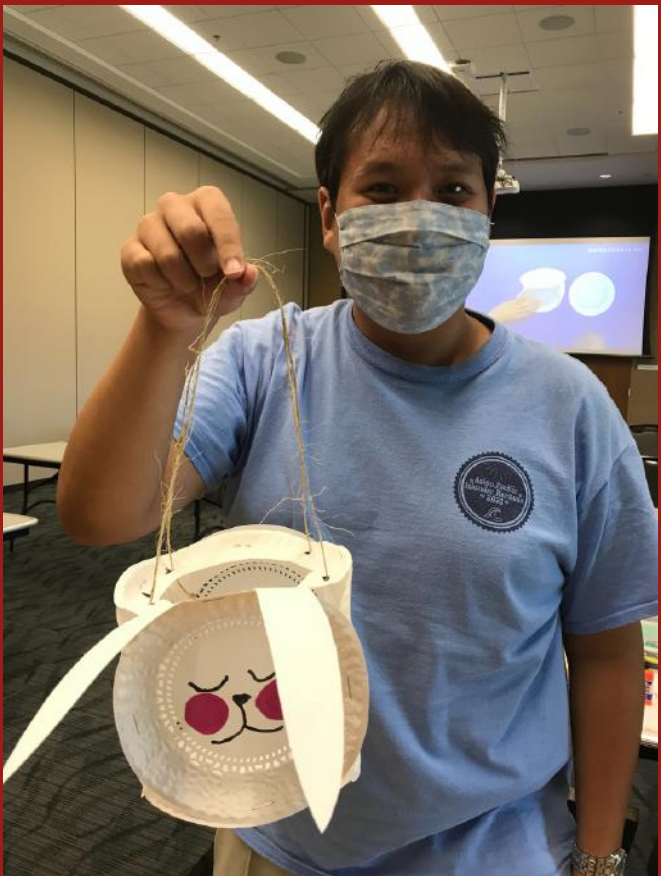
Rick

International Student Ambassador Presents:

Mid-Autumn Festival



Mooncakes were provided for all students to try. Students made their own lanterns and enjoyed playing chopstick games.



Winner of chopstick game!





INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Parag Sachdeva



My pronouns are He/Him. I can speak Hindi, Haryanvi, English, and Punjabi/Seraiki. I was born in Haryana, India. My origins (grandfather) are from DG Khan, Punjab, India (present day Pakistan). I wish I could describe India in a few sentences, but I truly can't. India, for me, isn't just a piece of land or real estate that I call home. Rather it's an incredible "idea" that amalgamates a plethora of cultures, religions, languages, traditions, castes, creed, etc. I certainly like & miss the Indian way of life and the lovely people a lot. I particularly miss the beautiful early mornings and the walks towards the tea stall followed by amazing memories shared together. In my home country nothing beats the tandoori roti (bread) and maah-chhole ki daal (lentil soup) that my mother used to cook on our homemade tandoor, especially during summer nights spent at the rooftop. As for the US, Italian cuisine is my favorite plus the likes of Panera Bread and Chipotle. Sports is my best friend, teacher, and passion. Although Cricket is in my heart, soul, and mind all the time, I actively play ping-pong, badminton, chess, pool as well when I am not busy singing, acting, and dancing. I am also a trained Muay Thai (kickboxing) fighter and like to practice 2-3 times a week. History, geography, philosophy, science, autobiographies, sociology, and many other eclectic subjects interest me, especially when they satisfy my hunger to learn and know things. My hashtag that describes me is #eccentric. I would first like to travel all over India and the US before I even think about exploring other countries. I'm earning my Master's in Legal Studies at UIS. My dream job is to own and run a globally-renowned legal & business consultancy firm. I think I may have a better answer on what life after UIS may look like sometime next year, but so far I want to simply live in the moment, share, and enjoy everything that UIS has to offer. The GPSI program and small class sizes pulled me towards UIS. Springfield is also the state capital and is poised perfectly for my personal and professional goals. The best things about Springfield are its history, people, and calmness even during the chaos. I run the UIS Cricket Club when I am not busy working at the ISS as a Grad Student Worker. I am also known as the Treasurer of the Student Organization Funding Association (SOFA). Since it's only really been a month for me at UIS, I don't have too much of an experience to speak from. However, I can safely attest to the fact that UIS does a phenomenal job to offer a ton of opportunities for students to get involved in the extraordinary events & activities on campus. As for employment and my work at ISS, I am thoroughly enjoying every bit of it while learning quite a lot of important immigration-related and other things that I didn't know before. Honestly, I couldn't have asked for a better supervisor than Joel and fellow co-workers like Geraldina, Erika, and others. So, thank you ISS and UIS for accepting me and making me part of your amazing family. Tips I have to offer new students is, "Fail, but be brave. Make mistakes, but learn fast. Fit in, but be yourself. At the end of the day, it's your own experiences & memories that make you who are & what you do. Cherish them. Remember them. Share them."



TASTE OF CULTURE

NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

OCTOBER 1, 2021

National Day of Nigeria is always celebrated on October 1st. It marks independence from British rule on this day in 1960. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with around one in every five Africans being Nigerian. European influence in modern-day Nigeria began when in the 16th century when the first explorers from Spain and Portugal began trading with locals, leading to the development of ports, such as Lagos. The British became an increasingly dominant influence on the region in the late 19th century through the Royal Niger Company, resisting German attempts to expand in the region. In 1900, the territories under the control of the Royal Niger Company became the Southern Nigeria Protectorate. In 1914, this was combined with the Northern Nigeria Protectorate to create the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, which forms the borders of modern-day Nigeria. Many aspects of modern life in Nigeria were established under the period of British Rule, but by the middle of the 20th century, the call for independence sweeping across Africa and the decline of the territories in the British Empire led to Nigeria being granted independence on October 1st 1960 under a constitution with a parliamentary government and a degree of autonomy for the country's three regions. Nigeria marked total independence from Britain when it became a federal republic when a new constitution was adopted on 1 October 1963 with Nnamdi Azikiwe as its first president. Political unrest led to a series of military coups in 1966 and Nigeria was ruled by a military junta with the democratic rule not being restored until October 1st 1979.

TASTE OF CULTURE

NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

OCTOBER 1, 2021

10 interesting facts about Nigeria:

1. Nigeria is the seventh-most populous country in the world, home to more than 200 million people. While that may be a lot of people, population numbers would likely be even higher if it weren't for the country's high mortality rates and low life expectancy.
2. While there are a number of different religions practiced in Nigeria, the majority of the population is either Christian or Muslim.
3. The town of Igbo-Ora is known as the nation's home of twins. Many of the local Yoruba people believe their consumption of yams and okra leaves to be the cause of their high birth rate of twins. While some fertility experts believe that certain yams contain a natural hormone that could cause multiple ovulation, there is no scientific evidence of this phenomenon.
4. Nigeria is a diverse multiethnic country with more than 520 spoken languages. While English is the official language, Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo are also major languages in the country.
5. Lagos, the former capital of Nigeria before being moved to Abuja, is the country's largest and most populous city and has been dubbed "Africa's Big Apple," in reference to New York City.
6. The country's film industry, known as Nollywood, is one of the largest film producers in the world, second only to India's Bollywood.
7. Nigeria is home to Aliko Dangote, the richest man in Africa. Dangote's business interests in agriculture, banking, cement, manufacturing, salt and sugar have earned his net worth of more than \$12 billion.
8. Largely due to its export market, Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa. While the agricultural industry accounts for approximately 70 percent of the country's employment, petroleum products are the primary export —accounting for more than 90 percent of Nigeria's exports.
9. Like in other African countries, some Nigerians consider the left hand to be unclean and using it to be a sign of disrespect. Those that believe this do not eat, shake hands or receive items with their left hand.
10. Despite gaining their independence in 1960, Nigeria has remained a member of the British Commonwealth, an association of 53 sovereign states. The country is also a member of the African Union.

WORLD CELEBRATION

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

OCTOBER 11, 2021

Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the past, present, and futures of Native peoples throughout the US. The holiday recognizes the legacy and impact of colonialism on Native communities, and it also celebrates the cultures, contributions, and resilience of contemporary Native peoples. It's celebrated on the second Monday of October, and this year, that's October 11, 2021. Folks have been opting to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day since 1977. As of 2020, 14 US states and more than 130 cities officially recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, and places like Wisconsin and Washington, DC are joining the movement to honor the holiday. "This change allows the opportunity to bring more awareness to the unique, rich history of this land that is inextricably tied to the first peoples of this country and predates the voyage of Christopher Columbus," the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) said in a statement. "It also acknowledges American Indians and Alaska Natives as thriving, contemporary sovereign nations who hold their rightful place among the American family of governments." Currently, there are over 600 Native Nations in the US, and 6.8 million Americans identify as Native American (about 2% of the country's total population). Yet representation for Native peoples (especially contemporary Native peoples) is seriously lacking, and Native communities still experience a legacy of discrimination as a result. Indigenous Peoples' Day pushes back on this invisibility. It allows Native people and their perspectives to be centered and celebrated. It's a time to honor the achievements of folks like Joy Harjo, the first Native American poet laureate of the US, or the Indigenous youth activists who are saving sacred lands and fighting for climate justice. The holiday also gives non-Native people the chance to gain a better understanding of Native communities -- namely, that they are still here, they are relevant today, and their identities are valid.

WORLD CELEBRATIONS

HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER 31ST, 2021

Each year on October 31, people all over the United States celebrate Halloween. Children and adults alike dress in costumes and attend parties, visit haunted houses, and eat plenty of Halloween candy. Most kids spend the night “trick-or-treating”, or going door-to-door to collect candy from their friendly neighbors. Even though the origins of Halloween, or All Hallow’s Eve, are often debated, many believe that it began with Samhain, one of the major celebrations of the Ancient Celtic people who lived throughout Europe, including present day England, Ireland, and Scotland. Traditionally, Samhain was considered their New Year’s celebration because it marked the end of the growing season and the beginning of winter. As part of the celebrations, people would light fires, dress in animal costumes, and tell each other’s fortunes. Over time, the holiday evolved and the Catholic Church turned November 1, the original date of Samhain, into the religious holiday of “All Saint’s Day” or “All Hallows”, making October 31 the date of “All Hallow’s Eve”, or Halloween. American colonists are responsible for initially bringing Halloween to the United States. Most of the colonists were Puritans and they primarily came from England which traditionally celebrated Samhain back when the Celts lived there. Although the Celtic religious traditions had been long replaced by Christianity, many of the old practices remained. However, since the American Colonies were influenced by a variety of cultures, Halloween traditions began to change. In the New World, All Hallow’s Eve became a time for “play parties”, which were private parties thrown to celebrate the harvest. People would dress in costumes, read each other’s fortunes, and tell scary stories. These were amongst the first Halloween parties! In the mid 1800’s, Irish immigrants began to come to the United States. Since the Celtic people also lived in Ireland, the people brought their Halloween traditions with them. This included dressing up in costumes, asking their neighbors for food and money, and pulling pranks in the evening on Halloween. Americans started doing the same thing, which eventually turned into our tradition of “trick-or-treating.” However, it wasn’t until recently that the “treats” were a lot more common than the “tricks.” In the 1920’s, for example, rowdy pranks had become expensive and costly, especially in major cities. Over time, cities and towns began organizing tame, family oriented Halloween celebrations, which eventually helped control the pranks. Once candy companies began releasing special Halloween candies, our modern idea of “trick-or-treating” was born.



**SHOUTOUT TO FALL 2021
STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

International Senator:

Ajay Cherukuvada

UPCOMING

Events

Hangul Day, Friday, October 8, 1-3 pm @
Center Ballroom

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: November 15-
19, 2021



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES
PRESENTS:

Hangul Day

(Korean Language Day)

UIS
Star Map
THE STUDENT AFFAIRS CURRICULUM

OCTOBER 8TH, FRIDAY / 1 - 3PM
STUDENT UNION CENTRAL BALLROOM

Come and learn about hangul (Korean)
by playing the hangul bingo game
and enjoying K-POP music videos to
celebrate the upcoming 575th Hangul Day!

 @UISIntlStudents  @uisinternational

The poster features a white background with decorative elements: a red semi-circle in the top-left, a blue semi-circle in the bottom-right, and two circular areas with diagonal line patterns in the top-right and bottom-left. The Korean flag is positioned on the right side.