

August 2021

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

AUGUST 2021

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August 2021

From the Director's Desk



It's August, and the campus is mostly open for the fall semester. That means that there will be a sizeable group of new international students joining our continuing students in just a few more days. When you see them or meet each other, give them a big welcome to UIS, to Springfield, and to the US.

Some will be setting foot on US soil for the very first time and will be facing some exciting but sometimes frightening cultural adaptations. If you can help them and each other to successfully navigate those, please do. And, please let us know how we can help.

Whether you are a new student or a returning/continuing student, you will notice some changes. One of the more obvious ones is to the overall UIS website. If you have not visited the site recently, you will want to do so. The transition to the new format is ongoing, and our ISS site has so much information that it may take a while for our part to undergo the changes. In any case, we will make sure that all the information that you need regarding the maintenance of your F-1 status and how to obtain related benefits is always there.

Fall cultural and educational events are still being planned, and, for most, we are planning for in-person and for remote participation. We simply do not know at this point how the ongoing pandemic may impact our plans. Watch for announcements closer to each event.

A final word for those new students who were planning to join us this fall but have been unable to obtain their F-1 visas in time to do so. We very much hope that you will make plans to join us in January. You will need to contact the Office of Admissions to request a deferral. Then, once the deferral is granted, we will issue a new form I-20 with new program dates for you to use for your visa appointments. If you were not fully admitted and need to pass some pre-requisite courses in order to become fully admitted, you might want to check with your department to see if you can complete those remotes, from your home country, so that you do not lose the time. Let us know if you have questions about this.

We wish you all safe travels and look forward to meeting you very soon.

Sincerely,

Rick Lane, Director ISS

August 2021

International Student Spotlight: Hyojung Kim



My pronouns are she/her. I speak Korean and English. I'm from South Korea (The Republic of Korea). South Korea might be a cold city, but you'll be able to find that people become attached when they visit. The thing I like the most about South Korea is the safety and convenient transportation. My favorite food in my home country is gukbaap, which is pork soup with rice. So far in the US, all kinds of burgers are my favorite. Hashtags that describe me are #SportsFan #Adventure #Traveler. I am interested in all kinds of sports, especially playing with a ball. Also, I like traveling and learning various languages and cultures. Basically, I want to travel all around the world, but to choose three countries, I would like to start visiting are Vietnam, Ireland, and Russia. I'm studying Chemistry as a sophomore. I haven't decided specific field, but I eventually want to be a chemical engineer who contributes to science development. Currently, I'm working at the UIS ticket office as a student worker. This place not only helps me with learning English but also being a big help with getting a proper way of speaking. I'm dreaming of a bright future after graduation. I'm sure that I can do something I want based on what I learned and got here. I chose UIS because of its small community which helps every single person to feel associated. Additionally, people here are so cool. I do love my workplace. I like Springfield because of the nice people and peaceful environment. A recommendation I have for future students is whenever you have a chance to attend events and meet people, go do it.

August 2021

WORLD CELEBRATIONS

NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

AUGUST 9, 2021-- SOUTH AFRICA

On August 9, 1956, there was a staged march on the Union Buildings of Pretoria. Over 20,000 women of all races attended the march in order to protest against the Urban Areas Act of 1950 amendments. This law required all South Africans defined as “black” to carry an internal passport that served to maintain segregation, control urbanization, and manage migrant labor during the apartheid.

The protest was led by Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, and Sophia Williams. The women left 14,000 petitions at the office doors of the prime minister. 100,000 signatures were left outside the prime minister’s door as well as a thirty-minute silent protest. After the silent protest, songs were sung to honor the event, to make sure their voices were heard. The song they sang was composed specifically for the event, titled “Wathint’Abafazi Wathint’imbokodo” which translates to “Now you have touched the women, you have struck a rock.”

It was a peaceful protest but it made a difference, because of it we have National Women’s Day. The day wasn’t actually made a holiday until 1995. The day brings attention to the issues African women faced then and still face today, including domestic violence, workplace sexual harassment, unequal pay, girls not being allowed to go to school, and no-help parenting. In 1994, women had very low representation within Parliament, with just nearly 2.7%. Women within the national assembly were at 27.7%. After the creation of this public holiday, the numbers nearly doubled, with women now having 48% representation all throughout the country’s government.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TRADITIONS

In their day-to-day lives, women juggle so many commitments and responsibilities, deal with so much, and look fantastic while getting everything done, too! Traditions on National Women’s Day are to celebrate women in every aspect of life. At home, the ladies go easy with chores and get a day off from cooking, cleaning, and making sure everything is immaculate.

At work, the contributions of women are recognized and mini-celebrations are hosted by office teams. Inspiring women with success stories are in the spotlight, to set an example for other women to follow. On the social side, women party it up and head out to celebrate womanhood. Special deals are available for ladies at restaurants, cafes, and some stores even have sales. Female activists also utilize the day to promote gender equality and advance women’s rights.



Taste of Culture

Notting Hill Carnival

August 29, 2021

The Notting Hill Carnival is a 3 day annual African-Caribbean event that takes place on the streets of Notting Hill, London every late August bank holiday weekend. Notting Hill Carnival has its origins in the carnival traditions of the Caribbean and the social and political conditions of the post-1948 migration of peoples from the Caribbean

The development of Carnival in the Caribbean, particularly on the island of Trinidad, can be traced to the period of enslavement and the pre-Lenten Mardi Gras masquerade balls held by the French plantation owners. The enslaved Africans were forbidden from participating in these balls and developed their own festival drawing on African dance traditions that satirised the slave owners through masquerade and song. Following the full emancipation of enslaved Africans in 1838 many free men and women took to the street and continued these traditions.

Following the arrival of the SS Empire Windrush on 22nd June 1948, more than 300,000 people from the Caribbean settled in Britain. By the 1950s, Brixton and Notting Hill had the largest population of Caribbean people in Britain.

During this period, Notting Hill was also a stronghold for Oswald Mosley's Union Movement, a far-right movement which galvanized the local white working-Class population to "Keep Britain White". In 1958-59 under the banner of "Keep Britain White" attacks on the Black communities of Notting Hill, London and Nottingham began, culminating in the death of Antiguan-born carpenter Kelso Cochrane. In response to these attacks and increasing tensions, Trinidadian-born activist Claudia Jones and founder of the West Indian Gazette newspaper organised a Caribbean Carnival in St. Pancras Town Hall on 30th January 1959. Jones' Carnival was envisioned as a way of showing solidarity and strength within the growing Caribbean communities and to soothe the ongoing tensions.

Inspired by Claudia Jones' carnival, Trinidadian husband and wife Edric and Pearl Connor organised a series of similar indoor events in halls around London during the 1960s until 1964 and the premature death of Claudia Jones.

Later in 1966, community activists Rhaune Laslett and Andre Shervington organised a street festival with the aim of entertaining local children as well as attempting to ease ongoing tensions. To encourage the local Caribbean community to participate, the well-known Trinidadian musician Russell Henderson agreed to participate and transformed the festival into a carnival through the introduction of a procession and the use of the steel pan.

Although the event was not directly related to Claudia Jones' indoor carnival, many of the elements featured in her event were used in the street festival – such as Stirling Betancourt and Russell Henderson's steel band and other elements of Caribbean carnival. This event marked the beginning of the annual Notting Hill Carnival with the gradual addition of Caribbean elements including more bands and costumes. By 1974, 100,000 people and a dozen bands participated and in 1975 static sound systems were introduced adding Jamaican reggae, dub and ska music to the traditional calypso and soca.

Today Notting Hill is a cultural institution, attracting up to two million attendees and 40,000 volunteers every year. However, its future is constantly under threat. "This event is put on annually with very little government funding," says Ansel Wong, a Trinidadian cultural and political activist, former Chair of the Notting Hill Carnival Board, and founder of Elimu Mas Band. The history of Notting Hill Carnival represents the resilience and cultural diversity of the communities of London. Despite the political pressures Notting Hill carnival has grown and thrived and represents a space for challenge and community cohesion.



Student COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Fall 2021

On July 1, the Chancellor of UIS sent [this message](#) out to all faculty, staff and students. Please read it carefully and take note of the vaccination requirements for anyone planning to be on campus for any reason this fall. Read the entire page and all of the linked information, especially the point toward the bottom specifically for international students.

You will also want to review the full policy on [this page](#). Pay close attention to the deadlines. Make sure that you plan well and allow yourself enough time to get the vaccine or request an extension.

If you have any questions, please use the email address at the bottom to contact our COVID-19 group.



International Student Services

SUMMER HOURS

PICK-UP & WALK-IN

MONDAY: 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: 9:00 AM- 11:30 AM

FRIDAY: 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

OFFICE OPERATING HOURS:

MONDAY- FRIDAY: 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

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