UIS enrollment tops 5,000 for sixth consecutive year

Fall 2015 enrollment at the University of Illinois Springfield has topped 5,000 students for the sixth consecutive year. According to the official fall census, the total number of students enrolled at UIS after the first 10 days of classes is 5,402.

That makes it the second largest student body in UIS history. Last fall’s enrollment was 5,431.

“I am pleased that our reputation as a top destination for college students in the Midwest and beyond continues to grow,” said UIS Chancellor Susan J. Koch. “We know students and their families have many options, but when they choose UIS, they know they are getting a high quality and affordable educational experience and a community where faculty and staff care about their success.”

There are a total of 629 African American students enrolled this semester to comprise of 11.6% of the student body. Students who self-identify as Hispanic comprise 5% (269) of this year’s student body.

On-ground students rose slightly as 3,805 enrolled to constitute 70.4% of the student population. Online learning continues to be strong at UIS, as 1,597 (29.6%) students enrolled in online degree or certificate programs. This semester, UIS online students reside in 47 of the 50 states, 70 counties in Illinois, and 7 foreign countries.

The number of international students enrolled at UIS increased by 26% this semester. Many of the students came to UIS from India and China. Computer Science and Management Information Systems are the most common majors chosen by international students.

A total of 1,047 students live in campus housing, which means campus housing is 93% occupied.

UIS is one of three campuses of the University of Illinois and provides students with a high-quality liberal arts education, exceptional public affairs opportunities, and outstanding professional preparation programs.

UIS has four core strengths: (1) a teaching-focused academic experience; (2) an abundance of opportunities to collaborate; (3) a right-sized supportive community; and (4) a tradition of educating public servants and leaders.
**Student Affairs In Action:**

Josie Negro, Geoff Evans honored as Employees of the Month at UIS

Josie Negro, business/administrative associate in Student Work and Financial Assistance, as the UIS Employee of the Month in September.
She was described as a “consummate student advocate” who is flexible, generous with her time while assisting students with a variety of financial aid questions, and is always willing to lend a hand to colleagues.
Her supervisor said Josie doesn’t know the meaning of the word, “no,” and “offers to help in any situation, and takes on additional duties to ensure students and staff receive excellent customer service.”

Geoff Evans, director of UIS Dining Services, was honored as August Employee of the Month and described as one who is “always looking for ways to improve the student experience within and outside of dining services,” including soliciting recipes from students that remind them of home and serving those dishes in the Food Emporium.
“Geoff’s efforts have improved the campus dining experience and improved the staff work environment,” writes his nominator. “And he continues to explore ways to raise levels of service and quality.”

Student Affairs dedicated to professional service and staff development, on and off-campus

Dr. Van Vieregge, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, serves as the University contact/liaison for off-campus housing initiatives, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor’s Sustainable Design and Downtown Development Team, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Community Development Corporation Advisory Board, and several community economic development committees.

In addition, Van serves on the University’s Higher Learning Commission Accreditation committee and is Director on the National Association of College Auxiliary Services Central Region Board of Directors.

He is a member of NASPA/Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education as well as the American College Personnel Association.

**Director of International Student Services Office announced**

Dr. Kim Omachinski, is the new Director of the International Student Services Office at UIS.

“Dr. Omachinski previously served as the Senior Immigration Coordinator in the Center for International Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She earned her PhD in Communication at UWM, and specializes in intercultural training and cultural adaptation and has traveled to over 30 countries worldwide,” said Dr. Clarice Ford, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, in making the announcement.

“Kim has studied abroad, taught English in China and Indonesia, and participated in a Fulbright Program in Japan. Kim speaks Spanish and French, and enjoys working with students,” Dr. Ford added.

**Mike Fanucce working in Residence Life and LGBTQ+ Resource Office**

Mike Fanucce has been named Interim Coordinator of the LGBTQ+ Resource Office, a part-time position.
He also works as Resident Director of the East Campus Apartments and serves as Advisor to the Resident Housing Association.

Mike holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Monmouth and a Master’s Degree from Purdue University.

Prior to UIS, Mike worked at Florida Atlantic University, and Illinois State University. At Illinois State University, Mike served on the Transgender Housing Committee and the Multi-Ethnic Co-Curricular Programming and Advisory Committee.

Residence Life staff attend conferences, assume new positions on campus

Marcus McNeal, UIS Resident Director, has transitioned to Founders’ Residence Hall. Becky Borowiak, who recently graduated with her Master’s degree from Northern Illinois University, is serving as the Resident Director for West Campus.

The Resident Housing Association sent a delegation of 10 students and two advisors to the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) Annual Conference in Fargo, N.D. in May. Those in attendance were Zach Berillo, Mike Fanucce, Shelby Green, Billy Osborne, Maricela Arce, Jasmine Palomar, Garrett McAlister, Jelsie Pacifico Patterson, Eric Reuss, Hannah Cave, Amanda Dickens, and Will Newton.

Jasmine Palomar was selected and attended the Association of College and University Housing Officers – International’s (ACUHO-I) STARS College in Orlando, Florida in June. STARS College is a three-day experience for undergraduate students interested in learning about Student Affairs and the campus housing profession.

Daniel Schraeder attended ACUHO-I’s Professional Standards Institute (PSI) and Annual Conference and Exposition in June. PSI is an immersion experience designed to help housing professionals improve their knowledge and application of the ACUHO-I Standards and Ethical Principles for College and University Housing Professionals. Daniel presented a session, “Utilizing Assessment Data to Prepare for Incoming Freshman,” at the Annual Conference and Exposition.
Closet Day on the Quad” part of Queertober

UIS observed the annual “Closet Day on the Quad” Oct. 7, with community members donning colorful t-shirts bearing the acronym “P.R.I.D.E.” (People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Equality.) Participants walked through a door erected on a small stage and shared coming out stories or why they are allies to the LGBTQ population.

The event marked one of several events scheduled for Queertober, a month-long celebration in October that features educational, informative, and social events that raise awareness and provide support for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and heterosexual allied communities at UIS.

Kristin Nisbet-White joins Career Development Center staff

Kristin Nisbet-White has recently joined the Career Development Center at UIS as the Employer Development and Informatics Liaison.

Prior to joining the center staff, Kristin served as the Assistant Director of the Career Center at Millikin University for more than four years. Prior to her tenure at Millikin, Kristin taught as an adjunct instructor in the central Illinois region and worked for the Legislative Research Unit as part of the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program.

She is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers and the Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers. She is also a board member of the Vachel Lindsay Association in Springfield. Kristin holds a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a master’s degree in Communication from UIS.

YOU ARE INVITED

Succeed in Workplace Seminar Just for Staff

Your Students Are Not Prepared: WHY THEIR SUCCESS MATTERS TO YOU?

SPECIAL SPEAKER
DR. A. POOR
Speaker, Author, and Technology Expert

November 03, 2015
12 P.M. - 1 P.M.
PAC Conference Room C/D

38th Annual INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
“WORLD AT A GLANCE”

November 13, 2015 5-8 PM
The Recreation and Athletic Center (TRAC)
Free Admission
- Food & Live Performances
Hosted by International Student Services
UIS Residence Life facilities sees upgrades to buildings

A variety of upgrades in Residence Life facilities have been made.

Among them:

- **In Lincoln Residence Hall and Founders Residence Hall,** safety and security enhancements are in place at main lobby entrances. Inhibitive barrier channels all residents to front desk, where they swipe their i-Card at reader and a desk attendant verifies their residency when the picture pops-up on a computer screen. Current security cameras were replaced with high-definition digital models featuring enhanced resolution and low-light capabilities. Additional cameras were installed in all stairwell landings in each building.

- **East Campus Apartments:** Sunflower 500 and 700 buildings (20 apartments) had old carpet and tile removed, subflooring replaced, and new VCT installed in each kitchen, dining, living room, and bathroom. Carpets were replaced in all bedrooms. Bathrooms were gutted, with new sinks, vanities, shower/tub enclosures, and toilets installed. Hot water heaters were replaced in all units, with locking door installed to protect utility closet integrity.

- **General Campus Residential Improvements:** All washers and dryers were replaced in each on-campus laundry room. The new machines utilize energy-efficient and water-saving technology. LaundryView is new feature allowing residents to monitor laundry progress and request that text message be sent to them when cycle is complete or a washer or dryer becomes available for them to use. The campus satellite cable system has been improved with 50 of current 112 channels now available in digital HDTV format. The addition of HBO Go and Max Go allows campus residents to log-in anywhere on campus and receive these channels on their individual mobile device of choice.

Hispanic Heritage Month raises awareness about culture, history, government

UIS Hispanic Heritage Month, which kicked off in September and concluded in October, offered a variety of activities geared to promoting awareness about Hispanic heritage and current events involving Latin American communities.

Among the many events:

- **The Organization of Latin American Students** sold *elote en vaso* ("corn in a cup") and chicarrones. OLAS planned to put all profits toward its trip to the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute National Conference in February.

- **Eric J. Garcia,** traveling art coordinator for the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, spoke on "Mexican Muralists: Public Art for Social Transformation," and had an exhibit at the UIS Visual Arts Gallery.

- **“Compañía Flamenca José Porcel – Flamenco Fire”** performed at Sangamon Auditorium. Considered Spain’s premier flamenco dancer and choreographer, José Porcel was lead dancer with the renowned Ballet Nacional de España before forming the group with some of the world’s most acclaimed flamenco dancers, instrumentalists, and vocalists, according to Sangamon Auditorium.


- **The documentary, “Latinos Beyond Reel,”** was shown. The documentary offers insight on Latino scholars and how many Latin American people are misrepresented and underrepresented in the film industry.

Campus Recreation holds ribbon-cutting ceremony with Greater Springfield Chamber for Challenge Course

UIS and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce joined in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the New Challenge Course, operated by UIS Campus Recreation.

The event was held Oct. 21.

The course is available to campus groups, athletic teams, community groups, and local businesses. The low team challenge course consists of events that may occur on the ground as well as utilizing the initiatives which consists of poles, wires, platforms and ropes a few inches to a couple feet off the ground.

Challenge Course activities are designed to help groups move toward such goals as teamwork, communication, problem solving, cooperation, trust and respect. After a series of challenges, a trained facilitator leads a discussion to help the group relate the experience they just had to something relevant to their lives as individuals and as a team.

Pricing depends on the desired amount of time, numbers of participants, and group objectives.

For more information, contact Jay Swenson at 217-206-7103 or jswen2@uis.
All workouts are designed to raise an individual’s heart rate and burn calories.

Classes are offered five days a week and are taught by the Campus Recreation staff, who say, “We strive to teach the group while focusing on the needs of the individual.”

Fitness classes are free to Rec Members, Single-Use Pass holders and Multi-Use Pass holders.

Music, meditation and reflections were included in “Peace Day” at UIS on Sept. 21.

The UIS Women’s Center organized the event, held at the Colonnade. In conjunction with Peace Day, the Women’s Center organized a whiteboard campaign for individuals to share their individual Dreams of Peace.

**Fitness Focus: Group Fitness through Campus Recreation**

Group Fitness classes, offered by Campus Recreation at TRAC, provide an opportunity to participate in a group setting that is both energizing and fun.

**From the Kitchens of UIS Dining Services, Recipes from Director Geoffrey Evans**

---

**Apple Dumplings**

*Ingredients.*
- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 rolled refrigerated pie crust
- 4 small apples, peeled and cored

*Directions.*
Combine water, sugar, vanilla, 1 tablespoon butter and nutmeg in saucepan and bring to boil.

Combine brown sugar, cinnamon and 1 tablespoon butter in bowl and mix well.

Unroll pie crust and cut into quarters. Stuff each apple cavity with equal amounts of brown sugar mixture.

Fold pastry around each apple. Pinch ends together.

Place dumplings seam side down in baking dish and pour sugar sauce over top.
Bake 45-50 minutes in preheated 350 degree oven.

---

**Marrakesh Vegetable Curry**

*Ingredients.*
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 eggplant cubed
- 2 green peppers, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 15oz can garbanzo beans
- ¼ cup blanched almonds
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 2 table spoons raisins
- 1 cup orange juice
- 10 ounces fresh spinach

*Directions.*

In large pan place sweet potato, eggplant, peppers, carrots, onion and 3 tablespoons oil over medium heat and sauté or five minutes.

In medium pan place 3 tablespoons oil, garlic and spices and sauté for 3 minutes.

Pour garlic mixture into vegetables, add beans, almonds, zucchini, raisins and orange juice. Simmer 20 minutes, covered.

Add spinach and cook for 5 more minutes.

---

To support UIS Student Affairs, please visit [www.uis.edu/studentaffairs/](http://www.uis.edu/studentaffairs/).