

UIS Parent & Family Newsletter

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New Student Orientation and Parent Relations

ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

2018 Spring Newsletter

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Spring Notes from the Director of New Student Orientation & Parent Relations

By: Lisa McGuire

Mother Nature has surely made her presence felt since the new year with very cold temperatures and wind chills some days and some 50-degree spring-like temps as a teaser. With another eight to ten weeks of winter weather to look forward to it is a good time to remind your student about dressing properly – wearing layers, gloves, scarves, and hats to stay warm and protect them from frost bite.

For students who are regularly driving get a winter tune-up to make sure tires are in good shape, the anti-freeze and winterized window washer fluid



warm kitty

levels are full, and the heat and window defroster are working. Having an emergency car kit is also important in cold weather in case they get stuck in the snow – blanket, candle and matches, water, snack bars, and flares are an important part of

continued



Showing team spirit (2017)





the kit. I like to keep generic kitty litter in the back seat of my car in case I need to get traction on icy parking lots.

With one of the most terrible flu outbreaks in decades, reminding students to regularly wash their hands, cough into their elbows/sleeves, and keep their hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth are great ways to prevent passing or getting germs. Staying healthy by getting enough sleep might sound like an oxymoron to your college student, but it can't hurt to remind them to do their homework and get to bed early.

The spring semester seems to fly by very quickly, especially once we hit spring break (March 12-16 in case you are wondering). Something for students to look forward to is our annual Spring Fest which will be April 16-21. Last year over 500 students in more than 20 teams competed for honors. While I don't compete, I have fun as one of the many faculty and staff judges. Traditional events include the scavenger hunt, trivia night, flag and chant competition (teams create a team flag and chant), as well as sports day, and the culminating event...mud Tug-of-War. Encourage your student to get a group of friends or floor

mates together as a team and compete – they will have a great time and it will be a wonderful memory of their UIS experience.

I hope you stay warm. Spring is officially 5 weeks away.

Parent Volunteers Needed

Orientation Parent Panels

The Office of New Student Orientation is looking for parents to participate in the KickStart Orientation parent panel to answer questions from first-year parents. Our office will cover an overnight stay in a local hotel. If you are interested, [send Lisa McGuire an email](#) with your name, phone number, and the dates you would be available. Lisa will follow-up with a phone call in late February.

2018 KickStart Dates:

- F1: Monday, June 11 – Tuesday, June 12
- F2: Friday, June 15 – Saturday, June 16
- F3: Monday, June 18 – Tuesday, June 19
- F4: Thursday, June 21 – Friday, June 22
- F5: Monday, July 16 – Tuesday, July 17
- F7: Monday, August 20 – Tuesday, August 21

Letter to First-Year Parents

NSOPR is also looking for a parent, parents, or family members who would like to write a letter welcoming our First-Year Parents and Families to UIS. Ellin and Michael Lotspeich and Keith and Katie McNamara have written previous letters - sharing their UIS experience, as well as their students, and why UIS has been a great choice. If you are interested in being this year's letter writer, [email Lisa](#). She will provide you with example letters and helpful tips. The letter needs to be complete by March 26 so it can be edited, printed, and mailed out in the beginning of May.

Help Send Our O-Team Members to the Regional NODA Conference

Each year, NSOPR Director Lisa McGuire takes orientation team members to the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) regional conference to learn more about leadership and orientation. This year's conference is March 23-25



Song & Chant by The Mighty Ewoks (2017)



Annual Mud Tug-Of-War

in Kansas City, Kansas. We are still feeling the effects of the state budget crises and need to raise \$3500 to send six of our OLS and Student Orientation Coordinators to the conference.

We are selling an updated version of our blue O-Team Football shirts celebrating the founding of our university in 1970.

They are v. neck, short sleeved, 50/50 cotton-poly shirts. Sizes available: Adult/Unisex S, M, L, XL, [\$20] 2XL [\$24] 3XL [\$30 special order]. We currently have several of each size (except 3XL) in stock. Your student can bring cash or personal check or money order (drawn on US bank) to pick up the ones in stock. If we run out, we have to



wait until we get 50 additional orders to request another shipment (which we get locally from Miles T-shirt). You can also print and mail an [order form](#) in with your personal check or money order.

Prairie Star Family Association

Welcome from UIS Prairie Star Family Association!

By: Angela Kneer

Meet your NEW Executive Board:

Angela Kneer – President (re-elected)

DeAnna Shane – Vice -President (re-elected to new position)

Joyce L. Nelson – Secretary (new to the board)

Ellin Lotspeich – Treasurer (re-elected)

For family weekend we held our first ever Parent Social & fundraiser! We also sent out a mass email for fundraising to be gathered together to help us raise money to establish a non-exempt status and invest in future fundraising items to help with our goal of establishing scholarships in the future. Our new t-shirts and cozies are available to purchase, watch for upcoming emails with purchasing info, or reach out to us on [Facebook](#), or email janck94@comcast.net for more information.

We are currently establishing subcommittees to help with social events, fundraising, and future scholarships. We are still in need of several people to help with these committees. We do all our meeting by phone conference, so you won't have to do any traveling. Please consider helping

in any way you can and we look forward to meeting you at the next campus function. Feel free to look for us and say "HI"!

We are looking forward to a GREAT year!

Go Prairie Stars and again welcome from UIS PSFA!

Angela Kneer
President 2017-2018





UIS News

By: Blake Wood, UIS Assistant Director of Public Relations

UIS Cuts Ribbon on New \$21.75 Million Student Union Building

The University of Illinois Springfield officially opened the new \$21.75 million Student Union Building during a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday, January 14. The first-ever student union will serve as a social hub for student life and foster a greater sense of community on the growing campus.

The two-story, 50,000-square-foot student union, anchors the campus's south quad, providing campus dining services, a Starbucks coffee shop, a ballroom with seating for up to 450 people and a Student Leadership Center that houses student government, the Offices for Volunteer & Civic Engagement and Student Life, and work stations for student organizations.



Approximately \$6.25 million in private funds has been raised towards the \$8 million goal to fund the construction of the \$21.75 million facility. The private fundraising effort continues. The remaining cost will be paid through campus funds and a construction fee that students approved in 2012.

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"For a long time we have wanted a versatile, central location that's sole purpose is to tend to the needs of the students and surrounding community," said Garrett Nimmo, a sophomore economics major and president of the UIS Student Government Association. "Our students, as well as myself, are very excited to have this new facility to call our own."

The new facility will fill a void that officials say has grown since UIS became part of the University of Illinois system in 1995. The campus was originally founded in 1970 as Sangamon State University, catering to upperclassmen and graduate-level students, but is now a traditional four-year school that has lacked the central gathering place that student unions provide at most colleges across the nation.

UIS Students Volunteer at Nine Locations as Part of the National MLK Jr. Day of Service

More than 100 UIS students spent their day learning and volunteering in the community as part of the national Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 15.

Students started their day on campus with breakfast and a simulation experience, and then participated in the Springfield NAACP Unity March and a community town hall at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Following the town hall, students spent their afternoon volunteering at nine locations in Springfield. Students sorted donated computers at Computer Banc, prepared items for sale at the Habitat ReStore, sorted medical supplies at Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, painted at Inner City Mission, sorted and organized books at the Northside Children's Community Library (located in the basement of Third Presbyterian Church), helped around the house and sorted

donated items at the Ronald McDonald House, cleaned up and repaired classrooms at the Springfield Urban League and sorted and preparing art kits for patients at HSHS St. John's Hospital Women and Children's Center.



On campus, students made 15,000 bookmarks to be distributed to Springfield District #186 elementary students, in partnership with the United Way, during an event in the UIS Student Union Ballroom.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort. Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a "day on, not a day off."

UIS Students Break Food Collection Record for the Central Illinois Foodbank on Halloween Night

University of Illinois Springfield students helped to collect a record 28,946 pounds of food for the Central Illinois Foodbank on Halloween night. The total breaks a previous Trick-or-Treat for Canned Goods record of 14,085 pounds of food collected in 2016.

A total of 17 teams, consisting of 284 students, went door-to-door in several Springfield and Chatham neighborhoods collecting the canned goods.

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The week before the event, teams canvassed the neighborhoods and distributed door hangers that explained the project. Collected items were returned and weighed on campus. Prizes were awarded to the teams that collected the most food.

Students in the Leadership for Life service program collected 6,152 pounds of food in the Country Club Estates and Deerfield subdivisions on Springfield's west side. The Legion of Ladies student organization collected 6,000 pounds of food in Chatham's Breckenridge subdivision.



The Central Illinois Foodbank distributes over 9.4 million pounds of food annually to over 150 food pantries, soup kitchens, residential programs and after-school programs in a 21 county region.

Reaching Stellar: The Campaign for the University of Illinois Springfield Seeks to Raise \$40 million to Benefit Students, Faculty and the Community Over the Next 5 Years



The University of Illinois Springfield launched the public phase of the largest fundraising campaign in its history on Tuesday, October 10, 2017. More than 300 people attended the day's events to kick off the capital campaign, *Reaching Stellar: The Campaign for the University of Illinois Springfield*.

"At the University of Illinois, we have one goal at the core of our mission: to transform lives and serve society," said UIS Chancellor Susan J. Koch. "This fundraising campaign is a strategy for taking UIS—with donors' help—toward greater excellence and greater impact for our community, our state and beyond."

The goal of the campaign is to raise \$40 million to benefit students, faculty and the Springfield community. As of October 10, 2017, the University of Illinois Foundation had received commitments of more than \$18.4 million in gifts, grants and pledges, according to Jeff Lorber, UIS vice chancellor for advancement. The campaign will continue through 2022.

The UIS Center for Lincoln Studies, a campaign priority, will be a national base for scholarship, teaching and public history about Lincoln's life, leadership and legacy. It will incubate and sustain university-community collaborative projects, connecting UIS students with myriad opportunities available locally in Springfield, as well as connecting Lincoln to a national and international context.

Other campaign priorities include: scholarships; academic excellence; facilities and technology, including the new Student Union; and programs that contribute to the public good. These programs include outreach into the community, such as NPR Illinois, the Illinois Innocence Project, Sangamon Auditorium and others.

Visit the [Reaching Stellar](#) page if you want to learn more about giving options.

UIS Students Earn First Place Category Win During National Cyber League Competitions

University of Illinois Springfield Computer Science and Information Systems Security majors earned a first place win the Log Analysis category and finished in the top 10 percent of teams nationwide during the annual National Cyber League (NCL) competitions.

During the regular season, several UIS students ranked highly in the national challenge where they faced more than 2,400 competitors. Steve Berryman of Louisville, Kentucky finished 31st

and Bhavyanshu Parasher of Gurgaon, Haryana, India finished 37th placing them both in the top one percent of competitors in the United States. Team captain Austin Bransky of Marengo, Illinois finished 79th and in the top three percent nationwide.

Overall, the UIS team finished 18th out of 182 teams nationally during the NCL's postseason tournament. This is the second year that a UIS team has competed in the competition. "This NCL Season was a huge success and there was improvement across the board for most of our returning members," said team captain Austin

Bransky. "It seems like the competition got a lot tougher compared to past years, which is great as it will force us to improve and innovate the way we compete both as individuals and as a team."

The NCL was founded in May 2011 to provide an ongoing virtual training ground for participants to develop, practice, and validate their cybersecurity knowledge and skills using next-generation high-fidelity simulation environments.

The competition utilizes certified ethical hacker objectives, such as open source intelligence, traffic and log analysis and wireless security.

Student Research The Student Experience

By: Marquiera Harris, Social Work Major
Class of 2018

I have been involved with student research for two years. I have been working with the Psychology faculty on research about body image issues among Asian-American men and women. Through my student research experience, I have had the opportunity to attend out-of-state conferences paid for by the University. There are also grants that are available through the Undergraduate Student Research Grant Program. Each student is awarded up to \$1000 throughout their academic career. I was fortunate to also receive funding from the Psychology department.

I have presented my research at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Memphis; the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago; the Breakfast of Research Champions at UIS; Learning Beyond Walls Research Symposium at UIS; and at the Asian American Psychological Association conference in Las Vegas. I had an amazing time presenting at all of the events and I believe it is a wonderful opportunity for your students. It gets them involved on campus and they are able to network with professionals from all over. The University's commitment to fund research and travel is also a huge benefit and was a



determining factor for my involvement since I rarely had out-of-pocket expenses.

To learn more about getting your student involved in research funding, visit the [Undergraduate Research website](#). Your student can also join the Research Society at UIS. I am currently the president of the organization. We host events on campus to get students across all majors involved in research. We pair them with faculty members who are currently doing research in a particular area and direct them to faculty member they can contact about starting a new research project. To learn more about the Research Society at UIS, visit us on [Facebook](#).



USFSCO

University Student Financial Services & Cashier Operations

By: Alice Seaton

Coaching Your Student through a Financial Check-up to Do List

Below is a checklist for parents/guardians to coach their student on managing their academic fiscal responsibility.

Spring Bill Due Date. Students and authorized payers should be able to see charges for tuition, mandatory fees, housing and meal plan on their student account at this time. In addition, if the student plans to receive any type of financial assistance for the spring semester, financial aid credits should also be appearing on the student account. Billing for the spring semester will occur in early February. The due date for the spring semester bill is **February 28, 2018**.

Payment Options. Online payments (electronic check or credit card); in-person payments at the cashier window with a check or money order; payments by mail; Flywire payments for our international students; [payment plan](#). Please note: scholarship checks should be sent directly to the [Office of Financial Assistance](#).

Authorized Payers. FERPA prohibits the University from releasing specific student account information to anyone other than the student without the student's authorization. Students may authorize an individual to view their student account, make online payments and receive specific student account information. Has your student set you up as an [authorized payer](#)?

Direct Deposit for any refunds. If your student is expecting a refund from the

University of Illinois, it is highly encouraged for the student to enroll into [direct deposit](#). Direct deposit is the electronic transfer of funds into a U.S. checking or savings account.

1098-T Tax Form for 2017. Education tax credits may be available to you if you are paying education costs for yourself or a student who is a member of your immediate family. The 1098-T enables you to determine if you qualify for one or more of these education tax credits. 1098-T tax forms will be available on or before January 31. Students are notified via their official University email when the 1098-T form is available to print/download. Only students have access to the 1098-T tax form; therefore, please check with your student to see if they have downloaded and printed the form.

For more information on all of the items discussed in this article, plus additional information regarding student billing, please refer to [our department's website](#).



Upcoming UIS Career Development Center Events – Spring 2018

By: Angela Evans, Assistant Director of the Career Development Center



Career Suite Drop-In/Call-In Hours

Students can:

- 1) get help writing a resume and/or cover letter;
- 2) have their resume, cover letter, and personal statement critiqued;
- 3) learn how to navigate CareerConnect and online systems;
- 4) find helpful career building resources and tools, and much more!

Regular Semester Hours

Days/Times:

- Tuesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, 2-4 p.m.
- Location: SAB 50 ([Career Development Center](#))
- Call-In: (217) 206-6508

Career Connections Expo - Thursday, February 15

Connects students, alumni, and community job seekers with 100+ employers who are looking for candidates for jobs, internships, and future connections. [Be sure to review our current list of recruiters and opportunities.](#)

Location: The Recreation & Athletic Center (TRAC)
Time: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.



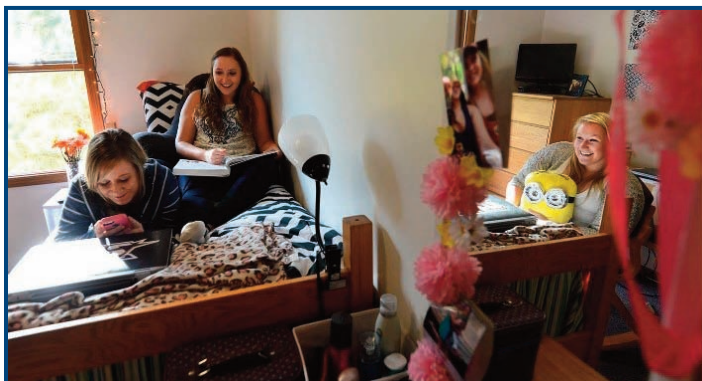
Residence Life

By: Haley Houser

Greetings from the Department of Residence Life. We are excited to begin the Spring 2018 semester with some facilities updates. During the Fall semester, we noticed that the WiFi on campus was dwindling in reliability. We have been working with Information Technology Services (ITS) to enhance the connectivity across campus. Over winter break old Wireless Access Points

(WAPs) were updated/replaced, with 75 new WAPs added to increase the stability of the WiFi services provided on campus. With the new WAPs in place we are hoping this will help solve the connectivity issues our residents have been experiencing. We will continue upgrading the facilities on campus to make our students feel like they have their own "home away from home."

Our Room Selection process has begun, and we hope your student decides to continue to live on campus! The application process is online under our [Student Housing Portal](#), which has our theme of "There's No Place Like Home." Students can access the online application/contract via the Student Housing Portal by entering their NetID and password. When applying for housing, they can





request their roommates via their UINs, select a *Themed Community* or *Living Learning Community*, and even sign their contract electronically. Our second year returning sophomore students have a residency requirement, and must reapply for housing.

We will have a freshmen residence hall and a second year returning sophomore residence hall for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. All second year returning sophomore students are automatically reassigned to the residence halls, and we do our best to pair them with their requested roommates as long as they are in the same Living Learning Community.

You may have heard that some sophomores have been allowed to move into the West Campus Townhouses. Our residence halls must be fully occupied before we can consider moving students to the townhouses. Therefore, as we receive more and more freshmen applications, your sophomore may get the opportunity to be reassigned to a townhouse. However, this also means if we do not receive enough freshman applications the sophomores will remain assigned to the residence halls. There will be a [Reassignment Request Form](#) available on June 1 for all second year returning sophomores to fill out to indicate their interest in being considered for reassignment to the townhouses. This is only request, and not a guarantee. It is a privilege to be moved to the West Campus Townhouses, second year returning sophomores are required to meet certain criteria to be considered for reassignment. This information can be found on our [FAQ Document](#), which all students are given during the room selection process.

The room selection process for upperclassmen is slightly different. If an upperclassman wishes to be a part of a themed community or has an ADA

requirement, they will need to apply by February 22. This is our *Specialty Housing* application/contract deadline, so we can assign the student to a specific unit or area to meet their needs or place them in the themed community they have selected. Since they have elected for a *Specialty Housing* assignment, they will not be able to select their own space for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. Our returning students and graduate students have the opportunity to choose their assignment if they do not request/require specialty housing and apply by March 8. All returning students who reapply for housing by March 8, will be a part of our [Select Room Process](#), which allows students to choose where they wish to live on campus for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. Students who apply by March 8 will be given an access time by March 22. This access time will allow the student to select their unit on March 29 and 30. If a student does not select a unit during their selection time, they will be automatically assigned the following week to a random unit.

We will have information tables for students to visit throughout the month of February for students to ask questions about their housing application/contract for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. This online application/contract is electronically signed by students, thus binding them to our Terms and Conditions. If a student decides that they no longer wish to live on campus after applying for the 2018-2019 Academic Year, they will need to submit their *Contract Cancellation Request Form* by May 15, 2018 to avoid additional cancellation fees. We encourage all students to apply early to reserve a space, but also keep in mind the cancellation deadline in case their plans change.

What about summer? Our [summer housing](#) application/contract will be available April 1 for students to begin reserving their space for the summer semester. Students will receive information regarding the summer housing application/contract as the 2018-2019 Room Selection process comes to an end. If your student decides to go home for the summer semester, keep in mind our spring check-out will be May 12 and 13.

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a fully furnished living room, a kitchen with all major appliances and bedroom with linens and shower curtains provided. This opportunity is available for \$50 per night for one bedroom; each additional bedroom needed will be an extra \$25 per occupant with a maximum of 4 occupants per townhouse (minimum rate is \$50 per night; maximum rate with 4 people is \$125 per night). If you would like further details regarding this opportunity to rent a space on campus during our finals week (May 7-13, 2018), please contact our office: reslife@uis.edu or 217-206-6190.

New for this year is the opportunity for parents to rent a West Campus Townhouse to stay during finals week to help your student check-out for the spring 2018 semester. Each townhouse provides

We hope that you and your student decide to stay with us in the upcoming months! Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates on what's going on with Residence Life. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Central Office: reslife@uis.edu.

Campus Recreation

2018 is the year to be *SEEN* in Campus Recreation! Students can look forward to the array of group fitness classes, intramural sports, outdoor adventure trips, special events and much more this year, but first, an update from last semester.

Fall 2017 was one of Campus Recreation's most successful semesters, and we have the students to thank who continue to support our offerings and programs. We celebrated our recreation center (TRAC) turning ten years old by kicking off the fall semester with REC-a-Palooza, a fun filled day of recreation events and competitions. The night finished with an evening street party featuring a live band and food trucks. The students were so receptive of the event that we will be celebrating TRAC's 11th birthday too!

Does your student have a 2018 fitness related New Year's resolution? They can spring into Fitness UIS and let group fitness instructors help keep them accountable, safe, and having fun while they exercise! All group fitness classes are free and drop-in, so they can grab their friends and head to TRAC for a great workout. Offerings include Cycle Fit, WERQ Dance Fitness, Yoga, Martial Arts & Self Defense and Body Blast. We



are also running a "New Year, New You" personal training sale until February 10. There isn't a better time to get in the gym and personal training is a great, affordable resource.

Other fitness-related programs Campus Recreation will be offering include Women on Weights, an educational weight training program for women, and the annual Health and Wellness Fair, held in April. The fair is a great experience for everyone at UIS and the Springfield community to enjoy, for FREE!

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Campus Recreation offers Outdoor Adventure trips throughout the Midwest and other parts of the country! Most universities offer outdoor trips, but UIS Campus Recreation makes sure that those trips are also affordable for all students.

Our first trip was a day ski and snowboard trip to Ski Snowstar Resort in the Quad Cities on February 2. February 9-11 we will hit the slopes again, this time in Minnesota for skiing and snowboarding. We will also be camping in Kentucky as we explore Mammoth Cave before finishing off the year in our own canoes and kayaks in nearby Sugar Creek. For more



information, students can visit each trip's UIS Connection page or contact Jay Swenson at jswen2@uis.edu.

Finally, we head back into the arena as intramural sports are in full swing with basketball, indoor cricket, racquetball, futsal, volleyball, and badminton. As weather warms up we will head outdoors under our new lights for a semester ending softball tournament. All of these free leagues and tournaments are open to all students and offer men's, women's and coed leagues. Students can see the full schedule and register by visiting [our webpage](#) and clicking on Intramural Sports Registrations.

Now that you've seen all that Campus Recreation has to offer this semester, there is some bad news...These are student events, not parent events. While you can't attend we hope you'll encourage your children to take advantage of our diverse programs as there is something for everyone in Campus Recreation.

Important Dates to Remember: Looking Ahead

[Academic Calendars](#) are available online.

January 16	Spring Term Begins
March 5-9	Midterms
March 12-16	Spring Break
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 7-11	Finals Week
May 12	Semester Ends
June 4	Summer Semester Begins

Some Important Numbers

Campus Recreation campusrec@uis.edu	217/206-7103
Career Development Center careerservices@uis.edu	217/206-6508
Counseling Center counseling@uis.edu	217/206-7122
Disability Services ods@uis.edu	217/206-6666
Financial Assistance finaid@uis.edu	217/206-6724
Health Services uishealthservice@uis.edu	217/206-6676
Records registrar@uis.edu	217/206-6709
Residence Life reslife@uis.edu	217/206-6190
New Student Orientation & Parent Relations UISOrientation@uis.edu	217/206-8181
USFSCO (Student Billing) usfscohelp@uillinois.edu	217/206-6727