



Susan J. Koch

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**CHOCOLATE**<sup>WITH THE</sup>  
**CHANCELLOR**

Come talk to Chancellor Koch and the SGA about your experience this semester at UIS

**FREE HOT COCOA  
AND COOKIES**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30**

9:30PM IN THE LRH GREAT ROOM

As I write this Winter, 2012 message, those beautiful Fall colors bordering our ring road have been replaced by a hint of snowflakes in the air. Flip-flops have been exchanged for boots and hoodies, soccer for basketball, and our UIS students are experiencing that classic mix of end-of-term feelings – stress over exams and assignments and the joyful anticipation of a well-earned break that is soon to come. I know you remember those feelings!

Reflecting upon my first semester as Chancellor, I am grateful for the warm welcome that has been extended during my first few months. Listening to so many individuals who are invested in UIS has confirmed that we share a campus heritage to be proud of as well as an exciting future that will continue to serve our students and our communities in many positive ways.

It was a pleasure meeting Washington, DC area alums and friends at our recent DC event and I look forward to upcoming events in Chicago, Florida and Arizona. We were delighted to host the University of Illinois Board of Trustees for their December Board meeting. Board Chair, Chris Kennedy, as well as President Hogan and other Trustees, are exceedingly supportive of UIS and I appreciate their commitment to our success.

I've spent time recently with Governor Quinn and Springfield Mayor Mike Houston, and with Senators Durbin and Kirk and the other members of our Illinois congressional delegation. I am assured that they understand and appreciate the value-added premium that UIS brings to our state.

Our academic year started with a Fall enrollment of 5,137; the second year that UIS topped the 5,000 mark. I'm especially pleased that our international enrollment has increased significantly – one indicator that our university's reputation, both on-ground and online, is spreading around the world. We have over 1,100 students living on campus; but I'm proud to say that we also continue to serve non-traditional aged students exceptionally well with evening, weekend and online access.

I'll be continuing to meet with faculty and staff across campus next semester, listening to

their hopes and aspirations. I'm pleased to report that I've already met many UIS faculty who are successfully weaving together the strands of their careers – outstanding teaching, scholarly contributions, and a commitment to being a contributing member of our academic community. Thanks to their efforts, our reputation is strong and continues to grow.

Late in the Fall term, we introduced a new campus-wide event, “Chocolate with the Chancellor,” an opportunity for students to share their UIS experiences, questions and concerns with the Chancellor over a cup of hot chocolate and snacks. It was a great success - and very informative! If you happen to be in the area in February, I hope you'll drop by for the second such event, “Chili with the Chancellor,” cosponsored by Student Government, the Black Student Union and the Organization of Latin American Students (check the UIS website for details).

In closing, I want to share two pieces of good news with you. First, the Governor's office has released \$4 million in state capital funds for UIS's new Public Safety Building. So many of you advocated for funding of this project through the Illinois Connection program, and we are grateful to you as well as to the Governor's office and our local legislators for continuing to move this project forward. Second, we received word in early January that UIS has been named one of the top 100 best values in public colleges by Kiplinger Personal Finance (<http://news.uis.edu/2012/01/uis-named-best-value-public-college-by.html>). This is the first time that UIS has appeared in this prestigious ranking and we're delighted to be recognized for the high quality and affordability that we offer.

Thank you for all that you do as a graduate to support your Alma mater. With your continued support, I am confident that we will achieve our vision to be a premier public university.

With all best wishes,

Susan J. Koch  
Vice President and Chancellor