



BRIDGEWATER

STATE UNIVERSITY

Expect More. Achieve More.

Global Voyager

ISSUE 10 | SPRING 2024



In this issue:

SPRING PROGRAMMING

A Culture Series led by Estonian student Alina Poklad and a return to Fenway!

DEVELOPING OUTREACH - SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

Exploring Vanessa and Lais' impact on the development of ISSS social media channels.

A WINDOW INTO YOUR WORLD - ALUM SPOTLIGHT

Catch up with Jude Morgan and learn about their career path.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BSU GIVES

Celebrating our Spring 2024 scholarship recipients and sharing giving opportunities.

Global Voyager



New Horizons - Farewell 4

Farewell to Vanessa and Lais and well-wishes for their next steps!

Tiktok as an Outreach Tool 5

Understanding the significant impact of Tiktok as a tool to reach potential international students.

ISSS Events 6

A Culture Series featuring Estonia, a return to Fenway, and Farewell to graduating and exchange students.

A Window Into Your World 7-9

Read Jude Morgan's story and life path since BSU.

Farewell Graduates 10

Recognizing Graduates and Exchange Students of Spring 2024

Scholarships and Giving 11

Acknowledging scholarship recipients and recognizing opportunities to give.

Spring Snapshot 12

ISSS hosted 107 international and exchange students during Spring 2024.

Spring 2024

ON THE COVER

Aya Elwaked,
graduate student from
Jordan.

ON THE CONTENTS

International
Orientation Leaders
for Spring 2024 (left to
right): Sreshtha,
Ismael, Eni, Jenna,
Lais, Cloey.

International Student &
Scholar Services

508.531.2730
issss@bridgew.edu

25 Park Terrace, Rm 101
Bridgewater, MA 02325



INTERNATIONAL
student & scholar services

This spring semester has gone by so quickly and we've had such a great one.

A NOTE FROM ISSS This spring was a busy one filled with ISSS programs such as opening Orientation events, Culture Series, off-campus trips to the Red Sox, Student & Scholar Panels during Global Engagement Day and many collaborations with offices like Lewis & Gaines Center for Equity and Inclusion and Student Diversity and Success. We are happy to see the numbers of in-person events increasing as it has been challenging to get folks back together physically post-pandemic.

I am pleased to announce that ISSS once again was able to disburse scholarship funding; this spring we were able to give out \$20,000 in merit and need based awards! During our April 2024 Giving Day campaign we raised an additional \$1,500 in disbursable awards plus an additional \$1,500 towards our Minnock Institute Endowment. We thank each and every donor for their generous contributions and hope you may consider giving (or giving more!) in the upcoming year. Each dollar counts, no amount is too little and this all goes directly towards funding students!

We're looking forward to a little relaxation over the summer for staff to take some vacation time and rejuvenate in preparation for the busy fall. However, we do have a few things planned for the summer such as our Mandela Washington Fellows program as well as the summer Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC) conference and are ready to open up our campus for summer programming. We will keep you updated on these wonderful events in our next edition to be issued later in the fall. In the meantime we hope you are all well and please stay connected – if you are interested in being featured in our Alumni Spotlight please reach out as we love to see what our alums are up to since leaving BSU!

Best,
ISSS



NEW HORIZONS - FAREWELL



Lais (left) - International Outreach Coordinator since Fall 2023
Vanessa (right) - Graduate Assistant since Fall 2023

FAREWELL AND BEST OF LUCK!

VANESSA AND LAIS

This semester we bid a heartfelt farewell to ISSS student workers Lais Guirra Silva and Vanessa Cespedes Restrepo. Vanessa will continue her program through a Teaching Practicum and Lais will receive her Bachelor's in Psychology this May.

Together, Vanessa and Lais have been instrumental in amplifying the voices of current and future BSU international students. This team has been especially innovative with social media outreach.

Vanessa and Lais developed a variety of series including "Tutorial Tuesday", "POV", and "Fun Friday with ISSS". The content of these short videos ranges from explaining how to use campus resources, the daily life of a student, and light-hearted sharing about international student experiences.



INTERNATIONAL
student & scholar services

TIKTOK AS AN OUTREACH TOOL

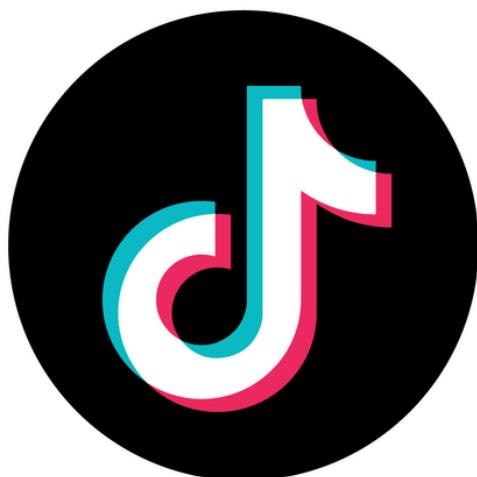
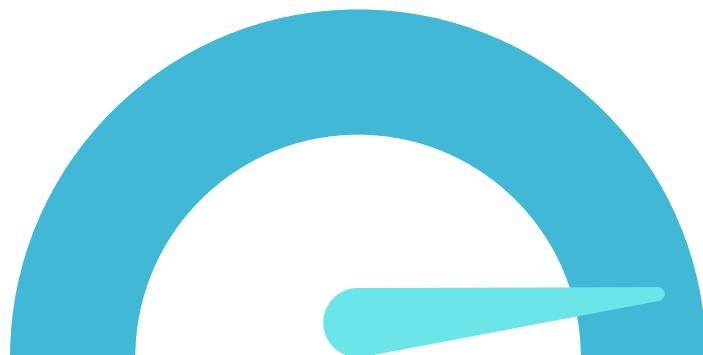
As one of the first BSU departments to adopt Tiktok as an outreach tool, we have since posted 117 videos with a total of 78,306 combined views since 2021. These videos are primarily crafted **by** international students **for** international students. The Tiktoks feature international student perspectives such as:

- why they chose BSU;
- favorite places on campus;
- how to use BSU resources;

and common questions they receive as international students.

Analytics of the ISSS Tiktok account indicate that it is one of our most effective social media platforms to bring BSU to prospective international students.

**Average views
per Tiktok - 670**



96%

96% of Viewers on each Tiktok do not yet follow the account - indicating they are potential international students



INTERNATIONAL

student & scholar services

Culture Series - Estonia presented by Alina Poklad

Graduate student Alina Poklad shared about the culture of her home Estonia. Attendees enjoyed a variety of foods based on authentic Estonian recipes. In addition, this semester Alina partnered with Student Accessibility Services to present on Disability Representation in Modern Films and Books. In this insightful talk, Alina discussed how representation, or absence, of disabled individuals in books and movies can lead to misrepresentation.



Red Sox - April 2024



Students were enthusiastic to visit Fenway Park and attend the Red Sox game vs the Angels. We are glad to report that the Red Sox pulled off an exciting 7-2 win!

A window into your world.



BSU International Alumni

International Alum Spotlight

JUDE MORGAN CLASS OF 2003

Graduate Student from England Master's in Special Education

I graduated Bridgewater with a Master's in Special Ed. in 2003 as an international student from England. I worked for a year afterwards at a special needs school and then they sponsored me on a H1B visa twice and then a green card. I was a teacher and then the Director of Academics. I spent 20 years at the school and have currently taken some time away from work to pursue my Ed.D. at Northeastern. I became a US citizen in 2021.



Jude spent 20 years at Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover, MA in various roles.

JUDE'S TAKE : "STUDY HARD, USE ALL THE RESOURCES THE COLLEGE OFFERS AND TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR JOB."

Would you like to be featured on our Alumni Spotlight?
Email ISSS@bridgew.edu for more information.



INTERNATIONAL

student & scholar services

Where has your degree led you?

What advice do you have for someone new to
BSU?

What are your best memories of BSU?

Ready to share your story and inspire new
international students at BSU?

Email issss@bridgew.edu for more info!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BSU ALUMS!

Undergraduate

- Nijat Alizada
- Marco Baik
- Sushan Dhakal
- Kristi Maharjan
- Gabrielle-Rose Jade

Graduate

- Ala'a Ahmad Ali Bani
- Melhem
- Aya Fandi Elwaked
- Junseok Hur
- Burak Kutlu
- Mouli Sanketh
- Maturi
- Alina Poklad
- Sai Aniketh
- Renukuntla

Exchange

- Clare Barry
- Zhenheng Gu
- Gyuri Han
- Dongu Heo
- Sarah Hurley
- Kayun Kim
- Sihyeong Lee
- Daisy Li
- Sofia Loboda

■ Diana Nelin

- Xiaoqin Pan
- Sejung Park
- Minjung Park
- Binbin Qin
- Hana Sezoko
- Yuki Shinohara
- Zih Yi Tseng
- Jingsong Zhang

*celebrating the
Class of
2025*



ISSS Scholarships

Spring 2024



3 Merit
\$250 each

3 Need
\$250 each

Total Awarded
\$1500

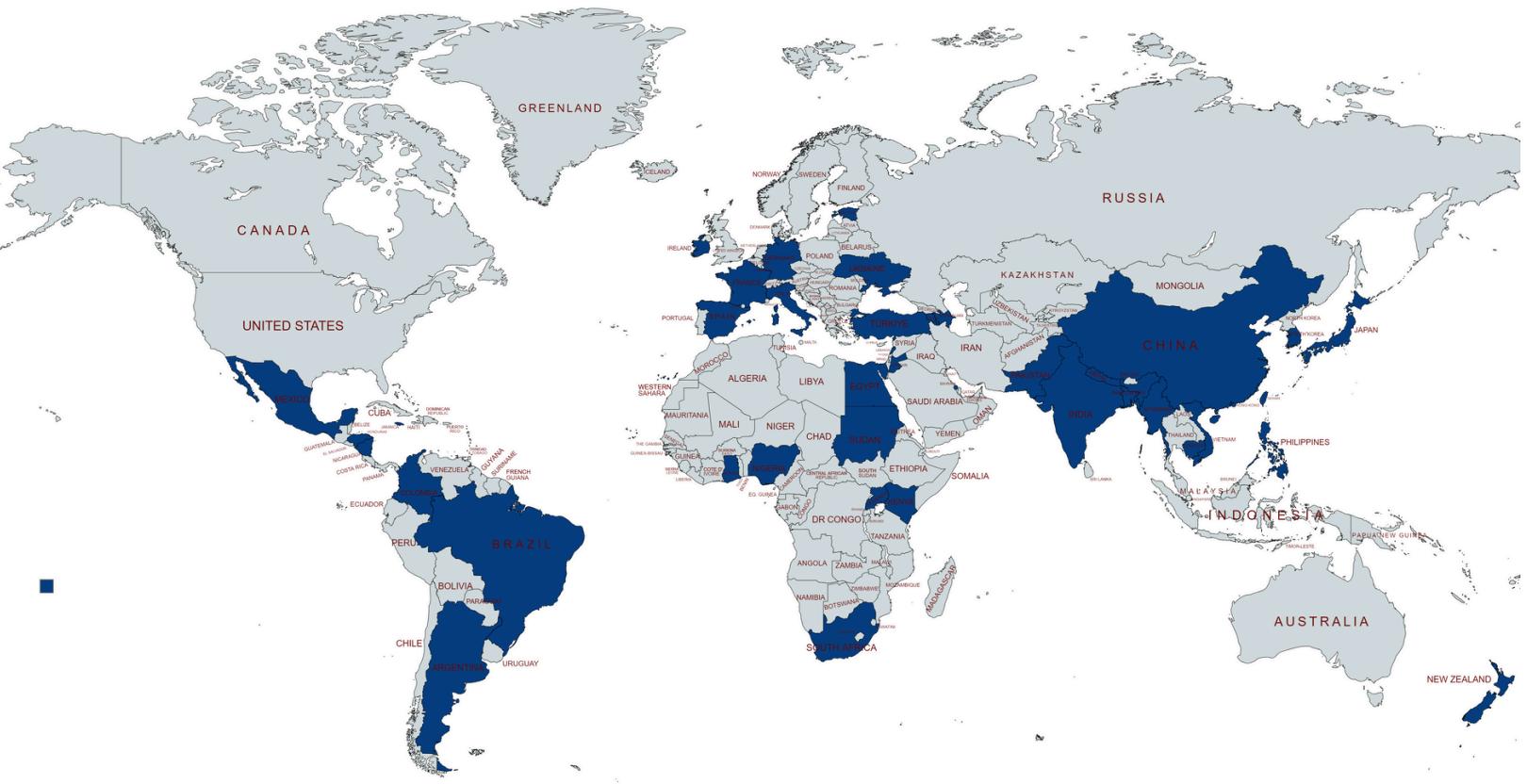
TO DONATE NOW TEXT BSUGIVES8 TO 71777

OR HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE AT :

[HTTPS://FUNDRAISE.GIVESMART.COM/VF/BSUGIVES/TEAM/MIGE](https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/bsugives/team/mige)

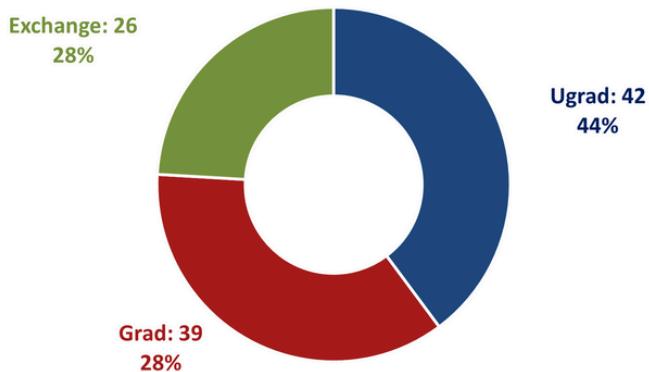


SPRING 2024 SNAPSHOT



Created with mapchart.net

Students per Program Type



TOP 3 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

- 1 INDIA
 - 2 SOUTH KOREA
 - 3 CHINA

KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN BSU?

Thank you for your interest in

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY

Apply Now!

For more information about the admissions process:

Visit the International Student Admissions Portal

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Graduate

Undergraduate

Exchange/Partnerships



<https://www.bridgew.edu/admissions-aid/international-students>



INTERNATIONAL

student & scholar services

VISIT OUR WEBSITE & ADMISSIONS PORTAL



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

