Valentine’s Day is not only celebrated here in the United States, but it is also celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine’s Day became popular around the 17th century. By the mid-18th century, it became fairly common for friends and lovers to give one another small gifts of endearment or even handwritten notes. By 1900, printed cards came about, which eventually replaced handwritten notes. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one’s feelings was discouraged.

In the United States, it is said that people began exchanging handmade valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland, known as “The Mother of the Valentine,” began selling the first mass-produced valentines in the United States. She created elaborate valentines from real lace, ribbons, and colorful pictures known as “scrap.”

**Information was taken from the History Channel website:**
http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day

**FUN FACT:**
According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine’s Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine’s Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas). Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.
“Valentine’s Day means going the extra mile to show your loved ones that you love and appreciate them by doing something simple, yet special on that day. Valentine’s Day is also my wedding anniversary so it really means a lot to me and my family.”

Osha Benguche
Belize, Central America
Financial Specialist

“I think it is a nice idea to show appreciation for the ones you love, but that can be done on any day of the year, so, I usually don’t place a lot of importance on the idea of celebrating Valentine’s Day.”

Jorja Pitzer
LeRoy, IL
Graduate Student

“Valentine’s Day is about love and chocolate. It’s important to show the people in your life how much you love them with lots and lots of chocolate. This is also a good idea on the other days of the year.”

Tierny Austin
Rockford, IL
Senior
| “Valentine’s Day is a time to reflect and rekindle the love and affection you have for that special someone.” |
| Michael Jones  
| St. Louis, MO  
| Academic Advisor, SOAR |
| “Valentine’s Day means chocolate, flowers, and stuffed animals.” |
| James Bell  
| Caseyville, IL  
| Graduate Student |
| “Valentine’s Day is an opportunity to really show a special person that you are going above and beyond a normal day together.” |
| Todd Schultze  
| Ottawa, KS  
| Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach |
| “It is my favorite day! I love to give and receive gifts; from my husband, especially.” |
| Kelley Brooks  
| Chicago, IL  
| Admissions Recruitment Coordinator |
“Valentine’s Day, to me, is a day where you show your significant other how much you truly care and appreciate them. It’s more than just getting nice and expensive gifts; it’s about spending time with the one you love.”

Jeren McGhee
Chicago, IL
Senior

“Valentine’s Day is just a day where I see people showing their affection for each other a little too much in public.”

Michelle Kleina
Buckingham, IL
Junior

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion also has the Spring Film Series happening this semester!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Film Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>11:00am-1:30pm</td>
<td>The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow parts 1-2 Room 3102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>11:00am-1:30pm</td>
<td>The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow parts 3-4 Room 3102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>11:00am-1:30pm</td>
<td>Freedom on My Mind Room 3102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>11:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td>Harassment: Sex, Religion &amp; Beyond Rendleman Hall 3102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>12:00pm-1:00pm</td>
<td>Memory of Forgotten War Rendleman Hall 3102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>12:00pm-1:00pm</td>
<td>The Language You Cry In Rendleman Hall 3102</td>
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</tbody>
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University’s “We Are One” Campaign woven into speech competition, promotes diversity

The Speech Center and the Kimmel Student Involvement Center have come together to host a speech competition, promoting the “We Are One” campaign through Student Government. The speech competition is solely based around the topic of diversity, which is where the “We Are One” campaign comes into play. “We Are One” reinforces that students, faculty and staff are all one regardless of our background, where we are from, our gender and sexual orientation.

The competition requires anyone who participates to write their own speech and later perform it in front of a live audience. Students will complete a questionnaire after entering, making sure they are in a good academic standing. A waiver must also be signed in case of a pass out from nerves or random mishap. A two-to-four minute video must be submitted by the entered students, telling the judges about themselves, what makes them a good public speaker, and what diversity means to them. Three separate judges will individually review the preliminary applicant videos and pick the top six.

The six winners will be notified on March 6, giving them three weeks to write and prepare their final six-to-eight minute speeches based on the topic of diversity.

The third place winner receives $100, second place receives $200 and the first prizewinner receives $300.

To enter, students are to visit siue.speechcenterblog.wordpress.com in order to see the requirements. The deadline to enter the event is Feb. 27th. The speech competition is at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, in the Goshen Lounge.

The complete article, written by Madison O’Brien, can be found at http://www.aestlive.com/news/article_e4f6c680-ab32-11e4-9018-5fd1c9cc0a6b.html
FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 20
6:00 PM
SCIENCE BUILDING
AUDITORIUM
FREE ADMISSION
Join SIUE professors from the departments of English and Historical Studies for a viewing and discussion of this award-winning film. Refreshments provided.


A Town Hall Style Truth-Telling and Reconciliation Dialogue

Fri. Feb. 27
12:30 - 2:30pm
Missouri Room (Morris University Center)

This open dialogue will be facilitated by activist-educator-scholars from different campus communities as well as SIUE faculty and students:

Dr. Jennifer Logue, Educational Leadership, Women’s Studies, SIUE
Dr. Alyson K. Spurgas, Sociology, Women’s Studies, SIUE
Dr. David Ragland, Co-director of the Truth-Telling Project for Ferguson and Beyond, Visiting Professor of Education, Bucknell University
Dr. Jessica A. Heybach, Associate Professor of Education, Aurora University
Dr. Eric C. Sheffield, Professor of Philosophical Foundations of Education at Missouri State University, Springfield

Africa Week Celebrations:

UBUNTU: Celebrating our Blackness
Friday, February 13, 2015
ASA and CAB Movie Marathon “Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom”
Science East Auditorium Room 1105
8 pm

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Open Forum / Discussion led by Professor Prince Wells “Bridging the Gap between Africans and African Americans”
Lovejoy Library Friends Corner 3 - 4:30 pm

Thursday, February 19, 2015
Popular African Music “Afro-Beats Time”
Goshen Lounge
11 am - 1 pm

Saturday, February 21, 2015
African Night
Meridian Ballroom
5:30 pm doors open for dinner and entertainment
Tickets on sale at MUC Information Center