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1. Greetings!

This is the Weekly ISSS Newsletter that we send out every Friday. It includes very important updates that you must be aware of, as well as information about events happening on campus and in the area.
2. Important Announcements

International Peer Mentor Volunteers Needed

Do you want to help new international freshman at UAlbany? You are invited to apply for the International Student Peer Mentor program. This new program by the office of International Student and Scholar Services is designed to give current international students an leadership opportunity by supporting new international freshman in their adjustment to life at UAlbany. You can complete the application for the volunteer International Peer Mentor position here:

https://goo.gl/forms/wW2Vcu1NH0PZW7Ht1

Applications are due Wednesday, November 29. Please contact ISSS@albany.edu if you have questions about this program.
International Peer Mentor

Help new international students connect to the UAlbany campus, US culture, and one another. With this semester-long volunteer program you will gain experience advising and leading other students. You will get International Student Peer Mentor training so that you can work with small groups of new student, teaching them about resources at Albany and helping them make connections to campus. You will develop new skills while helping another international student!

Apply by November 29
https://goo.gl/forms/Djx1IPym8Jq5FpW93

Want to help new international freshman?

Why Become a Peer Mentor?

Experience for your resume
Develop personal skills
It's fun!

Questions?? Contact ISSS@albany.edu
Intercultural Social Tonight
November 13-17, 2017

International Social and Country Presentations

**When:** Today Friday November 17, 2017

**Time:** 3:00-5:00PM, SL 3rd Floor.

Please register here: [https://goo.gl/forms/uoGTMPQeFvgppf3D3](https://goo.gl/forms/uoGTMPQeFvgppf3D3)
International Celebration for Graduating Students

The Center for International Education and Global Strategy will host a ceremony for graduating international students, study abroad students who are graduating, as well as exchange students and scholars who are returning to their home countries at the end of the semester.

We look forward to seeing you at the International Celebration and Reception!

**Date:** Thursday, December 7, 2017  
**Time:** 2:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Campus Center Ballroom, reception immediately following in Assembly Hall/Fireside Lounge

See:  
https://www.facebook.com/isssatualbany/videos/1015478695148679/
December Graduation 2017

Applying for graduation and attending the commencement ceremonies are two different processes. All student who plan to graduate this December must apply for graduation through the Registrar’s Office. This is not the same as the ceremony. Commencement is the ceremonies that students participate in to have their graduation publicly recognized.

The University at Albany will not hold Commencement ceremonies in December. All students who graduate in the 2017-2018 academic year will be invited to May Commencement. The ISSS office recognize that this could be a burden for some international students, so we invite you to participate in our International Celebration this December. Here is more information on each process:

**Apply for Graduation:**

- Students completing all of their degree requirements and graduating this December, 2017 should apply for graduation
- You will apply through MyUAlbany. Instructions can be found here: [http://www.albany.edu/registrar/degree-application.php](http://www.albany.edu/registrar/degree-application.php).
  - This is how you ensure that you get your degree.

**December 2017 International Celebration:**

- Graduating students are invited to the 4th Annual International Celebration on December 7, 2017 at 2:30.
This ceremony celebrates the students who have helped promote internationalization at the University at Albany. Your name will be called as you walk across the stage and receive a special sash.

More information can be found here: http://us11.campaign-archive.com/?e=&u=f7d562aa2bd0bbfccc5f7420&id=58bf81b381

Register for Commencement:

- Students who graduate during the 2017-2018 academic year will be invited to attend the Commencement Ceremonies May 18-20, 2018. There are no university wide commencement ceremonies in December.
- Commencement registration is not open yet, but information will be sent to all students who apply for graduation in the 2017-2018 academic year.
  - You can find also out more about Commencement here: http://www.albany.edu/commencement/.

Updated I-765 Form

This week USCIS issued an updated I-765 form. The I-765 is used by F-1 students to apply for work authorization, most commonly OPT. The new form is designed to allow applicants to begin the process for requesting a Social Security Number while applying for an EAD card. The previous I-765 will still be accepted through December 3, 2017 by USCIS. Any application received after December 3, 2017 must use the updated I-765 form, or else the application will be denied. Students can access the new I-765 on USCIS's website, here: https://www.uscis.gov/i-765
3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

OPT/CPT Workshops

The OPT filling period is now open for December graduates! Start the process for applying for OPT early!

Students applying for OPT are required to attend one of the mandatory workshop sessions. Students who are applying for CPT are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop as well.

CPT and OPT Workshops
Fall 2017

OPT Workshops
- Monday, 9/18, 3pm-4pm, SL 605
- Wednesday, 9/27, 2pm-3pm, SL 605
- Thursday, 10/5, 10am-11am, Downtown Campus, Draper Hall 446
- Friday, 10/13, 10am-11am, SL 605
- Tuesday, 10/17, 11am-12pm, East Campus, Room C5
- Monday, 10/23, 9am-10am, SL 605
- Friday, 10/30, 10am-11am, SL 605
- Monday 11/6, 10am-11am, Downtown Campus, Heublein Hall 308
- Wednesday 11/15, 11am-12pm, SL 605
- Thursday, 12/7, 3-4pm, SL 605
- Friday, 12/15, 10am-11am, SL 605
- Tuesday, 12/20, 3:30-4:30, SL 605

Other Important Dates
- Wednesday, 9/13: Tickshop Job and Internship Fair, 12pm-3pm, SEUIC Areas
- Wednesday, 9/20: Beginning of OPT filing season for December graduates.
- Monday, 10/16: Tentative date for December graduates.
- Friday, 10/28: Late OPT start date for December graduates to request. All OPT applications for December graduates must be received by ISSS before this date.

International Student and Scholar Services
Science Library G-30
Phone: 734-353-8677
Email: ISSS@umich.edu

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9:00am-4:00pm
No appointments needed
ISSS Advising Hours - East Campus Fall 2017

Students interested in international advising on the East Campus must schedule an appointment by emailing ISSS@albany.edu no later than 5pm on the Monday before the below dates:

- Tuesday, October 17th: 11am-1pm
- Tuesday, October 31st: 11am-1pm
- Tuesday, November 14th: 11am-1pm
- Tuesday, November 28th: 11am-1pm
- Tuesday, December 12th: 11am-1pm

Additionally, ISSS will host an OPT Workshop on the East Campus on Tuesday, October 24th at 11am in Classroom C2. No appointment is required.
Call for Photographers!
Click, send and get it published in ISSS Newsletter

Do you want your photographs published in the header block in the ISSS newsletter?
You can send us a landscape picture of any On-Campus attractions, buildings, diversity on-campus and more.
You can email your entry to ISSS@albany.edu with a subject "Newsletter Photograph Entry"
4. University at Albany Events

When We Were Young: Rethinking Abstracts from the University at Albany Art Collections (1967-present)

**When:** Saturday, November 18, 2017 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
**Where:** [University Art Museum Fine Arts Building](http://www.albany.edu/museum/)

**See:** [http://www.albany.edu/museum/](http://www.albany.edu/museum/)

**Description:** When We Were Young looks back and highlights the earliest years of the University at Albany Art Collections. Shining a fresh light on late-Modernist abstraction as it relates to current trends in contemporary art. Artists include Josef Albers, Max Bill, Jack Bosson, Chryssa, Gene Davis, Donald Judd,
Ellsworth Kelly, Michael Kidner, Kim Lim, Luis Molinari Flores, Henry Pearson, Peter Taylor among others. Museum Hours: Tues 10 am – 7 pm; Weds through Fri, 10 am – 5 pm; Sat noon – 4 pm

Men's Basketball Versus Yale

**When:** Friday, November 17, 2017 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Where:** SEFCU Arena

**Description:** Men's Basketball hosts Yale.

See: [http://www.ualbanysports.com](http://www.ualbanysports.com)
A Doll's House at Performing Arts Center

**When:** Saturday November 18, 2017 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM (See more dates in the poster)

**Where:** Performing Arts Center
ITS Class Microsoft Excel 2013: Formulas & Efficiency

**When:** Monday, November 20, 2017 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
**Where:** LC SB 30A Lecture Center Sub Basement

See: [https://doodle.com/poll/fsm73nnt3dpz5yi9](https://doodle.com/poll/fsm73nnt3dpz5yi9)

**Description:** We’ll learn some of the most common formulas and use sample spreadsheets to practice inserting formulas into cells.

*For more UAlbany Events,*
[https://events.albany.edu/cal/main/showMainEnd.rdo](https://events.albany.edu/cal/main/showMainEnd.rdo)
5. **Capital Region Event**

**Light Up the Holidays**

**When:** Today, November 17, 2017 - 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
**Where:** Washington Park, Albany

**Description:** Join Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Santa, and other special guests as they throw the switch for Light Up the Holidays. Take a walk around the lake as part of the walk-only Charity Walk Night to benefit the local Charities of Choice for 2017. Suggested donations are $5 per person or $10 per family.  
**See:** [https://www.albany.com/holiday/annual-events/capital-lights/](https://www.albany.com/holiday/annual-events/capital-lights/)

**Pottery Market**

**When:** Today until Saturday, November 18, 2017 - 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
**Where:** Pat’s Barn at Rensselaer Tech Park, 110 Defreest Dr. Troy, NY 12180
Description: Handmade Pottery that is not only beautiful but is functional, decorative, whimsical, elegant and all made by local artisans who are members of The Collar City Clay Guild. There's something for everyone. Jewelry, ornaments, ovenware, sculpture, plates, platters, vases, lamps, mugs, bowls and so much more. beautiful one of a kind pieces to give as gifts, or for yourself.

See: [https://www.albany.com/event/pottery-market-157839/](https://www.albany.com/event/pottery-market-157839/)
Albany Star Sighting

When: Saturday, Nov 18, 2017 - 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Where: Albany Visitors Center (Henry Hudson Planetarium), 25 Quackenbush Square, Albany, NY 12207

Description: Interactive program identifies stars, planets, comets and constellations in the night sky and the tools and techniques for becoming an amateur astronomer. Geared for skywatchers ages 8 and above. Cost: $3 per person.

See: https://www.albany.com/event/albany-star-sighting-138900/
Annual Daily Gazette Holiday Parade

**When:** Saturday, Nov 18, 2017 - 5:00 PM  
**Where:** State Street, Schenectady, NY

**Description:** The Annual Daily Gazette Holiday Parade will be held on November 18, 2017, at 5pm. This is the 49th anniversary of the Capital Region tradition. The Daily Gazette, the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Schenectady come together for this wonderful occasion. The theme for this year is "The Parade of Lights: 125 Years of Schenectady." The floats, dancers, bands, vehicles, and parade attendees will be the biggest and the brightest! The parade will be adorned with lights, sparkle, and all the shine the holiday season offers.

**See:** [https://www.albany.com/event/gazette-holiday-parade-25894/](https://www.albany.com/event/gazette-holiday-parade-25894/)