Table of Contents

1. Greeting

2. Important Announcements
   - Immediate Opening for Graduate Assistant, ISSS
   - Holiday Party Today!
   - ISSS Travel Signature Day
   - December Graduation 2017
   - Join Cultural Connections and IFP Next Semester!

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events
   - ResLife Mixer
   - CPT and OPT Workshops
   - ISSS Advising Hours - East Campus Fall 2017
   - Call for Photographers! Click, send and get it published in ISSS newsletter
4. University at Albany Events
- Fridays At The Student Success Center - Zen Zone
  - Holiday Concert
  - Calm Coloring
  - Twenty Drummers Drummin'

5. Capital District Events
- The Godfather Part II at The Madison Theater
- ESYO's Annual Barnes & Noble Bookfair
- 11th Annual Schenectady Festival of Trees
  - Capital Holiday Lights in the Park
- Empire "Skate" Plaza - Part of Winter at the Plaza

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

Immediate Opening for Graduate Assistant, ISSS

The International Student and Scholar Services Office is seeking applicants for a graduate student assistant position, to start as soon as possible for the 2017-2018 academic year.
The work obligation is 20 hours per week during the appointed period. Work during vacation periods will be discussed with a supervisor. A work schedule will be agreed
upon no later than the end of the first week of class each semester.

To apply, please complete this Google Form [https://goo.gl/forms/kVY3hNq0FivzSiJx2](https://goo.gl/forms/kVY3hNq0FivzSiJx2) and email your resume and cover letter to [ISSS@albany.edu](mailto:ISSS@albany.edu). Please include your full name and UAlbany ID number in the email, and format your subject line “GA Application Materials LAST NAME, First.” Applications are due by December 18th, 2017 to be considered.

Benefits:
- $12,000 stipend for the academic year or $15.00/hour (because the position is starting mid-year this will be pro-rated)
- No tuition waiver or other benefits available

**Holiday Party Today!**

[Image for Holiday Party information]
ISSS Travel Signature Days

Don't miss the opportunity to have your I-20 or DS-2019 signed for travel on the spot in the Science Library, G-05!

Tuesday, September 19th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-40
Friday, December 1st, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Tuesday, December 12th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Monday, December 18th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Travel signatures are valid for one year for most full-time students. If you are uncertain if your signature is still valid, check with an ISSS advisor.
December Graduation 2017

Applying for graduation and attending the commencement ceremonies are two different processes. All students 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.

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/](http://www.albany.edu/commencement/).
Join Cultural Connections and IFP Next Semester!

**APPLY HERE:** [https://goo.gl/forms/o0TXSBw9G5z0zwf2](https://goo.gl/forms/o0TXSBw9G5z0zwf2)

Cultural Connections is a student group which coordinates the International Friendship Partners, a series of programs designed to help both American and international students make friends with each other. Participants will also learn different cultures and languages through cultural activities. You can choose to participate in one or more programs listed below:

**Part I**

*International Buddies Program:* You will be helping new international students adjust to academic and community life at UAlbany.

**Part II**

*Language & Cultural Exchange Program:* The International Friendship Partners Program is designed to provide an opportunity for U.S. and international students to interact regularly on a small group basis outside of the classroom setting.

**Part III**

*Community & Public Service Program:* You can take RSSW 291 (2 credits) for meeting friends and doing cultural activities! Please find program syllabus in application.

**APPLY FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE PROGRAMS, HERE:**

[https://goo.gl/forms/o0TXSBw9G5z0zwf2](https://goo.gl/forms/o0TXSBw9G5z0zwf2)
3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

ResLife Mixer

OPT/CPT Workshops
The OPT filling period is now open of December graduates! Start the process for applying for OPT early!
Students applying for OPT are required to attend one of the below mandatory workshop sessions. Students who are applying for CPT are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop as well.

### CPT and OPT Workshops

#### Fall 2017

**CPT Workshops**
- Tuesday, 9/12, 4pm-5pm, SL G05
- Wednesday, 10/18, 3:45pm, SL G05
- Thursday, 11/16, 10am-11am, SL G05
- Monday, 12/11, 4pm-5pm, SL G05

**OPT Workshops**
- Monday, 9/11, 3pm-4pm, SL G05
- Wednesday, 9/27, 3pm-4pm, SL G05
- Thursday, 10/3, 10am-11am, Downtown Campus, Draper Hall 2.46
- Friday, 10/13, 10am-11am, SL G05
- Tuesday, 10/24, 11am-12pm, East Campus, Room C3
- Monday, 10/30, 10am-11am, SL G05
- Friday, 11/10, 4pm-5pm, SL G05
- Monday, 11/20, 2-4pm, Downtown Campus, Hunted Hall 308
- Wednesday, 11/29, 3-4pm, SL G05
- Thursday, 12/7, 3-4pm SL G05
- Friday, 12/15, 10am-11am, SL G05
- Tuesday, 12/19, 4pm-4pm, SL G05

**Other Important Dates**
- Wednesday, 9/13: UAB Job and Internship Fair, 12pm-3pm, SEFVC Room
- Wednesday, 9/19: Beginning of OPT filing season for December 2017 graduates.
- Monday, 12/4: Turn in dates for December graduates.
- Friday, 12/16: Latest OPT start dates for December graduates to request. All OPT applications for December graduates must be received by USCIS before his/her date.
ISSS Advising Hours - East Campus Fall 2017

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

Fridays At The Student Success Center - Zen Zone

**When:** Friday, December 8, 2017 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
**Where:** State Quad - Student Success Center - Whitman Hall, 2nd Floor

**Description:** Stop by the Student Success Center and get in the Zen Zone before finals. We will have several stress relief stations including FREE Massages, a trail mix making station, a stress ball making station, and an art station. We hope to see you there!
Holiday Concert

**When:** Sunday, December 10, 2017 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Where:** Performing Arts Center (Main Theatre) Main Campus

See: [http://www.albany.edu/pac/music_dept.shtml?tab=tab2](http://www.albany.edu/pac/music_dept.shtml?tab=tab2)

**Description:** Music Program ensembles (Chorale, Chamber Singers, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra) are joined by student groups (Serendipity,
Earth Tones, Pitch Please and Golden Chords) for a concert celebrating the season.

**Calm Coloring**

**When:** Monday, December 11, 2017 8:30 AM - 11:00 PM  
**Where:** University Library Uptown Campus, University at Albany, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222

See: [http://libguides.library.albany.edu/c.php?g=754778&p=5409102](http://libguides.library.albany.edu/c.php?g=754778&p=5409102)

**Description:** Upper and Lower Levels. We provide the tools, you provide the artistry. #StressLessUAlbany @ Dewey Library.

**Twenty Drummers Drummin'**

**When:** Monday, December 11, 2017 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
**Where:** Performing Arts Center (Main Theatre) Main Campus
See: [http://www.albany.edu/pac/music_dept.shtml?tab=tab2](http://www.albany.edu/pac/music_dept.shtml?tab=tab2)

**Description:** The University Percussion Ensemble performs. Featured on the program is the haunting work by Allen Molineux, “Crystals” with soprano Angela Matheny teaming up with the ensemble in this presentation of a poem by Kathleen Geminder. Ms. Matheny is the Choir Director and Leader of Song at the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Watervliet and is attending the University at Albany, in the studio of Frances Wittmann, to obtain a B.A. in Vocal Performance.

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

The Godfather Part II at The Madison Theater

Hosted By: The Madison Theater

When: Today until Sunday, Dec 10, 2017 - 4:00 PM

Where: The Madison Theater, 1036 Madison Avenue Albany, NY 12208

See: https://www.albany.com/event/the-godfather-part-ii-at-the-madison-theater-160235/
**ESYO's Annual Barnes & Noble Book fair**

**Hosted By:** Empire State Youth Orchestra, Inc.

**When:** Saturday, Dec 9, 2017 - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

**Where:** Colonie Center B&N, 131 Colonie Center #355 Albany, NY 12205

**Description:** Dozens of ESYO musicians will spread holiday cheer at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Colonie Center for ESYO’s annual Friend-raiser. On that day, solo performers and small ensembles from a variety of ESYO ensembles will be performing holiday music and much more for shoppers.

---

**11th Annual Schenectady Festival of Trees**

**When:** Today until Saturday, Dec 23, 2017 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Where:** Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305 & YWCA, 44 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305
Description: Visit beautifully decorated trees in the YWCA and the Schenectady County Historical Society. Community organizations, schools, groups, clubs, businesses, and families are welcome to decorate a tree. Weekdays 12pm to 5pm; Weekends 10am to 4pm.
See: [http://schenectadyhistorical.org/trees/](http://schenectadyhistorical.org/trees/)

**Capital Holiday Lights in the Park**

**Hosted By:** Albany Police Athletic League

**When:** Today until Tuesday, Dec 12, 2017 - 6:00 PM

**Where:** Washington Park, Albany, NY

Empire "Skate" Plaza - Part of Winter at the Plaza

When: Today until Sunday, Dec 10, 2017 - 11:00 AM
Where: Empire State Plaza Ice Rink, Albany, NY 12210

Description: Now in its 7th year, the tremendously popular Empire State Plaza Ice Rink is open daily December 1 through March 11, from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. (closed for maintenance from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.) and skating is free. Located in the shadow of Albany's majestic State Capitol, amenities include a full-service snack bar on Friday nights and weekends and a skate lounge with lockers.

See: https://www.albany.com/event/empire-skate-plaza-159679/