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January 31, 2020

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1. Greetings!

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

Are you a part of a student organization and want to see your event advertised to your fellow students? Please send the details and/or flyer to ISSS@albany.edu.

2. Important Announcements
Ski Trip February 23rd-- Sign Up Open!

ISSS offers off-campus trips to students every semester, including a Learn To Ski or Snowboard Trip! On Sunday, February 23rd, ISSS will take a group of students to Willard Mountain for skiing and snowboarding (9am-4pm). The cost of the trip is $55 per student; cost covers transportation, ski or snowboard rentals, and a lesson. Spots are limited. By signing up for the trip you are making a reservation for your spot, and your student account will be charged $55. To sign up, fill in this form: https://tinyurl.com/ISSS2020Ski

OPT/CPT Workshop Schedule, Spring 2020

ISSS has weekly employment workshops, either for CPT authorization or OPT authorization. Students must attend one of these workshops before applying for OPT. Remember that USCIS estimates up to 3-5 months for processing of an OPT application.

To view a full schedule, please click here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/OPT_CPT_flyer_Spring_2020.pdf
### CPT and OPT Workshops

**Spring 2020**

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<td>Thursday, Jan. 23, 3:30-5:00, SL G05</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 26, 3:30-5:00, SL G05</td>
<td>Friday, Jan. 31, 3:30-5:00, SL G05</td>
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<td>Monday, Feb. 10, 3:30-5:00, SL G05</td>
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**Other Important Dates**

- **February 14, 2020:** First day USCIS may receive OPT requests from May 2020 graduates
- **May 13, 2020:** Program end date for May graduates (Bachelor’s/Master’s; PhD see ISSS)
- **July 11, 2020:** Latest OPT start date for May graduates to request. All OPT applications for May graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.

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**International Circle: Empowerment & Connection**

This group, run by CAPS, meets on Thursdays from 4:00pm-5:15pm in Campus Center Room 308. This is a time to
谈关于在美国留学期间你可能会遇到的担忧和问题。

**Registration Requirements for F-1 & J-1 Students**

所有F-1和J-1学生必须满时注册，以维持其移民身份。全时对本科生的要求是至少12个学分，对研究生的要求是至少9个学分。其中，每学期只能有一个课程或3学分为中国100%的在线课程，学生只能参加在线课程。

满足条件的学生必须完成减课申请(RCL)表，与学术顾问一起完成并提交给ISSS以供批准。只有在完成RCL并获得批准后，学生才能被视为非全时。

如果有资格的理由，学生必须完成并提交减课申请表。
The RCL Form is an E-Form available online, you can access it here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/89007.php. There is a registration hold preventing students from dropping below full-time. You must get approval from ISSS first.

Please pay attention to the add/drop dates according to the academic calendar: https://www.albany.edu/registrar/academic_calendar.php

Update your SEVIS USA Address, Phone Number, and Email

Are you living somewhere new this semester? To maintain your legal status SEVIS must have your current U.S. address and phone number. Every student must check this information in MyUAlbany to ensure it is correct. Please do this immediately:

Step 1: Log-in to MyUAlbany
In the middle box on the left, click on Demographic Data

Step 2: Check your SEVIS USA Address:

- On the tabs, click on addresses
- If you have a SEVIS USA Address listed, check that it is your correct United States address
- If you do not have a SEVIS USA Address, click the Add a new Address button
- Type in the address where you live in the US.
- Press OK.
- Check SEVIS USA from the list of Address Types
- Click Save

Step 3: Check your SEVIS Foreign Address:

- On the tabs, click on addresses.
- If you have a SEVIS Foreign Address listed, check that it is your correct address OUTSIDE the US
- If you do not have a SEVIS Foreign Address, click the Add a new Address button
- Click the Change County link and chose your home country
- Type in your address outside the US. Press OK.
- Check SEVIS Foreign from the list of Address Types
- Click Save

Step 4: Check your Phone Number:

- On the tabs, click on phone numbers
- Look at the phone number you have checked as preferred
- If it is a US based phone number, be sure it is formatted like this (but with your phone number): 999/999-9999. Make sure that there is not a 1 or + or other number in front. There should be nothing in the Country box
If it is a number from outside the US, put the County Code in the box that says Country and put the rest of the number in the box that says Telephone

Click Save

Sprintax Code for Taxes

ISSS has purchased Sprintax tax software to help international students and scholars to file their 2019 federal tax return. Codes for Sprintax will be available on **Monday, February 3, 2020**. To obtain a tax code; please email ISSS, at isss@albany.edu. To obtain a Sprintax tax code, please email isss@albany.edu. Please include the following information in your email: first & last name, student id number, and the name of your employer. If you were not employed, please go to: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf, to obtain form 8843. For questions, please contact ISSS.

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

Travel Signature Day Schedule, Spring 2020

Every F-1 and J-1 student must have a valid travel signature on their I-20 or DS-2019 in order to re-enter the United States after traveling outside. These travel signatures are usually valid for 1 year while you are a full-time student, though we recommend getting your I-20 or DS2019 signed every 6 months. Usually, travel signature requests take 5-7 business days. On our special travel signature days, however, we will sign the I-20 or DS-2019 on the spot. You can view the schedule here:https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/Spring_2020.pdf. We recommend that every student attend one of these days, even if you don't have travel plans yet.
Cultural Connections Welcome Back Reception February 21st

A great opportunity to meet new and continuing students, including food, socializing and fun activities. We hope to see you there.

Get your I-20/DS-2019 signed once a year, even if you don’t have plans to travel yet!

Bring your I-20 or DS-2019.

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

Thursday, March 12th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Monday, April 27th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Wednesday, May 6th, (Reading Day), 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Monday, May 11th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Welcome/Welcome Back Reception

Date: Feb. 21st, 2020

Time: 3:30-5:00pm

Where: Standish Room of the Science Library (3rd Floor)

Food, Activities and Fun for new students, Buddy Program Participants and Continuing Students!!!

“Email isss@albany.edu (subject: CC Welcome Reception) with questions.”

UAlbany Project MyStory: Call for Volunteers
UALBANY PROJECT MYSTORY
CALL FOR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

EARN 1-3 RSSW CREDITS
Plan a Storytelling Conference for Children, Facilitate our Student-to-Student Success Series, and/or Become a MyStory Blogger!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY
VISIT UALBANYMYSTORY.COM/JOINUS
E-MAIL UALBANYMYSTORY@GMAIL.COM

Sponsors:
The Center for International Education and Global Strategy
The Academic Support Center
Skribblers Magazine, Inc.

Study Abroad Fair-February 6 2020
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Campus Center West Expansion, Great Hall (Next to Starbucks)
Is studying abroad for you? Come chat with advisors, faculty leaders and study abroad alum about your many options!

DMV 5 Hour Classes on Campus

Students and staff who are seeking to get their driver's license can take the required 5 Hour Course right here on campus. We have partnered with Albany Driving School and Right Way Driving Center who will be facilitating the classes on select Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in the Campus Center Student Success Center. No Sign Up is required, students can show up and the cost to take the class is $45.00. Please see attached flyer for details and complete schedule! The first opportunity is set to kick off this Saturday, February 1st from Noon – 5PM!
4. University at Albany Events

Click [Here](#) for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

**Winning Wednesdays at the Student Success Center**

Winning Wednesdays is a series of events held on select Wednesdays throughout the semester from 11AM – 1PM in the Campus Center’s Student Success Center. We encourage all students to join us this semester for this series of programs developed to assist all students (specifically 3rd and 4th year students) successfully prepare for graduation. All class years are welcome to attend. Please see attached flyer for Winning Wednesday’s event listings.
Men’s Basketball vs. Vermont
When: Saturday, February 1, 2020 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Where: SEFCU Arena
Cost: $12-30, UAlbany students free
Description: Men’s Basketball hosts America East powerhouse Vermont in the annual Big Purple Growl game.

Big Purple Growl and Ferocious Feast
When: Saturday, February 1, 2020 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM
Where: Physical Education Building - Gymnasium Main Level
Cost: Feast and Game Package adults $25, children $8; Feast Only adults $20 see site for more options
Description: The Big Purple Growl and Ferocious Feast, is a yearly tradition that celebrates school spirit and pride in our Great Danes. Enjoy great food and entertainment at the Ferocious Feast, a pregame party at the University Gym from 5:00-6:45 p.m. Catch some exciting basketball action as our men’s team dominate the boards against Binghamton.
Beethoven Festival - Concert #5
When: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Where: Performing Arts Center (Recital Hall) Main Campus
Cost: $3-$10
Description: As part of the season-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of the great composer’s birth, cellist David Bebe and pianist Young Kim perform Cello and Piano Sonatas: Op. 5 No. 1, Op. 5 No. 2, Op. 102 No. 2.
PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THEATRE

All About Ancient Grains - EAP Lunchtime Wellness Program
When: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Where: Health Sciences Campus Cafe Conference Room George Education Center
Description: When trying to take in a diet high in fiber for health benefits, consuming whole grains is a great start. Getting those whole grains can come in many forms, not just from brown rice and whole grain breads/cereals. Participants will sample a tasty ancient grains recipe, learn and see what the different grains look like, and obtain recipes to prepare at home using these grains. Presenter: Patty Wukitsch, MS, RD, CDN

Craft talk with Wesley Yang, journalist and essayist
When: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM
Where: Science Library - Standish Room
Cost: Free
Description: National Magazine Award-winning essayist Wesley Yang presents The Souls of Yellow Folk (2018), a powerful collection of essays about the biases faced by Asian Americans, and the peculiar racial anxieties awakened in the larger public by their successes. The collection was named among the best books of the year by the NY Times Book Review, Washington Post, Spectator and Publishers Weekly.

5. Capital District Events
ESYO Playathon at Crossgates Mall
When: Saturday, Feb 1, 2020 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM
Where: Crossgates Mall, 1 Crossgates Mall Road Albany, NY 12203
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here
ESYO will transform Crossgates Mall into a symphony hall for its annual Playathon. This free, family event will take place from 10:30AM through 6:30PM and will showcase over 600 youth musicians---ESYO's biggest-ever Playathon! It’s the only day where all ESYO ensembles (including CHIME) perform--from the deep rumble of the Percussion Ensembles to the uplifting trills of the Wind Orchestra. Playathon exposes our entire community to the joys of music. But most importantly, Playathon is the biggest ESYO fundraiser of the year and helps cover our expenses not covered by tuition. Your Playathon gift directly supports all ESYO ensembles and helps ESYO maintain its commitment to providing scholarships to talented musicians in need. With your help, ESYO can continue to ensure that no qualified musician is ever turned away from the ESYO experience.

Winter Festival and Artisan Market
When: Saturday, Feb 1, 2020 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Where: Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station, 284 Pond Hill Road Rensselaerville, NY 12147
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here
What better way to spend a winter day than enjoying quality, fun time with your family and community at the Preserve! From sledding and ice skating (bring your own skates!), to live rescue demonstrations, we’ll have outdoor activities for everyone to enjoy. Warm-up inside with hot cocoa and food, take part in a craft project, and shop for hand-crafted treasures from our local vendors. You’ll also get a chance to join Kelly Martin, local wildlife rehabilitator, for an indoor show-and-tell of her rescued animals, and come along on a guided hike in our winter woods. This event is free with opportunities to support local food vendors and artists and organizations in the Artisan Market.

**Winter Witches Festival**

When: Saturday, Feb 1, 2020 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Where: Colonie Elks Club, 11 Elks Lane Latham, NY 12210

Cost: $5

For more info, click [here](#)
All-day workshops with renowned area witches. Reading with various types of readers such as Tarot, palm, medical intuitive, and mediums. Massage and Reike session. Over 20 vendors for all you witchy needs: oils, herbs, candles, metaphysical tools, crystals, soaps, pagan artwork, artisan soaps, and much more. Presented by Tiffany Marie Butler and Gypsy Witch Doctor (see us on Facebook). Elks Bar will be open for food and drinks.

NYS Writers Institute presents Dr. Sandeep Jauhar, author of "Heart: A History"

When: Monday, Feb 3, 2020 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Where: Page Hall, UAlbany Downtown Campus, 135 Western Avenue Albany, NY 12203
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here
“Gripping . . . Jauhar hooks the reader of Heart from the first few pages.”

HEART A HISTORY

SANDEEP JAUHAR

AUTHOR OF DOCTORED AND INTERN
For centuries, the human heart seemed beyond our understanding: an inscrutable shuddering mass that was somehow the driver of emotion and the seat of the soul. As the cardiologist and bestselling author Sandeep Jauhar shows in Heart: A History, it was only recently that we demolished age-old taboos and devised the transformative procedures that have changed the way we live. Deftly alternating between key historical episodes and his own work, Jauhar tells the colorful and little-known story of the doctors who risked their careers and the patients who risked their lives to know and heal our most vital organ.

Friends of APL Author Talk - Mark Berger
When: Tuesday, Feb 4, 2020 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM
Where: Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12210
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here
Something's Happening Here
A Sixties Odyssey from Brooklyn to Woodstock
Mark Berger
Nassau author Mark Berger brings the 1960’s alive in “this whirlwind ride...that begins in Brooklyn and ends at Woodstock.” Berger's memoir “Something's Happening Here: A Sixties Odyssey from Brooklyn to Woodstock” is his first book. The Friends of Albany Public Library host regular book reviews, author talks, and special presentations every Tuesday at 12:15 pm at the Washington Ave. Branch. These presentations are free and open to the public. No registration is required.

International Crossroads Albany Event

International Crossroads Albany (ICA) will sponsor a welcome party for U Albany international students on Saturday evening, February 1, from 6:00-9:00 pm at Grace Chapel of Clifton Park (996 Main Street, Clifton Park, NY 12065). This is a joint party with RPI and Union College students. There will be home-cooked American food, games, prizes, singing, and an opportunity to meet some Americans from the community. The party is open to all international students, visiting scholars, and spouses who has never attended an ICA welcome event before. Rides for students will be available from Collins Circle (near the bus stop) at 5:15 pm on February 1. If you're interested in attending the party, please register using the following link:

http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=qlu9sffab&oeidk=a07egyf6sufwe7c43d3