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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.

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

OPT and CPT Workshops
ISSS offers weekly workshops on off-campus employment, both for OPT and CPT. No reservation is required. If you are graduating in December, the OPT filing period opens September 20th. Students are

4. University at Albany Events
Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

- Great Dane Give Back Community Service
- CSSA Singing Competition
- Post Graduation Service Employment Information Fair
- Well-being Lunch Series
- Fall Ball

5. Capital District Events
- Ghosts of Albany Walking Tour
- 12th Annual Pumpkin Walk
- West African Dance Class
- Double M Haunted Hayrides
encouraged to apply for OPT as early as possible because it can take USCIS 3-5 months (or longer) to process your request for OPT. Please view the schedule here.

CPT and OPT Workshops
Fall 2018

CPT Workshops
- Tuesday, 9/11, 2:30-3:30pm, SL G05
- Thursday, 10/11, 10:30-11:30am, SL G05
- Friday 11/9, 4:00-5:00pm SL G05—For Master’s of Computer Science students
- Wednesday, 11/14, 2:00-3:00pm, SL G05
- Monday 11/26, 10:00-11:00am, SL G05
- Monday 12/3, 3:00-4:00pm, SL G05

Other Important Dates
- Wednesday, September 12th: Job and Internship Fair, SECU Arena
- Thursday, September 20th: First day USCIS may receive OPT requests from December 2018 graduates
- Tuesday, December 18th: Program and end date for December graduates
- Friday, February 15th, 2019: Latest OPT start date for December graduates to request. All OPT applications for December graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.

OPT Workshops
- Thursday, 9/6, 3:45-4:30pm, SL G05
- Wednesday, 9/19, 12:00-1:30pm, SL G05
- Monday, 9/24, 10:00-11:30am, SL G05
- Friday 10/5, 4:00-5:30pm, SL G05
- Tuesday, 10/16, 3:00-4:30pm, SL G05
- Friday, 10/26, 10:00-11:30am, SL G05
- Thursday, 11/1, 11:00-2:30pm, SL G05
- Thursday, 11/15, 10:00-11:30am, SL G05
- Tuesday, 11/20, 11:00am-12:30pm, SL G05
- Friday, 11/30, 3:30-5:00pm, SL G05
- Wednesday, 12/5, 2:00-3:30pm, SL G05
- Friday, 12/14, 10:30am-12:00pm, SL G05

Sign Up to Represent Your Country!
Do you want to be the ambassador of your country at the International Fair on November 14th? You will be assigned a place where you can table your country! Come and share with UAlbany students your culture!

If you have any questions, please contact Jing Zhang-Benavot, jzhang6@albany.edu

Here is the link for sign up to table:
https://goo.gl/forms/rrz925Ph23feLFUU2
Applications for Spring 2019 Orientation Assistant Now Open

Looking for a fun on-campus job this winter? ISSS is seeking Orientation Assistants for New International Student Orientation, January 17th-January 22nd, 2019!

The overall objective of an Orientation Assistant is to provide a genuine welcome for new students and to assist them during the first days of their adjustment to the University and the Capital District. We consider the Orientation Assistants to be important members of the program and we expect the appropriate commitment of time and energy from each assistant. Students will receive a stipend of $250 for approximately 25 hours of work.

Please click https://goo.gl/forms/VDPOp3f8C0v6tGP2 to apply! The deadline for applications is Wednesday, November 14 at 5pm. If you have any questions please contact isss@albany.edu.

Improve Your English Language Skills

A new opportunity is available to enhance your English language skills. This course is designed to give additional support to international students for whom English is a second or new language.

The flyer is below. To sign-up, please email IELP@albany.edu.

**Schedule:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:45-4:45pm, from October 24th-December 10th

**Cost:** $440, textbook included
Immigration Art: Free Consultations and Workshops with an Attorney

We are excited to inform you of a great opportunity to receive 1-on-1 consultations and advice from immigration attorney, Arthur Serratelli, Esq.. Mr Serratelli.—from the Virginia law firm of Seratelli Mijal PLLC—will be here to
provide international students with information on, and resources for, OPT extensions, Academic Training, H-1B visa applications, other possible visa options, or petitions for Permanent Residency. Immigration Art has been working with the UAlbany international community for the last ten years, and we are happy to welcome him back! Personal Consultations via Skype or phone are available by appointment online on November 12th and November 13th. See flyer for details.

November 12th and November 13th, please RSVP to ISSS@albany.edu. See flyer for details.
**Phone Scam Targeting Chinese Students**

A new phone scam targeting Chinese international students has been increasingly reported across the U.S. Phones have been getting repeated robo-calls from a number labeled as “Consulate General” with a number of **213-807-8078**. The recorded voice is in Chinese. A translation conducted appears to be a financial scam similar to the typical IRS type asking for funds. ISSS recommends you never provide personal information over the phone, especially to an unverified caller.

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**3. Other ISSS Updates and Events**

**ISSS Thanksgiving Dinner November 15th**

You are cordially invited to the annual ISSS Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 15th from 5pm-7pm. Come join us to partake in an American holiday tradition! The event will feature dinner, games, prizes, and more! Cost to attend is only $8 per person. This event is possible due to the generous donation of UAS. Register here: [https://tinyurl.com/ThanksgivingISSS](https://tinyurl.com/ThanksgivingISSS)
Thursday, November 15th
5pm-7pm
Campus Center Assembly Hall

ISSS
Thanksgiving Dinner

Come enjoy an American tradition!

Thanksgiving buffet, games, prizes, and more!

Only $8 per person to attend

Brought to you by the generous donation of UAS

Register at: https://tinyurl.com/thanksgivingISSS

Email ISSS@albany.edu for more information
Blog: Questions that International Students Should (and Should Not) Ask at Job Interviews
ICAway is a private career-coaching service catered to international students in the U.S. The latest blog post includes questions to ask (and not ask) at a job fair. Check it out here.

AdvisingPLUS Tutoring for Undergraduate Students
Free tutoring is available for undergraduate students in a number of subjects. Attending tutoring hours can help you achieve higher grades! For a full schedule, please click here:
https://www.albany.edu/advisingplus/assets/Fall_2018_Tutor_Schedule_by_Subject.pdf

Safety Tips
UPD’s primary focus is on your safety and security during your time at UAlbany. We offer the following information to enhance your quality of life and support your success.

Be aware of your surroundings. If someone or something looks suspicious, call us immediately at 518-442-3131.
“ If you See something, Say something” – We will all be safer.

Theft is still the #1 crime reported on campus (and throughout the world). Remember – 96% of thefts from students involve unattended property.
Don’t leave your property unattended.
Lock your doors. We want you and your property safe!

Marijuana use is still ILLEGAL in New York. It is also a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and we continue to receive complaints from community members regarding second-hand marijuana smoke. UPD will continue to enforce laws governing marijuana use and possession.

UPD is here 24/7 to help enhance your experience here at UAlbany.
Program your cell phones with our number: 518-442-3131.
4. University at Albany Events

Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

**Great Danes Give Back Community Service**
Friday, October 12 1-3pm
Student Success Center - Whitman Hall 2nd floor
Stop by the Student Success Center located on State Quad in Whitman Hall, 2nd Floor to assist the RED Bookshelf organization in reconditioning gently used children books. Reconditioned books will be placed on bookshelves around the community, where families and children can take books of their choice for FREE.

**CSSA Singing Competition**
Sunday, October 14th @ 2pm
Campus Center Ballroom
Chinese Student & Scholar Association will hold an **singing competition** on October 14th, ballroom. The competition will start at 2:00 pm. The audiences may vote for the competitors, your vote may decide the ranking of competitors! The most exciting thing is the audiences have the chances to win $10 bonus!!

**Post Graduation Service Employment Information Fair**
Wednesday, October 17 11am-1pm
Stop by the Campus Center’s Student Success Center located in **Campus Center, Room 165A** and receive information on how you can apply for service employment options post graduation. Representatives from Peace Corp, Teach For America, and City Year will be in attendance. We hope to see you there!

**Well-Being Lunch Series**
Sponsored by CAPS, this lunchtime well-being series is designed to help students manage stress and promote their personal well-being.
Fall Ball
Thursday, October 18 - 11:45pm
Campus Center Ballroom

The UAlbany Programming Board presents the annual Fall Ball Homecoming party. Join the UAlbany Programming Board in a night of dancing and celebrating UAlbany spirit. Free food & stuff available.

5. Capital District Events

Ghosts of Albany Walking Tour
Friday October 12 - Sunday October 14
Outside the Hilton Albany, 40 Lodge Street Albany, NY 12207
Cost: $20

Visit one of America’s most haunted locations, Albany, New York. Let us see if we can scare you with stories of ghosts, antique sites, scandalous tales, haunted places, mysterious sightings of apparitions, strange and unusual accounts of centuries past, legendary stories, folklore and ghostly experiences stranger than reality, and ultimately the supernatural intrigues of Albany, New York.

Listen to the ghostly encounters of our guides. And you may be surprised by ghost stories told by participants on our tours. Our tales and legends are blended with bits of human interest and historical fact to make us entertaining and educational for tourists and locals alike.

Tours take place at 8pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from September 21st through November
3rd. Tours have been scheduled for the 29th, 30th, and 31st of October but they have sold out. Book your tickets today!

**12th Annual Pumpkin Walk**

*Saturday, October 13 - 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM*

*Columbia-Greene Community College, 4400 NY-23 Hudson, NY 12534*

Cost: $5 in advance, $6 day of event

Please join us for our 12th annual Pumpkin Walk to be held at Columbia-Greene Community College on Saturday, October 13th as we build on last year's tremendous success of over 1400 attendees. This year the Mental Health Association celebrates 60 years of community service. All proceeds will support programs that serve the children and families of Columbia and Greene Counties.

Family Entertainment 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, followed at 6:00-8:00 PM by the popular Pumpkin Walk. Take a stroll along a magical path of lit jack-o-lanterns artistically carved by children and artists from our community – a great family activity.


Tickets are $5 in advance and $6 at the event. To purchase in advance please call 828-4619 ext. 302 or come by the Mental Health Association at 713 Union Street, Hudson NY between 9-5 Monday-Thursday or 9-4 on Friday and pick up tickets at the front desk.

**West African Dance Class**

*Wednesday, October 17 - 5:20 PM to 6:20 PM*

*Danceland, 638 Columbia St Ext Latham, NY 12110*

Have fun and stay healthy with African drum and dance! For both beginner and advanced students.

Every Wednesday With Okropoin African Dance

"The Eagles Ensemble"

Dance: 5:20 – 6:20pm

Dance to fly with the eagles. No limitations!

* $12 per class *

Sign up for 4 weeks of class - $36!

_Dancers: Bring water, wear comfortable clothing and can dance in your bare feet for class. Adults only please for this class!_

**Double M Haunted Hayrides**

Continuing Until Sunday October 28th
Double M Haunted Hayrides has been creating fear for over 25 years in Upstate New York! The Haunted Hayride weaves through the haunted woods on a tractor-drawn wagon. Each wagon has a narrator on board to guide the way through the darkness. Around each and every corner there's a frightful scene and behind each and every tree lurks an uninvited guest waiting for you! The woods are filled with terror and surprise, an atmosphere sure to make you scream. It's an annual tradition you just can't miss.

At the conclusion of the hayride, your journey will continue on foot into the Walking Undead where you will enter the zombie-infested prison – can you escape? Beyond Walking Undead is Brutality, the deep woods compound of a tortuous family.

Next up is Martin's Motel, a residence that is known for a disappearing guest or two and a vicious staff. Your final destination is Outage, a total darkness experience where you must rely on all of your senses to navigate and survive.

The fun continues in the midway area with The Schadenfreude Circus, a side show that is sure to impress you and probably freak you out.