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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

Immigration Reminder: Student Reporting Responsibilities
This is a reminder that immigration regulations require all F-1 and J-1 students to notify ISSS within 10 days of any change to legal name, address, phone number, and/or email.

Students can report a name change to ISSS by providing official documentation (e.g. an updated passport) of the change. To update your address, please update your SEVIS USA address in MyUAlbany. You can also update your phone number and email in MyUAlbany under demographic data.

Because it is a legal requirement that F-1 and J-1 students make these reporting updates within 10 business days, please be sure you are making timely updates to ISSS.
Use of Public Benefits and Your Future Benefit and Status

Eligibility

In recent weeks USCIS has announced that it will be updating its policies and procedures relating to determining if an individual is a "public charge." If an individual is deemed to be a public charge it could result in consequences for immigration and loss of future benefits.

F-1 and J-1 students are required to provide proof of financial support in order to obtain an I-20/DS-2019 and a visa. Please remember that one of the requirements of F-1 and J-1 status is financial self-sufficiency. If due to unforeseen or extreme circumstances you experience a change in your financial capabilities it is important you consult ISSS.


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.
ISSS Seeking Graduate Assistant for Spring 2019

The International Student and Scholar Services Office is seeking applicants for a graduate student assistant position for the Spring 2019 semester. Preference is given to a student who will be available starting in early January. Benefits include a $12,000 academic year stipend (pro-rated because you will be starting mid-year)/$15/hr, as well as health insurance. To be eligible, a student must be a registered graduate student at UAlbany and expected to take a minimum of 6 credits in Spring 2019.

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. Availability during winter session & summers to continue work as a student assistant is preferred.

GAs are responsible for a variety of tasks, including assisting ISSS with document processing requests; planning, facilitating and assisting with programs such as off-campus trips, International Education Week, Orientation, and Graduation Week special activities; creating the weekly newsletter; and supporting the international student community.

To apply, please complete the application here: https://goo.gl/forms/oE2rN3B4ccJXNYhw1 and email your resume and cover letter to ISSS@albany.edu and confirm that you intend to be a
registered student (minimum 6 credits) for the Spring 19 semester

Save the Date: International Celebration December 6th!
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. More details to come!

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/rzz925Ph23feLFUU2

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

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 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 Go5
- Thursday, 10/11, 10:30-11:30am, SL Go5
- Friday 11/9, 4:00-5:00pm SL Go5— for Master’s of Computer Science students
- Wednesday, 11/14, 2:00-3:00pm, SL Go5
- Monday 11/26, 10:00-11:00am, SL Go5
- Monday 12/3, 3:00-4:00pm, SL Go5

**OPT Workshops**
- Thursday, 9/6, 3-4:30pm, SL Go5
- Wednesday, 9/19, 12:00-1:30pm, SL Go5
- Monday, 9/24, 10:00-11:30am, SL Go5
- Friday 10/5, 4:00-5:30pm, SL Go5
- Tuesday, 10/16, 3:00-4:30pm, SL Go5
- Friday, 10/26, 10:00-11:30am, SL Go5
- Thursday, 11/1, 1:00-2:30pm, SL Go5
- Thursday, 11/15, 10:00-11:30am, SL Go5
- Tuesday, 11/20, 11:00am-12:30pm, SL Go5
- Friday, 11/30, 3:30-5:00pm, SL Go5
- Wednesday, 12/5, 2:00-3:30pm, SL Go5
- Friday, 12/14, 10:30am-12:00pm, SL Go5

**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 end date for December graduates
- Friday, February 16th, 2019: Latest OPT start date for December graduates to request. All OPT applications for December graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.
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
Participants Needed in Research Project on English Language Learners

Do you use English learning strategies when you are speaking English? How many English learning strategies do you know and use frequently? A Ph.D. student from Educational Psychology Program is conducting a research relating to International students’ Motivation and English learning strategy use.

If you are 18 years old and over, English language learner (not your first language), and most importantly interested in this study, please click the link and finish the surveys: https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2udlxet1tr7MpBTT. All information obtained in the surveys are completely confidential, and there is no personal information required. It usually takes 10-15 minutes to complete.

By completing the surveys, you will have an increased awareness of your strategy use of English and motivation in English learning. It will help to increase your consciousness of using English learning strategies in your daily and academic life.

Thank you for your time and cooperation!

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.

**Immigration Art!**

Arthur Seratelli, Esq.—from 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! Join ISSS and Art for the special events, below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Consultations</th>
<th>Workshops</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(30 minutes, by appointment)</td>
<td>(Please RSVP)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, 11/12</strong>— 9am-12pm</td>
<td><strong>Monday, 11/12</strong>— 5:00-7:00pm</td>
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<td>1pm-4:00pm</td>
<td>Location: LC 03A</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, 11/13</strong>— 9am-12pm</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday, 11/13</strong>— 5:00pm-7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1pm-4:00pm</td>
<td>Location: Arts &amp; Sciences, 014</td>
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To sign up for personal consultation: Email at least three, 30 minute time blocks during which you are available to immigration.art@gmail.com (Appointments are on the :00 and :30). Use the subject line “UAlbany Consultation, YOUR NAME.” Spots book quickly! Consultations will be done over Skype or phone. Students may reserve a Skypeing room in the University library.

To RSVP to the Workshop: email ISSS@albany.edu with the Subject Line “Immigration Art Workshop RSVP”
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
Volunteers Needed for the Albany Festival of Nationals

The annual Albany Festival of Nations will be held on November 4, 2018 from 12-5pm in the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. This is a great event bringing together the Albany community to celebrate the many cultures represented, and includes food, a parade, and performances. Volunteers are also needed for the event, which will look good on your resume! To volunteer, please email Ayaz Malik at ayaz7@att.net
4. University at Albany Events

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

**Take Charge of Your Future Through Networking**

Friday, October 19 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 connect with Alumni representing various career paths. Learn about the University Career Advisory online network, which connects you to 1,500 alumni professionals representing various fields!

**Homecoming Football Game**

Saturday, October 20 @ 3:30pm

Casey Stadium

Come watch UAlbany face off Towson Tigers at our homecoming football game this Saturday! Also be on the lookout for other events happening on campus for the weekend.

**Therapy Dogs for Student Leaders**

Tuesday, October 23

Campus Center West - the HUB

Take a break from studying and come over to the HUB to spend time with therapy dogs from the Schenectady of Therapy Dogs International!

**UAlbany Commuter Student Appreciation Day**

Wednesday, October 24 11am-1pm

Campus Center
Campus Center West - the HUB

Stop by the Campus Center's Student Success Center, Room 165A, to celebrate UAlbany's Commuter Student Appreciation Day and connect with UAlbany Driving Force Commuter Student Organization. Enjoy fun activities, refreshments, and receive a "Proud UAlbany Commuter Student" cell phone wallet case. 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.

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
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<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>Reducing Stress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>11am-12:30pm</td>
<td>Better Sleep, Better Lives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>Mindful Moments</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>Reducing Stress</td>
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**Location**

Campus Center Student Success Center...located on 1st floor of CC adjacent to staircase leading down to Niko's Cafe and S

5. Capital District Events

Ghosts of Albany Walking Tour

Friday October 19 - Sunday October 21

Outside the Hilton Albany, 40 Lodge Street Albany, NY 12207
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!

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**West African Dance Class**

**Wednesday, October 24 - 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, 678 New York 67, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Cost: $19
Click Here For More Info
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.