Friday, October 20, 2023

This is your ISSS weekly newsletter. Please read this newsletter every Friday for important reminders, updates, and upcoming events you may be interested in.

**ISSS Announcements:**
- VPN Required for AccessISSS EForms Off Campus
- ISSS Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov 16) – RSVP Now
- OPT Application Instructions for Fall Graduates
- Dean's Coffee Hour (Oct 25)
- Cultural Connections Festival November 10) - Performers Needed!
- LGBTQ Resources and Support

**Other Announcements/Upcoming Events**
- Text Student Auto
- GOAT Yoga (10/20)
- Homecoming Weekend (10/20-10/22)
- Mindful Mondays

**In Case You Missed It:** Watch a recording (passcode: @y104?Qd) of Monday's Know Your Rights’ Session. We covered important topics about port of entry, travel in the U.S., and your rights when interacting with law enforcement. Save the date for the next session which will cover your rights outside the U.S. (November 15 at 5:00pm).

**VPN Required for AccessISSS EForms Off Campus**

Due to ITS security enhancements, students and scholars who are trying to submit EForms through AccessISSS from off-campus must be logged into the VPN. If you have not yet downloaded the
You are cordially invited to an annual ISSS tradition: the Thanksgiving Dinner!

The dinner is on Thursday, November 16 from 5-7pm in the Campus Center Assembly Hall (2nd Floor). The cost per person is $7 for students/scholars; students/scholars may choose to bring additional guest(s) for $7 per guest (children under 5 are free). **Spots are limited!**

*Menu Includes: Sliced Turkey, Gravy, Rolls with Butter, Traditional Stuffing (no meat), Green Beans with Sliced Almonds, Eggplant Parm (vegetarian option), and Apple/Pumpkin Pie*

Please **fill in the form** to RSVP. By hitting submit you finalize your reservation and confirm your payment will be added to your UAlbany account. If you have any questions please email ISSS@albany.edu

This is a signature International Education Week Event (November 13-17) and is generously sponsored by UAlbany UAS.

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**OPT Application Instructions for Fall Graduates**

**Important OPT Dates for Fall Graduates to Know:**

- **I-20 Program End Date** for students graduating this Fall: December 12, 2023
  - Bachelor's/Master's students graduating this Fall will all have a program end date of December 12, 2023
  - PhD students may use defense date, thesis submission date, or last date of final term as the program end date for post-completion OPT purposes. The date you choose will change your application timetable, see OPT workshop for details.
- **Filing Opens September 14th** for students with a December 12, 2023 program end date
- **Filing Closes February 9th** for students with a December 12, 2023 program end date
- **Students** with a December 12, 2023 program end date may submit a request for an OPT start date for any date in this range: December 13, 2023-February 9, 2024

Students who are graduating and planning to apply for Post-Completion OPT Work Authorization should complete the following steps to apply:

1. **Watch the required OPT workshop**
2. Review all instructions on the OPT Request EForm website, including the Supplemental Forms and Instructions.
3. Submit the EForm to ISSS to request a new I-20 recommending you for post-completion OPT.
4. File with DHS-USCIS within 30 days of receiving the new I-20 from ISSS recommending you for post-completion OPT.

If you have questions please speak with an ISSS advisor.

Dean's Coffee Hour (Oct 25)

Join us on Wednesday, October 25 from 3:30-4:30pm in the Science Library atrium for coffee, tea, treats and conversation! Dean Valverde will be there with other CIEGS staff. We hope that you can stop by to say hello!

Cultural Connections Festival November 10)-Performers Needed!

Cultural Connections' Annual Festival during International Education Week will be on Friday, November 10. They are currently looking for performers. If you would like to perform (or know someone that would like to) please sign up to perform using the link below!

Sign up to perform.

LGBTQ Resources and Support

Great Dane Community –

[In] celebration of LGBTQ History Month this October, we wish to affirm our steadfast commitment to inclusion and equity, to explicitly denounce anti-gay and anti-trans bias, discrimination, and hatred, and to bring attention to the many resources available to support UAlbany's LGBTQ community and allies.

- The Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC) is open and ready to support you. In addition, there are LGBTQ allies throughout campus who can assist you as well. You may frequently find peers and professors who note their pronouns; please consider including your own when you introduce yourself to each other and your professors.
- In Fall '21, we opened Harvey House, a welcoming living space for LGBTQ+ students and allies. Harvey House is named after UAlbany alum Harvey Milk '51, a politician and activist.
who was among the first openly gay elected officials in the United States. If you have questions about this housing option, please contact Residential Life at 518-442-5875.

- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is committed to and trained in providing gender-affirming care, including therapeutic mental health services for students related to gender identity as well as providing letters for students seeking gender-affirming medical care, consistent with World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards.

- UAlbany stands against anti-queer and anti-trans bias and discrimination and supports greater equity and inclusivity. UAlbany has established resources for reporting acts of bias using the Bias Incident Response Protocol, while reports of discrimination and harassment may be made to the Office of Equity and Compliance.

- The Office of Health Promotion (OHP) is here to partner with and provide advocacy services for LGBTQ+ students who have experienced power-based personal violence as they navigate the intersection of their identities related to queerness and survivorship. Recognizing the intersections of various lived experiences, OHP also supports students who are navigating recovery from addiction at UAlbany through the Collegiate Recovery Program.

- If you are looking for Universal Restrooms and Single Shower locations, you can find their campus locations here.

- The University also has implemented a Chosen Identity Markers/First Name Policy, which includes use of a chosen name for diplomas, the Commencement program, and some other third-party applications. Diplomas issued in the spring of 2023 had chosen first name options.

The University at Albany’s LGBTQ+ Advisory Council of faculty, staff and students, meanwhile, continues to work to foster an environment that affirms the diverse and intersectional identities of our peers to ensure we live up to our inclusive ideals. While we have made significant progress, we understand that there is still much to be accomplished. Thank you to council co-chairs Zakhar Berkovich and Melissa Starman for your commitment to and leadership of this critical work.

Our collective work includes building an affirming staff and faculty that use current and intersectionally inclusive materials on the histories and experiences of historically marginalized communities — including materials by LGBTQ+ scholars, authors, speakers, and creators — and acknowledging the persistence of gender binarism in most contemporary research (e.g., collecting data and statistically reporting experiences of only “men” and “women”).

Through our study, work, research, and service, we are committed to building an inclusive and supportive environment for all members of the UAlbany community. Please be in touch if we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Samuel Caldwell, MBA
Chief Diversity Officer

Michael N. Christakis, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
Text Student Auto

Text Student Auto is a free, non-University affiliated service connecting college students to auto resources near campus. For more information on this service and the assistance it can provide please select "Read More."

This does not constitute an endorsement of this business on the part of the University nor a vouching for their business practices.

GOAT Yoga (10/20)

Come join UAlbany Student Activities and Campus Rec as we host GOAT YOGA! Happening on Dutch Commons from 4-6pm on Friday 10/20. We can't wait to see everyone for this iconic event! Please note, in order to participate in the yoga session, you must RSVP for a session on myinvolvement. Also make sure to check in with campus rec as you can enter into their amazing raffle prizes! See you there!

Read More

Mindful Mondays

Monday, October 16 from 4-4:30pm on Zoom

Please be on time, as we will not allow folks to enter late in order to minimize distractions during meditation. Meeting ID: 942 5908 1084 Passcode: UAMindful
Homecoming activities will take place on campus this Friday-Sunday, featuring the Homecoming Football game v Rhode Island on Saturday, October 21st at 3:30pm at Tom & Mary Casey Stadium. Students can attend games for free!

https://albany.zoom.us/j/94259081084?pwd=ajNtT1ppVEDhcnplU2pBS1VFMc0zQT09

Description
Open to all students, faculty, and staff! No registration or previous experience required. Take an intentional moment to relieve stress, connect with yourself, and refocus your mind. Join us for guided mindfulness meditations and activities to help you set the tone for the rest of your week.

Unsubscribe

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