November 15, 2019

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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

International Celebration, December 6th- RSVP Closes November 19th!

The International Celebration, where we celebrate our graduating students and departing exchange students and scholars, will be on Friday, December 6th at 2:30pm. Graduates/departing students must register for the event.
Graduating international students should register at https://tinyurl.com/ISSSCelebrateFall2019
Departing exchange students should register at https://tinyurl.com/EACelebrateFall2019

ISSS Orientation Assistant Application for Spring 2020 Closes TODAY!

Looking for a fun on-campus job this winter? ISSS is seeking Orientation Assistants for New International Student Orientation, January 16th-January 21st, 2020! 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 approximately $250 for approximately 22-24 hours of work.

Please click https://forms.gle/kceGgbAsH79DAT7M8 to apply!

Applications are due by Friday, November 15th at 5pm. If you have any questions please contact iss@albany.edu.

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

OPT Request is now an Eform

ISSS is going electronic! Students will be able to submit some requests online through AccessISSS, the UAlbany ISSS student portal.

The OPT Request Eform is now live! To access it, please go to: https://www.albany.edu/isss/forms.php

Scroll to the Optional Practical Training (OPT) & STEM Extension section and select “Click here to access the OPT Request E-Form” to review all instructions and access the ISSS Portal.

Graduating in December? Attend an OPT Workshop!

ISSS has weekly employment workshops, either for CPT authorization or OPT authorization. Students must attend one of these workshops before applying for OPT. If you are graduating in December, you may now apply for post-completion 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_Fall_2019.pdf
Travel Signature Days

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/issss/assets/Fall_2019.pdf.

We recommend that every student attend one of these days, even if you don't have travel plans yet.
ISSS Travel Signature Days! Fall 2019

On-the spot travel signatures!!!

Thursday, October 10th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Tuesday, November 26th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Thursday, December 5th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Tuesday, December 10th (Reading Day), 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

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.

Spring 2020 Buddy Program Sign-Up Open!

ISSS is seeking current students as volunteers to serve as a "buddy" to a new international student this Spring. The buddy program allows current students to connect with new students to help welcome them to Albany and answer their questions about adjusting to life at UAlbany and in the Albany area.

Students can sign-up here: https://tinyurl.com/UAlbanyBuddy2020
Project MyStory Student-to-Student Success Series

The last two UAlbany MyStory Dinner and Discussion Success Series will take place on November 18 and December 2.

On November 18, CURCE will take over and students will share their stories about how they became engaged with research activities at UAlbany. The panelists will feature some of their projects. Multiple disciplines will be represented.
On December 2, we will have our closing “Stress-Less” program and Appreciation Ceremony, honoring all of the volunteers and panelists who helped to make the Success Series a success! We will engage in activities to help us to relax and refresh before Finals Week. Altogether, over 100 students have attended these programs, many of them, multiple times.

Both programs take place on Monday at 6:30pm in the Science Library, 3rd Floor, Standish Room

This initiative is sponsored by the UAlbany StAR Grant, The Center for International Education and Global Strategy, the Academic Support Center, and the University Auxiliary Services.
4. University at Albany Events

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

**Yoga in the Museum**

Saturday, November 16, 2019 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

1400 Washington Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

Description: You are a living, breathing, work of art. Naturally, you should do yoga in an art museum! Yoga Care: The Capital Region's Traveling Yoga Studio returns to the University Art Museum to teach two classes while "ACE: art on sports, promise, and selfhood" is on view. These classes are suited for all levels of yoga practitioners from the brand new beginner to the seasoned yogi. Please bring a mat if you have one, some will be available. Donations for yoga are welcome but not mandatory.

**RISE CONFERENCE 2019: Transforming University Engagement In Pre- and Post-Disaster Environments: Lessons from Puerto Rico**

Monday, November 18, 2019 Wednesday, November 20, 2019 (all day)

1400 Washington Ave

Description: Join universities and colleges from across the nation for a three-day conference that will explore how higher education can strengthen preparedness, response, and recovery in the face of growing threats posed by a changing climate and extreme weather as we strive to build a national platform.

**Men's Basketball vs. SUNY Potsdam**
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
SEFCU Arena
Cost: $8-18, UAlbany students free
Description: Men's Basketball hosts SUNY Potsdam

**REBOUND Struggle/Perseverance Roundtable Discussion**
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
1400 Washington AveArt Museum
Cost: Free and open to the public
Description: REBOUND Struggle/Perseverance is part of a series of informal discussions about relevant topics in the field of art and sports with faculty, staff, and students across the disciplines. Check out the Museum's social media for an updated list of presenters.

**EAP Art Break**
Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM
University Art MuseumFine Arts Building
Description: Join us for this semester’s EAP Art Break to experience the current University Art Museum exhibit titled ACE: art on sports, promise, and selfhood. Naomi Lewis will share insights on the exhibition which features a dozen emerging and internally recognized artists who use sports and athletic culture to explore how youth, race, promise, and identity are intertwined with athleticism. This is a great way to become energized and inspired during your work day.

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**5. Capital District Events**

**Holiday Marketplace and Craft Show at Sunnycrest Orchards**
Saturday, Nov 16, 2019 until Sunday, Nov 17, 2019 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
WSunnycrest Orchards, 7869 State Route 10 Sharon Springs, NY 13459
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click [here](#)
Annual Holiday Marketplace and Craft Show inside our heated greenhouse. 50 vendors bringing handcrafted and handmade items, food, locally produced products, maple, honey, winter produce, cookies and baked goods, granola, pickles and jellies, herb mixes and herbal remedies, salsa and relish, hand loomed and handcrafted textiles, jewelry, wood working, and photography. Admission is free. Sunnycrest Gift Shop is open for the holidays. Freshly made holiday wreaths and cones. Baking pies and making cider donuts all day each day.

**Clifton Park Elks Basketball Hoop Shoot**
Saturday, Nov 16, 2019 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Southern Saratoga YMCA, 1 Wall Street Clifton Park, NY 12065
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click [here](#)

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a national free-throw contest for boys and girls ages 8-13. The competition is the largest, non-commercial, co-educational sports program in America, and is sponsored by the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. More than 3 million kids ages 8 to 13 participate each year. Winners advance through local, district, state, regional and national levels. The finals for the national title will be held in Chicago, IL. The program builds character while promoting integrity, hard work, quality family time and good sportsmanship. There is no charge to compete.
Saratoga Wine & Chocolate Festival
Saturday, Nov 16, 2019 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Saratoga City Center, 522 Broadway Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Cost: Varies
For more info, click here

Wineries and wine enthusiasts from across the region will gather for an unlimited sampling of dozens of fabulous wines of all styles and tastes. Then, buy bottles of your favorites, all for great prices!! We'll have distilleries and ciders too. All wine samples and the souvenir wine glass are FREE with your paid admission. Shop your way through a fabulous selection of tasty nibbles and treats, chocolates, cheeses and sweets. Take a stroll through our Candy Bar and receive free samples from fabulous chocolate makers. Then get some serious retail therapy done. Browse through fantastic mini boutiques featuring jewelry, clothing and more.

Nutcracker Tea Party
Sunday, Nov 17, 2019 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 400 Old Loudon Rd Latham, NY 12210
Cost: $25-$38
For more info, click here

The Albany Berkshire Ballet is pleased to invite you to the Land of Sweets with beloved characters from the ballet, The Nutcracker. The Nutcracker Tea Party is the perfect way to kick off your family’s holiday festivities! The experience includes an elegant tea luncheon, hands-on activities for children, a condensed Nutcracker Performance, a rare opportunity to
pose for photographs with members of The Nutcracker cast, and a personal visit from the Nutcracker and the Sugar Plum Fairy! Each child will receive a very special memorial gift to take home!