Happy International Education Week 2020!

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.

**Important ISSS Announcements**
- Global Alumni Panel Event TONIGHT at 6pm, November 20th
- ISSS Office Closed Thursday 11/26 and Friday 11/27 for Thanksgiving
- OPT Workshop Today at 3:30pm
- Attention Graduating Students - Register for the Fall 2020 International Celebration on Saturday, December 7th at 9:30am
- Planning Ahead for 2021: Check Website and UAlbany Email Often for Updates
- Winter Break Travel Reminders & NYS Quarantine Requirements
- Buddy Program Seeking Volunteers for Spring 2021
- Recording of Know Your Rights While Travelling Webinar Available
- Spanish Speaking Volunteers Needed for Tutoring High School Student(s)

**Upcoming Events**
- Check Out Our IEW Instagram Series!
- Library Services now Virtual
- Peer Advising Advance Registration Evening Hours
- NYS Writers Institute Youtube Series
- University of Maryland International Student Research Project
Global Alumni Panel Event TONIGHT at 6pm, November 20th

Global Alumni Panel-International Education Week

Friday Nov 20th 6 PM-7:30PM (EST)
Email ISSS@albany.edu for join link

Abhinay Triwari
Master | Computer Science | 2017
Software Engineer at NASA Ames Research Center

Yi Zhou
Master | Social Welfare | 2017
Psychotherapist at Choices Counselling and Consulting

Li Zhang
PhD | Educational Policy & Leadership | 2016
PIRE Project Manager
C-BERT China Group Leader
Business Owner

Panel Agenda

ISSS will help you know about:

- How to navigate jobs as an international student?
- What do the current and future work situations look like?
- How to react during this Covid-19 time?
- How could international students better prepare for labor market?
- Q&A: bring your questions with you!

Friday, November 20th from 6pm-7:30pm
Zoom Link: https://albany.zoom.us/j/94265368908

Curious about what life is like for a UAlbany international student after graduation? Hear from three outstanding alumni about their experiences in the job search, working during COVID-19, and how best to prepare for your future. Don't miss out on this great event!

ISSS Office Closed Thursday 11/26 and Friday 11/27 for Thanksgiving
We are wishing you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving break! Normal business operations will resume on Monday, November 30th.

OPT Workshop Today at 3:30pm

OPT workshop Friday, November 20th at 3:30pm.
Zoom Meeting Link: https://albany.zoom.us/j/98886261810

We encourage all students applying for OPT to attend one of the scheduled live OPT workshops on Zoom to ask questions and hear the latest information. You can find a full schedule on our website here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/OPT_CPT_Flyer_Fall_2020.pdf

But if you want a refresher, or your schedule is packed right now, you can also view a full recording on the OPT Request instructions page of our website, click on Read More below.

Attention Graduating Students - Register for the Fall 2020 International Celebration on Saturday, December 7th at 9:30am
International students planning to graduate in fall 2020 may register for the Live Zoom International Celebration taking place on Saturday December 12th from 9:30-10:15am (EST). In order to receive an invitation with Zoom link days before the event, you need to apply for graduation by December 7th. Please also complete the International Celebration registration form by Friday, November 27th.
Thank you and we look forward to you and your family joining the celebration.

Planning Ahead for 2021: Check Website and UAlbany Email Often for Updates

As we look ahead to the Spring 2021 term we want to remind students to please continue checking their Albany email accounts and the University website for updates throughout the break.

DHS has not yet released guidance for Spring 2021. Students should be prepared to make updates to their course schedule or plans should this new guidance require it. ISSS will continue to inform, support and advise students on any new developments. ISSS will email students when any new guidance is released to further explain how that guidance applies to University at Albany students. If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Students should also keep themselves informed on University quarantining and testing requirements (these are in addition to any NYS quarantining requirements: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory). Keep yourself informed by checking your Albany email and the University's COVID-19 website for the latest information: https://www.albany.edu/covid-19

In addition, ISSS maintains a COVID-19 FAQ specifically for international students, which you can find on our website here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/93904.php

Winter Break Travel Reminders & NYS Quarantine Requirements

The ISSS office does not recommend international travel at this time due to increased risks which could impact a student's return.

• Unfortunately, the global travel situation can change rapidly and with little notice, including travel restrictions, travel bans, and lack of flight availability
• DHS has not yet released guidance for Spring 2021, which could impact a student's return if outside the U.S.
• If you will travel please contact ISSS@albany.edu for further details and to review documentation needed to re-enter the U.S.
• Students travelling over break should check their UAlbany email frequently for any immigration or quarantine requirement updates.

Students remaining in the U.S. are cautioned if travelling to any state or country which is on the NYS Governor's high risk list, as they may be required to quarantine for 14 days upon return to New York State. This list includes most countries and states. Please review the NYS website for more information: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory

We know this upcoming break may be very difficult, particularly for international students who
were unable to travel home last summer. Please know that you have the full support of ISSS during this time. If you are facing any challenges (such as housing, stress, or anxiety) please do not hesitate to reach out to us for resources and support.

Please also remember that the Spring term start date is February 1st, 2021.

**Buddy Program Seeking Volunteers for Spring 2021**

For more information and to register to be a Buddy to a new student, "Read More" below.

The International Buddy Program is designed to provide an opportunity for newly admitted international students to get to know current UAlbany students (we call them “buddies”, and they include American and International students) before and upon their arrival in Albany. As a current UAlbany student, you have experience, information and resources to offer to new incoming students. Buddies are encouraged to be welcoming and lend a helping hand to incoming international students as newcomers. The ultimate goal of the Buddy Program is to promote understanding and friendship among different culture groups and to utilize the culturally dynamic environment on the UAlbany campus.

More specifically, the Buddy Program is designed to provide an opportunity for American and International students to interact regularly on a small group basis outside of the classroom setting. We believe such interaction will enrich cross-cultural as well as cross-language experiences and overall we hope that it will contribute to real understanding about people and cultures from all parts of the world.

**Recording of Know Your Rights While Travelling Webinar Available**

Unable to attend last night's session on knowing your rights while travelling and in the U.S.? You may view a Zoom recording of the event here:

https://albany.zoom.us/rec/share/wAZd295fVZYD6tM2eZ0J4O1NBYP8ydcFaVRhc2ReC-3-9hLTPqSz5PYSFj_7r_wu.ds0H5MTO3cBH5zPD
Passcode: &6jg7Uv2

**Spanish Speaking Volunteers Needed for Tutoring High School Student(s)**

We are seeking Spanish speakers willing to act as a tutor/mentor to students (high school aged and younger). Assistance is needed in Earth Science and other general classes. While the predominant need is for Spanish-speaking tutors, a Portuguese speaker may be needed in the
future as well. If you're interested in this non-paid, non-academic related volunteering experience, please contact Jim Milstein at jmilstein@plsn.org.

Upcoming Events

Check Out Our IEW Instagram Series!

All this week we've been featuring words of appreciation, encouragement and support for international students from our faculty and staff. Check it out on our instagram, @ualbanyisss!

Library Services now Virtual

The University Libraries will continue to serve the UAlbany community with research assistance, electronic resources, and more virtually! Visit the Libraries website by clicking Read More below.

Read More

Peer Advising Advance Registration Evening Hours

NYS Writers Institute Youtube Series
(For Undergraduate Students) Have questions about registration or specific classes? Need help navigating class searches or understanding your degree audit? Speak with an ASC peer advisor on Zoom!

Read More

The NYS Writers Institute has been publishing their talks on their Youtube page, including series on "Telling the Truth 2020," "The Time for Reckoning Symposium," and conversations with authors during the pandemic. Check out their lectures and conversations by clicking "Read More" below.

Read More

University of Maryland International Student Research Project

A research team at the University of Maryland School of Social Work created this research study and your insight will advance our understanding of the perceptions of international students and graduates about their experiences with their institutions and social supports in the U.S. The decision to participate in this study is completely voluntary. We want to be sure you are aware that you are not required to participate in this study, and you have the right to skip any question or withdraw from the study at any time. No one will know whether you participate or not. Your academic standing at your university will not be affected by your participation or non-participation in this study. After completing this voluntary, anonymous 10-15-minute survey, participants may opt to enter a raffle to win a $10 Amazon e-gift certificate and/or participate in a focus group and/or interview! To participate, click “Read More.”

Read More
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