November 8, 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

Limited Advisement Today and Monday

ISSS will not have advisement (walk-in and phone calls) available on Friday afternoon (11/8) between 12:30-5:00pm, nor on Monday 11/11 (Veteran's Day). All other advising hours continue as regularly scheduled.

Thank you for your understanding.

International Celebration, December 6th- RSVP is Open!

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. If you are graduating this December and did not receive an invitation email from us, please email ISSS@albany.edu for the registration link.

Departing exchange students should email their Education Abroad advisor for the sign-up information.
ISSS Thanksgiving Dinner Registration Open- Now Only $5!

You are cordially invited to the annual ISSS Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday, November 25th 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 $5 per person for the first 80 students to sign up (thanks to the generous donation of Vice President Fardin Sanai, University Advancement). This event is possible due to the generous donation of UAS. Register here: https://tinyurl.com/ISSSThanksgiving2019

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

ONLY $5 PER PERSON TO ATTEND
BRUGHT TO YOU BY THE GENEROS SPONSORSHIP OF UAS
REGISTER AT: HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/ISSSTHANKSGIVING2019
EMAIL ISSS@ALBANY.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION

Monday, November 25, 2019
5pm-7pm
Campus Center Assembly Hall

ISSS Thanksgiving Dinner

COME ENJOY AN AMERICAN TRADITION!
THANKSGIVING BUFFET, GAMES, PRIZES,
AND MORE!
**ISSS Orientation Assistant Application for Spring 2020 Due November 15th!**

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](https://forms.gle/kceGgbAsH79DAT7M8) to apply!

**Applications are due by Friday, November 15th at 5pm.** If you have any questions please contact [issss@albany.edu](mailto:issss@albany.edu).

**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](https://tinyurl.com/UAlbanyBuddy2020).
Reminders about Excused Absences and Registration

It’s the holiday season around the world, and we understand many students plan to travel in celebration of many holidays. If you will be missing class as part of your holiday celebrations, please be sure to notify your professors in advance of your absence. Please also be sure to make note of when classes are in session according to the University academic calendar, both for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020: https://www.albany.edu/registrar/academic_calendar.php. Students are responsible for making up any missed work and coordinating with their professors to ensure that they are still completing all course requirements.

While many absences are handled case by case by an instructor, Undergraduate students may seek an absence accommodation request due to an illness, tragedy, or emergency; compelling time conflicts; athletic events or religious observances (https://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/attendance.php). If possible, you must request this absence in advance and provide documentation of the reason for the excused absence. You may obtain the Student Absence Accommodation Request form here: https://form.jotform.com/92164107572152

Graduate students should work directly with their academic department for any absence accommodations. For general graduate policy guidance, students may consult the Graduate School office.

In addition, please note that students must be registered full-time (12 credits for undergraduate, and 9 credits for graduate students) within the appropriate registration window at the beginning of the semester, and students must maintain full-time registration throughout the semester. The only exception to full-time registration requirements are for students who have been granted and authorized reduced course load by ISSS.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and joyous holiday!

Follow us on Instagram! @ualbanyisss

ISSS is on Instagram! Follow us today @ualbanyisss so that you can stay up to date with office and campus events and news.
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

CPT and OPT Workshops

* Fall 2019

CPT Workshops
- Friday, 9/6, 3:30-5:00, TBD
- Thursday, 10/24, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Monday, 11/18, 3:30-5:00, SL G05

OPT Workshops
- Friday, 10/4, 4:00-5:30, SL G12
- Tuesday 10/8, 10:00-11:30, SL G05
- Wednesday, 10/16, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Friday, 11/1, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Tuesday, 11/5, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Monday, 11/11, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Thursday, 11/21, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Tuesday, 12/3, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Monday, 12/9, 3:30-5:00, SL G05

Other Important Dates
- September 18, 2019: First day USCIS may receive OPT requests from December 2019 graduates
- December 17, 2019: Program end date for December graduates
- February 14, 2020: Latest OPT start date for December graduates to request. All OPT applications for December graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.

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/isss/assets/Fall_2019.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/Fall_2019.pdf).

We recommend that every student attend one of these days, even if you don’t have travel plans yet.

![Travel Signature Days Fall 2019](image)

**Diwali Night 2019 Tickets on Sale!**

The Indian Student Organization works to promote and bring their rich Indian culture and traditions for everyone in the UAlbany community. Every year, they organize our grand scale signature event, 'Diwali Night' that consists of various performances by a variety of groups and individuals on and off campus, followed by a delicious Indian dinner.

The event will commence at 5:30 pm on Saturday, November 9th, 2019. It will be held in the Campus Center Auditorium.

Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, is one of the biggest festivals celebrated throughout the Indian subcontinent as well as in Singapore, Malaysia, and many other places. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. ISO takes immense pride to organize one of SUNY's biggest diversity events - ISO Diwali Night 2019.
4. University at Albany Events
Click [Here](http://ualbany.universitytickets.com/) for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

**University Jazz Ensemble**
Monday, November 11, 2019 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Performing Arts Center (Recital Hall) Main Campus
Cost: $3-$10
Description: The mid-sized ensemble presents a concert of popular jazz standards.

**Celebrating the NYS Mesonet**
Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
University Hall 110
Cost: free
Description: The New York State Mesonet celebrates one billion weather observations, thanking our partners and Mesonet staff for their hard work in establishing 126 weather stations across New York State.

**Talk by Exhibiting Artist Ashley Teamer**
Tuesday, November 12, 2019 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
1400 Washington Ave
Art Museum
Cost: Free and open to the public
Description: Exhibiting artist Ashley Teamer will engage UAlbany students, faculty, and staff through cross-departmental conversations, workshops, class visits, performances, and exhibition tours. As part of their two-day residency each artist will speak about their work followed by a Q&A. Teamer was born in 1999 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She lives and works in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE Conversation/Q&A with Pamela Newkirk, award-winning journalist and author**
Tuesday, November 12, 2019 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Hearst Media Center 645 Albany Shaker Road
Cost: Free
Description: Pamela Newkirk presents her new book, Diversity, Inc.: The Failed Promise of a Billion-Dollar Business (2019), a landmark survey of recent efforts to bring racial equality to America's major corporations and institutions. Newkirk shines a bright light on the diversity industry and asks tough questions about why progress has been so slow. Cosponsored by the University at Albany’s School of Business and the Alumni Association.

**Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass: Brothers on the Battlefield**
Thursday, November 14, 2019 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Performing Arts Center (Main Theatre) Main Campus
Cost: $5 per student for high school student groups
Description: THIS PERFORMANCE IS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GROUPS - A multi-media production with a historically
informed narrative, this work salutes the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War & the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. Rodney Marsalis Brass performs music from the Civil War with narrator JaQuinley Kerr who brings to life the personal letters of those engulfed in that conflict and the words of Maya Angelou. Stunning images by Vanessa Briceño create a breathtaking backdrop.

Secrets and Lies: Betrayal in Intimate Partnerships
Friday, November 15, 2019 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Husted 210Cost: $70 (35 for Field Instructors)
Description: Using real-life case examples, theoretical models, and current research, the challenges of working with intimate partners in situations of betrayal will be explored.

5. Capital District Events

ASIA’s Cultural Charity Gala
November 17, 2019, 5:00pm
Campus Center Ballroom
Formal Black Tie
Ticket Price $25- to RSVP please email albany.asia@gmail.com by November 8, 2019

This event will be a formal gala w inviting several cultural charities from the New York area to present their causes and current initiatives, as well as invite various cultural and Greek organizations on campus, faculty and community members, alumni, family, and friends to learn about these causes and be given the opportunity to donate as well. Alongside the presentation of these initiatives, they will be serving dinner and having several dance and vocal performances throughout the evening.

Spinning Silks Holiday Craft Fair
Saturday, Nov 9, 2019 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Where: Karigon Elementary School, 970 Route 146 Clifton Park, NY 12065
For more info, click here
Join us for our Spinning Silks Holiday Craft Fair to benefit the Shenendehowa Colorguard, a 501c-3 non-profit organization.

**River of Dreams**

*Saturday, Nov 9, 2019 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM*

Where: Bridge Street Theatre, 44 West Bridge Street Catskill, NY 12414

Cost: $15 | $10 for students 12-21 | $5 for children under 12

For more info, click [here](#)
As part of its November Family Fun Month, Bridge Street Theatre presents a musical homage to the Hudson River, composed by Frank Cuthbert and based on the popular children’s picture book by Catskill-based writer/illustrator Hudson Talbott. With a cast comprised entirely of Catskill Middle School students, RIVER OF DREAMS is a gorgeously presented, fascinating celebration of the river’s history for audiences of all ages to enjoy. Performances will take place on Saturday November 9th at 5:00pm and 7:00pm and on Sunday November 10th at 2:00pm and 4:00pm. Advance reservations are strongly recommended and can be obtained online at dreams.brownpapertickets.com or by calling 800-838-3006.

Patty Griffin
Tuesday, Nov 12, 2019 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM
Where: Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 30 Second Street Troy, NY 12180
Cost: $39.50-$45.50
For more info, click here
Patty Griffin is among the most consequential singer-songwriters of her generation, a quintessentially American artist whose wide-ranging canon incisively explores the intimate moments and universal emotions that bind us together. Over the course of two decades, the GRAMMY® Award winner – and seven-time nominee – has crafted nine classic studio albums and two live collections, a remarkable body of work in progress that prompted the New York Times to hail her for “[writing] cameo-carved songs that create complete emotional portraits of specific people…(her) songs have independent lives that continue in your head when the music ends.”

**Benefit for Capital Region Family Promise w/Lost Radio Rounders**

Thursday, Nov 14, 2019 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Where: St. Madeline Sophie Church, 3500 Carmen Road Guilderland, NY 12303
Cost: FREE
For more info, click [here](#)
Lost Radio Rounders band members featured for this event: (Tom Lindsay : Michael Eck : Evan Conway : Paul "Bowtie" Jossman : Mike Kelley). Join the Lost Radio Rounders for two sets of gospel, gospel blues, folk hymns and spirituals to benefit the Capital Region Family Promise organization. Price: FREE, Donations accepted for "Capital Region Family Promise" Organization. Refreshments will be served.

Free Wine Tasting at Capital Wine & Spirits Albany

Friday, Nov 15, 2019 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Where: Capital Wine & Spirits Albany, 348 State Street Albany, NY 12210
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here
Capital Wine & Spirits Albany hosts a free wine tasting every Friday evening from 6 to 9 pm, featuring several wines chosen by our own staff. We offer these wines on sale for 16% off at the tasting and for 2 weeks after the tasting. Which means that on any given day, half a dozen wines are on sale.