February 14, 2020

Table of Contents

1. Greeting

2. Important Announcements

- No Walk-In Advising Monday 2/17 Due to Holiday
- Immigration Art: Immigration Attorney Consultations March 3rd
- Cultural Connections Welcome/Welcome Back Reception February 21st
- OPT/CPT Workshop Schedule, Spring 2020
- Sprintax Code for Taxes
- Safety Reminders about Scams/Frauds
3. Other ISSS Updates and Events
   - Commencement Week Schedule
   - Travel Signature Day Schedule, Spring 2020
   - International Circle: Empowerment & Connection
     - UAlbany Project MyStory Schedule
     - DMV 5 Hour Classes on Campus
     - Study Seeking German Speakers
   - Research Workshops for International Students

4. University at Albany Events
   - Winning Wednesdays at the Student Success Center
   - Participate in the "Word Ratings and Processing" Psychology Research Study
   - Kyle Marshall Choreography
     - Soccer in Brazil
   - An Eriksonian look at PTSD at End of Life: Wrestling with Avoidance, Integrity and Despair
   - Mahogany Browne, poet, writer, activist and educator: Presentation/Q&A
     - Rick Reilly, sportswriter and author: Presentation/Q&A

5. Capital District Events
   - Butterflies & Blooms at miSci
   - 2020 Albany Wine & Chocolate Festival
   - Project: Cameron's Story Annual Bookraiser
   - Empire "Skate" Plaza - Part of Winter at the Plaza
     - Lift Concert Series: Taina Asili

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

No Walk-In Advising Monday 2/17 Due to Holiday
The office will be open for picking up and dropping off documents, but there will not be walk-in advising (including phone advisement) on Monday.

Immigration Art: Immigration Attorney Consultations March 3rd
This is a great opportunity to receive 1-on-1 consultations and advice from an 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 for: 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 decade, and we are happy to welcome him back! Personal Consultations are available by appointment on March 34rd. Additionally, Mr. Serratelli
will host evening workshops via Skype on March 3rd. See flyer below for details.

Cultural Connections Welcome/Welcome Back Reception
February 21st

A great opportunity to meet new and continuing students, including food, socializing and fun activities. We hope to see you there.
OPT/CPT Workshop Schedule, Spring 2020

ISSS has weekly employment workshops, either for CPT authorization or OPT authorization. Students must attend one of these workshops before applying for 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_Spring_2020.pdf
Sprintax Code for Taxes

ISSS has purchased Sprintax tax software to help international students and scholars to file their 2019 federal tax return. Codes for Sprintax will be available on Monday, February 3, 2020. To obtain a tax code, please email ISSS, at isss@albany.edu. To obtain a Sprintax tax code, please email isss@albany.edu. Please include the following information in your email: first & last name, student id number, and the name of your employer. If you were not employed, please go to: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf, to obtain form 8843. For questions, please contact ISSS.

CPT and OPT Workshops

**Spring 2020**

**CPT Workshops**
- Thursday, Feb. 6, 3:00-5:00, SL Go5
- Thursday, March 26, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Monday, April 13, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5

**Other Important Dates**
- February 14, 2020: First day USCIS may receive OPT requests from May 2020 graduates
- May 13, 2020: Program end date for May graduates (Bachelor's/Master's; PhD see ISSS)
- July 11, 2020: Latest OPT start date for May graduates to request. All OPT applications for May graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.

**OPT Workshops**
- Thursday, Jan. 23, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Friday, Jan. 31, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Monday, Feb. 10, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Friday, Feb. 21, 3:30-5:30, SL Go5
- Tuesday, Feb. 25, 10:00-11:30, SL Go5
- Wednesday, March 4, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Friday, March 13, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Wednesday, March 18, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Monday, March 30, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Thursday, April 9, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Tuesday, April 21, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Wednesday, April 29, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
- Thursday, May 7, 3:30-5:00, SL Go5
Safety Reminders about Scams/Frauds

Please be aware of potentially fraudulent phone calls and emails from individuals posing as law enforcement (such as the Albany County Police Department, Department of Homeland Security, or the IRS). It is important to remember that it is very unusual for the IRS and other federal agents to reach out via phone and even email. Often, the callers will demand money or threaten imprisonment or deportation. To ensure your safety, please keep in mind the following if you receive a phone call like this:

- Unsolicited requests for personal or financial information are highly suspect. Government officers do not call asking for money or personal information.
- Do not provide any personal information (address, degree information, contact information, Social Security Number, Credit Card Number, birth date, etc…) or payment information over the phone or as a response to a fraudulent email.
- Call the agency (be it the police or IRS) directly. Fraudsters can mask their number to appear as if the call is coming from the police department or another agency, so you may need to call the actual agency number directly. Check for the agency’s actual number online or contact our office for information.
- Do not meet anyone at any location to make a payment unless you have initiated the process and are meeting at a verified business address.
- You may wish to file a police report if you receive a fraudulent call or email, especially if the person calling has your personal information.
- Be careful about sharing any personal information online, such as through social media. The person calling may know information about you, but they have likely gathered that information through internet sources. Just because someone knows your information does not mean the call is legitimate.

Signs that a call or email may be fraudulent include:

- Demands of payment or request for personal information
- You have not received anything in the mail from an official agency
- Calls from unknown numbers* (to reiterate, fraudsters can mask the numbers to appear as if they are coming from somewhere else, so it is important to call an agency or police department back directly)

For more information on consumer fraud, please visit the following websites:
The ISSS Website: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/92285.php](https://www.albany.edu/isss/92285.php)


Or check with University at Albany Police Department: [http://police.albany.edu/](http://police.albany.edu/)

If you have any questions or receive a phone call like one outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact our office with questions or concerns.

### 3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

#### Commencement Week Schedule

You may view the Commencement Week schedule on the Commencement website here: [https://www.albany.edu/commencement/schedule](https://www.albany.edu/commencement/schedule). Graduate students should note the following: "All school and college-based ceremonies include Doctoral, Master's/Graduate Certificate, and Undergraduate students."

#### Travel Signature Day Schedule, Spring 2020

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/Spring_2020.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/Spring_2020.pdf). We recommend that every student attend one of these days, even if you don't have travel plans yet.
Thursday, March 12th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Monday, April 27th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Wednesday, May 6th, (Reading Day), 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Monday, May 11th, 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.
International Circle: Empowerment & Connection

This group, run by CAPS, meets on Thursdays from 4:00pm-5:15pm in Campus Center Room 308. This is a time to talk about the concerns and questions you may face while a student in the United States. For information on this and other groups, please check out CAPS' website.
DMV 5 Hour Classes on Campus

Students and staff who are seeking to get their driver’s license can take the required 5 Hour Course right here on campus. We have partnered with Albany Driving School and Right Way Driving Center who will be facilitating the classes on select Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in the Campus Center Student Success
Center. No Sign Up is required, students can show up and the cost to take the class is $45.00. Please see attached flyer for details and complete schedule! The first opportunity is set to kick off this Saturday, February 1st from Noon – 5PM!

**Study Seeking German Speakers**

My name is Rita Gross and I am a Graduate Student at the University at Albany, in the Department of Cognitive Psychology. I have developed a research study about second language learning and I am looking for help with recording words in German and English. Recording the words should take no longer than 30 minutes
and would take place in the Language and Cognition Lab in the Social Sciences building (SS 388) at your convenience. You will receive a Starbucks gift card, for your help!

Just to tell you a little bit more about my study:
The purpose of my study is to understand the factors that influence memory for words learned in a second language. Participants will study lists of words presented in an unfamiliar language for a later memory test. Participants will also be asked to perform a brief math task and complete demographic questionnaires.

Whether you plan on recording stimuli for my study or not, I ask that you not discuss the contents of my study with anybody in order to protect the integrity of the experiment.
Your help is greatly appreciated! I look forward to hearing from you soon. You can reach me via email or text (both provided in the bottom of this document).

Best regards,
Rita Gross

Rita Gross, B.A.
University at Albany, SUNY
Graduate Assistant, Department of Cognitive Psychology
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222
rgross2@albany.edu
(203) 550 - 1380

---

Research Workshops for International Students

Workshop II: What is “plagiarism” all about? How to avoid it? (Instructors: Yu-Hui Chen and Mary Van Ullen)
Content includes: in-text citations and bibliography; why acknowledge sources; when to cite; differences among quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing; types of plagiarism; how to cite; tips for avoiding plagiarism; academic integrity; and hands-on exercises.

February 14, Friday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm LI-B48 (University Library basement level)

To sign up, please contact Yu-Hui Chen at ychen@albany.edu

**Workshop III: Citation Practice** (Instructors: Yu-Hui Chen and Mary Van Ullen)

Content includes: rewriting passages taken from books or journal articles in your own words, organizing these passages into a paragraph, providing information about the source in the text of your paragraph, and creating a reference list/bibliography at the end.

February 28, Friday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm LI-B48 (University Library basement level)

To sign up, please contact Yu-Hui Chen at ychen@albany.edu

**4. University at Albany Events**

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

**Winning Wednesdays at the Student Success Center**

Winning Wednesdays is a series of events held on select Wednesdays throughout the semester from 11AM – 1PM in the Campus Center’s Student Success Center. We encourage all students to join us this semester for this series of programs developed to assist all students (specifically 3rd and 4th year students) successfully prepare for graduation. All class years are welcome to attend. Please see attached flyer for Winning Wednesday’s event listings.
Participate in the "Word Ratings and Processing" Psychology Research Study
Kyle Marshall Choreography
When: Saturday, February 15, 20207:30 PM - 8:45 PM
Where: Performing Arts Center (Lab Theatre) Main Campus
Cost: $10-$20
Description: Creating works lauded as technically accomplished, witty and engaging, this current Tricia Brown Dance Company member has been winning major awards for his own choreography, works that aim to deepen our knowledge of who we are as individuals as well as how we develop relationships and ultimately societies.
Soccer in Brazil
When: Monday, February 17, 20204:15 PM - 5:15 PM
Where: Humanities 354
Cost: free
Description: Luis Cuesta (Languages, Literatures and Cultures) will talk about soccer in Brazil, focusing on race. Cuesta's research on modern Spain focuses on sport (soccer) representation through literature and film. This event is free and open to the public.

An Eriksonian look at PTSD at End of Life: Wrestling with Avoidance, Integrity and Despair
When: Tuesday, February 18, 202011:45 AM - 1:15 PM
Where: Downtown Campus, Husted Hall
Cost: 30
Description: Presenter: Kevin Pertchik, Ph.D
Join us for this brown bag lunch discussion of mental illness and end of life issues. More specifically, we will cover powerful patterns of avoidance as part of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and we will ponder some of the ways this can impact end of life.

Mahogany Browne, poet, writer, activist and educator: Presentation/Q&A
When: Thursday, February 20, 20207:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Where: New York State Museum, Huxley Theater 222 Madison Ave., Albany, NY
Cost: Free
Description: Mahogany Browne is a leading poet-activist. Ploughshares declared that “Browne has become her own revolution”—an artist committed in word and deed to changing the world. Her poetry collections include Kissing Caskets, and Redbone and her YA and children’s books include Black Girl Magic, Woke Baby, and Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice. Cosponsored by the Hudson Area Library, NYS Museum and the Office of Cultural Education to mark the 2020 Centennial of Women’s Suffrage.

Rick Reilly, sportswriter and author: Presentation/Q&A
When: Wednesday, February 19, 20207:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Where: Page Hall Downtown Campus
Cost: Free
Description: Rick Reilly, one of America’s preeminent sportswriters, is the author of the bestseller, Commander in Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump (2019). Based on an impressive number of interviews with caddies, partners, opponents, golf pros and employees, Reilly presents a vivid glimpse into the President’s inner life. Reilly is renowned for his commentary at Sports Illustrated (1985-2007), particularly his back-page column “The Life of Reilly,” and for his eight years at ESPN.

5. Capital District Events
Butterflies & Blooms at miSci

When: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020 until Sunday, Feb 16, 2020
See Below for Dates & Times

Where: miSci (museum of innovation and science), 15 Nott Terrace Heights Schenectady, NY 12308

For more info, click here.
For a small child, there are few things more magical than rainbows... and one would be: butterflies! Escape cabin fever, and discover hundreds of brilliantly colored native butterflies at miSci. Watch butterflies at every stage of life – from egg to the Chrysalis chamber to adulthood. Learn about different species of butterflies from the area, including: Monarchs, Black Swallowtails, Buckeyes, Painted Ladies, Common Buckeyes, Red Admirals, and Spicebush Swallowtails. Discover what butterflies eat, and how scientists use butterflies as examples for new technology, all inside a re-creation of the butterflies’ natural, outdoor habitat with plants and flowers the butterflies require for food – all tended by masterful volunteer gardeners. The butterfly house at miSci is open from February 15 through April 19, 2020 and is free with a General Admission ticket (miSci members are also free).

2020 Albany Wine & Chocolate Festival

When: Saturday, Feb 15, 2020 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Where: The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road Albany, NY 12211
Cost: Varies

For more info, click [here](#)

Wineries and wine enthusiasts from across the region will gather on February 15, 2020 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 cideries too.

Enjoy a fabulous selection of tasty nibbles and treats, chocolates, cheeses and sweets. Take a stroll through the Candy Bar. Then get some serious shopping done. Browse through fantastic mini boutiques featuring purses, jewelry, clothing and more.
Project: Cameron's Story Annual Bookraiser

When: Sunday, Feb 16, 2020 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Where: Barnes and Noble Colonie, 131 Colonie Center Colonie, NY 12205
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here
Annual Book Collection for Project: Cameron's Story at the Colonie Barnes and Noble. Please join us for free arts & crafts and a scavenger hunt. See your favorite characters Elmo, Peppa Pig and Scoobie Doo.
Empire "Skate" Plaza - Part of Winter at the Plaza

When: Today until Sunday, Feb 16, 2020 11:00 AM
Where: Empire State Plaza Ice Rink, Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12210
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here

Now in its 9th year, the tremendously popular Empire State Plaza Ice Rink is open daily from Noon - 8:00 p.m. and skating is free. The rink closes for maintenance at certain times depending on the day, please see the full hours breakdown below. Located in the shadow of Albany's majestic State Capitol, amenities include lockers, skate rentals, and refreshments.

Rentals are available whenever the rink is open and cost $3 for children 12 and under and $4 for adults. A photo ID is required to rent skates. Every Saturday is Free Skate Rental Saturday courtesy of Hannaford Supermarkets. The 2019-20 season will feature an assorted line-up of special events including instructional clinics!

Lift Concert Series: Taina Asili

When: Wednesday, Feb 19, 2020 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Where: Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 30 Second Street Troy, NY 12180
Cost: $15
For more info, click here
The Lift Concert Series is four performances of new, independent music that all take place on Wednesday nights. Tickets are just $15 per show - subscriptions are available for $50.

What makes this series different? The series is carefully curated to feature talented performers whose work is unique in their field. Patrons will enter the Hall through Franklin Alley and take the freight elevator to our backstage area. They will be seated onstage with the musicians, creating an intimate concert experience. A bar serving beer and libations from a local brewery (TBD) will be available. Performances start at 6 PM. After the show, everyone is encouraged to enjoy the rest of the evening at one of Troy’s terrific restaurants or breweries.

Taína Asili is a New York-based Puerto Rican singer, filmmaker and activist carrying on the tradition of her ancestors, fusing past and present struggles into one soulful and defiant voice. Her music combines powerful vocals carrying themes of hope and liberation with an energetic fusion of Afro-Latin, reggae and rock. Asili’s music offers a sound that spans continents, exuding strength of Spirit, inspiring audiences at venues across the globe – From Carnegie Hall to the Women’s March on Washington to the main stage of San Francisco Pride. With an energetic horn section and infectious rhythms, Asili’s music urges people to get on their feet and dance to the rhythm of rebellion.
Science Library G-40
Albany, NY 12222-0001

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.