February 21, 2020

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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

Cultural Connections Welcome/Welcome Back Reception Today at 3:30pm
A great opportunity to meet new and continuing students, including food, socializing and fun activities. We hope to see you there.
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.—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 3rd. Additionally, Mr. Serratelli will host evening workshops via Skype on March 3rd. See flyer below for details.
New Resource: Career Resources for International Students Webpage

ISSS has a new webpage for Career Resources. It's never too early to start preparing for your career. Check it out here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/93187.php

Welcome Reception - Introduction to Research & Networking

To: All international visiting scholars, their department sponsors, and sponsored students, PhD Students
The Center of International Education and Global Strategy will host an introduction to research and networking reception for visiting scholars, their department sponsors, international PhD students, and sponsored students.

Please come for International appetizers, warm and cold drinks, and collegial conversation.

RSVP to Tara Evans, at tevans3@albany.edu, by Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

We look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Reception!

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020
Time: 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Location: Standish Room, Science Library, 3rd Floor
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 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](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf), to obtain form 8843. For questions, please contact ISSS.
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. Graduate students should note the following: "All school and college-based ceremonies include Doctoral, Master's/Graduate Certificate, and Undergraduate students."

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
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. **We recommend that every student attend one of these days, even if you don’t have travel plans yet.**
ISSS Travel Signature Days! Spring 2020

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.

UAlbany Project MyStory: Call for Volunteers
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!

Research Workshops for International Students

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

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- NO SIGN UP IS REQUIRED
- Simply Attend on **ONE** of the Dates
- FIRST COME FIRST SERVE
- Please Arrive **15 Minutes** Early
- Please Bring Your Learners Permit Photo ID Along with **$45 CASH**

**Spring 2020 Session Dates:**
- 2/1, 2/9, 2/15, 2/16, 2/22, 2/23
- 3/27, 3/28, 4/18, 4/19, 4/24, 4/25, & 5/2

**Times Class Will Be Held:**
- Friday Class - 2PM – 7PM
- Saturday Class - NOON – 5PM
- Sunday Class - NOON – 5PM

IN THE CAMPUS CENTER'S SUCCESS CENTER
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

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 Starbuck’s 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

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Men's Basketball vs. New Hampshire
When: Saturday, February 22, 2020 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Where: SEFCU Arena
Cost: $8-20, UAlbany students free
Description: Men's Basketball hosts the New Hampshire Wildcats

Akina Yura
When: Saturday, February 22, 2020 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Where: Performing Arts Center (Recital Hall) Main Campus
Cost: $3-$10
Description: This pianist introduces brilliant new works by contemporary composers and performs beloved works from the standard repertory.
Networking Now for Future Success
When: Monday, February 24, 2020 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Where: Science Library 340
Description: The UAlbany Project MyStory Student-to-Student Dinner and Discussion Series is a way for new Danes to connect with other UAlbany students from all over the world to talk about how to navigate this new academic experience. These are not lectures, but conversations. Come to share, learn, and to enjoy some tasty snacks. Learn - Eat - Make Friends - Win Prizes

Women’s Basketball vs. UMass Lowell
When: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Where: SEFCU Arena
Cost: $7-15, students free
Description: Women’s Basketball plays its final home game of the season, celebrating Senior Night

Craft Talk with Yolanda Caraway and Minyon Moore, political strategists
When: Thursday, February 27, 2020 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM
Where: Science Library - Standish Room
Cost: Free
Description: Yolanda Caraway & Minyon Moore, political strategists, are coauthors with Donna Brazile and Leah Daughtry of For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics, a group memoir of four women who are among the most influential African Americans in the U.S. political sphere. Caraway is the founder and President/CEO of The Caraway Group, a D.C.-based public relations firm. Moore is a principal of the D.C. political consulting firm, The DeWey Square Group.
Cosponsored by the UAlbany Student Association.

5. Capital District Events

Albany Sports Card and Memorabilia Show
When: Saturday, Feb 22, 2020 until Sunday, Feb 23, 2020 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Where: Red Lion Hotel, 205 Wold Road Albany, NY 12205
Cost: $3
For more info, click [here](#)
Winterfest 2020: The Rise of Snowwalker
When: Sunday, Feb 23, 2020 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Where: Hudson Crossing Park, Co Road 42 Schuylerville, NY 12871
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here

Calling all Rebels! Mark your calendars for an afternoon of epic adventure at Hudson Crossing Park's 2020 Winterfest: The Rise of Snowwalker! Join us for lots of fun, FREE family activities, with a cold water rescue demonstration by Schuyler Hose • Jabba the Hut's Bake Sale • Return of the Sled-i sledding • Empire STRIKES Back Snow Bowling • snow sculpting contest • ice cutting on the canal and plenty more to enjoy for scoundrels, nerfherders, and rebel sympathizers of all ages!

Always in Season film screening & community discussion
When: Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Where: Albany Barn, 56 Second St Albany, NY 12210
Cost: free
For more info, click here
A Moderated Community Discussion will follow with members of the Underground Railroad Education Center [formerly the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region].

**Maestro: improv Comedy Showdown**

When: Friday, Feb 28, 2020 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Where: The Mopco Improv Theatre, 10 N Jay Street Schenectady, NY 12305  
Cost: $10.00 General Admission | $6.00 Students/Seniors  
For more info, click [here](#)
Maestro: One Improviser to Rule Them All!

A comedy elimination showdown. Many competitors enter but only one will emerge as the "Maestro"

Doors Open @ 7:30pm, Show Starts @ 8:00pm

A king or queen to rule the stage!

In this exciting, winner-take-all format, improvisers from around the Capital Region and beyond compete to escape elimination and be crowned the evening's improv comedy champion. Actors perform in a barrage of scenes and songs for the audience's delight and approval. Each round gets more intense as performers are eliminated and the stakes get higher. Who decides who will have their number called and face elimination? You, the audience decides who will win the night and be crowned Maestro! Who will succeed or join the ranks of the eliminated?

Come laugh and cheer on your favorites to see who will be this month's Maestro!
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