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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.

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

- International House Housing Sign Up Ends Today
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4. University at Albany Events

- Rockefeller College Presents: Robert Tsai “Living Presidentialism: What, If Anything, Constrains the Modern Executive?”
  - Capital Trio Honors Max Lifchitz
- Craft talk with Jennifer Block, health care journalist (WRITING LIFE AND HEALTH Series)
- Introduction of Beijing Opera workshop
- Lady Pink, graffiti artist, activist and educator, and film screening of WILD STYLE (Latinidades at the Writers Institute)

5. Capital District Events

- Empire "Skate" Plaza - Part of Winter at the Plaza
  - FFAPL Mid-Winter CD & DVD Sale
    - Meditative Tea Ceremony
    - Jazz Night
  - All My Sons by Arthur Miller
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

**Immigration Art: Immigration Attorney Consultations March 3rd - Please RSVP!**

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 3rd. Additionally, Mr. Serratelli will host evening
workshops via Skype on March 3rd. See flyer below for details.

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. 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**

*On-the spot travel signatures!!!*

**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 an ISSS advisor.
Reminders for International Students Traveling Outside the U.S. 
Over Spring Break

Students are required to carry the following documentation when re-entering the United States:

- Passport valid at least 6 months into the future.
- Most recent I-20 or DS-2019 including up to date information and a valid travel signature. For most current full-time students, the travel signature is valid for one year. For students on OPT, it is valid for 6 months. If your travel signature is older than 6 months, check with ISSS before travelling to find out if you need a new one.
- Unexpired F-1 or J-1 visa stamp – (citizens of Canada and Bermuda are exempt from the visa requirement). You need this in order to re-enter the United States.
- Students on OPT: Students on OPT must additionally carry a valid EAD card, I-20 signed within the past 6 months for travel, and proof of ongoing employment (i.e. contract or letter from employer). Consult ISSS before travelling while on OPT.

Students are recommended to also carry the following:

- If the country you are traveling to requires that you have a visa to enter that country, you will need to go through the process of applying for that visa. You will need to check with that country’s Department of Immigration. If you are transiting through a country, check to see if you need a transit visa for that country.
- Proof of Enrollment or transcript at the University at Albany
- Proof of funding – Verifying the funding shown on your I-20 or DS-2019. Examples include personal or family bank statements, affidavit of support, and copy of scholarship, assistantship, or fellowship letter.
- For J-1 students, it is a good idea to carry proof of health insurance as well.
Note on Special Circumstances/Travel Restrictions Related to the COVID19 (Coronavirus)

Several countries have reported outbreaks and/or cases of COVID19 (Coronavirus) and the situation continues to develop globally. Students who are travelling internationally should be aware that any country could impose travel restrictions at any time, and that these changes may be given with little notice or predictability. Out of caution due to this developing situation, we recommend that students choosing to travel internationally also do the following:

- Travel with a copy of your I-94 and I-94 travel history (available at [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov)) or other documentation as evidence of your travel history in case you are asked to demonstrate whether or not you have been to an impacted area.
- Closely monitor the travel advisories and updates for any country you are travelling or transiting through, including WHO, local/national departments of health, and visiting country consular website. Be aware of any travel restrictions the US might impose limiting reentry by monitoring the CDC website.
- Consider registering with your home country’s consulate in the country you’re visiting.
- Make precautionary plans for what you will do if your return to Albany is delayed. For example, if you choose to travel internationally during Spring Break and cannot return as planned due to a travel restriction: you may still be financially liable for your registered courses. Please consult professors about whether or not you can complete coursework remotely if delayed, and if yes for how long. If you are graduating this term and want to apply for OPT you must be physically present in the U.S. at the time you’re completing in order to apply.
Fall 2020 International Orientation Assistant Application

Looking for a fun on-campus job this summer? ISSS is seeking Orientation Assistants for New International Student Orientation, August 16-August 21, 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 go to [https://tinyurl.com/OAFall2020](https://tinyurl.com/OAFall2020) to apply. Applications are due by April 1st at 5pm. If you have any questions please contact isss@albany.edu.
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.

**Census 2020: What to Expect**

Every 10 years, the United States conducts a census in order to take count of how many people live in each household. International students are part of this census count ([https://2020census.gov/en/who-to-count.html](https://2020census.gov/en/who-to-count.html)). This data is used for a variety of reasons, including congressional representation and distribution of federal funds ([https://2020census.gov/en/census-data.html](https://2020census.gov/en/census-data.html)).

Starting mid-March, you will begin to receive mail from the Census Bureau. By April 1, 2020, every home in the U.S. should receive an invitation to participate in the census. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. More information is on their website here ([https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html](https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html)).

The Census will ask questions about how many people live in a household, as well as the name, sex, date of birth and race of each household occupant. It will **not** ask about citizenship or immigration status. They will not ask about your Social Security Number, financial/banking information, or political affiliations. For more information on what they will or will not ask, see their website here: [https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html](https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html)

The Census Bureau hires Census Takers who go door to door and will ask how many people live in each household. They will begin home visits in April and these will continue through May. You can verify someone is a Census Taker because they will have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a Department of Commerce watermark,
and an expiration date. They may also carry bags and other equipment, which will have the Census Bureau logo on them. You can read more about Census Takers here: https://2020census.gov/en/census-takers.html

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

International House Housing Sign Up Ends Today
Living on campus next year? Consider living in International House! Sign-up ends today.
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

CPT and OPT Workshops

Spring 2020

CPT Workshops
- Thursday, Feb. 6, 3:00-5:00, SL G05
- Thursday, March 26, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Monday, April 13, 3:30-5:00, SL G05

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 G05
- Friday, Jan. 24, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Monday, Feb. 10, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Friday, Feb. 21, 3:30-5:30, SL G05
- Tuesday, Feb. 25, 10:00-11:30, SL G05
- Wednesday, March 4, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Friday, March 13, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Wednesday, March 18, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Monday, March 30, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Thursday, April 9, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Tuesday, April 21, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Wednesday, April 29, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
- Thursday, May 7, 3:30-5:00, SL G05
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/iss/93187.php

UAlbany Project MyStory: Call for Volunteers

SPRING 2020
STUDENT-TO-STUDENT
DINNER & DISCUSSION SERIES

SELECTED MONDAYS AT 6:00 PM

February 3 | Science Library Room 340
New Stories: How UAlbany Became a Home Away from Home

February 10 | Science Library Room 340
HELP! I am a UAlbany Dane and I am Undecided!

February 24 | Science Library Room 340
Networking for Future Success

March 9 | Humanities Room 354
You Want Me to Do WHAT? Pressing Past Your Fear of Public Speaking

March 23 | Science Library Room 340
Mind Your Mind: Supporting Your Mental Health

April 13 | Science Library Room 340
The Value of Finding and Utilizing Mentors

April 27 | Science Library Room 340
Stress-Less Story, Social & Awards Ceremony

WIN PRIZES - MAKE FRIENDS - LEARN SOMETHING NEW - EAT

Sponsored By UAS Auxiliary Services
UAlbany Staff Award
Center for International Education and Global Strategy
Academic Support Center
New York State Writers Institute
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!
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."

4. University at Albany Events
Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

Rockefeller College Presents: Robert Tsai “Living Presidentialism: What, If Anything, Constrains the Modern Executive?”
When: Monday, March 2, 2020 4:15 PM - 5:45 PM
Where: Social Science 255 & 256 University at Albany, Uptown Campus 1400 Washington Ave. Albany, NY 12222
Cost: Free and Open to the Public
Description: What do emergency-based governance to build a southern border wall, Trump’s Muslim travel ban, sharp limits on the entry of refugees, and the president’s impeachment defense all have in common? They are all built upon a modern theory of the unitary executive that envisions few checks on the president’s authority, either internally or externally.

Capital Trio Honors Max Lifchitz
When: Monday, March 2, 2020 7:00 PM - 8:20 PM
Where: Performing Arts Center (Recital Hall) Main Campus
Cost: $3-$10
Description: Our ensemble in residence performs a special concert of chamber music works by the long time faculty member including “Songs of Ourselves” which the composer wrote to mark last year’s 25th anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences.
Craft talk with Jennifer Block, health care journalist (WRITING LIFE AND HEALTH Series)

When: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM
Where: Campus Center Multi-Use Room Campus Center West Addition
Cost: Free
Description: Jennifer Block is the author of an eye-opening investigation into the shortcomings of women’s health care—Everything Below the Waist: Why Health Care Needs a Feminist Revolution (2019), “a must-read for women, especially any woman who might ever need to see a doctor” (Washington Post).
Cosponsored by UAlbany’s RNA Institute, School of Public Health, Women in Science and Health network (WISH), and the Hudson Valley RNA Club.

Introduction of Beijing Opera workshop

When: Friday, March 6, 2020 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Where: Campus Center Boardroom
Cost: Free
Description: - Introduce the performance and singing characteristics, and mask art of Beijing Opera
- Show the charm and artistic characteristics of Beijing Opera
- Beijing Opera exhibition and body interaction experience

Lady Pink, graffiti artist, activist and educator, and film screening of WILD STYLE (Latinidades at the Writers Institute)

When: Friday, March 6, 2020 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Where: Page Hall Downtown Campus
Cost: Free
Description: WILD STYLE is widely regarded as the first-ever hip-hop motion picture and features rare footage of music icon Grandmaster Flash, as well as The Rock Steady Crew, Cold Crush Brothers and Queen Lisa Lee, among others. (United States, 1983, 82 minutes). Screening will be followed by Q&A with Lady Pink, a major figure of New York’s graffiti subculture of the 1970s and ‘80s.
5. Capital District Events

Empire "Skate" Plaza - Part of Winter at the Plaza

When: Today until Sunday, Mar 1, 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!
FFAPL Mid-Winter CD & DVD Sale
When: Saturday, Feb 29, 2020 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Where: Albany Public Library, 331 Delaware Ave Albany, NY 12209
For more info, click here

The Friends and Foundation of APL invite you to their Mid-Winter CD-DVD fair!

All CDs - $1
All DVDs - 3 for $1

Meditative Tea Ceremony
When: Saturday, Feb 29, 2020 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Where: The Space Yoga/Meditation Studio, 386 Delaware Avenue Albany, NY 12209
Cost: By Donation Only
For more info, click here

Honor the Japanese concept of “ikkai ichi douza” or “one time, one meeting” and practice a mindful tea drinking ritual. Life is ever changing, so let us celebrate and appreciate the present moment.
**Jazz Night**

When: Wednesday, Mar 4, 2020 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Where: Skyloft, 1 Crossgates Mall Rd Albany, NY 12203

Cost: Free

For more info, click [here](#).

Every Wednesday Skyloft transforms into Albany's finest escape into the world of Jazz music.

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**All My Sons by Arthur Miller**

When: Friday, Mar 6, 2020 until Sunday, Mar 8, 2020

See Below for Dates & Times

Where: Sand Lake Center for the Arts, 2800 NY Route 43 Averill Park, NY, NY 12018

Cost: $18

For more info, click [here](#).
How far would a man go to protect his family, his interests, and his legacy? Joe Keller, the patriarch in All My Sons, desperately wants to secure and maintain the financial security and legacy he spent so many years building, ready to hand it down to his surviving son Chris. At the same time, Joe’s wife Kate is still waiting for their eldest son Larry to return from war, determined that he is alive and will marry the former girl-next-door, Ann --the daughter of Joe’s former business partner who is sitting in prison, punished for Joe’s crimes. To complicate this family drama, Chris and Ann are in love and want to get married. In All My Sons, Arthur Miller creates a post-war American family in a tragic downfall of lies, greed, love, and loss, and demands its audience examine their own social responsibilities to all the sons of American wars. How far would a man go to protect his family, his interests, and his legacy? Joe Keller, the patriarch in All My Sons, desperately wants to secure and maintain the financial security and legacy he spent so many years building, ready to hand it down to his surviving son Chris. At the same time, Joe’s wife Kate is still waiting for their eldest son Larry to return from war, determined that he is alive and will marry the former girl-next-door, Ann --the daughter of Joe’s former business partner who is sitting in prison, punished for Joe’s crimes. To complicate this family drama, Chris and Ann are in love and want to get married. If your sense of right and wrong has been shattered by any number of disturbing recent events, you can find genuine emotional healing in Arthur Miller's chilling story, which feels just as relevant today as it did when it debuted more than 70 years ago.