Want your photo to appear? Email it to ISSS@albany.edu

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1. Greetings!

This is the Weekly ISSS Newsletter that we send out every Friday. It includes very important 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

Boston Day Trip Registration is open!

Students are invited to take a trip to Boston on Saturday April 21. The price is $45 which covers the cost of travel. Once in Boston, students are welcome to go on activities with ISSS staff or explore the city with friends. Register today as spots fill up quickly!
Classes Cancelled Today- No Walk-In Advising or CPT Workshop

Due to inclement weather, classes have been cancelled for Friday, March 2nd and offices will have limited availability. Due to limited availability there will be no walk-in or phone advisement available. If you are in need of advisement, staff will be available by email only. Please email ISSS@albany.edu.

The CPT workshop at 10am is also cancelled, as all classes and activities are cancelled for the University.

Thank you for your cooperation and please stay safe.

SEVP Portal for Reporting OPT Employment Launching Soon

On March 23, 2018, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP, which is the agency in charge of SEVIS) will launch the SEVP Portal. The portal is a tool that F-1 or M-1 students on post-completion optional practical training (OPT) or STEM OPT can choose to use to report changes to their demographic and employer information, or to review the current information in their SEVIS record for accuracy.

Any data updates you make in the portal will be sent directly to SEVIS.

All students are still required to update their SEVIS USA address, phone number, and email in MyUAlbany. However, you can use the portal to make sure the information you have in MyUAlbany is correct. If the information in the portal does not match your current contact information, please update it in MyUAlbany.

Students on STEM OPT will not be able to update employer information in the Portal, and must continue to update ISSS directly using the OPT data form. The reason for this is that students on STEM OPT must also submit I-983 updates when changing employers.

As a student on post-completion or STEM OPT, you will be eligible to use the portal. The portal is accessible from both your mobile device and computer. You will receive an email with instructions on creating a portal account. This email will come from do-not-reply.sevp@ice.dhs.gov. If you do not see the email, check your spam or junk mail folder. If you still do not see it, contact ISSS to have the email sent again.

The SEVP Portal will allow you to:
- View details about your post-completion or STEM OPT.
- Report changes to your address, telephone and employer information.
- View and update data on all your employers in one place.
Any data updates you make in the portal will be sent directly to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

SEVP has created an SEVP Portal Help section on Study in the States with:

Information about the portal


SEVP Portal videos.

A useful one-page reference sheet on the portal.

Use of the portal is voluntary but highly encouraged by SEVP. If you have any questions about the portal or need assistance, call the SEVP Response Center at 703-603-3400.

Any student may continue to send the OPT data form to ISSS@albany.edu to update information if they prefer. Students are also still required to complete their regular 6 month reporting. Please note ISSS has made recent updates to the OPT data form. You can find the most recent version here, on the Forms page of our website.

Graduating in May? Apply for Degree Clearance and Commencement

If you are graduating in Spring, you must submit your application as a degree candidate to the Registrar through MyUAlbany. More information is available here: https://www.albany.edu/registrar/degree-application.php.

If you have questions about the Commencement Ceremony, more information can be found on the Commencement Office's website, here: https://www.albany.edu/commencement/

Sprintax and Other Tax Filing Information

ISSS has purchased Sprintax tax software to help international students and scholars to file their 2017 tax returns. Codes for Sprintax will be available on Monday, February 5, 2018. 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.

**USCIS Now Accepting Credit Card Payments for Forms**

USCIS will now accept credit card payments for a number of forms filed at their Lockbox facilities, including the I-765 and I-539. A full list of forms for which a credit card payment will now be accepted is available on USCIS's website [here](#). To pay via credit card, students must submit a completed form G-1450 Authorization for Credit Card Transaction with their application to USCIS. The form and instructions are available on USCIS' website, [here](#).

### 3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

**OPT/CPT Workshops-- Revised Schedule**

Students applying for OPT are required to attend one of the below [mandatory workshop sessions](#). Students who are applying for CPT are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop as well. Below are the dates of workshops for Spring 2018. No pre-registration is needed for the workshops.
CPT and OPT Workshops

Spring 2018
Updated 2.22.18

CPT Workshops

- **Friday, 3/2**, 10am-11am, SL Go5
- **Monday, 3/12**, 4pm-5pm, SL Basement Classroom H
- **Wednesday, 4/4**, 3pm-4pm, SL Basement Classroom H—intended for first semester MS CSCI students
- **Thursday, 4/19**, 11am-12pm, SL Go5

OPT Workshops

- **Friday, 2/23**, 4pm-5pm, SL Basement H
- **Thursday, 3/8**, 10am-11am, SL Go5
- **Monday, 3/19**, 3pm-4pm, SL Basement H
- **Tuesday, 3/27**, 11am-12pm, SL G-05
- **Friday, 4/13**, 3pm-4pm, SL Basement H
- **Wednesday, 4/25**, 1pm-2pm, SL Go5
- **Thursday, 5/3**, 3pm-4pm, East Campus, George Education Center C4
- **Tuesday, 5/8**, 10am-11am, SL Go5
- **Thursday, 5/17**, 2pm-3pm, SL Go5

Other Important Dates

- **Saturday, 2/17/18**: Beginning of OPT filing season with USCIS for May 2018 graduates
- **Wednesday, 2/21/17**: Job and Internship Fair, 12pm-5pm, SEFUC Arena
- **Thursday, 5/17/18**: Program end date for May graduates
- **Friday, 7/15/18**: Latest OPT start date for May graduates to request. All OPT applications for May graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.

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**International Student and Scholar Services**
Science Library C-40
Phone: 518-514-8172
Email: ISSS@albany.edu

**Walk In Advising**
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9am-4pm
No Appointment Needed
Housing Sign-Up Information for the 2018-2019 Year

Housing sign up for the 2018-2019 year has begun. Please see the flyer below and contact ResLife@albany.edu with questions.

Also visit: https://www.albany.edu/housing/hsupquad.shtml for more information
Travel Signature Days

Your I-20 or DS-2019 must be signed every year while you are a full-time student so that you can re-enter the United States after travel. Usually, ISSS requests 5-7 business days for travel signatures. But on our special travel signature days, you can get it signed on the spot.

Friday, February 9th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Friday, March 9th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Friday, May 4th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Thursday, May 10th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Friday, May 18th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

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.
4. University at Albany Events

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

**Bolly Pump**
Friday, March 2, 5-6pm
Physical Education Building - Group Exercise Studio
Inspired by the high energy music from India, this class will incorporate rhythmic, full body movements. BollyPump will keep you energized and engaged. No previous dance experience needed.

**Men's Lacrosse vs. Cornell**
Saturday, March 3 @1pm
Tom & Mary Casey Stadium (Bob Ford Field)
Come out and support our Men's Lacrosse team as they face off Cornell this Saturday!

**Men's Basketball vs Stonybrook**
Saturday, March 3 @7pm
Come see our No. 4 Seed Men's Basketball game host No. 5 Seed Stony Brook in a quarterfinal game of the America East tournament!
$5-20 depending on age and seat location, first 500 students free, $5 after that

**Editing with Adobe Premiere**
Monday, March 5, 2018 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
LI B15 University Library | Cost: free
Are you a YouTuber, filmmaker, television broadcaster, journalist, student, or videographer that wants to get the most out of editing your content? Premiere is the industry's leading professional video editing application. Learn the functions and capabilities of Premiere to produce professional content. Walk-ins are welcome.

**Cycle**
Tuesday, March 6, 2018 815-9pm
Physical Education- Spin/Cycling Studio
Strap in for a fun and exciting ride full of hills, sprints, and jumps. Take this non-impact class to help you reach your goals. All fitness levels are welcome! Limited to 15 participants.

**This Place**
Thursday, March 8, 10am-5pm | University Art Museum
This Place is a photography exhibition that explores the rifts and paradoxes of the highly contested spaces of Israel and the West Bank, featuring internationally renowned artists Martin Kollar, Jungjin Lee, Thomas Struth, and Jeff Wall. The exhibition includes a designated space with seating and interactive materials designed to function as a site for dialogue, conversational exchange, and extended classroom learning.

**AdvisingPLUS tutoring schedule**

AdvisingPLUS offers weekly tutoring in a number of subjects to help undergraduate students with their academic success. Attend these tutoring sessions to help you get that A!

Full schedule is available [here](#).

**5. Capital District Events**

**Empire Skate Plaza**

*Where:* Empire State Plaza Ice Rink, Albany, NY 12210

*Cost:* FREE ADMISSION | Phone: 518-474-4759

The Empire State Plaza Ice Rink is open daily through **March 11, from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.** (closed for maintenance from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.) and skating is free. Located in the shadow of Albany's majestic State Capitol, amenities include a full-service snack bar on Friday nights and weekends and a skate lounge with lockers.

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 Friday is Free Skate Rental Day courtesy of Hannaford Supermarkets.
laughs on lark: open mic comedy night

wednesday, march 7 @ 8-11pm

savoy taproom and chatham brewing present a night of comedy with laughs on lark. click here for more info.

maple sugarhouse tours

thursday, mar 8, 2018 until sunday, mar 11, 2018 - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

riverside maple farms, 7152 amsterdam road schenectady, ny 12302

we offer free, guided tours of the sugar house thursday – sunday. tours are offered on a first come, first serve basis. tours are approximately 30 minutes, including both inside and outside stops. click here for more info.