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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

International Celebration RSVP Open!

The Center for International Education and Global Strategy will host a ceremony for international students and study abroad students who are graduating, as well as exchange students and scholars who are returning to their home countries at the end of the semester. Please respond to the RSVP email that you will receive. See flyer below for details.
Orientation Assistant Applications for Fall 2019 Now Open

Looking for a fun on-campus job this summer? ISSS is seeking Orientation Assistants for New International Student Orientation, **August 18th-August 23rd**!

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 $250 for approximately 25 hours of work. Please click [https://goo.gl/forms/l9p6J6WtN0vwsaUu2](https://goo.gl/forms/l9p6J6WtN0vwsaUu2) to apply! The deadline for applications is Wednesday, April 17th at 5pm. If you have any questions please contact isss@albany.edu.
ISSS Boston Trip - Registration open

Join us on a day trip to Boston to enjoy the various attractions that this historic city has to offer! The trip takes place on **Saturday, April 20**. 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. If you plan to attend, please register at [http://www.tinyurl.com/ISSStrip](http://www.tinyurl.com/ISSStrip) as soon as possible since spots are VERY limited.

Sign Up to be an International Buddy, Fall 2019!

Do you want to be a buddy for new coming international students during the
Summer and Fall 2019? Did you miss the opportunity last semester? Click here to sign-up: https://goo.gl/forms/veeDLtLnUIfcoKVD2

The International Buddy Program is designed to provide an opportunity for newly admitted international students to know current UAlbany students, and the ultimate goal of the Buddies Program is to promote understanding and friendship among different culture groups and to utilize the culturally dynamic environment on the UAlbany campus.

Friday Afternoon Workshops with ISSS- OPT Workshop Today at 3:30 in SL G-03.

On Fridays this semester, ISSS will have different workshops, covering topics including employment, academics, wellness and social activities. Today, join ISSS for an OPT workshop at 3:30pm in the Science Library Mac Lab! The Mac Lab is
Friday Workshops with ISSS

Join us every Friday afternoon!

Topics include employment, academics, wellness and social activities

January 25th: First OPT Workshop of the semester- Plan to attend if you are graduating in May or soon afterwards! 3:30pm-5:00pm in SL G-05

February 1: International Buddies Program Reception- Meet other international students; light refreshments will be served. 3:00-5:00pm in the Standish Room, 3rd Floor of Science Library

February 8: Career Fair Preparation: The American Resume and Job Search- ISSS partners up with Career Services to provide tips on how to successfully navigate the Career Fair and U.S. Job Search. 3:00-5:00pm in the Standish Room, 3rd Floor of Science Library

February 15: OPT Workshop. - Plan to attend if you are graduating in May or soon afterwards. 3:30pm-5:00pm in SL G-05

February 22: Basics of Writing in the American Classroom- ISSS will provide tips and resources for international students adjusting to American writing norms. This workshop is appropriate for native and non-native English speakers. 3:30-5:00pm in SL G05

March 1: OPT Workshop- Plan to attend if you hope to work in the U.S. after graduation. 3:30pm-5:00pm in SL G-05

March 8: Managing Homesickness in the U.S.- ISSS partners up with CAPS to help students understand and manage homesickness. 3:30-5:00pm, Location To Be Announced.

March 15: Social Break- Join ISSS to hang out, play some board games and socialize before the break. Light snacks will be served. 3:30-5:00 in SL G05

March 29: OPT Workshop- Plan to attend if you hope to work in the U.S. after graduation. 3:30pm-5:00pm in SL G-05

April 5: Study Tips for Finals- ISSS partners up with AdvisingPLUS to discuss tips and resources for students to prepare for their finals. 3:30-5:00pm, Location To Be Announced.

April 12: Oral Presentations in the American Classroom- Special guest speaker Mary Dinh will provide tips and resources for effective oral communication and classroom presentations. 3:00-5:00pm, BB 008

April 19: CPT Workshop- Attend if you are interested in a summer internship in the U.S. 3:00-5:00 pm in SL G05

April 26: OPT Workshop- Plan to attend if you hope to work in the U.S. after graduation. 3:30pm-5:00pm in SL G-05

May 3: Travel Signature Day- Bring your I-20 or DS-2019 to be signed on the spot! 3:00-5:00 in SL G05
**Sprintax Codes Available for Tax Filing**

ISSS has purchased Sprintax tax software to help international students and scholars to file their 2018 federal tax return. **To obtain a tax code; please email ISSS** at 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.

**Update to USCIS Form I-539**

USCIS has released a new I-539 form. The new version must be used starting **March 22, 2019**. Any prior version of the form will be rejected after close of business on March 21st, 2019. The I-539 form is used for filing changes of status and F-1 reinstatements. One of the major changes with this new form is that every applicant and co-applicant must pay an $85 biometric services fee, except certain A, G, and NATO nonimmigrants as noted in the new Form I-539 Instructions published on March 8. This is in addition to the $370.00 filing fee. You can read more about the changes here: [https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/update-uscis-publish-revised-form-i-539-and-new-form-i-539a-march-8](https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/update-uscis-publish-revised-form-i-539-and-new-form-i-539a-march-8) and can access the new I-539 form and instructions on USCIS’s website, here: [https://www.uscis.gov/i-539](https://www.uscis.gov/i-539)

**3. Other ISSS Updates and Events**

**OPT/CPT Workshop Schedule**

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 May, you can begin applying for OPT. Remember
that USCIS estimates up to 3-5 months for processing of an OPT application. An **OPT workshop** is **today at 3:30pm in SL G-05**; To view a full schedule, click [here](#).

### Travel Signature Day on Tuesday 4/23, 2:00-4:00pm

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 DS-2019 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 (Next date: Tuesday, 4/23)**. Download the schedule [here](#).
Language Chatting Room (Apr. 11)

The LCR allows students (international students and Americans) to meet up, chat, and exchange information about their languages and cultures. It is a great way to meet a student who speaks a language different from you, and learn some fun phrases and new words from them! This group is a casual exchange and is not intended as a substitute for formal tutoring for a University language courses or a formal translation service. It runs from 2:30 - 4:00PM in the Campus Center by SEFCU. We hope you will join us on the following dates: April 11 & April 25 (Thur).
The Writing Center - Free 1 hour, one-on-one writing tutorials

The Writing Center, located in the Humanities Building Room 140, offers free, 1-hour writing tutorials for all students. At the Writing Center, you can have a conversation about your writing project with a writing tutor of your choice. Our goal is to help you become better writers, and help you think through your writing process, rather than simply "fixing" your writing for you. Our tutors are diverse, with wide ranging professional and academic interests. Some of our tutors speak Mandarin, Korean, Spanish and German. In order to make an appointment, you can call directly at 518-442-4061 or fill out the form here.

4. University at Albany Events

Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

The "Me too" Movement and Women's Empowerment

Tuesday, April 2, 8PM
Campus Center Auditorium
Winning Wednesday: Walk Your Way into Spring Wellness
Wednesday, April 3, 11 AM - 1 PM
Campus Center Student Success Center (1 Fl)
Looking to get healthier for the summer? Stop by the Campus Center’s Student Success Center to receive health tips. Plus, learn about different not-for-profit organizations that typically incorporate walks for their causes. All in attendance will be entered into a FREE raffle for a chance to win a Wellness Gift basket.

Popular Sovereignty, Populism, and Stories of Peoplehood
Wednesday, April 3, 5 - 6:30 PM
Milne Hall Rm 200, Downtown campus
For more info, click here.
Rogers Smith is a constitutional law scholar and president of the American Political Science Association. Smith focuses on modern legal and political theory, with special interests in questions of citizenship, race, ethnicity, and gender. This paper suggests criteria for developing better stories of peoplehood, using the example of American stories that might compete effectively with Donald Trump’s narrative of “making America great again” by putting “American First.”

Combating the Tobacco Epidemic: Impact & Implications for Other Major Health Risk Factors Associated with Cancer
Thursday, April 4, 5:05 - 6:05 PM
Main Library (L-48)
To register, click here.
Join us for the 9th annual Hogarty Family Foundation Lecture with speaker Cheryl G. Healton, DrPH, Dean of the NYU College of Global Public Health and Professor of Public Health Policy and Management.

UAlbany Driving Force First Friday - Summer Job Tips!
Friday, April 5, 11 AM - 1 PM
Campus Center Transfer & Commuter Lounge
Join the UAlbany Driving Force Commuter Club every first Friday of each month. Stop by the Campus Center Transfer and Commuter Lounge on Friday, April 5, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. to connect with peers in an informal setting and receive tips on how to seek and prepare for summer employment. We hope to see you there.

5. Capital District Events

Pat Metheny Side Eye at The Egg
Saturday, March 30 @ 8 PM
The Egg, Empire State Plaza
Cost: $39 - 49
For tickets, click here.

One of the day’s most popular, eclectic and innovative guitarists, Pat Metheny has won 20 Grammy Awards in 12 different categories to accompany his three gold records and his accolades as “Best Jazz Guitarist” in polls for nearly four decades. Recently inducted into the Downbeat Hall of Fame as its youngest member, Pat will perform his new “Side Eye” project – featuring pianist James Francies and drummer Nate Smith.

People of New York Exhibition
Daily until December 31, 2019 @ 7 AM - 7 PM
Through images, objects, and stories, this exhibition features the people of New York - past and present – and our firsthand accounts of perseverance and migration. It showcases our individual fights for inclusive freedom to establish a future state built on liberty and opportunity. The five sections of this exhibition explore specific themes that have contributed to shaping New York State’s population and illustrate how a legacy of diversity began, spread, and continues to form our New York identity.

**9th Annual Capital Region CANstruction: If You Can Dream It, You Can Do It**

Daily until April 10 @ 9:30 AM - 5 PM

New York State Museum (222 Madison Ave. Albany)

For more info, click [here](#).
CANstruction is an annual exhibit and design competition that connects talented architects, engineers, contractors, and students to imagine and create colossal structures built completely out of canned food items. This year, fourteen structures will be on display on the State Museum’s 4th Floor Terrace to raise awareness of food insecurity in our region. At the close of the display every can will be distributed among 56 local food pantries through the Food Pantries for the Capital District.