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March 6, 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
We recognize the concern of students and the University community regarding the coronavirus. We are also proud to have international students from all over the world at UAlbany, including from countries who have reported cases of the coronavirus.

The University has posted a [FAQ page on the Coronavirus](https://www.albany.edu/risks-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information) (COVID19) with additional information.

Students with health related concerns should contact [University at Albany Student Health Services](https://www.albany.edu/student-health-services).

Several countries have reported outbreaks and/or cases or COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the situation continues to develop globally. Students who must travel 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. Due to this, we advise students to first carefully consider the situation before choosing to travel at this time.

We ask that international students and scholars who are travelling internationally share their travel plans with us, including destination countries and flight information, so that ISSS will have access to your travel plan information in order to best support you as the situation develops. To access the form, click here.

Based on the Albany County and NY State Departments of Health guidance, the University at Albany is highly discouraging travel to countries or regions impacted by the coronavirus. Students who must travel during this spring break to impacted countries or regions are required to call UAlbany Student Health Services at 518-442-5229 before returning to campus. For more instructions on this critical process, please visit [https://www.albany.edu/risks-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information](https://www.albany.edu/risks-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information) (section heading beginning with “I am planning a trip or have returned form a trip to on the geographic areas…”).

Additional Resources are available below

- [Reminders for Students Travelling (including documentation requirements)](https://www.albany.edu/risks-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information)
- [Resources for International Students from COVID-19 Affected Areas](https://www.albany.edu/risks-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information)
Please note: as of March 2nd, any non-U.S. citizen traveler who has been physically present in Iran or China within the preceding 14 days is barred from entering the U.S.
This bar could be extended to include other countries with little notice.

If you must travel please remember that 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 an ISSS advisor.

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 to apply. Applications are due by April 1st at 5pm. If you have any questions please contact isss@albany.edu.
FALL 2020 INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION ASSISTANT APPLICATION OPEN!

Looking for a summer job? Are you interested in helping to welcome new international students to campus, building your resume, and joining a diverse team? Apply to be an Orientation Assistant for International Orientation, Fall 2020!

If selected, you must be available to work August 16th-August 21st.

For more information and to apply, visit: https://tinyurl.com/OAFall2020

Application due by April 1, 2020

Email ISSS@albany.edu for more information

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!
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). This data is used for a variety of reasons, including congressional representation and distribution of federal funds (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).

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

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
OPT/CPT Workshop Schedule, Spring 2020 - Reminder, OPT Form is now Online!

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. 31, 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 G5
- 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

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!
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.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream
When: Sunday, March 8, 2020 2:00 PM - 4:15 PM
Where: Performing Arts Center (Main Theatre) Main Campus
Cost: $12 - $22
Description: Shakespeare’s best-loved comedy explores love in all its magical forms: love at first sight, romantic love, and love twisted by lust, by jealousy, and by magic. Four lovers lose their minds in a forest filled with mischievous fairies. With gay and lesbian love stories at its core, this reimagined production vividly proves that true love conquers all.

Festival of Contemporary Music
When: Monday, March 9, 2020 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Where: Performing Arts Center (Main Theatre) Main Campus
Cost: $3-$10
Description: The University Percussion Ensemble welcomes the Empire State Youth Percussion Ensembles for a concert with newly commissioned work.

Craft Talk with Scott Simon, host of NPR’s “Weekend Edition”
When: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM
Where: Science Library - Standish Room
Cost: Free
Description: Scott Simon, beloved host of NPR’s “Weekend Edition” since it first aired in 1985, and one of the best-known voices on American radio, will present his new middle grade book, Sunnyside Plaza (2020). The book tells the story of a developmentally
disabled adult woman who seeks to solve the mystery of a number of suspicious deaths in her group home. Kirkus called it, “A tender insight into being different and wonderful.”

University Symphony Orchestra
When: Thursday, March 12, 2020 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Where: Performing Arts Center (Main Theatre) Main Campus
Cost: $3-$10
Description: With conductor Christopher David Neubert, this large ensemble performs works representing outstanding repertoire from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods of the 20th and 21st centuries. The group is well-known for programming works by Dvořák, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Hindemith.

Panel Discussion on "The Middle Continent and Its People: The Contributions of Africa and the African Diaspora to Modern Civilization"
When: Thursday, March 12, 2020 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Where: Humanities 290
Cost: free and open to the public
Description: Dr. Marcel Kitissou will lead a panel discussion on "The Middle Continent and Its People: The Contributions of Africa and the African Diaspora to Modern Civilization" as part of the Department of Africana Studies Black History Month events.

5. Capital District Events

Savoy Soul Club
When: Friday, Mar 6, 2020 until Saturday, Mar 7, 2020 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM
Where: Savoy Taproom, 301 Lark Street Albany, NY 12210
Cost: 0
For more info, click here

Savoy Taproom presents... Savoy Soul Club, Friday, February 7th from 9pm to late. Savoy Soul Club is the Capital Region's best and only all vinyl soul night. Savoy Taproom supplies the good drinks and food, and our Soul Club DJs bring the music.
Specializing in the best and rarest in Northern Soul, RnB, Early Funk, Rocksteady/ Ska & Mod/ Beat 45's, we are here to dance! As always FREE ENTRY and Drink Specials!

**Chortle Kombat**

When: Saturday, Mar 7, 2020 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Where: The Mopco Improv Theatre, 10 N Jay Street Schenectady, NY 12305  
Cost: $15.00 General Admission, $6.00 Students/Seniors/Kids  
For more info, click [here](#)

Chortle Kombat! Doors Open at 7:30 PM, Show Starts at 8:00 PMThree expert improv directors face off in an all-out comedy rumble! Competitors direct a cast of improv pros in scenes, stories, and songs of their creation for your approval! The winner takes home the coveted Chicken Statue, the symbol of sweet, hilarious victory! WARNING: This is hardball improv: a no-holds-barred, LOL, ROTFLMAO battle of comedic wit and skills. These combatants go to any lengths to put a chortle in your voice and a chuckle on your chin!

**Bronx meets Buffalo in Albany**

When: Saturday, Mar 7, 2020 until Sunday, Mar 8, 2020 9:00 PM to 12:00 AM  
Where: Savoy Taproom, 301 Lark Street Albany, NY 12210  
Cost: 0  
For more info, click [here](#)

Savoy Taproom and Just Because Ent brings those Buffalo boys, We Stole The Show and Ooze Gang to link up with Bronx native Mike Larry Draw to cause an audio/aural assault. DJ John Brown on the spins. Show "doors" at 9pm. No cover charge. 21 and up.
Eryca Nolan Presents Project HERlarious at Albany Funny Bone
When: Sunday, Mar 8, 2020 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Where: Albany Funny Bone, 1 Crossgates Mall Rd, Crossgates Mall Albany, NY 12203
Cost: $10.00
For more info, click here

Eryca Nolan Presents Project HERlarious. A Single Mom turned Comedian considers herself Funny As A Mother. See Eryca entertain audiences with her wit and unfiltered honesty as she shares tales of Motherhood, Love and most importantly Wine. Join Eryca Nolan at Project HERlarious, a female centric Comedy Show where she invites her Funniest Lady Comedians to share the stage.

Caity Gallagher live at Savoy
When: Friday, Mar 13, 2020 until Saturday, Mar 14, 2020 9:00 PM to 12:00 AM
Where: Savoy Taproom, 301 Lark Street Albany, NY 12210
Cost: 0
For more info, click here
Savoy Taproom presents... local singer/songwriter Caity Gallagher live in the bar on Friday, March 13th, from 9pm to 12am. No cover charge. 21 and up. Free on street parking. Paid parking a quick 2 min walk away at 253 Lark Street.