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

Table of Contents

1. Greeting

2. Important Announcements

- Have you applied for OPT yet?
- International Celebration and Commencement Information- RSVP by April 27th
- ISSS Travel Signature Days!
- Education Abroad Student Social TODAY!

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

- Information on the SEVP OPT Portal
- Taxes Reminder: File your 8843 by June 15th.
- Research Assistantship for Native Arabic-speaking students
- Refugee Family Strengthening at USCRI (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)

4. University at Albany Events

- Men’ Lacrosse vs. Binghamton
- Fresh Acts: A Festival of New Plays
- 9th Annual Hip Hop Gospel Fusion
  - Relax & Rest
  - We Care Event
- Finish Strong with Therapy Dogs
  - AdvisingPlus tutoring

5. Capital District Events

- Raga Meets Symphony
- NINEfin: Seafood Pop Up
- Fly-In Breakfast, Their Fly-In Car Show, and Aviation Expo
  - Hudson River Sightseeing Cruise of Albany
  - SUNY Expo
  - Dinning Out For Life

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

Have you applied for OPT yet?

Students applying for OPT are required to attend one of the below mandatory workshop sessions. As of now, it is taking USCIS 90 days or longer from the date they receive your application to process the request. The USCIS estimated processing times for an OPT application range between 3-5 months. 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 G05
• 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 G05

Other Important Dates
• Saturday, 2/17/18: Beginning of OPT filing season with USCIS for May 2018 graduates
• Wednesday, 2/21: Job and Internship Fair, 12pm-3pm, SEUUC Arena
• Thursday, 3/15: Program end date for May graduates
• Friday, 3/16: 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
• Friday, 2/23, 4pm-5pm, SL Basement H
• Thursday, 3/8, 10am-11am, SL G05
• 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, 4pm-5pm, SL G05
• Thursday, 5/3, 1pm-2pm, East Campus, George Education Center C4
• Tuesday, 5/8, 10am-11am, SL G05
• Thursday, 5/17, 2pm-3pm, SL G05

International Student and Scholar Services
Science Library G-40
Phone: 518-442-9072
Email: ISS@albany.edu

Walk-In Advising
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9am-4pm
No Appointment Needed
International Celebration and Commencement Information-- RSVP by April 27th

The international celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 16th 2018 at 2:30pm in the Campus Center Ballroom. If you have applied for graduation, you have received an RSVP email from ISSS for the International Celebration. Graduating international students, departing exchange students and scholars, and graduating study abroad returners will all be recognized at this special ceremony.

If you are looking for information on the official University wide Commencement ceremonies (where you wear your cap and gown), please visit the Commencement Student Checklist here:

https://www.albany.edu/commencement/student_checklist.php
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 a ISSS advisor.

Education Abroad Student Social TODAY!

International Students,
You are invited to our Education Abroad Student Social!
Come hang out and get to know Study Abroad Applicants! You will also have time to chat with Study Abroad Alumni who are part of our UAlbany International Representatives (AIRs) program. This is a great chance to make some connections and friendships with students who may be studying abroad in your home country next semester! Here are the details:

Friday April 20th
2-4pm
NEW Campus Center - Board Room (up the stairs from Starbucks)
FREE

You can come and go as you please between 2-4pm and you do not need to prepare anything! Feel free to contact me with any questions and we hope to see you there!

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

Information on the SEVP OPT Portal

On March 23rd, 2018, SEVP (the government office which runs SEVIS) is expected to launch an OPT portal which students on OPT can access to view and update certain information in SEVIS. Please note this is a new system, and updates may be frequent as both students and advisors become accustomed to the system’s capability. For information on how to use the Portal and what to expect, please click here.

Taxes Reminder: File your 8843 by June 15th.

ALL F-1 and J-1 students must submit an 8843 (even if you had no income) to the IRS by June 15, 2018.
Please go to: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf, to obtain form 8843. For questions, please contact ISSS.

**Research Assistantship for Native Arabic-Speaking Students**

The Center for Technology in Government (CTG) is seeking two graduate assistants for a short-term opportunity during the late Spring and/or Summer 2018. Applicants must be native speakers in Arabic and full-time students at UAlbany. Students will be involved in an evaluation of e-government services provided in Arabic. The Research Assistant will collaborate in assessing website services, as well as the back office organizational structures. To apply, please send an email with your CV/resume indicating also your available during the evaluation time-frame to CTG Program Assistant Jillian Palmer at jmpalmer@ctg.albany.edu

**Refugee Family Strengthening at USCRI (U.S.Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)**

The goal of our new program is to strengthen refugee and immigrant relationships with skills training and employment support for long-term relationship success and economic self-sufficiency. We want to help families and individuals achieve their goals and be successful in the U.S., both financially and psychosocially. Our hope is that clients take the communication skills they will learn in the Relationship Enhancement trainings to discuss a variety of problems they face when moving to a new country, whether within the home or the community at large.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Relationship Enhancement Section</strong></th>
<th><strong>Skills</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro into RE Skills</td>
<td>Understanding Expression Discussion Problems Solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Stress &amp; Conflict Management</td>
<td>Self Change Helping Other’s Change Conflicting Management Coaching</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants will be required to take three surveys throughout the program. Each survey taken will result in a gift card awarded. The gift card amounts are $10 for the first, $15 for the second, and $40 for the third. A $10 raffle will be given out at each class.

The program is open for individuals, families, and couples. Open to all foreign-born residents regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or immigration status. If under 18, they will need a parent’s permission.

For further questions, please contact:

Somayeh Rashidi
Program Coordinator (RFS)
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
991 Broadway, Suite 223
Albany, NY 12204
refugees.org/albany
p/ 518-459-1790, ext. 8007
f/ 518-459-1876

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

Men's Lacrosse vs. Binghamton
Friday, April 20 @ 7pm
Case Stadium/Bob Ford Field
It’s time for the annual Spring Stomp! on Friday, April 20th your #1 ranked Men's Lacrosse team takes on Binghamton at 7 pm for the Spring Stomp! UAlbany Students are FREE with a valid SUNY ID, and buddy tickets are only $5!
**Fresh Acts: A Festival of New Plays**
Saturday, April 21  2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Performing Arts Center (Studio Theatre) Main Campus
Cost: Advance tickets: $15 general public; $10 students, seniors & UAlbany faculty-staff / Day of show tickets: $20 general public / $15 students, seniors & UAlbany faculty-staff
Description: This series of staged readings features the work of emerging playwrights, explores the freshest topics and issues and is followed by an audience talkback with Resident Playwright, Kathryn Walat.
PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THEATRE
Contact: Performing Arts Center Box Office (518) 442-3997  [http://www.albany.edu/pac/box_office_info.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/pac/box_office_info.shtml)

**9th Annual Hip Hop Gospel Fusion**
Sunday April 22 @ 5pm
LC 18
Service Is Key’s 9th Annual Hip Hop Gospel Fusion. All ticket proceeds will go to The Dream Club of the South End of Albany. April 22nd in LC 18! Doors open at 5 P.M. See you there 🌐

Buy Tickets Here

**Relax & Rest**
Tuesday, April 24 @8:15pm-9pm
Physical Education Building - Group Exercise Studio
This class will blend restorative and vinyasa yoga to focus on self-care. Participants will connect to their bodies through movement and breath; focusing on listening to the body and giving it what it needs. This class is a practice of cultivating the attitude of
letting go, to allow a deep relaxation.

Contact: Office of Campus Recreation (518) 442-2627 http://www.albany.edu/campusrecreation/

**We Care Event**
Thursday, April 26th

#WeCareAlbany

You’re invited to the fourth annual

**We Care Event**

Thursday, April 26
6 p.m.
SEFCU Arena
University at Albany

In recognition of April’s Sexual Violence Prevention Month, Albany Med, UAlbany and the community-at-large are collaborating to support those affected by sexual violence. We Care features the assembly of “survival kits” for Albany Med’s sexual assault forensic examiners program. It is our mission to ensure that all sexual assault survivors leave Albany Med with dignity and the knowledge that they are supported by a community that cares.
**Finish Strong With Therapy Dogs - Fridays at the Student Success Center**

Friday, April 27th 1-3pm
2nd floor Whitman Hall - State Quad

Take a “PAWS” before finals begin. Come and de-stress with the therapy dogs before finals begin and receive tips on how to finish the semester strong!

**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**

**Raga Meets Symphony**

Sunday, April 22nd @ 6-7:30pm
Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Albany, 450 Albany Shaker Road Albany NY 12111

Free with Student ID

Indian-American composer **Reena Esmail** works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music.

This spring at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of Albany, Reena will be joined by acclaimed Hindustani classical vocalist, Saili Oak for an evening of traditional Hindustani classical music and Esmail's Hindu-inspired String Quartet performed by members of the Albany Symphony.
NINEfin: Seafood Pop up
Friday, April 120th @ 5-8pm
Nine Pin Cider Works, 929 Broadway Albany, NY 12207

Here is the menu for Friday!

Lobster Roll ~ easy on the mayo, fennel slaw, brioche bun
Lobster Mac-n-Cheese ~ with lotsah lobstah
Soup/Chowder of the Day
Sweet Potato Salmon Burger ~ on roll or field greens

Fly-In Breakfast, Their Fly-In & Car Show, and Aviation Expo
Saturday April 21 @8:30am-4pm
Empire State Aerosciences Museum, 250 Rudy Chase Drive Glenville, NY 12302
ESAM will present its monthly Fly-In Breakfast on Saturday April 21st from 8:30 am – 10:30 am at 250 Rudy Chase Drive, off Route 50 in Glenville. Enjoy pancakes, French toast, eggs, sausage, potatoes, fruit, juice, coffee, tea and more! Museum is opened from 10 am – 4 pm.
Thiers Memorial Fly-In & Car Show, hosted by the RPI Flying Club will begin at 10 am the same day, Saturday, April 21st and run until 3 pm. Come check out an LC-
130 (used in the Antarctic) from the 109th Airlift Wing, 2 LifeNet helicopters, a Mohawk Ambulance, and a fabulous Car Show. Independent Helicopters will offer helicopter rides. A crash truck will do a demonstration at 12 pm. Great food from “Livin’ the Dream”.

**Aviation Expo** – will take place in the North Hanger on April 21st also, from 1 pm – 3 pm, sponsored by SCCC’s Aviation Science and Air Traffic Control Programs. Learn about careers in aviation and meet with industry representatives, from airline pilots, maintenance personnel, airport management and air traffic controllers. Eat breakfast in the morning and spend the day at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum!

---

**Hudson River Sightseeing Cruise of Albany**

Saturday, Apr 21, 2018 - 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

[**Dutch Apple Cruises, 141 Broadway Albany, NY 12202**](https://www.dutchapplecruises.com)

Enjoy a narrated scenic trip on the Hudson River on our Sightseeing Cruise of Albany! Cruise begins boarding at 12:30 p.m., departs at 1:00 p.m. and returns at 2:30 p.m. Round trip cruise departs from 141 Broadway, Albany, NY 12202 and cruises South to Van Weis Point. Hudson River Historian narrates about Albany and the Hudson River. Full cash bar & snack bar available with items for purchase! Cruise is rain or shine.

There are no cruise ticket refunds, no exceptions.

For more information please email us at [info@dutchapplecruises.com](mailto:info@dutchapplecruises.com).

---

**SUNY Expo**

Sunday, April 22 1-3:30pm

[**Albany CApital Center, 55 Eagle Street Albany, NY 12207**](https://capitalcenter.com)

Join us for an information filled afternoon. You’ll explore all the opportunities waiting for you at SUNY: challenging academics, innovative research, career preparation, global study and financial support including the Excelsior Scholarship.
Dining out for Life
Thursday, April 26 7am-9pm
Find participating restaurants by entering your zip code
at diningoutforlife.com/search-restaurants/

The Alliance for Positive Health (formerly the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York) will host the 15th Anniversary of their Dining Out For Life® event on Thursday, April 26th at restaurants across Northeastern New York! On this day, restaurants will commit 25% (or more!) of their food and beverage sales to the agency's local HIV/AIDS programs and services.

To participate in this year's event, simply donate your appetite and dine out at any participating location.

All money raised will stay local to support our neighbors here in Northeastern New York affected by HIV/AIDS.