Table of Contents

1. Greeting

2. Important Announcements

- ISSS Summer Hours- Get Your Requests in by May 21st!
- Travel Signature Day TODAY- Friday 5/18 from 2-4pm

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

- Academic Writing in English for International Graduate Students Course- Register for Next Semester!
- Taxes Reminder: File your 8843 by June 15th.
- Research Assistantship for Native Arabic-speaking students
- Volunteer Translators Needed- Pashto, Dari, and Arabic Speakers

4. University at Albany Events
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

ISSS Summer Hours- Get Your Requests in by May 21st!

Starting May 21st, ISSS (along with other administrative offices on campus) will be using Summer Hours. We will be open Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm. Walk-in advising will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am-3pm.

5. Capital District Events

- St. Sophia 2018 Greek Festival
- Hudson River Sightseeing Cruise
- Karner Blue Butterfly Walk at the Pine Bush
- WWE Monday Night Raw at the Times Union
- Troy's Hidden Garden Tour
Due to our annual professional conference, **ISSS will not be available for walk-in advising (in person or via phone) the week of May 28th- June 1st.** If you are planning to submit a request which is time sensitive, such as a travel signature, extension request, summer CPT request, transfer request, or OPT request, we ask that you **please turn in these requests no later than Monday, May 21st to ensure processing before the week of May 28th.** Document processing will be limited to unforeseen emergencies **only** the week of May 28th-June 1st. Please note that if you do not submit your request in a timely manner by May 21st this does not constitute an emergency; we ask that you please prepare your requests now. Normal processing (5-7 business days) will resume on June 4th.

**Travel Signature Day TODAY- Friday 5/18 from 2-4pm**

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.
3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

Academic Writing in English for International Graduate Students Course- Register for Next Semester!
Are you a graduate student who wants to sharpen your writing skills? Do you want to know more about writing standards regarding research papers? Do you want to learn how to commit to a research project writing?

ETAP 500 is designed specifically for international graduate students and their focus on writing in academic discourse settings. Students will have a chance to engage in a series of graduate-level writing projects such as argumentative essays, critical reviews, and research papers. Students will receive a scaffolding guidance from the instructor and complete an actual research paper of their own interest at the end of the course.

For further information and registration number, do not hesitate to email the instructor of the class at lzalaltdinova@albany.edu,
the secretary at bbrunner@albany.edu or ETAP advisors at etapcpn@albany.edu.

**ETAP 500**

**ACADEMIC WRITING IN ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

Class Hours: **Monday 01:15-04:05 PM**  
Class number: **9020**

Instructor: Liya Zalaltdinova  
For permission numbers email the instructor at zalaltdinova@albany.edu,  
the secretary at bbrunner@albany.edu, or ETAP advisors at etapcpn@albany.edu.

**Course Description**

Designed specifically for international graduate students, this course introduces the conventions of academic literacy by engaging students in a series of graduate-level writing projects such as argumentative essays, critical reviews, and research papers. Students will first explore the processes of academic writing by analyzing and evaluating sample academic papers and scholarly articles, and then will move on to produce their own written work by employing strategies such as drafting and revising as well as providing and responding to constructive feedback.

Writing projects will also focus on the fundamental aspects of an academic research paper (e.g., introduction, literature review, and citing sources) enabling students to produce a research paper on their topics of interest.

Through assigned readings, classroom discussions, writing assignments, and peer reviews, students are expected to develop an awareness of writing for scholarly purposes and to gain confidence in providing feedback to other students’ written work.

**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 jpalmer@ctg.albany.edu

**Volunteer Translators Needed- Pashto, Dari, and Arabic Speakers**

The Refugee Community Health Partnership program is seeking Arabic, Dari and Pashto speakers to volunteer to translate, particularly in work with refugee populations. Most volunteers are needed on Mondays between 9am-12:30pm. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Carlie Thompson (c.thompson@ta-cr.org, 518-449-5155).

**4. University at Albany Events**

Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

**Commencement Weekend**

Friday May 18 - 20

**Master's and Graduate Certificate Ceremony**

Friday May 18th @ 5pm

SEFCU Arena

*Tickets Required*

**Commencement Torch Reception**

Saturday May 19th @ 10:30pm
Lecture Center Concourse
*Tickets Required*

Undergraduate Ceremony
Sunday May 20th @ 10am
Entry Plaza By Collins Circle

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony
Sunday May 20th @ 2:30pm
Page Hall Auditorium
*Tickets Required*

**ITS Class Microsoft Access 2013: Select Query Design**
Thursday, May 24 @1:30 - 4pm
Lecture Concourse Subbasement 30A
This session covers basic data retrieval. We'll learn the basic Select Query including design, choice of reporting fields, data sorting, single and multiple criteria and criteria prompts.

**5. Capital District Events**

**St Sophia 2018 Greek Festival**
Friday, May 18, 2018 until Sunday, May 20, 2018
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 440 Whitehall Road Albany, NY 12208
$3 (518) 489-4442
Join us as Albany Goes Greek for 3 days with continuous LIVE Greek Music & Greek dancers in traditional costumes, authentic Greek Casual Dining, a Greek Pastry Shop featuring homemade pastries, various Greek foods under the tent, souvenir and jewelry shops, amusement rides for young children, and Church Tours.
Festival Hours:
Friday, May 18th: 6:00pm - 10:00pm
Saturday, May 19th: 12:00pm - 10:00pm
Sunday, May 20th: 12:00pm - 7:00pm
Admission is $3- ticket includes free raffle ticket and commemorative booklet.
Backpacks are prohibited.
For more information, call 518-489-4442, "like" us on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/stsophiaalbany, or visit our website: http://stsophia.net/events/2018-greek-festival/

**Hudson River Sightseeing Cruise**
Saturday, May 19, 2018 - 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
Dutch Apple Cruises, 141 Broadway Albany, NY 12202
$19.95/adult
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.

**Karner Blue Butterfly Walk at the Pine Bush**
Sunday, May 20, 2018 - 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
Albany Pine Bush Preserve, Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road #1 Albany, NY 12205
$3
Today is Endangered Species Day. Don’t miss this chance to join Albany Pine Bush Preserve staff on a 0.9-mile hike to see the Karner blue butterfly.
Once common in the glacial Lake Albany sand belt, the Karner blue has plummeted in numbers over the past 40 years and is now listed as a federally-endangered species. Come learn about the natural history of the Karner blue and our efforts to rescue this species from the brink of extinction.
More Information
Pre-registration is required for all events, even the free ones.
Please plan to arrive at least five to ten minute before the start of the program to purchase your ticket. Tickets can also be purchased in advance of the program at the Discovery Center reception desk.
Groups with eight or more people, please call for special accommodations.
Programs begin promptly at the times listed. Please call if you need to cancel your registration so they can open your spot on the waiting list.

While leashed pets are permitted on marked trails, visitors are asked not to bring pets to the educational programs.

There are no refunds, however, it is permissible to send or designate another person to use your program registration.

**WWE Monday Night Raw at the Times Union**

Monday, May 21, 2018 - 7:30 PM

**Times Union Center, 51 South Pearl Street Albany, NY 12207**

$34, $49, $59, $79, $104

Monday Night Raw returns to Albany!

Roman Reigns, Braun Strowman & Intercontinental Champion Seth Rollins VS Jinder Mahal, Sami Zayn & Kevin Owens.

See some of your favorite WWE superstars including:

- RAW General Manager Kurt Angle
- Rhonda Rousey
- Women's Champion Nia Jax
- Finn Balor
- Sasha Banks
- And many more!

The event card is subject to change.

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**Troy's Hidden Garden Tour**

Thursday, May 24, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Historic Sage College, Washington Park and adjoining neighborhoods of downtown Troy.

$10 | 518.424.5303

**About the Hidden Garden Tour**

Troy's popular annual Hidden Garden Tour invites the public into the private sanctuaries of city dwellers.

Now in its 19th year, the Hidden Garden Tour is a fundraiser to benefit Troy's Prospect Park held rain or shine on Thursday, May 24th from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The self-guided walking tour features approximately 20 private backyard gardens in the Historic Sage College, Washington Park, and adjoining neighborhoods of downtown Troy.

While most of the gardens are approximately the same size, about 20 feet by 30 feet, they
vary greatly in style. Some of the gardens feature charming pathways, fountains, and fish pools. Some are filled with flowers, while others have more plants and vegetables - all are lovingly tended by gardeners of all skill levels.

In the past, people who have gone on the Hidden Garden Tour have later purchased houses in Troy after seeing what's possible to do with the backyards and courtyards.

More Information
For more information regarding the Hidden Garden Tour, click here, email Nina Pattison at ninapattison@gmail.com or call Rhe Potenza at 518.424.5303.