Summer Newsletter- May 20, 2022

Congrats, Graduates!

ISSS will be open 8am-4pm. We will offer advisement by appointment (including Zoom) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am-12:30pm. We will also offer walk-in hours in our office on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12:30-3:00pm.

ISSS Announcements:
- Staying in the US? Report your summer address
- Students Graduating This Summer: Registration Reminders
- How to Apply for OPT
- Request a Travel Signature if Traveling this Summer
- Buddy Program- Volunteers Needed for Fall 2022!
- International Student Webinar: Getting Your First Job in the US
- CURCE: Undergraduates Looking for Summer or Fall Research? NEW Opportunities!

**Nearby Events:**
- Tri-City ValleyCats vs. Windy City ThunderBolts (May 20)
- Lupine Fest 2022 (May 21)
- Mental Health Awareness Day Celebration (May 21)
- Capital District Reptile Expo (May 22)

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Congratulations to Sri Sowmiyaa Ganeshaan, the first ever international student to be elected President of the Student Association (SA) at UAlbany (pictured above with Provost and Senior Vice President Carol Kim and Dean and Vice Provost Gilbert Valverde). One of the ways Sri kicked off her new term was by congratulating graduating and departing international students and scholars at the May 13th International Celebration in the Science Library Atrium and Parent Fountain Courtyard.

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**Staying in the US? Report your summer address**

DHS requires that F-1 and J-1 students report any change to US address within 10 days of the change. If you will be living in the U.S. this summer and have changed addresses or will change addresses please remember to update your SEVIS USA address in MyUAlbany to report your current residence. Click “Read More” for more information.

Read More
Students Graduating This Summer: Registration Reminders

If you will be a continuing student next Fall this means summer is a "vacation term" for you. This means there are no registration requirements for you this summer; you can take whichever classes (if any) you'd like to.

However, if you are graduating this summer then summer is not a vacation term for you. It is your final term. This means you must follow the normal F-1 and J-1 registration requirements (the same requirements you follow during Fall/Spring semester).

- If you will not enroll full-time this summer and will be graduating, remember to submit an authorized reduced course load for final semester of required coursework request.
- F-1 and J-1 international students who began studies after March 2020 must maintain registration in at least one non-fully online course (i.e. an in person or hybrid course).
- If you are taking courses at another institution and will be transferring them in, please speak to an ISSS advisor about concurrent enrollment requirements and whether or not your enrollment meets all requirements for maintaining F-1/J-1 status.
- If you are a graduate thesis/dissertation level student (such as PhD students enrolled in 899 during Spring 2022) who will graduate this summer additional summer enrollment is usually not required. Please check with ISSS if you have any questions.

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How to Apply for OPT

Students who are graduating this Spring and planning to apply for Post-Completion OPT Work Authorization should complete the following steps as soon as possible to apply. Students graduating this summer can being filing in early May, depending on the I-20 program end date for their program.

Step 1: Watch the required OPT workshop.

Step 2: Review all instructions.

Step 3: Submit the EForm to ISSS with all required materials to request a new I-20 recommending OPT (see link in Step 2)

Step 4: File with DHS-USCIS after you receive the new I-20 recommending OPT from ISSS (see link in Step 2)

If you have questions please speak with an ISSS advisor.

USCIS processing times are currently estimated at 1.5-3 months.
Request a Travel Signature if Traveling this Summer

If you are considering travel this summer, please review the current considerations and risks to decide whether or not to travel at this time. If you need help or have questions please speak with an ISSS advisor.

If you will travel please make sure to request a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 before leaving.

Please make sure you have all documentation required to re-enter the U.S. This includes an I-20/DS-2019 with a valid travel signature when re-entering the U.S. (travel signatures for enrolled students are valid for 1 year; travel signatures for students on OPT are valid for 6 months), a valid passport (with at least 6 months validity remaining), and a valid F-1/J-1 visa; proof of full vaccination for COVID-19; and a negative COVID test or proof of recovery meeting the CDC requirements when re-entering. Students on OPT must also carry their EAD card and are highly encouraged to carry proof of employment. If your OPT is pending please speak to an ISSS advisor before traveling internationally.

Buddy Program- Volunteers Needed for Fall 2022!

ISSS is seeking current students to volunteer to be a buddy to a new international student this Fall!
To make friends, learn a new culture, and help a new member of our UAlbany international community [sign-up here](#).

Undergraduate students can also earn 1 credit of RSSW.

**International Student Webinar: Getting Your First Job in the US**

As an international student, you may be facing challenges securing your first job in the United States.

Career coach Kwan Segal, the founder of ICAway, will discuss ways that you can navigate barriers and take advantage of opportunities in your career development journey in the U.S.

You will receive tips and techniques that you can use to communicate with potential employers about your visa status, future sponsorship, as well as networking and career branding strategies to help you secure your first job in the U.S.

**Date:** Friday, May 27, 2022  
**Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET  
**Where:** Zoom Meeting
CURCE: Undergraduates Looking for Summer or Fall Research? NEW Opportunities!

Check out the CURCE Blackboard Community Page for NEW Summer and Fall 2022 Research Opportunities in the “Research Opportunities” link:

- Biophysical Computer Simulations of RNA structure and folding
- Capital Region residential indoor air quality exposure
- Interdisciplinary Research in AI, Cognitive Science, and/or Tech Ethics, Research Assistant
- Birth and Beyond (BABY) Study, Research Assistant
- The Cognition and Language Laboratory, Research Assistant
- Microwave Remote Sensing Lab, Researchers
- Psychological Understanding of Legal System Encounters
- Visual Cognition and Eye Movements Project, Research Assistant
- Birth and Beyond (BABY) Study, Research Assistant
- Exercise: Treatment for Diabetic Cognitive Impairment and Blood-Brain Barrier Dysfunction Study, Research Assistant

To access the CURCE Blackboard Page, go to the “Community” Tab on your Blackboard dashboard and click on “CURCE” in the middle “My Organizations” box.

Tri-City ValleyCats vs. Windy City ThunderBolts (May 20)

Hosted By: Tri-City ValleyCats
When: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:00 PM
Where: Joseph L. Bruno Stadium, 80 Vandenberg’s Ave Troy, NY 12180

Lupine Fest 2022 (May 21)

Hosted By: Albany Pine Bush Preserve
When: Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Cost: FREE ADMISSION

Witness the magic of spring at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve’s annual Lupine Fest on May 21, 2022. Fields of violet lupine flowers and fluttering Karner blue butterflies set the stage for visitors to explore and support the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and its partners. Visitors can enjoy nature walks, music, games, crafts, food, vendors, information from community partners, and more!
All parking will be at 302 Washington Avenue Ext. Shuttle bus provided. On-site parking for people with disabilities only. No pets allowed at this event.

Mental Health Awareness Day Celebration (May 21)

When: Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Where: Washington Park Lake House, Madison Avenue Albany, NY 12203
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
A celebration taking place on Saturday, May 21st at the Lake House in Washington Park in Albany from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm. This free, family-friendly event will include an awareness march around the park, an activity and resource fair featuring games, prizes, music, food trucks, Zumba, and more.

Capital District Reptile Expo (May 22)

When: Sunday, May 22, 2022 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Where: Albany Capital Center, 55 Eagle Street Albany, NY 12207
Cost: $10 adults; $5 for kids 6-12, free for kids under 6
The Capital District Reptile Expo (previously known as the Saratoga Reptile Expo) comes to the Albany Capital Center on Sunday, May 22nd from 10am to 4pm!

Here you can learn about and buy exotic pets (reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, invertebrates), enclosures, and supplies.
20 plus local organizations will also be sharing vital community resources to promote wellness and recovery. Other highlights include: a giant bubble artist, chair massages, reptiles to hold and interact with, therapy dogs, face painting, and more!

Unsubscribe

1400 Washington Avenue SL G-40 Albany NY 12222

ISSS@albany.edu
https://www.albany.edu/iss

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