Friday, May 3, 2019

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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

**Advisement Ending at 12:30pm, TODAY May 3rd**

In preparation for the International Celebration, ISSS Walk-in Advisement (including phone advisement) will end at 12:30pm today, May 3rd. Thank you for your cooperation as we celebrate our graduates.

**Summer Hours for ISSS**

Starting Monday, May 20th ISSS will transition to summer hours. The office will be open from 8am-4pm Monday-Friday. Walk-in advisement (including phone advisement) will be available on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am-3pm.

**Travel Signature Day on Thursday 5/9, 2 - 4pm**

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. Download the schedule here. The dates are Thursdays 5/9 and 5/16.

General Registration Information

USCIS requires that F-1 and J-1 students maintain full-time enrollment each semester. At the University at Albany, full time enrollment is defined as:
Undergraduate students- registration for 12 credits or more
Graduate students- registration for 9 credits or more

Additionally, there is a limit on the number of fully on-line credits you can take each semester. You can count only ONE fully on-line class (or 3 credits) toward the minimum number of credits you need for full-time enrollment each semester. If you only need one course to complete your program of study, that course must be taken and UAlbany and cannot be a fully on-line class.

If you plan to complete all of your required course work over winter or summer sessions, you must talk with ISSS before registering for classes.

There are limited exceptions to the full-time enrollment rule. These may be found on the Reduced Course Load Authorization form. If believe are eligible for a Reduced Course Load (RCL) and have not already turned in the form, please have your academic advisor fill out and sign the form. You must submit the form to ISSS before September 9, 2019. If you do not submit this form, you may be in violation of your visa status.

A student who does not follow the regulations of their visa category will have ‘failed to maintain lawful student immigration status’. Failure to maintain lawful student immigration status is a serious violation of the law which can result in the following: loss of legal immigration status; accrual of unlawful presence and a potential bar on reentering the US; the need to depart the US; and/or the loss of eligibility for future benefits and statuses.

If you are graduating this May and plan to apply for Post Completion OPT, please begin this process as soon as possible. If you do not plan to return and continue your studies at Albany for Fall 2019, please complete the Departure form and return it to the ISSS office. You will also need to withdraw from the university by contacting your academic advisor.

If you have any questions, please e-mail isss@albany.edu or come to talk with us during Walk-in Advising hours.

Summer Graduation Information

NOTE: This is important general information about summer. It is not an evaluation of your summer registration or specific plans.
Please read this information carefully and use it to evaluate your summer plans. You can also refer to our website for additional information: https://www.albany.edu/isss/85532.php.

For students who will be registered in Fall 2019, summer is a vacation term. A student does not have to register for any classes at all, or can register for whichever classes they want.

However, if a student plans to graduate at the end of Summer Session then summer is considered a regular semester and there are registration rules to follow. To maintain F1/J1 status and stay in the US (including applying for OPT) a student who is graduating in summer must follow the same registration requirements as during the fall and spring semesters. These requirements include, but at not limited to:

- Master's and bachelor's degree students must be registered full time at the University at Albany. During the summer, full time enrollment is 6 credits. These credits must be taken during the same or overlapping summer sessions. Registration at another school does not fulfill the UAlbany registration requirements, although cross registration may be possible.
- If a student needs less than 6 credits in order to graduate, then a Reduced Course Load form must be authorized by the ISSS office.
- Registration in fully on-line classes are limited. Students must take at least one in-person or hybrid class. Additional classes can be fully on-line. If a student will be registered for only one course, it cannot be fully online.
- For PhD candidates there is no summer section for 899, so a PhD student who has been admitted to candidacy does not need to register for the summer term, even if he or she is graduating in August or using summer CPT. The student must have been registered in that spring.

As the rules for Summer graduation for international students can sometimes be confusing, it is strongly recommended that any student considering graduation after Summer Session speak with an ISSS advisor prior to registering for summer classes here at UAlbany or at another school. Please visit the ISSS office during Walk-in Advising if you have any questions.

**Summer Sessions Registration**

Summer session registration is available until Wednesday, May 15. With finals just around the corner, summer courses will be starting before you know it. Consider summer an opportunity to lighten your course load in the fall or make up lost credit hours. Flexible 4 and 6-week sessions that start and end throughout the summer as well as the many online options make summer an
ideal time to work towards your degree. See your advisor today to obtain your summer AVN and then register on MyUAlbany. For more info, click here.

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

OPT/CPT Workshop Schedule

The final OPT workshop for the semester is Monday, May 13th at 3:30 - 5:00 pm in SL G-05.

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 (https://goo.gl/forms/veeDLtLnUIfcoKVD2) to sign up.

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.
SUNY Student Global Leader Experience- Registration Open

SUNY students are welcome to join a four-day leadership development program with NYC as their classroom this summer. This program has been designed exclusively for SUNY students and there is opportunity for 100 diverse student leaders across the SUNY system to join in to explore the challenge, “How do we ensure technological innovation delivers societal as well as economic value in cities?”

The SUNY SAIL Institute is partnered with Common Purpose, a not-for-profit founded in 1989 that develops leaders who can cross boundaries enabling them to solve complex problems both in organizations and in cities. Common Purpose runs programs in over 100 cities worldwide, have more than 75,000 Alumni from over 100 countries and 6 continents.

The program will take place June 17-20 in NYC. Housing is available at the Fashion Institute of Technology for only $179 for the week!

Learn more by visiting the Student Leadership page. You may view and share the informational webinar with complete program details, and review registration instructions. The deadline to register is May 22.
The Center for Leadership and Service Summer 2019 Albany Leadership Experience at UAlbany

(Please note: This is different than the program above. This is a UAlbany program, and the above is a SUNY-wide program.)

July 15 – 18, 2019

The Summer 2019 Albany Leadership Experience provides the opportunity for a diverse cohort of UAlbany students to explore the challenges and opportunities of leadership through the lens of business, government and organizational leaders within our capital region.

The program will be held for four (4) days from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. beginning on Monday July 15 and end on Thursday, July 18, 2019. Breakfast and lunch will be provided during these four days. At the end of the four days, students who participated in The Summer 2019 Albany Leadership Experience will receive a certificate of completion.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Martha Asselin, Director of the Center for Leadership and Service

Campus Center B-91, University at Albany

Email: masselin@albany.edu

APPLICATIONS DUE ON MAY 10!

UALBANY’S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

MONDAY, JULY 15 - 19, 2019

THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE WILL SPONSOR 30 STUDENTS (INCLUDES ALL PROGRAM FEES, BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND, IF NEEDED, HOUSING FOR THE FOUR DAYS).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE
CAMPUS CENTER, B-92, UALBANY
518-442-5445; MASSELIN@ALBANY.EDU
4. University at Albany Events
Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition
Friday, May 3, 2019 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
University Art Museum Fine Arts Bldg.
For more info, click here.
The Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition features work produced by candidates for the University at Albany Art Department’s three-year, 60 credit hour program of intensive training and study in traditional and contemporary fine art practices. Museum Hours: Tuesday, 10 am – 7 pm; Wednesday - Friday, 10 am – 5 pm; Saturday, noon - 4 pm. Closed May 9 all day and May 10 until 3 pm for MFA oral examinations. Expanded Commencement Hours: Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19, 11:30 am – 4 pm.

The Writing Center - Free 1 hour, one-on-one writing tutorials
Monday through Friday
The Writing Center, Humanities Bldg 140
For more info, click here.
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.

Winning Wednesday - SPA-GHETTI AND STRESS BALLS
Wednesday, May 8, 11 AM - 1 PM
Campus Center
With finals approaching stop by the Student Success Center & enjoy a SPA-like experience. We will have several stress relief stations including FREE back massages, trail mix, stress ball making, art and more. Appetizers will be served & all in attendance will be entered into a FREE raffle for a chance to win a Finals Survival Gift Basket.
Quo Vadis, Indonesian Democracy? The 2019 Elections and their Aftermath

Wednesday, May 8, 11 AM - 1 PM
Levitt Room (Downtown Campus, 135 Western Ave)
For more info, click here.

Presented by Marcus Mietzner, associate professor in the Department of Political and Social Change, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University. Indonesia's 2019 elections have exhibited much enthusiasm for democratic participation and a host of democratic defects. Voters remain committed to electoral democracy but vote buying, weakening parties, escalating identity politics, and continued clientelism undermine its effectiveness.

5. Capital District Events

The 71st Annual Albany Tulip Festival

Saturday - Sunday, May 11 - 12
Washington Park, Albany
For more info, click here.

The Tulip Festival is Albany’s signature spring event. Featuring annual traditions rooted in the city’s rich Dutch heritage, nearly one hundred artisans selling their handmade crafts, a fine arts show, delicious food, the KidZone family fun destination, two stages of world-class live entertainment and more than 140,000 tulips in 150 different varieties, the Tulip Festival is a sparkling showcase of local culture and business. It all takes place in historic Washington Park, the 81-acre “crown jewel” of the City.

Annual Flower and Plant Sale

Friday, May 10 - Saturday, May 11
Flower and Plant Sale on Friday, May 10th from 8AM to 6PM and on Saturday, May 11th from 8AM to 3PM. Bethany Reformed Church, 760 New Scotland Ave., Albany. Featured, just in time for Mother’s Day, will be a variety of hanging baskets, patio pots, geraniums, annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs. There will be a raffle for a Hanging Garden. The sale is open to the public both days, rain or shine. Call 482-7998 for more information or visit us online.

Shakespeare in Love
Tuesday, April 16 - Sunday, May 12
Capital Repertory Theatre (111 N. Pearl St.)
For tickets and more info, click here.

Young Will Shakespeare has writer’s block... the deadline for his new play is fast approaching but he desperately needs some inspiration. That is, until he finds his muse — Viola. This beautiful young woman is Will’s greatest admirer and will stop at nothing (including donning a mustache) to appear in his next play. As love blossoms, so does the comedy, great romance and playwriting. Join the Theatre for this immersive and sumptuous adaptation of the Academy Award-winning screenplay, complete with sword fights, secret trysts, backstage disasters, and a dog.

People of New York Exhibition
Daily until December 31, 2019 @ 7 AM - 7 PM
New York State Capitol
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.