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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

Full-time Registration Required for F-1 and J-1 students

All F-1 and J-1 students must be registered full-time in order to maintain their immigration status at the University. Full-time for undergraduate students is 12 credits, and full-time for graduate students is 9 credits. Of those credits, only 3 credits may be a 100% fully online course, and students may not only taking an online course.

Students who qualify for a reduced course load must complete a reduced course load (RCL) form with their academic advisor and submit it to ISSS for approval. Only once the RCL is approved is a student allowed to be less than full-time. If you have a qualifying reason to be less than full-time, you must complete and submit an RCL form. The form is available on our website, here.

Starting this semester, there will be a registration hold preventing students from dropping below full-time. You must get approval from ISSS first.
Please update your SEVIS USA Address and Phone Number in MyUAlbany

Are you living somewhere new this semester? To maintain your legal status SEVIS must have your current U.S. address and phone number. Every students must check this information in MyUAlbany to ensure it is correct

Please do this immediately:

**Step 1:**
- Log-in to MyUAlbany
- In the middle box on the left, click on Demographic Data

**Step 2: Check your SEVIS USA Address:**
- On the tabs, click on addresses
- If you have a SEVIS USA Address listed, check that it is your correct United States address
- If you do not have a SEVIS USA Address, click the Add a new Address button
- Type in the address where you live in the US. Press OK. Check SEVIS USA from the list of Address Types
  - Click Save

**Step 3: Check your SEVIS Foreign Address:**
- On the tabs, click on addresses.
- If you have a SEVIS Foreign Address listed, check that it is your correct address OUTSIDE the US
- If you do not have a SEVIS Foreign Address, click the Add a new Address button
  - Click the Change County link and chose your home country
- Type in your address outside the US. Press OK. Check SEVIS Foreign from the list of Address Types
  - Click Save

**Step 4: Check your Phone Number:**
- On the tabs, click on phone numbers
• Look at the phone number you have checked as preferred
• If it is a US based phone number, be sure it is formatted like this (but with your phone number): 999/999-9999. Make sure that there are is not a 1 or + or other number in front. There should be nothing in the Country box
• If it is a number from outside the US, put the County Code in the box that says Country and put the rest of the number in the box that says Telephone
  • Click Save

**Walk-in Advising and Office Reminders**

ISSS is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. During those hours students may drop off and pick-up documents. Walk-in advising is available, no appointment needed, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am-4pm. Students may come to the office in person (Science Library G-40) or call the office at 518-591-8172 during advisement hours. Please note there is no walk-in advising on Wednesdays or after 4pm; students with questions at those times should email ISSS@albany.edu or come in when walk-in advising is available.

Please note ISSS takes 5-7 business days to process requests. The 5-7 business days is counted from the time a complete request is submitted. Please plan accordingly because requests are processed in the order received; requests which are submitted late will not be expedited or prioritized over other student's requests that were submitted earlier.

**Travel Signature Day Friday September 7th**

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 travelling outside. These travel signatures are 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. Come to our
first travel signature day on Friday, September 7th from 3pm-4pm in Science Library G-05 if you plan to travel soon.

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

OPT and CPT Workshops

ISSS offers weekly workshops on off-campus employment, both for OPT and CPT. No reservation is required. If you are graduating in December, the OPT filing
period opens September 20th. Students are encouraged to apply for OPT as early as possible because it can take USCIS 3-5 months (or longer) to process your request for OPT. Please view the schedule here.

CPT and OPT Workshops

Fall 2018

CPT Workshops

- Tuesday, 9/11, 2:30-3:30pm, SL G05
- Thursday, 10/11, 10:30-11:30am, SL G05
- Friday 11/9, 4:00-5:00pm SL G05 — for Master’s of Computer Science students
- Wednesday, 11/14, 2:00-3:00pm, SL G05
- Monday 11/26, 10:00-11:00am, SL G05
- Monday 12/3, 3:00-4:00pm, SL G05

Other Important Dates

- Wednesday, September 12th: Job and Internship Fair, SEFCU Arena
- Thursday, September 20th: First day USCIS may receive OPT requests from December 2018 graduates
- Tuesday, December 18th: Program end date for December graduates
- Friday, February 15th, 2019: Latest OPT start date for December graduates to request. All OPT applications for December graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.

OPT Workshops

- Thursday, 9/6, 3:45pm, SL G05
- Wednesday, 9/19, 12:00-1:30pm, SL G05
- Monday, 9/24, 10:00-11:30am, SL G05
- Friday 10/5, 4:00-5:30pm, SL G05
- Tuesday, 10/16, 3:00-4:30pm, SL G05
- Friday, 10/26, 10:00-11:30am, SL G05
- Thursday, 11/1, 1:00-2:30pm, SL G05
- Thursday, 11/15, 10:00-11:30am, SL G05
- Tuesday, 11/20, 11:00am-12:30pm, SL G05
- Friday, 11/30, 3:30-5:00pm, SL G05
- Wednesday, 12/5, 2:00-3:30pm, SL G05
- Friday, 12/14, 10:30am-12:00pm, SL G05

International Student and Scholar Services
Science Library G-40
Phone: 518-327-8472
Email: ISSS@albany.edu

Walk-in Advising
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9am-4pm
No Appointment Needed
International Friendship Program/Cultural Connections
Buddy Reception

You are cordially invited to join ISSS at the International Friendship Program reception. This reception is designed to help international students meet other UAlbany students. There will be free food and activities. The event is from 3-5pm on September 14th in the Standish Room (on the 3rd floor of the Science Library)
Join the International Friendship Partner Program/Cultural Connections

Cultural Connections is a student group which coordinates the International Friendship Partners, a series of programs designed to help both American and international students make friends with each other. Participants will also learn different cultures and languages through cultural activities. You can choose to participate in one or more programs listed below:

Language Chatting Room

The Language Chatting Room Program (LCR) is designed to provide an opportunity for UAlbany students to learn/practice and teach another language. It is an excellent opportunity to broaden your horizons on campus, and practice your communication and socializing skills!

Apply for the program here!

Don't Take The Bait - Online Scams

Reports are on the rise of job offer scams targeting college students via their school email accounts. These messages look and sound convincing, providing detailed descriptions of the position, its requirements, and the pay rates [see the sample below].

If you open discussions with the sender about the job, the scammer will request your personal (i.e., non-albany.edu) email account and mobile phone number to evade the school's email and web filters.

How the Scam Works

These scams can take many formats and feature many different
businesses in their initial lures, but they all boil down to the same form of fraud:

1. You receive a check for more than your "salary" (e.g., $600 rather than $300).

2. You are instructed to deposit the check and then either purchase gift cards or write out a separate check from your account with the excess amount ($300).

3. You are further instructed to send the check or cards (or photos of their identifying codes) to a third party as payment for some service.

4. A day or so later, the check you received in #1 bounces, and you are out $300 bucks!

**Red Flags**

Job offers from out of the blue, particularly ones that offer good money for little effort, are red flags. So are requests for your personal contact information.

Think twice before you respond to unsolicited job offers. There's a good chance your employer is looking for victims, not employees.

Please feel free to report any suspicious emails using the Phish Alert add-on available on your University account in Outlook.

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**4. University at Albany Events**

Click [Here](#) for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

**Student Association Block Party**

Sunday, September 9 @12pm on the Podium (Main campus)
Come out and explore what UAlbany’s student involvement has for you! Countless student run organizations will be tabling at the block party, you can join them!

**Study Abroad Fair September 5th**

11am-2pms

**Location:** Lecture Center Concourse

**Description:** Find out more about UAlbany’s more than 80 study abroad options, located in over 30 different countries! Study Abroad representatives from other SUNY schools will be in attendance as well, since UAlbany students can also participate on any of the more than 500 SUNY study abroad programs!
ICAway, a career success training website for international students, has prepared a guide to help you prepare for the upcoming UAlbany career fair. Whether you are soon-to-graduate, in the middle of your program, or a brand new student, the career fair has something to offer you.

students at the UAlbany Career Fair on Wednesday September 12th from 11-4pm in SEFCU Arena

Muslim Women in 21st Century America: Mona Haydar, rapper and activist, and Ibtihaj Muhammad, memoirist and U.S. Olympic fencing medalist
Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Ping Chong + Company's Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity
Sunday, October 14th, 2018
San Jose Taiko

November 12

Mesmerizing audiences since 1973, these talented performers express the beauty and harmony of the human spirit as they create new dimensions in Asian American movement and music. Inspired by traditional Japanese drumming, they have broadened the art form by infusing other world rhythms including African, Brazilian, Filipino, Latin and Jazz. In advance of this performance, catch the free screening of the documentary Great Grandfather’s Drum on Friday, October 26 at 7pm cosponsored by the NYS Writers Institute.

Performance Clips: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxAX-oKikKw
5. Capital District Events

Take Two Trio
Saturday, September 1 6-9pm (Free)
Enjoy Live music at Provence Restaurant

Hudson River Sightseeing Cruise
Saturday, September 2, 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.

Maple Sugarhouse Tours & Tasting
Thursday, September 6-9 10:00am - 6:00pm (Free)
Riverside Maple Farms, 7152 Amsterdam Rd Glenville, NY 12302
There is always something delicious going on at the farm! We are open year round and offer tours, tasting, and a retail store.
We offer free, guided tours of our farm Thursday – Sunday. Tours are offered on a first come, first serve basis. Tours are approximately 30 minutes, including both
inside and outside stops. We offer plenty of parking and can accommodate large tour buses.

For groups of 6 or more, please call Riverside Maple Farms at 518.214.4014 or email info@riversidemaplefarms.com to schedule your group experience.

**September in the City - Art Fair in Albany**
Thursday, September 6 11:30am - 2:00pm (Free)
DiNapoli Park (previously Maiden Lane Park), on Broadway, in between Maiden Lane and Pine Street Albany, NY 12207

Every Thursday during the month of September, head to DiNapoli Park for a spectacular fall, lunchtime diversion. September in the City Art Fair will feature art exhibits by regional mixed media artists and crafters, live musical entertainment, and artwork available for purchase.

All items for sale will be original and handcrafted by local artists, so you know that you are getting one-of-a-kind art.

Honey Slider is a folk/rock/blues trio comprised of Caity Gallagher on vocals and keys, Alec Lewis on vocals and guitar, and Will Kidder on bass. Caity and Alec began writing together in 2013 and released their debut album Unearned Unhappiness in 2016.