Friday, September 15, 2023

This is your ISSS weekly newsletter. Please read this newsletter every Friday for important reminders, updates, and upcoming events you may be interested in.

Welcome, Sihwa Choi! ISSS is pleased to announce our new International Student and Scholar Coordinator, Sihwa Choi. Sihwa joins ISSS from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. We are very happy to welcome her to the ISSS team and you can look forward to meeting her in the coming weeks.

ISSS Announcements:
- ISSS Advising Hours- Fall 2023
- OPT Application Instructions for Fall Graduates
- ISSS Graduate Assistant Position
- Orientation Survey for New Students
- Fraud & Scam Awareness & Preparation
- Coffee with the Dean (9/21)

Other Announcements/Upcoming Events:
- Text Student Auto
- Webinar: Launching Your Tech Careers Beyond Big Tech
- Student Participants Needed for Research Study (Proccoli)
- Student Participants Needed for Dissertation Study Recruitment
- Arabic Speakers Needed
ISSS Advising Hours- Fall 2023

Walk In Advising Hours, In-Person or by Phone (518-591-8172)

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00-3:30pm
- No appointment needed, just visit Science Library G-40 or call 518-591-8172

Student and scholars can also email ISSS@albany.edu for assistance. The email inbox is monitored Monday-Friday during business hours.

Please allow up to 5-7 business days for processing of any EForm requests. There is no expedite process, but you can help ensure efficient processing of your case by carefully reviewing all form instructions and submitting a complete request.

OPT Application Instructions for Fall Graduates

Important OPT Dates for Fall Graduates to Know:

- I-20 Program End Date for students graduating this Fall: December 12, 2023
  - Bachelor's/Master's students graduating this Fall will all have a program end date of December 12, 2023
  - PhD students may use defense date, thesis submission date, or last date of final term as the program end date for post-completion OPT purposes. The date you choose will change your application timetable, see OPT workshop for details.
- Filing Opens September 14th for students with a December 12, 2023 program end date
- Filing Closes February 9th for students with a December 12, 2023 program end date
- Students with a December 12, 2023 program end date may submit a request for an OPT start date for any date in this range: December 13, 2023-February 9, 2024

Students who are graduating and planning to apply for Post-Completion OPT Work Authorization should complete the following steps to apply:

1. Watch the required OPT workshop
2. Review all instructions on the OPT Request EForm website, including the Supplemental Forms and Instructions
3. Submit the EForm to ISSS to request a new I-20 recommending you for post-completion OPT
4. **File with DHS-USCIS** within 30 days of receiving the new I-20 from ISSS recommending you for post-completion OPT

If you have questions please speak with an ISSS advisor.

**ISSS Graduate Assistant Position**

ISSS is currently accepting applications for a graduate assistant position. For more details and to apply please [click here](#). Applications will not begin to be reviewed until the fourth week of September. If you are interested please follow the process in the application instructions (in person requests for consideration for the position will not be considered).

**Orientation Survey for New Students**

ISSS would like to know your thoughts on the Fall 2023 International Student Orientation. Your feedback is very important and needed! Please help us by completing the orientation evaluation. If you would like to be entered into the prize drawing, please leave your name and email at the end of the evaluation. You can find the evaluation at this link: [https://forms.gle/H9pGNQHGrWdqz6u96](https://forms.gle/H9pGNQHGrWdqz6u96). The evaluation will close on Friday, October 6.

**Fraud & Scam Awareness & Preparation**

Reminder: Beware of scams! Law enforcement will never contact you to demand money and/or gift cards. Such an incident is a scam and you should hang up on the caller and not provide any personal and financial information. Please take the time to [review the information on our website](#) about how to avoid frauds/scams.
Coffee with the Dean (9/21)

Join us on Thursday, September 21 from 3:30-4:30pm in the Science Library atrium for coffee, tea, treats and conversation! Dean Valverde will be there with other CIEGS staff. We hope that you can stop by to say hello!

Other Announcements/Upcoming Events:

Text Student Auto

Text Student Auto is a free, non-University affiliated service connecting college students to auto resources near campus. For more information on this service and the assistance it can provide please select "Read More."
Student Participants Needed for Research Study (Proccoli)

We are looking for students to participate in a semester-long research study involving using a mobile application that helps students in planning, time management, keeping track of assignments, and class projects. Our goal is to study procrastination in individual and group tasks. The study also involves completing a number of initial questionnaires electronically and during the semester. You will receive $50 in Amazon electronic gift card upon completion of this study (see Consent Form for conditions). If you are interested and have an iPhone or iPad to install the app on, please complete the following consent form, and we will get in touch with you for the subsequent steps. At this point, we do not have an Android version of the application.

https://forms.gle/1B3MBgywM4fvhGsy7
If you participated in our study last semester, you are eligible to participate this semester as well!

Thank you for your time!

Dr. Reza Feyzi Behnagh
Associate Professor, Department of Educational Theory & Practice
Dr. Shaghayegh Sahebi
Associate Professor, Computer Science Department

Student Participants Needed for Dissertation Study Recruitment

Hello fellow student,

My name is Xiao Ting (Kitty) Wang, and I am a Counseling Psychology doctoral student at the University at Albany, State University of New York. I hereby sincerely invite you to participate in my dissertation study, which studies how family members may influence Asian and Asian American college students’ STEM career development. This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of the University at Albany (IRB study number: 23X122).

You are invited to participate in the study if you:

1. Are at least 18 years old.
2. Identify as Asian or Asian-American where at least one parent identifies as Asian or Asian-American.
3. Are currently enrolled full-time as an undergraduate student at a SUNY university.
4. Are currently in your first year of college.
5. Are currently undecided/undeclared in major.

Upon completing a valid survey, you have the option to enter a raffle for a $10 gift card (details available on the first page of the study link). Your responses to the
survey are confidential and cannot be linked to your personal identity. If you are interested in participating in the study, please click on the following survey link, which will further direct you to an informed consent page with more information regarding your participation:

Qualtrics: https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cMSouhgcN8AMd8y

Thank you so much for helping me with this research! Your participation will contribute greatly to the scientific knowledge base of how family members influence college students’ career decisions, a crucial yet understudied subject pertaining to Asian and Asian American college students in the US.

If you have further questions, please contact me (Xiao Ting Wang, principal investigator) at ktwang@albany.edu, or my faculty advisor (Dr. Hung-Bin Sheu at hsheu@albany.edu).

In humble solidarity,

Xiao Ting (Kitty) Wang

Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology

University at Albany, SUNY

Arabic Speakers Needed

This is an urgent need for Arabic speaking volunteers at St Vincent's Food Pantry (located between here and the Downtown Campus) Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:00pm. They also need Farsi and Spanish speaking volunteers but Arabic is the most urgent need.

Students can reach directly out to the Food Pantry’s Director, Jeff Vigliotta, at foodpantry@stvincentalbany.org, or they can contact me at sstevens@albany.edu if they'd like assistance with an introduction. Undergraduates can do this service for college credit through the CPSP if they are interested.

Unsubscribe
The information contained in this email is provided as a service to international students, faculty and staff at the University at Albany. It does not constitute legal advice. We try to provide useful information, but we make no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the information contained in this email or any associated site or form. Neither the University at Albany nor ISSS is responsible for any errors or omissions contained in this email, or for the results obtained from the use of this information. Nothing provided herein should be used as a substitute for the advice of competent legal counsel; students may wish to consult an immigration attorney on the specifics of their case as needed.