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

**ISSS Announcements:**
- Graduating this Term? Apply to Graduate in MyUAlbany!
- OPT Application Instructions for Fall Graduates
- Career and Professional Development Resources
- Orientation Survey for New Students
- Financial/Food Resources

**Other Announcements/Upcoming Events:**
- UCAN: UAlbany Career Advisory Network
- Student Participants Needed for Research Study (Proccoli)
- Student Participants Needed for Dissertation Study Recruitment
- Text Student Auto
- Fall Fest 2023 (9/30)
- Personal Statement Writing Webinar (10/2)
- Graduate Student Academic Writing Group (10/4)

**ISSS 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.
Graduating this Term? Apply to Graduate in MyUAlbany!

UAldeny students must apply for graduation in order to receive a diploma or certificate. If you will complete all your degree or certificate requirements by the end of this semester, you must submit an online degree application.

Once you have applied for graduation, you may view your graduation status online.

When applying for graduation, please check the personal information you have on file with UAlbany to ensure it is correct.

- **Address:** Diplomas and certificates are mailed to the permanent address you have on record with UAlbany at the time of your graduation, unless you’ve designated a degree address where you’d like your diploma mailed. You may also update your permanent and degree addresses in MyUAlbany.
- **Name:** The name printed on your diploma or certificate will default to the name appearing in your University records.
  - You can update your degree name to your chosen first and middle name. Learn more about using chosen names on diplomas and certificates.
  - To update your legal first name or your last name, complete and submit the Personal Identification Change Form, which requires two valid forms of identification. Learn more about updating your personal information.

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.

Career and Professional Development Resources

Are you a student applying for OPT this Fall or Spring? Are you looking for summer internships? Or maybe trying to find an on campus jobs?

Make sure you utilize the resources and services of the Career and Professional Development Office to make yourself a more qualified and attractive candidate. Here are some tips:

1. Are you work authorized for the position and/or can you get work authorized? Make sure you review the rules for on-campus employment off-campus work authorization before applying for positions, so you know whether or not you could seek authorization for the position if offered.
2. Update your resume and cover letter. Make sure it follows the standard format expected by American employers and does not contain information that should not be included (such as your photo or date of birth). Your cover letter should be unique to you and convey your professional voice to make you an interesting and compelling candidate (something ChatGPT will not be able to accomplish-- use your own words and writing!) For each job you apply to edit your cover letter/resume so that you highlight the skills most applicable to the position posting.
3. Prepare for the interview. Know what to expect before, the day of, and after the interview.

Use the resources on Career Services and ISSS’s websites
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. The evaluation will close on Friday, October 6

Financial/Food Resources

Need More Food? The Purple Pantry, located in CC 329 can assist with the equivalent of 12 meals per 30-day period. Not enough help? Check out this dynamic Food Finding Map to help you find additional community food resources to meet your needs.

Looking for information about external scholarships or loans? Check out the financial planning resources on our website.
Other Announcements/Upcoming Events:

UCAN: UAlbany Career Advisory Network

Connect with Alumni, Unlock Opportunity

Connect with successful UAlbany grads NOW through the UAlbany Career Advisory Network! UCAN is the perfect tool for students to explore different career paths, learn from experts in their fields, practice professional communication skills, and make connections that will pay off in the future. There are over 1,600 alumni who have volunteered to provide FREE career advice to students. Learn more from a UAlbany senior who landed a rare summer internship opportunity after connecting with an alum on UCAN and join by 10/31 for a chance to win a Door Dash gift card.

Questions? Contact Meg McCarthy, UCAN Coordinator at mmccarthy4@albany.edu.

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**

**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](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

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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."

This does not constitute an endorsement of this business on the part of the University nor a vouching for their business practices.

Read More

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Fall Fest 2023 (9/30)

Saturday, 9/30 from 1-4pm on Dutch Quad.

Join us for an afternoon of fun! All profits from this sale go directly to gifts for local foster youth that are in need this holiday season! Music by DJ Syxx Figgaz, Stuff-a-plush, T-Shirt Sales, Food, and more! Get your fall fest passport stamped, first 250 stamps get a free t-shirt! Bring cash!

Read More
Personal Statement Writing Webinar (10/2)

Monday, October 2 from 7-8pm on Zoom

If you plan to continue your education beyond the bachelors, you should start the planning now! This workshop will cover the different graduate education options, how to determine the best program and degree, important steps in the application process and what makes a strong application.

Graduate Student Academic Writing Group (10/4)

Wednesday 10/4 from 1:30-2:30pm, GEC Room 134 (East Campus in Rensselaer)

Academic writing sessions! Earn LEAD points!

In each writing group session, participants will briefly share what they plan to work on (~5 minutes), followed by quiet writing time (~50 minutes). At the end of the session, participants are invited to celebrate their progress and/or share any challenges they faced (~5 minutes). Academic writing-related resources are also shared with participating students.

These sessions are held by Melissa Tracy, and will meet every Wednesday until the semester ends.

Unsubscribe

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

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