September 6, 2019

Table of Contents

1. Greeting

2. Important Announcements
   - Immigration Week September 9th-September 12th: Get Advice from an Immigration Attorney
   - OPT/CPT Workshop Schedule
   - Registration Requirements for F-1 & J-1 Students
   - Reminder for New Students: Health Center Requirements (MMR, TB, Meningitis)
   - Beware of Academic Misconduct Scam Targeting Students

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events
- Travel Signature Day Schedule
- UAlbany Project MyStory: Adjust to a New Culture: It's a Different World
- CPSP Community Service Day for International Students
- Update your SEVIS USA Address, Phone Number, and Email
- Reminders about Scams & Frauds
- Apple Picking Save the Date- October 5th
- Students Needed for Focus Group

4. University at Albany Events
Click here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

- Library Workshops for International Students
  - Doctoral Discussion Forum
  - Football vs. Bryant
- Dinner & Discussion: Adjusting to a New Academic Culture: It's a Different World.
  - Career and Education Abroad Fair
  - Women's Soccer vs. Francis Brooklyn
  - Men's Soccer vs. Colgate

5. Capital District Events
- Albany Riverfront Jazz Festival 2019
- The Cheese Tour with Wine and Beer
  - Family Farm Day
  - 2019 Irish 2000 Festival

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
2. Important Announcements

Immigration Week September 9th-September 12th: Get Advice from an Immigration Attorney

Understanding your legal rights in the United States and planning for your future are vital for international students. ISSS is therefore happy to welcome two immigration attorneys to campus the week of September 9th. Below are three events which we hope you will partake in. Email ISSS@albany.edu with any questions.

Know Your Rights: Avoiding Visa Revocation

Monday, September 9, 2019, 4:00-5:15 pm

Standish Room, 3rd Fl. of the UAlbany Science Library

Presenter: James Milstein, Managing Attorney Rapid Response Immigration Unit (and Former Albany County Public Defender and Director of the NYS Immigration Assistance Center)

This presentation will inform international students of their rights and what they should do to avoid any violations that could result in a revocation of their visas. In many instances, you may not know that your visa has been revoked until you are overseas applying for a new visa or attempting to reenter the U.S.

Immigration Art: 1-on-1 Consultations with an Immigration Attorney

Wednesday September 11th, 9:30am-12:30pm

Thursday, September 12th, 9:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Science Library G-05

Guest: Arthur Serratelli, Esq—immigration attorney from Serratelli Mijal PLLC. Mr. Serratelli has worked with UAlbany students for the past 12 years and works with many international students around the United States. We are happy to welcome him back.
To sign up for a free personal consultation: Email at least three, 30 minute time blocks during which your are available to immigration.art@gmail.com (Appointments are on the :00 and :30). Use the subject line “UAlbany Consultation, YOUR NAME.” Spots book quickly!

**Immigration Art: Workshop on Work Authorization Options in the United States**

Wednesday September 11th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Standish Room, 3rd Fl. of the UAlbany Science Library

Presenter: Arthur Serratelli, Esq—immigration attorney from Serratelli Mijal PLLC. Mr. Serratelli has worked with UAlbany students for the past 12 years and works with many international students around the United States. We are happy to welcome him back.

This workshop will help international students plan for future employment opportunities and/or statuses within the United States. If your plans may involve working or living in the United States after graduation, we highly encourage you to attend to hear what your options may include.

**OPT/CPT Workshop Schedule**

ISSS has weekly employment workshops, either for CPT authorization or OPT authorization. Students must attend one of these workshops before applying for OPT. If you are graduating in December, you can begin applying for OPT on September 19, 2019. Remember that USCIS estimates up to 3-5 months for processing of an OPT application.

To view a full schedule, please click here: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/OPT_CPT_flyer_Fall_2019.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/OPT_CPT_flyer_Fall_2019.pdf)
Registration Requirements for F-1 & 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 a minimum of 12 credits, and full-time for graduate students is a minimum of 9 credits. Of those credits, only one course or 3 credits may be a 100% fully online course, and students may not only take 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 RCL Form is now an E-Form available online, you can access it here:** [https://www.albany.edu/isss/89007.php](https://www.albany.edu/isss/89007.php) There is a registration hold preventing students from dropping below full-time. You must get approval from ISSS first.

**Reminder for New Students: Health Center Requirements (MMR, TB, Meningitis)**

If you are a new student who still needs to get your 2nd shot for MMR, please remember to obtain your shot within 30 days of the first dosage.

New students who also require TB tests should schedule them with the Health Services office.

In addition, all new students must complete the Meningitis requirement under the Required Agreements section of MyUAlbany.

For additional information, visit the Health Services website here: [https://www.albany.edu/health_center/immunizationreqs.shtml](https://www.albany.edu/health_center/immunizationreqs.shtml) or call 518-442-5229.

**Beware of Academic Misconduct Scam Targeting Students**

**Please be aware and protect yourself, your finances and your identity.** The Office of Information Technology Services has notified our office that there is an Academic Misconduct Scam targeting our Chinese students. The scammer sends a fake warning about an academic misconduct incident and then requests payment to cover the costs of the investigation.

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.** The Office of Community Standards will contact you if you have a conduct violation and will not communicate such to any external parties (confidential information). For information about other scams & fraud perpetrated against Chinese students, please visit the Chinese Embassy website at: [http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/notices/](http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/notices/). As always if you have any questions, please contact [ISSS@albany.edu](mailto:ISSS@albany.edu).
3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

Travel Signature Day Schedule

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 DS2019 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. You can view the schedule here: https://www.albany.edu/issss/assets/Fall_2019.pdf. We recommend that every student attend one of these days, even if you don’t have travel plans yet.

Thursday, October 10th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Tuesday, November 26th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Thursday, December 5th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05
Tuesday, December 10th (Reading Day), 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Get your I-20/DS-2019 signed once a year, even if you don’t have plans to travel yet!

Bring your I-20 or DS-2019.

Travel signatures are valid for one year for most full-time students. If you are uncertain if your signature is still valid, check with a ISSS advisor.
UAlbany Project MyStory: Adjust to a New Culture: It's a Different World
Monday, September 9, 2019
6:30pm
Science Library Conference Room 340

PROJECT MYSTORY STUDENT-TO-STUDENT SUCCESS SERIES
Turn UAlbany Student Stories into Strategies for YOUR Success
This is Your Special Invitation to Dinners & Discussions to Build a Strong Foundation

Adjusting to a New Academic Culture: It’s a Different World
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 6:30PM
Science Library Conference Room 340
Dinner! Discussion! Prizes!

UPCOMING DINNER AND DISCUSSION TOPICS (6:30 PM | SCI | LIB 340):
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: How UAlbany Became a “Home Away from Home”
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7: Learning How to Listen and Take Notes in a New Way
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21: The Great Dane “Donut” Stress Event
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4: Navigating Group Projects and Presentations
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18: My Research Experience at UAlbany
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2: Stress-Less Story Social & Awards Night

FACILITATED BY THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND GLOBAL STRATEGY AND THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER
FOLLOW US @UALBANYMYSTORY @UALBANYA_Plus @UALBANYADVISING USE #UALBANYSSSUCCESS

CPSP Community Service Day for International Students
Join us for a day of volunteering on Saturday, September 14th!
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS DAY OF SERVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Come join us for a morning or afternoon of volunteer service on Saturday, September 14th. It's a great way to make friends and meet other new international students as well as current UAlbany students.

We will have lots of volunteer opportunities, including on and off campus volunteer options. Buses will be provided at no charge to off-campus service sites.

REGISTER HERE:

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

OUTDOOR RAKING AND PAINTING. LOCATION: CAMP SCULLY (25 MINUTE BUS RIDE)

VOLUNTEER AT THE UALBANY BOOK FAIR. LOCATION: CAMPUS CENTER

SORT CLOTHES AT PURPLE THREADS. LOCATION: CAMPUS CENTER

SORT FOOD AT THE REGIONAL FOOD BANK. LOCATION: LATHAM (20 MIN BUS RIDE)

PLUS, MANY MORE OPTIONS!
Update your SEVIS USA Address, Phone Number, and Email

Are you living somewhere new this semester? To maintain your legal status SEVIS must have your current U.S. address and phone number. Every student 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

Reminders about Scams & Frauds

Please be aware of potentially fraudulent phone calls and emails from individuals posing as law enforcement (such as the Albany County Police Department, Department of Homeland Security, or the IRS). It is important to remember that it is very unusual for the IRS and other federal agents to reach out via phone and even email. Often, the callers will demand money or threaten imprisonment or deportation. To ensure your safety, please keep in mind the following if you receive a phone call like this:

• Unsolicited requests for personal or financial information are highly suspect. Government officers do not call asking for money or personal information.
• Do not provide any personal information (address, degree information, contact information, Social Security Number, Credit Card Number, birth date, etc…) or payment information over the phone or as a response to a fraudulent email.
• Call the agency (be it the police or IRS) directly. Fraudsters can mask their number to appear as if the call is coming from the police department or another agency, so you may need to call the actual agency number directly. Check for the agency’s actual number online or contact our office for information
• Do not meet anyone at any location to make a payment unless you have initiated the process and are meeting at a verified business address.
• You may wish to file a police report if you receive a fraudulent call or email, especially if the person calling has your personal information
• Be careful about sharing any personal information online, such as through social media. The person calling may know information about you, but they have likely gathered that information through internet sources. Just because someone knows your information does not mean the call is legitimate.

Signs that a call or email may be fraudulent include:

• Demands of payment or request for personal information
You have not received anything in the mail from an official agency
Calls from unknown numbers* (to reiterate, fraudsters can mask the numbers to appear as if they are coming from somewhere else, so it is important to call an agency or police department back directly)

For more information on consumer fraud, please visit the following websites:

- Or check with University at Albany Police Department: [http://police.albany.edu/](http://police.albany.edu/)

If you have any questions or receive a phone call like one outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact our office with questions or concerns.

**Save the Date - Apple Picking October 5th!**

ISSS's next trip will be Apple Picking & Hiking on October 5th. Enjoy an All-American Northeastern tradition with us! Look to the future newsletter for sign-up information.

**Students Needed for Focus Group**

Are you an international student at UAlbany from mainland China, India, Korea, Japan or Taiwan?

Here if your opportunity to tell the university about your views and experiences as a student on campus and in the U.S.. Each participant will be eligible to win a $50 Amazon gift card in a raffle! Pizza and refreshments will also be provided.

How? Qualified individuals will be asked to participate in a 1-hour focus group discussion regarding their background and experiences as an international student at UAlbany.
For more information, please contact Professor Angie Y Chung (Sociology) at aychung@albany.edu

4. University at Albany Events

Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

Library Workshops for International Students

**Workshop I: Introduction to Research Process**

Instructors: Mary Van Ullen, Yu-Hui Chen  
September 6, Friday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
LI – B14 & B15 (University Library, Basement level)

Topics: what is a research paper, steps in the research process, choosing a research topic, finding background information and articles, using research databases, evaluating research materials (including Web sites), and hands-on exercises.

To sign up for the workshop, please contact Mary Van Ullen (mvanullen@albany.edu)

**Workshop II: What is “plagiarism” all about? How to avoid it?**

Instructors: Yu-Hui Chen, Mary Van Ullen  
September 20, Friday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
LI – B48 (University Library, Basement level)

Topics: in-text citations and bibliography; why acknowledge sources; when to cite; differences among quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing; types of plagiarism; how to cite; tips for avoiding plagiarism; academic integrity; and hands-on exercises.

To sign up for the workshop, please contact Yu-Hui Chen (ychen@albany.edu)

**Workshop III: Citation Practice**

Instructors: Yu-Hui Chen, Mary Van Ullen  
September 27, Friday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
LI – B48 (University Library, Basement level)

Topics: DOI (digital object identifier), ways of providing in-text citations, Citation Fox, and paraphrasing practice.

To sign up for the workshop, please contact Yu-Hui Chen (ychen@albany.edu)

As Workshop II and Workshop III are closely related, you are strongly encouraged to attend Workshop II first.

Doctoral Student Discussion Forums

This year the Doctoral Student Discussion Forums will be held during late September and early October. There are two sessions for each Forum. Listed below are the topics for each session. The panelists will take turns to address each topic. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions during panelists’ talks.

**Session I: Navigating Your Early PhD Career**

Topics:

- Starting a PhD: What do you need to know for your first year? How doctoral study differs from previous academic pursuits?
- Developing your academic identity
• Moving from course focus to research focus
• Choosing a dissertation topic
• Forming a dissertation committee (picking a committee chair and working with a committee)

**Forum for the Sciences**

Time:       Monday, 9/23, 12:45-2:15 PM
Location:   HU 354, Humanities Building, 3rd Floor
Panelists:  Dr. Melinda Larsen (Biological Sciences), Dr. Igor Lednev (Chemistry), Dr. Ryan Torn (Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences), Dr. Christine Wagner (Behavioral Neuroscience)

**Forum for the Social Sciences**

Time:       Wednesday, 9/25, 2:30-4:00 PM
Location:   Barnes & Noble Reading Room, Science Library, Garden Level
Panelists:  Dr. Michael Jerison (Economics), Dr. Louise-Anne McNutt (Public Health), Dr. Katherine Trent (Sociology), Dr. Alan Wagner (Education)

**Forum for the Humanities**

Time:       Monday, 10/7, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Location:   HU 354, Humanities Building, 3rd Floor
Panelists:  Dr. Griffith Glyne (English), Dr. Nadieszda Kizenko (History), Dr. Lotfi Sayahi (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)

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**Session 2: Managing Your Dissertation and Planning Your Career Path**

Topics:

• Writing and defending the dissertation proposal
• Strategies for completing components of your dissertation
• Strategies for preparing for and defending your dissertation
• Creating your career path beyond your dissertation

**Forum for the Sciences**

Time:       Monday, 9/30, 12:45-2:15 PM
Location:   LS 1143 Life Sciences Research Building, 1st Floor by the green house
Panelists:  Dr. Melinda Larsen (Biological Sciences), Dr. Igor Lednev (Chemistry), Dr. Ryan Torn (Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences), Dr. Christine Wagner (Behavioral Neuroscience)

**Forum for the Social Sciences**

Time:       Wednesday, 10/2, 2:30-4:00 PM
Forum for the Humanities

Time: Monday, 10/7, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Location: HU 354, Humanities Building, 3rd Floor

Panelists: Dr. Griffith Glyne (English), Dr. Nadieszda Kizenko (History), Dr. Lotfi Sayahi (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)

Panelists will also integrate how to deal with setbacks, time management, and building a support system into their talks. Light lunch/refreshments will be served. Networking begins 15 minutes prior to start of sessions. Please RSVP at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZCTSGGC

Football vs. Bryant

Saturday, Sep 7, 2019 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Casey Stadium
Cost: Season tickets start at $50, individual games for sale at box office
Football plays its first home game of the fall, hosting Bryant.

Career and Education Abroad Fair

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
SEFCU Arena
Come to the SEFCU Arena to learn about your Education Abroad options! Don’t miss out on this opportunity to connect with advisors and study abroad alumni. Bring your questions – we’ll help answer them!

Women's Soccer vs. St. Francis Brooklyn

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Casey Stadium
Cost: Free
Women's Soccer hosts St. Francis Brooklyn under the lights at Casey Stadium.

Men's Soccer vs. Colgate

Thursday, September 12, 2019
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Casey Stadium
Cost: Season tickets start at $50, individual games for sale at box office windows
Men's Soccer hosts Colgate.

5. Capital District Events

Albany Riverfront Jazz Festival 2019

Saturday, Sep 7, 2019 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM
[Event Location: Jennings Landing, 1 Quay Street Albany, NY 12207]
Cost: FREE ADMISSION
For more info, click here

As summer comes to an end, let it go out with a cymbal crash and a trumpet blast. Don't miss the Albany Riverfront Jazz Festival on September 7, 2019. The festival brings acclaimed musical guests, great food and beverages, and vendors...and best of all, it's FREE!

The event kicks off this year at 12:00pm and will conclude at 8:00pm with a fantastic fireworks display! Media sponsors for the event are 88.3 The Saint and WCDB 90.9.

The Cheese Tour with Wine and Beer

Saturday, Sep 7, 2019 until Sunday, Sep 8, 2019 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
The Cheese Tour is put on every year by the Washington County Cheesemakers’ Guild, a small group of farmers and artisans in Eastern Upstate New York. Now in its 13th year, the tour is a self-guided celebration of handmade artisanal and farmstead cheeses and the farms where they are produced.

Each farm opens to the public and offers samplings, special products, and authentic experiences unique to life on a farm in Washington County.

**Family Farm Day**

Sunday, Sep 8, 2019 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Two Rock Ranch, 78 Turner Road Berne, NY 12023  
Cost: FREE ADMISSION  
For more info, click here
Join Cornell Cooperative Extension Albany County for our 3rd Annual Family Farm Day! Come experience a working sheep farm!
This event is free to the public and will be held rain or shine! Farm Tours, Kids' Activities, and Food.

2019 Irish 2000 Festival

Friday, Sep 13, 2019 until Saturday, Sep 14, 2019
Saratoga County Fairgrounds, 162 Prospect Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020
For more info, click here
The 23rd annual Irish 2000 Festival returns for 2019, once again offering a unique lineup of Irish music including everything from Celtic punk and jam music to traditional and everything in between.

As a result of strong attendance, the festival has added back their Friday night show and local/regional music stage on Saturday.