International Student and Scholar Services
Weekly Newsletter
January 26, 2018

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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
2. Important Announcements

Accurate SEVIS Information in MyUAlbany

To maintain your legal status SEVIS must have your current address and phone number information. Each student must check this information to make sure it is correct.

Please do this immediately:
• Log-in to MyUAlbany
  • In the middle box on the left, click on Demographic Data

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

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
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 County and put the rest of the number in the box that says Telephone
- Click Save

Please come to the ISSS office if you have any problems updating your demographic information.

Reminders about Full-time Registration & Online Courses

To maintain status, F-1 and J-1 students must maintain full time registration each fall and spring semester. For undergraduate students, full-time is at least 12 credits. For graduate students, full-time is at least 9 credits. If you believe you qualify for a reduced course load based on the predefined reasons, please complete and submit a reduced course load approval form, signed by your advisor, to ISSS (http://www.albany.edu/isss/forms.php#rcl).

International students may only take one, 3 credit, fully online (100% online) course towards their full time total. In other words, undergraduates must be taking at least 9 credits worth or non-online courses and graduate students must be taking at least 6 credits worth of non-online courses. If you are on a reduced course load and want to take an online course, please consult ISSS first.

Failure to maintain full-time registration or meet the requirements for online courses can lead to a loss of status and/or loss of eligibility for benefits.
ISSS Hours and Using the ISSS Website

The ISSS is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, unless there is a holiday. ISSS offers walk-in advising (no appointment needed), including phone advising, on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am-4pm. There is no walk-in advisement on Wednesdays or after 4pm. Students may also email ISSS@albany.edu their questions, or to schedule an appointment with an advisor.

Make sure you use the ISSS website. Check out our Forms page, Programming page, and Current Students page, as well as view past Newsletters.

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

Basics of Writing in the American Classroom Workshop

This workshop is intended for international students to provide tips and resources to make you a more confident writer in the American classroom. No RSVPs are needed. Event is on Thursday, February 15th at 4:30pm on the 3rd floor of the Science Library.
OPT/CPT Workshops Spring 2018

Students applying for OPT are required to attend one of the below mandatory workshop sessions. Students who are applying for CPT are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop as well. Below are the dates of workshops for Spring 2018. No pre-registration is needed for the workshops.

CPT and OPT Workshops

**Spring 2018**

**CPT Workshops**
- Monday, 1/29, 1-2pm, SL 605
- Tuesday, 2/20, 3-4pm, SL 605
- Friday, 3/2, 10am-11am, SL 605
- Monday, 3/12, 4pm-5pm, SL 605
- Wednesday, 4/4, 3pm-4pm, SL 605
- Thursday, 4/19, 11am-12pm, SL 605

**OPT Workshops**
- Thursday, 1/25, 3pm-4pm, SL 605
- Wednesday, 1/31, 2-3pm, SL 605
- Tuesday, 2/6, 11am-12pm, Downtown Campus, Room TBD
- Monday, 2/12, 4pm-5pm, SL 605
- Friday, 2/16, 4pm-5pm, SL 605
- Thursday, 3/8, 10am-11am, SL 605
- Monday, 3/19, 10am-11am, SL 605
- Tuesday, 4/2, 11am-12pm, SL 605
- Friday, 4/13, 11am-12pm, SL 605
- Wednesday, 4/18, 4pm-5pm, SL 605
- Thursday, 5/3, 3pm-4pm, East Campus, Room TBD
- Tuesday, 5/8, 11am-11am, SL 605
- Thursday, 5/17, 7pm-8pm, SL 605

**Other Important Dates**
- Saturday, 1/27/18: beginning of OPT filing season with USCIS for May cohort graduates
- Wednesday, 1/31/18: 2pm-4pm, International Orientation Fair
- Thursday, 2/1/18: Program and data for May graduates
- Friday 7/15/18: Latest OPT start date for May graduates to request. All OPT applications for May graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.

Cultural Connections Fundraisers at Chipotle and Panera Bread

Cultural Connections is a UAlbany student group that connects international and domestic students for cultural exchange, and runs the International Friendship Partner Program. Interested in joining? Email culturalconnections@gmail.com

You can also support this group through two fundraisers:

**Sunday, January 28th, 4-8pm at Chipotle in Stuyvesant Plaza:** Tell the cashier you’re supporting Cultural Connections!
Monday, February 5th, 4-8pm at Panera Bread on 161 Washington Ave Ext (next to Walmart): Bring or show the below flyer to the cashier.

CAUSE AN EFFECT

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Cultural Connections. Come in to the Chipotle at 1475 Western Ave in Albany on Sunday, January 28th between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you’re supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Cultural Connections.
HELP SUPPORT

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

WHERE 161 Washington Ave Ext, Albany, NY 12205
WHEN Mon, Feb, 5th FROM 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase.

Ordering Online for Rapid Pick-Up or Delivery?
Enter "FUND" as your Promo Code to have a portion of your proceeds donated to your organization.

Learn more at PaneraBread.com/fundraiser

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Travel Signature Days

Your I-20 or DS-2019 must be signed every year while you are a full-time student so that you can re-enter the United States after travel. Usually, ISSS requests 5-7 business days for travel signatures. But on our special travel signature days, you can get it signed on the spot. See schedule below:

Friday, February 9th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Friday, March 9th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Friday, May 4th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Thursday, May 10th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

Friday, May 18th, 2:00-4:00, Science Library G-05

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.
ETAP 500 Course: Academic Writing in English as a Second Language

ACADEMIC WRITING IN ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Class Hours: Monday 01:15-04:05 PM  
Class number: 10762

Instructor: Liya Zalaltdinova

For permission numbers email the instructor at lzalaltdinova@albany.edu,  
the secretary at bbrummer@albany.edu or ETAP advisors at etap@cuny.albany.edu.

Course Description

Designed specifically for international graduate students, this course introduces the conventions of academic literacy by engaging students in a series of graduate-level writing projects such as argumentative essays, critical reviews, and research papers. Students will first explore the processes of academic writing by analyzing and evaluating sample academic papers and scholarly articles, and then will move on to produce their own written work by employing strategies such as drafting and revising as well as providing and responding to constructive feedback.

Writing projects will also focus on the fundamental aspects of an academic research paper (e.g., introduction, literature review, and citing sources) enabling students to produce a research paper on their topics of interest

Through assigned readings, classroom discussions, writing assignments, and peer reviews, students are expected to develop an awareness of writing for scholarly purposes and to gain confidence in providing feedback to other students’ written work.

Alumni Association Scholarships

For more than 37 years, the University at Albany Alumni Association has provided scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students to help continue UAlbany’s tradition of excellence and opportunity. We are pleased to announce funding for the following student scholarships for 2018-2019. We would appreciate your publicizing these awards to ensure a diverse group of qualified applications.
Alumni Association Spirit Scholarship ($1,000): Awarded to three UAlbany students who demonstrate outstanding school spirit and commitment to the University and its students.

The Agnes E. Futterer Memorial Fellowship ($1,000): Awarded to a UAlbany senior entering graduate study in theatre or a theatre-related field at UAlbany or any other accredited institution or recognized theatre program.

The Albert N. Husted Fellowship ($1,000): Awarded to a UAlbany senior planning for full-time graduate study in any area of study at the University or any other accredited university.

The Adna W. Risley Memorial Scholarship ($750): Awarded to a UAlbany senior or graduate student pursuing a graduate degree in history.

The Class of 1972 Scholarship ($750 each): Awarded to a graduating UAlbany senior planning to enter full-time graduate study at the University during the next academic year.

Bertha Brimmer Legacy Scholarship ($1,500): Awarded to a current or incoming legacy freshman or legacy transfer student. A legacy is a child or grandchild of an alumnus/a.

Scholarship applications will be available online beginning January 15, 2018. Bertha Brimmer applications are due February 23. All other applications are due March 2. For more information, please visit http://www.alumni.albany.edu/scholarships or call the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080.

Rookie Road
SuperBowl Resource: Going to school in the U.S. can be challenging, especially if you don’t understand the sports that are played in America. Rookie Road has developed resources to help you learn the basics of sports, so that you can be well prepared for any sports games that you attend this year at U of Albany, in NY or
nationally. Just in time for the SuperBowl between the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles, check out the American Football resource to learn more about how the game is played.

You can sign up FREE and become part of the Rookie Road community here and join the International Student Sports Fan Facebook here.

4. University at Albany Events

Fridays At the Student Success Center
Make Your Own Vision Board!

**WHEN:** Friday, January 26, 2018 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**WHERE:** State Quad - Student Success Center - Whitman Hall, 2nd Floor

Stop by the Student Success Center located on State Quad in Whitman Hall. Start your Spring Semester strong by setting goals, through creating your very own Vision Board with the members of the Advisement Services Center Peer Advisement Team. This interactive activity will give you an opportunity to outline goals you wish to accomplish moving forward.

For more information, contact Residential Life - (518) 442-5875
http://www.albany.edu/housing/
Getting Started with Blackboard

**WHEN:** Friday, January 26, 2018 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
**WHERE:** LC SB 30A Lecture Center Sub Basement

This workshop will provide an overview of the basic capabilities of the Blackboard system. Participants will learn how to add and manage content, gain familiarity with the Course Menu and Control Panel, and gain exposure to the key features for content, interaction, and assessment tools.

Sign up at [https://goo.gl/forms/sbAgwkeIpEAuOY7l](https://goo.gl/forms/sbAgwkeIpEAuOY7l)  
Contact: ITS-Educational Technology Center (518) 442-4288
Women's Basketball vs. Stony Brook

**When:** Saturday, January 27, 2018 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Where:** SEFCU Arena

Cost: $7 children, $10 adults, students free

Enjoy the experience of watching basketball at the University at Albany. For more information, contact UAlbany Athletics Box Office

See more at: [http://www.ualbanysports.com/](http://www.ualbanysports.com/)

UAlbany Takes Over Hunter Mountain

**When:** Sunday, January 28, 2018 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Where:** Main St., Hunter, NY 12442

The UAlbany Programming Board wants to kick off this Winter Semester by taking you to Hunter Mountain for a day of snow tubing! Your ticket includes travel to
and from Hunter Mountain, snow tubing, and a food voucher valued at $10! So dress warm and invite a friend; we're going snow tubing! If you have any questions, please email programmingboard@albany.edu.

UAlbany Open Recreation

**When:** *FROM* Monday, January 29, 2018 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM  
**Where:** Physical Education - Gym 1st Floor  
See more details at: [http://www.albany.edu/campusrecreation/65289.php](http://www.albany.edu/campusrecreation/65289.php)

During these hours, the gym in the Physical Education building is open and free for any student to come and utilize.

Contact: [Office of Campus Recreation](http://www.albany.edu/campusrecreation/) (518) 442-2627
Craft Talk with Gish Jen

When: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM
Where: Science Library - Standish Room
Cost: Free
See: https://www.albany.edu/writers.inst/webpages4/programpages/vws2018Spring.html

Join the NYS Writers Institute for a craft talk with Gish Jen, a beloved and prize-winning chronicler of the Chinese-American experience in fiction. Her new nonfiction work, The Girl at the Baggage Claim: Explaining the East-West Culture Gap (2017), explores stark differences between Eastern and Western ideas of the “self.”

Cosponsored by: State Education Department’s Office of Cultural Education, Friends of the NYS Library, and the UAlbany Center for International Education and Global Strategy
Contact: New York State Writers Institute (518) 442-5620 http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst/
**Friends' Used Book Sale**

**When:** Friday, Jan 26, 2018 until Sunday, Jan 28, 2018 - 1:00 PM  
**Where:** Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065  
Cost: FREE ADMISSION

The Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library will hold their Used Book Sale on the 2nd floor of the library the weekend of January 26, 27, & 28, 2018. The schedule is as follows:

- Fri., Jan. 26 - 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sat., Jan. 27 - 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 28 - 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

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**Movie and Pizza Night at the Museum**

**When:** Friday, Jan 26, 2018 - 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
**Where:** American Italian Heritage Museum, 1227 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12205
Cost: $5 for pizza and refreshments

“The Secret of Santa Vittoria,” is a 1969 comedy/drama directed by Stanley Kramer, starring Anthony Quinn, Anna Magnini, and Virna Lisi.

Walk or Ski in the Pine Bush!

**When:** Saturday, Jan 27, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
**Where:** Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, 155 New Karner Road Albany, NY 12054  
**Cost:** FREE ADMISSION  
**Hosted By:** Albany Pine Bush Preserve

The Pine Bush in the winter is spectacular. Winter weather allows visitors to see the contours of the sand dunes and the stark beauty of the pitch pines.
Lynne Jackson will lead a leisurely walk (or ski) and tell stories of Save the Pine Bush’s litigation and strategies used to stop development on this land. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and, if they wish, tell their own stories of Pine Bush preservation. Seeing Pine Bush in all of its glory makes all the litigation, attendance at public hearings, and struggles to save this land from the bulldozers worth it. This walk (or ski) will be at the pace of the slowest walker. If there is snow, we will decide at the beginning whether to walk or ski, depending on the conditions, whether participants have skis, snow shoes or boots and how the participants wish to proceed. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather.

Afterwards, we will make a brief visit to the Discovery Center. Then, if people wish, we will get hot drinks and/or food at Yonder Farms on Route 155.