Want your photo to appear? Email it to ISSS@albany.edu

Table of Contents

1. Greeting

2. Important Announcements

- Save the Date International Celebration- May 16th
- Fall 2018 Orientation Assistant Application OPEN
  - Annual Boston Day Trip - Sign up today!
- Presentation Skills in American Classrooms Workshop April 6th

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

- OPT/CPT Workshops-- Revised Schedule
- Sprintax and Other Tax Filing Information
  - Intercultural Connections Survey
- SEVP Portal for Reporting OPT Employment Launching Soon
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

Save the Date International Celebration- May 16th

The international celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 16th 2018 at 2:30pm in the Campus Center Ballroom. More information on how to RSVP is forthcoming. Graduating international students, departing exchange students and scholars, and graduating study abroad returners will all be recognized at this special ceremony.
Save the Date

INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 16th 2018
2:30pm
Campus Center Ballroom

MORE DETAILS TO COME.
Fall 2018 Orientation Assistant Application OPEN

Looking for a fun on-campus job this summer? **ISSS is seeking Orientation Assistants for New International Student Orientation, August 19th-26th, 2018!**

The overall objective of an Orientation Assistant is to provide a genuine welcome for new students and to assist them during the first days of their adjustment to the University and the Capital District. We consider the Orientation Assistants to be important members of the program and we expect the appropriate commitment of time and energy from each assistant. Students will receive a stipend of $250 for 25 hours of work.

Please click [https://goo.gl/forms/vQReawera6xOBeg1](https://goo.gl/forms/vQReawera6xOBeg1) to apply! **Applications will close on Friday March 23rd 2018 at 11pm.** If you have any questions please contact isss@albany.edu.

**Boston Day Trip Registration is open!**

Students are invited to take a trip to Boston on Saturday April 21. The price is $45 which covers the cost of travel. Once in Boston, students are welcome to go on activities with ISSS staff or explore the city with friends. **Register today as spots fill up quickly!**
Do you have a Powerpoint presentation for your final project? Are you nervous about presenting in English in front of your professor and classmates? ISSS organize the workshop called "Presentation Skills in American Classrooms" to familiarize you with American presentation styles, give you tips on how to be confident in public speaking, and offer one-on-one advising regarding your personal presentation projects. Bring your ideas or your PPTs to the workshop and have fun sharpening your skills.
3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

**OPT/CPT Workshops-- Revised Schedule**

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**
- Friday, 3/2, 10am-11am, SL G05
- Monday, 3/12, 4pm-5pm, SL Basement Classroom H
- **Wednesday, 4/4, 3pm-4pm, SL Basement Classroom H**—intended for first semester MS CSCI students
- Thursday, 4/19, 11am-12pm, SL G05

**OPT Workshops**
- Friday, 2/23, 4pm-5pm, SL Basement H
- Thursday, 3/8, 10am-11am, SL G05
- Monday, 3/19, 3pm-4pm, SL Basement H
- Tuesday, 3/27, 11am-12pm, SL G-05
- Friday, 4/13, 3pm-4pm, SL Basement H
- **Wednesday, 4/25, 1pm-2pm, SL G05**
- **Thursday, 5/3, 3pm-4pm, East Campus, George Education Center C4**
- **Tuesday, 5/8, 10am-11am, SL G05**
- **Thursday, 5/17, 2pm-3pm, SL G05**

**Other Important Dates**
- Saturday, 2/17/18: Beginning of OPT filing season with USCIS for May 2018 graduates
- Wednesday, 2/21/18: Job and Internship Fair, 12pm-2pm, SEUC Arena
- **Thursday, 5/17/18: Program end date for May graduates**
- Friday, 7/13/18: Latest OPT start date for May graduates to request. All OPT applications for May graduates must be received by USCIS before this date.

**Sprintax and Other Tax Filing Information**
ISSS has purchased Sprintax tax software to help international students and scholars to file their 2017 tax returns. Codes for Sprintax will be available on **Monday, February 5, 2018**. To obtain a Sprintax tax code, please email isss@albany.edu. Please include the following information in your email: first & last name, student id number, and the name of your employer. If you were not employed, please go to: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf, to obtain form 8843. For questions, please contact ISSS.

**Undergraduate Emergency Fund Information**

The University has received a generous grant from the Heckshcher Foundation for Children and the Gerstner Family Foundation to provide emergency funds to undergraduate students facing unforeseen circumstances that may interfere with their ability to pay tuition and graduate as expected.

Students can learn more about the fund and apply for a grant at www.albany.edu/emergencyfund. Contact ISSS or Student CARE Services with questions.
Intercultural Connections Survey

We are looking for your help as we update the International Connections resources guide. This is a booklet we put out at orientation for new international students.

You are the experts at being an international student at UAlbany, so we want to know what grocery stores and restaurants you go to. We are also interested to know if there are religious or other organizations (on or off-campus) that you belong to.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the parts of this survey you have ideas about. Thank you for your time.
SEVP Portal for Reporting OPT Employment Launching Soon

On March 23, 2018, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP, which is the agency in charge of SEVIS) will launch the SEVP Portal. The portal is a tool that F-1 or M-1 students on post-completion optional practical training (OPT) or STEM OPT can choose to use to report changes to their demographic and employer information, or to review the current information in their SEVIS record for accuracy.

Any data updates you make in the portal will be sent directly to SEVIS.

All students are still required to update their SEVIS USA address, phone number, and email in MyUAlbany. However, you can use the portal to make sure the information you have in MyUAlbany is correct. If the information in the portal does not match your current contact information, please update it in MyUAlbany.

Students on STEM OPT will not be able to update employer information in the Portal, and must continue to update ISSS directly using the OPT data form. The reason for this is that students on STEM OPT must also submit I-983 updates when changing employers.

As a student on post-completion or STEM OPT, you will be eligible to use the portal. The portal is accessible from both your mobile device and computer. You will receive an email with instructions on creating a portal account. This email will come from do-not-reply.sevp@ice.dhs.gov. If you do not see the email, check your spam or junk mail folder. If you still do not see it, contact ISSS to have the email sent again.

The SEVP Portal will allow you to:
- View details about your post-completion or STEM OPT.
- Report changes to your address, telephone and employer information.
- View and update data on all your employers in one place.

Any data updates you make in the portal will be sent directly to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

SEVP has created an SEVP Portal Help section on Study in the States with:
Information about the portal


SEVP Portal videos.

A useful one-page reference sheet on the portal.

Use of the portal is voluntary but highly encouraged by SEVP. If you have any questions about the portal or need assistance, call the SEVP Response Center at 703-603-3400.

Any student may continue to send the OPT data form to ISSS@albany.edu to update information if they prefer. Students are also still required to complete their regular 6 month reporting. Please note ISSS has made recent updates to the OPT data form. You can find the most recent version here, on the Forms page of our website.

4. University at Albany Events

Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

Men's Lacrosse vs. Vermont

Sunday, March 17 @3pm

Tom & Mary Casey Stadium (Bob Ford Field)

Come see your #1 Nationally ranked Great Danes take on Vermont on March 17th at 3 pm for the St. Patrick's Showdown! UAlbany Students are always FREE with a valid SUNY ID!
Food Justice Fair
Tuesday, March 20 7:30p
Campus Center 375

Join LIS on Tuesday, March 20th at 7:30 pm in CC 375 for an evening of free food, community engagement, and education! Local organizations including and student organizations will be tabling at a mini fair-style event to help promote awareness about the food justice movement, holistic nutrition, and sustainability. Free swag and educational take-aways will be provided! We will be learning about why food justice matters, how you can support your own communities, how you can move out of food insecurity or support those who are food insecure, and what practices you can engage in to promote sustainability. For questions, please contact ualbanyleadersinservice@gmail.com.

Go For The Green Sampling
Wednesday, March 21 1:30pm-2:30pm
Campus Center

Come join us for a vegetarian sampling program at Star Ginger! If you gather raffle tickets from four of these events, you will be entered into a raffle to win free Munch Money!

International Night 2018
Thursday, March 22 5-7pm
School of Public Health George Education Center Conference Room 110A

The School of Public Health’s Graduate Students Organization (GSO) will be holding its annual “International Night” event on Thursday, March 22nd. Please plan to join in and support this important, informative, and fun student-led event celebrating cultural understanding and diversity. This is a free and fun event to share with your family, friends, and classmates! Join us for an evening full of culture, entertainment, prizes, and food! All proceeds donated will go to Save The Children.
DIY Easter Treat Bag & Easter Egg Decorating
Friday, March 23 1pm
Student Success Center (Whitman Hall, State Quad)
Stop by to enjoy delicious Easter treats and decorate your own Easter Egg. Prizes will be awarded to the most creative Eggs. We hope to see you at this EGGciting event!
Therapy Dogs
Friday, March 23 2:30pm
Campus Center Transfer Lounge
Come take a "Paws" amidst your tests and exams with the Therapy Dogs. Everyone's favorite furry friends are coming back to help us relax during finals and midterms. Come play while practicing positive mental health!
RSVP Here

AdvisingPLUS tutoring schedule

AdvisingPLUS offers weekly tutoring in a number of subjects to help undergraduate students with their academic success. Attend these tutoring sessions to help you get that A!

Full schedule is available here.

5. Capital District Events

Albany Comic and Toy Show
Sunday, March 18 @10am-5pm | $5
The Albany Comics and Toy Show is a twice a year event in the Capital District of Albany in Upstate New York. Now in it's 7th year. The show features new and vintage Toys, Comic Books and Collectibles of every kind including: Star Wars, GI Joe, Transformers, Mego, Horror, Movie memorabilia, Wrestling, Non Sports Cards, Barbie’s, Statues, Model Kits, Original art and much, much more.

Along with a great line up of vendors, the show hosts professionals and guests that create comic books, comic book art, gaming card art, statues and action figures. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased on this eventbrite.
Pirates on the Erie at The Palace
Sunday, March 18 @3pm | $20/ticket
The Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Avenue Albany, NY 12207
518.694.3300

Some no good, swashbuckling pirates have taken over the Erie Canal and won't let anyone through! Can Ship-Captain Dave and the brave Albany Symphony musicians trick them into letting all the boats through? They'll need your help on this wild musical journey along the Erie Canal. Come dressed for an adventure! Pirates and sailors welcome! Come early for a hands on instrument petting zoo, sponsored by John Keal Music Co.

Film Screening: Louder Than a Bomb
Friday, March 23 @8-9:30pm | Free Admission
University at Albany Downtown Campus, 135 Western Avenue, Page HallAlbany, NY 12203
Directed by Greg Jacobs and Jon Siskel (United States, 2010, 99 minutes, color)
This award-winning documentary tells the story of four Chicago high school poetry teams as they prepare for and compete in the world’s largest youth slam. "Packs a greater emotional punch than any film in current release" (Boston Herald).

NOTE: Shown in association with slam poet Patricia Smith’s visit on March 23rd which consists of a Q&A session from 6-8pm.