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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.

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

Reminders about Withdrawing from Classes and Full-Time Status

This is an important reminder that F-1 and J-1 students must maintain full-time registration status throughout the entire semester. To be full-time, **undergraduate students must take a minimum or 12 credits and graduate students must take a minimum of 9 credits.** The **only** exception to this is if a student has been pre-approved and authorized for a reduced course load this semester by ISSS.

The deadline for undergraduates to withdraw from a class is April 9th. However, **if withdrawing will cause you to be less than full-time you cannot withdraw unless an RCL has been approved by ISSS.** Consult an ISSS advisor first if you think you may be eligible. If a student does not maintain full-time status he or she is in violation of status which can have **serious consequences,** and jeopardize both your ability to remain in the United States as a student as well as any future applications for benefits or statuses.

If you are having difficulties in a class, we advise you to consult the professor and your academic advisor about whether taking the class S/U is an option. You may also speak to ISSS about academic resources.

**Presentation Skills in American Classrooms**

**April 6**

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.

Friday April 6th
4:30-5:30
BB Bo06 (basement Level of the Business Building)
PRESENTATION SKILLS in AMERICAN CLASSROOMS

Friday, April 6, 2018
4:30-5:30 PM

Business Building,
Room BB 2006 (Basement level)

Hosted by the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
Boston Day Trip Registration is closing soon!

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 there are VERY limited spots remaining.

ISSS Annual Boston Day Trip
Saturday, April 21
8AM-10PM
$45*

Explore Boston with ISSS or explore the city with friends!
*Cost of trip covers transportation only

Register Below:
www.tinyurl.com/ISSSBoston
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.

Information on the SEVP OPT Portal

On March 23rd, 2018, SEVP (the government office which runs SEVIS) is expected to launch an OPT portal which students on OPT can access to view and update certain information in SEVIS. Please note this is a new system, and updates may be frequent as both students and advisors become accustomed to the system’s capability.

For information on how to use the Portal and what to expect, please click here.

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.

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 iss@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.

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.

Webinar for International Students Seeking Summer Internships

ICAWay will offer a webinar to international students seeking assistance with finding summer internships. The cost to register is $10 early bird, $15 after March 31st. The webinar will take place on Friday April 6th at 1:30pm. For more information, including how to register, please click here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gear-up-for-summer-internship-hunting-registration-44207150778
4. University at Albany Events
Click [Here](#) for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

**Men's Lacrosse vs. Stony Brook**
Saturday, March 31 @ 4:00pm
Tom & Mary Casey Stadium (Bob Ford Field)
Your nationally ranked #1 Men's Lacrosse team hosts America East rival Stony Brook on Saturday, March 31st at 4 pm. UAlbany Students are FREE with a valid SUNY ID!

National Public Health Week Kick-off: Healthy Potluck Lunch
Monday, April 2 @ 11:30am
School of Public Health George Education Conference Room 110A
Don't miss our NPHW kick-off! Great food and even better company. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to help us kickoff National Public Health Week with a healthy potluck lunch! Come share your favorite dish and catch up with colleagues and peers.

Relax & Rest
Tuesday April 3 @ 8:15pm
Physical Education Building - Group Exercise Studio
This class will blend restorative and vinyasa yoga to focus on self-care. Participants will connect to their bodies through movement and breath; focusing on listening to the body and giving it what it needs. This class is a practice of cultivating the attitude of letting go, to allow a deep relaxation.

Bystander Intervention Training
Wednesday, April 4 @ 5pm
Humanities 113
This training is open to all University at Albany students and after this training you will receive MyInvolvement credit upon the completion of this course. Bystander Training is a 90-minute training that continues the conversation on how to be an active, positive Bystander at the University. This engaging training addresses myths about rape culture, engages in conversation being a Bystander in the University Community and provides tools and strategies in order to be an effective active and positive empowered Bystander.

Please be sure to RSVP. Trainings with less than 5 students registered will be cancelled.

Research Poster Workshop
Thursday April 5 @4-6pm
Lecture Centers
You’ve been accepted to present your research at a conference...now what? Come learn how to effectively create a poster that will display your work and interest the audience! LC 3C.

Great Dane Drive - Fridays At The Student Success Center
Friday, April 6 @ 1-3pm
Student Success Center (State Quad Whitman Hall)
Looking to get your learner’s permit, or driver’s license? Stop by the Student Success center to connect with various Driving Schools within the capital district. Information regarding 5 Hour class and driving lessons will be provided. Students in attendance will be entered into a raffle for a FREE driving lesson!
Free Food Too!

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

Almost Full Moon Hike at the Pine Bush
Friday, March 30 6:30-7:30pm
$3 per person |
Albany Pine Bush Preserve, Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road #1 Albany, NY 12205

Enjoy the Pine Bush at night with an hour-long hike under the full moon. We will plan to hike 0.9 miles over rolling topography stopping intermittently for night vision and sound observations.

Pre-registration is required for all events, even the free ones.

Please plan to arrive at least five to ten minute before the start of the program to purchase your ticket. Tickets can also be purchased in advance of the program at the Discovery Center reception desk.

Groups with eight or more people, please call for special accommodations. Programs begin promptly at the times listed. Please call if you need to cancel your registration so they can open your spot on the waiting list. There are no refunds, however, it is permissible to send or designate another person to use your program registration.

Ice Breaker Challenge 5K by Albany Rowing Center
Saturday, March 31 9am-12pm
$25 for 5K
Hudson River Corning Preserve, 16112 Mohawk Hudson Hike Bike Trail Albany, NY 12207

The Ice Breaker Challenge 5K is a one of a kind Capital District run/walk road race challenging athletes against rowers from Albany Rowing Center. Runers/walkers will travel along the Corning Preserve Bicycle Path while rowers from ARC race along side on the Hudson River. Come join the fun and experience this unique and exciting event at the ARC Boathouse and Corning Preserve. Can
you out run the rower?

"Gifts from our Grandfather" Exhibit
Monday, April 2 - Thursday April 12 11am - 2pm
American Italian Heritage Museum, 1227 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12205

The grandchildren of Julius Pardi, an Italian born artist (1884-1961), present an exhibit of his classical artworks, poetry and musical compositions. Among the items on display will be drawings, porcelain bas reliefs, plaques, vases and plates honoring William Shakespeare, Galileo, Giuseppe Verdi, Thomas Edison, Charles Lindbergh and more. Many items were commissioned by General Electric, where Julius worked in the porcelain department for 47 years.

Rubberbandance Group at UAlbany PAC
UAlbany Uptown Campus Performing Arts Center
Tuesday, April 3 @ 7:30pm | $15

Merging the fresh pulse of street dancing with the acute aesthetics of contemporary dance, RUBBERBANDance Group's artistic director Victor Quijada's works explore human relations, focusing particularly on the passion of obsession, the brutality of violence and the delicacy needed for tragedy and comedy.

This performance is part of the Dance in Albany Series, which features fully staged shows at The Egg and stripped down In the Raw performances at the UAlbany Performing Arts Center.
Wild & Wacky Woodcock Walk
Thursday, Apr 5, 2018 - 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Albany Pine Bush Preserve, Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road #1 Albany, NY 12205
Free Admission, but call 518.456.0655 to pre-register
Join Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission staff for our annual hike through the Pine Bush to watch the elaborate flight displays of the American Woodcock. During the mating season in early spring, male woodcocks perform amazing flight displays at dusk. Males circle high in the evening sky then plummet to the earth in a series of zigzags and whistling wings. Remember to bring your binoculars! We will start inside and then continue outside for a 0.9 mile-hike.