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

Table of Contents

1. Greeting

2. Important Announcements

- Travel Signature Day Today! 2pm-4pm
- Fall 2018 Orientation Assistant Application Opens TODAY
- Annual Boston Day Trip - Sign up today!
- Presentation Skills in American Classrooms Workshop April 6th
- Intercultural Connections Survey
- SEVP Portal for Reporting OPT Employment Launching Soon

3. Other ISSS Updates and Events

- OPT/CPT Workshops-- Revised Schedule
  - International Night March 22
- Graduating in May? Apply for Degree Clearance and Commencement
  - Sprintax and Other Tax Filing Information
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.

- Grief Group for Students
- Undergraduate Emergency Fund Information
- USLS S2018 Symposium

4. University at Albany Events

- Bolly Pump
- Women's Lacrosse vs Penn State
- Move your body
- Microsoft Access 2013: Select Query Design
- Own It!
- AdvisingPlus Tutoring

5. Capital District Events

- Empire "Skate" Plaza going on until March 11
- Dress for Success Albany: 4th Annual Spring Clothing Sale
- Capital Repertory Theatre
- Snowshoeing in the Barrens
- The Memorial Concert Band of Colonie March Concert
- Film Screening of "Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story"
2. Important Announcements

Travel Signature Day Today! 2pm-4pm

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; we recommend you get it signed every 6 months. 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.

Come today to the Science Library Atrium room G-05 between 2-4pm to have the I-20 or DS-2019 signed on the spot. Please bring your I-20 or DS-2019 with you.

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.

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

Fall 2018 Orientation Assistant Application Opens TODAY

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/vQReawera6xOBGh1 to apply! Applications will close on Friday March 23rd 2018 at 5pm. 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.

Friday, April 6th from 4:30-5:30pm in BB B006
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](mailto: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.

### 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
International Night 2018
March 22

The School of Public Health would like to extend an invitation to attend their International Night, an evening celebrating culture along with entertainment, food, and prizes!

Proceeds from the event will be donated to provide relief for those effected by Hurricane
Graduating in May? Apply for Degree Clearance and Commencement

If you are graduating in Spring, you must submit your application as a degree candidate to the Registrar through MyUAlbany. More information is available here:

https://www.albany.edu/registrar/degree-application.php.

If you have questions about the Commencement Ceremony, more information can be found on the Commencement Office's website, here: https://www.albany.edu/commencement/

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](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf), to obtain form 8843. For questions, please contact ISSS.

**Sprintax**

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**Grief Group for Students**

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is offering a grief group this semester for any student who has experienced a loss of a family member. This group will provide support. Please pre-register by contacting Dr. Julie Heslin-Pokat at jheslinpokat@albany.edu
GRIEF GROUP
A group for students who have lost a family member

*Weekly group
*At CAPS

- Join with others who are also dealing with loss
- Learn more about the natural process of grieving
- Explore ways of working with your grief while still engaging with your life
- Experience a caring, nurturing environment… You are not alone!

Free and Confidential

A Pre-group Appointment is required. For more information or to schedule, contact: Dr. Julie Heslin Pokat at (518) 442-5800 or consultation@albany.edu at Counseling & Psychological Services.
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.
USLS 2018 Symposium

ISSS is sharing the below information for interested students on the USLS 2018 Symposium. Please note that this is a self-funded event for students interested in participating; ISSS and CIEGS will not be able to provide funding for this conference:

Humanitarian Affairs Asia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will host the 9th University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) 2018 at the United Nations, Bangkok, Thailand from August 1st to 7th, 2018. The theme of the Symposium is “INSPIRING CONFIDENCE, INSPIRE CHANGE”.

The USLS is a week-long Leadership Conference on social development for young leaders from all over the world. The purpose is to instill a sense of social responsibility as well as to cultivate the attributes of selfless giving among our emerging world leaders. The young participants will learn what it means to give back to the community and be challenged to respond to the needs of the marginalized with works of kindness and unconditional service. Delegates will have the opportunity to expand their professional network and understanding of world affairs. They will be motivated to use their knowledge and leadership skills to impact communities in need.

Humanitarian Affairs is affiliated to United Nations Global Compact, World Association of Non-Governmental Organization, International Association for Voluntary Efforts and the World Alliance for Citizens Participation. More information about the program, speakers and fees of the Symposium can be found here.

To view a short video of the previous 2017 USLS, please click here.

4. University at Albany Events

Click Here for a full list of upcoming UAlbany events!

Bolly Pump

Friday, March 9, 5-6pm
Physical Education Building - Group Exercise Studio

Inspired by the high energy music from India, this class will incorporate rhythmic, full body movements. BollyPump will keep you energized and engaged. No previous dance experience needed.
Womens's Lacrosse vs. Penn State
Sunday, March 11 @12pm
Tom & Mary Casey Stadium (Bob Ford Field)
Come out and support our Women's Lacrosse team as they face off Penn State!

Move Your Body
Monday, March 12 6:30-7:15pm
Physical Education Building - Group Exercise Studio
A mix of today's reggae, hip-hop, and latin hits to create a high-energy dance workout. This class includes simple dance steps to tone, sculpt, and improve endurance.

Microsoft Access 2013: Select Query Design
Wednesday, March 14 9:30am-12pm
Lecture Center Sub-basement 30A
This session covers basic data retrieval. We'll learn the basic Select Query including design, choice of reporting fields, data sorting, single and multiple criteria and criteria prompts.
To get to the LC sub-basement, there is an entrance just next to LC1 where the IT department is.
**Own It**

Thursday, March 15 9:15pm-10:15pm

Physical Education- Spin/Cycling Studio

This instructional dance class will break down different dance moves, and allow participants to master them. This hour class will pair afro beats to fun, creative, choreography. Perfect for beginners, or current dancers looking to spice up their moves. Get your body moving and most especially, ‘Own It’!

**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**

**Empire Skate Plaza**

Where: Empire State Plaza Ice Rink, Albany, NY 12210

Cost: FREE ADMISSION | Phone: 518-474-4759

The Empire State Plaza Ice Rink is open daily through **March 11, from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.** (closed for maintenance from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.) and skating is free. Located in the shadow of Albany’s majestic State Capitol, amenities include a full-service snack bar on Friday nights and weekends and a skate lounge with lockers.

Rentals are available whenever the rink is open and cost $3 for children 12 and under and $4 for adults. A photo ID is required to rent skates. Every Friday is Free Skate Rental Day courtesy of Hannaford Supermarkets.
Dress for Success Albany: 4th Annual Spring Clothing Sale
Saturday, March 10 @10am-2pm
Foy Hall at Siena College, 515 Loudon Road Albany, NY12211

Dress for Success Albany 4th Annual Spring Clothing Sale. Great professional women’s clothing (new or gently worn) ranging in price from $5-$50/item: suits, pants, skirts, shirts, dresses, sweaters, shoes, handbags and designer wear. 100% of the proceeds will directly benefit Dress for Success Albany’s programming.
Sale located inside Foy Hall. Doors open at 10am.

Alice in Wonderland at the Capital Repertory Theatre
Saturday, March 10 @11am-12pm
Capital Repertory Theatre, 111 North Pearl Street Albany, NY 12207
Five actors take the stage in this delightfully diverse adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic novel. Found objects, puppetry, and a variety of other stage magic transports Alice to a mystical land of wonder where she must make sense of a world that only, ever so slightly, resembles her own.

The company, save for Alice, don multiple characters as Alice works her way through Wonderland, and arrives safely back home - though somewhat changed for her time in such a magical realm.

Running Time: 60 minutes

Snowshoeing in the Barrens

Sunday, March 11 @1pm-2pm
Albany Pine Bush Preserve, Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road #1 Albany, NY 12205
Have you tried snowshoeing? The Albany Pine Bush Preserve is a great place to get started with this fun sport. Join us for a 0.9-mile hike on snowshoes. We'll explore the frozen landscape of the pine barrens and learn the basics of snowshoeing. Snowshoes will be provided to program participants. If there is not enough snow on the ground, we will hike without snowshoes.

Pre-registration is required. 518.456.0655

Please plan to arrive at least five to ten minutes 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.

The Memorial Concert Band of Colonie March Concert

Wednesday, March 14 @7:30pm-9pm
Colonie Central High School, Mark Cornell Auditorium, 1 Raider Blvd. (off Sand Creek Road) Albany, NY 12205
Cost: FREE ADMISSION

The March concert of The Memorial Concert Band of Colonie will be conducted by our Associate Conductor, Arthur Himmelberger, with the assistance of Assistant Conductor Laura Jacaruso. The concert will kick off with some classic band pieces “Children's March” by Percy Grainger and the “English Folk Song Suite” by Ralph Vaughan Williams. A featured piece is “The Universal Judgement” by the Italian composer Camille De Nardis. We always do marches. This concert will feature two by John Philip Sousa and one by Louis Panella. The second half of the concert will focus on works by contemporary composers Steven Reineke and
Film Screening of "Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story"

Friday, March 16 @ 6:30pm-8:15pm at Colonie Central High School

Film screening of the award-winning documentary "Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story."

What do the most ravishingly beautiful actress of the 1930s and 40s and the inventor whose concepts were the basis of cell phone and bluetooth technology have in common? They are both Hedy Lamarr, the glamour icon whose ravishing visage was the inspiration for Snow White and Cat Woman and a technological trailblazer who perfected a radio system to throw Nazi torpedoes off course during WWII. Weaving interviews and clips with never-before-heard audio tapes of Hedy speaking on the record about her incredible life—from her beginnings as an Austrian Jewish emigre to her scandalous nude scene in the 1933 film Ecstasy to her glittering Hollywood life to her ground-breaking, but completely uncredited inventions to her latter years when she became a recluse, impoverished and almost forgotten—BOMBSHELL: THE HEDY LAMARR STORY brings to light the story of an unusual and accomplished woman, spurned as too beautiful to be smart, but a role model to this day.

General admission tickets may be purchased in advance through eventbrite.com.

Doors open at 6 pm. Concessions will be available for purchase.