ISSS NEWSLETTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

April 23, 2016

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
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“REDEFINING THE NARRATIVE: ISLAM IN FOCUS KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ISLAM AND MUSLIMS IN AN AGE OF ISIS AND ISLAMOPHOBIA”
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Fifteen years after the horrific attacks of 9/11, the American Muslim community and the American democratic experiment both find themselves in a perilous state. Few American communities are viewed with more hostility, negativity and suspicion. On one hand, the American Muslim community has consistently condemned vile attacks of groups like ISIS. On the other hand, it has to perpetually defend itself against Islamophobia. Now some of the leading presidential candidates seriously talk about increasing the surveillance of the Muslim communities, turning away Muslim refugees, and shutting down mosques. Where do we go from here? How do we rebuild the bonds of the “Beloved Community” that is the great hope of the American democratic experiment in this age of fear and fear-mongering?

Presenter: Prof. Omid Safi, Director, Islamic Studies Center, Duke University

Date: Thursday, April 28
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Knox Hall 104, UB North Campus


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 ENGLISH CONVERSATION CORNER
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The Center for Excellence in Writing's English Conversation Corner provides an informal, relaxed atmosphere for students who would like to practice their English conversation skills.

“Afternoon Chat with Mike D.”
Tuesdays, 12:00-1:30
“Coffee Chat with Michelle”
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:30-11:00
Baldy Hall 209, North Campus

No need to sign up. Drop in and out at your leisure. For more information, call 645-5139, e-mail writing@buffalo.edu or visit www.writing.buffalo.edu.

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 UB CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING
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The Center for Excellence in Writing (CEW) offers one-on-one writing consultations to UB students. The consultants discuss essays, reports, application materials, theses, dissertations, etc. They serve as a thoughtful, informed audience for writers across the disciplines and help them make choices about revision.
The CEW also offers special programs for graduate students: Dissertation Retreats and Writing Groups. If you are interested, please email writing@buffalo.edu. For more information, please visit http://writing.buffalo.edu.

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ELI OPEN LAB
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Practice your pronunciation and listening comprehension on your own with tapes at the English Language Institute’s Open Lab.

Days & Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-5:00 p.m.; Tuesdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Thursdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Place: Clemens Hall 1 & 3, North Campus

Free and open to all UB students. Bring your UB Card!

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INTERNATIONAL TEA TIME
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Do you enjoy meeting new people, playing games and having tea? If so, please join us!

International Tea Time brings together international and U.S. students for conversation and fun. We play games, talk and get to know each other.

Days: Every Monday
Time: 5:00-6:30
Place: Student Union 240, North Campus

Organizer: UB Counseling Services

For more information: http://ub-counseling.buffalo.edu/tea.php

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UB WORKSHOPS
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“Leading for Change: Advocacy in Our Community--National Volunteer Month”
Wednesday, April 27
3:00-4:00
Student Union 240, North Campus
“You + Me = ?  An Open Discussion about Relationships”
Wednesday, April 27
5:00-6:00
Michael Hall 301, South Campus

“Preparing for Fall 2017 Application to the Professional Health Schools”
Thursday, April 28
4:00-5:30
Student Union 145A, North Campus

“Adjusting to Life After Graduation”
Thursday, April 28
6:00-7:00
Student Union 250, North Campus

“Wilderness Survival Skills and Campfire Stories”
Thursday, April 28
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Student Union Firepit, North Campus

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UPCOMING EVENTS
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ASIA AT NOON: “UNPOPULAR SOVEREIGNTY”
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What is the role of a Constitution that governs a different territory and population than the one it was written for? How do we apply a Constitution created for a political system that no longer exists? The Constitution of Taiwan was written when the Chinese Nationalist Party headed a one-party state and controlled the territory of mainland China. The Party subsequently fled to Taiwan; forty years later, Taiwan democratized. Yet the same Constitution continues to serve as its foundational political document; and continues to assert representation of, and dominion over, all of China. Some interpret this to require greater integration with China, while the influential 2014-2015 Sunflower Movement insisted that historical events had limited the Constitution's proper scope to Taiwan.

Presenter: Cheng-Yi Huang, Associate Research Professor, Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

Date: Wednesday, April 27
Time: 12:00 (lunch), 12:30 (talk)
Place: O’Brian Hall 509, North Campus

Sponsored by UB’s Asian Studies Program and Baldy Center
Mohammed to Maya (aka Rites of Passage) is a feature-length documentary that examines issues of transsexualism, religion, and traditionalism against the backdrop of a single person's dramatic journey. M2M follows one year in the life of Maya Jafer (formerly Mohammed Jafer), a 42 year-old South Asian Muslim from Chennai, India, as she makes her gender transformation from male to female, capturing her in times of vulnerability and resolution.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 27  
**Time:** 5:00-7:00  
**Place:** Center for the Arts Screening Room, North Campus

For information, please contact Walter Hakala at walterha@buffalo.edu.

Co-sponsors: Departments of Anthropology, English, Media Study and Sociology; Asian Studies Program; James Agee Chair of English (Bruce Jackson); Honors College; Gender Institute

Pantsov will discuss why Gorbachev ended up presiding over the fall of the Soviet Union, while Deng Xiaoping was able to steer China on a path toward wealth even while retaining its Communist government. Pantsov is the author of acclaimed biographies of China’s Chairman Mao and Deng Xiaoping, the architect of China’s rapid industrialization. He uses Russian archives to shed light on Chinese Communist history.

**Presenter:** Alexander Pantsov, Edward and Mary Catherine Gerhold Chair in the Humanities, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio

**Date:** Wednesday, April 27  
**Time:** 5:30-7:00  
**Place:** Capen Hall 107, North Campus

Sponsors: UB Confucius Institute, with support from the Asian Studies Program, Department of History and Honors College

This interdisciplinary workshop will explore the Sino-Soviet relationship during the 1950s, when the great majority of Chinese people were learning for the first time about socialism. We will
examine how visions of the emerging socialist world were developed and disseminated, with a particular focus on urban planning.

**Date:** Friday, April 29  
**Time:** 9:30-6:00  
**Place:** Capen Hall 107, North Campus

Funded by a grant from the SUNY Art and Humanities Network of Excellence. Principal Organizers: Kristin Stapleton, Department of History, UB; Tze-ki Hon, Department of History, SUNY Geneseo; Xin Fan, Department of History, SUNY Fredonia. Cosponsored by the Asian Studies Program

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ASIA AT NOON: “LANDSCAPES OF ACCUMULATION: REAL ESTATE AND THE NEOLIBERAL IMAGINATION IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA”
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Mushrooming in size and bristling with new construction, Indian cities are being remade to suit a new post-liberalization society of computer engineers, working women, and savvy consumers. Now, alongside open-air markets and crumbling apartment blocks, spacious air-conditioned malls sell Louis Vuitton luggage and Swarovski crystal, condominium towers offer residents gated security and indoor gyms, and office buildings house international firms. Searle will explain the violent, sudden, and spectacular growth of India’s cities by focusing on the people who have moved capital into real estate and the stories of growth that they have used to fuel speculation. She will look beyond the facades of India’s glitzy buildings to provide an ethnographic account of the international networks of speculative finance and the events of communication through which buildings, cities, and real estate markets are produced.

**Presenter:** Llerena Searle, University of Rochester

**Date:** Friday, May 6  
**Time:** 12:00  
**Place:** Park Hall 275, North Campus

Sponsored by the Asian Studies Program