



Friday, January 22, 2010



**The Slutzker Center for International Services Welcomes all New and Returning International Students!**

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Dear Students,

As you open this first newsletter of the spring semester 2010, I would like to urge you to *review it carefully* and read those articles which might be relevant to you. We choose articles based upon the needs and questions students have presented to us daily, weekly, and annually. We answer the questions you ask before you ask them! Also included are warnings about safety issues, scams, parking and traffic concerns, and other aspects of your life as a student in Syracuse. If you at least spend 3 minutes reviewing the titles of all the articles each week, you will find that you will be well informed and *know what is happening on campus and in the community!* We appreciate your attention to this important part of the communication and education process in which you are engaged as a student in our community. We wish you a successful semester! Sincerely, Dr. Patricia A. Burak

**! Important Announcements !**

- The Spring 2010 Late Orientation will be held on Wednesday, January 27 at 5:00pm at the Slutzker Center.
- Planning to travel outside the United States – please get your I-20 signed as soon as possible!
- Income Tax Seminars and the CINTAX Passwords are coming soon!!! Today SCIS answers four important tax questions for you. (Please read further down)
- Latest updates on H1-B. (Please read further down)
- Interested in taking Yoga, Pilates, Vinyasa, Tae Kwon Do, Tai Chi, Ballet, Zumba, Hip Hop, Biking (RPM), Fencing or Swimming Classes please check this website for more details: <http://recreationsservices.syr.edu/Programs/fitnessclasses/flyers/Spring%20'10%20Flyer.pdf>
- Planning to Study Abroad during the Summer semester? If so, please talk to an international advisor at the Slutzker Center soon. There are steps which you must take in order to insure your continued non-immigrant status for re-entry to the U.S.
- Graduate students expecting to graduate this May must complete the File Diploma Request process in MySlice by established deadlines, published at <http://gradsch.syr.edu/pdfs/GraduationDeadlines.pdf> by the Graduate School. This will activate the certification process and awarding of your degree.
- Recreation Services is offering FREE Meditation classes on Thurs at 3:30pm from Feb. 4 – April 29
- Although rare, a fire drill or evacuation could be an opportunity for a thief to strike. To prevent someone from taking your irreplaceable documents and passports we recommend the following:
  - Keep your documents in a secure location.

- Be able to access and take your documents with you quickly if you need to evacuate the building.
- A small safe, briefcase, folder or backpack maybe the best way to keep your documents organized.
- Rent a safety deposit box at your local bank (i.e.: HSBC, Chase etc)
- Property insurance is always an important thing to have.

([www.haylor.com/student](http://www.haylor.com/student))

You should never spend time searching for your documents in an emergency situation. **REMEMBER**, while you want to do your best to protect your valuable property, your personal safety is the highest importance in an emergency!

• **Travelling This Semester? Have all Your Documents with you!**

If you are travelling within the U.S., you must still carry with you your passport, I-94 card, and original I-20/DS-2019. The U.S. Border Patrol often inspects documents at train stations, bus stations, and airports. If you do not have your original documents, you could be fined \$100, or detained until your status can be verified.

If you are travelling outside the U.S., you must make sure you have a valid visa stamp to re-enter the U.S., as well as an unexpired passport valid for at least 6 months into the future, and a blue travel signature from SCIS on your I-20/DS-2019 within the last 1 year (or if you are on OPT, the last 6 months). If you are on OPT, you must also have a valid EAD card and job offer letter to re-enter the United States.

**The Travel Seminar - 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month @ 1:30pm at the Slutzker Center.**

• **Applied for OPT? The SCIS Needs a Copy of Your EAD Card!**

The SCIS reminds all students who have applied for OPT that once you receive your Employment Authorization Card (EAD), please scan it and e-mail us a photocopy of it to [lescis@syr.edu](mailto:lescis@syr.edu).

- Students who are planning to do an Internship this Spring semester should apply for Curricular Practical Training ([CPT](#)). Please remember that you have to register for at least 1 credit for CPT.

**Curricular Practical Training Seminar (CPT) - Wednesday @ 3:00pm**

**Optional Practical Training Seminar (OPT) - Wednesday @ 3:45pm**

• **Address Change?**

You must always provide a current physical address to the SCIS in order to keep your

SEVIS registration current and to maintain your lawful status. You have 10 days to inform the SCIS of any changes or you are in violation of your status. [http://international.syr.edu/address\\_update\\_opt.htm](http://international.syr.edu/address_update_opt.htm)

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**25th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23:**

**In the Community**

**CELEBRATION OF ARTS, CULTURE AND EDUCATION IN THE SYRACUSE COMMUNITY**

**Seymour Dual Language Academy - 108 Shonnard Street**

**2 - 4 p.m. (free and open to the public)**

*Hosted by Syracuse University and Community Organizations. Visit [Hendricks.syr.edu](http://Hendricks.syr.edu) for more information*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24:**

**On Campus**

**A CONVERSATION WITH GWEN IFILL**

*A discussion of Ifill's book, "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama"*

**Maxwell Auditorium**

**3 - 4 p.m. (free and open to the public)**

**EVENING CELEBRATION**

**Keynote address by Gwen Ifill**

**Program includes the presentation of the 2010 Unsung Hero Awards and entertainment**

**Syracuse University Carrier Dome**

*Dinner: 5 p.m. /Program: 6:30 p.m. (free and open to the public)*

*Tickets are \$25 per person; \$15.00 for students without meal plans and a dinner charge for students*

*with meal plans. For ticket information, contact Hendricks Chapel: 315-443-5044*

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**H-1B Updates**

On December 22, 2009, USCIS announced that it has received a sufficient number of H-1B petitions to reach the statutory cap for FY 2010. USCIS is hereby notifying the public that December 21, 2009, is the "final receipt date"

for new H-1B specialty occupation petitions requesting an employment start date in FY 2010.

New cap-subject petitions will then have to be filed with a start date no earlier than October 1, 2010.

Such applications will be accepted for filing by USCIS no sooner than April 1, 2010.

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### Income Tax Issues

***Q. I am a full-time student at Syracuse, but I also receive a GA, TA or RA stipend. Is the stipend considered to be wages?***

Yes, GA, TA, and RA stipends are all considered WAGES. Adjunct stipends are also wages. In general, if you receive payment for performing a service, that is considered to be wages and is taxed as income. Students with GA, TA or RA stipends are considered to be part-time employees of the university.

The payroll offices will issue form W-2 (Wage and Tax Statement) in late January for wages you earned in the calendar year 2009. The information on the W-2 will need to be included on your income tax return.

***Q. During the 2009 calendar year, I worked at locations other than Syracuse University (for example, employment through CPT, or authorized off campus employment through CASE Center). Should I be receiving a Wage and Tax Statement (form W-2) from that employer?***

Yes! Each employer for whom you worked in 2009 is required to issue you a wage and tax statement prior to the end of January. However, students often change their addresses, so your former employer may not have your current address. Now is the time to **contact your previous work places** and inform them of your current address so that the W-2 form can be sent to you in a timely manner. Remember, by law, all employers **MUST** report your earnings to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. So, failure to receive a form W-2 from an employer does not eliminate the requirement that you report all taxable income earned from that employer.

***Q. Is there anyone who can assist me with completing my U.S. Tax Forms?***

The Slutzker Center provides free income tax compliance software, known as **CINTAX**, to all international students, international faculty and scholars, and international alumni who are eligible to be considered as non-residents for tax purposes (see the next paragraph for information on what qualifies someone to be a non-resident). **CINTAX** provides an easy to use web interface for entering information regarding your income tax liability, and then enters the information onto the required forms so that you can print them. **CINTAX** is password-protected so that only you have access to the information. **Do not** attempt to complete your income tax forms using the e-filing options recommended by the Internal Revenue Service. It is not possible to e-file tax returns if you are a non-resident for tax purposes. Information about how to access and use **CINTAX** will be announced in January.

International students in F or J status for 5 years or less (since 2005 or later) and their dependents, file tax forms as non-residents. Research scholars or faculty in J-1 status for 2 years or less (since 2008 or later) also file as non-residents.

***Q. I've recently received a form from my bank. What should I do with this form?***

For those students who receive a form from their bank, it is usually because you have opened up an interest-bearing account (i.e. savings account, money market, CD, etc.). It is important that you complete the form and return it to your bank to certify your foreign status. Please contact your bank for further assistance.

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### **RAD Classes (Self Defense for Women) \*Free\***

Monday 4 week class 6:00-9:00pm 2/15-3/8 Free

Tuesday 4 week class 6:00-9:00pm 2/16-3/9 Free

Monday 4 week class 6:00-9:00pm 3/22-4/12 Free

Tuesday 4 week class 6:00-9:00pm 3/23-4/13 Free

Monday classes Contact Public Safety [http://publicsafety@syr.edu](mailto:publicsafety@syr.edu)

Tuesday classes: Contact ESF <http://www.esf.edu/univpolice>

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### **Move It Monday FREE Fitness Classes @ 1:00pm.**

Move it Monday is a part of the Healthy Campus Initiative Healthy Monday. This is a program that focuses on participation in activities that promote the various components of wellness on campus at little or no cost to the user. Various **FREE** fitness classes will be offered every Monday during our Fitness Class schedule **from 1:00-1:50pm** in the Ernie Davis Exercise room on a drop-in, first come, first served basis. Please arrive early as the maximum enrollment for each class will vary based on activity.

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| February 1 - Core N' More | March 22- Boot Camp   |
| February 8 - Orange 411   | March 29- Hip Hop     |
| February 15 - Irish Step  | April 5 - Pilates     |
| February 22- Yoga         | April 12 - Power Hour |
| March 1 - Vinyasa         | April 19 - Yoga'lates |
| March 8- Zumba            | April 26 - Zumba      |

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**- LAKE PLACID DAYTRIP - Ride the Bobsled and Skeleton**

**When:** Saturday, February 6

**Cost:** \$50.00 for SU Undergraduate Students (\$110.00 for All Other SU / ESF ID card holders)

**Price Includes:** - A ride on the Bobsled and Skeleton

- Gondola ride to the top of Whiteface Mountain
- Tour of the Olympic Ski Jumping Complex
- Lunch at the Olympic Ski Jumping Complex
- Entrance to 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympic Museum
- Roundtrip Transportation (Luxury Motor Coach)
- Free time in Lake Placid

**Sign up at:** Room 241 Archbold Gym or call 443-4386 (4FUN)

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**Some common-sense rules for hospital Emergency Rooms (ERs)**

**By Abigail Van Buren**

1. An "emergency" is defined as a life-threatening injury or illness. The average wait in an ER waiting room is 4 ½ hours. After checking in, you will be seen by a triage nurse to determine the seriousness of your illness or injury. Patients who are considered "critical" will be treated first.
2. Please do not come to the ER with your entire family unless they, too, are sick or injured. People with communicable diseases may be sitting in the lobby so you could be putting your loved ones at risk.
3. Once inside the examination room, the patient's blood will be taken and tests may be done. Getting test results can take time, especially if the ER is busy – and no, you cannot eat or drink until those test results are back.
4. The ER discharges patients 24 hours a day, so plan accordingly. The hospital is not responsible for paying for your ride home and you cannot stay in the exam room waiting for a ride to come for you. We must use the room for the next patient.
5. Above all, remember that our staff is here to help you feel better, not inconvenience you. You are the patient –so please be patient. – ER Nurse in Florida."

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**Say Yes to Education Overview**

The Say Yes to Education: Syracuse program combines comprehensive, high-quality and sustained academic, social, emotional, health and family supports throughout the K-12 years, and culminates with the incentive of free college tuition for SCSD graduates who meet residency and college admission requirements into one of nearly 100 higher education institutions in the Say Yes compact. The Say Yes Higher Education Compact eliminates the most significant obstacle faced by families across the income spectrum – the high cost of a quality post-secondary education...

The mission of Say Yes is to value and realize the promise and extraordinary potential of economically disadvantaged youth and families. Say Yes recognizes the daunting challenges faced by children living in poverty, but knows through experience and field-tested results that children can overcome these challenges when given holistic support.

To find out more about the Say Yes to Education you can read the December 2009 Newsletter: <http://wpbdc.syr.edu/email/sayyes/enews12-09.pdf>

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**Spring Break in Costa Rica!**



**Have you ever wanted to explore the craters of a volcano, whitewater raft through scenic rivers? How about rappelling from a 120 foot waterfall, touring the rainforest**

canopy high in the tree tops, or surfing and sea kayaking in the warm Pacific waters surrounding Manuel Antonio National Park? If so then here is your chance to do all of the above and more in a once in a lifetime trip to Costa Rica.

**Trip dates are March 13-20, 2010** Participants must register and make a \$200 deposit by January 25, 2010

Cost = \$950 plus your own airfare to San Jose International Airport (Juan Santamaria) Costa Rica

Trip is open to SU/ESF ID card holders (Minimum age is 18 years old)

For more information, or to register for this trip, please contact: Scott Catucci @ [sacatucc@syr.edu](mailto:sacatucc@syr.edu) or 315-443-0290

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### Special Registration (NSEERS)

Further security checks after initial immigration inspection are typically required for:

- © *Certain citizens or nationals of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Syria, as designated by the DHA Secretary in the Federal Register.*
- © *Males age 16-45 from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen*
- © *Foreign nationals of any country may be asked by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) officer to undergo Special Registration if they feel they may be a national security threat*

If you are subject to [special registration procedures](#), it is your responsibility to make certain that your entry and departure is documented by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) inspecting officer, every time you leave and re-enter the U.S. (This may add a significant amount of time onto departure so please plan accordingly).

A helpful reminder of where the pertinent NSEERS registrations may be found at the following airports in the state of New York.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-28418.htm>

Buffalo Peace Bridge POE, New York;  
Cape Vincent POE, New York;  
Champlain POE, New York;  
Chateaugay POE, New York;  
Fort Covington POE, New York;  
Heart Island POE, New York;  
John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York;  
Lewiston Bridge POE, New York;  
Mooers POE, New York;  
Niagara Falls, Rainbow Bridge, New York;  
Newark International Airport (NEW), New Jersey;  
Ogdensburg POE, New York;  
Rochester-Ferry Terminal, New York;  
Rouses Point POE, New York;  
Seaway International Bridge/Massena POE, New York;  
Thousand Islands POE, New York;  
Trout River POE, New York;



**R.A.P.E. Center** volunteers help promote the work of the R.A.P.E. Center. So far this fall, volunteers have accomplished the following activities:

- Assisted at the Syracuse Welcome 2009 event, "Everyday Heroes"
- Met with first-year students in the L.O.O.P. (Leadership Outdoor Orientation Program) to talk about becoming empowered bystanders
- Facilitated an Empowered Bystander training for Orientation Leaders
- Led discussions in First-Year Forum classes
- Tabled in Schine Student Center for Healthy Monday
- Prepared materials to be distributed to First-Year Forums
- Organized packets of information for new volunteers
- Prepared booklets for participants in the Mentors in Violence Prevention trainings
- Attended the Mentors in Violence Prevention peer facilitator training
- Led 5 Sex Jeopardy workshops in residence halls
- Facilitated conversations reaching over 180 students with e5m presentations.

If you are interested in becoming part of the R.A.P.E Center team by joining one of these volunteer groups or would like more information please email Jill Sneider at [jasneide@syr.edu](mailto:jasneide@syr.edu).

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**Reminder On Parking Regulations In University Neighborhoods -  
by OCCS**



Parking in the neighborhoods surrounding campus may be a new experience for some. To avoid ticketing and towing, and to help maintain the quality of life in the University area, members of the University community are reminded to observe city parking regulations.

Many city streets have alternate side (**odd-even**) parking, which takes effect at **6 p.m. On odd dates, parking starts at 6 p.m. on the side of the street with odd address numbers; on even dates, parking starts at 6 p.m. on the side with even-number addresses.**

"Parking illegally on a city street creates traffic hazards to motorists and pedestrians, obstructs vehicular and pedestrian traffic, prevents emergency vehicles from entering areas, and delays public services such as trash collection and snow removal. And parking on front lawns and across sidewalks is not only illegal, but also poses a safety threat to pedestrians who are forced to walk off the sidewalks. Working collaboratively with the Syracuse Police Department, we want the campus community to know the rules so they can follow them."

To reduce and discourage illegal parking, the Syracuse Police Department will strictly enforce the parking regulations in the University area and will routinely conduct Ticket and Tow Operations in persistent violator areas.

Drivers should obey the posted parking regulations in order to avoid being ticketed and towed, and should be mindful that failure to respond to parking violations may result in collection agency involvement or other punitive action against the registrant and/or the vehicle.

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**Pedestrian Safety Tips**

October is Pedestrian Safety Month! Stay safe while you're walking to campus. Here are some tips:

Use sidewalks and paths whenever possible.

Use crosswalks, and don't start walking until you see the "WALK" signal.

Walk facing traffic so you can see vehicles as they approach, and they can see you.

Always walk in groups of three or more!

Remember, pedestrians only have the right-of-way if a driver sees them!

As a driver, it is important to be familiar with pedestrian safety laws.

When a pedestrian is crossing at a crosswalk, drivers must wait until the pedestrian has *completely* crossed the street and has reached the other side safely.

When making a right-hand turn at a red light, it is important to come to a complete stop and check for pedestrians crossing the street. Also remember there are many "No Right on Red" turns in the Syracuse University area!

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**Protect your Property**

The SCIS supports this policy and we encourage every student to have this insurance.

- Laptops, cell phones, MP3 Players, clothes, books, sports equipment, furniture---
- all your "stuff" is covered**
- You're insured for countless types of loss, including theft, vandalism, fire, water, and accidental damage
- Worldwide coverage---on and **off** campus
- Property of the University is covered while in your care
- Low deductibles of just \$50 or \$100
- Buy \$4,000 of coverage for less than \$95!

For more information about our student personal property program, call **1-800-289-1501**

and ask for a college specialist. Or better yet **Enroll online!** It's fast and easy. Simply log on to: [www.haylor.com/student](http://www.haylor.com/student)

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**For your safety, please remember...**

- **On campus after dark, use DPS' free escort service.** Off campus, use SU Home (it's free); call 443-2224 for more information on these services. Additional options are Centro Bus or taxi service.
- **Walk, bike or jog in groups of three or more** – away from bushes, cars and other objects a suspect could hide behind.
- **Look and listen.** Headphones and cell phones can create tunnel vision.
- **Travel in well-lighted and well-traveled areas.**
- **Don't approach strangers** or let them get close to you.

- **If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street.** Go toward an open business or lighted house.
- **Have your house or car keys in hand** before you reach your door.
- **Know where "Blue Light" phones are** and how to use them.
- **If someone tries to rob you, don't resist.** Give up your property, not your life.
- **Try to get a description of the suspect(s)** and any associated vehicle and tag number.
- **IMMEDIATELY report emergencies or suspicious activities, persons and vehicles.** For SU's Department of Public Safety, **dial 711** on campus or #78 (from a cell phone); for the Syracuse Police Department, **dial 911**.

Your quick report may help prevent others from becoming victims.

### Spring 2010 Bus Schedule

Centro is the provider of public transportation in Syracuse and throughout Onondaga, Cayuga and Oswego Counties. Centro operates a system of shuttle routes on campus under contract with Syracuse University.

These are regular transit routes which Syracuse University students can board for free. Centro also operates an extensive system of bus routes connecting the Syracuse University campus to points throughout the area. Students may ride free on these routes within certain specified "free fare zones". If you wish to travel to an area outside of these zones, you must pay a fare.

[http://parking.syr.edu/Parking/display.cfm?content\\_ID=%23%28%289%21%0A](http://parking.syr.edu/Parking/display.cfm?content_ID=%23%28%289%21%0A)

**QUESTIONS? Contact:**

Parking and Transit Services

621 Skytop Road

- Phone: 443-1049
- Web: <http://parking.syr.edu>



### What Can Be Recycled?

**The following items can be placed in the blue recycling bins:**

- Any plastic bottles with a number 1 or 2 recycling symbol on the bottom
- All food and beverage cans
- Empty aerosol cans
- Aluminum foil and aluminum baking tins
- All clear and colored glass food and beverage bottles
- Milk and juice cartons
- All newspapers, magazines, catalogues and inserts
- Discarded mail and envelopes
- Pizza, cereal, pasta and other food boxes
- Corrugated (grooved) cardboard boxes

**The following items CANNOT be recycled:**

- Plastic grocery bags
- Frozen food and meat trays
- Plastic bottles without a recycling symbol, or with recycling numbers 3-7 on the bottom
- Plastic containers other than bottles, regardless of symbol on bottom (including margarine, yogurt, whipped topping and "baby wipes" tubs)
- Polystyrene (Styrofoam)
- Six pack holders and rings
- Paint cans or anything that once contained hazardous waste (pesticides, lubricants, paint, etc.)
- Broken glass, dishes or drinking glasses
- Egg cartons, paper plates, paper towels, metallic paper.
- Hardcover or paperback books.

**Recycling hints:**

- Need a second blue bin? If you live in a town or village, get your second bin from your highway department garage. If you live in the City of Syracuse, call 448-2489. The city will deliver a bin to you. If you live in an apartment please ask your manager.
- Please, no plastic grocery bags in the blue bin. Put your newspapers, junk mail and other paper recyclables in a paper bag. Return plastic grocery bags to your grocery store for recycling or use them to dispose of your trash.
- Please flatten all cardboard boxes. Also cut cardboard into 3 foot by 3 foot sections and place next to blue bin.
- Please throw away plastic bottle tops and caps. Do not place plastic bottle tops and caps in your blue bin.
- Please rinse food cans, aluminum foil, and baking tins to remove food particles before placing items in blue bin.

Questions? Visit [www.ocrra.org](http://www.ocrra.org) or call the Operation Separation Hotline at 453-2870

### Motivational Quotes of the Week:

"Happiness is an attitude of mind, born of the simple determination to be happy under all outward circumstances." *Romanian Proverb*

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." *Chinese Proverb*

"Life is not a continuum of pleasant choices, but of inevitable problems that call for strength, determination, and hard work." *An Indian Proverb*

"Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, and live on that idea.

Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success that is way great spiritual giants are produced."

*by Swami Vivekananda*

"Positive or negative energy is exchanged like a fair trade, the more you give, the more you receive." *by Master Jin Kwon*

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**Note: If you would like to submit a request to publish your news or events in our SCIS Newsletter. Please contact Daniela Baban Hurrele at [dbabanhu@syr.edu](mailto:dbabanhu@syr.edu)**

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