

No. 3 SYRACUSE VS. GEORGE WASHINGTON | SATURDAY | 7:00 P.M. | CARRIER DOME The Orange puts its nine-game winning streak on the line Saturday against George Washington

IN THIS ISSUE Syracuse University Slutzker Center News



December 9, 2011



Click Here to go to our New **Website**

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- If you have trouble viewing this message, please view this email using your SYR email account. Every week we also post this SCIS Newsletter on the Slutzker Center website. http://international.syr.edu/newsletters/index.html
- Feeling sick? Pick up your over the counter medications at the Health Services Pharmacy. All purchases can be charged to your bursar account. Call 315-443-5691 if you want to know if your medicine is in the pharmacy.
- Call (315) 443-9005 if you're interested to get a flu shot! SU Health Services
- Registration for classes for the Spring semester started on November 9th, 2011.

Submit your Practical Training application!

An advisor will be able to process your CPT or OPT on one of the days listed below: December 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22nd from 10:00am - 12:00pm





F-1 students who will be graduating this December 2011 and plan to apply for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) are reminded that they must submit their application paperwork to the Slutzker Center, and then send the processed documents to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) so that it is received at the USCIS no later than 60 days after their degree completion date, which this year is December 16, 2011.

F-1 students who have not yet begun the practical training application process are urged to do so soon so that you will have the best possible opportunity to obtain your employment authorization card (EAD) in a timely manner. Currently, it is taking the USCIS Service Centers approximately 70-90 days to process OPT employment authorization applications. Employment cannot begin until you have the card "in your hands".

- Also, a student in F-1 or J-1 status cannot be employed away from the Syracuse University campus unless they have obtained appropriate federal authorization to do so before employment can begin. This includes internships, research and volunteering.

Travel Seminars:

Monday - 5:00pm - 11:00am Tuesday Wednesday - 1:30pm

Thursday - 3:00pm - 12:00pm

Friday Dates:

- Final Examinations: Dec. 12 -16
- The University will be closed after December 23, 2011 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.
- Spring 2012 Early Move-In for New International Undergraduate Students with University Housing Assignments starts on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 9AM.
- The University Will be closed on Monday, January 16th,2012 • First Day of Classes for Spring semester is on **Tuesday**, **January 17, 2012.**

Join us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter and stay informed and updated about news @ SU Back>>

The undefeated Orange Basketball team will take on George Washington University in



Student Appreciation Day, Friday, December 9th 8:30am-6:00pm



In case you missed it, Click here to view the men's 2012 lacrosse schedule. Plan your travels and visits now.

- Orange Orators (Student Organizations); Tuesday, December 13, 2011; 12:00pm to 1:00pm; Location: Peter Graham Scholarly Commons: The Syracuse University chapter of Toastmasters, The Orange Orators of Syracuse University, meet Tuesdays from noon-1 p.m. in Bird Library. Toastmasters is a group that helps to develop and hone public speaking skills in a supportive and friendly environment.
- Check out some of the favorite spots on campus via this foursquare list: https://foursquare.com/syracuseu/list/alumni-picks--mike-tirico
- For parents & students: While tickets last, the Pulse Performing Arts Series is offering discounted tickets as part of a holiday promotion for SU students, faculty and staff to shows by Syracuse Opera, Syracuse Stage and Syracuse University's Department of Drama. Tickets are \$3 for SU students with ID and \$8 for faculty or staff. Prices normally start at \$10 for students and \$28 for adults. http://insidesu.syr.edu/2011/12/05/pulse/

Join us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter and stay informed and updated about news, important announcements, seminar schedules, events, insights, galleries





Planning to travel? Important travel information and seminar dates

Planning to travel outside the United States during Winter Break - please get your I-20 or DS-2019 (for J-1 students or scholars) signed as soon as possible!



When you come for the seminar, please make sure to bring your original I-20/DS-2019, passport, visa, I-94 card, and proof of health insurance. Your health insurance should contain medical evacuation and repatriation. If it does not, you must purchase the supplemental MedEx policy, which costs \$25/person per year. http://international.syr.edu

Important Travel Reminders

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

Worried that your flight might be delayed? Please contact your airline, the airport and check this website - http://www.fly.faa.gov

Toys for Tots Drive

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Saturday, December 10, 2011, 5:25pm to 9:00pm

The Maxwell Citizenship Learning Community is teaming up with Toys for Tots and SU Athletics to host a Toys for Tots Toy Drive before the 12/10 Men's Basketball game vs. George Washington. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Carrier Dome before the game. Bins will be located in various campus buildings, including the Schine and Goldstein student centers, Hall of Languages, Life Sciences Complex and School of Management during the entire week leading up to the game. Thank you and GO ORANGE!

Location: Carrier Dome Sponsoring department/organization: Maxwell Citizenship Learning Community

Contact: Jonathan Lee; E-Mail: <u>jtlee03@syr.edu</u>

Stressbusters

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Sunday, December 11, 2011, 9:00pm to 1:00am

The Student Centers and Programming Services office is holding an end of the semester Stressbusters event. The event is for students and is FREE when a student ID is presented. There will be professional massage therapists providing massages from 9-11:30 p.m. and a pancake breakfast complete with bacon, juice, sausage and breakfast potatoes. Please come out and enjoy! Location: Schine Student Center dining area

Price: free with student ID

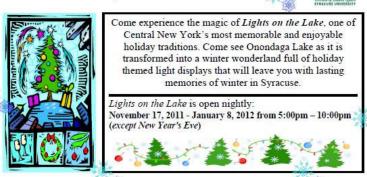
Sponsoring department/organization: Student Centers and Programming Services

Contact: Joe Goings; jgoingsj@syr.edu; 443-4240

Recreation Services

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SKIING OR SNOWBOARDING AT TOGGENBURG MOUNTAIN WINTER SPORTS CENTER

Choose your Six Week Package: FRIDAY OR SATURDAY NIGHTS from 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Six Week program starts: JANUARY 27 and 28, 2012 (Space is limited to the first 250 paid p

6 WEEK PACKAGE INCLUDES: Lift Ticket / Transportation / Weekly One-Hour Lessons Snowboard / Skis / Poles / Boot Rentals (as per pricing structure)

| PROGRAM PACKAGE OPTIONS | SU / ESF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS | ALL OTHER SU / ESF ID CARD HOLDERS |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| W/NO RENTALS | \$105 | \$145 |
| W/SKI or SNOWBOARD RENTALS | \$19 5 | \$235 |

Register and pay online before January 17 at: http://recreationservices.syr.edu/recstore/

If you are interested in getting 1 PED credit for this program, ise contact Scott Catucci @ <u>socatucc@syr.edu</u> for more information

REFUND POLICY: BEFORE DECEMBER 19: FULL REFUND DECEMBER 19 - JANUARY 13: REFUND MINUS \$25 SURCHARGE AFTER JANUARY 13: NO REFUNDS (only in the case of a documented medic

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE OUTDOOR TRIP PROGRAMS





This program is funded in part by the SU Undergraduate Co-Curricular Fee

For more information Click here

Reminder - Free Bus Service to Tops Market

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Syracuse University is offering free bus service to Tops Market on 620 Nottingham Road.

Bus service is free with SUID card and is available 7 days a week from College Place on the #340 Drumlins route.

Tops market is a major grocery chain and is open 24/7.

Drumlins website link:

http://centro.org/Spring%202011%20Schedules/340.pdf

Healthy Monday Syracuse

Healthy Monday Syracuse is now offering Free Yoga Classes Mondays in Schine! Check out our flyer for complete information: http://healthymonday.syr.edu/_images/Yoga%20Poster.pdf

Move it Monday is a part of the Healthy Campus Initiative. 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 fitness classes will be offered for **FREE every Monday from 1:00pm-1:50pm** in the Flanagan Exercise Room on a first-come, first-served basis. The maximum enrollment for each class will vary based on the activity. Please arrive early for each class:

December 12 - TBA

Full-time Course of Study

NOTE: For Syracuse University F-1 students, a full-time course load is required during the Fall and Spring semesters. Full time enrollment means Graduate students must enroll for at least 9 credits every semester. Undergraduate students must register for at least 12 credits every semester. Students are not required to enroll in courses during the Summer. However, if Summer session is your first semester then you must maintain full time enrollment of at least 6 credits for that summer session.

Under Federal Immigration Rules, to maintain F-1 status, no more than 3 online credits per semester may count towards the "full course of study" requirement. For example, a graduate student required to register for 9 credits per semester to maintain full time status can take only 3 of those credits through an on-line class each semester – 6 credits must be live, in classroom

However, an F-1 student can take as many on-line or distance education as they wish (with SCIS's approval) during the Summer or over Winter break.

If it is your last semester and fewer than 12 credits are required to graduate for undergrads and 9 credits for grads; it is acceptable to carry only those credits required to complete your degree. If a student needs less than a full course load in the final semester to finish his/her degree, the course(s) cannot be taken solely online or as distance education. You must be enrolled in a live, in classroom course during your last semester.

Students considering on-line courses or courses at a different institution should first discuss the plan with an SCIS advisor. It is necessary to maintain valid F-1 status at all times.

If you are taking fewer than 9 credits this semester you must fill out a Certificate of Full-Time Status http://international.syr.edu/ documents/forms/full time status certification-Jan04.pdf

If this is your last semester you will have to fill out the Last Semester Memo http://international.syr.edu/ documents/forms/2008/astsemestermemo-su.pdf

Important Reminders

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A Reminder About Optional Practical Training EAD Cards

F-1 students who have obtained authorization for Optional Practical Training from the USCIS are reminded to please email a copy of their EAD cards (front + back) to the SCIS at lescis@syr.edu so that we can keep a copy for your files. Having a photocopy in the SCIS could become very important to you in the future, if we need to verify your F-1 status or if the card is lost or stolen.

Important Reminder from Human Resources

International students who have jobs on campus (GA positions, TA positions, RA positions and hourly wage assignments) are reminded to be sure to copy the appropriate Human Resources Office on campus for any change of U.S. address. Be sure to look at your address on your most recent pay stub. If it is not accurate, report it to your department or office where you work so that the address can be updated by your department. If you are on any payroll, your change of address is needed so that you can receive your W-2 Wage and Tax Statement forms in late January, as well as any checks that may be coming to you if you are leaving at the end of this semester.

Also, if you have obtained a social security number since starting work, it is essential that you report your social security number to your payroll office for W-2 purposes. If you are uncertain whether or not this is a problem for you, check your most recent pay stub, and look to see if your social security number as well as your current address are included properly.

MEETING YOUR HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

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Please be certain that you are currently enrolled in an approved health insurance policy for the upcoming 2011 – 2012 academic year. If you have renewed or changed your health insurance please provide the Slutzker Center with an updated copy of it via e-mail <u>lescis@syr.edu</u> or in person. If you have questions, or need helping enrolling in an approved health insurance policy, please make an appointment with an adviser at the Slutzker Center, or see Linda Deon at the Health Center for assistance.

Syracuse University Health Services has determined that many international students are not in compliance with immunization requirements defined by New York State public health law. Enrolled students found not to be in compliance risk strict administrative consequences including inability to register, suspension of I.D. card privileges, and may be required to leave campus.

You must be in compliance with these immunization requirements in order to remain on campus.

The Health Service will be sending an email to all those who are not in compliance via the syr.edu email address. Please watch for that notice (check your syr.edu email address!). If your registration is cancelled, you will also lose your F-1 or J-1 student status. Don't put yourself at risk. Contact the Health Service as soon as you receive that email!

Transferring out of SU?

If you are planning to transfer out of SU, the immigration regulatory process for transferring your F-1 status from Syracuse University to a new school in the United States requires you to complete a Transfer Out Form with the SCIS so that your federal SEVIS record can be transferred to your new school. The Transfer Out Form and more detailed information may be found on our website: http://international.syr.edu/current-students/maintaining-visa-status/transfer-out.html

Is this your last semester at SU?

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Students who will be completing their studies this December but have no plans to apply for practical training (F-1), academic training (J-1) or continue at a new school or in a new field or level of study (i.e. Master's, J.D., Ph.D), or seek a change of non-immigrant status must depart the United States within 60 days of their academic program end date if they are in F-1 status (see item #5 on your current I-20), or within 30 days if they are in J-1 status.

Studying Abroad?

Planning to Study Abroad during the Spring 2011 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

!Important Announcements!

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- Indition the 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.)

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

Students who are planning to do an Internship the 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) – Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ 3:00pm and every 2nd Friday at 3:00pm. Optional Practical Training Seminar (OPT) - Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ 3:45pm and every 2nd Friday at 3:45pm.

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

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USCIS FY 2012 H-1B Cap Count

FY 2012 H-1B Cap Count

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it received a sufficient number of H-1B petitions to reach the statutory cap for fiscal year (FY) 2012. USCIS notified the public that November 22, 2011 was the final receipt date for new H-1B specialty occupation petitions for FY2012. USCIS will reject cap-subject H-1B petitions that arrived after November 22, 2011. H-1B petitions reached the statutory cap for the past fiscal years: (FY) 2011 on Jan. 26, 2011

(FY) 2010 on Dec. 21, 2009 (FY) 2009 on April 7, 2008 (FY) 2008 on April 2, 2007

USCIS will start accepting H-1B petitions subject to the fiscal year (FY) 2013 cap on April 1, 2012.

For more information and latest updates on H1B Visa cap count, please visit the <u>USCIS</u> website.

.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=4b7cdd1d5fd37210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=73566811264a3210VgnVCM10000b92ca60aRCRD

Is Your I-20 or DS-2019 Expiring Soon? Do You Need an Extension of Stay?

This is the time of year when many international students whose I-20 or DS-2019 will expire this December, but who will be continuing their studies for Spring 2012, are applying for an extension of stay. Students who will begin a new level of study (e.g., completing bachelor's and commencing master's or completing master's and commencing PhD) receive a new I-20 for the new level of study. Changes in level of study require an admission letter from the Graduate School (if completing a bachelor's and commencing master's) or from the student's academic department (if completing master's and commencing PhD) verifying that the student has been approved for the new level of study, and the semester that the new level will begin

Student's with I-20s or DS-2019s expiring in December 2011 but who will continue their studies at SU must begin the extension of stay process (or change in level of study process) well before that date so that the new I-20 is issued before the I-20 expiration date.

Complete information and the required forms are available on-line at: http://international.syr.edu/ documents/forms/I-20 Extension.pdf

Don't Be Fooled by Copycat Immigration-Help Sites Back>>

Some private websites that charge to prepare immigration forms mimic the look and feel of official government sites, leading users to mistakenly believe they are dealing directly with the government and paying USCIS fees. Many copycat sites add to the confusion by charging applicants the same amount for preparing an immigration form that USCIS charges for filing that same form. As a result, some applicants have sent forms to USCIS without submitting the filing fees. These applicants mistakenly believed they had paid the USCIS filing fee when they paid the private firm for preparing the forms.

To learn more, visit: http://blog.uscis.gov/2011/09/dont-be-fooled-by-copycat-immigration.html

International Students and Arrests

Although it is not a pleasant subject, there are a few situations where an international student might be arrested in the United States and charged with a crime. Common misdemeanor or felony arrests can include theft, drunk driving, shoplifting (stealing goods from a store without paying for them) and drug possession (with or without intent to sell). Binghamton University has published an article that discusses the consequences such arrests can create with a student's U.S. immigration status, even if the charges themselves are dismissed or reduced. The article may be viewed at: http://www2.binghamton.edu/isss/publications/instuarrest.html

Housing and Safety

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Housing Update: Address Change

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Address Change?

All International Students and Scholars that will be moving into their new on-campus and off-campus housing must update their US Address where you will be living during this Fall semester via your "MySlice self-service" and select CURR address.

You must update your address immediately in order to be in compliance with the Immigration Regulations. If you do not update your address we will not be able to register your record with SEVIS and you will be jeopardizing your Immigration requirements to comply with reporting changes of addresses while you are here in the USA studying at Syracuse University.

Department of Public Safety Reminder

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FOR YOUR SAFETY, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- To safeguard your personal property—DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PROPERTY UNATTENDED
 On campus after dark, use DPS' free escort service. Off campus, use SU Home (it's free), call 443-SAFE (7233) for more information about these services.
- 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.

Please always update your address within 10 days of your move on MySlice.

- Travel in well-lighted and well-traveled areas.
- Keep porch lights on at night.
- 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 & tag number.

The 2011 edition of "Your Safety and Security at Syracuse University" is part of Syracuse University's ongoing commitment to the prevention of crime. It is available online at: http://publicsafety.syr.edu/PublicSafety/ckfinder/userfiles/files/2011%20Clery.pdf

The booklet includes information on crime prevention, residential security, crime reporting policies, fire safety and crime statistics for the calendar years 2008, 2009, and 2010.

Parking Regulations In University Neighborhoods - by OCCS

Reminder: 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 begins at 6 p.m. on the side of the street with odd address numbers; on even dates, parking begins 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

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.

Protect your Property

All your personal belongings are insured against a wide range of losses. The SCIS supports this policy and we encourage every student to have this insurance.

- Laptops, cell phones, jewelry, watches, iPods, cameras, clothes, books, sports equipment, furniture all your "stuff" is covered. You're insured for countless types of losses, including theft, vandalism, fire, and accidental damage
- Worldwide coverage on and off campus (in your apartment, in a foreign country, "at home", in storage, or anywhere else they may be.
- Property of the University is covered while in your care
- Buy \$4,000 of coverage for less than \$94! Also there is up to \$20,000 coverage available for an annual premium of only \$250.

For more information about our student personal property program, call 1-866-535-0456 and ask for a college specialist to assist you. Or better yet Enroll online! It's fast and easy. Simply log on to: www.haylor.com/student or send an e-mail to: student@haylor.com

Fall 2011 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

http://parking.syr.edu/Parking/display.cfm?content_ID=%23%28%289%21%0A

QUESTIONS? Contact: Parking and Transit Services 621 Skytop Road

> • Phone: 315-443-1049 • Web: http://parking.syr.edu

Motivational Quotes of the Week:

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

by Hamilton Wright Mabie

"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us." by Hal Borland
" Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith. "

by Henry Ward Beecher "Å new oath holds pretty well; but... when it is become old, and frayed out, and damaged by a dozen annual re-tryings of its remains, it ceases to be serviceable; any little strain will snap it."

SCIS News is a listserv owned and managed by the Slutzker Center for International Services, Division of Student Affairs, at Syracuse University. It is the publisher of SCIS News. Permission is granted to freely distribute the information posted to this list as long as its contents remain unchanged.

If your e-mail account is on a server other than syr.edu, please send an e-mail message to <u>dbabanhu@syr.edu</u>. In the subject line, type: Please subscribe to SCIS Newsletter, your e-mail address, your

Note: If you would like to submit a request to publish your news or events in our SCIS Newsletter. Please contact Daniela Baban Hurrle at dbabanhu@syr.edu

The Lillian and Emanuel Slutzker Center for International Services,

Syracuse University
310 Walnut Place, Syracuse, NY, 13244-2380.

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