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Syracuse University
Slutzker Center News

December 16th, 2011


[Click Here to go to our New Website](#)

<http://international.syr.edu/>


Happy Holidays from all of us at
the Slutzker Center for International Services!!!

- 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.
- **The University will be closed after December 23, 2011 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. (If it's an emergency you can contact the Dept. of Public Safety at 315-443-2224)**
- 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.
- [Winter Break recreation schedule](#)

Join us for free movies and popcorn next week!

The Slutzker Center will be showing a different movie every day from December 19 – December 23 at 1:00pm and on Wednesday at 3:00pm. The movie titles will be announced next week.

Submit your Practical Training application!
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An advisor will be able to process your CPT or OPT on one of the days listed below:
December 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 (by February 13, 2012)** 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.

Planning to travel? Important travel information and seminar dates[Back>>](#)**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/medex_application.htm

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 re-enter the United States.

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

Travel Seminars:

Monday - 5:00pm
 Tuesday - 11:00am
 Wednesday - 1:30pm
 Thursday - 3:00pm
 Friday - 12:00pm

During the winter break, Slutzker Center staff receive a number of worried phone calls and emails from SU students who are traveling outside the United States. The reason? Either the student has forgotten to travel with their current I-20 (or, if in J status, their DS-2019), and tells Slutzker Center staff that the I-20 (or DS-2019) was left behind in their Syracuse apartment or residence hall, OR the student has the I-20 (or DS-2019) with them, but the form lacks a current travel signature.

Either way, that creates a very big problem for the student upon his or her return to the United States, because the student will be stopped by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Official for failure to present the appropriate documents. At the very least, this will result in delays at immigration inspection at the U.S. port of entry, and possibly, the issuance of only a 30-day stay in the United States.

So, don't let this happen to you! Be sure to have your I-20 or DS-2019 when you travel (and if you have multiple documents, have them with you to present in case you are asked to do so). Also, check your most recent I-20 (or DS-2019) to be sure you have a currently valid travel signature. The travel signature should be less than one year old as of the date you will return to the United States.

Join us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter and stay informed and updated about news @ SU[Back>>](#)**Celebrating Ernie Davis: Take a look at @suorangeempire's video about the 50th Anniversary****DPS Department Of Public Safety New Communications Center Syracuse University**

- 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 20, 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>

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



Scan the QR code to go to our new website. [\(What's a QR code?\)](#)

- [How To Scan QR Codes On iPhone](#)
- [How To Scan QR Codes On Android](#)
- [How to Scan QR Codes on Blackberry](#)



Getting Serious About Snow

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-In the winter, major roadways receive priority, while secondary streets are plowed as soon as possible. The City of Syracuse operates a fleet of 40 plow and salt spreader trucks assisted by independent plow truck operators.



Sidewalk snow removal is the responsibility of each property owner. In most cases, if the owner doesn't live at the property, the tenant is responsible for keeping the sidewalk clear. **Clarify with your landlord about whose responsibility it is to remove the snow, especially while you are away.**

-Just a reminder, clearing of snow and ice from sidewalks is to be done by 6 pm following snow accumulation

-The Fire Department must keep hydrants clear of snow in case of emergency. Residents are asked to assist in this task whenever possible, especially during a heavy snowfall.

-During the winter, all parking regulations are strictly enforced by the City of Syracuse so that snow can be removed from the street. Your car will be towed if you are parked across the sidewalks or if you are in violation of the odd/even parking regulation. Call the 448-CITY for more information.

-Dress appropriately before going outdoors. The air temperature does not have to be below freezing for someone to experience cold emergencies such as hypothermia and frostbite. Wind speed can create dangerously cold conditions even when the temperature is not that low.

Dress in layers so you can adjust to changing conditions. Avoid overdressing or overexertion that can lead to heat illness. Most of your body heat is lost through your head so wear a hat, preferably one that covers your ears.



Mittens provide more warmth to your hands than gloves.

Wear waterproof, insulated boots to help avoid hypothermia or frostbite by keeping your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.

Get out of wet clothes immediately and warm the core body temperature with a blanket or warm fluids like hot cider or soup. Avoid drinking caffeine or alcohol if you expect you or someone you are trying to help has hypothermia or frostbite.

Information taken from the American Red Cross: http://www.redcrossny.org/general_calltoaction.asp?CTA=4&SN=9343&OP=9344&IDCapitulo=IPGTBCM8RW

Tips For Preparing to Leave for Winter Break

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- Be sure there is good lighting around doors, especially those doors not visible from the street.
- Lock sliding doors, and place a wooden or metal bar in the track of the doors.
- Do not hide spare keys in places outside.
- Buy a timer that automatically turns on interior and exterior lights at a predetermined time or when there is motion.
- Arrange for a neighbor whom you trust to watch over your house or to store your valuables while you are away.
- Take anything of value home with you. Do not leave any valuable items near windows. Take pictures of anything valuable in case it is stolen.
- Make sure all windows are secure and have curtains on them.
- If you have a security alarm, make sure you turn it on when leaving.
- Ask the post office to hold any mail for you until you return from break.
- Keep your thermostat set to a temperature no lower than 55° F. **DO NOT TURN OFF YOUR HEAT TO SAVE MONEY!** You must keep your apartment heated ALL WINTER LONG so that your pipes will not freeze—even while NOBODY is living in the house. Frozen pipes cause extensive and expensive damage to a home's plumbing and heating systems. If you turn off your heat over winter break, YOU could be responsible for these repairs!

Home for the Holidays Information Session

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Date: 12/22/2011; Start Time: 1:00 PM; End Time: 3:00 PM

As 2011 comes to a close, you may be traveling back to Central New York to spend time with your family and friends for the holidays. Whether you are from Central New York or not, it is also an opportunity to rest and reflect as you prepare for the following year and think about the tools you need for the next stage in your professional career.

The master's program office invites you to join us for an afternoon to learn more about one of our graduate degrees. In addition, current graduate students will be on hand to provide you with perspectives and a building tour.

Join us for an informative meeting and festive holiday treats as you "come home" for the holidays!

[Click here to RSVP and more information](#)

Location: Whitman School of Management, Milton Room (4th Floor)

Price: free

Sponsoring department/organization: Whitman School of Management Master's Programs Office

Contact: Joshua LaFave; E-Mail: jlafave@syrr.edu; 443-3497

Service of Remembrance

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Wednesday, December 21, 2011, 2:00pm

The chaplains of Hendricks Chapel will conduct a University Service of Remembrance to honor the 270 people who died aboard Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, on the same date 23 years ago. Thirty-five students studying through SU's Division of International Programs Abroad (now SU Abroad) were lost in the tragedy.

The service will include prayers, reflections and a reading of the names of the 35 SU students who were lost aboard the flight. Following the service, those in attendance will proceed to the Wall of Remembrance, located in front of the Hall of Languages, where a brief memorial statement will be offered and the Crouse Chimes will sound 35 times.

Location: Noble Room, Hendricks Chapel

Price: free

Contact: Hendricks Chapel; 443-2901

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>

Writing 600: Advanced Writing and Rhetoric for Second Language Writers

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Tuesdays 6-7:45pm + 1 hour TBD each week

- Are you a graduate student fast approaching the writing of a conference paper, thesis, dissertation, or research article?
- Is English your second, third, or other language?
- Are you interested in some extra instruction and mentorship on strategies for writing research projects for your advanced degree?

If you said yes to each of these questions, WRT 600 might be for you!

◆ Course Overview:

Writing 600 (3 credits) is a Special Topics graduate course designed to introduce advanced critical reading and writing strategies to students whose first language is other than English. The major goal of this course is for students to study discipline-specific genres and rhetorical practices in order to better prepare them for working in their respective disciplines and professions through academic research and writing.

◆ Course Requirements:

The successful completion of this course will require that you:

- ✓ Meet for class and writing consultations for a total of 3 hours per week;
- ✓ Successfully complete a semester-long writing project (15-25 pages) that responds to your graduate work (*such as a thesis chapter, seminar paper, or conference presentation*); and
- ✓ Successfully complete two written reports (7-10 pages ea.) detailing your investigation of practices and genres specific to your discipline as well as shorter research and writing tasks (assigned weekly).

◆ Enrollment Requirements:


The course has 8 available spots which will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. To be eligible for the course, students must

- ✓ Consider English to be their second or other language;
- ✓ Have good standing with Syracuse University; and
- ✓ Be currently enrolled as a full-time graduate student.

For enrollment and additional information, please contact
Missy Watson at mewatson@syr.edu

2013 Senior Class Marshal Application Open


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Engagement. Passion. Purpose. Connection.


**ONLY 2 STUDENTS...2 VOICES...
WILL BE CHOSEN TO LEAD A CLASS OF MANY...**

Will YOU be the next Senior Class Marshal?
Start now. Make history.
Apply today. <http://seniormarshal.syr.edu/>




Applicants must be current juniors who will be graduating in May 2013 and present on campus during the 2012-2013 academic year.
Deadline: Friday, February 3, 2012 at 5 p.m.

...an SU tradition



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



Senior Class Marshals are our most committed and thoughtful students. They serve as the all-university student representatives for graduation, and this year, we are expanding the role to more thoroughly reflect the significance of this honor. Marshals will now have the unique opportunity to participate in the following experiences:

- Meeting with senior-level University administrators to share and offer feedback on the SU experience
- Engaging in exclusive networking opportunities with alumni
- Representing the 2013 class at special University-wide events
- Helping to select the 2013 Commencement speaker
- Leading the entire Commencement procession at graduation

Therefore, marshals should be distinguished individuals who have excelled during their time at Syracuse, exemplify the spirit of the senior class, understand and have experienced Scholarship in Action, and exhibit excellent critical-thinking skills. The criteria used to determine qualified nominees include: scholarship, academic honors, student organization involvement, campus and community service, and new to this year's process, an essay soliciting the student's suggestions for engaging the SU community in Scholarship in Action. An online application form, the above-mentioned essay, nominations from two SU faculty or staff, and a copy of an official Syracuse University transcript are required.

In order to obtain the best nominees, we would appreciate your help in bringing this information to the attention of qualified students and to your colleagues. A poster is attached; please print and post as you are able.

NOTE: Applicants MUST be current juniors who will graduate in May of 2013 and who plan to be on campus during the entire 2012-2013 academic year. Application materials are available online at <http://seniormarshal.syr.edu>. The student's application (and faculty or staff nominations), along with essays and transcripts, must be submitted online by Friday, February 3. Please contact the Office of Student Affairs at 443-4424 should you have any questions.

Thank you for your assistance in this process.

Recreation Services

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Lights on the Lake

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
RECREATION SERVICES
OUTDOOR
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Ticket Prices - \$5.00
(Allow: one carload of people admission)
2 ticket max. per person

Tickets available starting November 14 at:
The Department of Recreation Services
241 Archbold Gym 315-443-4386



Come experience the magic of *Lights on the Lake*, one of Central New York's most memorable and enjoyable holiday traditions. Come see Onondaga Lake as it is transformed into a winter wonderland full of holiday themed light displays that will leave you with lasting memories of winter in Syracuse.

Lights on the Lake is open nightly:
November 17, 2011 - January 8, 2012 from 5:00pm - 10:00pm
(except New Year's Eve)

Snow Tubing!

When: Sunday, January 29
12:30pm - 4:30pm

Where: Four Seasons Ski Center
(Bus departs from SU's College Place)

Price: \$5.00 for SU / ESF Undergraduate Students
\$10.00 for all other SU and ESF ID holders



To register for this trip, please visit:
<http://recreationservices.syr.edu/recstore/>



This program is sponsored in part by the Syracuse University Undergraduate Co-Curricular Fee



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
RECREATION SERVICES
OUTDOOR
EDUCATION PROGRAM



MOONLIGHT

SNOWSHOE HIKE

Thursday February 2 or Thursday March 1
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

\$5.00 for SU Undergraduate Students
\$8.00 for all Other SU / ESF ID card Holders

Register and pay for this trip online at:
<http://recreationservices.syr.edu/recstore/>

This program is funded in part by the Undergraduate Co-Curricular Fee
<http://outdoored.syr.edu>



For more information [Click here](#)



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 participants)

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	\$195	\$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, please contact Scott Catucci @ scatucci@syr.edu 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 medical excuse)

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE OUTDOOR TRIP PROGRAMS
<http://outdoored.syr.edu>



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

Ride the Bobsled and Skeleton

- LAKE PLACID DAYTRIP -

Saturday February 4, 2012

\$55.00 for SU/ESF Undergraduate Students
(\$10.00 for All Other SU/ESF ID card holders)

Price Includes:
- A ride on the Bobsled and the Skeleton
- Gondola ride to the top of Whiteface Mountain
- Entrance to the Olympic Ski Jumping Complex
- Boreas Lunch
- Entrance to 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympic Museum
- Roundtrip Transportation (Luxury Motor Coach)
- Free time in Lake Placid
(Limited to the first 50 participants to register and pay)



Register and pay online at:
<http://recreationservices.syr.edu/recstore/>

This program is partially funded by the SU Undergraduate Co-Curricular Fee
<http://outdoored.syr.edu>



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
RECREATION SERVICES
OUTDOOR
EDUCATION PROGRAM



Cross Country Skiing

At the Osceola Ski Center on the Tug Hill Plateau

Sunday 3/4/12 or Sunday 3/25/12
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

	SU / ESF Undergraduate	All Other SU / ESF ID Holders
Pass Only (No Rentals)	\$5.00	\$10.00
Pass and Rentals	\$10.00	\$20.00

Price includes:
• Cross Country Skis, Boots, Poles, and Ski Pass (Varies by Package)
• Roundtrip Transportation (From SU's College Place and back)

Registration Deadline is 3/3/12 and 3/24/12 respectively
Minimum of 10 people needed for trip to run

Register and pay online at:
<http://recreationservices.syr.edu/recstore/>

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



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 courses**.

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/2008lastsemestermemo-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 lescis@syr.edu or in person. If you have questions, or need help 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?

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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?

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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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- **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.)**

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 emergency!

- **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 [USCIS](#) website.

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5a9b95919f35e66f61147654375d1a7vgovextoid=4b7cdd1d56d37210vgovCM100000082ca60a8C8D8vgovnextchannel=73566811264a3210vgovCM100000082ca60a8C8D8>

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.

Students 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

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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

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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/iss/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.

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

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.
- 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

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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 sidewalks.

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 pay a fare.

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**

"A 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."

by **Mark Twain**

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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 Hurrle** at dbabanhu@syr.edu

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