


 <p>"You cannot help but learn more as you take the world into your hands. Take it up reverently, for it is an old piece of clay, with millions of thumbprints on it". ~ by John Updike</p> <p><b><i>Congratulations and Good Luck to our Class of 2011!!!</i></b></p>	<p><b>IN THIS ISSUE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SCIS NEWS</b></p>  <p><b>MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2011</b></p> <p>JOIN US ON <b>facebook</b> CLICK HERE</p> <p><b>You Tube</b></p>	<p><b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Walk In PT Step 2 Service</a></li> <li><a href="#">Commencement Weekend</a></li> <li><a href="#">Housing Update : Address Change</a></li> <li><a href="#">Travel Seminars</a></li> <li><a href="#">Transferring out of SU?</a></li> <li><a href="#">Is this your last semester at SU?</a></li> <li><a href="#">Studying Abroad?</a></li> <li><a href="#">English Conversation Group Meetings</a></li> <li><a href="#">Ten Tons of Love – Call for Volunteers</a></li> <li><a href="#">The Art of Living</a></li> <li><a href="#">Practical Training Seminars</a></li> <li><a href="#">Important Upcoming Dates</a></li> <li><a href="#">Graduate Student Newsletter</a></li> <li><a href="#">Late Night at the gym</a></li> <li><a href="#">Interession 2011 Recreation Schedule</a></li> <li><a href="#">Summer 2011 Recreation Services Schedule</a></li> <li><a href="#">SU Toast Toastmasters Club Meeting</a></li> <li><a href="#">Important Announcements</a></li> <li><a href="#">Immigration Updates</a></li> <li><a href="#">Housing and Safety</a></li> </ol>	
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### 1. Walk In PT Step 2 Service

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#### Walk In PT Step 2 Service

To accommodate heavy student requests at this busy time of the semester, we will have more "Walk In PT Step 2 Service" sessions at the Slutzker Center:

**5/9 – 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**5/11 – 10:00am – 12:00pm**

A number of advisers will be on hand to process your applications on a first come, first served basis. You may have to wait, so please bring something to read, or plan to watch television or work on the computer. We will process as many student applications as possible during the two hours. If we have more applications than we can process, we will take them in and work on them throughout the rest of the week.

**Please be sure to have all documents completed and ready for advisor review.** We will work diligently to see as many students as possible during this time. If you feel that your case needs personal attention or you have many questions, please call our office to schedule a regular CPT or OPT Step 2 Appointment so that your case can get the attention it needs.

We hope that this extra service will meet the needs of students who are applying for practical training. After May 15, we will resume our regular schedule of CPT and OPT Step 2 Appointments. We look forward to serving you.

#### 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 the front and back of your EAD card" and e-mail us a copy of it to [lescis@syr.edu](mailto:lescis@syr.edu).

#### The Clock is Ticking on Some Practical Training Applications:

F-1 students who will be graduating in May 2011 and plan to apply for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) are reminded that they must submit their application paperwork to the SCIS, 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 conferral date, which this year is May 15, 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 in a timely manner. Currently, it is taking the USCIS Service Centers approximately 75-90 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 volunteer work.

### 2. Commencement Weekend

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Commencement Weekend (May 13-15) planning has been underway for several months, bringing with it new opportunities, new collaborations, and changes to the weekend's schedule of events. I want to take the opportunity now, as we prepare to send the Commencement Information Booklet to students and parents – to bring you up to date on these changes, which evolved from a variety of factors including a larger class size, new campus venue guidelines, off-campus venue limitations and more. To view the Convocation and Reception schedule, please visit our website, <http://commencement.syr.edu>.

The Engineering convocation has outgrown its previous Schine Student Center location and will move to Manley Field House at 9:00 a.m.; Management will move to the Carrier Dome for a 3:00 pm Convocation; and VPA will shift its Dome Convocation start time to the evening (7:00 p.m.). Graduate Management will move into Schine at noon. Manley Field House will hold three Convocations in the refurbished football practice arena (Engineering, Education, and Human Ecology) and the Carrier Dome will host four Convocations (Arts and Sciences, Newhouse, Management, Visual and Performing Arts) eliminating the dinner dance option. There will be other campus dining opportunities offered this year at Ernie Davis Hall (315-443-3102) and Drumlins Country Club (315-446-4555). Off-campus dining options are listed on The Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau website <http://visitsyracuse.org/dine>.

Also new this year, SU Commencement is on Facebook at [facebook.com/sucommencement](http://facebook.com/sucommencement). We look forward to communicating important Commencement-related updates and notices to students and families through this social media tool. We encourage you to share our Facebook address and help us build our 'friend' list.

The Office of Special Events is looking forward to partnering with each of the schools and colleges as we prepare to celebrate our students' accomplishments, and showcase our campus during the weekend of May 13 – 15.

### 3. Housing Update : Address Change

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#### Address Change?

All International Students and Scholars that will be moving out from the "Campus Housing" must update the US Address where you will be living during the Summer/Fall semesters via your "MySlice self-service" and select CURR address.

You must update your address immediately in order to be in compliance with the Immigration. If you do not update your addresses 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 and at Syracuse University.

**Please always update your address within 10 days of your move on MySlice and/or the following link: [http://international.syr.edu/address\\_update\\_opt.htm](http://international.syr.edu/address_update_opt.htm)**

#### 4. Travel Seminars:

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#### Travelling During the Summer?

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, 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.

**Daily Travel Seminars have been scheduled until May 13, 2011.**

Monday – 5:00pm

Tuesday – 12:00pm

Wednesday – 1:30pm

Thursday – 10:00am

Friday – 12:00pm

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

#### 5. 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/transfer\\_out.htm](http://international.syr.edu/transfer_out.htm)

#### 6. Is this your last semester at SU?

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Students who will be completing their studies this May 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.

#### 7. Studying Abroad?

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Planning to Study Abroad during the Fall 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

#### 8. English Conversation Group Meetings

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##### English Conversation Group Meetings:



Weekly English conversation group meetings will be available on a limited base, during the summer months. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this opportunity to practice and improve their informal English conversation skills, is asked to come to the Slutzker Center to fill out the blue "Request for Assignment to a Group" form no later than **Thursday, May 12.**

Riet DeKleermaeker, coordinator English conversation program, will notify you by email about the day and time for the scheduled meetings. Enjoy the summer months with good English conversations!

#### 9. Ten Tons of Love – Call for Volunteers

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##### Ten Tons of Love – Call for Volunteers

Ten Tons of Love is Syracuse University and SUNY ESF's semi-annual food and clothing drive. Last year more than 45 tons of donated goods were collected. Ten Tons of Love is only possible with the assistance of many volunteers to help load, move and sort all the donated items. Thank you in advance for taking the time to volunteer. We couldn't do it without you!

From **now to May 17**, volunteers are needed to assist with loading and moving in.

Shifts run from 9AM to 1PM, unless otherwise specified. Volunteers should meet at **Goldstein Student Center on South Campus**.  
\*This opportunity involves some heavy lifting.

To sign up to volunteer, please visit <http://tentons.syr.edu>

**10. The Art of Living:**

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**THE ART OF LIVING**

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**The Art of Living**  
Breathing Techniques, Low Impact Yoga & Meditation

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**COURSE BENEFITS**  
Breathing techniques to eliminate stress & tension.  
Skills for improving relationships at home and at work.  
Tools to handle your mind and negative emotions.

<p><b>Learn Sudarshan Kriya</b> An immensely powerful technique that incorporates specific natural rhythms of breath to release stress and purify the entire system by releasing toxins at the deepest cellular levels.</p>	<p><b>Course Details:</b> <b>May 19-24, 2011</b> Weekdays: 6:30pm-9:30pm Weekend: 10am-3pm <b>Contact Info/Registration:</b> <a href="http://secure.artofliving.org">http://secure.artofliving.org</a> 315-622-5093</p>
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**HEALTH, HAPPINESS & ENERGY**  
THE ART OF LIVING ~ 30 YEARS, 150 COUNTRIES, 20 MILLION PEOPLE SERVED

"Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Approach to Inner Peace Is Like Fresh Air to Millions" - The Washington Post

**11. Practical Training Seminars**

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Additional Practical Training seminars will be held on the following days:  
CPT – 3:00pm  
OPT – 3:45pm  
5/4/2011, Wednesday

**12. Important Upcoming Dates**

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5/3 – Classes End  
5/14 – Commencement Weekend  
5/15 – Commencement Weekend  
5/15 – Residence Halls Close for Spring Semester at 6 p.m.

**13. Graduate Student Newsletter ~ April 2011**

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**Events**  
May 7—Graduate Student Organization End-of-Semester Social. Sat, 5pm. Inn Complete.  
May 13—Doctoral Hooding Ceremony (by invitation only). Fri, Schine Student Center  
May 14—All College Convocations. Sat, 9am-7pm. Various locations  
May 15—Syracuse University Commencement. Sun, 9:30am. Carrier Dome

**from the office of enrollment management**

Click on the links below...

- [All about graduating!](#)
- [Steps for your final semester](#)
- [Procedures of defending a thesis or dissertation](#)
- [Thesis Format Guidelines](#)
- [Graduation Deadlines](#)

[For full-length articles and events, click here!](#)

**14. Late Night at the Gym**

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<p><b>Archbold/Flanagan</b> Wednesday Night <b>Belly Dancing</b> Thursday Night <b>Salsa Merengue</b> Friday Night <b>Break Dancing</b> <b>Meditation</b> Saturday Night <b>Yoga</b></p> <p>Wed 5/4 Open Rec. Thurs 5/5 Open Rec. Fri 5/6 Open Rec. Sat 5/7 Open Rec.</p> <p>All events start at 10 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Women's Building</b> Every Saturday Night <b>Indoor Soccer - Cricket</b> <b>Free Fruits on alternate Thursdays</b> <b>All Activities at the Late Night at the Gym are Free</b> Tennity Ice Skating Pavilion Every Friday/Saturday Night skate@syr.edu Contact: ERNIE RIVERA at erivera@syr.edu or 443-3288</p>
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**15. Intersession 2011 Recreation Schedule**

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# Intersession 2011 Recreation Schedule

	Archbold/Flanagan Gymnasium	Webster Pool (Archbold)	Sibley Pool (Women's Building)	Marshall Square Mall Fitness Center	Ernie Davis Hall Fitness Center	Goldstein Fitness Center	Marion Fitness Center	Brockway Fitness Center	Tennity Ice Skating Pavilion
Tue 5/3	6:30am-11:30pm	11:30am-2:30pm	7:00am-9:30am	7:00am-12:00am	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-2:00am	10am-10pm	8:00am-12:00am	11:00am-11:00pm
Wed 5/4	7:30am-1:00am	11:30am-2:30pm	CLOSED	8:00am-6:00pm	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-2:00am	10am-10pm	8:00am-12:00am	11:00am-11:00pm
Thu 5/5	7:30am-1:00am	11:30am-2:30pm	CLOSED	8:00am-6:00pm	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-2:00am	10am-10pm	8:00am-12:00am	11:00am-11:00pm
Fri 5/6	7:30am-1:00am	11:30am-2:30pm	CLOSED	8:00am-6:00pm	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-12:00am	11:00am-4:00pm	8:00am-12:00am	11:00am-12:00am
Sat 5/7	9:30am-1:00am	12:30pm-3:30pm	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:00am-10:00pm	9:30am-12:00am	11:00am-4:00pm	CLOSED	10:00am-12:00am
Sun 5/8	11:30am-9:00pm	12:30pm-3:30pm	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:00am-10:00pm	9:30am-2:00am	12:00pm-4:00pm	CLOSED	12:00pm-10:00pm
Mon 5/9	7:30am-10:00pm	12:00pm-3:00pm	CLOSED	8:00am-6:00pm	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-2:00am	CLOSED	CLOSED	11:00am-8:00pm
Tue 5/10	7:30am-10:00pm	12:00pm-3:00pm	CLOSED	8:00am-6:00pm	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-2:00am	CLOSED	CLOSED	11:00am-8:00pm
Wed 5/11	7:30am-9:00pm	12:00pm-3:00pm	CLOSED	11:00am-4:00pm	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-2:00am	CLOSED	CLOSED	11:00am-8:00pm
Thu 5/12	7:30am-7:00pm	12:00pm-3:00pm	CLOSED	11:00am-4:00pm	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-7:00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	11:00am-8:00pm
Fri 5/13	7:30am-7:00pm	12:00pm-3:00pm	CLOSED	10:00am-4:00pm	8:00am-10:00pm	7:00am-6:00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	11:00am-8:00pm
Sat 5/14	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-2:00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm
Sun 5/15	11:30am-2:00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm

\*The Women's Building will be open Tuesday, May 3 from 5:00-9:30pm and will close for recreation Wednesday, May 4.

The Women's Building will be open for Late Night on Saturday, May 7 from 10:00pm-1:00am.

Webster Pool will close on Monday, May 16 for Maintenance. Open Swim and Aqua Fitness classes will take place in Sibley Pool Summer Session I.

Skytop Tennis Courts will be open every day from 8:00 a.m.-dusk. Summer Hours begin Monday, May 16. Please check the Summer Hours Brochure.

**16. Summer 2011 Recreation Services Schedule**

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### Bring Your ID Card

A valid ID Card is required to enter facilities  
The following ID Card holders are eligible to access facilities:

- 1) SU, ESF, and UC students, staff, faculty, spouses, domestic partners, and dependents (dependents under the age of 15 are not eligible to use the fitness centers).
- 2) Summer program participants (sport camps).
- 3) Alumni pass card holders.

### Facility Closings

Hours are subject to change during the summer. Facilities will occasionally be scheduled for special events, facility improvements or closed during intersession and holiday breaks. Please check the Recreation Hotline or notices posted in the facilities for updates. All facilities will be closed on Sunday, May 29, Monday, May 30, Saturday, July 2, Sunday, July 3 and Monday, July 4.

### Locker Service

Locker rental fees are as follows:

	Student	Faculty/Staff
One semester	\$37	\$48
Academic year	\$68	\$78
Annual	\$90	\$100



*Summer 2011*  
**FACILITY HOURS**  
May 16 – August 14

Department of Recreation Services

241 Archbold Gym, 443-4386

Recreation Hotline: 443-4967

recreationservices.syr.edu

### Buildings

**Archbold and Flanagan Gymnasiums**  
 Monday-Friday 7:00am - 7:00pm  
 Saturday 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
 Sunday CLOSED

**Recreation Services Office**  
 Monday-Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

**Tennity Ice Skating Pavilion**  
 Monday-Friday 12:00pm - 8:00pm  
 Saturday-Sunday 12:00pm - 6:00pm

**Women's Building**  
 Closed for recreation during the summer with the exception of Sibley Pool.

### Fitness Centers

**Archbold**  
 Monday-Friday 7:00am - 7:00pm  
 Saturday 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
 Sunday CLOSED

**Ernie Davis Hall**  
 Monday-Friday 10:00am - 3:00pm

**Goldstein**  
 Monday-Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm  
 Saturday-Sunday CLOSED

**Marshall Square Mall**  
 Monday-Friday 11:00am - 6:00pm  
 Saturday 12:00pm - 3:00pm  
 Sunday CLOSED

### Outdoor Facilities

Hendricks Field located at Sadler & Lawrinson Halls  
 Women's Bldg. Field located at Comstock & Euclid Ave.  
 Skytop Field (upper) located on South Campus  
 Hookway Field located on Colvin Street  
 Please call 443-4386 for reservation information.

Coyne Field located at Manley Field House  
 Manley Outdoor Track located at Manley Field House  
 Please call 443-3042 for reservation information.

**Tennis Courts**  
 Skytop (22 courts) located on Skytop Road  
 Women's Building (4 courts) located at Comstock & Euclid Ave.  
 Court hours: Monday-Sunday, 8:00am - dusk.

**Sand Volleyball Courts**  
 Hendricks Field (2) located at Sadler & Lawrinson Halls  
 Goldstein Student Center (2) located on South Campus

### Swimming Pools

**Sibley Pool (Women's Building)**  
 May 16-July 1: Monday-Wednesday 7:30am-9:00am, 3:00-4:30pm  
 Monday-Friday 12:00pm-2:00pm  
 Saturday 12:30pm - 2:30pm  
 Sunday CLOSED

**Webster Pool (Archbold Gymnasium)**  
 July 5-August 14: Monday-Friday 12:00pm - 2:00pm, 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
 Saturday 12:30pm - 2:30pm  
 Sunday CLOSED

### Racquetball/Squash

Two squash courts and eight racquetball courts are located in Flanagan Gymnasium and are open during recreation gym hours.

## 17. SU Toast Toastmasters Club Meeting

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# SU Toast Toastmasters Club



## "A Student Public Speaking Group"

*In both academia and in the workforce, there will be many instances where you will need the courage and skills to stand up and speak in front of a group of people.*

**Make an impression and it will go a long way towards advancing your career.**

SU Toast members develop leadership and communication skills by participating in club activities and a targeted speech program.

*We can get rid of the butterflies in your stomach!*

**Come to see our weekly meeting in Room 369, Link Hall on Thursdays, from 7 pm through 8 pm!!**  
 (Exception applies on Feb. 3 & Feb. 10: "Meet us in Room 371 same time.")

For more information @ <http://sutoast.freetoasthost.biz/index.html>  
 Or contact our President, Joseph T. Heard at [jtheard@syr.edu](mailto:jtheard@syr.edu)  
 Or call him at 267 - 815 - 5155.



## !IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

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### MEETING YOUR HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

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!

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ 3:00pm and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 3:00pm.  
 Optional Practical Training Seminar (OPT) - Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ 3:45pm and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 3:45pm.

### Address Change?

All International Students and Scholars that will be moving out from the "Campus Housing" must update the US Address where you will be living during the Fall semesters via your "MySlice self-service" and select CURR address. You must update your address immediately in order to be in compliance with the Immigration. If you do not update your addresses 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 and at Syracuse University.

**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 address 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)**

## IMMIGRATION UPDATES

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### 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 less than 9 credits this semester you must fill out a Certificate of Full-Time Status [http://international.syr.edu/full\\_time\\_status\\_certification-Jan04.pdf](http://international.syr.edu/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/>

### USCIS FY 2012 H-1B Cap Count

#### FY 2012 H-1B Cap Count

Cap Type	Cap Amount	Cap Eligible Petitions	Petition Target	Date of Last Count
H-1B Regular Cap	65,000	9,200		4/29/2011
H-1B Master's Exemption	20,000	6,600		4/29/2011

For more information and latest updates on H1B Visa cap count, please visit the [USCIS](#) website.

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5a9fb95919f35e661e14176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=4b7cdd1d5f937210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCHD&vgnextchannel=73566811264a3210VgnVCM1000000b92ca60aRCHD>

### 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 month, but who will be continuing their studies for Summer 2011, 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 May 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/extension\\_stay.htm](http://international.syr.edu/extension_stay.htm)

### Important Reminders

#### A Reminder About Optional Practical Training EAD Cards

F-1 students who have obtained authorization for Optional Practical Training from the USCIS and who used a mailing address other than the SCIS Office for their Employment Authorization cards are reminded to please email their EAD cards to the SCIS so that we can make a photocopy 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.

## HOUSING AND SAFETY

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### Keeping Good Rental Records

Lack of knowledge regarding leases or other rental agreements can cause a variety of problems. By keeping records of rental repair requests, security deposit disputes, and other important issues related to rental agreements, you can alleviate many of these types of problems. The most frustrating problems occur when the tenant cannot document their grievances. To prevent this, start a rental file as soon as you sign the lease and add to it throughout your lease term. A rental file is easy to keep, considering the money you may recover through rental modification or qualifying for full return on your security deposit. If a rental problem arises, it is easier to negotiate a solution with the landlord when you have written records that show the extent of the problem, what you asked the landlord to do about it, and how the landlord responded.

#### Your Rental File Should Hold:

##### A Rental Log

Use a simple notebook to write all dates and times you contacted or tried to contact your landlord; make a note of any discussion. Logs are a useful permanent record of how the landlord did or did not respond to problems.

##### Apartment Condition Checklist

This is proof of the condition of the apartment when you move in and out. Keep a copy and send the original to the landlord by certified mail and return receipt.

##### Correspondence With Your Landlord

Make any complaints or concerns in writing and keep copies on file. All verbal requests should be followed up in writing with copies in your file.

##### Reports

Keep copies of the Certificate of Suitability, building inspection reports, police reports, and any other reports from other agencies.

##### Photographs

Photos may be the evidence you need to document a repair or security deposit problem. Photos should be dated and signed by a witness.

##### Off-Campus Housing 101

It is that time of year: time to begin looking for off-campus housing for the 2011-12 academic year. The rental season begins very early in Syracuse, but that does not mean that you have to sign a lease right now; you should not rush to sign a lease and should learn about off-campus housing prior to making the decision to move off-campus. A lease should not be signed until the property has been researched, roommates are confirmed, and the lease has been reviewed by Student Legal Services.

There are a number of rental units available in the University area and one of the best sources for advice and information about off-campus housing are friends and classmates. Another good place to search is Orange Housing. Orange Housing maintains a web site of apartment offerings in the neighborhoods adjacent to campus. The Orange Housing website is [www.orangehousing.com](http://www.orangehousing.com). It is important to keep in mind that this local company is not affiliated with Syracuse University or SUNY ESF and there are absolutely no guarantees about the quality and reliability of the information posted on the website. Orange Housing also offers roommate searches, sublet listings, and information relevant to apartment hunters. Apartment listings can also be found in the *Daily Orange* and at [www.apartmentfinder.com](http://www.apartmentfinder.com).

Your first step in your apartment search is determining your needs. Important considerations include:

- Distance from campus
- How much you can afford for rent and utilities
- On or off-street parking
- Number of roommates

- Furnished or non-furnished apartment
- Length of lease
- Pets

Once you have determined your needs you will want to view two or more rentals that meet your criteria. Check out each apartment thoroughly; don't be afraid to test faucets, doorknobs, etc. and make sure you are satisfied with the safety features available (window locks, security lights, etc.). You should talk with the current tenants about the apartment; ask about location and experiences with the landlord. Once you decide on an apartment and have done all needed research, you should have the lease reviewed by Student Legal Services.

The Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services (OCCS) is a resource that you should also utilize in your search for off campus housing. OCCS staff will assist you in your search by educating you on what is needed to have a successful off-campus living experience. OCCS is available for in person assistance at 754 Ostrom Avenue, via phone at 315-443-5489, online at [offcampus@syr.edu](mailto:offcampus@syr.edu), via email at [offcampus@syr.edu](mailto:offcampus@syr.edu)

### Apartment Safety Tips

Burglars strike in any neighborhood. They are opportunistic and always look for such easy targets as homes that are left open, not well maintained, out of eyesight or earshot of neighbors, or obscured by landscaping or fencing. The best way to minimize your chances of becoming a victim is to take sensible precautions.

The following tips offered by the City of Syracuse Police Department are designed to help you reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime. You may already be aware of some strategies, but others may be new to you. Remember to trust your instincts and use common sense. Do not let yourself become a victim of a crime!

#### Before Renting an Apartment

Survey the residence for the following security features:

- Does the apartment have metal or solid core wooden entry and exit doors? Are these doors equipped with deadbolts? Are the locks mounted securely? Have the doors been re-keyed since the last tenant moved out?
- Can visitors be observed without opening the apartment door either through a door "peephole" viewer or window?
- Does any outside vegetation block doors or windows from public view? Does the vegetation provide places or concealment at entrances at or along walkways?
- Is there adequate lighting at the building entry doors and along walkways? Are the outer doors kept locked at all times?

#### In Your Apartment

- Keep your doors locked at all times, especially when you are alone, sleeping, or the apartment is unoccupied (even if only for a few moments).
- Determine who is on the other side of the door before opening it. Have repair or service personnel show official identification and confirm their presence with the person requesting the service. Delivery persons should remain outside to await the person requesting the delivery.
- If you return home and something looks questionable (e.g., a slit screen, broken window, or open door) do not go inside. Call the Syracuse Police Department from a safe location.
- Be sure you have blinds or curtains on your windows to discourage window peepers. Always keep your windows covered at night and leave lights on in two or more rooms.
- Make a list of your valuables and record any serial numbers.
- Be sure all outdoor lighting fixtures are in working condition. Ask your landlord to make immediate repairs.
- Place items of value out of sight and in locked areas. Do not leave valuables unattended in such common areas as laundry rooms and lounges.
- Ask your landlord to maintain and trim shrubbery.

### Register your valuables

Your new iPad sells for  
**\$600 on eBay**



Register your valuables with the Syracuse Police Department. Go to <http://publicsafety.syr.edu> and click on 'Register your Property.'

Intended as a preventative tool, the registration will aid SPD and DPS in the recovery of personal property in the event of a theft.

Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Unit • 005 Sims Hall • 315-443-3873 • [dpadmin@syr.edu](mailto:dpadmin@syr.edu)

**In recent weeks, SU's Department of Public Safety has investigated the theft of several laptops and other personal property stolen from within academic buildings on campus. In each instance, the thefts occurred when students stepped away from their work area for only a brief period of time. Upon their return, the property was missing.**

**Everyone is reminded to never leave personal property unattended, even for a short period of time. Anyone with questions or concerns may contact the Department of Public Safety at 443-2224.**

### Getting Repairs Made in Your Apartment

As a tenant, you are entitled to a livable, safe and sanitary apartment. Failure to provide heat or hot water on a regular basis or to rid an apartment of insect infestation is an example of a violation of this entitlement.

All landlords are required to maintain **electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating and ventilating systems** in good working order. Landlords of buildings with three or more apartments must keep apartments and public areas in "good repair." Landlords also have a duty to keep every part of a dwelling clean and free of vermin, dirt, garbage, and other offensive material.

All landlords in the City of Syracuse must maintain their premises in accordance with Syracuse Property Code. The Housing Complaint section of the Division of Code Enforcement enforces the City Code by responding to reports and complaints about housing maintenance, overgrown yards, trash and debris and disabled vehicles on private property. In addition they work with other agencies to improve residential neighborhoods.

If you have a complaint concerning the habitability or repair of your apartment, contact the Syracuse Division of Code Enforcement at **(315) 448-8695**.

If you have any questions you can call our office @ 443-5489.

### Landlord Information Sharing Program

The **Landlord Information Sharing Program (LISP)** is designed to provide students with a method for communicating with each other from year to year about their rental housing challenges and successes.

#### Process

Any Syracuse University or SUNY ESF student can fill out a Comment Form found on our web site at [offcampus.syr.edu](http://offcampus.syr.edu) or in our office at 754 Ostrom Avenue. Students must clearly explain their concerns or issues in the form provided or by attaching a separate typed letter. They must use facts to describe the situation that is the basis for their documentation—they cannot simply provide an opinion of their landlord with no supporting factual basis.

OCCS staff would also like to hear about any positive interactions that students might have with their landlords. If students have positive experiences that they would like us or other students to know about, they should send us a letter clearly explaining the interaction, using facts to describe the situation—they should not simply provide an opinion of their landlord with no supporting factual basis.

#### What happens when a Comment Form is filed?

OCCS staff will review all completed Comment Forms. If any include unprofessional language or are not appropriate to share with other students, it will be returned to the student with a letter explaining why. OCCS staff will forward a copy of the submitted Comment Form to the student's landlord. The landlord may respond to the concerns or issues directly or may respond by sending a letter to the OCCS. If the OCCS receives a response, a copy will be mailed to the student. OCCS staff will keep a copy of all Comment Forms and landlord responses in our office at 754 Ostrom Avenue. All names, contact information, and any other identifying information will be redacted from the Comment Forms and responses. Other SU/SUNY ESF students will be able to view your Comment Form and your landlord's response when they are searching for off-campus housing.

We encourage students viewing the landlord files to consider not only the number and type of concerns or issues raised, but the landlords' responses to them. Please note that the views expressed in these materials are solely those of students and local property owners and not those of Syracuse University.

Sometimes your landlord may not respond to your concerns or issues, or may respond unfavorably. OCCS staff will work with you throughout the process to seek to accomplish a resolution to your problem. When appropriate, OCCS staff will refer you to agencies that are better able to assist you, such as the Syracuse Police Department, City of Syracuse Division of Code Enforcement, Conflict Mediation Center, Student Legal Services, etc.

### Lease Disputes and General Landlord Complaints

- If you have a disagreement with your landlord concerning either of your responsibilities, it is best to try to reach an agreement.
- After reaching an agreement with your landlord in person or over the phone, follow up your discussion in writing. Include anything you or your landlord agreed to in your letter.
- If a dispute still exists between you and your landlord, you may want to consult Student Legal Services (443-4532). They can provide free legal consultation and advice about landlord-tenant issues.
- You can also file a complaint against your landlord with the New York State attorney general's office. To obtain a complaint form, call 448-4800 (ask for the Consumer Affairs Department) or 1-800-771-7755 (Consumer Helpline); visit [www.oag.state.ny.us](http://www.oag.state.ny.us) (go to Consumer Issues); or contact The Office of Orientation and Off-Campus Programs.
- When you file your complaint with the attorney general's office, include a copy of your lease and copies of any correspondence you've had with your landlord concerning the problem.
- Once you file your complaint, staff from the attorney general's office will conduct an informal mediation session between you and your landlord, usually by phone, and provide advice for resolving the dispute.

### Cell phone Offers to SU International Students



**18% off** for Syracuse University Students use Discount Code [2386165](#)

- World Phones available
- Exclusive provider of the Apple iPhone & BlackBerry TORCH
- Competitive domestic and international plans available
- Only domestic carrier that offers rollover minutes
- Receive 18% off monthly voice and data plans (not prepaid)
- Text messaging plan discounts available on select phones
  - \$2 Off 200 Message Plan - Your Cost \$3
  - \$5 Off 1500 Message Plan - Your Cost \$10
  - \$5 Off Unlimited Plan - Your Cost \$15
- Offer excludes iPhone Text Messaging Plans
- Prepaid service plans available
- Waived security deposit for one line of service (only available only at Company Owned Retail Stores, not available online or at Authorized Dealers.)
- Prices reflect 18% Syracuse University Student Discount Code [2386165](#)
- Rates apply to calls made from within the U.S., Puerto Rico and U.S Virgin Islands
- Convenient and affordable calling from the U.S to over 220 countries
- International Roaming agreements in over 100 countries, rates vary
- For more details on International Roaming, see [www.att.com/international](http://www.att.com/international)

**T-Mobile** also offers prepaid **Pay-As-You-Go** plans. Which are designed for single subscribers (no family plans) who are in the USA for only a couple of years. For further details please check the following website  
<http://www.t-mobile.com/shop/plans/prepaid-plans.aspx>



### Pedestrian Safety Tips

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!



### 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](http://www.haylor.com/student) or send an e-mail to: [student@haylor.com](mailto:student@haylor.com)



### For your safety, please remember...

- On campus after dark, use DPS' free escort service. Off campus, use SU Home (it's free); call 315-443-2224 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.

### 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](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:**

*"Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice."*

~**Anton Chekov**

*"Everyone has his burden. What counts is how you carry it."*

~**Merle Miller**

*"Happiness always looks small while you hold it in your hands, but let it go, and you learn at once how big and precious it is."*

~**Maxim Gorky**

*"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it"*

~**Thomas Jefferson**

*"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen".*

~**Michael Jordan**

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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](mailto:dbabanhu@syr.edu)

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