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Friday, April 25, 2008

## **OPT 17 Month STEM Extension Update**

The Slutzker Center has created a webpage that explains STEM Extension eligibility criteria, the process for requesting a STEM extension I-20, and how to file the extension application with USCIS. If you think that you may be eligible for the one-time 17 month OPT STEM extension, please access: [http://international.syr.edu/STEM\\_Extension.html](http://international.syr.edu/STEM_Extension.html) for additional information. This webpage is also accessible from the [front page](#) of our website and the [F-1 Practical Training navigation menu](#).

## **USCIS to Allow F-1 Students Opportunity to Request Change of Status**

The new rule granting "cap-gap" extensions to F-1 students who applied for a FY 09 H-1B number limits the cap-gap extension to beneficiaries of H-1B petitions who requested *change of status*. Since the cap-gap rule was published after the FY 09 H-1B filing season opened, however, many beneficiaries had applied for consular notification rather than change of status, following guidance applicable under the prior rule. To address this, USCIS developed a policy that allows the petitioning employer to convert "consular processing" requests to "change of status," so that the beneficiary can benefit from the new cap-gap provision. Employers must make such requests within 30 days of the issuance of the petition receipt notice, by e-mailing the Service Center handling the petition. [More information...](#)

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## **Additional Travel Seminars**

Traveling after the semester ends? Daily travel seminars will be held for the next three weeks at the Slutzker Center. Please check SCIS News on Friday, May 2 for the schedule for May 5-9.

The Director has recently met with representatives of Customs and Border Patrol, and updated information about travel requirement for foreign nationals will be reviewed. Information is also posted on our website.

### Schedule for April 26-May 2:

Monday, April 28: 4:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, April 29: 4:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, April 30: 11:00 a.m.  
 Thursday, May 1: 11:00 a.m.  
 Friday, May 2: 4:00 p.m.

## **Judy Hung Solo Piano Recital**

Day: Sunday, April 27, 2008  
 Time: 5 p.m.  
 Location: Setnor Auditorium, Crouse College, Syracuse University

Free admission; reception to follow.

Program:

3 Scarlatti Sonatas  
 Beethoven Sonata in A-flat Major, Op. 110  
 Rachmaninoff Prelude in D Major, Op. 23 No. 4  
 Liszt Mephisto Waltz No. 1  
 Selected music by Cowell and Crumb

About the performer:

Judy Hung is originally from Taiwan. She is a second year graduate student at Setnor School of Music, and is the Heaton Music Fellowship recipient in piano studies. She would like to invite all the international students at Syracuse University to come to her recital. She is looking forward to share wonderful music with everyone!

## **Extended Bus Service for Exam Week**

The #344 South Campus shuttle will begin operating 24 hours per day, starting Monday, April 28, and will continue until Wednesday, May 7. The additional trips from College Place to South Campus are scheduled to operate at 3:40 a.m., 3:50 a.m., 4:00 a.m., etc. and will operate every 10 minutes throughout the early morning.

## **Shuttle U Home Program Hours Extended**

The Shuttle U Home Program will be extending its hours to help accommodate students during Reading Days and final exams. SUH will run from Wednesday, April 30 until Thursday, May 15. The hours the shuttle will run are 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., with the last sign-in at 4:30.

## **Congratulations on a Successful Year—Celebrate Responsibly**

As the end of this academic year approaches, you are probably preparing for final exams. As exams come to an end, there will be much to celebrate. Some of you are graduating and others are putting finishing touches to another successful year.

Neighbors tell us that this year the neighborhood was quieter than ever. They appreciate that students have acted responsibly and respected the rights of others

It is our hope that you continue to act responsibly in the days ahead. The University is committed to working with students and the community to ensure that the close to this academic year is both safe and enjoyable.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. Best of luck on your final exams and have an eventful and productive summer.

-- Office of Orientation and Off-Campus Programs

## **Cleaning & Storage Tips**

Now that the school year is almost over, it is time to begin thinking about moving out of your apartment! Whether you are moving out of your apartment for good, or just for the summer, you need to give it a good cleaning before you leave. Here are some tips from <http://yumyum.com> that can help you save time and money!

- The best dust cloths: A pair of socks. Put one on each hand and use both at once.
- The cheapest window cleaning solution: Windshield wiper fluid. Buy in by the gallon in the auto supply department.
- The best wiper for windows: Old newspapers. Cheap and lint free.
- Easiest way to clean a stained coffeepot: Soak a denture tablet in it over night. Also works to clean the inside of teapots and vases.
- The best sink cleaner: Baking soda. Gets rid of green stains in your sink. Just sprinkle it on and rub off.
- Best home remedy for carpets: Blot up spill first, then saturate with club soda and/or Windex.
- Neatest way to stack bed linens: Fold pillowcases inside the sheet, and one sheet inside the other.
- Least expensive way to make drawers smell nice: Leave empty perfume bottles uncapped inside drawers. Or insert a perfume sample ad from a magazine.

If you are moving out at the end of your lease, you should leave you house clean enough so that a new tenant could comfortably move in after you. This is true even if your apartment was not clean when you moved in! Save receipts from cleaning supplies that you use during your end of the year clean-up. This can help you prove that you left the apartment clean if your landlord withholds some of your security deposit for cleaning charges. Better yet, take photographs of the condition of your empty, clean apartment before you move out.

-- Office of Orientation and Off-Campus Programs

## **Full-Time On-Campus Employment Over the Summer**

On-campus employment is limited to 20 hours per week during the academic semester and may be increased to full-time employment (more than 20 hours/week) during approved winter, spring, and summer breaks. The 20 hour limitation applies to all international students (including RA's, TA's, and GA's) unless additional employment has been authorized by the USCIS or Slutzker Center (e.g., CPT). [More information...](#)

Approved University breaks when full-time on-campus employment is acceptable:

Summer: May 8 through and including August 24, 2008

Winter: December 12, 2008 through and including January 11, 2009

Spring: March 8, through and including March 15, 2009

## **Midnight Pancake Breakfasts**

On April 30 and May 4, Student Centers and Programming Services and the [Office of Student Life](#) will launch a new Syracuse University tradition: the Midnight Pancake Breakfast. Students are invited to take a stress-busting break, hang out with friends, get a picture taken with Otto, and get some good food.

April 30, 2008

Schine Student Center Dining

10 p.m.-2 a.m.

breakfast foods available for \$4.99 with supercard

May 4, 2008

Goldstein Student Center Dining

10 p.m.-2 a.m.

breakfast foods available for \$4.99 with supercard

Student Centers and Programming Services and the Office of Student Life ask you to share this invitation with students, and invite you to assist as a volunteer. Volunteer shifts run from 9:30 p.m.-midnight and midnight-2 a.m.

Please email Courtney Jones at [cejone02@syr.edu](mailto:cejone02@syr.edu) by April 23 if you are interested

in assisting, indicating which shift or shifts you are willing to serve.

## **Ten Tons of Love**

*Ten Tons of Love* is Syracuse University and SUNY ESF's annual food and clothing drive. Last year over 20 tons of donated goods were collected. The drive runs from April 29-May 16, 2008. *Ten Tons of Love* is only possible with the assistance of many volunteers, like you, to help load, move and sort all the donated items. [To volunteer...](#)

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