Monday, June 22, 2009

! Important Announcements!

- The ICS and SCIS invite you to join us for a fun picnic with lots of good food at Onondaga Lake Park on Sunday, July 5th from 1:00 to 5:00pm. (For more information please read below)

- PEER ASSISTANTS NEEDED TO HELP INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: The Slutzker Center for International Services is currently accepting Peer Assistant volunteer applications for the Summer and Fall 2009 semesters. Peer Assistants’ key responsibilities include assisting new international students with the initial clearance process and helping them adjust to the college environment and life in the Syracuse community. In addition to giving back to the University community, being a Peer Assistant provides a great opportunity to meet new international students, share your experiences, build your resume, and form new friendships. You can pick up an application from our office or you can e-mail a request to Fariba farahman@syr.edu for an electronic application.

- Research project taking place at the Slutzker Center for International Services: Graduate student researchers from Buffalo State College are conducting a survey of international students at Syracuse University. You are invited to participate and complete the 29 question survey. It is expected to take about 5 minutes. All of the answers are secret, and no student will be identified in this survey. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey for research by clicking on the link below. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2bL02hWE0ZUxBDskwwP2GHDQ_3d_3d

- Are You Male, from the Republic of Korea, and Planning to Enter Military Service? Many male students who are from the Republic of Korea make plans to enter the military service for their required obligation some time during their years at SU. If you are entering the Korean military service this summer or fall, and will not be taking classes while you are on military leave, please see an international advisor at the Slutzker Center.

- Travelling This Summer? Have Your Documents! 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.

- Are You Applying for OPT This Summer?
  Please keep in mind that it could take up to 3 months to process an OPT application and receive your EAD card. You cannot work until you have your EAD card, so make sure you think about applying for OPT as early as possible. Otherwise you may not be able to begin work as planned. Also, if you are uncertain about your ability to graduate or your desire for OPT, please keep in mind that you can apply for OPT up until 60 days after your I-20 ends. Just don’t wait until day 58 though!

- Address Change?
  You must always provide a current physical address to the SCIS in order to keep your SEVIS registration current and to maintain your lawful status. You have 10 days to inform the SCIS of any changes or you are in violation of your status. http://international.syr.edu/address_update_opt.htm

The International Center of Syracuse and The Lillian and Emanuel Slutzker Center for International Services

** INVITE YOU TO **

Join us for a fun picnic with lots of good food at Onondaga Lake Park

When: Sunday, July 5th, 2009
Time: 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Where: Onondaga Lake Park - Saw Mill Creek Shelter in Willow Bay, Liverpool, NY (106 Lake Drive)

You are invited to the beautiful Onondaga Lake Park for an afternoon of eating, hiking, games, music and relaxing with old or new friends. Please bring a dish to share. Soft drinks, plates, and eating utensils will be provided. Meet us at the SCIS building by 12:15pm if you need a ride or if you'll be driving others. The picnic will be held rain or shine under a covered pavilion. For more information about the park, please visit http://www.onondagacountyparks.com/olp/shelters#willow or call 315-453-6712.

RSVP by Friday, June 30th. Please fill out the attached form (see below) and return it to the International Center of Syracuse (ICS) at 930 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203 OR respond to this email. If you have any additional questions please contact the ICS at 315-471-0252 or ics@broadviewnet.net

U.S. Immigration Requirements If You Are Leaving Syracuse University Permanently.

SCIS advisers are often asked what the immigration requirements are if a student will no longer be continuing at SU, either because the student is returning to his/her home country, or is beginning Practical Training or Academic Training, or because the student is going to begin study at a new school. Regardless of your plans, retain your old I-20s (or DS-2019s)! These forms represent your immigration history in the United States and should be kept in a safe place as you would keep any important document in case you might need them in the future. 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

Also, follow your new school’s instructions for Transfer In forms, obtaining your I-20, and for reporting to that school in a timely fashion.

Students who will be ending 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., PhD), 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.

Latest Information on H-1B Visa Processing
The most recent H-1B update was published on June 12th. USCIS has received approximately 44,400 H-1B cap-subject petitions and approximately 20,000 petitions qualifying for the advanced degree cap exemption had been filed. USCIS will continue to accept both cap-subject petitions and advanced degree petitions until a sufficient number of H-1B petitions have been received to reach the statutory limits, taking into account the fact that some of these petitions may be denied, revoked, or withdrawn.

USCIS will provide regular updates on the processing of FY2010 H-1B petitions. The updates can be found on the USCIS’ Web site at www.uscis.gov/h-1b_count

Planning to Travel Outside the United States With a Child?
If you have a child (or children) with you in the United States, and plan to travel abroad with them this Summer, we recommend that you read an important article about traveling with children. The article specifically addresses issues when only one parent is traveling with the children. Please visit: http://isss.binghamton.edu/travel/parentchild.html

Summer Bus Schedule
The Quad Shuttle runs at morning and afternoon peak times over the summer, and the Manley service will now extend to the Skytop Office Building. Bus schedules have been posted at all shelter locations. Schedules may also be printed from the Parking and Transit Services website at http://parking.syr.edu.

Regular service resumes when classes start in the fall.

QUESTIONS? Contact:
Parking and Transit Services
621 Skytop Road
Phone: 443-1049
Email: svanderp@syr.edu
Web: http://parking.syr.edu

Academy of Television Arts & Science sponsoring a script writing competition for international novice writers!
Each year, The Foundation of The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences administers the Sir Peter Ustinov Television Scriptwriting Award. The competition is designed to motivate non-American novice writers under the age of 30, and to offer them the recognition and encouragement that might lead to a successful career in television scriptwriting. Entrants are asked to create a completed half-hour to one-hour (commercial length) English-language television drama script for a family audience. The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2009, and the winner will be flown to New York City to be presented with an Award and a US$2,500 prize at the International Emmy® World Television Festival on November 21, 2009. For more information please check the following Link:

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

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