1. Daylight Savings
   Did you know that Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday? March 13th will be the first day of Eastern Standard Time. You will want to fix your clocks and other electronic devices by setting them one hour forward when you go to sleep on Saturday, March 12th.

2. Participate for chance to win dinner for two
   We are thinking on changing the title for our SCIS News and we need your help!! Please click on the link below and suggest different titles that you think that would be the most appropriate for our weekly newsletter. http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MZBC7Z7

   The best title for our SCIS newsletter will win a dinner for 2 at Samrat Indian Restaurant in Syracuse, NY and your name will be announced in the next Newsletter!!
3. Immigration Update: 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.

4. Flying Out of Syracuse for Spring Break?

Planning to travel during this Spring Break - please get your I-20 or DS-2019 (for J-1 students or scholars) signed as soon as possible!

Carry-On Baggage: Think Small, Think Smart, Think Safe

Check with the airport for the number of carry-on bags allowed.
The maximum size carry-on for most airlines is 45 linear inches.
Keep essentials such as prescriptions, personal hygiene items, passport, important documents, and valuables (jewelry or cameras) in your possession.
Plan to check more of your baggage and carry on less.
Stow heavy items under the seat in front of you, not overhead.
No oversized packages or luggage can be stored on board.
Don't assume the flight has unlimited closet space for garment bags; some may have to be checked.
Don't pack anything in a carry-on bag that could be considered a weapon (e.g., razors, scissors, knives).

Dress the Part
Avoid wearing clothing, jewelry, or other accessories that contain metal when traveling:
Jewelry (pins, necklaces, bracelets, rings, watches, earrings, body piercings, cuff links, lanyard or bow tie). Shoes with steel tips, heels, shanks, buckles or nails.
Clothing with metal buttons, snaps or studs.
Metal hair barrettes or other hair decoration.
Belt buckles.
Passengers who wear sensible clothing can reduce their chances of serious injury in the unlikely event of an emergency.
Wear clothes made of natural fabrics such as cotton, wool, denim or leather. Synthetics may melt when heated.
Dress to cover as much skin as possible.
Wear low-heeled, leather or canvas shoes.

Other Airport Security Issues
Arrive early. Current security measures increase time needed to check in.
Do not leave your car unattended in front of the terminal.
Keep your photo identification handy.
Keep your eyes open for unattended packages and bags, and report them to authorities.
Both carry-on and checked bags are subject to being hand-searched.
Leave all valuables at home. Do not take anything with you that you cannot afford to lose.
While packing, make a list of your luggage contents to give to the airline, in case your luggage is lost.

5. Taxes

Tax Seminars:
It is your obligation as a student/scholar to file a federal (and maybe a state) tax return by April 15, 2011! The Slutzker Center for International Services has tried to set up systems to help you meet those obligations. Information about CINTAX is available on our website http://international.syr.edu/Tax_Information.htm, and through this newsletter. In addition, we will have two tax seminars. The first seminar will feature representatives from both the U.S. Income Tax Education Department, and the NYS Department of Finance.
and Taxation. The second seminar will ONLY include the NYS Department of Finance and Taxation. We advise you to have already completed your federal return via CINTAX and bring the completed form with you for that seminar. It is NOT necessary (nor desirable) to come to both seminars!

**TAX SEMINARS will be offered:**

**When:**

1. Tuesday - March 29, 2011
   A representative from both the Federal and State will be at the March 16th seminar.

   **Where:** Heroy Geology Auditorium
   **Time:** 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM (the seminar will start promptly at 3:30pm).

2. Wednesday - April 6, 2011
   **Where:** Maxwell Auditorium
   **Time:** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (the seminars will start promptly at 2:00pm).

   If you are planning on attending the April 6th seminar you must have the Federal portion of your tax forms completed as there will only be the State Representative present. In order for you to have the federal portion completed, you must request a CINTAX password by 12:00pm (noon) on Tuesday, April 5.

   The Slutzker Center for International Services has opened access to CINTAX, the web-based income tax preparation software for filing your federal tax forms. CINTAX passwords are now available! The only way to request a CINTAX password is from our website at [http://international.syr.edu/Form_CINTAX_Password_new.html](http://international.syr.edu/Form_CINTAX_Password_new.html). It is important that you complete all fields on the form to receive a password. There is a maximum of 3 ½ business day turnaround time for the password.

**Are You Employed This Semester?**

**Here's an Important Tax Tip for F-1s and J-1s!**

If you are an international student in F-1 or J-1 status who is working on campus for Spring 2011, have you examined your paychecks carefully? Here is some important information for you. The information that comes with your paycheck may show that both federal and state income tax (or just federal income tax) are being withheld from your paycheck. This is correct, since students in F-1 or J-1 status do pay federal and state income taxes on money they earn through on-campus employment. However, if your paycheck information shows that social security tax and/or Medicare tax are being withheld from your paycheck, this may be an error! F-1 or J-1 students who have been in the United States in F-1 or J-1 status for five years or less do not pay social security or Medicare tax on employment earnings authorized by federal Immigration regulations, including on-campus employment. So, if you believe a mistake has been made, speak with someone in the appropriate payroll office, and have your pay stub with you. You are entitled to a refund of any social security or Medicare tax incorrectly withheld.


6. **Movie Night at the Slutzker Center**

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   **Dear first year undergraduate and transfer Students,**
   
   Hi, my name is Rongrong Cui, and I am the Graduate Assistant at the Slutzker Center for International Services. I am also one of the mentors in the Connections Program. Some of you have joined us last semester for some fun activities with you mentors and some of you may just be hearing about us for the first time. No matter how much you know about us, you should learn that we are here to support each individual of you and try to provide assistance, guidance and resources to you all. I hope everyone is doing great so far and if not, please let us know and we are willing to help you. As a Master’s student, as well as an international student myself, I understand sometimes we may feel very overwhelmed with our study, our language or our social interaction with others. There needs to be some fun for you and that is the reason why I am writing to you all.

   The connections program is going to set up a Movie Night at the Slutzker Center on Saturday, March 5th at 5 pm. We will provide delicious food and drinks for free to everybody and at 6:30 pm, we will play the movie Madagascar for you. Someone may have seen it before but for such a lovely and happy movie, you will never regret watching it again. Also, feel free to bring a blanket, a pillow, or anything that makes you comfortable when you watch a movie at your home.

   Please email me at rcui@syr.edu or to our mentors (Check here to meet the mentors) directly if you want to join us. We need to confirm how many people will come and prepare enough food and drink on. You can also bring your friends here and just make sure your count them in when you confirm the number of people to us. We hope everyone can come and have a great evening with us.

7. **Social Networking Survey for Ph.D students**

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   **Click on the link below to take the survey.** If sufficient interest is demonstrated, the first “Grads Group” for international Ph.D. students will be held soon at the Slutzker Center for International Services. More information
8. Strategies for Succeeding in Your Ph.D. Program

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
TIME: 2:30pm to 4:00pm

From intense, demanding courses to qualifying exams, from dissertation proposal to dissertation defense, from teaching to conference presentations to going on the job market, Ph.D. programs are a minefield of new and often grueling experiences. Luckily, you do not need to walk it alone. A panel of advanced doctoral students in the humanities, social sciences and education will discuss the strategies they have used to cope with unrealistic workloads, juggle competing priorities and still have a life. They will address your specific concerns and shine a light on "the things you don't know you don't know." Panelists include Fumilayo Showers (sociology), Crista Gray (cultural foundations of education), Deepa Prakash (political science) and C.J. Dosch (English). Light refreshments served.

More information...

Location: 107 Hall of Languages, Price: Free
Sponsoring department/organization: Career Services and the Graduate School
Contact: Glenn Wright E-Mail: glwright@syr.edu, 443-3458

9. Global Nomads

Global Nomads have occupied a prominent place in the life of Syracuse University and SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry. As part of an international organization, its members have the opportunity to address faculty, students and administrators in panel sessions organized to celebrate International Education Week, and in conferences that take place in and beyond the Central New York Region.

If you are interested in meeting other Global Nomads (and that includes newly arrived students and scholars from abroad and "old hands" who have already made their mark on the university community), please respond to this notice by sending an email to:

Sidney (Skip) Greenblatt
Sidney.Greenblatt@gmail.com

10. Email Scam - Avoid Green Card Lottery Fraud

Have you or someone you know recently received an e-mail claiming you've won the Green Card lottery and asking you to send or wire money?
Don't fall for it! The sender is trying to steal your money!
Fraudsters will frequently e-mail potential victims posing as State Department or other government officials with requests to wire or transfer money online as part of a processing fee. You should never transfer money to anyone who e-mails you claiming that you have won the Diversity Visa (DV) lottery or been selected for a Green Card.

Learn more at: http://blog.uscis.gov/2011/03/e-mail-scam-avoid-green-card-lottery.html

11. Iranian Community of Syracuse Celebrates Persian New Year

Have you ever heard of the Persians celebrating a new year in the middle of March? Why not come out and find out what it's all about.

More information...

Location: 107 Hall of Languages, Price: Free
Sponsoring department/organization: Career Services and the Graduate School
Contact: Glenn Wright E-Mail: glwright@syr.edu, 443-3458

will follow. Please fill out the following survey. Thank you. http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TJ2MX29
12. **Bookstore Buzz**

**Time:** 12:15pm to 1:15pm

Save 30 percent on our featured book selections of crafts, gardening, nature, computers, cooking and pets. Join us for the following special events held each day at 12:15 p.m. in the General Book Department. Complimentary coffee, tea and dessert provided. A large selection of flowers, plants and garden accessories from Watson Greenhouse will be on sale in the lower level of the Bookstore.

- **Monday, March 7:** Simple, Fresh and Healthy with author Linda Hafner.
- **Tuesday, March 8:** Ruffs & Purrs
  Representatives from The Humane Association of CNY will be on hand.
- **Wednesday, March 9:** Apple Lunch and Learn: iPads, iPods & Mobility.
- **Thursday, March 10:** Craft Day
  Our second annual craft mixer.
- **Friday, March 11:** Helping Dogs with People Problems
  Back by popular demand, Mitch Stahl from Stahl Hunde K9.

**Location:** SU Bookstore, Price: free, Sponsoring department/organization: SU Bookstore
**Contact:** Leah Deyneka, E-Mail: ldeyneka@syr.edu, 443-1654

13. **Cirque Du Cuse**

Come join Danceworks as we celebrate 25 years at Syracuse University. **MARCH 3, 4, and 5th at 8pm** in Schine Goldstein Auditorium (doors open at 7:15)

**Tickets are available at the Schine Box Office:**
$4 with an SUID and $7 General Admission
Get your tickets NOW! It's a show you don't want to miss!

Sponsoring department/organization: Danceworks, Contact: Hannah Messinger, E-Mail: hbmessin@syr.edu, 610-613-5782

14. **Late Night at the Gym**
15. Multicultural Spring Program 2011

16. Syracuse Stage presents: August Wilson's Radio Golf

February 23 - March 13
How do we move forward without leaving behind difficult but defining aspects of our past? A powerful and timely drama from the most celebrated American playwright of this generation, Radio Golf tells the story of a man striving to become the first African American mayor of Pittsburgh. He's forced to weigh the importance of family, legacy, heritage and history against the truth of his political and class ambitions. Moving, runny, lyrical and rousing, Radio Golf is the inspiring final play of August Wilson's monumental, ten-play 20th Century Cycle and career.


Click here for further information and to buy tickets.

17. Counseling Center Grief Group

The Crisis of Rape as a Weapon of War in Congo

Presenter: Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence Micere Githae Mugo

Thursday March 10 2011
3:30-5:30 pm
College Place, Sims Hall Room 319
19. LGBT events

-Special Cafe Q Featuring Spoken Word Artist Andrea Gibson
TIME: Sunday, March 6, 2011, 6.30pm
Join us for this special edition of Cafe Q as Andrea Gibson, a well-known spoken word artist and winner of the 2008 Women of the World poetry slam performs some of her works. Visit www.andreagibson.org for more information about our guest performer!
Co-sponsored by Pride Union.
Location: Gifford Auditorium, HBC
Sponsoring department/organization: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center, The Division of Student Affairs
Contact: Allison Forbes, arforbes@syr.edu

-Time New to 'Quse
TIME: Monday, March 7, 2011, 7:30pm to 9:00pm
New to 'Quse is a discussion group for students new to SU and/or the LGBTQA community on campus. This is a great way to meet people and to find out what is happening on campus.
Location: LGBT Resource Center
Sponsoring department/organization: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center, The Division of Student Affairs
Contact: Lauren Hannans, E-Mail: lbhannah@syr.edu, 443-3983

-TransCuse
TIME: Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 5.30pm
TransCuse is a bi-weekly discussion group for transgender-identified students, faculty, and staff and their partners and friends. Discussion topics are determined by the group based on interests.
Location: LGBT Resource Center
Sponsoring department/organization: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center, The Division of Student Affairs
Contact: Lauren Adamski, E-Mail: lbadamsk@syr.edu, 443-3983

-Totally Fabulous IX: The Final Show!
TIME: Friday, March 25 2011, 8:00pm
Students compete to be the top drag kings and queens of the SU Hill in this semi-final showcase hosted by professional drag queen Samantha Vega. Tickets will be available at the Schine Box Office and are $3 for SU/ESF students, faculty, and staff and $5 for non SU/ESF persons. Sponsored by Pride Union.
Location: Goldstein Auditorium, Schine Student Center
Sponsoring department/organization: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center, The Division of Student Affairs
Contact: Danielle Sutton, E-Mail: dssutton@syr.edu

20. Healthy Monday Campaign

Move it Monday is a part of the Healthy Campus Initiative. This is a program that focuses on participation in activities that promote the various components of wellness on campus at little or no cost to the user. Various fitness classes will be offered for FREE every Monday from 1:00pm-1:50pm in the Flanagan Exercise Room on a first-come, first-served basis. The maximum enrollment for each class will vary based on the activity. Please arrive early for each class:
March 7 Mat Pilates
March 21 Abs
March 28 - Step
April 4 - Yoga
April 11 - Zumba
April 18 - Power Hour
April 25 Pilates

For the full Spring 2011 Fitness class Schedule, click here
Registration Begins Friday 1/21/11 at 8am

Meatless Monday Every Monday, choose a meatless option at dining centers or where you decide to eat. Also, be sure to check out the Try Me program at Dining Services!
Time: All day, Monday, March 7, 2011
Location: Campus Dining Centers
Sponsoring department/organization: Healthy Monday Campaign
Contact: Jessica Leeds, 443-5775

Restock Monday: Visit Health Services from 9 a.m. until noon to stock up on condoms, fresh fruit and tea or swing by Schine Atrium from 12-3 p.m. for condoms, lubricant and dental dams!
Time: 9:00am to 3:00pm, Monday, March 7, 2011
Location: Health Services & Schine Atrium, Price: free
Sponsoring department/organization: Healthy Monday Campaign;
Contact: Jessica Leeds, 443-5775

Stress Less Monday: Feeling stressed? Stop by Schine Atrium from 12-3 p.m. for a professional massage!
Time: 12:00pm to 3:00pm, Monday, March 7, 2011
Location: Schine Atrium; Price: free
Sponsoring department/organization: Healthy Monday Campaign
Contact: Jessica Leeds, 443-5775

Meditation Monday: Meditation helps you reconnect and renew. Clear your mind by coming to a meditation class at 2 p.m. in the Lower Hendricks Chapel.
Time: 2:00pm, Monday, March 7, 2011, Location: Hendricks Chapel, Price: free
Sponsoring department/organization: Healthy Monday Campaign
Contact: Jessica Leeds, 443-5775

21. SU Toast Toastmasters Club Meeting

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Weekly Salsa Update

Your “WEEKLY SALSA UPDATE” is organized as follows:

THIS SAT: Don’t miss our 2nd installation of “San Juan Nights” Latin Dance Party at Ballybay!
Our first “San Juan Nights” was a great success with 63 dancers in attendance!
THIS Sat we are proud to feature our special guest, DJ Felix from Pura Vida in Ithaca! He'll be spinning his amazing mix of Salsa Dura from Puerto Rico, New York City and Classic hits from the ’60s, ’70s & ’80s.
We’re VERY excited to bring you this special mix of music every 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturdays of the month at Ballybay Pub/Nightclub!!!
We hope to see you all there, it’s gonna be AWESOME!
...our sincere thanks to DJ JAM of SMAC in Binghamton for DJ our very first installation of "San Juan Nights" and spinning his top Salsa hits spanning 5 decades! The dancers LOVED your music, hermano...que viva la SALSA!!!

Brought to you by "la Familia de la Salsa"
Brian A. Bromka - Founder/Artistic Director
"bridging cultures through dance...one step at a time"
www.lafamiliadelasalsa.com
315-636-7133

23. Graduate Student News

Next Month
Mar. 7 Critical Pedagogies. Tania Ramalho. Mon, 4:00-5:30 pm. Goldstein Faculty Center
Mar. 8 Strategies for Succeeding in Your PhD Program (Humanities, Social Sciences and Education). Tues, 2:30-4 pm. HL 107
Mar. 9 The University Lectures: James Balog's Extreme Ice Survey. Tues, 7:30 pm. Hendricks Chapel
Mar. 9 Career Talk with Ignacio Saiz, Center for Economic and Social Rights. Wed, 3-4 pm. Eggers 341
Mar. 9 Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Public Affairs Lecture featuring Sonia Sanchez. Wed, 7:00 pm. Maxwell Auditorium
Mar. 12 Interviewing Tips for Masters Students. Tues, 2:30-4 pm. HL 107
Mar. 13 Graduate Conference: Articulations of Power. Fri, 8:30am-5pm. Eggers 151
Mar. 14 Critical Pedagogies. Tania Ramalho. Mon, 4:00-5:30 pm. Goldstein Faculty Center
Mar. 14 Happy Hour at the Inn Complete. Sponsored by your Graduate Student Organization. 5:00-7:00 pm on Fridays and 6:00-7:00pm on Mondays.

Deadlines
- Outstanding TA Portfolios due March 4.
- CNY Conference on Public Scholarship proposal deadline March 7.
- FPP Participation Summaries due from Primary Faculty Liaisons March 15.
- GSO Annual Budget Deadline March 30.
- FPP Participation Summaries due from Primary Faculty Liaisons April 1.
- GSO Conference Travel Grant deadlines for summer travel April 1.

Click here for the PDF of the full newsletter

from the office of enrollment management

All about graduating!
http://www.syr.edu/gradschool/em/current_whatyouneed.html

Steps for your final semester and procedures of defending a thesis or dissertation:
http://www.syr.edu/gradschool/em/pdfs/Steps.pdf

Thesis Format Guidelines:

Graduation Deadlines:
http://www.syr.edu/gradschool/em/pdfs/GraduationDeadlines.pdf

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Planning to Study Abroad during the Summer 2011 semester? If so, please talk to an international advisor at the Slutsker 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.

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 canceled, 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 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.

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### IMMIGRATION UPDATES

**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. 5 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.

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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/](http://international.syr.edu/)

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**USCIS Reaches FY 2011 H-1B Cap**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that it has received a sufficient number of H-1B petitions to reach the statutory cap for fiscal year (FY) 2011. USCIS is notifying the public that yesterday, Jan. 26, 2011, is the final receipt date for new H-1B specialty occupation petitions requesting an employment start date in FY2011.

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**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 Spring 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 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 2010 but who will continue their studies at approved for the new level of study, and the semester that the new level will begin.

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)

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**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.

Bus Schedule

- Spring Break buses for students

The Syracuse University Student Association announces that it will be providing round trip buses for students to travel to and from major metropolitan areas during Spring Break. For $99, buses will transport students to New York City, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington, D.C. All buses will depart from outside the front of Schine Student Center on Friday, March 11, at 5 p.m. and return from their respective locations on Sunday, March 20 at 10 a.m. Each bus has a maximum capacity of 56 passengers. Tickets are available at the Schine Box Office starting Monday, Jan. 31 and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

The designated bus stop locations are as follows:

- **New York City**: Port Authority, 625 8th Ave.,
- **Philadelphia**: Convention Center, 1101 Arch St.
- **Boston**: South Station, 700 Atlantic Ave.
- **Washington, D.C.**: Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE

Contact: Eileen Clark, SU Student Association, at etclark@syr.edu

**New Late Night Orange Express Bus Route**

Beginning Friday, Feb. 4, Syracuse University will be implementing a new Late Night Orange Express Bus service. This service, operated by Caz Limo, will run between 3:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, and all students will be required to present an SUID in order to board the bus. This bus will operate from College Place to Day, Flint, Sadler, Lawrinson, Brewster-Boland halls, as well as South Campus and the Goldstein Student Center.

Buses leaving the shelter at College Place at 3:30 a.m., 4:15 a.m., and 5 a.m. will proceed directly to Day Hall, Flint Hall, through South Campus, onto Winding Ridge, and will proceed to the Goldstein Student Center. From Goldstein, the bus will return to College Place via Colvin and Comstock. The bus will not operate through the Manley complex in either direction.

Buses leaving the shelter at College Place at 4 a.m. and 4:45 a.m. will proceed directly to West Campus, stopping at the corner of Irving Avenue and Forestry Drive, and at the corner of Henry and Van Buren streets before returning to College Place via Waverly Avenue, University Place and College Place.

**QUESTIONS?** CONTACT: Parking & Transit Services, 621 Skytop Road, Phone: 443-4652, Email: parkmail@syr.edu

Web: [http://parking.syr.edu](http://parking.syr.edu)

### HOUSING AND SAFETY

**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 security deposit disputes, and other important issues related to rental agreements, you can alleviate many of these types of problems. The lack of knowledge regarding leases or other rental agreements can cause a variety of problems.

**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, via email at 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.
- 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.

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 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, the student 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 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.

### Parking Regulations In The University Neighborhoods

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 starts at 6 p.m. on the side of the street with odd address numbers; on even dates, parking starts 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. Working collaboratively with the Syracuse Police Department, we want the campus community to know the rules so they can follow them.

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.

### Cell phone Offers to SU International Students

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

**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](http://www.t-mobile.com/shop/plans/prepaid-plans.aspx)

### Special Registration (NSEERS)

Further security checks after initial immigration inspection are typically required for:

© Certain citizens or nationals of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Syria, as designated by the DHA Secretary in the Federal Register.

© Males age 16-45 from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen

© Foreign nationals of any country may be asked by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) officer to undergo Special Registration if they feel they may be a national security threat.

If you are subject to special registration procedures, it is your responsibility to make certain that your entry and departure is documented by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) inspecting officer, every time you leave and re-enter the U.S. (This may add a significant amount of time onto departure so please plan accordingly).

A helpful reminder of where the pertinent NSEERS registrations may be found at the following airports in the state of New York. [http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-28418.htm](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-28418.htm)

**Buffalo Peace Bridge POE, New York;**

**Cape Vincent POE, New York;**

**Champlain POE, New York;**

**Chateaugay POE, New York;**

**Fort Covington POE, New York;**

**Heart Island POE, New York;**

**John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York;**

**Lewis Island POE, New York;**

**Mooers POE, New York;**

**Niagara Falls, Rainbow Bridge, New York;**

**Newark International Airport (NEW), New Jersey;**

**Ogdensburg POE, New York;**

**Rochester-Ferry Terminal, New York;**

**Rouses Point POE, New York;**

**Seaway International Bridge/Massena POE, New York;**

**Thousand Islands POE, New York;**

**Trout River POE, New York**

### 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 or send an e-mail to: 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 478 (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

QUESTIONS? Contact: Parking and Transit Services
621 Skytop Road
Phone: 315-443-1049
Web: http://parking.syr.edu

Motivational Quotes of the Week:

- "Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." - Oliver Wendell Holmes
- "Example is not another way to teach, it is the only way to teach." - Albert Einstein
- "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." - Aristotle
- "Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people." - Eleanor Roosevelt
- "You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing." - Michael Pritchard

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

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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