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Immigration News and Events

CBP Expands Public Private Partnerships Plans Locations for 2,000 New Officers March 31

U.S. Customs and Border Protection today announced a new Reimbursable Services and Donations Acceptance authority and the allocation of 2,000 additional CBP officers to further enhance security and improve service levels at ports of entry across the country, while facilitating trade and travel essential to the growing U.S. economy. These efforts are key components of the agency's Resource Optimization Strategy which maximizes resources and increases efficiencies in order to improve travelers' experiences as they arrive at the nation's ports of entry.

As a result of funding provided in the fiscal year 2014 budget, CBP today also announces the allocation of 2,000 new CBP officers at air, land and sea ports across the country. Among the cities that will see an increase in personnel at their local ports are New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, Buffalo, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Las Vegas, Laredo, Texas, Nogales, Arizona and New Orleans. Overall, 44 ports in 18 states will receive additional staffing that will reduce wait times, and help speed the lawful flow of goods and people into the nation.



[Read Full Article](#)

Demand Rises for International Student Video Applications

A video interview company supplying recorded interviews to support international students' university applications around the USA has reported quadruple growth in its second admission cycle, with demand high for its offer of helping authenticate Chinese applications in particular.

The boom in interest is driven by demand from admission officers looking to seek assurance as regards a student's English language capabilities. Academic programs partnering with [InitialView](#) have risen to 180, up from 13 in its first year.

In addition to providing more transparency to the admission process, InitialView CEO Terry Crawford told *The PIE News* that some universities report that students who have interviews attached to their applications double their chances of admission.

[Read Full Article](#)



Slutzker Center News and Events

Changes to Practical Training Seminars

THIS FRIDAY

Due to events taking place as part of the Chancellor's Inauguration this Friday, April 11, 2014, the time and location of the Practical Training Seminars will be changed.

Both seminars will be held in Kittredge Auditorium in HBC (Huntington Beard Crouse).

- CPT Seminar will begin at 1:00pm
- OPT Seminar will begin at 1:45pm

We will resume the regular Practical Training Seminar schedule next week at the Slutzker Center.



Taxes Due! APRIL 15

If you earned income in 2013 you must file your taxes and have them completed by April 15, 2014. The envelope you mail your taxes in must be post marked by the Post Office by midnight April 15, 2014. If you mail your taxes out on April 16, 2014, you may have to pay a penalty for mailing them late.

SU international students and scholars can utilize the GLACIER Tax Prep software provided by the Slutzker Center to compile their federal tax return. You must request access to GLACIER by completing an online form.

[Apply for access now](#)

It may take 2-4 business days for your access code to be generated



and emailed to you. Please keep that in mind, and don't wait until the last minute.

Schedule Change

More tax information is available on the SCIS website at <http://international.syr.edu/current-students/taxes/index.html>.

Helpful Hints from SCIS: Am I Eligible for a STEM Extension?

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Though you may think your degree program falls into one of these categories, you can only be certain by checking the [STEM-Designated Degree Program List](#). This list is maintained by the Department of Homeland Security.

Since different universities call programs by different names, you need to know your CIP code in order to see if your program appears on the list. This code is a 5 or 6-digit number (e.g. 14.0899) that can be found on page 3 of your I-20 document.

If your CIP code appears on the STEM Designated Degree Program List, then you might be eligible for a STEM extension. The STEM extension is an additional 17 months of OPT work authorization following the initial 12 months of OPT. However, in order to apply for the STEM Extension, your employer must participate in [E-Verify](#).

Visit the [STEM extension](#) section of the SCIS website for more information.

If you have a question or concern that you would like addressed in a future "Helpful Hints" article, please send an email to lescis@syr.edu. Maybe your question will be featured in next week's issue!



Picture of the Week

This week's photo was taken by Sara Sotoud, a PhD student in Civil Engineering. The day she took this picture, the weather was starting to change and feel more like Spring. In Sara's home country of Iran, they also experience all four seasons, but warmer spring weather comes much later in Syracuse. Sara said, "The day I took the picture, the weather gave me the feeling of spring, refreshment and rebirth; a very nice feeling on my birthday...I love the nature of upstate and I am impatient to see the blooms in campus." Spring is an important time in Iranian culture, as the new year (Nowrouz) is celebrated on the first day of Spring.



For the chance to have your picture featured as Picture of the Week, please send it via email to lescis@syr.edu with the subject line of "Picture of the Week." Submissions can be from anywhere on the globe!

Syracuse University Events

**The MisEducation of Asian America:
*A CounterStorytelling Journey and
Call for Movement Building*
Life Science Building, Rm 001
April 10, 7-8:30pm**

This keynote address will bring attendees on a journey into the sociocultural/political/historical and contemporary dynamics of Asian America, exploring where Asian Pacific Americans fit in the multiracial social justice movements in the U.S., the recognition of being "people of color" within a Black/White U.S.-American paradigm, and a call to action with a focus on coalition building and the creation of a plan to create more sustainable movements for social change on a united front.

Amnat Chittaphong is a Syracuse alumnus and a seasoned diversity and inclusion/leadership trainer/educator, social justice/mission



integration consultant, and community activist, with over 16+ years of experience in the field.

This event is part of SU's celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. A full events calendar for APA Heritage Month is available on [OMA's web site](#).

International Graduate Student Workshop Series: Preparing for Professional Conference Presentations

**Bowne Hall, Room 125
April 11, 4-5:30pm**

Giving presentations at professional conferences is part of our development as scholars and specialists in our fields while we are at graduate school. Participating at these events represents a unique opportunity to have others learn of your work, get feedback on your research, keep up to date on what is happening in your field, and develop a personal network of colleagues and potential collaborators.

Specific details of conferences vary according to discipline and the scope of the meetings, but there are common elements to always take into consideration: what types of conferences exist and how can they best serve my interests? What are the do's and don'ts of conference presentations? How can I make the most out of a conference as a complete academic experience?

Please join Alejandro Garcia-Reidy as he explores these questions to help you prepare for your next conference presentation. Food will be provided for presentation participants!

[Click here to register for this event](#).



Hendrick's Chapel Food Pantry

Hendrick's Chapel's Food Pantry is a food pantry for students in immediate need of food. It is free and AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS! The pantry is available from 8:30am – 5:00pm, or you can call to schedule an alternative time.

Currently, the pantry is stocked with canned food items, pasta, rice and cereal! It has also recently received a large donation of baby food. Jars of vegetables, fruits, meats and some cereal were donated to the food pantry this week.



CAMPUS FOOD PANTRY.

A food pantry for students in immediate need of food is free and AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS! The pantry is available from 8:30AM - 5:00PM, or call to schedule an alternative time. Currently, the pantry is stocked with canned food items, pasta, rice and cereal! For more information contact (315) 443-5044.



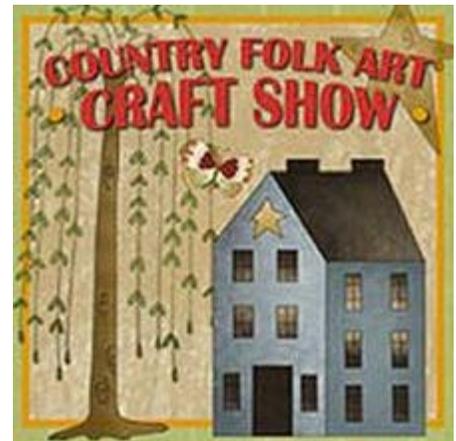
For more information contact the food pantry at 315-443-5044.

Cultural and Community Events

Country Folk Art Show NYS Fairgrounds, Empire Expo Center April 11-13

This fabulous Spring show will feature many more top quality handmade items by exhibitor vendors from across the country! You'll love the huge array of unique and creative decorating accents such as: framed art, iron work, wood carvings, garden art, seasonal decor, florals, handcrafted furniture, textiles and candles. Also: Other show favorites to include jewelry, wearable art, gourmet delights and so much more!

A coupon for discount admission can be found at [http://www.countryfolkart.com/1405_syracuse_apr/\\$1_off_1405.pdf](http://www.countryfolkart.com/1405_syracuse_apr/$1_off_1405.pdf).



Clean Up 'Cuse April 12

Believe in Syracuse is launching a great day of giving back to the community on this Saturday morning, April 12th and they need your help! Here's a timeline of events and they'd like you to join:

9AM - 10:30AM: Volunteering at the Samaritan Center. The Samaritan Center serves meals to the homeless and hungry of Syracuse

10:30AM - Noon: Other volunteers from Clean up 'Cuse will meet us outside the Samaritan Center and from there we will spread out into the surrounding neighborhood to pick up trash.

Everyone who comes on Saturday will receive one free raffle ticket and at 10AM we'll give away 7 sets of two free Syracuse Crunch tickets!

This is an exciting opportunity to give back and really make a difference. Clean up 'Cuse is a region wide effort lead by the City of Syracuse, the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA)



and the United Way. With everyone working together, it is sure to be a great day.

For more details about this event, please visit the Clean Up 'Cuse [facebook page](#).

Ironwood Plays Brahms
First Unitarian Society
April 12, 7:30pm

Ironwood, the acclaimed period-instrument chamber ensemble from Australia, brings new luster to the music of Brahms and his circle. Presenting A Different Sort of Brahms, played on period instruments and based on their research, their program includes the beloved f minor piano quintet and the g minor piano quartet.

"The ensemble played with...obvious enjoyment, fine musicality and in perfect balance...equal passion and intricacy"

(Australlian Stage Review)

There will be a pre-concert talk at 6:45pm with the musicians: Robin Wilson, Rachael Beesley, violins; Nicole Forsyth, viola; Daniel Yeadon, cello; Neal Peres da Costa, fortepiano.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [nysbaroque.com](#).



Condo Gardening
Carol Watson Greenhouse
April 16, 6:30-8:00pm

Small is the new black. Let's explore the world of urban, small space gardening. Join Carol Watson as she discusses design and techniques that will enhance your indoor and outdoor living space in all four seasons. Learn about and plant your own shrubs, trees, vines, perennials, annuals and vegetables that will thrive in small areas. Choose from an array of vertical gardening options as well as unique containers. No class cost, participants will have the option to plant their own containers, materials priced as marked. Please call 315.677.0286 to register.



For more information and to view the entire schedule of classes, please visit the [Carol Watson Greenhouse](#).

Cruel April
Oana Avasilichioaei & Colleen Kattau
Point of Contact Gallery
April 17, 6-9pm

Cruel April is a poetry series that takes place every Thursday in April at

6pm, followed by a reception and dialogue with the poets, in commemoration of National Poetry Month.

On April 17th, the series will continue with readings by Oana Avasilichioaei and Colleen Kattau. The reading will begin at 6pm and will follow with a reception and informal dialogue with the poets. This event is free and open to the public.

The work of poet and translator Oana Avasilichioaei explores history, geography, public space, textual architecture, multilingualism, sound, translation, textual and collaborative performance. Avasilichioaei lives in Montreal, Quebec. Her website is oanalab.com.

Kattau is currently an Associate Professor of Spanish at SUNY College at Cortland. She received her Ph.D. in Spanish Language and Culture from Syracuse University. Kattau has published articles on Latin American women writers and Latin American New Song (Nueva cancion) and is also a singer/songwriter.

For more information, please visit [Point of Contact](#).



Important Reminders

[Full-Time Course of Study](#)

[Meeting Your Health Requirements](#)

[HR notice for on-campus employees](#)

[Is it your last semester of study?](#)

[Transferring from SU to a new U.S. school](#)

[Optional Practical Training EAD cards](#)

[Address Change Reporting Requirements](#)

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[Check your VISA Application Status in India](#)

[E-Verify Employers & Federal Contractors List](#)

[Copycat "Immigration Help" Sites](#)

[CPT/OPT Seminars](#)

[Studying Abroad](#)

[International Student Arrests & Public Safety](#)

Quotes to keep you thinking

- "Let my soul smile through my heart and my heart smile through my eyes, that I may scatter rich smiles in sad hearts." – **Paramahansa Yogananda**
- "If money is your hope for independence you will never have it. The only real security that a man will have in this world is a reserve of knowledge, experience, and ability." – **Henry Ford**
- "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all." – **Emily Dickinson**
- "I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I'm going to learn, I must do it by listening." – **Larry King**

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310 Walnut Place, Syracuse, NY, 13244-2380

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