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Immigration News and Events

USCIS Reaches FY2015 H-1B Cap

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on April 7 that it has received a sufficient number of H-1B petitions to reach the statutory cap of 65,000 visas for fiscal year (FY) 2015. USCIS has also received more than the limit of 20,000 H-1B petitions filed under the advanced degree exemption.

USCIS received about 172,500 H-1B petitions during the filing period which began April 1, including petitions filed for the advanced degree exemption. On April 10, 2014, USCIS completed a computer-generated random selection process, or lottery, to select enough petitions to meet the 65,000 general-category cap and 20,000 cap under the advanced degree exemption. For cap-subject petitions not randomly selected, USCIS will reject and return the petition with filing fees, unless it is found to be a duplicate filing.

The agency conducted the selection process for the advanced degree exemption first. All advanced degree petitions not selected then became part of the random selection process for the 65,000 limit.

U.S. businesses use the H-1B program to employ foreign workers in occupations that require highly specialized knowledge in fields such as science, engineering, and computer programming.

[Read the Full News Release](#)



Additional Travel Seminars

If you plan on traveling over the summer, you may need a travel signature. On the bottom of the 3rd page of your I-20 is the travel signature section. Each signature is good for one year from the date it was signed.

If you need an updated travel signature, you can obtain one by attending a Slutzker Center Travel Seminar. From April 21 through May 9, the Travel Seminar schedule will be as follows:

Monday – 5 pm

Tuesday – 10am

Wednesday – 1:30pm

Thursday – 2pm

Friday – 12 pm

Please arrive 10-15 minutes before the seminar is scheduled to begin and bring your I-20, passport, I-94, and proof of health insurance. Your health insurance **MUST BE** valid for at least six months in the future.

If you have already attended a Travel Seminar, you may also obtain a travel signature during walk-in hours M-F 11am to 3pm.



Student Volunteers Needed to Help the Needy!

Annual Ten Tons of Love Charity Drive. Through the generosity of students, faculty and staff, we collect clothes and household items and donate them to the First English Lutheran Church on James St. in Syracuse. All the items donated are given out to members of the larger Syracuse community. Last year we collected over 50 tons of “stuff” to help almost 3000 families in the Syracuse area.

- Volunteers will help to collect items at various locations on campus and load them on the truck to bring them down to the First English Lutheran Church on James St. in Syracuse.
- 8:30 a.m. meeting in Hendricks Chapel in the Chaplain's Suite.
- Most shifts finish by 12 p.m. on campus.
- Volunteers are encouraged if they have time to come down to the Church to have lunch and meet the volunteers on the First English Lutheran side.

Please click on the following link to volunteer.

<http://www.volunteersignup.org/B84F3>.



Helpful Hints from SCIS: Look at Your I-20 Expiration Date

As an F-1 international student, your I-20 expiration date is an important piece of information. When you were first issued your I-20 document, you were given a specific end date based on the normal length of your program. F-1 students are expected to complete their program by this date, and only in special circumstances, can be given an extension of time.

Take a look at your I-20 expiration date today. It is located on page 1 of the I-20 document, under item #5, after the words, "and complete studies not later than..." Keep this date in mind when you are planning your class schedule and speaking with your academic advisor. Make sure that your program plan will allow you to complete your studies on time.

If you look at your I-20 and find that your document will expire soon, but you will not be completing your program yet, come speak with a Slutzker Center advisor right away. There is an advisor on call every Monday through Friday from 11am to 3pm.

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 Shri Ramakrishnan. Shri recently joined the Whitman School of Management as Assistant Director of Graduate Recruitment. In her position, she helps support the enrollment management of the graduate programs, with an emphasis on international recruitment. Originally from Chennai, India, Shri is an amateur photographer who likes to take pictures whenever she can. Two weekends ago, during a rare day of sunshine, she rode the Connective Corridor bus downtown and shot this photo. Shri says, "The position of the hand, as though waving 'hi,' and the welcome sign, just seemed to be out there to welcome me!" If you would like to view more of Shri's photos that she has taken along her journey of discovery, you can visit her blog at <http://shriramakrishnan.blogspot.com>.



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

Cultural Crafts Fair 2014 SUNY-ESF Quad Patio April 18, 11am-2pm

The ESF Office of Multicultural Affairs will host the seventh annual Cultural Crafts Fair at SUNY-ESF. This fair will showcase a diverse array of crafters in the local Syracuse area with proceeds going to the Carmen McCoy-Harrison scholarship fund. Quad (Rain Location: Nifkin Lounge).

There will be a \$1.00 raffle for ESF merchandise. For more information about this event, [click here](#).

The Cultural Crafts Fair is part of SU's and ESF's celebration of Earth Week. A full events calendar for Earth Week is available on the [ESF website](#).



Democracy in Turkey: An Endless Story 220 Eggers Hall April 18, 2:30-3:30pm

Turkish experience of democracy has been a rocky journey at best. The legacy of the Ottoman multicultural coexistence never stopped confronting the claim of the Turkish Republic for a homogeneous nation state. Rapid social and political transformations challenge the

traditional institutions and give way to a complex meshing of the old and the new. This presentation will provide a historical review of Turkey's engagement with democracy and offer an explanation for the roots of its contemporary challenges.

Dr. Mustafa Gökçek is an Associate Professor of History and the Director of MA program in Interdisciplinary Studies at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, NY. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in International Relations at Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. He completed his Ph.D. in History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on Muslim intellectuals from Russia who migrated to Istanbul in early twentieth century and actively engaged in the intellectual discussions on Islam and Turkish nationalism. Dr. Gökçek currently teaches courses on the history of Russia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Ottoman Empire.

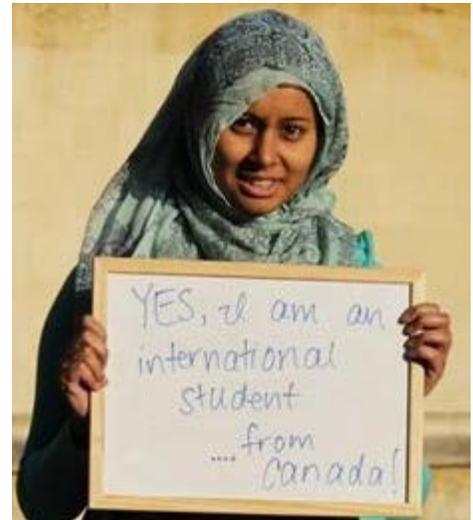


This event is sponsored by Moynihan European Research Centers at the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs and Turkish Cultural Center – Syracuse.

I Too, am SU
SU Quad
April 18, 4pm

The SU Student Association would like to invite international students to participate in their event this Friday, which will be similar to [I too, am Harvard](#) and [I too, am Oxford](#). Students who might feel marginalized or stereotyped will be encouraged to write about their experiences on white boards and take pictures to raise awareness and encourage discussion about diversity on campus.

For more information about this event, please contact Brittany Moore at bmoore02@syr.edu.



Stomp Out Stigma:
Mural on Mental Illness
Schine Atrium
April 20 at noon – April 24 at 5pm

Active Minds will be running a mural about mental illness to help promote positive ideas about mental health and strive to create an accepting and comforting environment for those with mental illness. Students can participate by painting the mural or viewing the mural throughout the week. We hope that participating in this mural will unite mental health advocates to change the discussion of and encourage students to be aware of the stigma against mental illness on campus.

This event is part of next week's celebration of Wellness Week at SU. There is a complete [calendar of events](#) for the week on the livingSU



website.

For more information, visit [Active Minds](#) at Syracuse University on facebook.

Gaza...Where to?
204 Maxwell
April 21, 5:30pm

This talk will highlight the current situation in Gaza, serious “strategic management” pitfalls of the leadership over there and the future for Gaza. Dr. Abu-Jarad will share his experiences in Gaza, and he will shed light on “where Gaza is heading” and expectations for the short and long-term.

Ismael Abu-Jarad is from Gaza, Palestine. He has obtained his PhD in project management/strategic management from Universiti Sains Malaysia. He has been working as a senior lecturer at university since August, 2010.

Dr. Abu-Jarad will also give a talk and play Oud on the 17th of April at 7pm at ARTRAGE Gallery 505 Hawley Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203. This event is sponsored by the Middle Eastern Studies Program at the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs.



Cultural and Community Events

Green Streets and Local Eats
Connective Corridor
April 21, 12-2pm

April 21 is the first day of Earth Week. Bring your sneakers to work, get out, and celebrate spring! Across the Connective Corridor’s green streets, get out for lunch. Walk. Bike. Stop and savor treats at food trucks and local restaurants offering green specials. Get moving with yoga and Tai Chi lessons in downtown parks. Take in some green infrastructure and green building tours, or a historic walking tour. Enjoy health and wellness demos, or dance to live music. Bike rides launch from several spots along the Corridor. Green healthy mile walks will be offered starting at various locations.

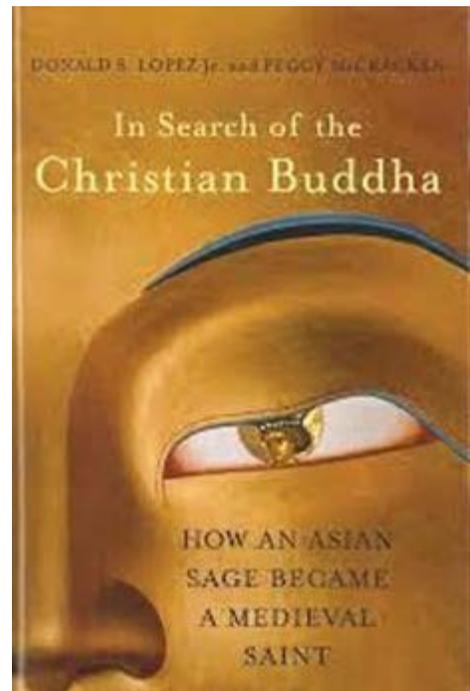


For more details about this event, please visit the [Connective Corridor](#) website.

**Buddhism and Science:
Past, Present, and Future**
LeMoyne College, Panasci Family Chapel
April 22, 7pm

Donald Lopez, Jr., Ph.D., Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies at the University of Michigan, will present this talk at Le Moyne College. The lecture is part of the McDevitt Center's [Science and Religion in Modern America](#) series and is free and open to the public.

The compatibility of Buddhism and science has been claimed, both in Asia and the West, since the nineteenth century. Those claims persisted through the twentieth century and have now extended into the twenty-first, marked most recently by the mindfulness boom. This lecture will provide a brief history of the relationships between Buddhism and science and offer some reflections on what is at stake as the teachings of an ancient Asian sage are offered as solutions to the problems of the modern world. Lopez's talk will provide a brief history of the relationships between Buddhism and science and offer some reflections on what is at stake as the teachings of an ancient Asian sage are offered as solutions to the problems of the modern world.



Red Hook Justice
A Film by Meema Spadola
ArtRage Gallery
April 24, 6:30pm

In 2000, an experimental court opened its doors in Red Hook, Brooklyn, a neighborhood plagued by a cycle of unemployment, poverty and crime. The Red Hook Community Justice Center (RHCJC) is at the center of a legal revolution: the community justice movement, which emphasizes neighborhood-focused problem solving and rehabilitation over punishment and doing time.

In collaboration with the Rosamond Gifford Foundation, ArtRage Gallery will screen films depicting community efforts to improve their communities and the world. The spring series of three films runs thru May 2014. Films were selected by a committee of community members and are shown twice on different weekdays followed by a facilitated discussion. All films are free to the public. No reservation is required.

Doors Open at 6pm for Gallery Gazing and Refreshments. Film begins at 6:30pm. For more information, please visit [ArtRage](#).



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](#)

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[Keeping Good Rental Records](#)

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[US Embassy Announcements](#)

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

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[Copycat "Immigration Help" Sites](#)

[CPT/OPT Seminars](#)

[Studying Abroad](#)

[International Student Arrests & Public Safety](#)

Quotes to keep you thinking

- "Great artists have no country." – **Alfred de Musset**
- "All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them." – **Galileo Galilei**
- "Let your life lightly dance on the edge of time like dew on the tip of a leaf." – **Rabindranath Tagore**
- "A man always has two reasons for doing anything: a good reason and the real reason." – **J.P. Morgan**

Stay informed about the latest news, important reminders and updates



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If you would like to submit news or events for the SCIS Newsletter, please send your information and any related graphics to arwagone@syr.edu with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"

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