

**Syracuse University**  
**April 2, 2015 Edition**

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**WARNING**

**Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Alert on Scams Targeting Non-citizens**

ICE issued an alert that it has received information indicating a possible scam targeting non-citizens by individuals claiming to work for ICE's Detention Reporting and Information Line (DRIL). ICE received information indicating that imposters have contacted non-citizens claiming that there are issues with their immigration cases and requesting money be sent in to rectify the situation. **Please note**, ICE's DRIL operators do NOT make outbound calls or EVER request money from individuals. If you receive a call, **alert ICE as soon as possible**.

To notify ICE of any suspicious activity as mentioned above, contact the Joint Intake Center at (866) 347-2423 or submit an online form. You may also contact DRIL directly at (888) 351-4024, Monday – Friday (except holidays) from 8 AM – A PM (Eastern Time). Online information is available at the [DRIL page on ice.gov](#).

**Students Victimized by Phone Call Scams**

The Slutzker Center has been informed by several students that they have received calls from people identifying themselves as employees of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and other U.S. government agencies. The callers insist that students send them money to avoid immediate arrest or other legal action against them.

**DO NOT RESPOND TO THESE CALLS. HANG UP THE PHONE IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT BE TRICKED BY SUCH THREATS.**

This is not the way the U.S. government conducts this type of business. If the U.S. government has a claim against you, you will be notified in writing and a formal proceeding would be held to determine your responsibility and the sanction or punishment against you.

If you receive such a call, please notify SU Department of Public Safety (DPS) Investigations unit immediately. Call the DPS number, 315-443-2224 and ask for Investigations. Tell them you want to report a telephone call you received that you believe is a scam for money. Or you may email ([lescis@syr.edu](mailto:lescis@syr.edu)), call (315-443-2457) or come to the Slutzker Center (310 Walnut Place) for assistance in filing such a report with the Department of Public Safety.

The Syracuse local News has also been covering phone call/text message scams. You can read about other types of scams [here](#). According to local police, you should never return calls/ engage the scammers. This could unintentionally reveal information about you. If you receive a call/ message claiming to be urgent (example: an emergency involving money or family) contact the authorities before responding to the call/ message. Many

scammers call from overseas, but the police can help determine if there is any legitimacy to the call and alleviate your panic/ concern. Government officials have said, if you receive an unexpected call from someone claiming to be with a US government entity who is making aggressive demands, it is a scam.

On February 22, the Post Standard offered advice for avoiding these scams. Keep in mind, the IRS will not initiate contact with you via phone or email to ask for your personal financial information. If you are unsure about a tax bill, call the IRS at (800) 829-1040. The IRS will NOT give you an ultimatum to pay up immediately or else. Nor will the agency call to congratulate you on getting your refund (this is a variation of the scam). The IRS will not dictate how you pay your bill either (example: they will not direct you to a certain ATM location while you are on the phone).

### **Important Changes to University Health Insurance Policy**

Beginning August 1, 2015, Syracuse University is making changes to the University Health Insurance Policy. All international students will be automatically enrolled in the new Health Insurance Plan on August 1, 2015. For more information about the new Health Insurance policy, please see the information [here](#).

## **Slutzker Center News and Events**

### **Immigration Status after Practical Training**

**April 2, 4 - 6 PM  
Crouse Hinds 010  
Dan Berger**

Dan Berger from the law firm of Curran and Berger in Northampton, MA will present on matters related to immigration after OPT including H-1B Temporary Workers, Permanent Residence/Green Cards, O-1, Labor Certification and more.

If you have questions, contact [lescis@syr.edu](mailto:lescis@syr.edu).



### **CPT/OPT Seminars...apply early!**

Students who will be applying for OPT to begin after the end of the Spring 2015 semester (May 2015) could begin filing their applications as early as February 10. Processing of OPT applications at the immigration service (USCIS) can take up to 90 days. Therefore, we advise students planning to apply for OPT to apply as early as possible!

Due to the large number of students who attend OPT/CPT Seminars in the Spring Semester, we will move these seminars to other areas on campus.

CPT Seminars begin at 3 PM and OPT begins at 3:45 PM, dates and locations listed below.

OPT and CPT processing times are on Mondays from 3 – 5 PM or Thursdays from 10 AM – Noon.

OPT/ CPT Seminars will be at the same times in Kitredge Auditorium, HBC on April 10, 15, 24, 29.

### **Etiquette Dinner**

**April 9, 6 - 8 PM  
Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center**

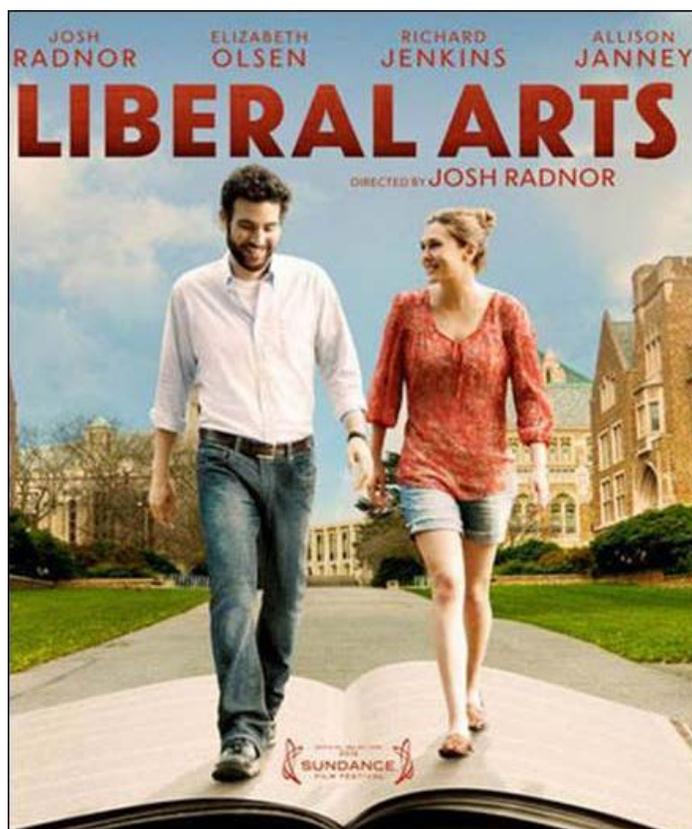
Practice your etiquette at dinner so you can be prepared for every occasion.

Space is limited. Sign up in career services.



### **New American Beat Program**

**April 2, 5 PM  
Slutzker Center**



The New American Beat program is a cultural and social event for graduate students, which provides a casual and warm environment to share reflections on American culture, watch a movie, eat pizza and develop new friendships.

Please join us for a film, discussion and pizza! *Liberal Arts* is considered, "a warm, funny and, one imagines, rather personal film, one that's all about falling in and out of love, not just with people and places but the ideas they can sometimes embody."

## Syracuse University Events

**Nanhi Kali &iSGO present:  
Gaming Night  
April 3, 6 - 10 PM  
iSchool**

In collaboration with iSGO, Nanhi Kali invites you to Gaming Night 2015. This is a chance to play a variety of games while supporting education for girl/child education in India.

Snacks and soda are provided. Admission is \$5 in advance or at the door.

For more information contact, [skalavak@syr.edu](mailto:skalavak@syr.edu) or click [here](#).

**The Reel Queer Film Festival  
April 3 - 5  
Shemin Auditorium, Shaffer Art Building**

**Open Doors**, SU's Graduate LGBT organization in association with the LGBT Resource Center presents **The Reel Queer Film Festival**, showcasing LGBT identities through film and documentary. The Whitman Graduate Programs Office, The College of Visual and Performing Arts, The LGBT Studies Program and Maxwell School are among the few sponsors who have donated generously to help put this event together.

With the dawn of widespread debate on a variety of social issues affecting myriad communities, Open Doors feels it is important to educate ourselves about the situation of the community, the region and the world around us. So, this Easter weekend (**April 3-5**), Open Doors will be screening 6 films as part of The Reel Queer Film Festival. These films will move you to tears and laughter alike. They will strike a chord even with those who may not identify as an individual of a minority community, because in the end it will remind you what it truly means to be human.

Program is attached. All films are captioned and details can be found at [rqff.info](http://rqff.info).

## Cultural and Community Events

### ICS Community Gathering

April 16, 6 - 8 PM  
La Casita Cultural Center  
109 Otisco St

Reserve your space now for the International Center of Syracuse Community Dinner at La Casita.

All community members aged twelve and older are welcome to reserve a spot for themselves and their family members. A bus will depart from the Slutzker International Center at Syracuse University, stop at Upstate Medical University, InterfaithWorks, and at the West Side Learning Center. Students from Fowler, Liverpool, West Genesee, Christian Brothers Academy, Nottingham and other high schools will attend. There will be seating cards to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to meet new friends and learn about applying to and attending institutions of higher learning in our area. High school students are encouraged to ask about applying for college and university life on campuses in the Syracuse area.

Community members are invited to network with other professionals in the area and learn more about what life is like in their communities. Participants will have the opportunity to bring up topics of special interest to them during dinner and in the discussions throughout the event. Those interested in volunteering to help with the event or in learning more about it, please contact Elane Granger Carrasco at [elcarras@syr.edu](mailto:elcarras@syr.edu) or 315-443-2457.

### Footloose

April 3, 8 PM  
Red House Arts Center  
201 S West St, 13202

This adaptation is a new twist on a classic film. In this 1984 American musical/drama film, Kevin Bacon plays the role of an upbeat Chicago teen who moves to a small town in which, as a result of the efforts of a local minister, dancing and rock music have been banned.

Admission: \$20

For more information, click [here](#).

## 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](#)

[Keeping Good Rental Records](#)

[Protecting Your Property](#)

[US Embassy Announcements](#)

[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](#)

"There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge."—**Bertrand Russell**

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**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 [ejvoigt@syr.edu](mailto:ejvoigt@syr.edu) with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"