

Syracuse University
April 9, 2015 Edition

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IN THIS EDITION

Events and Programs to Introduce you to Campus & Community

Immigration Reminders

- **Warning:** ICE Alert, Phone Call Scams
- **Important:** Changes to University Health Insurance Policy

Slutzker Center News and Events

- English and Academia
- CPT/OPT Seminars
- Volunteers Needed!
- Travel Seminars

Syracuse University Events

- Russia, the West, and the War in Ukraine
- AAPI Heritage Month Commemorative Lecture
- Life After Graduation: Omesh Bhujbal

Cultural and Community Events

- ICS Community Gathering
- Brunch at Café Kubal
- Pasta Party

Important Reminders

Quotes to keep you thinking

Immigration News and Events

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 – 4 PM (Eastern Time). Online information is available at the [DRIL page on ice.gov](http://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), 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).

According to a recent article from [NPR](#), the number of scams is increasing. Keep in mind, the callers can be very sophisticated, and they might have a lot of information about you. Some callers have known the last four digits of the victims social security number, and have used this information to manipulate him/her. The IRS will not contact you via phone or email. Regardless of how intimidating the caller is, or how much information he/she has, it is not the IRS. The IRS will contact you in writing if there is a problem.

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

English and Academia

**Mondays - Thursdays 9AM - noon, by appointment
Slutzker Center**

Are you an international student in need of help with writing? Do you want to use the English language well in your academic work? Are you frustrated with the difficulties of writing in English?

One-on-one and small group tutoring will be available for international students who want to improve their writing skills.

Appointments are limited, for more information, please contact psawinad@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.

Volunteer for Fall 2015 Graduate International Orientation

We are looking for Volunteers to assist with the Fall 2015 Orientation program for the new graduate international students arriving in August. The program is held Friday, August 20, 2015 from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Volunteer responsibilities include, setting up tables and chairs, setting up technology, and stamping Orientation passports. We will also host an Ice Cream Social on the night of Thursday, August 19, 2015 and some activities on Saturday, August 22, 2015 that we may need help with.

If you expect to be on campus on Friday, August 20, 2015, we could use your help! Please email Mary Idzior at midzior@syr.edu if you think you will be able to assist the Slutzker Center and the newly arriving students. We will provide details over the summer. Thank you!

Travel Seminars

Its time to start thinking about summer travel!

Attend a Travel Seminar at the Slutzker Center in order to obtain your travel signature.

Startin on Monday, April 13, we will hold additional travel seminars.

Mondays: 4/13, 4/20, 4/27 & 5/4 at 5 PM

Wednesdays: 4/15 & 5/6 at 1:30 PM

Thursdays: 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30 & 5/7 at 12 Noon

Fridays: 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1 & 5/8 at 12 Noon

You must bring your passport, visa, print out of your most recent I-94, I-20/ DS-2019 form, and proof of current health insurance.



Syracuse University Events

Russia, the West, and the War in Ukraine: April 16, 12:30 – 2 PM 060 Eggers Hall

MERC presents: a panel on Russia, the West, and the War in Ukraine

Brian Taylor, *“From Revolution to War: A Brief Overview of the Ukraine Crisis”*
Professor of Political Science and Director of the Moynihan European Research Centers, author of *State Building in Putin’s Russia*.

Sharon Werning Rivera, *“Putin’s Evolving Views of Europe and the U.S.”*
Associate Professor of Government at Hamilton College, 2012-13 Fulbright Scholar to Russia, author of multiple articles on Russian politics, including in *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Studies*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*

David Rivera, *“The Real Sources of Russian-American Discord”*
Lecturer at Hamilton College, author of multiple articles on Russian politics and foreign policy, including in *Political Science Quarterly*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *Post-Soviet Affairs*.

Open to the public. For more information, click [here](#).

AAPI Heritage Month Commemorative Lecture: Nina Davuluri, Miss America April 14 Joyce Hergenhan Auditorium 215 University Pl

Nina Davuluri, Miss America 2014, will speak at a commemorative lecture titled, "Celebrating Diversity through Cultural Competency" to commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month at Syracuse University. This event is free to the public!

Davuluri was born in Syracuse and was the first Indian-American crowned Miss New York and went on to be the first Miss America of Indian heritage. Her 2014 crowning initially sparked some racist backlash on social media. Click [here](#) for more information.

Life After Graduation: How to pursue your career goals An alumni talk by Omesh Bhujbal 'G '02 April 16, 2 – 3 PM Katzner Room, Hinds Hall

Omesh Bhujbal will discuss his career, and how it led him back to India. Bhujbal completed his MS in Information

Management in 2002. He then went on to work for GE. After returning to India, he worked as a Management Consultant for Fortune 500 companies and joined Idea Cellular Ltd. In 2006. India is one of the fastest growing and most competitive telecom markets in the world. Bhujbal will share his experiences and offer advice on preparing for careers in consulting and telecom, especially in India.

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.

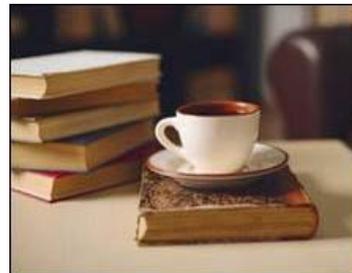
Community members are invited to network with other professionals in the area and learn more about what life is like in their communities. Participants will have the opportunity to bring up topics of special interest to them during dinner and in the discussions throughout the event. Those interested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

Yelp Syracuse Presents:

Brunch at Café Kubal

April 11, 9 AM - 11 AM
Café Kubal
324 W Water St

There's a lot that's new about Cafe Kubal, like their Creekwalk Commons location and tasty brunch items. What hasn't changed is their standing as one of Syracuse's favorite coffee roasters and purveyors of delicious brews. We'll be getting a free tasting of all-of-the-above at the new location (324 W Water St.), April 11th from 9am-11am. Be one of the first to get there and get a free Yelp mug!



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

Pasta Party

Varick Winery & Vineyard

April 11, 9:30 AM - 6 PM
5102 State Route 89, Romulus, 14541

A chance to enjoy local wines paired with complimentary pasta featuring roasted garlic pasta sauce, spicy hot tomato oil pasta sauce, and Tuscan herb artisan olive oil. A celebration of Italian cuisine in the Finger Lakes.

You can enjoy complimentary jellies, preserves, dipping oils, BBQ sauces, mustards, salsas, salad dressings, fruit butters, herb dips & hot sauces.

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](#)

"Life comes from the earth and life returns to the earth."—**Zhuangzi**

Stay informed about the latest news, important reminders and updates



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