

IN THIS EDITION

Events and Programs to Introduce you to Campus & Community

Important Issues

- Scams – Fake IRS and Bank Calls
- Changes to University Health Insurance Policy

Slutzker Center News and Events

- Mix It Up
- Address Update
- Reduced Advisor on Call, No Seminars
- Volunteer Opportunity

Syracuse University Events

- Pay international tuition fees
- Syracuse University Tobacco Ban

Cultural and Community Events

- Arts & Crafts Festival

Important Reminders

Quotes to keep you thinking

Important Issues

SCAMS – IRS AND BANK FAKE CALLS – DON'T BECOME A VICTIM

Several students have reported receiving calls pressuring them to give money, credit card and or bank account numbers over the phone. Never give out this information after receiving such a call.

Please take the time to read two stories from current students who received such calls this week.

"I received a phone scam call claiming to be IRS filing criminal charges against me. Fortunately I made a recording of the calls. I have filed a complaint with the IRS as well and checked on my tax filing status, which seems to be under review. I just hope no other students are falling victim to such a call.

I had read the emails from Slutzker Center and was already aware about the scams courtesy the news reports and the initiative of the Slutzker Center. I shared this email simply to notify you that such an incident has happened, and since I had a recording of the conversation I felt that it could be helpful for other students who are blissfully unaware of such incidences. I will be glad if my story can help others.

As pointed out in the newsletters, the scammers have a very convincing way of talking and spreading fake threats. They tried to make me believe that I had some form of criminal case filed against me due to tax evasion. Now, while am aware that IRS would never make a phone call, I was not aware of what is the procedure given the incident of a criminal case. Thankfully, for me at that point I realized that I have copies of my tax filing as well as am aware of the fact that I can check on my tax filing status at any point when I log on to the IRS website. More importantly, if such a case has been filed, I can go down to the local IRS office and get the information or call the IRS helpline as pointed out on their website rather than depending on any such fishy phone calls. So I managed not to be scammed. You could say it was common sense and awareness together that helped me. I just hope students are aware as to how they can check on such details by going on to the IRS website or the local office, and not fall prey to such scammers.

I am also aware of a similar incident happening with a friend living in Albany just around the time that I was given a phone call yesterday. So perhaps, they are on a spree of scamming at this point."

Another student had a similar experience:

*"Hi SCIS,
I recently graduated from L.C. Smith College of Engineering. I want to thank you people for creating awareness among international students regarding phone call scams. I got a phone call from someone today impersonating IRS Senior officer. I got the call from a 1-800-XXXX no., saying that I violated federal tax laws and I have option of paying the money instead of going to jail. Thanks to your emails I quickly realized that its a scam, so I started taking their information like their Office Phone number, Names, Badge number etc. I will let my friends know about this so that they are aware of this Scam."*

Yet another with even more terrifying details:

"I got a call from 800-829-1954 (True caller- Internal Revenue Services). As I picked the call, a woman said that she's calling on behalf of IRS and that there is an arrest warrant against me. I asked her what was the matter about and she said that she would transfer my call to their headquarters at Washington DC and they would explain everything to me.

As she transferred the call, another woman began talking. She knew my name and confirmed it from me. Later she asked me in which year I entered the US. After taking the details she said there was an arrest warrant against me for not paying the federal taxes. I told her that I was an on campus employee at Syracuse University and that I paid all the taxes through the university. She told me that the federal taxes are not deducted by the university and that I had to file them separately. I told her I would like to contact my university about it and she said its a confidential matter between me and the US government and that if I contact anyone I would be immediately arrested. She said that I needed to transfer the taxes right now and that if the university were at fault, I would get the refund. Later she gave me my US Federal ID code (576XXXX. . .) and told me that I had to transfer 1986\$ to them immediately or else I would be arrested today. She asked how I would pay the money, and I said debit card. She asked which bank, I said chase. When I told her I was at work, she told me that I needed to take leave by talking to my manager. She also mentioned that I should not tell my manager where am going and just say its personal work. I told her I do not have so much money in my account right now, and she said minimum 900\$ should be transferred immediately. She told me that she would book a cab for me from my location (Monsanto) and asked me to hold on line. She said if I disconnected, there would be consequences.

While I was on hold, I began processing everything and it struck me that I had got mails from the Slutzker center about scams. I immediately opened the mail and scanned through details and realized this might be a similar scam. I immediately disconnected the call and called the DPS, meanwhile I kept getting the calls again and again which I ignored. Later I also put the phone number on google and it said it was a scam.

I am so happy and relieved that I dint fall for this trap and I took the right decisions. Getting such calls can be really terrifying, especially as students when you still do not know properly how the US Government works. I kindly request you to notify all my fellow students about these scams so that they do not face such issues."

**If you receive such a call, the best course of action is simply to hang up the phone. The IRS, police, banks or other government entities will never call you and demand that you give them your credit or debit card numbers. We have also*

received information about scams targeting M&T Bank customers specifically. To be safe, do not give any information to someone who has called you. If you believe there may be a problem, hang up the phone and consult your bank yourself. Follow the advice of your fellow students above and don't be a victim!

Changes to University Health Insurance Policy

Beginning August 1, 2015, Syracuse University is making changes to the University Health Insurance Policy. All full-time, matriculated 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

Mix It Up July 24, 5-7 PM Slutzker Center

Looking for some fun events this summer? Join us for our first Summer Mix It Up of 2015. This is a great way to meet new and continuing students from around the world.

Dinner is provided.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Address Update

Remember to update your MYSlice record with your current address in Syracuse.

Follow the format of the example to the left.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Address 1: 123 Main St.
Address 2: Apt. 1 (room 1, bldg. 1, etc.)
City: Syracuse **State:** NY **Postal:** 13210
County: Onondaga

Reduced Advisor on Call (AOC) hours and No Travel, On-Campus Employment or CPT or OPT Seminars in August

As we prepare for the arrival of new international students for the Fall semester, there will be no Travel or On-Campus Employment or CPT or OPT Seminars conducted between August 10th and August 28th.

During these three weeks of August (August 10th – August 28th), **travel signatures** may be obtained during the **Advisor on Call** hours ONLY from **1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**, Monday – Friday or you can **SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**.

During these three weeks of August (August 10th – August 28th), **CPT and OPT applications** can be **processed ONLY BY SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT**.

Please call 315-443-2457 or email lescis@syr.edu to schedule an appointment. The waiting time for an appointment in the month of August can be up to one week.

The normal Seminar Schedule will resume beginning Monday, August 31, 2015 and Advisor on Call (AOC) hours will return to a normal 11:00 am-3:00 pm schedule beginning August 31, 2015.

Peer Assistant Volunteer Opportunity

The Slutzker Center for International Service is recruiting Peer Assistant to join us this July 27th until the end of August. Remember how welcomed the peer assistants made you feel when you first arrived at the Slutzker Center?

Peer Assistants are unpaid volunteers who support the Slutzker Center in its mission to support and to serve Syracuse University's international student population.

You will welcome and assist students during the arrival, check-in and throughout the undergraduate orientation process.

This is a great opportunity to meet new international students, to form new friendships, build your resume and give back to the University community.

To be considered, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled at Syracuse University for at least one academic semester,
- Attend training prior to beginning the Peer Assistant work before August 1.

Peer Assistant volunteers **will be required to work a minimum of 14 hours per week** during the term(s) for which they applied.

For more information, email LESCIS@syr.edu



Syracuse University Events

Use Western Union to pay international tuition fees

The Bursar's Office is excited to announce a better payment option for international students!

The University has partnered with Western Union Business Solutions to offer a robust, convenient and cost saving (competitive exchange rates and lower bank fees) method for you to make your Bursar bill payment to Syracuse University. More information, including a video can be found here:

<http://comptroller.syr.edu/html/payments.htm>.

If you have any questions, please email us at bursar@syr.edu.



Syracuse University introduces Tobacco Ban to take effect July 1, 2015

Please keep in mind, Syracuse University implemented a campus wide tobacco ban on Wednesday, July 1. Considering the harmful effects that second hand smoke can have on health, Syracuse University aims to create a smoke free, healthy environment. SU has banned tobacco on all university properties.

For more information about the decision to implement this policy, see the [Daily Orange](#). Maps of areas where smoking is and is not permitted are available for the [Main Campus](#) and [South Campus](#).

Cultural and Community Events

AMERICU Syracuse Arts & Crafts Festival

July 24 - 26
Columbus Circle
East Onondaga Street

This is a three day showcase of the country's most talented artists, craftspeople, and entertainers. More than 160 artists represent 30 states and Canada. Browse among the exhibits while enjoying music, multi-cultural performances, refreshments and other activities.

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](#)

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

[Copycat 'Immigration Help' Sites](#)

[CPT/OPT Seminars](#)

[Studying Abroad](#)

[International Student Arrests & Public Safety](#)

[Bursar Payment Options](#)

"The less routine the more life." - Amos Bronson Alcott

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 eivoigt@syr.edu with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"