

Syracuse University
March 19, 2015 Edition

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WARNING

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 (lescjs@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.



International Students Talking to Employers About Immigration International Graduate Student Workshop Series March 23, 5:30 – 7 PM Hall of Languages, 102

A panel discussion by former international students, an employer, an immigration attorney, and a career services specialist about their roles and topics that arise when international students talk to employers about immigration. Refreshments will be served!

Click [here](#) to register.

CPT/OPT Seminars...apply early!

Students who will be applying for OPT to begin after the end of the Spring 2015 semester (May 2015) can file 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 from Wednesday, February 4 to Wednesday, March 27. The earlier you attend a seminar, the earlier you can submit your OPT application!

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.

We will hold extra CPT/OPT seminars on Friday, March 27 in Kittredge Auditorium, HBC.

Extended Practical Training Processing Times

Once you have attended a practical training seminar and are ready to process your practical training application, the Slutzker Center will have additional processing times until Wednesday, March 25. The additional times are listed below.

Mondays: 3 – 5 PM
Tuesdays: 3 – 5 PM
Wednesdays: 3 – 5 PM
Thursdays: 10 AM – 12 Noon

After March 25, we will resume normal processing hours (Mondays 3 – 5 PM and Thursdays 10 AM – Noon). To ensure the fastest processing time we recommend that you review the [seminars](#) on our website and make sure you have all documents together with the appropriate copies before coming in to process your OPT/CPT.

Picture of the Week

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

Syracuse University Events

Raymond Carver Reading Series

E.C. Osondu
March 25, 5:30 PM
Gifford Auditorium

E. C. Osondu was born in Nigeria, where he worked for many years as an advertising copywriter. He won the Caine Prize for African Writing in 2009. He is the author of the book of short stories Voice of America and the novel This House Is Not For Sale. His short stories have appeared in The Atlantic, Guernica, AGNI, and many other magazines. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Syracuse University, where he was a Syracuse University Fellow. He is assistant professor of English at Providence College in Rhode Island.

All readings begin at 5:30 p.m. in Gifford Auditorium, HBC Building (Huntington Beard Crouse), Syracuse University and are preceded by a question and answer session from 3:45-4:30 p.m.

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

OrangeAbility 2015:
Accessible Athletics Expo
March 28, 1 – 4 PM
Flanagan Gym

Experience Relays, Sled Hockey, Wheelchair Basketball, Power Soccer, and more! Engage with local teams on the

court, as well as organizations in our expo area. Try some equipment out yourself, and bring some friends along! You don't have to be able-bodied to play, and you don't have to have a disability to play accessible sports! Drop in to join or sign up online to: play with a team, volunteer, table with your group request specific accommodations (ASL Interpretation Provided)

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

Cultural and Community Events

Broadway in Syracuse presents Chicago

**March 17 - March 19, 7:30 - 9:30 PM
Oncenter Civic Center Theaters
421 Montgomery St, 13202**

A true New York City institution, CHICAGO has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz; one show-stopping-song after another; and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Syracuse Half Marathon

**March 22, 10 AM - 5 PM
Oncenter Convention Center
800 South State St, 13202**

The Syracuse Half Marathon has quickly become one of the United States' premier road races! The Third Annual Syracuse Half Marathon will start and finish at The Oncenter Convention Center, Syracuse, New York. Following the race, you will be treated to live music, professional catering and a hot food spread. The Syracuse Half Marathon is excited to have the opportunity to present a check to the Priscilla Mahar Animal Welfare Foundation for donations received. We will be making this presentation prior to our awards ceremony inside the Syracuse Oncenter.

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](#)

"After winning the battle, tighten your helmet."—**Japanese Proverb**

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 with subject line as "Article for SCIS Newsletter"