

Syracuse University
October 1, 2015 Edition

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Important Issues

Be Aware of Scams

There are a number of scammers which target students and especially international students. When we find out about new forms of scams, we attempt to notify you through the SCIS News. However, scams are constantly changing and becoming more unique and sophisticated. If someone is demanding money from you, we recommend that you seek advice from our office or DPS before paying them or giving them any personal information.

Recently, we found out about a scam in which people ask students for help to support their international travel. These people request various amounts of money with the least being \$400. They position themselves on campuses near ATMs, and they claim that anyone who gives them money will be reimbursed. BUT, they have no intention of returning any money. Again, use caution when people ask you for money. Try to obtain additional information, do not give payment on the spot (especially in cash which cannot be traced), and seek advice from our office or DPS before you give any payment or personal information.

STEM OPT Update

On August 12, 2015, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a court decision finding that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not follow required procedures when it created the STEM extension of Optional Practical Training (OPT) back in 2008. The Court decision dictates that the STEM extension of OPT will no longer exist after February 12, 2016 but gives DHS six months (from August 12, 2015 until February 12, 2016) to submit the STEM extension regulations again following proper procedures. These six months should give DHS enough time to reissue the STEM extension regulations following proper procedures.

In the meantime, this court decision has no immediate impact on the employment authorization of students currently authorized for the STEM extension of OPT. This court decision does not prevent students who are eligible for the STEM extension of OPT from applying for the STEM extension by February 12, 2016. To be eligible for the STEM extension of OPT, you must be authorized for OPT on the basis of your program of study in a STEM field and have employment with an employer that participates in E-verify. You may apply for the STEM extension up to 120 days before the end date of your authorized OPT.

We have been informed that DHS is reviewing this court decision and will issue guidance in the next few weeks. We will inform you of any guidance we receive.

Slutzker Center News and Events

I-20 Form Redesign

On June 26, 2015, the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) released a newly designed I-20 Form and requires that all active I-20s be replaced by July 1, 2016. You may continue to use your current I-20 Form for travel and as documentation for driver's licenses, Social Security Number applications, and I-9 verifications, until you receive the new I-20 Form.

The Slutzker Center is creating a plan to replace your I-20 during the Fall semester. Please watch the SCIS News for further information about this process.

On-Campus Employment Seminar will no longer be held

The On-Campus Employment Seminar will no longer be held. There will be one seminar next semester on Friday, January 22, at 10:00am. In the meantime please review the seminar power point presentation from our website along with the information on our website about working on campus. If you have any questions, please meet with an advisor during the on-call hours of 11:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Friday.

Syracuse University Events

Student Diversity Summit

October 2 – 3
Hendricks Chapel

The Division of Student Affairs is pleased to bring Dr. Kathy Obear to campus for a keynote address and training on Oct. 2 and Oct. 3. The keynote address on Friday, Oct. 2, is scheduled from 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. in Hendricks Chapel, with a community social and refreshments to follow in the Noble Room (lower level of Hendricks Chapel). ASL interpretation and Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) will be available.

This is a great opportunity for students from all over campus to engage in conversations about diversity and inclusion.

For more information, contact Shaun Crisler at scrisler@syr.edu.

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2015 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

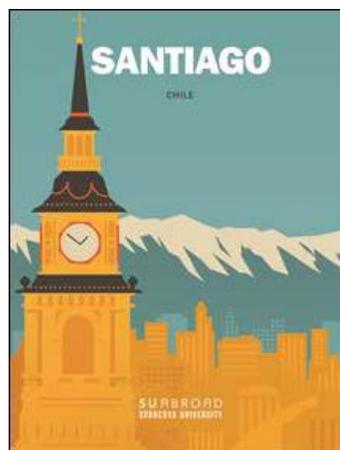
Click [here](#) to fill out the online registration form.

Student Movements in Chile

October 1, 4-5 PM
Maxwell 204

Dr. Mauricio Paredes, SU Santiago Center Director, will be visiting Syracuse. He will deliver a lecture in Spanish entitled, : Student Movements in Chile: Confronting the Legacy of the Dictatorship.

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



**University Lecture:
Cheryl Strayed: 'A Wild Life'
October 7, 6:30 PM
Hendricks Chapel**

SU alumna Strayed (M.F.A. in fiction writing in 2002) is best known for "Tiny Beautiful Things," her 2012 collection of letters from her "Dear Sugar" advice column, and for the No. 1 New York Times best-selling memoir "Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail," recounting her remarkable 1,100-mile solo hike, at age 22, from Southern California to Washington State following the death of her mother from cancer and the end of her own young marriage. The book became the basis for the feature film "Wild." In her campus appearance, Strayed will speak about her writings and the power of memoir.

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

**Commemorative Speaker for Latino
Hispanic Heritage Month:
Alexandra Lúgaro
October 1, 6 PM
Slocum 214**

This year's commemorative speaker for Latino Hispanic Heritage Month is Alexandra Lúgaro, Puerto Rico's first independent candidate for governor. Lúgaro is a lawyer and entrepreneur. She has successfully directed dozens of educational projects, improving student academic achievement in over 500 schools. Her keynote address will discuss the history and current conditions of Latinos and unveil her plan for Puerto Rico's future.

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



Cultural and Community Events

**Bountiful Brunch with a Homegrown Flair
October 4, 8 AM - 12 PM
Baltimore Woods Nature Center
4007 Bishop Hill Rd, 131208**

Fall harvest feast featuring all the fun of a Sunday pancake breakfast combined with homegrown ingredients from area farms and producers. In addition to the traditional pancake brunch, local chefs will create specialty dishes to tempt your taste buds and satisfy your appetite.

Click [here](#) for more information or tickets.

**2015 Syracuse Bicycle Breast Cancer Awareness Ride
October 3
Green Lakes State Park
7900 Green Lakes Rd, 13066**

Syracuse Bicycle is hosting their 7th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Ride on Saturday, October 3rd, at Green Lakes State Park in Fayetteville, NY. With over 200 riders last year, Syracuse Bicycle hosted one of the largest events in the United States and Canada in terms of rider participation and they expect to exceed that number of riders this year! Participants can choose between three great ride options: a 10-mile family-friendly ride on the Erie Canal Path, a 25-mile or a 50-mile road ride on a scenic, flat loop north of Green Lakes State Park.

For more information, or to buy tickets, 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](#)

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled." - **Plutarch**



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