

**Syracuse University**  
**October 8, 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.

### Salsa Night October 23, 7PM - 1AM Bus leaves Slutzker Center at 7PM Bally Bay, 550 Richmond Ave, 13204

On Friday, October 23, there will be a bus leaving from the Slutzker Center for salsa at Johnstons Ballybay at 7PM. We will attend the "Salsa Survival" class with La Familia de la Salsa and stay for the open dance. The bus will return to the Slutzker Center at 1AM.

To sign-up, or for more information, email [ejvoigt@syr.edu](mailto:ejvoigt@syr.edu).

## Syracuse University Events

### American-style Résumés October 12, 2:15 - 3:30 PM Shaffer Art Bldg 121

Have you ever wondered how to write an effective American-style résumé? Do you plan on applying for an academic or professional job in the United States? Are you unsure how to get started? Please join Christina Faulkner from Career Services as she introduces and explores American-style résumés. This presentation will highlight the nuances of American-style résumés and help take yours to the next level. This workshop is specifically geared toward international graduate students.

[Click here](#) to register.

### MERC Presents: Turkish Table October 13, 12 - 1PM 100 Eggers Hall

Speakers of all levels (from beginner to native) are welcome to attend and learn about Turkish culture and language. Professor Jaklin Kornfilt, Turkish Program Coordinator from the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics leads the program. Click [here](#) to fill out the online registration form.

### **EA Presents: Chinese Language Table**

**October 15, 12:30 PM**

**352 Eggers Hall**

Led by Chinese instructor Lily Kuo and MPA/MAIR student Jane Chung, the table is a good chance to practice Chinese and learn about Chinese culture. All experience levels are welcome.

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

## **Cultural and Community Events**

### **LaFayette Apple Festival** **October 10 - 11, 9 AM - 5 PM** **5330 Rowland Rd, LaFayette, 13084**

Enjoy local fall activities like the LaFayette Apple festival. An apple pancake breakfast begins at 7 AM on Saturday and Sunday. There will be other events and apple treats throughout the weekend.

\$5 Admission

Click [here](#) for more information.



### **Nuestro Sabor, A Taste of Caribbean Cuisine, Domino Tournament**

**October 10, 12PM - 4PM**

**La Casita Cultural Center**

**109 Otisco St, 13204**

Traditional Caribbean cuisine for all to taste, open Domino Tournament with cash awards, and live performance by local musicians, trios and Syracuse University's Brazilian Ensemble: Samba Laranja.

For more information click [here](#). Free admission.

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## **Important Reminders**

[Full-Time Course of Study](#)

[Meeting Your Health Requirements](#)

[HR notice for on-campus employees](#)

[Is it your last semester of study?](#)

[Protecting Your Property](#)

[US Embassy Announcements](#)

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"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit." - **Ralph Waldo Emerson**



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