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# Syracuse Manuscript

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY'S BLACK AND LATINX ALUMNI MAGAZINE



Fulfilling a Dream Deferred  
**Kevin Richardson**  
Finds a Home at  
Syracuse University



Dr. Alicia Carroll '88 was honored with the Arents Award, Syracuse University's highest alumni honor, during Orange Central weekend 2019.

Syracuse University

ALUMNI  
AWARDS



# Syracuse Manuscript

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**Syracuse University**

Office of Multicultural Advancement

**On the Cover:** Kevin Richardson shows off his new trumpet to acclaimed jazz musician Charles Rahmat Woods '72, whose trio performed at the reception honoring Richardson.

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## FROM THE 'CUSE

# CBT 2020 Is Coming

### Greetings!

Get ready to celebrate 150 years of Black and Latinx achievement during the Coming Back Together (CBT) alumni reunion on campus Sept. 10-13, 2020. We have been working with our CBT co-chairs Fatimah Muhammad-Moody '90 and Rosann Santos '93 to ensure that CBT 2020 will be the most memorable one yet.

As you know, CBT is always a special time for diverse alumni and students, but perhaps even more so in 2020 as our next gathering will take place in the midst of two historic initiatives: the celebration of our sesquicentennial and the University's Forever Orange fundraising campaign. You have a special part to play in both, and we're counting on you to get involved.

Additionally, CBT 2020 offers a tremendous opportunity to connect with students and learn more about the commitments the University made last semester to foster a more diverse, equitable and inclusive campus climate. Your presence and participation will help us achieve a stronger Syracuse University. To read more about our Campus Commitments, I encourage you to visit [syracuse.edu/commitments](http://syracuse.edu/commitments), which is updated regularly with progress toward these commitments, engagement opportunities and other important news and information.

We will be celebrating you and your accomplishments during CBT, so we hope you will be on campus to be recognized. This will happen through special 150th celebrations during CBT, your participation in our CBT workshops, nominations for Chancellor's Citations and recognition of our "firsts, bests and onlys" within a special CBT 2020 edition of *Syracuse Manuscript* and its related photography exhibition. If you'd like to share your successes with us or your expertise with our students and alumni, please email us at [suma@syr.edu](mailto:suma@syr.edu).

The goal of the Forever Orange campaign is to raise \$1.5 billion for scholarships, facilities and programs that will strengthen our beloved alma mater. Scholarship programs like Our Time Has Come are vital in attracting and retaining diverse students to Syracuse University, as well as nurturing an environment that positions diverse and first-generation students to thrive. The Office of Multicultural Advancement has set a goal to double diverse alumni giving during CBT 2020. You may remember that in 2017 we raised \$1 million benefitting the Our Time Has Come Scholarship Fund, and I'd like to see us bring in \$2 million or more in 2020.

How will we do this? If each of you gives what you can, we can easily get there. Some of you have given in the past. We ask that you give again. Some of you have never given. We ask that you give for the first time. Some of you give regularly. We ask that you give your biggest gift yet. We ask our alumni groups and organizations to start working together now to set and achieve fundraising goals so that we can celebrate your achievements during the CBT 2020 Gala. All gifts matter, and our students benefit greatly when you give back in any amount. If you'd like to have a conversation about donation options and payment schedules or group fundraising, please email me at [revassel@syr.edu](mailto:revassel@syr.edu).

Finally, I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support for our students through your participation in several events and fundraising initiatives last year. We enjoyed hosting the Our Time Has Come Benefit Concert featuring Vanessa Williams in New York City in April; the Our Time Has Come Benefit Reception honoring Suzanne de Passe '68 in Los Angeles in June; the CBT Martha's Vineyard Reunion in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, in August; the Our Time Has Come Benefit Reception honoring Kevin Richardson in September; and our regional holiday gatherings. Please continue to check our website—[syracuse.edu/alumniofcolor/](http://syracuse.edu/alumniofcolor/)—for upcoming events, including this year's pre-CBT receptions and 150th celebrations. We look forward to hosting you, celebrating with you and partnering with you during 2020 to make a huge impact for the next generation of multicultural students at Syracuse University. Join us. We cannot do it without you!

With Orange Love, Rachel

# “My Time Has Come”

**Kevin Richardson fulfills a dream deferred with an emotional visit to Syracuse University**



**K**evin Richardson sat on the stage of Syracuse University’s Goldstein Auditorium speaking to a rapt audience of students, faculty and administrators. He shared the story of how 30 years earlier, as a 14-year-old eighth grader on spring break, he went out one evening to play basketball with friends and did not come home for seven years.

Richardson was one of five Black and Latinx teenagers arrested and charged with the brutal rape and beating of a 28-year-old white woman in Manhattan’s Central Park in April 1989, a case that inflamed racial tensions across New York City and the United States. Despite a lack of forensic evidence, and their continued proclaimed innocence, the five teens were coerced into confessing and served between seven and 13 years in juvenile detention or prison. After DNA evidence confirmed the confession of a serial rapist and murderer to the crime in 2002, they were released and their convictions vacated.

The case was propelled to the forefront of public consciousness again this year with the release of director Ava DuVernay’s highly acclaimed Netflix series *When They See Us*. Richardson, now 44, has turned the trauma of his experience into activism, serving as a motivational speaker and advocate for justice reform through the Innocence Project.

“We always said we were innocent, but our voice was like a whisper,” he told the audience. “We were screaming, but nobody could hear us.”

In September 2019, Richardson was joined on the panel “Justice in America: A Discussion on the Exoneration of the Central Park Five” by moderator Paula Johnson, Syracuse College of Law professor and co-founder and co-director of the Cold Case Justice Initiative, and Candice Carnage ’90, chief operating officer of the Bronx Defenders and former chief financial officer of the Innocence Project.

Johnson encouraged those in attendance to keep pushing to make change for the 2.3 million people incarcerated in the United States, “an estimated two to 10 percent not guilty of the crimes they were convicted of.”

Carnage said coming home to Syracuse University and seeing all the black and brown faces “inspires me that the world will change.”





*“When I got the call inviting me here, I felt 14 all over again. It’s like being reacquainted with a child you haven’t seen for 30 years. I can’t stop grinning.”*

—Kevin Richardson



Richardson told the audience about growing up as a Big East basketball fan and his teenage dream to attend Syracuse University. “When I got the call inviting me here, I felt 14 all over again,” he said. “It’s like being reacquainted with a child you haven’t seen for 30 years. I can’t stop grinning.”

## For good reason

“Justice in America” was the culmination of an emotional 36-hour visit designed to honor Richardson and, as much as possible, make up for the experience he missed.

It all started when Oprah interviewed the Exonerated Five in June and asked each of the men about their dreams and aspirations before their arrest. Richardson said he’d dreamed of playing the trumpet at Syracuse University.

That response made an immediate impact. Efforts were already in the works by the Office of Multicultural Advancement, which had been fielding calls and emails from Black and Latinx alumni asking what they could do.



Dakota Chambers '22, Tyra Jean '20, Angela Morales-Patterson, Kevin Richardson, Rachel Vassel, Miko Horn, Azarius Williams '20, Gaelyn Smith '20 and Kenyona Chaney '20

“We want to adopt Kevin into our community of Orange men and women and have him be a part of what he missed,” says Rachel Vassel '91, assistant vice president of multicultural advancement and a native New Yorker who vividly remembers the case as it happened. “Universities should do good in the world, and this was a perfect opportunity.”

Through fellow alumna Carnage, Vassel reached out to Richardson and extended an invitation to campus. Then the entire University community rallied to make that visit as memorable as possible.

Richardson and his wife, Johansy, began their Syracuse University experience Sept. 8 attending the new play *Thoughts of a Colored Man* at Syracuse Stage, followed by a panel discussion with the play’s writer, director and community leaders, facilitated by Syracuse University Chief Diversity Officer Keith Alford. Afterward, a reception in Richardson’s honor was held at the Community Folk Art Center.

Richardson was presented with a personalized number 44 jersey to commemorate the “Orange spirit of determination” by Adrian Autry '94, Orange men’s basketball associate head coach and former player, and Herman Frazier '94, senior deputy athletics director. He was also gifted a new trumpet from Ian

Wudyka, district manager for Yamaha. “I hope Kevin is able to not only fulfill his own dreams in playing but also share his passion and inspire others to make music,” said Wudyka.

On behalf of Syracuse University, Angela Morales-Patterson and Miko Horn '95 from the Office of Multicultural Advancement presented Richardson with an award recognizing his “bravery, resilience, perseverance and community service in the fight for justice.” The circular glass sculpture is intended to represent “full-circle moments in life . . . symbolizing that aspirations aren’t lost, they are just repositioned at a different moment in time to create better opportunities for others who are fighting to accomplish their dreams,” said Horn.

But the highlight of the event was the announcement of the Our Time Has Come Kevin Richardson Scholarship with a preference for supporting underserved students with an unmet financial need.

There wasn’t a dry eye in the room. Richardson, overcome with emotion, had to gather himself several times in making his remarks. “For my name to be connected to kids at SU means the world to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I never thought I would be here,” Richardson said. “I’m part of this family now. Life has come full circle at 44 years old. My time has come.”



# RESILIENCE bravery perseverance and community service in the fight for justice

## Tara Brown Favors Pledges Lead Gift for Kevin Richardson Scholarship

When Tara Brown Favors '95 heard about plans to honor Kevin Richardson with a named scholarship in the Our Time Has Come Fund, it was an "easy decision" for her family to agree upon, she says. Favors, vice president of human resources for a leading financial services company and a member of the Office of Multicultural Advancement Alumni Advisory Council, made the lead \$25,000 gift to launch the scholarship.

Favors is also the mother of two boys—Davis, 14, and Dalton, 17. She and her family were deeply impacted watching Ava DuVernay's *When They See Us*, a dramatization of the famed Central Park jogger case told from the point of view of the five young men wrongly accused and convicted and their families, as well as by the Ken Burns documentary *The Central Park Five* and Sarah Burns' book *The Central Park Five: A Chronicle of City Wilding*.

Creation of the Kevin Richardson Scholarship was announced at a fundraising reception honoring Richardson on Sept. 8. Favors says it was her son Dalton, attending the reception with her, who urged her to launch the scholarship fund. "Giving back is important. Helping launch this scholarship is giving back in a way that is particularly meaningful to me and my family," she says.

Once the scholarship is endowed, it will exist in perpetuity at Syracuse University. "That means there will be Kevin Richardson Scholars on the campus of Syracuse University for years to come," says Favors. In making the scholarship announcement, she thanked Richardson for being "an inspiration to our students, my children and to us."

Favors earned a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in psychology with a minor in human resources. She also earned a master's in human resources from

The reception was a fundraising event for the Kevin Richardson Scholarship, which was launched with a \$25,000 lead gift from Tara Brown Favors '95, a member of the Office of Multicultural Advancement's Alumni Advisory Council. According to Vassel, the goal is to raise \$100,000 for the scholarship.

Alumni attending—who came from as far away as New York City, New Jersey and Washington, D.C.—universally cited being deeply impacted by the case, as well as the *When They See Us* dramatization.

One of those was actor Dexter McKinney '08, G'14, a Syracuse native now living in Brooklyn, who had a role in episode four of *When They See Us*. "Being part of *When They See Us* was an incredible experience, both to have the opportunity to act in a production of that caliber and to be involved in telling the story of the Exonerated Five," says McKinney. "I wasn't going to miss seeing Kevin honored by Syracuse University."



Kevin Richardson (middle) with Dalton and Tara Brown Favors

the New School of Social Research. Her career in corporate human resources includes positions at Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Revlon and Deutsche Bank. She also serves on the board of the Valerie Fund, which supports children with cancer and blood disorders, and is a member of Jack and Jill of America Inc. and The Links Inc. ✦

To support Kevin Richardson's legacy at Syracuse University, please make a gift at [givetosu.syr.edu/kevinrichardson](http://givetosu.syr.edu/kevinrichardson).



## Thoughts of a Colored Man

### Taye Diggs Brings Play to Syracuse Stage for World Premiere

Carnage says the event was the pinnacle of her Syracuse University experience. “I knew that it was going to be emotional, but seeing how much it all really meant to Kevin, and getting to be a part of that, was really indescribable,” she says. “The alumni community is a beautiful family. I’m grateful he’s now a part of it and hope we can continue to support him and his legacy through this endowment.”

The following day, Richardson experienced a VIP tour of campus that included a sit-down with head men’s basketball coach Jim Boeheim ’66, G’73 and shooting hoops with current players; lunch with Our Time Has Come Scholars; and a visit to the Setnor School of Music, where he met with John Coggiola, director of jazz studies, and watched a student jazz group perform.

“That’s my homework,” he later said. “I’m going to start studying and start playing the trumpet again because I wouldn’t say I lost that passion, but I’d say I put it on the back burner. So now I want to pick it back up and be reacquainted.”

That evening, Richardson shared how deeply meaningful his visit had been. “It touches my soul to know a scholarship in my name will help kids achieve a college education, which I didn’t get to do. To get to pay it forward to others is the best thing that could happen,” he told the Goldstein Auditorium audience. “This is the beginning of a beautiful relationship.”



Playwright Keenan Scott II, Rachel Vassel, producer Brian Moreland, Kevin Richardson, director Steve Broadnax III and associate director Bianca Laverne Jones (left to right)

Kevin and Johansy Richardson began their Syracuse University visit by taking in a performance of *Thoughts of a Colored Man* at Syracuse Stage.

The new play highlights the Black male experience in America, told through seven characters as they go through a single day in their gentrifying Brooklyn neighborhood. The characters and their allegorical names each represent different aspects of life—love, lust, anger, passion, happiness, depression and wisdom—and are drawn from the experiences of playwright Keenan Scott II. “Throughout my life, I heard that Black men don’t know how to express themselves, so I said, ‘How brilliant would

it be to create a piece where all Black men do is express themselves?’” he says.

The Syracuse Stage production, directed by Steve H. Broadnax III, was the play’s world premiere. Broadnax, an award-winning director and head of the MFA acting program at Penn State University, worked with the writer and actors during its run to refine the performance with a goal of taking it to Broadway after a run at Baltimore Center Stage.

The play was brought to Syracuse Stage by Taye Diggs ’93. Diggs made his directorial debut when he began workshoping *Thoughts of a Colored Man* with industry readings in 2018, including a special event for invited guests at Syracuse University’s Lubin House. He became unavailable to direct the Syracuse Stage production when his CW TV series *All American*, in which he has a starring role, was renewed for a second season.

The performance the Richardsons attended was followed by a panel discussion with the playwright and director, community leader and DJ Hassan Stephens, and local attorney Lanessa Chaplin, facilitated by Syracuse University Chief Diversity Officer Keith Alford.

Those involved in the production and panel said it was particularly meaningful to have Richardson in the audience and to have the opportunity to meet him at the reception.

“His story is an inspiration to the human spirit,” says Ryan Jamaal Swain, the actor who played Love.

Director Broadnax said he hoped the show might enlighten and open dialogue, preventing false assumptions such as those that led to the arrest of the Exonerated Five. “To impact the community culturally is why we do what we do,” he says.



JOANNIE DIAZ-BALBI '11

## Managing Corporate Diversity

**A**s a recent graduate forging a career in finance, Joannie Diaz-Balbi felt a constant push to prove herself as a woman of color. “There were few women in finance, especially when I looked around on the trading floor,” she says.

As Diaz-Balbi progressed, she made it a point to mentor female interns and attend recruiting events. At the same time, she and two college friends launched a successful blog called Be Moxie as a platform to help young women of color such as themselves.

“We are all first-generation Latinas whose parents had emigrated from other countries,” Diaz-Balbi explains. “We wanted to give back to our communities and share resources so that these women wouldn’t miss out on the same opportunities we didn’t take advantage of because we just didn’t know.”

Promoting diversity became a passion, and when an opportunity arose to move into that space professionally, Diaz-Balbi jumped at it. In 2016, she became the first diversity and inclusion program manager at the 200-year-old financial services firm Brown Brothers Harriman. “It was a wonderful opportunity to build the vision of what their program was going to look like, develop the strategy, plan recruiting events and build out the employee resource groups,” she says.

In January, Diaz-Balbi moved to a larger financial services corporation as vice president of diversity and inclusion, managing the diversity and inclusion strategy for a 16,000-person global line of business. “The scale is huge and the opportunity is even bigger to drive change. It’s been really exciting,” she says.

Working in a company with well-established efforts toward diversity and inclusion, Diaz-Balbi says she has the opportunity to think about the next evolution and how she can bring value to the space.

“Diversity and inclusion have evolved far beyond what people think of when they hear ‘diversity,’ which usually means gender and ethnic diversity,” she says. “We’re including the full diversity spectrum from LGBTQ status, veterans, neurodiversity, social economic status and so many others—all equally important to the

diversity story.”

Diaz-Balbi says her work extends across all human resources practices, beginning with ensuring that the company uses inclusive language in its job descriptions, how and who to recruit, training and leadership development, and pay equity.

“I’m really passionate about promoting these initiatives to make sure people feel represented at work so they can bring their best selves,” she says. “My work involves a lot of communication about our mission, about what we can do to make this the best place to work.”

As a finance and economics major at Syracuse University’s Martin J. Whitman School of Management, Diaz-Balbi didn’t know the field of diversity and inclusion existed. “Now it’s becoming the norm to see someone at your company dedicated to diversity and inclusion initiatives,” she says. “It’s a world of difference from when I graduated.”

She credits empowering female professors at Whitman for changing the way she thought about corporate America. It was networking with Syracuse University alumni working at JPMorgan Chase that helped her get her first job as a trading analyst. Diaz-Balbi met her husband, Rafael Balbi '11, at Syracuse University and was an active member of Omega Phi Beta sorority. She remains connected to the group, serving as a mentor to current students on things like professional development.

“There is a lot of my personal story that I bring to diversity and inclusion, which I think is important. If you’re working in the human capital space in any capacity, you need to have a passion for people and see them eye to eye,” she says. “I’m trying to be that person people know they can go to to strategize and help them drive change.”



# Multi-Genre Storyteller

Last summer, Keisha-Gaye Anderson spent six weeks as an artist in residence at the Brooklyn Public Library, where she held open studio hours to engage with the public and share her process. Her residency culminated with a poetry reading and art exhibition that incorporated live music.

"It was like a total experience of all of the art forms that I produce," says Anderson. "I was very grateful for the opportunity." Anderson has penned two new poetry collections. *Everything Is Necessary* (Willow Books) was published earlier this year,

and *A Spell for Living* (Agape Editions), which received the Editors' Choice recognition for the 2017 Numinous Orisons, Luminous Origin Literary Award for Poetry, will be released as a multimedia e-book in 2020.

Although Anderson has written poetry since she was a child, it was never something she considered doing professionally. "Coming from an immigrant family, the focus was always on being practical and making money," says the native Jamaican. "Poetry was just my go-to form of self-expression."

Being a natural storyteller, she set her sights on journalism, earning a degree in magazine journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and embarking on decade-long career in television news and documentary production, working for CBS, PBS, MTV and Japanese television.

Although Anderson loved the work, the travel schedule could be grueling. When she got married and started her family, she decided she needed a more predictable schedule. For 15 years, she held media positions within the City University of New York system, the last seven as director of news and information at Brooklyn College. Recently, she began a new role as senior director of marketing and communications for The Jed Foundation, an organization dedicated to protecting emotional health and preventing suicide among young people.

But regardless of her day job, Anderson was always writing poetry, the content of which is influenced by what she calls "universal experiences—motherhood, daily challenges, the mundane aspects of getting through this life." She earned an M.F.A. in fiction from The City College of New York in 2014.

Anderson says her Caribbean heritage also figures heavily in her work. "It's the lens through which I see things—the unity of the Americas," she says. "People have been flowing across borders and mixing cultures forever, and I find that fascinating."

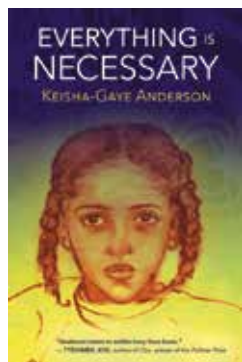
Anderson began submitting poems to journals and having them published, then began getting invited to read at poetry events, gracing the stage as a featured poet at such venues as the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Bowery Poetry Club, New-York Historical Society and Word for Word reading series in Manhattan's Bryant Park.

Anderson published her first book of poetry, *Gathering the Waters* (Jamii Publishing), in 2014 at age 40. In the past four years, she's also become passionate about drawing.

"I started drawing as a way to deal with stress, and it has become a daily practice," says Anderson, whose art has been featured at pop-up exhibitions in Brooklyn and Manhattan and will be included in *A Spell for Living*. Anderson considers herself a multi-genre storyteller.

"The stories I have to tell may be most potent as poems or fiction or visual art," she says.

"I want to utilize the best possible medium to say what I want to say and make the maximum impact." ✦



YADIRA HARRISON '02

## Brand Ambassador

**Y**adira Harrison is reshaping how consumers interact with brands. For more than 15 years, she has conceived and developed experiences to connect brands with consumers or other business partners.

“It’s really about immersing people in the brands by having them engage in a way they never have before,” she says. That could be through events such as pop-ups, conferences and festivals—or content and partnerships.

While traditional advertising can evoke emotion, Harrison says the magic is “creating a brand experience through either a physical manifestation or digital interaction.”

At her hybrid creative agency/consulting firm, Verb, launched in Los Angeles and New York in January 2018 with business partner Shannon Jones, Harrison works with clients ranging from AMC Networks and Lyft to Amazon Web Services and Nielsen. Recent projects include establishing Coinbase’s presence at the Grace Hopper Celebration to enhance female recruitment, launching a women’s conference for Washington University in St. Louis, and producing denim pop-up shops for retailer Everlane in Washington, D.C., and Atlanta.

“Our work is all over the place, and consequently, so am I,” Harrison says of her travel schedule.

Harrison spent nearly 10 years working in the Parade and Entertainment Division of Macy’s, where she was charged with reinventing annual events that included the iconic Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, Macy’s Fourth of July Fireworks, Macy’s Flower Shows and a host of other fashion and holiday events. “Those traditions had been around for a very long time, and it was up to me to rethink those experiences to keep them fresh and new.”

From Macy’s, Harrison moved to experiential agency Civic Entertainment Group (a Seacrest Global Group company), where she developed and executed activations for eBay and Airbnb, the latter at the time launching in Los Angeles. Her work included

cultivating Airbnb’s presence at events such as the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW and the New York City Marathon, as well as creating Airbnb Open, a “festival of hosting” that grew to attract 20,000 people in downtown Los Angeles in 2016. It consisted of an array of panels and talks held in 17 venues, and included a concert featuring Maroon 5 and Lady Gaga.

“The newness and freshness of getting to constantly think out of the box was really exciting,” she says.

Harrison and Jones worked together on the Airbnb account.

She says they created Verb to be able to use “all the tools in our toolbox,” from brand strategy and art direction to digital integration and social media. They focus on developing entire campaigns.

“Our work is not about an event, rather how a brand should be experienced or represented,” she says. When Netflix looked to Verb for help on celebrating the final season of *Orange Is the New Black*, Verb suggested incorporating fan art as part of the series end celebration, which became the Orange Forever key art campaign.

Harrison says she’s been attracted to events and marketing since she came to Syracuse University from Texas. “I’ve always been interested in how people experience the world around them,” she says. Harrison majored in speech communication and joined the University Union Concert Board in her first year, an experience that gave her connections for internships with the ICM Talent Agency and Jive Records. She also interned with the Texas Rangers. She was active in residential life and served as a resident advisor at Shaw, Haven and Watson halls.

“My time at Syracuse had a major impact on what I’m doing now,” she says. “For me, it was a moment in time that has stuck with me and been a huge part of my story.”



*“It’s really about immersing people in the brands by having them engage in a way they never have before.”*

—Yadira Harrison



JAMAL SALMON '12

## Data Driven

**W**hen Paramount Pictures released *Gemini Man* in early October, it did so with a promotional campaign informed by data analytics.

“There are always multiple promotional videos airing online, and my team is able to evaluate which of the ads we are serving up is making the biggest impact,” says Jamal Salmon, senior vice president of research and analytics at Paramount Pictures. “We can tell which are passing along the intended message, which are getting watched the most, and which are prompting the viewer to share the video or mention it online. That information is passed along to digital creative partners who can adjust the campaign accordingly.”

Salmon and his team analyze new data sources—from Google searches to social media platforms—to determine how consumers engage with various brands. “This is all digital information that might exist outside of conventional market research, such as surveys or focus groups,” he explains.

There is so much untraditional data available that Salmon says most every motion picture studio and TV network has either created a department of data analytics or added one to its traditional market research.

“My philosophy is that more information and more analysis are always helpful,” he says.

A native of New York City, Salmon came to Syracuse University to study sport management with a goal of working a front-office role in either baseball or basketball. He got that in his first job as a basketball/baseball analyst for Bloomberg Sports. But he quickly realized he had interests in business behind the scenes that went beyond player evaluation.

When he was offered a research analyst position at ESPN, where he interned during college, he jumped at the opportunity, changing his research focus to the content that was resonating with consumers on the network. That was just the start.

In a relatively short time, Salmon has amassed diverse career experiences that have propelled him to a senior role in the entertainment industry.

“I’ve been fortunate to gain a lot of varied experiences at interesting times,” he says. “I arrived at Bloomberg Sports as that division was brand new. Being able to work at ESPN at a time when the behavior of core consumers was changing and you needed to reach them digitally and not rely solely on cable. Joining Netflix right after their launch of original programming, which is core to their business today. And then working in ad sales measurement at Google as advertisers became focused on reaching consumers who no longer constantly watched TV,” he explains.



Salmon joined Paramount in 2017 and says that timing has been interesting as well. “People have a lot of options for their screen time,” he says. “They don’t even have to go to the theater anymore to watch a great movie.”

Salmon credits the mentorship he received from faculty at the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics for helping prepare him for his career, one reason he is eager to help current students. He serves on the alumni advisory board for the Office of Multicultural Advancement, as an Our Time Has Come (OTHC) mentor, and is a major donor to the OTHC Scholarship Fund. Recently, he hosted 25 Syracuse University in Los Angeles students on the Paramount lot to share “a day in the life.”

“Being able to have a direct connection to students to share experiences and offer advice has been increasingly important to me,” he says. “From a data analytics standpoint, being able to help students choose coursework or develop their skill set to help them be competitive in the workforce is something I’m happy to do.” ❖

## Tyra Jean

**W**hen Tyra Jean '20 decided to shift her professional aspiration from medicine to public health at the beginning of her junior year, she knew she was going to need some practical experiences to help refine her interests.

This past summer, she got a crash course in public policy as one of 30 students selected nationwide to participate in the Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute at the University of California Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy. The rigorous seven-week program emulates the first semester of a graduate program in public policy and international relations. It's designed to attract and prepare students from underserved populations to graduate programs in public policy and international affairs and expose them to opportunities for professional careers in public service.

"It was an amazing experience," says Jean, a senior from Charlotte, North Carolina. "We had classes in quantitative analysis, economics and policy, as well as an amazing array of speakers and community activities."

In September, Jean got on another plane and headed to Washington, D.C., to serve as a student ambassador at the 2019 Congressional Leadership Congress held by the Congressional Hispanic Congress Institute through a partnership with Southwest Airlines. "There was an array of panels on topics specific to minority communities, and I focused on public health and environmental issues," says Jean, who was one of 25 students nationwide selected to participate.

Jean says she plans to pursue a joint master of public policy and master of public health degree, with current interests in global health and epidemiology. But first, she wants more on-the-ground experience. She's applying for postgraduate fellowships, hoping to work on public health issues in a developing country.

"Because I just shifted my focus from pre-med last year, I really want to get some work experience to learn and solidify my interests before graduate school," says Jean, a sociology major with minors in biology and Spanish.

She'll undoubtedly be successful at whatever she pursues. An outstanding student, Jean is a Renée Crown University Honors student, a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and an Our Time Has Come (OTHC) Scholar. She's also been an active community volunteer at local hospitals and schools. She works with students in the Syracuse City School District through the poetry immersion program M.E.S.H. (Making Expression and Scholarship Heard) and Literacy Corps and serves as a mentor to a local student through J.U.M.P. (Juvenile Urban Multicultural Program) Nation.

"I started with her when she was in eighth grade, and she's now a high school junior thinking about college," she says.

Jean counts the mentoring experiences she's received as an OTHC Scholar among the highlights of her own college experience. "We've had sponsored trips to New York City to get exposure to different fields and employers as well as influential guest speakers who come and share their lives with us," she says.

As a first-generation Haitian American college student, Jean says both the financial support and the programming have been integral to her success. "I was talking with some other OTHC Scholars about this the other day," she says. "We have no idea how we would have gotten through college if it wasn't for the support of OTHC." ❖



If you'd like to support a student like Tyra Jean or Azarius Williams, please give to OTHC at [alumni-of-color.syr.edu/give-now/](https://alumni-of-color.syr.edu/give-now/). If you'd like to mentor a student visit [alumni-of-color.syr.edu/connect/othc-mentor-application/](https://alumni-of-color.syr.edu/connect/othc-mentor-application/).





## Azarius Williams

**E**ach week, Azarius Williams '20 spends time with teenage boys incarcerated at the Onondaga County Justice Center as a volunteer with the Center for Community Alternatives. Sometimes he organizes activities; other times they play card games. "The goal is to allow them to just feel like kids and offer some positivity," says Williams.

And, indirectly, serve as a role model. "Because of my age and ethnicity, they can relate to me and they ask a lot of questions about my Syracuse University experience," he says. "They get to interact with a peer who sees them as something other than a criminal."

Williams is passionate about social justice, an interest that has solidified during his own experiences at Syracuse University.

He says his first two years of college were rough. Coming from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as a Posse Scholar, Williams had to adjust not only to the weather, but also to a population far more homogenous than a cultural and ethnic melting pot. He says it was the first time he truly became exposed to the politics of race and gender, which he sometimes found oppressive.

But instead of giving up, he found spaces that helped him adjust. He got involved with the LGBTQ Resource Center and attended conferences focusing on social justice around LGBTQ issues. "That really helped me overcome a lot of the internal strife I felt about being here, including a disconnect between my Black and LGBTQ identity," he says. "It gave me the language and the courage to speak about my experiences and what it means to exist."

Initially a finance major, Williams added a second major in sociology as a sophomore, the same year he was named an Our Time Has Come (OTHC) Scholar. "As a first-generation student, I didn't know what questions to ask or what resources to look for. I felt that I was way behind other students," he says.

OTHC changed all of that.

"Everyone looked like me, and I could resonate with their stories," he says, both of his fellow scholars and of the alumni who served as mentors and speakers. And the financial support filled the gap in covering housing and living expenses, allowing him to continue his education without financial hardship.

Williams thrived. He spent fall semester of his junior year studying as an exchange student at City University of Hong Kong, where he enjoyed immersing himself in an unfamiliar culture. He also traveled throughout Southeast Asia and was exposed to international social justice issues.

He's applying for postgraduate fellowships to spend a year in Cambodia conducting research on intergenerational trauma following the Khmer Rouge genocide.

"I'm interested in how that time period continues to impact society and younger generations today," says Williams, who is also a Ronald McNair Scholar, a Remembrance Scholar and a member of the Forever Orange Student Alumni Council. Eventually, he'd like to pursue a graduate degree in sociology. That's a path he never would have imagined for himself as a high school student, but then, he considers Syracuse University a life-changing experience.

"Coming to college gave me access to resources to feel OK with who I am and to discover and explore my passions," he says. ✦

# Our Time

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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# Now and Forever Orange

On Nov. 8, fueled by undeniable momentum and powered by a fiercely passionate Orange community, Syracuse University announced the launch of a historic \$1.5 billion campaign, Forever Orange: The Campaign for Syracuse University. The campaign kicked off as the University celebrates its sesquicentennial, uniting the Orange community as it collectively reflects on 150 years of impact and fearless firsts.

“Syracuse University is at a pivotal moment,” says Chancellor Kent Syverud. “Higher education looks vastly different now than it did at the University’s founding, 150 years ago. Our world is increasingly complex, and the future demands ideas, inventions, actions and individuals equipped to meet these challenges head on. Together, we can achieve our vision, impact lives and improve our world. That’s the Orange way.”

The resources generated as part of the campaign will support and accelerate three equally important Academic Strategic Plan priorities: advancing academic excellence, providing an unsurpassed student experience, and creating unique learning opportunities—particularly in our service to veterans, commitment to diversity and inclusion, and passion for entrepreneurship and innovation—to impact our world in extraordinary ways.

The campaign, the most ambitious in Syracuse University’s history, has already raised more than \$800 million toward the goal. The University has also set its sights on a total of 125,000 unique donors participating, ultimately demonstrating significant support for and belief in Syracuse University’s position as a top international research university.

The campaign launch was preceded by a week of events, including Boost the ‘Cuse: 44 Hours for Syracuse University, a giving marathon on Nov. 5 and 6, benefiting all areas of the University. Boost the ‘Cuse raised more than \$2.5 million from more than 6,200 donors. As part of this effort, 185 donors supported the Office of Multicultural Advancement with gifts of more than \$37,000.

The Office of Multicultural Advancement has set a goal to raise \$2 million from Syracuse University’s diverse alumni in 2020, funds that will support scholarships for its increasingly diverse student body. “This is the time for all alumni to participate, at whatever level they can,” says Rachel Vassel ’91, assistant vice president of multicultural advancement. “All gifts matter, and together we can support future generations of students in becoming Forever Orange.”

For more information on Forever Orange: The Campaign for Syracuse University, visit [syracuse.edu/foreverorange](http://syracuse.edu/foreverorange) or contact the Office of Multicultural Advancement at [suma@syr.edu](mailto:suma@syr.edu).

*“This is the time for all alumni to participate, at whatever level they can. All gifts matter and together we can support future generations of students in becoming Forever Orange.”*

—Rachel Vassel, assistant vice president of multicultural advancement



Andrew Regalado '20 speaking during the Forever Orange Campaign Launch event at Goldstein Auditorium.



# Fatimah Muhammad-Moody and Keith Moody Support **Our Time Has Come** with \$50,000 Gift

**F**atimah Muhammad-Moody '90 and Keith Moody '89 aren't exaggerating when they say Syracuse University provided the foundation for their lives together. The Moodys met as undergraduate students at the Martin J. Whitman School of Management in the late 1980s, went on to marry and have three children, and formed a successful business together. LinkVisum Consulting Group, founded in 2007, is a Washington, D.C.-area firm specializing in process improvement, program management and strategic planning for government agencies and private industry.



Now, the Moodys are using their success to help the next generation of Syracuse University students with a \$50,000 gift to the Our Time Has Come Scholarship Program's Undergraduate Black and Hispanic Scholarship Endowment.

"When I think about all of the good things that happened at Syracuse—the people and resources made available to me—I feel it's important to give back," says Fatimah Muhammad-Moody, who served as Senior Class Marshal for the School of Management and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. "We're very

grateful for our experience at Syracuse and for the network we continue to have."

"We've been successful in our lives, and by giving to this scholarship fund we have the opportunity to impact someone else's life for the better," adds Keith Moody. "I think it's a responsibility to look out for those who come behind us." He says the gift is also an opportunity for him to continue the philanthropic legacy of his father, who recently passed away.

The Moodys' gift, which helps fulfill the Office of Multicultural Advancement's goal to raise \$2 million by Coming Back Together

(CBT) 2020, is only the most recent aspect of their support of Syracuse University students of color. Keith and Fatimah have both volunteered with the Office of Multicultural Advancement as speakers and mentors, assisting students with leadership development skills. In addition, Fatimah is a member of the Office of Multicultural Advancement Advisory Council and co-chair of CBT 2020.

"More than ever, it's important for Black and Latinx alumni to stay engaged with Syracuse University and its current students," says Fatimah. "We all have something to give back, and they need us." In light of the recent racist acts that have taken place on campus, Fatimah recognizes now as a critical time for her as a Black alumna to provide even more assistance for students.

She stresses that engagement comes in many forms—mentoring, financial support or sharing personal and professional resources. "I encourage all of my fellow alumni to become more engaged and support current students of color at Syracuse University at any level and in whatever ways they can to keep them encouraged, motivated and enrolled," she says.

Keith says he gets back as much as he gives. He says one of the most inspirational experiences of CBT 2017 was interacting with students who were recipients of Our Time Has Come scholarships.

"To actually see where your donations are going is very impactful," he says. "There are a lot of talented young people out there, and if I can help remove some of the financial hurdles on their way to achieving great things, that's what really drives me." ✦

## Board of Trustees Announces Special Committee; Engages Independent Panel of National Experts to Assess and Advise on University Climate, Diversity and Inclusion

In mid-December, Syracuse University's Board of Trustees announced the formation of an Independent Advisory Panel—which is working in conjunction with a newly formed Board of Trustees Special Committee on University Climate, Diversity and Inclusion—to assess and provide recommendations regarding programs, policies and initiatives designed to foster and strengthen diversity and inclusion at Syracuse. Composed of nationally prominent experts, the advisory panel, in collaboration with the special committee and Syracuse University leadership, is charged with reviewing the existing framework for diversity and inclusion and making recommendations. The announcement of this panel and the special committee follows commitments made by the University, including those made in recent months after consultation with student leaders.

Members of the Independent Advisory Panel are:

**Eric Fingerhut**, president and CEO, The Jewish Federations of North America; former president and CEO, Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life; and former chancellor, the Ohio Board of Regents;

**Karol Mason**, president, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; and former assistant U.S. attorney general, Office of Justice Programs;

**Damon Williams**, senior scholar and Innovation Fellow, Wisconsin's Equity and Inclusion Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin; founder, Atlanta-based Center for Strategic Diversity Leadership and Social Innovation; and founding member, *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*; and

**Frank H. Wu**, the William L. Prosser Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Hastings College of the Law (also former chancellor and dean); former faculty member, Howard University Law School; and former dean, Wayne State University Law School.

"With the appointment of this expert panel and the formation of the special committee, the Board affirms its vision and commitment to build on the work that is already underway to foster a campus climate that is safe, diverse, inclusive and welcoming to everyone," says Board of Trustees Chair Kathleen A. Walters '73. "The goal of our work is to establish Syracuse University as a leader in higher education and beyond by modeling the values of a diverse and inclusive society on our campus, while fostering a culture at Syracuse University that is supportive and welcoming to all people and preparing our students to be leaders in our diverse world."

As an integral part of this effort, the panel and special committee will directly engage with students, faculty, staff and alumni, including through in-person meetings, surveys and other ways of gathering information. All of this input will be taken into consideration in developing recommendations to build a stronger institutional framework.

Collaboration among the Independent Advisory Panel, the special committee, University leadership and others will result in a comprehensive analysis and recommendations regarding policies, programs and other initiatives required to foster a sustainable approach to diversity and inclusion. The advisory panel and special committee will also evaluate successful practices and programs at other higher education institutions and explore how similar initiatives can be introduced and sustained at Syracuse University.

"Our unwavering commitment is that Syracuse University is a place where all students, faculty and staff feel included, supported, protected and respected as valued members of this community," says Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud. "I look forward to the work of the Independent Advisory Panel and the special committee. Our community lending its voice to this important work will be instrumental in creating a stronger Syracuse University for everyone."

The special committee is co-led by Trustees Richard Alexander L'82 and Jeffrey Scruggs, who are joined by the chairs of the Board of Trustees committees governing academic affairs, student affairs, advancement and external affairs, and budget, as well as Board Chair Walters.

Interim reports will be made throughout the spring semester with the goal of completing recommendations by the end of June 2020. At the same time, the University will continue to implement previously announced programs and enhancements, including the November 2019 agreements.

While the special committee and Independent Advisory Panel continue this important work, students are being encouraged to participate in campus engagement committees, which were created to drive student involvement in collective efforts to support an inclusive, equitable, safe and welcoming campus community. Members of the committees will provide input, constructive feedback and insight into the implementation of the recommendations provided by multiple groups of students over the last several weeks.

"As we work to advance the thoughtful, solutions-oriented recommendations offered by our students, we will need additional student input to support the effective implementation of each recommendation. This continued dialogue with students, senior leaders, staff and faculty is essential to our work in strengthening our community," says Rob Hradsky, vice president for the student experience. ☎

*To learn more about the Campus Commitments and to read about Syracuse University's initiatives related to diversity, inclusion and campus climate, please visit [syracuse.edu/commitments](http://syracuse.edu/commitments).*

# Facilities Update

**A**lumni on campus for Orange Central 2019—or any of the other home football games last fall—couldn't help noticing the physical changes occurring on campus. For those unable to make it back, here's an update:



**The Barnes Center at The Arch**, Syracuse University's new state-of-the-art fitness center, held its grand opening Sept. 13 during Orange Central. The Barnes Center incorporates all of the University's recreation and health and wellness facilities under one roof. The four-story building includes exercise rooms, a climbing wall, meditation spaces, basketball court, a lap pool, esports gaming room and pet therapy room. The Barnes Center provides student-centered, inclusive care and programs that approach health and wellness holistically, encompassing mind, body, spirit and community.

**The National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC)** is in the final stages of construction and scheduled to open in 2020. The NVRC will serve as the center of veteran life on campus, in the community and across Central New York, and is intended to facilitate and nurture academic research, actionable programming and collaborative thought leadership to advance the social, economic and wellness concerns of the nation's veterans and their families.



ARON CASS



The National Veterans Resource Center (above) and Schine Center (left)

**Schine Student Center** is closed as it undergoes a significant renovation, with the exception of Goldstein Auditorium and Syracuse University Bookstore. The newly designed building is scheduled to open in late summer 2020.

**The Dome** may be prominent on the Syracuse skyline but even more evident are the two giant construction cranes that hover above it. One of the largest cranes in the world—1,100 tons with a boom reaching 580 feet—arrived in Syracuse in July and will be used to install steel on the new Dome roof. The current timeline calls for all of Syracuse University athletics to vacate the Dome for renovations March 1, 2020, with the new roof slated for completion by the start of football season in August. Additional renovations, including air conditioning and new bathrooms, are expected to be complete by 2022. 📍





# HEOP Marks 50 Years at Syracuse University

Perhaps no greater initiative in the history of Syracuse University has had more impact on increasing the diversity of the student body than the University's Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), now in its 50th year.

HEOP was legislated in 1968 by New York State to provide opportunities to economically and educationally disadvantaged students at private colleges and universities in the state. In 1969, Syracuse University became one of the first to enroll students under HEOP. Five students were enrolled; two graduated. Today, HEOP enrolls an average of 50 students annually with a total roster of 218 and boasts a five-year graduation rate of 82.6 percent, which aligns closely with the University's overall graduation rate of 81.3 (based on the entering Fall 2013 cohort).

The program targets students who present an alternative admission profile to Syracuse University's standard admissions requirements but show the promise to succeed with the proper support. To be considered, students must be New York state residents and fall within specific income guidelines. Many are also first-generation students.

"We work very closely with the Offices of Admissions and Financial Aid, as well as with high school guidance counselors, who help steer applications to us for review," says HEOP Director Craig Tucker. His team reviews those applications holistically. "It may be that the student's grade point average is lower than the SU norm, or perhaps they did poorly on their standardized tests, but when reviewing the application as a whole, we see potential."

The program works closely with admitted students to help them succeed. "I think the relationships that we build with our students are what make the program special," says Tucker, but he credits the students themselves for their success. "We're giving them an opportunity and very often our students surpass our expectations."

Statistics from Fall 2017 show more than half of HEOP students with grade point averages of 3.0 or higher and three students with a perfect 4.0. A third of students in the program were on the Dean's List.

HEOP was launched at Syracuse University under the direction of Robert Boney. He was followed by Horace Smith, who later became vice president and director of the Division of Student Support and Retention.

"HEOP was one of the first formal ways we began to look at students' individual learning needs and styles and developed a system of supportive services that were responsive to both their cultures and academic needs," Smith has said.

In the 1980s, HEOP moved from Ostrom Avenue to its current location at 804 University Avenue. JoAnne K. May was the director through the 1980s and 1990s. In 2007, she left to focus on SummerStart and the Student Success Initiative. Denise Trionfero took the reins of HEOP and was succeeded by Tucker in 2017.

In its 50 years, Syracuse University's HEOP has assisted hundreds of students in obtaining their degrees. "HEOP changes lives," says Tucker. "It's not only the students accepted into the program who are impacted, but in many cases their entire families. These students are able to graduate, have successful careers and change the patterns of poverty and inequity for their families. The impact is immeasurable." ❖



## Campus Celebrates Latinx Hispanic Heritage Month



Julissa Pabon, from the Office of Multicultural Affairs (left), and Angela Morales-Patterson, from the Office of Multicultural Advancement (right), present Teresita (Tere) Paniagua with the Trailblazer Award.

Latinx Hispanic Heritage Month kicked off Sept. 13 at La Casita Cultural Center with the opening reception of a new exhibit, Caribbean food and special performances from Syracuse University's Latin dance troupe, Raices.

The exhibition, "Pa' La Calle" (To the Streets), presents the work of Syracuse-based, up-and-coming artist Bennie Guzmán. "Pa' La Calle" features a series of portraits that recognize prominent Latinos and Latinas of Syracuse who

are committed to the continued development and well-being of this community and who are enthusiastic partners in support of La Casita's programs. Portraits include Gregorio Jimenez, executive director of the Near Westside Initiative; Bea González G'04, vice president of community engagement at Syracuse University; José Miguel Hernández Hurtado, artistic director of La Joven Guardia del Teatro Latino; and Hugo Acosta and Marisol Hernández, publisher and editor-in-chief, respectively, of *CNY Latino*, among others.

"I believe that art is the best way to start a conversation," says Guzmán. "And I believe that for the youth in this community, where hip-hop, reggaeton and graffiti art are so prevalent, this is the language we need to use in order to have that conversation."

The event launched a monthlong celebration of the cultures and heritage of Latin countries under the theme Celebrating the Past, Present and Future. Other highlights included a parade down the Einhorn Family Walk, the second annual Torneo de Futbol and the annual Fiesta Latina co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Kappa Chapter of Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the Office of Multicultural Advancement. The popular event featured Latin cuisine, live music and dance performances, and an awards presentation. This year's honorees were Distinguished Alumni Excellence Award winner Damaris Mercado '92 and Trailblazer Award winner Teresita Paniagua '82, recognized for her work as executive director of cultural engagement for the Syracuse Hispanic community at Syracuse University's College of Arts and Sciences.

Numerous lectures included a conversation with WABC-TV news reporter Marcus Solis '91 and a keynote lecture from Denise Frohman, a poet, writer and performer who uses her experiences as a queer woman from a multicultural background to inform her work.

In addition, Bird Library featured an exhibit showcasing the expansive work of Syracuse-based artist Juan Cruz '95. ❖

## OTHC Scholar Wins \$50,000 First Prize at National Business Accelerator Competition

When mechanical engineering major Russell Fearon '20 learned he had diabetes a year ago, he quickly realized his life would change.

"When I was first diagnosed it was obviously extremely, extremely difficult," says Fearon, an Our Time Has Come Scholar. "The doctors come to you and tell you, you have to do this, this is how your life is now."

But out of that adversity came innovation. On Oct. 17, Fearon and fellow student Ricardo Sanchez '21 were awarded the \$50,000 first prize at the American Heart Association's EmPOWERED to Served Business Accelerator competition held at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Fearon and Sanchez were among nine finalists in the competition and showcased a wearable diabetes management device they developed during the Invent@SU invention accelerator program last summer.

For Fearon, the invention is personal.

"Dealing with diabetes has added a whole new level of complexity to my life because I have to constantly worry about the state of my health and well-being," he says. "Over the course of the day, when I'm in class or doing other activities, it's both stressful and a burden to stop and search for privacy in order to do what I have to do. I wanted to be proactive and find an alternative that suits me."

During the Invent@SU program, he and Sanchez developed the SugEx watch, which contains a lancet to prick the skin and a built-in glucometer to simultaneously calculate a blood sugar reading. "Our goal was to make the diabetes care beautiful, instead of a circumstance that I hid and was ashamed of," says Fearon.

Winning the competition validated the work in a way Fearon never expected. "It makes everything that we have been doing, all the pain, all the sacrifices that I have made, it makes all that worth it," he says.

Fearon and Sanchez are now working with the Blackstone LaunchPad in Bird Library to advance the concept through commercialization and business development. "The support that we've received was unexpected but has been amazing," says Fearon. "I want to continue developing the device and one day improve the millions of lives that are affected by diabetes." ❖



OTHC Scholar Russell Fearon and his business partner, Ricardo Sanchez, show off the SugEx watch they invented.



# CAMPUSnews

## New Faculty



### Milton Rubén Laufer Joins VPA

Concert pianist and scholar Milton Rubén Laufer joined the Setnor School of Music as its director and an associate professor of music. As director, he will be responsible for the Setnor School's creative, academic and strategic leadership.

Before joining Syracuse University, Laufer served as associate professor and director of Western Carolina University's School of Music. He previously served as an executive at Florida International University College of Communication, Architecture and the Arts in Miami (2015-17); dean of music at the New World School of the Arts in Miami (2012-14); and was a Fulbright Research Fellow in Madrid (2001-02).

He is recognized internationally as a leading interpreter and scholar of Spanish piano music. Laufer's editions of Isaac Albéniz's *Three Improvisations for Piano* and "La Vega" are published by G. Henle Verlag of Munich and available worldwide. Currently he is writing the book *The Pianist's Guide to the Repertoire of Spain*. He has two recording projects planned: an album featuring piano and vocal works by Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona and recording of Latin works for cello and piano with Canadian cellist Nigel Boehm.

Laufer is a charter trustee and lifetime member of the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame and a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (Grammys) and Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (Latin Grammys). He holds degrees from the University of Michigan (B.M.) and Rice University (M.M., D.M.A.).

### Jok M. Jok Joins the Maxwell School

Jok Madut Jok has joined the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs as a professor of anthropology. A native of South Sudan, Jok is co-founder and former executive director of the Sudd Institute, an independent research organization dedicated to improving the quality, impact and accountability of local, national and international policy and decision making in South Sudan to promote a more peaceful, just and prosperous society.

Jok has held fellowship positions at the United States Institute of Peace, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Rift Valley Institute, and served in the government of South Sudan as undersecretary in the Ministry of Culture and Heritage for three years. He is author of four books and numerous articles covering gender, sexuality and reproductive health, humanitarian aid, ethnography of political violence, gender-based violence, war and slavery, and the politics of identity in South Sudan and Sudan. His most recent book is *Breaking Sudan: The*



*Search for Peace* (Oneworld Publications, 2017). He has held faculty positions at University of Juba in South Sudan and Loyola Marymount University.

Jok earned a bachelor's degree from University of Alexandria, Egypt; a master's from American University in Cairo; and a Ph.D. in anthropology from University of California, Los Angeles.

## Syracuse University Celebrates 150 Years



The beginning of the academic year marked the official kickoff of Syracuse University's

Sesquicentennial celebration, observed from August 2019 to October 2020, which will include events, programs and academic symposiums reflecting on the University's history and values, while celebrating the present and looking to the future.

Since 1870, Syracuse University has upheld the idea that "brains and heart shall have a fair chance" at achieving a university degree, welcoming students who spark social change, drive entrepreneurial innovation and uncover truth and beauty in all forms of expression.

To mark the milestone anniversary, the University community is celebrating a history of "fearless firsts" that changed the Syracuse community, the region and the world. For information on exhibits, lectures and events related to Syracuse University's Sesquicentennial, visit [www.syracuse.edu/150years/](http://www.syracuse.edu/150years/).



# Dr. Alicia Carroll and Josh Aviv Honored at Orange Central

More than 3,000 alumni and guests came home to Syracuse University to celebrate 150 years of history during Orange Central 2019. Alumni took advantage of the opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art health, wellness and recreation center, connect with old classmates, cheer on the football team and honor outstanding alumni.

On Saturday morning, the Orange Central Multicultural Breakfast featured guests

Dr. Alicia Carroll '88 and Josh Aviv '15, G'17, who had been honored the previous evening at the Syracuse University Alumni Awards presentation.

Carroll is a recipient of the 2019 George Arents Award, Syracuse University's highest alumni honor. A recipient of the 2006 Chancellor's Citation for Distinguished Achievement in

Medicine, Carroll is an ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Hickory, North Carolina. A first-generation college student, she studied biology at Syracuse University and conducted research at the Department of Biochemistry at Upstate Medical University. She served as senior class marshal and was awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Student Research Scholarship to spend a year as a student scholar at the Johns Hopkins-Wilmer Eye Institute before going to medical school. She earned a medical degree from UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, formerly Rutgers Medical School, and an ophthalmology residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, followed by a fellowship in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Toronto. She serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Board.

Aviv received the Generation Orange Award, presented to young alumni who have made significant contributions to their



Honorees Carroll and Aviv with Rachel Vassel and Our Time Has Come Scholars at the Orange Central Multicultural Breakfast

communities and to the University. He is the founder and CEO of SparkCharge, a startup that manufactures an ultrafast portable charger for electric cars. The company has been featured in major technology and clean energy publications and won numerous awards. He earned an undergraduate degree in economics and a master's degree in information management.

Aviv also headlined two Fireside Chats at Syracuse University's Blackstone LaunchPad during Orange Central weekend, sharing his journey mobilizing resources to take an idea from concept to commercialization. ✦



# Correcting History

## Syracuse BLAC leads effort to posthumously admit the first African American College of Law graduate to the New York bar.

In 1903, William Herbert Johnson became the first African American to graduate from the Syracuse University College of Law. Although he graduated with honors, gave the valedictorian address at graduation and passed the bar exam, he was unable to gain admission to the New York bar and practice law.

“Admission to the bar requires references, and white lawyers were unwilling to sign a statement confirming the good character and fitness of Black graduates,” says College of Law Dean Craig Boise.

On Oct. 18, 2019, that injustice was acknowledged in a historic posthumous admission ceremony for Johnson held at the Onondaga County Courthouse in Syracuse, the first posthumous bar admission ever conducted in New York state. “We are going to right that wrong in the only way we can,” said the Hon. Gerald Whalen, presiding justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

Whalen said Johnson’s admission “corrects a historic wrong and provides his family with an official acknowledgment that Johnson had the moral character and intellectual fitness to practice law in this state and should have been admitted over a century ago.”

The event was the result of a year-long effort spearheaded by Felicia Collins Ocumarez G’98, L’98, in-house counsel for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, who along with Syracuse University College of Law Professor Paula C. Johnson, had prepared and filed a 100-page petition to the state Court of Appeals on behalf of the Syracuse Black Law Alumni Collective (Syracuse BLAC) in support of Johnson’s posthumous admission.

Ocumarez first heard Johnson’s story when she met his grandson at the 50th anniversary celebration of the University’s Black Law Student Association (BLSA), which happened to coincide with her 20th law school reunion in 2018. It was her first time back to campus since earning her degree and triggered a commitment to get involved.

Along with a fellow alumnus of her era, J. Christopher Hamilton G’99, L’99, she founded Syracuse BLAC to build a bridge between alumni professionals and the next generation of African American jurists and legal practitioners. Their first initiative was launching a fund drive for a \$150,000 endowment to provide need-based scholarships for African American students at the College of Law, called the MCMIII Movement (1903 Movement), in honor of Johnson.

But Ocumarez and Hamilton weren’t content simply naming a scholarship in Johnson’s memory. “He was the first. If it weren’t for him, who knows where the rest of us would be,” says Hamilton, assistant professor of television, radio and film at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

Ocumarez began making calls to inquire about the possibility of a posthumous bar admission. She quickly learned that had never been done in the state of New York. With no precedent, there was no set procedure. But Ocumarez was undeterred. “Once I connected with the right people and they heard Johnson’s story, they were absolutely committed to helping me navigate the process and making things right,” she says.



William H. Johnson’s grandchildren with Professor Paula Johnson





Born in Syracuse in 1875, William Herbert Johnson received his undergraduate degree from Boston University, served in the Army in the Spanish-American War in 1898 and then enrolled in the Syracuse University College of Law—a significant achievement given that few “white” law schools admitted African American students. Despite the fact that he was never admitted to practice law, Johnson became a pillar of the Syracuse community and offered legal guidance informally to many who sought his counsel.

His reputation was well known. When Johnson died in 1965 at the age of 90, the minority bar association of Central New York was renamed the William Herbert Johnson Bar Association in his honor. The Syracuse University BLSA presents the William H. Johnson Legacy Award to a distinguished alumnus during Alumni Weekend annually.

“We saw something broken that needed to be fixed,” says Hamilton, who spoke on behalf of Syracuse BLAC at the ceremony.

“I believe strongly that our profession must reckon with our flaws, even as we relish our esteemed positions,” said Professor Johnson. “[Johnson’s story] is also a story of the trajectory of law—discriminatory laws and the persistent activism to change them.”

“It was very overwhelming and emotional for all of us present,” adds Ocumarez. “You can’t ever really correct a wrong like this. The best you can hope for is to acknowledge and bring attention to it.”

And support the next generation. By contributing to the MCMIII Movement, alumni can pay homage to Johnson by helping present-day African American students obtain their legal education. When fully funded, the \$150,000 endowment will provide need-based scholarships for African American Syracuse University College of Law students on a perpetual basis.

“William Herbert Johnson opened the doors for African American students at the SU College of Law,” says Ocumarez. “Through this scholarship, we want to bring more diverse students into the College and the legal profession.” ✦

For more information about Syracuse BLAC or the MCMIII Movement fundraising campaign, visit [syracuseblac.org](http://syracuseblac.org) or email [contact@syracuseblac.org](mailto:contact@syracuseblac.org). To contribute to the Syracuse BLAC Endowed Scholarship fund, visit the giving page at [alumni-of-color.syr.edu/give-now/](http://alumni-of-color.syr.edu/give-now/) and choose the Syracuse Black Law Alumni Collective Endowed Scholarship, or contact the Office of Multicultural Advancement at 315.443.4556.



## Kendall Coleman '20: Poetry in Motion



“Inspiration can strike anywhere,” says Kendall Coleman, a 6-foot-3-inch, 253-pound defensive end and member of the Syracuse Orange football team. He’s also a poet.

“One time I got off the bus near Crouse College as the sun was setting. The sky was beautiful, with lots of purples, pinks and blues. I had to take a picture, so I could write about what I saw.”

Since arriving at Syracuse in 2016, Coleman has written scores of poems about all matter of subjects—love, loss, coming of age, the circle of life and the simplicity of beauty. He uses an app to write and store his work. “It’s nice because I don’t have to scroll as much. I also can call up music and photos on my phone for inspiration,” says the four-year starter and three-time letter winner.

Coleman says writing poetry helps navigate emotions and unwind from a long day, which during the summer started at 6 a.m. and included morning conditioning sessions.

Whether analyzing an opposing offense or the 5-7-5 structure of a haiku, Coleman relies on instinct. Such proficiency has made him an intrepid pass rusher, teaming with senior Alton Robinson to form the No. 1 sack duo in the Atlantic Coast Conference, with 20 combined quarterback takedowns in the 2018 season.

Coleman’s sixth sense also translates into the classroom, where he hopes to parlay his training in human development and family science into a career in coaching or athletic advising. “Everything I do has a little bit of heart and a little bit of gut,” says Coleman, who also is eyeing the 2020 NFL Combine in his hometown of Indianapolis. “You can’t exactly teach intuition, but you can do things to improve it—from studying the stances of your opponent; to listening to your body, if it’s tired or injured; to experimenting with different rhythms and meters in writing.”

Coleman wrote his first poem during his senior year of high school. Tasked with writing a term paper or creating a piece of art, he went rogue, insisting that a two-page original poem was “just as artistic” as a painting, photograph or piece of sculpture.

Coleman continued writing at Syracuse, while skyrocketing to gridiron success. In 2016, he was the Orange’s first true freshman to start a season opener at defensive end in nearly 20 years. During the 2017 season, Coleman tore his labrum. He says rehabilitation of that shoulder injury forced him to slow down—to become more observant and keenly aware. As a result, poetry began spilling out of him. Ideas that used to take days to develop came together in a matter of hours or minutes. Impressive, considering he’s never taken a creative writing class or attended a poetry workshop.

Last year, Coleman recorded a personal best 32 tackles (23 solo), led the ACC in sacks per game (0.83) and tied for second in the conference with 10 sacks. Now, he’s trying to make the most of his senior season. “From top to bottom, this is the most athletic team I’ve ever played on at Syracuse. Competition is high, our work ethic is strong, and everybody wants to win,” he says. “Now that’s something to write about.”

### Mind of the Rich BY KENDALL COLEMAN

If it doesn’t make money, it doesn’t make sense.

Help the poor? What for?

They’re not tryna help me stay rich.

Give them a sweepstake instead and  
let them play rich.

Let them see and feel this lifestyle, but never let them  
get a grip.

Knowledge and hope are their biggest weapons.

Man, I pray for my sake they never become equipped.

## Don Sawyer III to Lead Equity and Inclusion at Quinnipiac

**D**on C. Sawyer III G'03, G'08, G'13 was appointed vice president for equity and inclusion at Quinnipiac University. In his new role, he will establish diversity initiatives on campus, including creating a conversational series, developing training for faculty and staff and establishing a program for new students to adjust to university life.

"I am honored to serve in this role, advancing diversity and inclusion proponents across the Quinnipiac community," says Sawyer. "I cannot do this work alone; I look forward to partnering with the Quinnipiac community as we work to reach the goals stated in our visionary strategic plan."

Sawyer previously served as associate vice president for academic affairs and chief diversity officer at Quinnipiac. He holds a bachelor's degree from Hartwick College and master's degrees in education and sociology and a doctorate in sociology from Syracuse University. ☎



## Coming Back Together: Martha's Vineyard

**I**t was three days of fellowship, history and learning for the 80 alumni who converged on Martha's Vineyard in August for the CBT Martha's Vineyard reunion.

Everyone looked sharp all dressed in white for A White Affair, the opening reception and clambake held at Farm Neck Golf Club. Alumni mixed and mingled and then enjoyed an insightful talk from College of Law Professor Paula Johnson about the Cold Case Justice Initiative, a project that engages College of Law faculty and students to investigate racially motivated homicides committed during the civil rights era and in contemporary times.

The following day, alumni and friends gathered for a casual lunch by the sea, hosted by Dr. Bettye Foster Baker, whose late

husband was retired Lt. Col. William Baker G'74, and her daughter Janet Baker G'91.

In late afternoon, the group reconvened at the historic Strand Theater for a viewing of the documentary *BOSS: Black Experience in Business*. The film was followed by a panel discussion with the film's award-winning director Stanley Nelson, wealth management strategist Valerie Mosley, and Keith Brown '82, senior vice president of content at Firelight Films and the event organizer.

The following day, the group enjoyed a walking tour of Oak Bluffs, exploring African American history and culture on the Vineyard, followed by lunch at the famous Black Dog Cafe. Over lunch, alumni enjoyed a talk from Injil Muhammad '86, CPA, who shared tips on tax-friendly giving under the new tax law.

Top OTHC donors and Multicultural Advancement Advisory Council members were invited to a reception at the home of Suzanne de Passe '68, which also included her house guests Bishop T.D. Jakes, television personality Star Jones and BET founder Sheila Johnson. Later the group attended the ninth annual Martha's Vineyard Comedy Fest, featuring comedians Damon Williams, Lavar Walker, Chris Spencer and George Wallace.

"It was a very impactful few days," says Miko Horn '95, director of alumni events for the Office of Multicultural Advancement. "Our alumni always love to get together and enjoy each other's company and the beautiful surroundings, but at the same time, we learned a lot and had insightful discussion." ☎





# Shanel Bailey Hits Broadway

While every musical theater student dreams of performing on Broadway, most don't expect to land there within months of graduation. But that's the good fortune enjoyed by Shanel Bailey '19, who joined the cast of the hit musical *Book of Mormon* July 30.



Bailey had auditioned for the show shortly after her senior Showcase but never thought she had any possibility of landing a role so pursued other opportunities.

She was working in a production at the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown when the call came inviting her to join the show. "I had to quickly pack up and head back to New York City to start rehearsals," Bailey says. "The family I made at Glimmerglass were so encouraging in taking such a huge opportunity, and I can't thank them enough for their understanding and support," she says.

As an on-stage swing and understudy, Bailey performs every night with the cast and has learned each ensemble part and the female lead role. "This is super cool because I get to sort of walk in everyone's shoes and do the show from their perspective, which keeps me thinking and keeps things exciting," she says.

A big difference from her college and regional productions is the long-running nature of the show. "I've had to learn to build the stamina and creativity to consistently do eight shows a week and also keep it new and exciting for myself while staying true to the blocking."

Bailey says it's a joy and privilege to watch and learn from veteran performers. "This experience has been an incredible blessing and irreplaceable learning experience so far," she says. "I've accepted a reality I didn't know was possible for me and in a timeline I could never have expected."

A native New Yorker, Bailey has credits that include *Elf*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Mary Poppins* at Syracuse Stage, and *Oklahoma!* and *Porgy and Bess* at the Glimmerglass Festival. At Syracuse, Bailey was an Our Time Has Come Scholar and received the 2019 Marcia Mohr Award for outstanding female students in dramatic arts from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. ✦

## Milestones

Veteran journalist **Angela Y. Robinson '78** joined the national office staff of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) as director of operations.





# IN MEMORIAM



**Michael Branch '74**, of Brooklyn, New York, died August 30.

Branch attended Keystone Junior College for one year, where he played basketball, before transferring to Syracuse University. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics and was a member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity at Syracuse University.

Branch spent four years working for the Royal Bank of Canada and then had a 20-year career with the Department of Corrections. He was a member of the Brooklyn Sports Club, where he enjoyed daily activities with friends during retirement.

Branch is survived by his wife, Lillian; daughter Michelle; siblings Philip Branch, Maria Branch and Clarence Branch; and a host of nieces and nephews.



**Beverly D. Simon '85**, of New York City, died July 26.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, Simon worked for many years in promotions, marketing and sales. She was active in her church, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in the Bronx, and was a faithful member of the Joint Usher Board and Missionaries.

Classmates, friends and family will remember her radiant smile and kind heart. Her services were attended by Ben Green '85, Donovan Welsh '82, Monique Fortuné '82, Wanda Speight Bridgers '84 and her roommate Robyn Phillips-McLeod '83.

She is survived by an uncle and several nephews and nieces.



**Byron Dudley "Zulu" Franklin '86**, of Queens, New York, died September 2.

Franklin was a professional mobile, radio and nightclub disc jockey. At age 16, he began rapping, break dancing and spinning records at local house parties all over Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island, and promoted mixers that brought

local high schools together for dances. While attending Syracuse University, he became the DJ for many campus organizations and hosted weekly radio mix shows on WAER-FM and WJPZ-FM in Syracuse. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

An ability to play for any crowd afforded him invitations to play on campuses including Albany, Cornell, RPI,

Hobart, Utica and Princeton. He rocked the house for huge crowds at events such as the Penn Relays, stepping competitions, pool parties, college reunions and basketball tournaments. After graduating from Syracuse, he returned to New York City and became a top disc jockey, spinning at clubs such as the Tunnel, Roxy and Palladium.

After three years, Franklin moved to Baltimore to attend law school. He was given the 8 p.m.-midnight time slot at V-103 FM, doing the "Saturday Night Master-Mix Dance Party," which rose to No. 1 in the Arbitron ratings. He also played weekly at clubs in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., such as Odells, Signal, Paradox, The Ritz and Chapter III.

After graduating from University of Baltimore School of Law, Franklin became known as the "DJ with a J.D." and returned to the New York metropolitan area, where he resumed his craft, not only spinning artists' records, but also acting as their legal advocates. In 2000, he returned to radio on 93.5 FM, and in 2005 he teamed up to DJ for rap legends Chief Rocker Busy Bee, Kool Moe Dee, Reverend Run, Mele Mel, KRS One and MC Shan on a European tour in Germany, France and Hungary.

Franklin also worked as an adjunct professor of law at University of Baltimore School of Law and adjunct professor in the schools of business, humanities, and professional studies at Coppin State University.

Franklin is survived by his son, Chad, daughter, Anju '15, G'17, and son-in-law, Padraic Kane '15, G'16.



**Erica Branch-Ridley '87**, of West Orange, New Jersey, died September 16.

Branch-Ridley came to Syracuse University as a theater major but after two years realized her passion was in producing rather than acting. She changed her major to speech communications and found a creative outlet resurrecting the Black Artists

League, where she produced shows. She was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Branch-Ridley was a pioneer in developing diverse children's television programming. Although she began her producing career on the CBS news show *48 Hours*, it was once she transitioned to children's TV that she made her mark. At BET, she created and produced the award-winning children's show *Storyporch*, hosted by poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou.

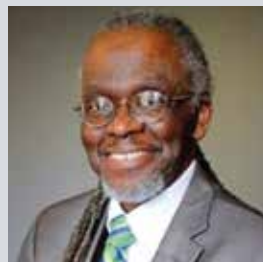
Next, she moved to Viacom as senior director of TV Land and Nick at Nite Digital, where she oversaw all production, including the launch of its first broadband video channel. She became senior producer

at Nickelodeon Online, where she created the first fully interactive experiences for *Blues Clues*, *Dora the Explorer* and other notable kids shows. As vice president of production at Sesame Workshop, Branch-Ridley produced educational programming for pre-kindergarteners and earned a Daytime Emmy Award for her digital media work on the relaunch of *The Electric Company*, based on the popular television show from the 1970s.

In 2013, Branch-Ridley joined the Hispanic Information and Television Network, where she led the development of a system of bilingual transmedia resources for Hispanic preschool children under a \$30 million U.S. Department of Education Ready To Learn grant. Following the release of the 16 Pocoyo Playset apps, which received Parents' Choice and Kidscreen awards, she turned her attention to deriving a new line of bilingual preschool learning resources from the grant-funded work. Under her leadership, the initial series of bilingual Cleo & Cuquin Family Fun! math learning kits and apps were developed.

Branch-Ridley's honors include two Emmy Awards, a Multiethnic TV Leadership Award, and Syracuse University's Arents Award for Excellence in Media and Education.

She is survived by her husband, Jonathan; children Nya, Olivia and Jonathan; and her sister, Gabrielle Branch.



**Felix E. Cochren Jr.**, of Syracuse, associate professor of theater design and technology in the College of Visual and Performing Arts Department of Drama, died April 26.

A Syracuse native, Cochren joined Syracuse University in 2002. Beloved by his students and colleagues, he was recognized for teaching excellence with the college's Outstanding Faculty Award

in the 2007-08 academic year.

A scenic and costume designer, Cochren attended Carnegie Mellon University and was an associate member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829, New York. His New York credits included Broadway productions of *Home*, *Incent Black* and *Amen Corner* and off-Broadway productions of *A Soldier's Play*, *A Brief History of White Music* and *Lotto*.

Cochren was honored with the Black Theatre Network's Winona Fletcher Award for Excellence in Design, six St. Louis Black Rep's Woodie King Awards, seven AUDELCO Awards (New York City), a Cleveland Newspapers Tribute, a Detroit Free Press Award, nominations for Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award and BTAA Award, a shared Obie Award for *Black Nativity* and the first award for Outstanding Scenic Design from the National Black Theatre Festival. In 2017 he was honored as a "Torch Bearer for Black Theatre" and participated in the Passing of the Torch Ceremony in New York City.

# CBT COMING BACK TOGETHER

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September 10-13, 2020

**Registration now open!**

The earlier you register, the more you save!

Use the registration form in this issue or visit [alumni-of-color.syr.edu/events/](http://alumni-of-color.syr.edu/events/)



# CBT COMING BACK TOGETHER Alumni Reunion | September 10-13, 2020

## REGISTRATION FORM (For online registration, go to alumni-of-color.syr.edu/events/)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

School/College: \_\_\_\_\_  Undergraduate/Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_  Graduate/Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse/partner your guest? (check one):  Yes  No

If guest is an alumna/alumnus, please provide the following information on the individual:

School/College: \_\_\_\_\_  Undergraduate/Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_  Graduate/Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Hotel you will be staying at during the reunion: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration fee (payment in full must accompany this form):

#### Mail-in registration

Generation Orange alumni, postmarked by Aug. 14 \$215 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ (Total)

All other alumni:

Postmarked by April 1 (early bird package) \$250 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ (Total)

Postmarked April 2 to July 30 \$300 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ (Total)

Postmarked July 31 to Aug. 14 \$350 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ (Total)

#### On-Site All Registration (Sept. 10-12)

All alumni, including Generation Orange \$400 per person

#### Graduate student pricing (full-time Syracuse University students):

**Free** for all events with the exception of gala, after parties, CBT Celebrity Classic Basketball Game, 5K, concert, Syracuse 8 panel discussion

**Your registration fee includes the following:** Thursday night after party, Friday night entertainment, Friday night after party, Alumni BBQ, Saturday and Sunday breakfast, Saturday night gala/dinner, Saturday night after party, a \$10 nonrefundable processing fee per registration.

#### I would like to make a donation to OTHC scholarships:

Undergraduate Black or Hispanic Endowed Scholarship \$

Graduate Black or Hispanic Scholarship \$

**Method of Payment (Check appropriate box):**  Money order/personal check (money order/check #) made payable to Syracuse University.

Credit Card:  Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### Saturday Night Gala Entree Selection

(One per person registered):

PLEASE NOTE: ONCE MADE, ENTREE SELECTION CANNOT BE CHANGED

# Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

# Vegetarian: \_\_\_\_\_

# Vegan: \_\_\_\_\_

# Beef: \_\_\_\_\_

Due to the large number of guests at the dinner gala, special dietary restrictions or requests cannot be accommodated.

#### Please seat me/us with:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME: FIRST NAME:

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME: FIRST NAME:

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME: FIRST NAME:



**Please circle any of the following that apply to you (self) or your alumna/alumnus guest only:**

**FORMER MEMBER (S) OF:**

African American Male Congress	Self	Guest	Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity	Self	Guest
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority	Self	Guest	Latin American Law Students Association	Self	Guest
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity	Self	Guest	Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library Student Staff	Self	Guest
Black and Latinx Information Studies Support (BLISTS)	Self	Guest	Minority/Pre-Professional Management Society	Self	Guest
Black Artists League	Self	Guest	Minority Student Nurses Organization/ALHANA	Self	Guest
BCCE	Self	Guest	National Association of Black Journalists	Self	Guest
Black Communications Society	Self	Guest	National Association of Hispanic Journalists	Self	Guest
Black Law Students Association	Self	Guest	National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. (NAN)	Self	Guest
Black/Minority Graduate Student Association	Self	Guest	National Society of Black Engineers	Self	Guest
Black Reign Step Team	Self	Guest	Omega Phi Beta Sorority	Self	Guest
Black Voice	Self	Guest	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity	Self	Guest
Coalition of Minority Public Administration Students (COMPAS)	Self	Guest	Outlaws Dance Troupe	Self	Guest
Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)	Self	Guest	Our Time Has Come (OTHC) Scholarship Recipient	Self	Guest
Community Folk Art Center	Self	Guest	Paul Robeson Performing Arts Company	Self	Guest
Creations Dance Troupe	Self	Guest	Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity	Self	Guest
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority	Self	Guest	Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity	Self	Guest
Friends of Syracuse University	Self	Guest	Raices Dance Troupe	Self	Guest
Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)	Self	Guest	Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program	Self	Guest
Iota Phi Theta Fraternity	Self	Guest	Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority	Self	Guest
Kalabash Dance Troupe	Self	Guest	Sigma Iota Alpha Sorority	Self	Guest
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity	Self	Guest	Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Senoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority	Self	Guest
La LUCHA/HAS	Self	Guest	SAS	Self	Guest
Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity	Self	Guest	WellsLink Program	Self	Guest
Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority	Self	Guest	Zeta Phi Beta Sorority	Self	Guest
Lambda Sigma Upsilon Fraternity	Self	Guest	Other: _____	Self	Guest
Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority Inc.	Self	Guest			
Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity	Self	Guest			

**Mail registration form with full payment to:**

CBT 2020, Office of Multicultural Advancement, Syracuse University, 640 Skytop Road, Second Floor, Syracuse, NY 13244.

**Mail-in registration will not be honored after Aug. 14, 2020.**

**If you are paying by credit card,** online and faxed registrations will be accepted through Aug. 14, 2020. Please fax the registration to Office of Multicultural Advancement at 315.443.2874. A limited

number of tickets for individual events of the reunion are available upon request for non-alumni guests. Contact the Office of Multicultural Advancement for details and information. Questions regarding registration can be emailed to: [suma@syr.edu](mailto:suma@syr.edu).

For the most current information on the reunion or hotel information, visit our webpage at [alumni-of-color.syr.edu/events/or](http://alumni-of-color.syr.edu/events/or) call 315.443.4556.

**CBT 2020 Hotel Information**

**The Scholar Hotel** (formerly the Genesee Grande)  
1060 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
315.476.4212

**Room Rates:**  
Double — per night \$159\*  
Queen — per night \$159\*  
King — per night \$159\*

**Crown Plaza Hotel**  
701 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
315.479.7000

**Room Rates:**  
Double — per night \$169\*  
King — per night \$169\*

**Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center**  
801 University Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
315.475.3000

**Room Rates:**  
Double — per night \$152\*

**Marriott Syracuse Downtown (formerly Hotel Syracuse)**  
100 East Onondaga Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
315.474.2424

**Room Rates:**  
Standard Rooms (single or double) — per night \$169\*

**Courtyard by Marriott Syracuse Downtown at Armory Square**  
300 West Fayette Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
315.422.4854

**Room Rates:**  
Double — per night \$179\*  
Queen — per night \$179\*  
King — per night \$179\*

**Parkview Hotel**  
713 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
315.701.2600

**Room Rates:**  
Double — per night \$169\*  
King — per night \$169\*

**Embassy Suites Syracuse — Destiny USA**  
311 Hiawatha Blvd. W  
Syracuse, NY 13204

**Room Rates:**  
One Bedroom (2 Queen) — per night \$189

**Aloft Syracuse Inner Harbor**  
310 W Kirkpatrick Street  
Syracuse, NY 13204

**Room Rates:**  
Queen — per night \$129  
King — per night \$129

\* Above rates at all hotels are subject to sales and lodging taxes, per room, per night. Quoted rates are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Ask for the Syracuse University Coming Back Together (CBT) Rate.**



Generation Orange winner  
Josh Aviv '15, G'17 with his  
fiancee, Samadhi Melania



# Syracuse Manuscript

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Syracuse University  
640 Skytop Rd., Second Floor  
Syracuse NY 13244-5160

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