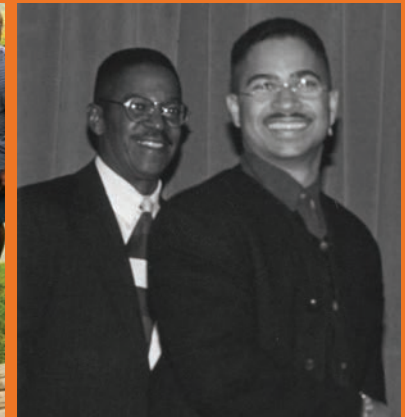


Syracuse Manuscript

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY'S BLACK AND LATINO/A ALUMNI MAGAZINE



CELEBRATING
40
YEARS
OF MULTICULTURAL
ADVANCEMENT AT
SYRACUSE
UNIVERSITY





OTHC Scholar Morgan Marshall '25 at the OTHC Program Ceremony, where she was one of nine recipients of the Academic Achievement Award for a GPA of 3.9 or above.



Syracuse Manuscript

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On the Cover: Syracuse University celebrates 40 years of Multicultural Advancement in 2022. Our cover features scenes from some of our special events through the years and individuals integral to their success.

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Hello Orange Family,

One of the things that I often tell incoming students is that their four years at Syracuse will go quickly, but the relationships they make on campus will last a lifetime. Completing a degree program at Syracuse University will give you a career, but the richness of our community will give you a life.

During my time leading the Office of Multicultural Advancement, I've been able to witness our Orange community come together in so many important ways. Together, we've attended alumni weddings, supported each other's businesses, wept at alumni funerals, laughed and shared remembrances during Coming Back Together reunions, offered useful advice and made professional connections. I've found that what makes this community strong is that we all feed into it. We continually contribute to it with our time, talent, treasure and that incredible Orange love we have for one another. The more we give to it, the stronger it becomes—because we are Orange for life.

For those who are not active in our Orange community, I urge you to get involved. Reach out to your fellow alumni on social media, check in with your first-year roommate, support a classmate's business, mentor a current student, offer your expertise to a fellow alum, join a University advisory council, hire Orange or give what you can. When you do these things, you will benefit personally, and you'll enjoy the fulfillment that comes with being an active part of this incredible family. As my friend and Syracuse basketball legend Derrick Coleman '90 often says about Orange Nation, "Membership has its privileges."

After reading this issue, we hope that you'll be inspired by our culinary entrepreneurs, amazing student and alumni profiles, deserving University awardees, generous donors and exciting campus updates. Perhaps you'll think of ways that you can do more to support our great University, Multicultural Advancement, current students and one another. I truly believe that there's something that each of us can do to make Syracuse University better for the next generation. To whom much is given, much will be required.

Because of YOU, our alumni network is special. As we celebrate our 40th year of Syracuse University Multicultural Advancement, let's make a pledge to each do just a little more to further our mission of supporting students and alumni of color. Check our digital platforms throughout the year for updates on 40th anniversary activities and content (#40YearsOfSUMA) and let us know how we can help you get more involved. Let's keep it going!

With Orange Love,

Rachel Vassel '91, G'21

Associate Vice President

Office of Multicultural Advancement

The Business of Food

Food brings people together. Six alumni entrepreneurs share their success in the culinary world, despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

S

The Restaurateur:

Zhamyr “Sammy” Cueva

The hospitality industry took a hard and immediate hit with the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020. “When you’re in lockdown and forced to close for months, you have to view things differently,” says Zhamyr “Sammy” Cueva ’93, co-owner of three Latin-fusion restaurants in the New York City area: Blend, Blend on the Water and Blend Astoria. “We had to really think about the future of the business and our surrounding community,” he says. “We knew we had to arm ourselves with the right means to enhance our business practice.”

For Cueva and his business partners, that began with

interior decor. “We did it from top to bottom,” says Cueva.

Like many, Cueva says he and his partners never expected the pandemic to last as long as it did. “The fortunate thing is that our business was doing very well before the pandemic and none of us were spending money all over the place,” he says. They also all have other endeavors and projects running simultaneously. Cueva has controlling interest in a special events company (also dormant during the pandemic).

When restaurants were allowed to begin reopening, it required an entirely new business model, shifting to takeout food while implementing new sanitizing protocols to protect customers and staff. “It was such a strange time. No one knew yet how you contracted COVID,” Cueva says. “Our goal was to make sure customers were receiving the highest quality food and eating in a safe environment.”

The first Blend opened in 2007, in Long Island City, Queens. The owners—who come from various Latin backgrounds: Ecuadorian, Dominican and Colombian—acknowledge how typical Latin dishes crossover throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. That “Blend,” is reflected in the Latin-fusion menu and ambience of their establishments. “We all wanted our native food to be represented, but as New Yorkers, they’re all a little mixed up, so that’s why we called it Blend,” says Cueva, a founding member of Lambda Upsilon Lambda fraternity, the first Greek-letter organization for Latinos at Syracuse University, where the representation of culture and community persisted for Cueva.

Blend Astoria is similar, but located in Astoria, Queens, while Blend on the Water is more upscale. Located on the waterfront in Long Island City, the restaurant boasts an incredible view of the Manhattan skyline, leading the establishment to become one of the most Instagrammed restaurants in America. Next up: Blend Williamsburg,

scheduled to open by fall 2022.

Cueva says success in the restaurant business comes from focusing on quality. “When people come to one of my restaurants, they don’t care that I’m Latin. What they care about is the food and the presentation,” he says. “If you have something good, they’re going to keep coming.”



Sammy Cueva '93 is co-owner of three Latin-fusion restaurants in Queens, New York.

donating meals to first responders. “We wanted to make sure that the people who were putting their lives in harm’s way knew they were appreciated,” he says. “We weren’t turning a profit, but it was also a way to keep our employees working.”

The second step was to use the time when the restaurants were closed to revamp everything from training manuals to

The Cooking Show Host:

Derrell Smith

Even when he didn’t know what he was doing, Derrell Smith ’10 was a confident cook. He recounts making dinner for a date at Syracuse University and cooking fried chicken for the first time. “It was golden brown, like something out of *Bon Appetit*,” he says. “But when we bit into it, it was raw.”

Today, the former NFL linebacker is a chef, food entrepreneur and influencer, with a popular cooking show, *Mad Good Food*, on the Tastemade streaming network that showcases his personality and culinary skills demonstrating meals full of flavor and culture. He’s also CEO of 99Eats, a virtual culinary brand with a mission to connect people through food, content and experiences. “Food is how I express myself,” he says.

Smith attended Syracuse on a football scholarship and majored in information management and marketing. A two-time All-Big East performer at linebacker and team captain, he used his final season of eligibility to start a master’s in advertising at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. He went on to play two years in the NFL with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Houston Texans, coming back to Syracuse in the off-season to complete the master’s and trying to perfect recipes for the quintessential meatballs and sauce in his down time.

After suffering a career-ending neck injury, Smith went to work in advertising in New York City. At the suggestion of a friend, he entered the Brooklyn Meatball Takedown. Using the recipe he’d developed at Syracuse, he won the competition. With no formal food training, he began running a pop-up stand on the weekends selling meatballs at Smorgasburg in Brooklyn, the country’s largest open-air food market.

“I’d never cooked for more than 10 people in my life, and here I was cooking for thousands,” he says. “I was buying my ingredients at the grocery store and paying crazy amounts of money. But I would sell out every weekend.”

When his entire department was laid off, Smith made a career pivot to focus on cooking full time, augmenting his meatball sales with corporate catering. He’d been at it for about a year when he was approached to film a demo for a new production kitchen opening in Brooklyn.



Derrell Smith '10 on the set of *Mad Good Food*

“They brought me in to be like a big, Black, Rachael Ray,” he says. “I stood in front of a crowd and taught cooking classes each week, practicing different dishes that I’d never made in my life. I got paid, but I also owned the footage.”

Those segments went up on YouTube, which led to his current gig on Tastemade, the perfect pandemic career while people were stuck at home cooking for themselves. “I have a natural ability to be charismatic, and I’m an extremely hard worker,” says Smith, a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity who sits on the young advisory council for the Martin J. Whitman School of Management at Syracuse.

He has no doubt there are bigger outlets in his future, as both a chef and TV personality.

“I took my own path to spread love through food,” he says. “I’m very optimistic about what’s next.”

The Mobile Chef: Josette Burgos

On a Saturday afternoon in May 2020, Chef Josette “Josie” Burgos ’09, G’17 was streamed into the homes of alumni across the country, sharing how to prepare one of her favorite Puerto Rican meals, pepper steak with onions, yellow rice with pigeon peas and fried green plantains. Many were cooking right along with her.

“Lockdown Cooking” was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Advancement as part of its Virtual Connection Series. For Burgos, whose catering business had come to a halt with the lockdown, it was an opportunity to share her style of cooking and her Puerto Rican culture.

That love is at the center of her business, Elbita’s Cucina, a food truck and catering enterprise, which two years after the onset of the pandemic, is thriving. The business name is an homage to her mother and grandmother, both named Elba. “In

Spanish, adding ‘ita’ to a word means ‘little one,’ so I’m like the little Elba,” she says.

It was growing up in her grandmother’s kitchen that inspired Burgos’ love for cooking. “Just the warm, fuzzy feeling watching her cooking and then everybody fighting over her food because it tastes so good,” she recalls.

Burgos and her husband had invested in the food truck just before the pandemic hit. For a year, it sat dormant while she focused on home-schooling her kids. Now, the Elbita’s Cucina truck is booked solid, both at food truck rodeos sponsored by the Syracuse Food Truck Association and by individual businesses and neighborhoods. “We’ve built a following,” she says. “It got to the point where our calendar was getting so full that we had to turn people away, which is a great thing.” In the winter months, she focuses on catering jobs.

For years, Burgos worked at Syracuse University, both in the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Community Folk Art Center (CFAC), where she frequently brought in her Puerto Rican cooking to share with co-workers. In 2014, she was presented with the opportunity to cater an event at CFAC, prompting her to get a catering license. That job led to the next, and a part-time business was born.

The following year, she met her husband, Walwyn Jackson Jr., who shared her love for food and cooking. She incorporated dishes from her husband’s African American family into her repertoire. The couple began doing pop-up events around Syracuse and Auburn, shoving a 10-by-10 tent, cook top, fryer and a mini fridge into his minivan each weekend, says Burgos, a member of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority. “It was backbreaking,” she says.

In 2019, they invested in a food truck. Burgos, then working at a Syracuse nonprofit, left her job to focus solely on launching the truck business, drawing from her Syracuse MBA to develop her business plan, branding and marketing.

When she started, she had the only Puerto Rican food truck in Syracuse. Two years later, there are four. “I’m happy to be one of them,” Burgos says. “Competition is a good thing. It keeps us all on our toes and opens doors to better dishes.”



Walwyn Jackson Jr. and Josette Burgos ’09, G’17 with Otto

Expanding A Brand: Kenny Brown

Kenny Brown ’89 first experienced the magic of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, on Martha’s Vineyard, in August 2017, at a Coming Back Together gathering sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Advancement. “My first thought was that I would love to do business here,” he recalls.

In July 2020, Brown opened Sarah Brown’s Comfort Food in Oak Bluffs, an outgrowth of his family’s successful 50-year catering business based on Long Island.

Due to the timing of the pandemic, the restaurant launched as a takeout business. Originally planned with an upscale Southern menu in mind, the venue quickly gained a reputation for its fried chicken. “Within two weeks, we were the chicken spot,” says Brown. Once dining restrictions eased, the restaurant became a hot spot on Circuit Avenue.

Many Oak Bluffs’ vacationers from the New York area were familiar with Sarah Brown Catering, started by Brown’s South Carolina-born mother, who honed her cooking skills as both a domestic and restaurant cook. As a young mother, she launched her catering business in 1968, growing the business from her home kitchen to a commercial kitchen and warehouse facility, becoming one of the most sought-after caterers in the Tri-State area.

Brown grew up in the business, washing pots and pans from an early age. After earning a degree in economics from Syracuse University, he took over the management side of the company. He later earned an MBA from Baruch College and a doctorate in business administration from Walden University.

While the pandemic might not be viewed as the ideal situation for opening a restaurant, for Brown it was perfect timing because large-scale catering was at a standstill. “Our business model for catering was dependent on large gatherings,” he says. “There were basically no big weddings, bar mitzvahs or anniversary parties in 2020 or 2021, so it gave me the opportunity to solely focus on this new venture.”

Sarah Brown’s Comfort Food is open seasonally from April to November. Many of the dishes served are based on Sarah Brown’s original recipes. The business is a family affair. Brown’s three children work at the restaurant, his nephew is the cook,



The famed Sarah Brown and her son, Kenny Brown ’89

and a niece is the baker. His mother, 87, is the face of the establishment and still likes to “crack the whip,” Brown says.

As the pandemic eases and social gatherings increase, Brown hopes to extend the catering business to Oak Bluffs, where he now owns a home.

“This is such a magical place, where people come from all over the country, all over the world,” he says. “It’s really provided a different exposure for our brand.”

The Sommelier: Cha McCoy

One of the hottest draws at this year's Charleston Wine + Food Festival was a high-end dinner experience hosted by sommelier Cha McCoy '07. Held at the freestanding bar of the award-winning restaurant Husk, the exclusive dinner focused on the history of Madeira in the Lowcountry.

"During the 18th and 19th centuries, Charleston was the Madeira-consuming capital of America," says McCoy, who paid homage to the popular Madeira clubs of the Lowcountry and the Black hands that served at them.



Cha McCoy '07 shares her love for wine at one of her special events.

McCoy served as beverage director for the annual festival, charged with programming "beverage moments" for 125 events, ranging from 30 to 1,500 participants. It was a plum assignment for McCoy, who has carved her own niche as a Black woman in a field dominated by white men. In that role as in others, it was her personal mission to make wine more accessible and inclusive for people of color and women. "I do all of this to bring us closer to each other through wine," she says.

The dinner was the latest incarnation of The Communion, a series of pop-up wine-dinner experiences that McCoy began

in her Harlem apartment in 2017 and has since held in five countries around the globe. It began when she was unsuccessful at finding a job as a sommelier—someone who works as a wine steward in a restaurant—while studying for wine exams. "To quote Shirley Chisholm, 'If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring in a folding chair,'" she says. "I stopped asking and started creating my own opportunities."

McCoy went on to earn the Certified Sommelier distinction from the Court of The Master Sommeliers and founded Cha Squared Experiences, a consulting company focused on beverage programming for tourism, education and hospitality events. She is a brand ambassador for the New York Wine and Grape Association. She also recently returned to Syracuse University to share her knowledge and passion for the beverage industry as an adjunct professor at Syracuse University's David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, where she teaches a weekly class on wine and beer appreciation in the Department of Food Studies. In February, the Alpha Kappa Alpha hosted a virtual wine tasting for alumni through the Office for Multicultural Advancement.

It's an unlikely career for someone who started out as an engineer. A Harlem native, McCoy earned an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Syracuse University and worked as a construction manager in New York City for a decade. While studying for an MBA in international finance in Rome, McCoy enjoyed traveling to wineries in the area. "I felt intimidated by wine, which I think many people do, so I started to read and study about it to be a more informed consumer," says McCoy.

The more she learned, the more her passion grew. Finishing up the MBA back in the States, McCoy got a part-time job in a wine store near her home, which exposed her to wine from regions outside of Italy and also to the business of wine, importers, distributors and sommeliers. Eventually, McCoy began studying for and taking the sommelier exams and earned the coveted title of 40 under 40 by *Wine Enthusiast* magazine in 2019.

From there, she landed the role as sommelier at a Michelin-star restaurant in Lisbon, Portugal, and since the pandemic, splits her time between Portugal and the Finger Lakes wine region of New York.

McCoy's mission is to spread the joy of great wine to people who may have felt intimidated or excluded. Late this spring, she will fulfill a dream when she opens The Communion Wine and Spirits in downtown Syracuse.

"I went from civil engineering to social engineering," she says. "Wine is just my vessel."

The Experience Maker: Tony Martinez

For more than 20 years, Tony Martinez '87 ran a boutique marketing company producing high-end special events for clients ranging from Moët Hennessy and Pepsi to Microsoft, coinciding with events such as the Super Bowl, Latin Grammys and NBA All-Star Game.

He says he built his reputation by creating memorable experiences that stimulated the five senses through food, drink, lighting, sound and visuals.

Now he's drawing on that background in his first restaurant venture, BarrioBX. "It's more than food," Martinez says. "It's a dining experience and a hub for the community." Martinez and a partner opened the Puerto Rican restaurant in the Bronx in September 2020. While he takes pride in the beautifully presented authentic cuisine and the creative, curated cocktails, he set out to make the destination a celebration of Puerto Rican culture. "As individuals and owners, we are people who stand for racial and social justice around the world, including the liberation of Puerto Rico," he says.

Artwork on the walls features Puerto Rican activist Pedro Albizu Campos and the original Puerto Rican flag, which was banned by the U.S. government. Once a month, the restaurant features a band playing bomba, traditional Afro-Puerto Rican music. "It's a music of resistance," says Martinez.

In February, the restaurant kicked off the BarrioBX Book Club, featuring a discussion of *Notes on the Return to the Island* by Bonafide Rojas. "We had 30 people sign up within two days of announcing it," he says. "I'm happy to provide a platform to educate people about their culture."

The experience hasn't been without hiccups. The restaurant was scheduled to open in March 2020. Then the pandemic hit, prompting a nationwide shutdown. "I was scared," Martinez says. "I had just invested all this money."

Instead, he and his business partner took the summer to build an outdoor dining area, opening in September with only outdoor



Tony Martinez '87 with Don Vassel '89 (far left), Rachel Vassel '91, G'21 and Miko Horn '95 at BarrioBx

seating and takeout, gradually opening for indoor dining based on New York City COVID guidelines. The restaurant wasn't able to open at 100% capacity until June 2021.

But Martinez says his connections have paid off, particularly relationships with well-known DJs such as Tony Touch and Kool DJ Red Alert, who have played his space, attracting their following as patrons of his restaurant.

And he's thankful to his Syracuse Kappa Alpha Psi brothers, who hosted their Founder's Day at the establishment. "My Syracuse network is outstanding," he says. "Every day there is someone here from my days at Syracuse."

Mariama Jalloh

For Syracuse University students graduating in 2021, the necessity of having a virtual Commencement may have been a disappointment. But for broadcast and digital journalism student Mariama Jalloh '22, who was tapped to serve as co-host of the broadcast, it provided an opportunity to practice her skills in front of a viewership of thousands.

"It was a very fun experience," she says. "I thought I was good at what I do, but to have the affirmation of being chosen to be on such a big stage really solidified a true belief in my abilities."

Jalloh has dreamed of a career in journalism for years. "As a child I asked a lot of questions and was called nosy. But my dad said, 'She's not nosy, she's just curious,' and started calling me 'the little journalist,'" Jalloh recalls.

Attending high school in Berks County, Pennsylvania, Jalloh split her day between a conventional high school and a technical school, where she studied the production side of communications media. A teacher there recommended the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

Jalloh applied but didn't receive enough financial aid to make tuition affordable. She spent a year at a local community college focused on earning the highest GPA possible. When she applied to Syracuse for her sophomore year, she was awarded a full scholarship.

As a junior, Jalloh received additional assistance from the Our Time Has Come (OTHC) Scholarship Fund, receiving the Angela Y. Robinson Scholarship. In addition to the funds, the first-generation student was grateful to receive mentorship from Robinson herself, a seasoned Atlanta journalist now serving as director of operations for the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). "I was able to meet her in person at the Coming Back Together reunion, and she introduced me to so many people to help me get my foot in the door," Jalloh says.

Becoming part of OTHC helped Jalloh achieve one of her major goals for her college experience—experiencing more diversity and Black culture among her peers. "My high school was predominantly white, so I wanted to take advantage of experiencing something different," she says.



Jalloh joined the African Student Union, the student chapter of the NABJ, and served as a Newhouse Ambassador. She also volunteered with the Juvenile Urban Multicultural Program, J.U.M.P. Nation, which mentors underprivileged high school students.

As a senior, Jalloh is working as a videographer for *The Daily Orange* and is focused on broadcast opportunities to help her create her demo reel to get job interviews. She hopes to land an internship after graduation that will lead to a position as a TV reporter. Her ambition is to become a news anchor. "I want to tell stories that others are afraid to put out there, to be a voice for the voiceless," says Jalloh. "That's my goal."

Diego Luna

Diego Luna '22 was attracted to Syracuse University for its reputation as a major research institution. During his four years, he's taken advantage of numerous undergraduate research opportunities and will graduate as an entrepreneur, having created the idea for his own startup.

Luna X is a method for data analytics. "Every scientist has to look at their data and analyze it," says Luna. It was while analyzing data sets for a research project that he came up with a process for searching key words in a large data set of papers or information. He realized it could have practical applications as well as scientific.

"For instance, a business interested in expansion might want to know the fastest growing neighborhoods with the greatest income. You can use existing data, such as from the IRS, Census Bureau or what can be purchased from a third-party company and run a statistical analysis test and predictive forecasting for the desired information," he explains.

Luna had a relative with a small business back home in Brownsville, Texas, who wanted help analyzing some data. He put Luna X to the test and it worked.

Luna worked with Blackstone LaunchPad at Syracuse University Libraries, the University's student business incubator, which helped point him toward business development competitions and potential investors.

After graduation, he plans to gain industry experience in a consulting or engineering capacity before trying to build out Luna X as a business. "I think it has huge potential," he says.

Luna came to Syracuse as a biology major planning to pursue medicine. Some hands-on experiences made him realize that was not the career for him. He switched to biotechnology, a field he believes is more suited to industry. He's had the opportunity to work in two research labs while an undergraduate: the Althoff and Segraves Lab, where he conducted evolutionary biology research on yucca plants; and the Ross Lab, conducting biophysics research on the physical mechanisms behind how cells and proteins work.

Luna particularly valued lab meetings and the ability to listen to professors and graduate students discuss the research. "I got to see critical thinking at its highest. Sometimes they would try to solve problems with very out-of-the-box ideas, yet they would work," he says. "That experience is extremely useful in terms of applying it to real-world skills, because everyone is going to have meetings and have to find how to get your idea across in the most efficient manner."

But Luna isn't all work and no play. He serves as vice president of the Syracuse Pride Union and counts participating in a Drag Race as a highlight of his college experience. "Being from a Mexican family in Texas, putting on a dress and makeup and performing for a crowd is just not something that would happen," he says. "Having the freedom to experience that here was really great and a high."

An Our Time Has Come Scholar (OTHC) since his junior year, Luna says he values the friendships made and mentors gained from the program, specifically Alister Murray Sr., the father of one of his OTHC classmates, who is a tech executive at BNY Mellon and advised him on his startup.

"He gave me some key advice and valuable knowledge," says Luna. "Sometimes you have to take a step back from your primary goal and take an introspective look at why you're doing what you're doing," he says. "It's important to make sure you're also having fun."



Alister Murray Jr.

As a teenager who enjoyed online gaming, Alister Murray Jr. '22 learned firsthand the havoc that hackers can wreak. "The online gaming community can be pretty toxic," says Murray. Winning a game, for example, might anger an opponent, whose response is to initiate a denial-of-service attack on his router, rendering it inaccessible. "I had to explain to my parents why they couldn't access the Internet. I learned the hard way how to prevent that from happening by using a VPN [virtual private network]."

That experience sparked an interest in computer technology and cybersecurity. Murray knew he wanted to attend Syracuse University, having enjoyed family weekends on campus as a youngster when his aunt, Cathy Williams '13, was an undergraduate.

At Syracuse, Murray has majored in information management technology with a concentration in cybersecurity and has been involved with the University's cybersecurity club. Last summer, he got the chance to try his own hand as a malicious actor during a virtual internship for BNY Mellon. "My role was to serve as a penetration tester, basically, testing computer applications within the company for vulnerabilities to make sure they are working correctly and can't be exploited by outside users," says Murray.

Post-graduation, Murray will begin work as a cyber analyst for Deloitte, working in the consulting firm's government and public services and risk and financial advisory groups. "I'm extremely excited about this opportunity and can't wait to get started later this year," he says.

Outside the classroom, Murray has an online business on the Discord platform selling clothing with custom graphics for gamers. "It's a fun way to combine my interest in gaming with my skill for graphic design," he says. "At this point I'm more into the graphic design than the gaming." He also enjoys playing basketball with friends at the Barnes Center at the Arch.

Murray was a WellsLink Scholar and is a recipient of the David Bing Scholarship within the Our Time Has Come (OTHC) Scholarship Program. "My brother is just a year younger than I am and a student at Howard University, so having the scholarship helps relieve some of my parents' tuition burden," he says. Murray also appreciates being part of the OTHC community.



"It's nice to have a group of like-minded Black and brown students and have a common space to share things we might not feel comfortable sharing within the larger campus community," he says. "I thank Angela Morales-Patterson and Maria Lopez for such an enjoyable experience in OTHC."

Nathena Murray

Like all pre-medicine students, Nathena Murray '22 had heard the horror stories about organic chemistry. The difficulty of the course was reinforced on her first day of class when the professor stressed the amount of effort required, advising students "not to let the material run you, but you run the material," she recalls.

Murray took that to heart, and, in throwing herself into her studies, discovered she loved the subject matter. "Instead of just memorizing, organic chemistry challenges you to understand core concepts so that they can tackle any problem thrown at you."

Murray changed her major from biology to medicinal chemistry and neuroscience. She is particularly interested in drug delivery and worked as a research assistant in the lab of Shikha Nangia, associate professor of biomedical and chemical engineering, focusing on designing new biomaterials using lipid-dated disordered proteins, the subject of her honors thesis. "These are biomaterials that would aid in the efficiency of drug delivery, which involves running a lot of computer simulations," she says.

Despite a demanding course and research load, Murray has been actively involved in the Syracuse University community and beyond during her time as a student.

A WellsLink Scholar her first year, Murray now serves as a mentor for the program, advising five students to help them succeed academically and socially as they adjust to Syracuse. She held a leadership role with the Juvenile Urban Multicultural Program, J.U.M.P. Nation, working with local students to combat the high school dropout rate, and volunteers weekly at the Rahma Health Clinic, which provides free health care to uninsured, underinsured and underserved, and with the Eastern Farm Workers Association, an advocacy group that assists farm-based and other low-income workers. As a Remembrance Scholar, she served on the volunteer committee that helped plan a University-wide clothing donation drive for Afghan refugees.

"My family is very community-driven," says Murray, who grew up in Ossining, New York. "My involvements reflect my upbringing, my core beliefs as an individual and the kind of future I hope to have."

In January, Syracuse University honored Murray with a 2022 Unsung Hero Award, awarded to individuals who have made positive impacts on the lives of others but are not widely recognized for their contributions.

"I don't really look for recognition," Murray says. "I'm not building a resume. I think my actions speak to my character and my authentic interest in helping others."

The award was a high point of her college experience. Another occurred in September 2021, when she was tapped to serve as a student host to Robert Hill, founder of the office that became multicultural advancement, during the Coming Back Together reunion.

"He had a wealth of knowledge about the University and so many interesting stories," says Murray. "It's an opportunity I never would have had without the Our Time Has Come (OTHC) Scholarship Program."

An OTHC Scholar since her sophomore year, Murray says the program has had an overwhelming impact on her college experience. "OTHC has given me an amazing network of peers and connected me with alumni who have advised me on potential next steps after graduation, all while supporting me financially," she says.

Murray, who is a licensed EMT, is hoping to matriculate in medical school in 2024. "I couldn't juggle studying for the MCAT with everything else, so I'm focusing on that after graduation," she says. "My goal right now is to become a physician working in a community health setting."



Bethanya Philipos

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the workforce and the way work is performed in unimaginable ways. Bethanya Philipos '22 thinks this might only be the beginning.

"I'm very interested in the future of work," says the psychology major with an information management and technology minor. "Work is going to really be technology-driven. There are so many emerging technologies, and we're already seeing some of that now, especially with how fast we've had to adapt to a virtual work world."

For the past year, Philipos has been a member of the Digital Research Work Group, an iSchool initiative focusing on the intersection of changes in work, information technologies and new ways of organizing. "It's a research group composed of undergrads and Ph.D. students, and we're looking at the new ways of organizing digitalization and the future of work," she explains. "We interview freelancers about their work patterns and have been analyzing their shifts and progress doing virtual work from pre-pandemic to post-pandemic. We're also looking at social factors, such as the differences in race and gender. As a person of color, that aspect is particularly interesting to me."

Philipos says the experience helped her land a consulting job with Deloitte. After graduation, she joins the New York City office as a strategy analyst.

"I think consulting is such a dynamic career. Every project is different and you experience different businesses with different needs," she says. "I can get bored easily and knew I did not want to work in a space that was the same every day. I like things that are diverse and changing."

Philipos, from Burnsville, Minnesota, says it took her some time to find the right path. She came into Syracuse University as a health and exercise science major. She later switched to psychology with the intent to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology and become a licensed psychologist. Ultimately, she realized her real interest was in organizational behavior, particularly as it relates to business and technology.

She recently shared her experiences as a Black woman in STEM at Syracuse as a panelist in a program sponsored by Wise Women of Color, an organization for science, technology, engineering and math students. "My undergrad career was a bit of a roller coaster in terms of finding a direction, so I thought it might be helpful to others," says Philipos, who is also active in the African Student Union.

An Our Time Has Come Scholar, Philipos says she received invaluable guidance from her OTHC mentor, Tara Brown Favors '95, who has led human resources at organizations including Morgan Stanley, American Express and Mutual of America Financial Group. "She has been so helpful in helping me find my passion and guiding my career search," says Philipos. "We still talk weekly."



She applied to the OTHC program as an incoming first-year student and says she's not sure how she would have navigated the college experience without it. "My parents are from Ethiopia. I'm a first-generation college student and the oldest child in my family, so there was no one with personal experience to guide me," says Philipos.

"It really changed my life because it was a source of guidance and support and like-minded people who understood what was going on. It provided a safe space for me."

Mena Sawyer

Last August, Mena Sawyer '22 served as the teaching assistant for a week-long intensive negotiation course at the Syracuse University College of Law. She helped with presentations of hands-on negotiations and served as a liaison between law students and their professor. It would have been an interesting experience for any student looking toward a career in law, but even moreso given the professor: Syracuse Chancellor Kent Syverud.

"It was a really unique experience I was lucky to have," says Sawyer, a double major in political science and policy studies with a minor in African American studies.

Sawyer was introduced to Chancellor Syverud by William Coplin, head of the policy studies program. Syverud began his career in law and is a former law school dean at both Vanderbilt University and Washington University in St. Louis. After a few conversations, Syverud invited Sawyer to assist with the course that he teaches each summer. It only reinforced her intended career path.

Sawyer says she came to college with two goals: to prepare for a career as a lawyer and to help younger students of color on a path to success.

As a junior, Sawyer worked with a friend to re-establish a pre-law chapter of the National Black Law Students Association, which had gone dormant after her first year when all of the leadership graduated. She's served as vice president for two years. "It was important to me get the organization back on campus and active," she says. "I consider that my legacy."

She was honored for her efforts with the 2021 Black Excellence Pre-Law Award from Syracuse University Law School Black Law Students Association.

Sawyer aspires to a career as a civil rights litigator. She's applied to law schools and is beginning to receive responses, knowing at this point that she will be attending law school somewhere next fall.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Sawyer spent her final semester as a virtual intern with the Center for Reproductive Rights. "It's hard to get legal-related internships as an undergrad, so I felt this was a good opportunity. It allows me to gain some professional experience while contributing to a meaningful cause. Advocacy and giving back are things I'm very passionate about," she says.

That's evident in her many efforts to help younger students of color. Sawyer spent her first two years at Syracuse tutoring elementary school students at Syracuse-area Boys & Girls Clubs. A WellsLink Scholar as a first-year student, Sawyer served as a mentor in her sophomore year, working with five first-year students to help them adjust academically and socially to the University. She served as the director of outreach and a mentor for the Syracuse chapter of the You Can Too program, which matches colleges students of color with Black and Latino/a high

school students for weekly mentorship and assistance on the college application process. "I worked with a student who lived in St. Louis," she says.

Sawyer feels fortunate to have received her own mentoring through the Our Time Has Come Scholarship Program. "The program has been a great way for me to connect with alumni of color in the legal field," she says. "I have definitely made use of that network and also appreciate the leadership training and scholarship support we received. I can't wait to put it to use."



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Please impact the future of a student through the Our Time Has Come Scholarship program. You can make a gift at alumni-of-color.syr.edu/give-now/. If you'd like to mentor a student, visit alumni-of-color.syr.edu/othc-mentor-application/.

Alumni Gifts to 119 Euclid Make Major Impact for Students

As a Syracuse University undergraduate in the early 1990s, Tara Brown Favors '95 remembers looking at the houses on Fraternity Row with longing. "None of those homes were for Black students. It seemed unfair that we didn't have a place where we could congregate," she says.

So, when Favors visited the newly opened 119 Euclid Ave. during Coming Back Together (CBT), she was profoundly moved. "I laughed in some rooms, danced in others and cried in the Memorial Room. It was beyond beautiful. I decided then I wanted to be a part of its legacy," she says.

Favors made a \$100,000 gift to name the quiet lounge in the house. Although she has a philanthropic history, it was the first time she'd ever made a naming gift.

That's a familiar theme. "This project was funded solely through gifts from Black alumni, none of whom had ever made a previous naming gift," says Rachel Vassel '91, G'21, associate vice president for multicultural advancement.

John Clemons '76, G'14 also visited 119 Euclid Ave. during CBT weekend. Touring the space and meeting students brought back fond memories of spending time at the former Black Student Union when he was an undergrad. "The house provides students of color with a beautiful new space to study, meet, network, laugh, connect and enjoy a meal with fellow students," he says.

Because Clemons considers the kitchen the heart of a home, he chose to fund that space with a \$50,000 gift. "My financial support of 119 Euclid comes from my heart, and it fills me with joy to know that students will use the John Clemons Kitchen for years to come."

Karen Cooper '25 is forever grateful for that space. Cooper loves to cook, and the lack of a kitchen space for students in her

residence hall was just one factor adding to her struggles as a first-year student. But most of her discomfort came from being a Black student from the South at a predominantly white university in the North.

When she shared those feelings with her First Year Seminar professor, Sam Johnson, he walked her across campus to 119 Euclid Ave., which had just opened to students. "There was pretty much an immediate connection," says Cooper, of meeting the staff and students at 119. "I'm not sure I would have stayed at Syracuse without it."

While Cooper says she's made use of 119 Euclid in all ways possible—hanging out, studying, booking a meeting room, attending events—using the kitchen is at the top of her list. Before Thanksgiving, Cooper prepared and hosted a meal for students, a southern seafood boil accompanied by mac and cheese and barbecued chicken wings. She prepared another southern feast before Christmas break. "Everything good I have acquired at Syracuse—connections, friends, clubs I've joined—has come from that space," says Cooper, a communications and rhetorical studies major from Orangeburg, South Carolina.

That was the goal. 119 Euclid was created out of student demand for the University to foster a more diverse and inclusive campus environment. Black students, in particular, wanted a place to feel comfortable being their authentic selves.

Previously used as administrative space, 119 Euclid Ave. was reimaged through extensive input from Black students, faculty, staff and alumni, under leadership from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The facility includes a social lounge, two meeting rooms, a full kitchen, a large conference room, a quiet room and a reflection room dedicated to members of the Black community who lost their lives to violence. From historical photographs and

artwork to inspirational quotes adorning the walls, the space was decorated to celebrate Black culture and traditions and the contributions of the Black community on campus.

"119 Euclid exists because the University listened to the voices of Black students, and it fosters and showcases the excellence that our Black students bring to campus," says Eboni Britt G'05, executive director of strategic communications and initiatives in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. "I am so proud that the University and our alumni have made such a substantial contribution to the experience that Black students have during their time at SU."

Britt says use of the facility is primarily directed by students and student organizations. Since opening last fall, 119 Euclid has hosted cultural conversations, a book club, a Trap and Paint event celebrating art and music during Black History Month, game nights, a Super Bowl party, an art walk and more.

Cameron Gray '22, an Our Time Has Come Scholar who served on the planning committee for 119 Euclid, says the space has become a home on campus for many. "There's something so special about having a space on campus where people can literally come and sit on a couch, watch TV, do homework, grab a snack, or fellowship with other students," she says. "Only five months in, it's really exceeded my expectations in terms of the sense of community and the way it's become a refuge for Black students. I'm thankful to the alumni donors who helped make this happen. They should be very proud."

It's not only individual gifts that funded the space. Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta both made major gifts, funding the primary social lounge and the large meeting room, respectively. "The stressors of not only being at a prestigious university, but being Black at SU, are significant, and sometimes

traumatic," says Candice Carnage '90 on behalf of DST. "Having a space to study, think and be still in a safe environment, surrounded by like-minded individuals is a gift we are happy to give."

While the majority of 119 Euclid Ave. has been funded, Vassel says one final need remains: the opportunity to name the entire facility at \$1 million. "119 Euclid Ave. has always been a placeholder name," says Vassel, a contributor herself to the AKA Lounge. "I'd really like to see this funded by one of our alumni," she says. "It's a unique opportunity to support current and future students while celebrating our rich Black history at Syracuse University."

119 EUCLID DONORS

Mariama Boney '96, G'98

John Clemons '76, G'14

Rob Edwards '85

Tara Brown Favors '95

Shirley Harrison '73

Dakota '83 and Victor Holman '82

Iota Upsilon Chapter of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Kappa Lambda Chapter of
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Phaedra Stewart '91

Gwynne Wilcox '74

Students and alumni tour 119 Euclid Ave. during its grand opening celebration.



Celebrating the Dream

The Syracuse University community came together Jan. 30, 2022, for the 37th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration featuring a conversation with civil rights activist and global humanitarian Martin Luther King III.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's observance was held virtually. David Barbier Jr. '23, who co-chaired the celebration with Hendricks Chapel Dean Brian Konkol, offered welcoming remarks from 119 Euclid Ave., the University's new space created to celebrate the longstanding history, traditions and contributions of the Black community on the Syracuse University campus.

"The creation of 119 Euclid is one example of embracing the theme for today, which is 'We are Part of the Dream,'" said Barbier. The theme was chosen, he says, both to reflect on the legacy of Dr. King and his dream, "but how we must be a part of it in the here and now, and in the years to come on campus and far beyond."

The centerpiece of the evening was Barbier's interview with King, the eldest son of the late Dr. King and Coretta Scott King and ambassador of their legacy of

nonviolent social change.

King spoke about the importance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. "On Jan. 15, 1969, less than a year after Dad was killed, my mother and a team of people in Atlanta and around the country were already beginning the process of observing what would later become a King holiday," King said. "In our minds it was a day where we would be engaged in doing work."

His mother lobbied every U.S. senator and many congressional representatives to make the holiday a reality. "She was a coalition builder," King said. "If it was not for Mother, I don't know how far Dad's legacy would have gone."

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was signed into law as a federal holiday by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 and was celebrated as an official holiday for the first time in 1986. Over the years, the King holiday has evolved to including nonviolence and voting rights training and volunteer activities.

Barbier asked King how he perceives colleges and universities as agents of change.

King spoke of the student engagement that took place in the 1960s that ultimately brought about change. Change can also come through tragedies, such as the murder of George Floyd that sparked protests in all 50 states and around the world and brought many of the relics of the Confederacy down, he said.

King lamented the current state of our nation. "We as a nation are far, far too divided. Dad used to teach us that we can learn how to live together without destroying person or property. We can disagree without being disagreeable," he said, closing with the thought that much work remained to create the beloved community that his father and mother envisioned. "I want everybody at Syracuse to fulfill and achieve whatever they want to achieve," he said. "I hope that you would look to Martin Luther King Jr. for a philosophy that helped to transform our nation and the world, so that our nation and world becomes better."

In addition to King's remarks, the evening included a tribute by Chancellor Kent Syverud to Charles Vert Willie G'57, H'92 and Walter Broadnax G'75. Willie, who died Jan. 11, 2022, was Syracuse University's first tenured Black faculty member, a giant in the field of education and civil rights and a classmate of Dr. King at Morehouse College. Broadnax, a student of Willie, is distinguished professor emeritus of public administration and international affairs in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

"At Syracuse University we recognize that academic excellence cannot exist without a determined commitment to the principle that all are created equal. Syracuse University must be a place that is welcoming to all. We study social movements, history, political science and literature to learn lessons from the past," Chancellor Syverud said. "Let's take our inspiration from Dr. King and Dr. Willie and Dr. Broadnax. Let's persevere through setbacks. Let's commit ourselves to excellence that is rooted in equality. Let's make Syracuse University an example of the transforming power of higher education."

In addition, Syracuse University bestowed MLK Unsung Hero Awards on students, faculty, staff and members of the community, including Our Time Has Come Scholar Nathana Murray '22; Chenhui "Peipei" Liu '23; David Knapp, assistant professor of music education; Joanna Spitzner '92, associate professor of studio arts; Vince Cobb Sr., media technology consultant and engineer in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications; the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central varsity football team; and community members Ocesa Keaton G'15 and Beverly Oliver.

New DEI Chief Named

Mary Grace A. Almandrez has been appointed to the position of vice president for diversity and inclusion, effective June 1, 2022. Almandrez brings nearly 25 years of experience in higher education, having served in leadership roles at Brown University, the University of San Francisco, McDaniel College and, most recently, the University of Rhode Island (URI). Almandrez was selected following a national search that yielded a diverse and highly qualified pool of candidates.

"Mary Grace's depth and breadth of professional and academic experience make her uniquely qualified for this position," says Chancellor Kent Syverud. "I have great confidence in her ability to move Syracuse forward in achieving our aspiration to be a University that is truly welcoming to all. She has demonstrated visionary leadership, creativity and resilience throughout her career in working through some of the most challenging issues."

Almandrez will lead the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, providing oversight and vision in the administration of services, programs, policies and procedures for students, faculty and staff related to advancing the University's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA). She will lead the implementation of the DEIA Strategic Plan and liaise and collaborate with key constituencies, including undergraduate and graduate student leadership; the Board of Trustees Advisory Committee on University Climate, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility; Academic Leadership for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility; the Council on Diversity and Inclusion; and the Disability Access and Inclusion Council, among other stakeholder groups.

"Syracuse University is well-poised to be an exemplar of integrating scholarship and practical application in campuswide diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility initiatives," says Almandrez. "Syracuse is a forward-thinking institution with a community equally committed to advancing DEIA priorities. I am looking forward to building on that momentum and working collaboratively with students, faculty, staff and the greater Syracuse community."

Since March 2020, Almandrez has served as associate vice president for community, equity and diversity and chief diversity officer at URI after serving in an interim role for over a year. Before joining URI, she spent seven years at Brown University, where she served in a number of leadership positions, including associate vice president and dean of students. Prior to Brown, she was assistant dean of students for multicultural student services at the University of San Francisco. Almandrez began her career in higher education as director of multicultural services at McDaniel College.

Almandrez earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of San Diego, a master's degree in human resources development from McDaniel College and a doctor of education in organization and leadership from the University of San Francisco. She also holds a certificate from Harvard Graduate School of Education's Institute for Educational Management. Her teaching and research interests include Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) women in leadership, student activism, inclusive pedagogy and praxis, and organizational development.



"Syracuse University is well-poised to be an exemplar of integrating scholarship and practical application in campuswide diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility initiatives."

— Mary Grace A. Almandrez
Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

New Chief of Public Safety Appointed



Craig A. Stone has been appointed associate vice president and chief of Campus Safety and Emergency Management Services at Syracuse University. He began in this new role April 1, 2022, assuming responsibility for all administrative, operational and financial aspects of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Emergency Management, and Global Safety and Support. Stone brings decades of experience to the role, with nearly 30 years

as a police officer in Columbus, Ohio, including 13 years as a lieutenant in Homeland Security, Internal Affairs, Patrol and Staff Inspections, and service as chief of police for Cleveland State University, The Ohio State University (OSU) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Stone most recently served as deputy director of the Department of Public Safety for the city of Columbus, Ohio, where he helped develop a neighborhood violence prevention plan and worked with the Columbus City Council on legislation to improve the police hiring process. He helped expand community policing programs at OSU and, as OSU chief

of police, implemented bike patrols and community police academies to build community trust.

“Craig impressed everyone with his depth of experience and his track record of collaborating with diverse constituencies to build trust and strengthen community relations,” says Allen Groves, senior vice president for the student experience and chief student experience officer, who led the search committee. “Craig’s campus safety philosophy and his approach to community policing is responsive to and consistent with the evolving needs of students, faculty, staff and visitors.”

Stone received a master of science in the administration of justice from the University of Louisville and a bachelor of business administration in organizational leadership from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. He is a highly sought after presenter on issues including risk management, crowd control, campus and community policing, high-risk drinking prevention, diversifying police forces and biased-based profiling. Stone has also taught courses in criminal justice management and policing.

“I am excited to join Syracuse University and work with the teams that are charged with advancing campus safety priorities,” says Stone. “I look forward to the kinds of transformative changes that will ensure a campus culture that is truly welcoming and offers a sense of safety and openness to diverse communities, thoughts and experiences.”

Sharif Bey Selected 2022 USA Fellow



Sharif Bey, associate professor of studio arts in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, was named a 2022 USA Fellow by United States Artists, an organization that illuminates the value of artists to American society and addresses their economic challenges.

Bey, a ceramicist, was one of 63 thinkers and makers selected. USA Fellowships are \$50,000 unrestricted awards that recognize artists for their contributions to the field and allow them to decide how to best support their lives.

Bey balances his time as a professor and scholar with a prolific studio practice and frequent exhibitions. He says his research informs his art, his art influences his teaching and teaching inspires him to keep learning.

Bey produces both functional and sculptural pieces of pottery, work that reflects his interest in the visual heritage of Africa and Oceania, as well as contemporary African American culture. He explores the cultural significance of ornamentation with colorful large-scale beads that he assembles into adornment pieces.

Bey studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, Slovakia. He later earned a B.F.A. in ceramics from Slippery Rock University, an M.F.A. in studio art from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Ph.D. in art education from Penn State University. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (sculpture), the Pollock-Krasner Fellowship, the J. William Fulbright Scholarship (Slovak Republic) and the Judith Seinfeld Award for Excellence, Creativity and Innovation in faculty research (Syracuse University). His work is featured in public collections, including Carnegie Museum of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Columbus Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Everson Museum of Art, Hickory Museum of Art and several U.S. embassies.

Marcelle Haddix Named Associate Provost of Strategic Initiatives



Marcelle Haddix was appointed associate provost for strategic initiatives in February, a position created to connect Academic Affairs with the campus and surrounding community. Haddix will serve as the principal liaison to and coordinator with the University Senate and liaison to the Syracuse University Libraries, the Office of Community Relations and the University’s

many academic programs with community-based or experiential learning. She will also work to connect Academic Affairs with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Inclusive Leadership Assembly, the Women’s Leadership Initiative and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families.

“Professor Haddix’s leadership will be critical in making progress toward our ambitious goals for academic excellence in a University welcoming to all,” says Vice Chancellor and Provost Gretchen Ritter. “In this new role, she will help us meet the growing needs of students, faculty and academic leadership. I am confident that her distinction as a scholar, her experience as an academic leader, her considerable ability to connect with people and her broad community connections—both within the University and with the City of Syracuse—will serve as a tremendous asset to the University and will help to round out my team of seasoned leaders in Academic Affairs.”

Haddix is Distinguished Dean’s Professor of Literacy, Race and Justice in the reading and language arts department in the School of Education, with scholarly interests focusing on the experiences of students of color in literacy and English teaching and teacher education and the importance of centering Blackness in educational practices and community spaces.

In her role as associate provost, Haddix will advance specific initiatives in diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility and oversee the First-Year Seminar and Women in Science and Engineering. She will also be the lead administrator overseeing University-wide arts and humanities organizations and research programs, coordinating activity for the many independent affiliates such as La Casita and the Community Folk Art Center, and overseeing the Syracuse University Art Museum, Light Work, the Coalition of Museums and Art Centers and the Lender Center for Social Justice.

“I am grateful for many opportunities across the span of my career that have enabled me to work with community members at Syracuse University and beyond,” says Haddix. “I have been able to work across disciplines and help lead in our most challenging times. What excites me about this new role is the potential to create these opportunities for our colleagues, students and community.”

Haddix was recognized with the 2020 Orange Circle Award for her work facilitating literacy projects in the Syracuse community, including the Writing Our Lives project for urban youth writers. She is co-founder of the Sankofa Reproductive Health and Healing Center and a founding member of Cafe Sankofa Cooperative in Syracuse’s South Side community.

University Scholars Named

Cameron Joy Gray ’22, Ifeyinwa Ojukwu ’22 and Cassandra Rodriguez ’22 are among 12 students named as 2022 University Scholars, the highest honor the University bestows on undergraduates. Students were selected based on coursework and academic achievement, independent research and creative work, evidence of intellectual growth or innovation in their disciplinary field, a personal statement and faculty letters of recommendation.

Gray, an Our Time Has Come Scholar, is a film major in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Ojukwu is a psychology and biology major in the College of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Honors Program.

Rodriguez is a neuroscience and psychology major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The scholars are honored at a reception and receive special medallions to be worn at Commencement.



Cameron Joy Gray '22

Ifeyinwa Ojukwu '22

Cassandra Rodriguez '22

Xiluva Mbungela '24 Wins 2021 Wesley Award

Xiluva Mbungela, a third-year student in the School of Architecture, has been named a recipient of the 2021 Robert L. Wesley Award from the SOM Foundation. Named in honor of the first Black partner at SOM, the award supports BIPOC undergraduate students enrolled in architecture, landscape architecture, interior architecture and urban design to



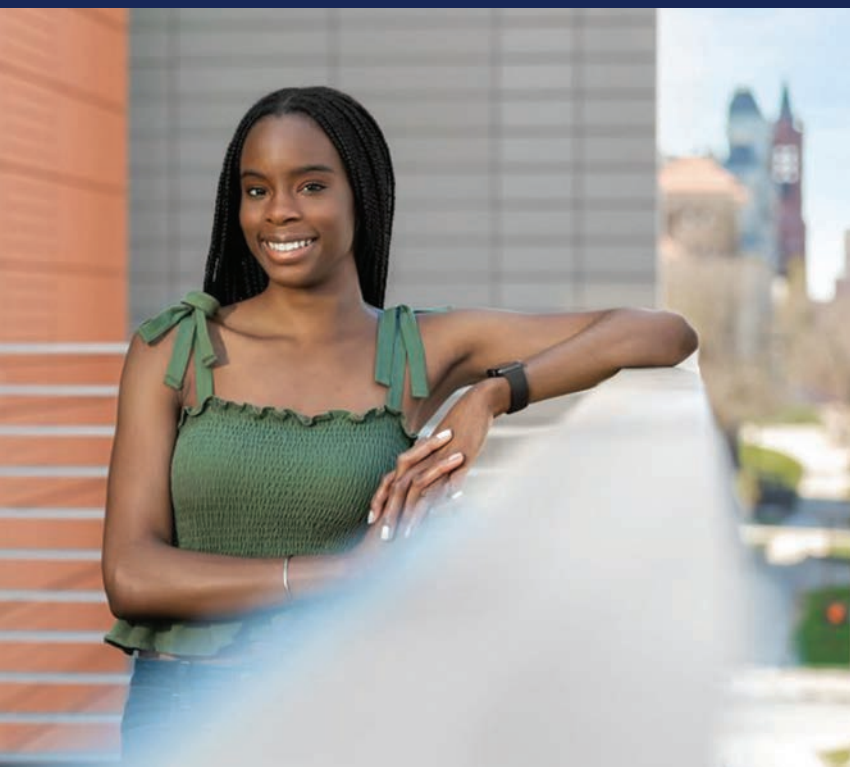
alleviate the cost of post-secondary design education. One of only three full fellows to receive the award, Mbungela will receive a \$10,000 scholarship to support her academic development, in addition to a yearlong mentorship program connecting her with leading BIPOC practitioners and educators.

A native of South Africa, Mbungela believes that projects in the built environment should not only be functional, but engage matters of social justice, ethics and environmental sustainability.

“My ultimate dream is to become the founder of an architectural firm saturated by young African architects who create buildings that reflect the strength of African design,” says Mbungela. “Returning to South Africa with a world-class education from Syracuse University coupled with the prestigious Robert L. Wesley Award will distinguish me as a young leader in the field and set me on the path to be part of the drive to reinvent Africa as a place of architectural innovation.”

At Syracuse University, Mbungela has been involved in a number of diversity and inclusion initiatives aimed at educating the campus community and empowering marginalized students. She is a member of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students chapter and a leader in the University’s African Student Union. Mbungela also serves as an orientation leader for Syracuse Welcome, the University’s student orientation program.

Ifeyinwa Ojukwu '22 Named Marshall Scholar



Senior Ifeyinwa Ojukwu, a biology and psychology major in the College of Arts and Sciences with a minor in public health in the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, has been named a 2022 Marshall Scholar. Founded in 1953, the Marshall Scholarships fund graduate study in the United Kingdom for outstanding American students. Ojukwu was one of 41 students selected from around the country and is Syracuse University’s fourth Marshall Scholar.

At Syracuse, Ojukwu is a Coronat Scholar, a 2021-22 Remembrance Scholar and a member of the Renée Crown University Honors Program. She will use her Marshall Scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in precision medicine at University College London, and after, plans to pursue a combined M.D./master of public policy program in the U.S.

“Race-related health disparities in patient care and outcomes are unfortunately abundant in the U.S., and I’ve come to realize that our approach to solving these issues will have to be multi-faceted and comprehensive in order to be effective,” she says. “I believe one such facet lies in precision medicine, a medical model that more actively takes into account patients’ individual genetic and environmental characteristics. As a future physician and health policy advisor, I hope to be a part of this field’s expansion and broadened application in medical practice and treatment. I believe my Marshall year will be integral to achieving this goal.”

New Scholarship Honors Felix E. Cochren



The College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University has established a scholarship fund in memory of Felix E. Cochren, a faculty member who dedicated himself to teaching excellence and developing successful theater artists and designers. Cochren was an associate professor of theater design and technology in the department from 2002 to 2019, when he passed away at age 68.

The Felix E. Cochren Jr. Memorial

Scholarship intends to promote a more diverse student body in the drama department by providing scholarship and financial assistance to current students who are underrepresented in the program.

“Diversity and inclusion in the student population is a cornerstone value not only within the drama department but throughout the greater Syracuse University community as a whole,” says Ricky Pak, an assistant professor of acting. “However, a unique challenge for drama is that if we do not have a diverse population of students . . . we lose the ability to tell stories that are not traditionally told . . . because we don’t have the appropriate student population from which to cast.”

The fund, which began awarding scholarships in Fall 2021, was established with a gift from the Gerald & Daphna Cramer Foundation. Gerald B. Cramer '52, H'10 was a longtime benefactor of Syracuse University.

\$1.5M Grant to Strengthen Indigenous Studies



Syracuse University has received a \$1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to strengthen Indigenous studies at the University. The grant, to be paid over three years, will be used to create the multi-disciplinary Center for Global Indigenous Cultures and Environmental Justice. The grant will also expand and enhance curriculum and course offerings in Native American and Indigenous studies.

Scott Manning Stevens, associate professor and director of the Native American and Indigenous studies program, will serve as executive director of the new center. He is a 2021-22 fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

Stevens says that the center will explore options for Indigenous communities to take on common challenges such as cultural heritage preservation and language revitalization, defending political sovereignty, and climate change and the environment. “Today’s students realize that they are on the front lines of climate change and environmental justice issues. They have a sense of urgency because they know that they will witness real-life situations in communities in the Arctic, the Andes and other marginal climates throughout the world,” he says.

A&S Professor to Become President of Rhetoric Society of America

Gwendolyn Pough, Dean’s Professor of the Humanities and professor of women’s and gender studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, will serve a six-year term as president-elect, president, and past-president, of the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA), beginning in July 2022, becoming the first Black woman to lead the organization. Pough has been a member of RSA’s board of directors since 2018 and is the second faculty member from Syracuse University to serve as RSA president, following Kendall Phillips, professor in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, who held the position of president from 2014 to 2015.

The RSA was established in 1968 and is composed of scholars from various disciplines who study the history of rhetoric and explore new areas within the subject of rhetoric where research is especially needed.

“Being elected to serve in this capacity is an honor and a privilege,” says Pough. “I attended my first RSA conference in 1998 while I was still in graduate school, and the organization has been a significant part of my career as a rhetorician ever since. As the second Black person and first Black woman elected to lead this organization, I will do my best, with the help of the dynamic and hard-working board of directors, to lead the RSA into the bold and diverse future we are building.”



Felisha Legette-Jack Tapped to Lead Women's Basketball

Four months after her jersey was retired by Syracuse University, Felisha Legette-Jack '89 returned to campus as head coach of the Orange women's basketball team.

"I'm coming home! These words bring me great joy," Legette-Jack says.

One of the all-time Orange greats, Legette-Jack brings more than 30 years of coaching experience to her new role. She spent the last 10 years at the University at Buffalo, building the women's basketball program into one of the perennial powers in the Mid-American Conference (MAC), leading the Bulls to four NCAA Tournaments, including the 2018 Sweet Sixteen. She is the all-time winningest coach in Bulls history with a 202-115 record and four MAC Tournament Championships. During her career she has guided three different Division I programs to a combined 13 winning seasons, nine postseason berths and six 20-win seasons, and has accrued a 343-279 record.

A Syracuse native, Legette-Jack led Nottingham High School to a pair of state titles. At Syracuse University, Legette-Jack earned Big East Freshman of the Year honors after helping lead the Orange to their first Big East Championship in school history. As a sophomore, Legette-Jack averaged a double-double (15.8 ppg and 10.1 rpg) en route to honorable mention All-America honors and All-Big East recognition.

The next year she earned honorable mention All-America and All-Big East Second Team recognition. After missing the

1987-88 season due to a knee injury, she returned to earn the court earn All-Big East honors for the fourth time in 1988-89. She finished her career as the program's all-time leader in points, rebounds, field goals made and attempted, and free throws made and attempted. She graduated with bachelor's degrees in child and family studies, and psychology.

Legette-Jack is enshrined in multiple halls of fame, including the Greater Syracuse Hall of Fame, the Syracuse Urban Sports Hall of Fame and the Syracuse University Orange Plus Hall of Fame. She was named to the Big East Silver Anniversary team in 2004 and became the first female in Syracuse University history to have her jersey retired last fall, when her No. 33 jersey was raised to the rafters of the Carrier Dome on Nov. 14, 2021.

"My goal is simple: Pursue championships in the classroom and on the basketball court," says Legette-Jack of her new role. "We will build our program with our C.A.B. philosophy: character, academics and basketball. We will work tirelessly to help our team understand that character will always be first, academics will be a close second, and we will find the best athletes in the world to make you all proud.

"We will play with purpose, passion and pride. We will tell our story through our play. Our defense will show with intensity and purpose. Finally, we will earn the right to expand our minds and broaden our horizons together."

Kirsten Elleby Named Deputy Athletic Director



Kirsten Elleby has joined Syracuse University as deputy athletic director and senior woman administrator, the highest-ranking woman on the athletic department staff. With more than 17 years of athletics administration experience, Elleby previously spent almost six years as associate athletics director for student-

athlete enrichment and senior woman administrator at the University of New Orleans. She also held positions at Wake Forest and Coppin State.

At Syracuse, Elleby will serve as the liaison to the University's Title IX Office, represent Syracuse Athletics with her fellow ACC senior woman administrators, and have specific sport oversight responsibilities, including women's basketball and additional sports to be determined.

"Kirsten has tremendous experience and a track record of success in her career," says John Wildhack '80, director of athletics. "Her familiarity with the ACC after nine years at Wake Forest, coupled with her broad range of responsibilities throughout her tenure, will be a great resource for our staff and student-athletes."

"I am honored and humbled to be joining Syracuse University Athletics," Elleby says. "I look forward to working collaboratively with the coaches, staff and administrators to create an environment where our student-athletes will reach their highest potential and have the best experience possible. I am focused on bringing my experiences with me to make a positive impact and serve the student-athletes at the highest level."

Elleby earned a bachelor's degree from Spelman College and a master's of education in sports management from Old Dominion University. She is a 2021 graduate of the NCAA Dr. Charles Whitcomb Leadership Institute and a member of National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, Minority Opportunities Athletic Association, Women Leaders in College Sports and completed the NACWAA/HERS Institute for Administrative Advancement program.

Syracuse Enters Partnership With Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference

Syracuse University and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) have created an alliance designed to connect institutions, student-athletes, staff and alumni. The MEAC is comprised of eight historically Black institutions across the Atlantic coastline: Coppin State University, Delaware State University, Howard University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, North Carolina Central University and South Carolina State University.

Under the new agreement, Syracuse has set a goal of holding up to 50 competitions against MEAC institutions over the next 10 years. The first was held Nov. 17, 2021, when the Orange women's basketball team played Morgan State University.

In addition to athletic competition, the agreement calls for an internship exchange between the athletics offices of Syracuse and MEAC institutions, joint seminars on compliance and student-athlete development, and conferences on revenue generation and women's leadership. There is also a provision for visiting professorships or lecturer exchanges between Syracuse and MEAC institutions.



"I'm coming home!
These words bring
me great joy."

Felisha Legette-Jack '89



From South Sudan to Syracuse, Kueth and Aprelle Duany Invest In Community

In September 2021, Kueth Duany '03 and his wife, Aprelle '03, attended the Coming Back Together reunion, their first trip back to campus in 12 years. "After being gone for so long, I wanted to rebuild a connection back to the University and the community," he says. "My time at Syracuse was really formational."

Looking for an opportunity to give back, the Duanys contributed \$10,000 to the Our Time Has Come Scholarship Fund. "Education is the reason my parents brought my siblings and I to the U.S., so that we could become productive citizens," he says. "I don't think there's anything better to give someone than an opportunity to be educated."

Duany's family left their native South Sudan in the midst of civil war when he was 3 years old. Today, he is integrally involved in the country's economic recovery through the Duany Group, a company that invests in real estate and businesses, helping to create jobs.

"The ethos is to help people pick themselves up by providing them opportunities that never existed due to the conflict that existed all those years," he says.

Duany's story is like the plot of a Hollywood movie. His father, the late Wal Duany '71, was a government officer who had been educated at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and was later imprisoned for being a Christian in public office. In the early 1980s, when the second Sudanese Civil War was starting, Wal and his wife, Julia, were worried their young sons would be taken by the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Kueth and Aprelle Duany visited campus during CBT 2021.



The family fled to Bloomington, Indiana, where Wal completed doctoral studies at Indiana University. Duany says it was an idyllic childhood in a university town that was both highly educated and basketball crazy. "The community didn't treat us as immigrants but embraced us as a family that came out of a very tough situation," he says.

All five Duany children were high achievers, a testament to their upbringing. "We were raised with all of the opportunities American culture provided for us, but in the house, my parents raised us with African values and African traditions, so we were able to get the best of both worlds," Duany says. "That helped us be kids who were centered, who valued their education and family, who pursued something."

For Duany, that was basketball. He followed his father's footsteps to Syracuse University on a basketball scholarship to play for the Orange. He majored in information technology, and on the very first day of class, met his future wife, Aprelle. "We were both on the bus from South Campus," recalls Duany. "I was intrigued by her. When she tells the story, it's, 'Why is this funny dressed, too tall guy looking at me?'"

Aprelle was also an IT major, and the two became fast friends. As seniors, they decided to give a more serious relationship a try; they married in 2008. "She's basically been my best friend since 1998," he says.

Duany was the Orange's starting shooting guard, averaging 11.0 points and 3.7 rebounds per game. In his senior year, he was selected as the team's sole captain, a role he took seriously. "We had such a young team. I tried to provide some leadership in terms of the way I conducted myself," says Duany. With help from Troy Weaver, then assistant coach and now general manager of the Detroit Pistons, he learned to motivate a group to work together and look beyond their own statistical needs. "We built a very unselfish culture," he says. That team won the 2003 NCAA National Championship.

"The lessons I learned have carried over to business and helped me build on my own vision towards what a corporate organization should look like," he says.

It was while Duany was at Syracuse that a number of "Lost Boys" from South Sudan were resettled in Syracuse. The church group sponsoring the refugees reached out to Duany through the athletic department. "These young,

traumatized men needed mentors. I looked just like them and was someone who could provide hope," he says. "It was an easy connection to build relationships with them."

Duany invited them to basketball practices, shooting hoops after practice. In turn, he was invited to their homes and met parents and siblings. "They became my own family in Syracuse. I could eat traditional African food like I used to eat at home. It made Syracuse more meaningful for me," he says.

After graduation, Duany played professionally for five years, both in the United States and abroad. When he retired from basketball, he'd hoped to launch a career in investment banking or consulting but found "nobody wanted to hire a former basketball player who had never worked at a job," he says.

Instead, Duany decided to build his own company investing in his home country. In the early 2000s, his parents had returned to South Sudan to assist with a peace agreement to end the war, which was signed in 2005. In the following years, Duany and all of his siblings would spend time in South Sudan, some of them remaining bicoastal. "None of us had interest in politics or even humanitarian work. We found our niche investing in businesses, investing in real estate, creating jobs and providing people with the dignity of work."

Duany's father died in 2013. His mother is undersecretary in the Ministry of Labor. Most of his siblings are now focused on careers in the United States, with the exception of older brother Duany Duany, who was recently appointed as an ambassador for South Sudan and is awaiting assignment.

While Duany's real estate investments are primarily in South Sudan, Kenya and other East African countries, he purchased a historic building in downtown Syracuse during the pandemic. "It's great to be reconnected with Syracuse and contribute to the city's revitalization," he says.

Duany commutes monthly between South Sudan and Boca Raton, Florida, where Aprelle is based with the couple's two daughters, ages 10 and 13, who attend school and train at the Evert Tennis Academy. The two locales are a study in contrast.

"Progress in a post-conflict country is slow," says Duany. "It's arduous. But I always take a long view and there are good people working to make things better. There is opportunity where there once was none."



Kueth and Aprelle with daughters Jinai and Sade

Trustee Rob Light Is Major Supporter of OTHC

As a first-year student at Syracuse University, budding journalist Rob Light '78 wrote an article for *The Daily Orange* about the University's concert committee. The story was good; it landed on the front page. But Light, who was passionate about music, realized he might be more interested in the concert committee than writing for the newspaper. As a sophomore, he became president of University Union, the University's student programming board, and as junior and senior, he directed the concert committee itself.



Rob Light '78

Today, Light is managing partner and chief of music at Creative Artists Agency (CAA), one of the biggest talent agencies in Hollywood. Under Light's leadership, CAA's music department represents many of the world's most popular and talented musical artists and comedians. Light oversees all of CAA's music agents, providing strategic counsel on concert tours and event bookings worldwide, as well as advising clients on their overall career development.

Light acknowledges that while the talent represented by his agency and others is incredibly diverse, Blacks and Latinos are not nearly as represented on the business side of the industry. "I lecture at schools across the country, and I realize many students have no idea what we do as agents," says Light, a member of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees.

Light and his wife, Shelly, want to change that. In an effort to open doors, the couple made a \$300,000 gift to the Our Time Has Come Scholarship Fund, creating three scholarships for historically underrepresented students at Syracuse University. Their motivation was simple: to provide opportunity to those who might not otherwise have it in fields that are personally meaningful to them.

"Shelly is not an SU grad, but she believes in this mission and was instrumental in encouraging this gift," Light says.

The Light Family Newhouse Scholarship acknowledges the excellent education Light received as an undergraduate journalism major. "I truly believe the Newhouse School is the best communication school in the world. The opportunities I had and people I met, I don't think would have been duplicated anywhere else," he says.

The Carolyn Barry Scholarship is named in honor of Shelly Light's late sister, who was an acclaimed acting teacher in Los Angeles, and supports a student in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

And the Light Family Bandier Scholarship supports a student in the interdisciplinary Bandier Program, which trains students for careers in the business side of the recording and entertainment industries.

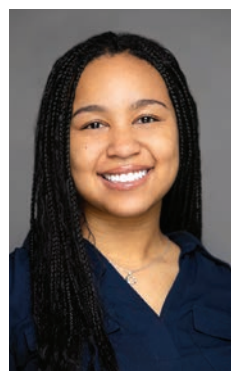
Light has supported various initiatives at the University through the years but, at this point in life, says his focus is on making a direct impact on students. "It makes me very proud when I see my name on a classroom, but much more satisfying when I get to talk to students who might not have had the opportunity had it not been for our scholarships," he says.

Indeed, one of the Lights' criteria in establishing the OTHC scholarships was to have the opportunity to meet and communicate with the scholarship recipients. "It's important to know who these people are," says Light. "I don't want to just be a name, but someone they can reach out to and vice versa."

The Lights met the first recipient of the Light Family Newhouse Scholarship, Kiana Papin '22, during the Virtual CBT Reunion Telethon in September 2020.

"It's incredible that someone you don't know can support you in ways that you could not imagine," says Papin. "This scholarship means so much to me, and I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Light for their generosity. I'm excited to one day be in a position to pay it forward and support my Syracuse University community."

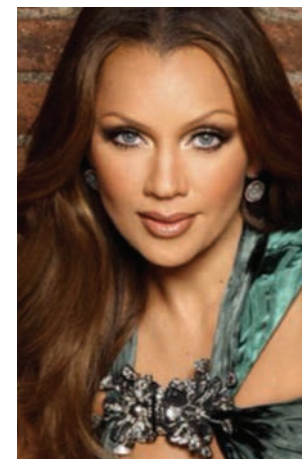
And that's just what Light hopes for. "Every time I lecture students at Syracuse, the last thing I say is, 'If you've had a good experience here, give back,'" he says. "If you have success in life, the best gift you can give is to support future generations."



Kiana Papin '22

Vanessa Williams Makes Gift to Fully Endow Scholarship in Her Name

In January, Vanessa Williams '08 performed at the Kennedy Center's 50 Years of Broadway celebration, which included a special tribute to composer Stephen Sondheim. For Williams, who sang a duet from *Sondheim on Sondheim* that she'd performed on Broadway in 2010, it was a full-circle moment.



"I remember discovering Sondheim during my freshman year performance class at Syracuse," she says. "The fact that I got to work with him, become nominated for a Tony because of him, those are the dreams you have as a musical theater student just hoping that you'll get a chance to sing Sondheim on Broadway, not even considering having him as your friend in your phone book."

Williams now wants to help other students of color achieve their dreams. In December 2021,

the multi-talented singer/actress made a major gift to fully fund the Vanessa Williams Endowed Scholarship Fund supporting underrepresented students in Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts through the Our Time Has Come Scholarship Program.

"This is something near and dear to my heart," says Williams. "My parents were both teachers, and education was a top priority in my family. Being able to help provide educational opportunities for young people and to open up doors to their future careers is of the utmost importance to me."

Williams' scholarship fund was launched in 2019, with proceeds from a benefit concert she performed at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Advancement. Williams performed gratis, with ticket sales supporting the scholarship. Her recent gift brings the scholarship to the \$1,000,000 endowment level, allowing the fund to pay out scholarships beginning next fall.

"I wouldn't have the career I have without the support I received in school and personally in my life to make me who I am," Williams says. "I want to support people who have the same passion and drive, the same skill set, to be able to go to a

university that not only gives them training in the arts, but also a campus environment. Because there's something unique about a college experience that happens only a small time in your life where you don't realize how great it is until you graduate."

Williams attended Syracuse University on a Presidential Scholarship for the Arts, majoring in musical theater. During her junior year, she was approached to participate in the Miss Syracuse Pageant. She had been cast in a Syracuse Stage production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, but when the show closed early, she found herself available. "I won Miss Syracuse in April, Miss New York State in July and Miss America in September," she says. "And that was the end of my Syracuse career."

When she was crowned in 1984, Williams was catapulted to fame as the first Black Miss America. She successfully used that platform to launch her multi-faceted performance career, which encompasses popular music, Broadway, television and film. She's sold millions of albums and earned four Emmy nominations, 11 Grammy nominations, a Tony nomination, three SAG award nominations, seven NAACP Image Awards and three Satellite Awards. Her platinum single "Colors of the Wind," from Disney's *Pocahontas*, won the Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe for Best Original Song.

Williams has been recognized with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and honored by the International Foreign Press Academy with the Mary Pickford Award in 2010 for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to the Entertainment Industry. Her autobiography, *You Have No Idea*, co-written with her mother, Helen Williams, was a *New York Times* best-seller in 2012. *Bubble Kisses*, her first picture book for children, received the International Book Award in the category of Best Children's Picture Book in 2020, among other honors.

Williams is proud to be a symbol for students of someone who manifested their dream, and also that her success affords her the ability to give back. "This is an opportunity to provide scholarships to people that need the money, need support, and who might not have the resources that other people do," she says. "For those students, it's a game-changer."

René Marsh Pens Children's Book to Battle Pediatric Cancer

Like all new parents, René Marsh G'03 was thrilled by the birth of her first child, son Blake, in 2019. But only nine months later, the unthinkable happened: Blake was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor, pineoblastoma. He died 16 months later.

Navigating Blake's medical journey, Marsh, a national correspondent at CNN, was shocked to learn how little federal funding is dedicated to pediatric brain cancer, the leading cause of death by disease for children under age 15. In 2018, only 5% of the National Cancer Institute's \$6 billion budget was earmarked toward pediatric cancer. Funding for research in childhood brain cancer is even more limited. No drug has ever been developed and approved specifically to treat children with brain cancer.

"Blake was actually treated with chemotherapy drugs that were developed and designed for adults decades ago, one drug seven decades ago," says Marsh. "This one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work. A child's cancer is biologically different, and in many cases, more aggressive."

Spending long hours sitting at her child's hospital bedside, Marsh read to him constantly. "He wasn't conscious, but I didn't know if he could hear my voice and I wanted him to know he wasn't alone," she says.

Blake had always loved books and being read to. During that time, Marsh began writing a child's book of her own, the story of a little boy overcoming a terrible monster. Inspired by David and Goliath, Marsh says the book is about "the power of hope when you're facing life's challenges."

"The idea for the story came out of a dark time for us during Blake's treatment," says Marsh. "I wanted to write a book that I could read to Blake that would give him that fighting spirit of, 'you can do it, even when the odds are stacked against you.' I was writing for him, but I was kind of writing for myself, too."

As the mother of a child with cancer, Marsh says she was not unique in wanting to do everything possible for her child. But as a journalist at a major news network, she also had a rare platform. *The Miracle Workers: Boy vs. Beast* was published Nov. 1,



2021. Marsh launched the book on air on CNN, and the initial printing sold out in 72 hours.

All profits from the book (available for sale at www.renemarsh.com) directly support the Blake Vince Payne Star Fund, established by Marsh and her husband, Cedric Payne, to support research on pineoblastoma in infants and to develop new therapies. Under the auspices of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, the Blake Vince Payne Star Fund directly supports an unprecedented effort to find a cure. Annie Huang, a pediatric neuro-oncologist and scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and Paul Northcott, pediatric brain cancer scientist at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, are advisors to the project.

"They've created a blueprint for the necessary steps to get to a cure. We're awaiting proposals for how they will start this research, and all of the money that we raise goes directly to that work," says Marsh.

As a journalist, Marsh knows how to find experts. She considers her master's degree in broadcast journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications "probably the best investment I ever made."

"I had great professors who brought their real-world experience in TV news into the classroom," she says. "I felt very prepared when it was time for me to look for a job."

Before CNN, Marsh worked at news stations in Miami; Albany, New York; and Shreveport, Louisiana. She's currently based in Washington, D.C.

She says her children's book is an extension of her storytelling ability. "Regardless of what people are facing in life, my goal is that readers will find comfort and be inspired," she says. "Living in a pandemic, I think that messaging particularly resonates with people now."

Alumni Couple Purchase Greenberg House

When Oliver Fernandez '08 and Leah Fernandez '08 were living in New York City, they would visit Leah's sister in Washington, D.C., and walk past the Syracuse University Greenberg House, at the time, the University's headquarters in the city.

Now, the couple own the building.

"I was walking by these properties pulling my suitcase to sleep on Leah's sister's couch," says Oliver, the owner and president of McKenzie Construction, a government contractor. "So, it's crazy how it comes full circle. Now, we live down the street."

Oliver and Leah met as Syracuse University undergraduates. Oliver studied civil engineering while Leah studied marketing and psychology.

The two moved to New York City in 2010, where Oliver worked at an engineering firm while working on his construction business on the side.

When the couple moved to Washington in 2014, they already knew of the Greenberg House as a landmark in the city with a connection to their alma mater. But they never imagined owning the space until they walked by one day in 2020 and saw a "For Sale" sign outside.

Syracuse University purchased Greenberg House in 1988, using it as its home base in Washington until it outgrew the space.

At first, the couple weren't interested in the building because it needed significant renovations. But when the demand for their businesses—McKenzie Construction and Leah's real estate firm—increased, they took a closer look.

The couple needed a place for their respective businesses, and the Greenberg House met their requirements—a five-minute walk from their home, spacious and connected to Syracuse.

"All these things started lining up, and then Syracuse was willing to work with us on pricing. So it was like, 'Let's make this happen,'" Oliver says.

Both Oliver and Leah credit Syracuse for their entrepreneurial spirit. "Meeting people that could make things happen, meeting people that were different from myself and then figuring out what I was really interested in," says Leah.

Under the couple's ownership, the top half of the building will serve as office space for McKenzie Construction, while the bottom half will house Properties by Leah.

The two emphasized their perseverance when their businesses struggled with the onset of the pandemic.

"We're not saying that there hasn't been hardship, but it's important to keep moving forward and raise everybody up around you as well," Leah says. "We want to do that for the community."



Article reprinted with permission from *The Daily Orange*
Photo by Scott Kotwas

Milestones



Gisele Marcus '89 has been named to the board of directors of First Mid Bancshares. She will also serve on the board of First Mid Bank & Trust, a subsidiary of the company. Marcus is a professor of practice at Washington University in St. Louis, where she focuses on preparing students for diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace. Marcus is a member of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees and the Multicultural Advancement Advisory Council.



Lisa Y. Gordon G'90 has joined the administration of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens as chief operating officer. She previously served as president and CEO of Atlanta Habitat for Humanity.

Evelyn Ingram Awarded Funding to Restore Historic Syracuse Church

Evelyn Ingram '90 and her husband, Chino, were awarded \$1.2 million in Empire State Development Funds to help restore a piece of Syracuse African American history. The couple purchased South Presbyterian Church, located on Syracuse's South Side, and plan to transform the building into The Castle, a sophisticated multi-use venue with an elegant event space, upscale lounge and training center.



"Our investment on this side of town is significant for us as African Americans and to recognize that the change begins with us," says Ingram, director of community engagement for Wegmans Food Markets. The couple say the project is particularly meaningful because Chino grew up two doors down from the church.

The church is on the National Register of Historic Places and had been vacant for more than a decade when the Ingrams purchased it from the Greater Syracuse Land Bank in 2019. They estimate the cost of the renovation project at \$8 million, which they hope to complete in two years, with the aid of historic preservation tax credits, grants, investors and their own funds. "We stand on our faith, and we know that it will happen," she says.

Syracuse Honors Legacy of Manny Breland

Officials from across Syracuse University and Central New York came out to honor the life and legacy of the late Emanuel "Manny" Breland '57, during a halftime ceremony held during the Orange men's basketball game against Boston College on Feb. 19, 2022. Breland, a standout athlete, dedicated educator and community leader, died Dec. 4, 2021, from pancreatic cancer.



Members of Breland's family were joined by Syracuse University Athletics Director John Wildhack '80, Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh G'05, Syracuse City School District Superintendent Jaime Alicea G'88 and others as they celebrated Breland's achievements and the impact he had on the City of Syracuse.

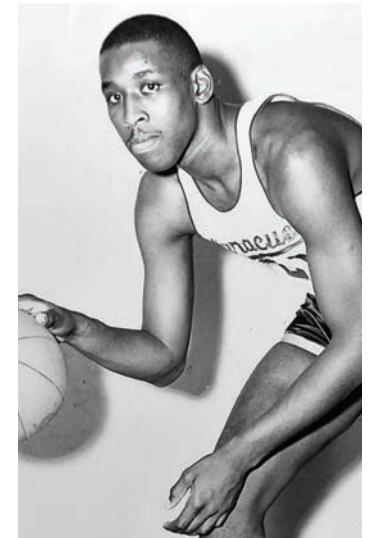
The family was presented with a Syracuse University basketball signed by Head Coach Jim Boeheim '66, G'73, an alumni recognition document, and a city proclamation recognizing Manny's contribution to the City of Syracuse, declaring Feb. 19, 2022, "Manny Breland Day."

Breland was the first Black athlete to receive a basketball scholarship to attend Syracuse University. He was a starring guard on the basketball team, helping to lead the team to its first NCAA Eastern Finals in 1957. He started 56 games for the Orange, finishing with a career average of 8.5 points per game.

After graduating from Syracuse University, Breland had a long career as an educator, high school principal and basketball coach. He was the first Black basketball coach in Central New York and coached the Central Technical High School boys team to two section titles.

After 30 years of service, Breland retired in 1991 and was inducted into the Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame in 1992.

Breland will also be honored by the City of Syracuse as one of four homegrown basketball stars to be featured on a "Syracuse Trailbazers" mural planned for downtown.



Milestones



Debra Bright '91 was named associate vice president for student affairs at Howard University. Bright has more than 25 years of experience in the field of higher education, most recently serving as associate dean of student affairs at Montgomery College.



Tara Brown Favors '95 was named executive vice president and chief human resources officer of Mutual of America Financial Group, responsible for all aspects of human resources strategy for the company, which has more than 1,100 employees nationwide. She previously served as vice president of human resources for the Global Merchant and Network Services business of American Express and is a member of the Multicultural Advancement Advisory Council.



Taye Diggs '93 published his fifth children's book in February 2022, *Why? A Conversation About Race*.

mySULife Clothing Line to Support OTHC

Brooklyn native Gina (Brown) Keller '89 has developed a social media following by chronicling her life, including raising a teenage son, finding love with a childhood friend after age 50, and planning a wedding. #myBKlife grew from a hashtag to an Instagram account, YouTube channel, website and a line of myBKlife slogan clothing and accessories.

On April 15, Keller released an offshoot of that brand, mySULife, a line of similar merchandise with a slogan to appeal to her fellow Syracuse University alumni. A portion of proceeds will benefit the Our Time Has Come Scholarship Program.

"I believe it's important to support our youth and provide students with opportunities," she says. "Syracuse University is not cheap. Having been a student and preparing to send my own son to college, I know what a challenge it can be."

Keller started myBKlife in 2018 with fiancé Steve Brown after seeing positive reactions to the #myBKlife she added to her social media posts. She and Brown had grown up on the same Brooklyn block and reconnected in 2014. Their love story, reflected in their social media, gained a following. "Steve said, 'We need to put this on a hoodie,'" Keller recalls.

The hoodie was soon joined by T-shirts, hats, masks and other merchandise bearing the slogan and is often worn by Keller and Brown in their social media.

"myBKlife represents all the positive aspects of our lives and is also a reflection of our love for Brooklyn," says Keller. The couple also has a YouTube show, *Car Chronicles with Steve and Gina*, in which they chat about everyday life from their car, including postponing their wedding due to the pandemic. "We received such great, positive feedback, we just kept going with it," she says.

The couple, who will be married this spring in Brooklyn, sell their merchandise via the myBKlife website and through pop-up shop events they started during the pandemic. "We held the first one in August 2020 and sold out 90% of our merchandise," she says.

A devoted alumna, Keller has regularly attended CBT reunions and served on event committees, co-chairing the first CBT 5K Fun Run in 2017. At CBT 2021, she and Steve took part in the inaugural 'Cuse Marketplace, where alumni entrepreneurs had the opportunity to promote products and services.

"A classmate told me she followed my social media and suggested doing something with mySULife. That's where the idea was born," says Keller. "It really made sense as an expansion of sharing my life."

mySULife merchandise is now available for sale on MyBKlife.com. Keller says the new line is a direct result of her Syracuse University network. Brown plans to use proceeds to fund the mySULife Memorial Endowed Scholarship in honor of Steve's father, David Nathaniel Richardson, who passed away recently. "This is my way to give back," she says.



Gina Brown Keller '89 models some of the items in her new line of mySULife gear, which benefits the OTHC Scholarship Fund.

Milestones



Janis Garcia Keating G'98 was named 2021 Entrepreneur of the Year for the Northeast Region by *Latina Style* magazine. Keating is president of Wilco Group, which provides information technology consulting services to the federal government.



Chris Rose '99 has been named to CableFax's Diversity List, recognizing the most influential multi-ethnic executives in the industry. Rose is vice president, scheduling and acquisitions, at A+E Networks.



Tiffany Bender '11, G'12 and Rashad Abdallah '12 were married December 26, 2021.



Quentin Brunson '12, G'13 proposed to his girlfriend, Ashleigh Mann, on national television during the Adele "One Night Only" concert special. He was selected from a casting call application looking for a couple who wanted to get engaged in an epic way.



Ronald Taylor '15, G'16 recently joined TikTok as a product policy manager within the trust and safety division, specifically focusing on minor safety policy for the global organization. Within this capacity, Taylor helps write product policies with a focus on protecting minors from harmful content. Taylor also runs his own consulting firm, RJT Solutions, specializing in educational



consulting, change management consulting and curricular design around concepts of equity, inclusion, belonging and justice.

Keome Rowe '16 was awarded the inaugural Compass Award from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. The award recognizes an early-career alumnus for exceptional accomplishments and professional or community impact. Rowe is a foreign service officer currently serving as deputy cultural affairs officer for the U.S. Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan.



Cedric T. Bolton G'18 released his third album, *12 Years Gone*, under the name Blackman Preach. His music is available on all streaming platforms and includes collaborations with Syracuse University undergraduates Laurie A. Fernandez '22 and Lance Evan '22 and alumni Ashley M. Lambert Lance '21, Michelle "Signature MiMi" Tarshus '13, G'16, Kenny "Blacc" Lewis '13 and Jordan "JRDN" Foster '13. Bolton is an educator, spoken word poet, entrepreneur, music producer and the coordinator of student engagement in the Syracuse University Office of Multicultural Affairs.



Patricia "Katy" McBride '18, G'21 was sworn in as city clerk for Syracuse, New York. She is the first woman and first African American to hold the position.



Billie LaRae Owens '18 was crowned Miss Pennsylvania USA and will compete in the Miss USA competition. She earned a B.A. in broadcast journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

Syracuse's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library



Ed Brown '69, G'78 was at his work-study job at Kimmel Hall April 4, 1968, when he heard that Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated. The next day, talking with friends Byron Merritt '70, Lynn Hopper '69 and others, he suggested creating a tribute to Dr. King on campus—a student scholarship or a library.



Ed Brown '69, G'78

Brown and Merritt were student activists who had helped found the Student Afro-American Society (SAS) in February 1967. Merritt was then president, having succeeded the founding president, St. Clair Bourne '67. After King's assassination, they formed the King Alliance for Progress and began raising money from organizations and individuals, both on and off campus. From this effort, funds were used to purchase books to establish the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library—a bookshelf in the Black Cultural Center on Walnut Place.

"Before I graduated in May 1969, I remember putting those first books on their shelves, saying, 'This library now exists,'" recalls Brown.

Concurrent with efforts to honor King, Brown chaired the SAS Afro-American Studies Committee, which successfully lobbied the University to start an Afro-American Studies program that same year. The program became a department in 1979.

But within 10 years, Black students and faculty became frustrated by what they viewed as lack of support for both Syracuse University's Department of African American Studies (AAS) and its Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Memorial Library. The department had been without a permanent chair since 1982. In 1988, Wynetta Devore, a professor of social work who was then president of the Black Faculty and



Center and a luncheon following attended by local and state dignitaries.

Robert Hill, vice president for public relations and special assistant to the Chancellor, stepped in as mediator between University administrators Gershon Vincow, vice chancellor for

Staff Association, attempted to negotiate for an enhanced library with a dedicated librarian but those efforts were stonewalled pending the hiring of a permanent chair.

SAS President Agyei Tyeimba '92 (then known as Quentin Stith), began a campaign to push for improvements for the AAS department. Those efforts came to a head in March 1989 when SAS staged a major protest engaging hundreds of Black students to disrupt the ribbon-cutting of the University's new Sci-Tech

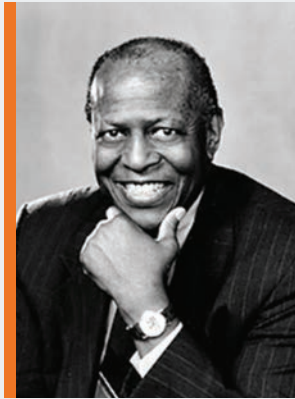
academic affairs, and Sam Gorovitz, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and SAS officers Stith and Sam Reynolds '89. Ultimately, AAS faculty, including Professors Renate Simson and Janis Mayes, successfully worked with the administration in creating what became known as the 13-Point Document, a plan to foster departmental development and expansion, leading to the hiring of Bruce Hare as chair of African American studies and Miserach Zekarias as the inaugural MLK librarian.

Evolving from its student roots, the MLK Library is now the only accredited department library at Syracuse University, fulfilling its original mission to bring discovery of the African Diaspora and illuminate the culture and life of Black people often excluded or limited within traditional academic libraries.

Located in Sims Hall, the library boasts a collection of some 11,300 books and items, including rare, autographed, first editions, limited and select formats, a wide variety of media, personal papers, artifacts, ephemera, photographs, newspaper and scrapbook collections, and the library's most treasured item—a letter from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Although originally created as a space for Black students, "Today, as Dr. King probably would have wished . . . the library is home to many diverse students from all different backgrounds and nationalities," says MLK librarian Angela Williams.

IN MEMORIAM



Charles V. Willie G'57, H'92, of Brighton, Massachusetts, died Jan. 11, 2022. A sociologist, he was the Charles William Eliot Professor of Education Emeritus at Harvard University and former Boston School Desegregation Master.

Willie was born in Dallas, a grandson of enslaved people. He attended Morehouse College at age 16, where he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, was elected class president and was mentored by Morehouse

President Benjamin E. Mays. He graduated in 1948 and earned a master's degree from Atlanta University in 1949.

Willie taught at Syracuse University from 1950 to 1974, rising from graduate student lecturer to chair of the Department of Sociology and eventually vice president for student affairs. He was Syracuse's first Black tenured faculty member, department chair and vice president. Willie took a leave of absence from Syracuse at the invitation of Robert F. Kennedy to direct the research arm of Washington Action for Youth, a crime prevention and youth intervention program.

Willie returned to Syracuse in the mid-1960s, during which time he brought his Morehouse classmate Martin Luther King Jr. to speak twice at the University. In 1966-67, Willie took another leave from Syracuse at the invitation of Harvard Medical School, where he taught and conducted research in its Department of Psychiatry as part of the Laboratory of Community Psychiatry and at the Episcopal Divinity School. In 1974, Willie left Syracuse to accept a tenured position as professor of education and urban studies at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. In 1999, he retired from his post as the Charles William Eliot Professor of Education and was named Professor Emeritus. He continued to teach part time for another decade.

Willie's groundbreaking research encompassed issues of social justice—including desegregation, poverty, housing policy and the experience of Black students at predominantly white colleges. He wrote more than 100 articles and 35 books on race, education and urban communities. As an applied sociologist, he focused on solving social problems, serving as a consultant, expert witness and court-appointed master in major school desegregation cases in the United States. He was once the highest lay official in the Episcopal Church in America, stepping down in 1974 to protest the church's refusal to recognize women as priests.

Willie received 15 honorary degrees, including a Doctor of Humane Letters from Syracuse University presented in 1992. In 2000, he received the George Arents Pioneer Medal, Syracuse University's highest alumni honor, presented to alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their chosen fields. In 2003, the Department of Student Affairs created the Charles V. Willie Distinguished Lecture series. And in 2017, he was honored by Chancellor Kent Syverud with the Chancellor's Citation for Lifetime Achievement.

Willie is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Sue; and their three children: Sarah, professor of sociology and anthropology and provost at Swarthmore College; Martin, an architect and community developer; and James G'98, who works in government and serves on the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs' Board of Visitors and their families.



Charlene McDougle Smith G'71, of Greensboro, North Carolina, died Jan. 12, 2022.

Smith was born in and raised in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where her mother was a teacher and her father was a principal and school administrator. She attended Hampton University, where she met her future husband, Horace H. Smith G'70.

The couple moved to Syracuse where Horace forged a distinguished 32-year career in college retention at Syracuse University, retiring as vice president of undergraduate studies in 2008. Smith earned a master's degree at Syracuse and worked as a social worker and administrator in the Syracuse City School District. Known for her impeccable attire and infectious smile, she was a practicing Baptist and an active member of Jack and Jill and the Syracuse chapter of Delta Theta Sorority.

Smith is survived by her husband, Horace; daughters Tonya and Tamara; her brother Charles; and numerous relatives and friends.

IN MEMORIAM



Clyde Forbes '76, of Rochester, New York, died Dec. 21, 2021, after a lengthy illness.

A native of Rochester, Forbes graduated from East High School, then attended Syracuse University, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Known as a leader, influencer, activist and positive contributor in the Rochester community and beyond, Forbes

earned an MBA from the University of Rochester and had a 32-year career with Rochester Gas and Electric, retiring in 2008 as director of economic development. He then founded Wellington Solutions, serving as president.

Forbes served as a trustee of the Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, as well as building construction consultant.

Forbes is survived by his brothers, Minister Prince and Wilfred Forbes; his sisters, Bishop Gloria Ferguson, Deloris Williams, Beatrice Hamer, Carmetha Jones, Natalie Jackson and Alberta Baker; his companion, Debra Graves; and a host of extended family and friends.



Diane Green-El G'95, of Fayetteville, New York, died Oct. 2, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, Green-El earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University, a medical degree from Upstate Medical University, and completed a residency in pediatrics at the University of Buffalo. In 1995, she earned an MBA from Syracuse University.

Green-El's career as a pediatrician and a health care administrator began when she accepted a position at the Syracuse Community Health Center, launching a 40-year commitment to promoting quality health care for all. Her mission, to ensure the highest quality of care be delivered to the Health Center's diverse patient population, was evidenced in all of her work. Green-El chose pediatrics because she believed every child deserved quality care, but after assuming her role as medical director, she soon found herself promoting quality health care for all, including access to prenatal care for young women and mental health services for those who might otherwise be excluded from care. During her career in Syracuse, she served multiple terms as medical director and later as chief clinical officer.

Under her clinical leadership, Syracuse Community Health Center became one of the first to become certified by the newly reorganized Joint Commission on Health Care Organizations. Green-El later became the first medical director for Total Care, a licensed health maintenance organization designed to insure medically underserved populations. She also provided clinical oversight for the establishment of one of the first seven-day-a-week urgent care programs in Onondaga County, Extended Hours Services. Even though her administrative responsibilities were

often arduous, she continued fulfilling her work as a pediatrician, maintaining regular clinical hours in the office, managing a hospital schedule caring for sick children and rounding on newborns.

Green-El was an active member of the National Medical Association and of Central Baptist Church. She is survived by her mother, Doris; her brother, Charles; stepsons, Emanuel B. Henderson III and LaMar B. Henderson; and other family.



Judith Carmen Hanson '99, of Springfield, Massachusetts, died Dec. 16, 2021.

Affectionately known as "Judy," Hanson graduated from Springfield Central High School and received a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Syracuse University. She worked briefly at Education and Training Programs in Windsor, Connecticut, and for the last 25 years was employed at MassMutual Life Insurance Company.

Adored by her colleagues, Hanson was known to be a hard worker, dependable, detailed, smart and valuable member of her technology team. She was a community volunteer, working with Junior Achievement and tutoring in her spare time. She was also a proud member of the National Society of Black Engineers. She enjoyed the beach, traveling, music, sports and any form of trivia.

Hanson is survived by her parents, Lloyd and Lillieth Hanson; sister, Coleen Corlis; her brothers Omar and Owen Hanson; cousins Carol, Debbie, Arlene and Mascino; goddaughter, Taevosha; nieces Nia, Devin and Maxine; nephews Hakeem, Donovan, Zavier and Dominic; and numerous other family members and friends.



Krystle M. Davis '07, of Maybrook, New York, died Dec. 2, 2021.

Born in Bronx, New York, Davis studied magazine journalism, sociology and African American studies at Syracuse University, graduating summa cum laude. A Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholar, she served as editor-in-chief of 360 Degrees magazine, staff writer at *The Daily Orange*, was a contributor to *The Black*

Voice and *The Citizen* newspaper (Auburn, New York), served as Literacy Corps tutor and was a Newhouse Ambassador. As a senior, she was selected as a Syracuse University Scholar, the highest undergraduate honor that the University bestows.

Davis spent nearly 15 years at *Forbes*, rising from copy editor to most recently serving as associate director of content marketing.

Davis is survived by her father, Robert Davis; her mother, Anna Thompson; sisters Arianna VanDunk, Tai Davis and Monique Glover; and other family.

IN MEMORIAM



Madison Noelle Chappell '19, of New York City, died Feb. 7, 2022, from cervical cancer.

Raised in Harlem and Scarsdale, New York, Chappell played the drums, guitar, piano and violin. In middle school, she played violin at the United Nations in

New York City and later performed in many different countries with her high school orchestra.

With a goal to become a physician, Chappell served as an EMS volunteer from her senior year in high school through college. She studied psychology at Syracuse University, her parents' alma mater, completing all of the pre-medicine requirements. She spent summers during college volunteering in the robotics clinic at the Burke Neurological Institute and, pre-pandemic, volunteered in the maternity department at Mount Sinai West.

In 2018, Chappell was diagnosed with metastatic cervical cancer and advised to drop out of school. Despite her terminal illness, she was proud to remain a full-time student and make the Dean's List twice. She also ran a clothing business, Be Decent Clothing, and was a Twitch-affiliated streamer. After graduation, she joined her local Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority chapter, where her mother (who joined at Syracuse University) now serves.

Chappell is survived by her parents, Robert and Nicole Chappell; her brothers, Robby (a student at the Syracuse University College of Law), and Noah; grandparents; and other family.

FACULTY



Wynetta Devore, of Syracuse, New York, died Dec. 19, 2020. She was professor emerita of social work at Syracuse University.

Born in North Carolina and raised in New Jersey, Devore earned an undergraduate degree from Hope College and an M.S.W. and doctorate in education at the State University of New Jersey. She worked in several public welfare programs and taught at Kean College, New Jersey, before joining the faculty at Rutgers University.

In 1980, Devore joined Syracuse University's School of Social Work, where she taught foundational courses including Human Diversity, Human Behavior in the Social Environment and Foundations of Social Work Practice. She was a consistent advocate for ensuring that the School of Social Work was a model program for student success taught by a diverse faculty. In 1981, she co-authored *Ethnic Sensitive Social Work Practice* with Elfriede G. Schlesinger, Ph.D. The book—a seminal work on race, social work practice and social work education—is now in its fifth edition.

Devore was active at the University, serving as president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association, and in the social work profession, serving on numerous editorial boards and presenting at global conferences on topics and trends of significance. She received the Syracuse University Chancellor's Citation for Exceptional Academic Achievement in 1996. After retiring in 1999, she remained a vital presence, giving occasional guest lectures and served as the keynote speaker for the School of Social Work's 60th anniversary celebration in 2017.

A longstanding member of Park Central Presbyterian Church, Devore served as a deacon and an elder and went on several long-term mission trips to New Orleans, Haiti and South Africa, where she taught courses on AIDS.

As a member of the Syracuse Chapter of The Links Inc., she led many successful fundraising and service programs, including the African Doll Project. This international effort collected more than 250 Black dolls that she personally took to child care centers in townships outside Cape Town in South Africa for local children who, under apartheid, were denied the privilege of owning dolls in their own images and skin types. The chapter was awarded first place by the International Services Committee at the 1996 National Assembly for this project.

Devore is survived by her children, Julia Bryant and David Bryant; her brother, Jesse Devore; and a host of cousins.



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