



UNIVERSITY PLACE

Coming Back Together

African American and Latino alumni celebrate success.

On a cool, starless Saturday night, hundreds of actors, athletes, doctors, lawyers, writers, teachers, social workers, and business professionals gather in the main ballroom of the ONCENTER, the convention center in downtown Syracuse. Among them is Ross Love, vice president of advertising for the Procter & Gamble Company and a 1968 graduate of SU's College of Arts and Sciences. "Seeing my peers, all of whom are doing outrageously good

Four hundred alumni and friends returned to campus September 21-24 to participate in CBT V. This year's theme—"The Future Is Now: Careers, Family, and Community"—also fostered student participation. "One of our goals was to bring students and alumni together to network and to provide role models," says Evelyn D. Walker, director of program development.

CBT V opened with two days of workshops for alumni and students that provided opportunities to interact with leading professionals from many fields. Thirty-nine workshops were offered by more than 100 presenters. Topics ranged from media and entertainment to banking and finance. "I was able to meet people who are succeeding in journalism, the medical field, the courtroom, and many other professions," says Kellie Porter '95. "Everyone was on the same level; there weren't any pedestals."

Social events followed, including a comedic performance by Herb Quinones '82; the "Old School Meets New School Jam," hosted by the classes of '80, '85, and '90; and an evening of jazz featuring George Howard and Taylor Made Jazz.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Kappa Alpha Psi and Phi Beta Sigma fraternities celebrated 20 years at SU with several anniversary events; the Black Celestial Choral Ensemble held a special rehearsal for current and past members to prepare for a Sunday morning worship service; and the Community Folk Art Gallery hosted an art exhibit featuring works by photographer Renee Cox '78. There were also many small receptions throughout the weekend and a group reception hosted by Chancellor Kenneth A. Shaw at his residence.

National Football League star Art Monk '80 and his wife, Desiree King Monk '81, served as this year's CBT chairpersons. "We're all here to give back not only with our knowledge, resources, and experience, but also financially," says Art Monk. "We need to help give those who don't have the means an opportunity to take part in the SU experience that we all benefited from."

One of the ways alumni give back is through the "Our Time Has Come" scholarship fund which awards scholarships to talented students from a variety of backgrounds and educational disciplines. "The most important thing is to get people to commit from a financial standpoint so that



STEVE SARTORI

It was standing room only at the CBT V workshop "Preparing Nurses for the 21st Century." Panelists were Lynette Gittens '89, Jacqueline Hicks G'81, Lorraine John '88, and Phyllis Teabout-Bazen '81, G'94. Moderator was Luvenia Cowart G'74, '80.

things, keeps me fired up," he says. "This weekend is truly inspiring."

The weekend to which Love refers is Coming Back Together V (CBT V), Syracuse University's fifth triennial gathering of African American and Latino alumni.

CBT was instituted in 1983 as a way to reconnect African American and Latino alumni with their alma mater. "These alumni were not participating members of the SU family because they felt tolerated but not appreciated," says Larry Martin, executive director for program development, the office responsible for organizing the event. "CBT is a way to celebrate alumni successes while recognizing strides made in diversity in student enrollment, faculty, and staff at SU."

we can help less fortunate students," says fund chairperson Dave Bing '66.

"What we need to do, especially in the private sector, is make a commitment," adds Joseph Cruz '74. "Everyone should try to give something toward the scholarship. Any amount helps."

Since 1987, alumni have contributed more than \$1 million to the fund. Fourteen students were named "Our Time Has Come" scholarship recipients this year.

A highlight of CBT V was presentation of the Chancellor's Citation for Distinguished Achievement, given to alumni under 40 who have excelled in their professions. This year, nine recipients were named: Dr. Sharon Brangman '77 and Dr. Michael Bell '79 for medicine; Jose A. Muñoz '78 and Deryck Palmer '78 for law; Angela Y. Robinson '78 and Jacqueline Robinson-Melchor '78 for journalism; Art Monk '80 for professional sports; Darryl Bell '86 for entertainment; and Tanya Heidelberg '85 for business. Special alumni recognition awards were presented to Helen Holt Williams '31 and Benjamin I. Green '85.

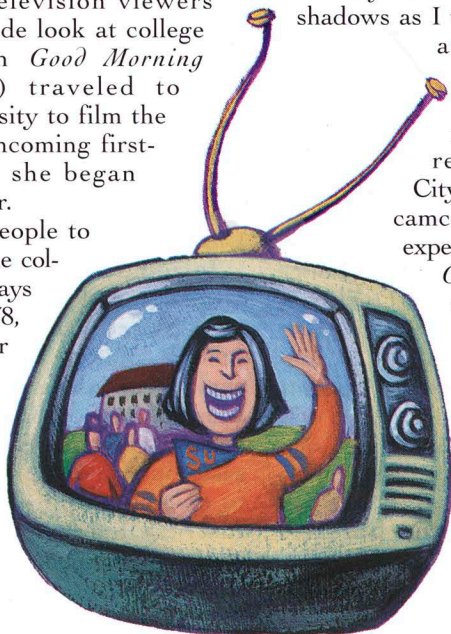
"The people I went to school with still inspire me," says Heidelberg. "Being commended by your peers is probably the most important thing that can happen to you."

—NATALIE A. VALENTINE

GOOD MORNING SU

This fall, television viewers got an inside look at college life when *Good Morning America* (*GMA*) traveled to Syracuse University to film the activities of an incoming first-year student as she began her college career.

"We wanted people to have a sense of the college experience," says Bob Reichblum '78, executive producer of *GMA*. "For people who have been there, it was nostalgic, and for people going, it showed what it's like. It had an



interest level for a wide audience."

Reichblum notes that five million television viewers tune in to *GMA* every week. On September 5, that audience received its first glimpse of Syracuse University life through a student's eyes. During the segment, viewers were introduced to Liz Miller, a first-year student in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. The camera followed Miller as she visited the SU Bookstore, a dining center, a dance party, peer advising, her residence hall, and an 8:30 a.m. Spanish class. "It was nice to show off the University," Miller says. "The public needs to know how wonderful Syracuse is."

Miller, who comes from Baltimore, was chosen to represent SU on the *GMA* broadcast within hours of her arrival on campus. A committee of Newhouse professors reviewed high school transcripts of a number of candidates and made recommendations. Personal interviews followed. "We were looking for someone with a high energy level and a positive attitude," says Don Edwards, department chair for broadcast journalism. The committee narrowed the candidates down to two and *GMA* producers made the final selection. "Liz had an enthusiastic personality on camera and was willing to invest the time," Reichblum says.

A producer, cameraman, and sound engineer accompanied Miller through her first days at SU. "It felt like I had three shadows as I walked around campus and hung out in the dorm," Miller says.

After the initial taping, the film crew returned to New York City, leaving Miller with a camcorder to document her experiences for broadcast on *GMA* at a later date. She recorded scenes at a fraternity party, the student section at an SU football game in the Carrier Dome, and people working out at the gym. "It's sort of like (MTV's) *The Real World*," Miller says. "Wherever I went, the camera went too."

SYRACUSE ABROAD

SEMESTER AND SUMMER

A KEY ADVANTAGE TO A CAREER FOR YOUR COLLEGE STUDENT

- Liberal arts and professional courses
- Internship and language programs
- Need based scholarships
- Academic scholarships

■ ENGLAND

■ FRANCE

■ HONG KONG

■ ITALY

■ SINGAPORE

■ SPAIN

■ ZIMBABWE

DIPA

DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS ABROAD

119 EUCLID AVENUE
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13244-4170

SEMESTER	1-800-235-3472
PROGRAMS	DIPA@SUADMIN.SYR.EDU
	OR
SUMMER	1-800-251-9674
PROGRAMS	DIPASUM@SUADMIN.SYR.EDU

David Rubin, dean of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, believes Miller's appearance on *GMA* will do much to enhance the national image of SU. "People tend to identify Syracuse University with sports, so the *Good Morning America* segments will give SU more depth," he says. "This publicity is sure to increase the number of inquiries about the University and the number of applications. This will allow SU to become even more selective and be in the top tier academically."

Miller says the project was an exciting way to begin her college career. "I hope it's just a taste of what's to come during the next four years," she says.

—HEATHER A. O'CONNOR

TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Ernest Wood III is a teen-ager with a grown-up wish list. "I would like to stop the gangster stuff and drugs on the street; I would like to make sure that more kids are protected from kidnappings; and I would like to see people get all the care they need," he says.

Wood is not alone; many of his peers are equally concerned about conditions in their cities, neighborhoods, and schools. That's why Syracuse University's Division of Continuing Education and the Syracuse City School District have joined forces to form the Syracuse Youth Roundtable (SYR), a monthly forum designed to educate middle school and high school students on important characteristics, assets, and problems within the Syracuse community.

Lee Smith, assistant dean for community service at University College, founded SYR in 1992. It is modeled after the award-winning public service program Thursday Morning Roundtable, which Smith established three decades ago to bring community leaders together and increase awareness of civic issues. "The idea behind the Syracuse Youth Roundtable is to give young people an opportunity to become better acquainted, more interested, and more involved in their community," Smith says.



At the first Syracuse Youth Roundtable meeting of 1995, students talk with Robert E. DiFlorio, superintendent of the Syracuse City School District, at the end of the day's session.

Once a month from September through April, 110 students from 11 area schools participate in the two-hour SYR discussion groups. Students are chosen based on interest in civic issues and demonstrated leadership abilities. "Participants aren't selected merely because they have the best grades," says Bea Gonzalez, director of student services at University College. "We want students who get others to listen to them and who will make an impact for change."

At each roundtable, students hear presentations by community leaders in business, government, and media on a variety of topics. Past speakers include Roy A. Bernardi, mayor of the city of Syracuse, and James T. Foody, chief of the Syracuse Police Department. Robert E. DiFlorio, superintendent of the Syracuse City School District, spends about 20 minutes of each session talking to students about current policy issues.

"We want to give students an environment where they are comfortable asking officials questions, and we believe we have succeeded. Speakers often are surprised at the level of questions they receive," says Gonzalez.

"Hopefully, students will continue this interest in community affairs and get even more involved as adults."

To keep SYR fresh and informative, evaluations are performed at the end of each year. In the evaluation process, students are invited to brainstorm ideas on future topics and speakers. Half of the suggestions proposed by students in 1994 were implemented this year. These suggestions included expanding on topics already presented—crime, discrimination, drugs, education—as well as giving increased attention to AIDS. Many students proposed extending invitations to New York State Governor George Pataki and President Bill Clinton to speak at an SYR meeting.

In addition to student suggestions, Gonzalez, and Peter Kavanagh, assistant director of Syracuse middle schools, plan to invite lawmakers to explore the justice system; health care administrators to discuss teen-age pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; human resource representatives to discuss employment issues; and American Indians from the Onondaga Nation to examine cultural diversity.

While the program is still evolving,

Gonzalez says SYR's overall goals are clear. "We want the program to be a model for personal responsibility and to encourage volunteerism," she says. "We want to give students real-life experiences they can talk about in their classes."

These students feel positive about SYR. Meetings instill confidence and compassion. Just ask Ernest Wood. "I learned that I want to be an important person," he says, "and I want to help out my friends and classmates if they have problems." —NATALIE A. VALENTINE

WINNING TEAM

How do you fit four men, two armchairs, and a 140-square-foot display unit into a Volkswagen? Very carefully, according to College of Visual and Performing Arts students David Dursa, Jim Varney, Curt Welsh, and Gregg Wicken.

The four industrial design majors speak from firsthand experience. Last May, they crammed themselves and their design materials into Welsh's VW Golf for a five-hour drive from Syracuse to New York City. Their destination: the International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF), where the SU seniors exhibited their work, and that of other SU design students, to thousands of visiting professionals in the industry.

The team's furniture designs and display were standouts at ICFF because they were made entirely from recycled materials. "We were really proud to show that we could take something as mundane as corrugated cardboard, something that people throw away, and make something beautiful out of it," Varney says.

The team points out that there were many creative elements that took

a year or more to develop before the furniture fair. "The first step was designing the chairs," Welsh says. "Next came developing the graphic identity and producing a pamphlet with information about the exhibition and the University for distribution. Then there was designing and building the actual exhibition system for the display."

Each member of the team was responsible for one element: Varney and Wicken designed and built miniature chair models; Dursa took the lead in designing the logo and developing the promotional materials; and Welsh took charge of creating the display. "We turned low-end material into high-end pieces of work," says Wicken, "and SU had a socially responsible presence at the trade show."

At the fair, the team made numerous contacts and received a great deal of praise for their work. A jewelry designer was so impressed with their display that she commissioned an exhibition system for her designs. As a result, the

four students decided to go into business together. "We really wanted to continue to create furniture," says Varney, "so seeking more clients seemed like a natural progression."

As a first step, the partners—operating under the business name Generate—set up shop at SU to make affordable recycled furniture for students. "When students buy these functional pieces of artwork, they'll know that the furniture is being made from reclaimed material and that they're making a wise choice for the environment," says Varney.

Students are encouraged to return the furniture once it has outlived its usefulness. "Taking it back allows us to reuse the wood and save space in a landfill," Dursa says.

The partners are determined to make Generate a success. "Design is a lifestyle," says Wicken. "To be successful, it has to be your passion. Plus, when you're calling the shots, it's so much more enjoyable."

—NATALIE A. VALENTINE



STEVE SARTORI

The Generate partners pose with Professor Jerry Malinowski (center), who taught the experimental furniture class where (clockwise from front left) Gregg Wicken, David Dursa, Curt Welsh, and Jim Varney combined their talents to create works they exhibited in New York City.