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### Section Introduction: Society at Large

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# SOCIETY AT LARGE

The world always seems to be socially divided, especially recently. Globalization along with greater means for communication have made social issues and the discussions surrounding them more available. But these advantages have not made our interactions better. In fact, we seem to be quick to judge or dismiss. We still live in a world where injustice is ignored and people suffer. While these experiences and injustices sometimes feel ingrained in society and nearly invisible, greater outcry and voices are making them known. This section illuminates the failings of the education system, social media's negative influence, and the mishandling of veterans' affairs. The authors in this section are people who are not willing to settle for what the world gives, who take on institutions and accepted norms as things to be challenged.

They are game changers, people who transform our world and inspire us to do the same. They are brave voices who catch our attention on a diverse range of issues that affect the Syracuse community and the world. "Moving Off the Education Conveyor Belt" by Morgan Conover deals with the questionable worth of higher education and how it often fails to produce students who are willing to learn and discover because they are taught to obey social norms and the institutions that make them.

"Separate But Unequal" by Abigail Covington explores how the public education system fails children of color, while "The Plight of the Angry Tweet" by Taskina Tareen makes us question how social media is misused as a battleground for larger social arguments. In "Sharing the Scourge of War," veteran Peter McShane describes the impact his service had on his family's health long after his deployment. While all the selections are different, each author sheds light on broader issues by confronting them on a personal level. Feel what they feel. Get angry with them. Challenge them.

We are ultimately left with a sense that the solution to these social dilemmas starts with discourse. We encourage you to not let this be the end of the discussion. The first step in creating a society that is more inclusive and just is to step out of your comfort zone.

—Chloe Martin, Joy Muchtar, and Dabota Wilcox