

Bringing Everyone Together

Connection

Syracuse University Libraries

Spring 2026



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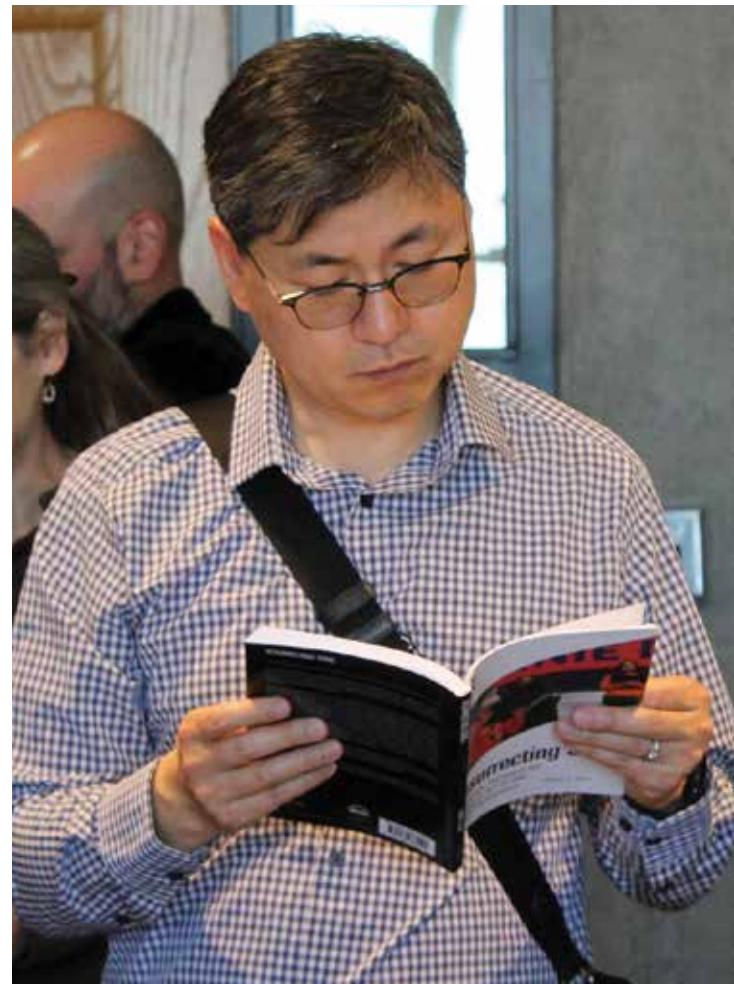
Kathleen A. Walters '73, Atlanta, GA



Cover Photo: Chancellor Kent Syverud gifts Faithkeeper Oren Lyons with potted sapling at dedication event on Sept. 26, 2025. Above: Students walking in front of Carnegie Library.

Table of Contents

Dean's Message	2
SCRC Finding Aids, Making Collections Discoverable	3
New and Notable SCRC Acquisitions	4
Recent Additions to SU Libraries' Collections	6
New Research Guides for Your Use	6
Banned Books Week 2025	7
The IVMF Digital Library	8
SU Press and IVMF Host Veterans Writing and Weekend Workshop	9
Veterans Find Voice and Connection at Writing Workshop Weekend	10
Brett Goldstein '01 Joins Libraries Advisory Board	11
Artist Warren Kimble '57 Donates Papers to Syracuse University Libraries	12
Vanessa St.Oegger-Menn Receives Spotlight Award from Society of American Archivists	13
Syracuse University Libraries Powers STEM Innovation	14
Incoming ECS Faculty Member and Recent NSF I-Corps Participant Leads Semiconductor Materials Research	16
NSF I-Corps Program Helped Founder Angelo Niforatos G'20, G'25 Take Flight	16
NSF I-Corps Program Helped Dr. Chris Thomas Bridge Technical Breakthrough in the Lab with Commercial Success	17
Syracuse University Granted Custodianship of Faithkeeper Oren Lyons' Collection	18
SCRC's Access Audio and Haudenosaunee Nonprofit Launch 'Rematriated Voices' Talk Show and Podcast	19
Groundbreaking Talk Show Series Brings Indigenous Voices to the Mainstream	20
Students Engage with Libraries During First Year Seminar Shared Experience	22
Campus Entrepreneurship Hub Turns 10	23
LaunchPad Celebrates 10 Years Empowering Student Entrepreneurs	24
2026 SCRC Exhibition—We Demand: A Legacy of Activism in America	26



Top: Attendee reading at the 2025 Books in the Humanities Celebration.



Bottom: First year students explore a collection of buttons in the Special Collections Research Center during a FYS Shared Experience session.



Dean David Seaman in Bird Library.



**Your input is important to us!
Please take a few moments
to complete the
reader feedback survey.**

Dean's Message

As the Spring semester gets underway, this issue of Connection lives up to its name in ways that continue to inspire me. We remain focused on the myriad ways Syracuse University Libraries brings everyone together—our students, faculty, alumni and the broader community.

The cover photograph celebrates the ceremonial transfer of custodianship for Faithkeeper **Oren Lyons'** collection to Syracuse University Libraries. This landmark agreement marks Syracuse as a trusted repository for Haudenosaunee materials, and that spirit of collaboration extends to our work with Rematriation on the groundbreaking "Rematriated Voices" talk show and podcast series, bringing Indigenous wisdom and matrilineal values to mainstream audiences.

The Libraries is committed to being more than a repository of knowledge. Through our partnership with the National Science Foundation's I-Corps program, we're empowering STEM innovators to transform research breakthroughs into real-world impact. Our Blackstone LaunchPad celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, having supported more than 7,600 innovators from 140 countries. When people ask why an entrepreneurship hub lives in a library, I remind them that libraries have always been about access, connection and possibility.

Our Special Collections Research Center continues to grow with remarkable acquisitions, including the papers of artist **Warren Kimble** '57, scholar **Sally Roesch Wagner** and television critic **Marvin Kitman**. Through our IVMF Digital Library partnership and our Veterans Writing Award and Workshop, we honor those who have served while creating lasting resources for research and spaces for healing.

I'm particularly proud of how we've expanded our engagement with first-year students through the FYS Shared Experience, welcoming 448 students to 22 different events that introduced them to the wealth of expertise available through the Libraries.

Thank you for being part of the Libraries' community and for your continued support of our work.

David Seaman
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) Finding Aids

Making Collections Discoverable



SCRC Finding Aids (findingaids.syr.edu) help researchers on campus and around the globe discover rare and distinctive archival, manuscript and primary source collections available within the Syracuse University Libraries' SCRC. A curated list of new and updated finding aids of some of the most notable processed material from the past semester include:

NEW or NEWLY PROCESSED Materials

Activism and Social Reform

- > Charlotte Holstein Papers, 26 ln. ft.

American Literature

- > Joyce Carol Oates Papers, 170 ln. ft. and 224 media items added

Broadcasting and Journalism

- > Roland Wolseley Papers, 45 ln. ft.

Charters Library of Resources for Educators of Adults

- > Syracuse University Kellogg Project Records, 3 ln. ft.

Illustration, Printing, and Publishing

- > Lincoln Pamphlets Collection, 13.5 ln. ft.

Photography and Photojournalism

- > Grant Speer Papers, 1.5 ln. ft.

Plastics

- > Plastics Pioneer Association Records, 0.25 ln. ft.

Syracuse University History

- > Lester M. Bridgeman Papers, 0.1 ln. ft.
- > Charles Johnson and Lynda Fain Johnson Photograph Collection, 0.25 ln. ft.
- > Nu Gamma Phi Scrapbooks, 1.25 ln. ft.
- > Edgar Foster Piper Papers, 1.5 ln. ft.
- > Thomas F. Blake Memorabilia, 3.75 ln. ft.
- > 1970 Student Strike at Syracuse University Collection, 6.75 ln. ft.
- > Frances Shullanberger Dressler Scrapbook, 1.5 ln. ft.
- > Jane Fagan Memorabilia, 1.75 ln. ft.
- > Syracuse University Student Activism Collection, 1.5 ln. ft.



Selections from the Roland Wolseley Papers, Special Collections Research Center.

ADDITIONS and UPDATES

Charters Library of Resources for Educators of Adults

- > Fund for Adult Education (FAE) Records, 125 media items updated

Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster

- > Alexia Foundation for World Peace and Cultural Understanding Collection, 18.75 ln. ft. added

Recorded Sound and Music

- > WSYR Collection, 4 items added
- > WAER Collection, 262 media items updated
- > Gregg Smith Papers, 1 item added

New and Notable SCRC Acquisitions

When adding new collection material to its world-renowned holdings, the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) acquisitions team applies a reparative framework where all potential acquisitions are assessed with priority to collect, preserve and provide access to materials from historically underrepresented groups. Staff consider purchases and donations in terms of relevance for research; the University's colleges and curricula; and how new acquisitions will fill gaps in representation within SCRC's varied collection areas. Here are recent highlights:

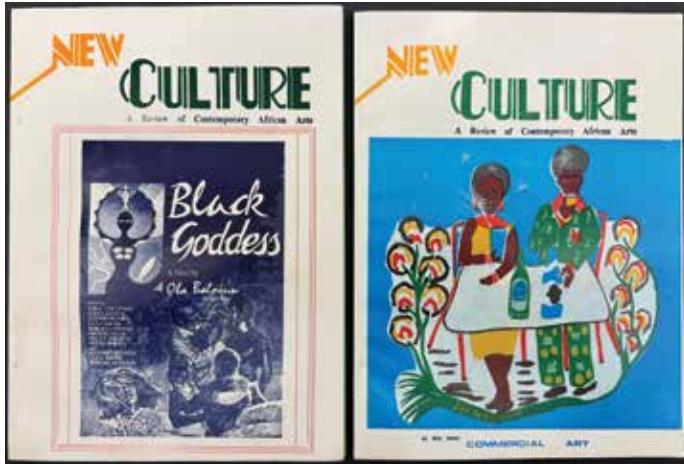


Image credit: April and August 1979 issues of *New Culture: A Review of Contemporary African Arts*, 1979, Special Collections Research Center.



Image credit: Report of the International Council of Women, assembled by the National Women Suffrage Association, Washington, D.C., 1888, and hand sewn and embroidered book cover, Sally Roesch Wagner Papers, Special Collections Research Center.

New Culture: A Review of Contemporary African Arts. Ibadan, Nigeria: New Culture Studios, 1978-1979

Purchased with the Special Collections Research Center Fund

SCRC recently acquired a complete set of 11 issues of the short-lived magazine *New Culture: A Review of Contemporary African Arts*. The magazine was created by **Demas Nwoko** (1935 -), a Nigerian-born artist, designer and architect, who was awarded the 2023 Golden Lion Award for lifetime achievement at the Venice Biennale. Under Nwoko's direction, the magazine addressed themes such as colonialism, post-colonialism, identity, tradition and aesthetics. The publication also featured a dedicated children's section and included "dark pages," or surprise pages intended to be opened by readers, which remain intact and unopened in this set. As a leading figure in Nigeria's modern art movement, Nwoko established the New Culture Studios in Ibadan in 1964 as an art space and residence, which later evolved into a performance venue and the publishing house for *New Culture*. This acquisition documents a pivotal moment in Nigerian cultural history and provides researchers with valuable resources to study the arts in Africa and the African diaspora during this era. Complete sets of *New Culture* are exceptionally rare, with only a few institutions worldwide preserving the full run of issues.

Sally Roesch Wagner Papers

Gift of Sally Roesch Wagner Estate

Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner (1942 - 2025) was an historian, scholar, activist and one of the first women in the United States to earn a doctorate in women's studies. She dedicated her life and scholarship to an intersectional lens amplifying the voices of women and underrepresented groups often missing from the historical record. Her groundbreaking book, *Sisters in Spirit: Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on Early American Feminists*, was critical in illuminating how Haudenosaunee women shaped the feminist worldviews of early suffragists. Dr. Wagner was also founding director of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation and Social Justice Dialogue Center. She worked to restore the legacy of local suffragist **Matilda Joslyn Gage** (1826 - 1898), who fought for women's suffrage, abolition and Indigenous rights. Dr. Wagner's papers include annotated research files, correspondence, printed materials, writings, published rare books and periodicals, as well as original primary source materials from Matilda Joslyn Gage and the Gage family, such as correspondence, photographs, printed material and rare books from the family library.



Image credit: Photograph of Wharton, circa 1910s, J. Herman Wharton Collection, University Archives, Special Collections Research Center.

J. Herman Wharton Collection - addition, 2 linear feet

Gift of Barbara E.R. Lucas

J. Herman Wharton (1889-1921) was a Syracuse University alumnus, professor and the founder of the College of Business Administration (now the Whitman School of Management). He graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor's degree in 1911 and a master's degree in 1913 and then remained on campus to teach. After Chancellor **James Roscoe Day** agreed to Wharton's proposal to establish the School of Business Administration, it was founded in 1919, with Wharton serving as its first director. The new school saw immediate success, and in 1920 became the College of Business Administration, with Wharton as its first dean. However, just a year later, Wharton was shot and killed in his office by a troubled member of the college's faculty. This significant addition to the Wharton Collection comprises diaries and memorandum books kept by him throughout his life, printed materials and photographs of Wharton, his friends and family, and his time at Syracuse University.

Marvin Kitman Papers

Gift of Jamie and Ike Kitman

Marvin Kitman (1929-2023) was a significant figure in American television criticism, recognized for his extensive contributions and influential coverage. His career in criticism began in 1967 with contributions to *The New Leader*, an American political and cultural magazine associated with figures from the Socialist Party of America. Kitman later became the long-standing television critic for *Newsday*, covering the era following the Golden Age of Television (post-1960) and preceding the Second Golden Age in 2000. He championed innovative programs such as *Seinfeld*, *M*A*S*H* and

Monty Python's Flying Circus, while offering critical assessments of others such as *Charlie's Angels* and *Dallas*. By the conclusion of his tenure in 2005, Kitman had authored over 5,700 columns for the widely syndicated *Newsday*. His writing extended to non-fiction and biography, and he served as the founding editor of the satirical magazine *Monocle*, as well as a staff writer for the *Saturday Evening Post* and other publications. Kitman's archival papers are significant in size and scope, totaling over 500 linear feet and encompassing handwritten and typed notes, network circulars, correspondence with readers and fan mail, subject files, clippings, audio interviews with media figures, media scholars and critics.

Victor A. Hilarov Papers

Gift of Tanya Kendall

Victor A. Hilarov (1889-1974) was an electrical engineer and an alumnus of Syracuse University. He was born in Kishinev, Russia (now Chișinău, Moldova) and emigrated to the United States in 1923. While he was a student at Syracuse University, he was a member of the Cosmopolitan Club, a student organization that promoted dialogue and fellowship between American and international students. Hilarov graduated from Syracuse University's College of Applied Science in 1927 with his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. The Hilarov Papers contain materials relating to his time as a student at Syracuse University, including his notebooks, annotated textbooks, technical drawings and Cosmopolitan Club meeting minutes.

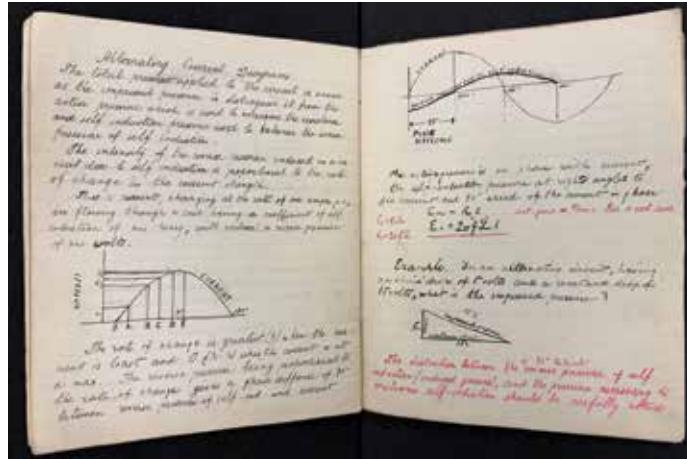


Image credit: Class notebook used by Hilarov, circa 1920s, Victor A. Hilarov Papers, University Archives, Special Collections Research Center.

Recent Additions to SU Libraries' Collections

Databases and Digital Archives

- **Amnesty International Archives: A Global Movement for Human Rights:** Minutes, reports, correspondence, first-hand accounts, publicity materials and circulars of Amnesty International's campaign to end to human rights violations and abuses across the world.
- **Database of Latin Dictionaries:** Online database including translating dictionaries, etymological dictionaries and historical Latin dictionaries.
- **Indigenous Life in America:** Newspaper articles about Indigenous life, culture and politics from 2017 to the present.
- **Mintel Global New Products Database:** Datasets and reports on the Mintel Reports platform, covering product launches from top retailers in international markets.
- **Stratford Festival Shakespeare Collection 2:** Live performances of *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Hamlet*, *Henry VIII* and *Richard III*, available on Bloomsbury Drama Online.
- **Times Digital Archive, 2020-2024**

Journal titles

- American Theatre
- Bioinspired, Biomimetic and Nanobiomaterials, 2019-current
- Emerging Materials Research, 2012-current
- Green Materials, 2013-current
- Nanomaterials and Energy, 2012-current
- Studies in Language
- Surface Innovations, 2013-current
- Times Literary Supplement, 2010-current
- Yearbook of International Organizations

eBook Collections

- 2025 eBook collections from science and engineering professional societies, including American Astronomical Society, American Chemical Society, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Institution of Engineering and Technology, Institute of Physics, Royal Society of Chemistry and the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE)
- Bloomsbury Global Encyclopedia of Women in Architecture, on Bloomsbury Visual Arts

- Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of New Media Art, on Bloomsbury Visual Arts
- Sage 2025 eBooks and Sage 2025 Business Cases, on Sage Knowledge
- Springer Nature and Palgrave Macmillan 2025 eBooks, on SpringerLink

Open Access (OA) Support

- Gatherings: An Interdisciplinary, Intersectional Feminist Journal
- Continued support for eBook OA programs, including MIT Press 2025 Direct to Open, University of Michigan Press 2025 UMP Fund to Mission and JSTOR Path to Open
- Continued support for APC (article processing fee) coverage for OA journal publishing, including Cambridge, Springer Nature/Palgrave Macmillan, Wiley, American Chemical Society and others

New Research Guides for Your Use

Explore Research Guides curated by the Libraries at researchguides.library.syr.edu. With over 300 guides for various courses and partnerships across the University, Research Guides provide the perfect starting point for your research and academic needs. New Research Guides this Fall include:

- Banned Books Week 2025
- Code of Federal Regulations
- Design
- EEE 457: Strategic and Entrepreneurial Management
- ENL 213: Library Research Guide
- History of Women in the US Military
- Immigration in America and Upstate New York: Past and Present
- International Business Resources
- Library Research Skills for School of Education Students
- Service to School: The Veteran's Resilient Journey. Oct. 31 - Nov. 26, 2025
- Sport Analytics
- Syracuse Libraries Guide to AI Publisher Tools
- The Emmy: History of an Award



Banned Books Week 2025

Syracuse University Libraries, in collaboration with the Departments of English, Religion, Women's and Gender Studies, Art and Music History, LGBT Studies, Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, African American Studies, Political Science, and Sociology from the College of Arts and Sciences, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, the School of Education, and the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, offered a variety of programming in October for this year's Banned Books Week.

Professor **Roy Gutterman**, Director of the Tully Center for Free Speech at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, organized an author talk featuring **Fred M. Fiske** on his book "The Grocer Who Sold McCarthyism." Fiske's biography explores **Laurence A. Johnson's** ascent from a small-time grocery operator to a kingmaker wielding Red Scare hysteria as a cudgel to shape the landscape of American entertainment and commerce. Through Johnson's journey, readers and participants gain insight into a pivotal moment in U.S. history when the nation grappled with fear, ideology and the delicate balance between security and freedom.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Library in Sims Hall hosted a "Black and Banned SU Campus Read-Out" of banned books by and about people of African descent.

Professor **Benjamin Dotger**, Director of the Center for Experiential Pedagogy and Practice in the School of Education, offered "A Challenged Book Clinical Simulation" in the new Simulation Laboratory in Huntington Hall. The simulation focused on responding to a hypothetical parent/guardian challenge to a Kindergarten through 12th Grade text.

Teukie Martin, Ph.D. Candidate in Inclusive Education, hosted a dynamic conversation on censorship, education and the right to read at the Banned Book Teach-In in Bird Library. Participants explored the history and politics behind the current wave of book bans and challenges, the mechanisms through which censorship occurs and the role of scholars, educators and community members in defending intellectual freedom. This was followed by a panel on "Historical Perspectives on Book and Film Censorship" featuring **Chris Forster**, Emerson Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor, Department of English in the College of Arts & Sciences, who presented on "Book Banning as the Destruction of Public Space;" **Eric J Grode**, Associate Professor, Magazine, News and Digital Journalism, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, who presented on "I Am Curious (Impounded): The Lucrative Evolution of Grove Press From Book Defender to Film Defender;" and **Darwin Tsien**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics in the College of Arts & Sciences, who



Campus community members participate in "Meet a Banned Book" event on Oct. 9, 2025.

presented on "The Prison-House of Language: A Brief History of Book-banning in the Chinese-Speaking World."

The Libraries hosted an interactive "Meet a Banned Book," where volunteers brought challenged and censored titles to life—embodying the voices behind the books. Patrons "checked out" these living books for one-on-one conversations about the stories, the bans and the battles fought to keep them on shelves. A powerful demonstration of literature, the impact of censorship and the enduring strength of ideas that defend intellectual and creative freedom, the event was coordinated by the student group Beyond the Book.

Finally, events wrapped up with the annual Banned Book Read-Out and Raffle. Participants selected a passage from their favorite banned/challenged book and read it aloud. Throughout the entire week, the Libraries featured a banned book display in Bird Library curated by Information Literacy Scholar **Grace Suhadolnik** and an online Banned Book Research Guide.



The IVMF Digital Library

The **IVMF Digital Library** is a campus-wide data and information repository that publishes original research and reports created by the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF). Through a partnership between the IVMF and SU Libraries, it provides access to a wide range of curated resources and data related to veterans and military families. Although the flagship collections in the IVMF Digital Library focus on veteran entrepreneurship and employment, its holdings also include a variety of materials pertaining to government policy, higher education and community services.

The documents, data, and other resources included in the IVMF Digital Library make it easy for users to find distinctive veteran and military family-related content through both organized collections and topical or format-based keywords. Users seeking information about the state of veteran entrepreneurship, for example, can easily identify executive summaries of published research on this topic, existing reports from IVMF's research team, or related primary data both collected and collated by various IVMF program teams. Content included in the IVMF Digital Library can also be of great value to instructors interested in incorporating a focus on veterans and military families (and/or related data) in their courses.

In Partnership with
Syracuse University Libraries

IVMF Digital Library provides the following:

- Reports, primary documents, and other sources. These documents can be incredibly valuable for faculty and students working on research related to veterans, students working on class projects, senior theses, and other projects, and faculty designing hands-on modules in their courses.
- Links to published works focused on veterans and military families. The IVMF Digital Library publishes short briefs on published scholarship focused on veterans. These briefs amplify the visibility and impact of scholarly work, and writing such briefs can be a great opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to learn more about the publication process.
- Additional distribution channel for locally created veteran and military-family research. Partnering with SURFACE, the campus institutional repository supported by SU Libraries, the IVMF Digital Library is a great way for Syracuse faculty and students to increase the visibility and impact of their own veteran and military family-focused scholarship.
- Repository of primary data related to veterans (in development). A rich collection of primary data can be accessed through the IVMF Digital Library, serving as another veterans-related research resource for faculty and students. This repository can also be a powerful resource for instructors to incorporate into class projects and modules.

Interested in learning more about how to use IVMF Digital Library resources, how to place your own work in the Library, or how to get the IVMF Digital Library team in front of your class, students, or colleagues?

► **IVMF Digital Library Help Desk**
divmflibrary@syr.edu

► **GRACE SWINNERTON, IVMF Research & Digital Projects Librarian at Syracuse University Libraries**
grswinne@syr.edu





Panel discussion with (left to right) moderator Kicia Sears, and authors Dewaine Farria, Brian O'Hare, Jenny Pacanowski and Robin Michel Caudell.

SU Press and IVMF Host Veterans Writing Award and Weekend Workshop

Syracuse University Press, in partnership with the Syracuse University D'Aniello Institute for Veteran & Military Families (IVMF) and the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC), hosted a discussion of art, identity and conflict featuring Veterans Writing Award winning authors on Friday, November 7, 2025, as part of the Humanities Center's Syracuse Symposium on "Creativity."

Robin Michel Caudell, the 2023 Veterans Writing Award winner, shared an excerpt from her upcoming book, *Black Heel Strings: A Choptank Memoir*, published by SU Press. Caudell is an award-winning Press-Republican staff writer. A native of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Caudell served in the U.S. Air Force and was a John L. Levitow Honor Graduate. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College. Her poetry has been anthologized in national and international publications. She is the director/screenwriter for *Witness Tree at Union Road*, a documentary in collaboration with Skidmore College. Veteran, activist and author **Anuradha Bhagwati** selected Caudell's memoir as the 2023 winner of the Veterans Writing Award.

The reading was followed by a panel discussion that included **Dewaine Farria, Brian O'Hare and Jenny Pacanowski**. Dewaine Farria served in Jordan and Ukraine as a Marine. He holds an MA in international relations from the University of Oklahoma and an

MFA in creative writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. **Tobias Wolff** selected his novel *Revolutions of All Colors* as the winner of the inaugural Syracuse University Veterans Writing Award in 2019. **Brian O'Hare** is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, former Marine officer and Gulf War veteran. He is an award-winning writer and filmmaker living in Los Angeles. National Book Award winner **Phil Klay** selected his short story collection *Surrender* as the winner of the 2021 Veterans Writing Award. **Jenny Pacanowski** is a poet, playwright, military combat veteran and public speaker. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Women Veterans Empowered and Thriving (WVE&T), which has expanded its programming to include men, civilian support members and the LGBTQIA+ community.

As an extension of the Veterans Writing Award, the University also hosted a Veterans Writing Weekend Workshop November 8 and 9, offering registrants an opportunity to receive instruction and development under the direction of award-winning veteran writers Dewaine Farria, Brian O'Hare and Jenny Pacanowski. The workshop provided veterans a space to reflect on their experiences, gain insight and solace, process complex emotions, and build public voices and community with other service members while sharing stories with varied audiences.

Veterans Find Voice and Connection at Writing Workshop Weekend

by Colette Goldstein G'25

In the weekend preceding Veteran's Day, the Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello Building became an excavation site: a place for veterans to not only recount their service but sift through their memory and experiences with reinvigorated voices. Here, writing exceeded its role as a creative outlet; it emerged as a community binder, an emotional magnifier and, to some, a healer.

Voices of Service: A Celebration of Veterans Writing and Weekend Workshop welcomed veterans of all ages and branches to embark on two days of collaborative, creative and communal development.

Aligning with the Humanities Center's 2025 -2026 Syracuse Symposium theme, "Creativity," the event focused on uplifting veterans' distinct perspectives and offered space—in the form of writing workshops, readings, shared meals and a concluding open mic—for them to nurture and empower their creative expression.

The event's workshops included a range of hands-on writing exercises facilitated by **Dewaine Farria** (U.S. Marine Corps), **Brian O'Hare** (U.S. Marine Corps) and **Jenny Pacanowski** (U.S. Army). From learning about multidimensional character building to sessions of constructive feedback, attendees had opportunities to mobilize their works-in-progress and generate fresh ideas.

One of O'Hare's sessions, "Writing as the Soundtrack of Our Lives," asked each veteran to select a song that represented or identified with their individual service experience. It was a reflective exploration of how music attaches itself to memory, and how songs can serve as tools for unearthing moments that might have otherwise remained buried under time.

"It's a really fantastic, remarkable experience," said **John Rittell**, a 33-year military retiree. "You're learning what you already know, but maybe never brought out."

Responding to O'Hare's prompt, Rittell was reminded of **Gale Garnett's** "We'll Sing in the Sunshine," the first song he heard overseas while serving in the Vietnam War. To Rittell, Garnett's tune sounded like "growing up," a spark he built upon in the exercise.

These musings were not kept internal; the weekend encouraged writers like Rittell to share their prompted reflections openly. As Rittell understood it, "You can build on what other people have gone



Dewaine Farria and Brian O'Hare being interviewed by students from the Daily Orange.

through." In doing so, the group formed a network of connections out of mutual understanding, not just among fellow attendees but also with the instructors leading the workshop.

"It's a privilege. I'm 'rich,' basically, in being able to connect with human beings, which is really the ultimate richness," said O'Hare. "I love being in this environment, there's a lot of trust and a lot of love."

Prior to an open mic event on Sunday, Pacanowski facilitated the weekend's final workshop that focused on the art of "releasing" stories rather than "retraumatizing." The result? A microphone that echoed with the power of reclamation . . . in thunderous conviction, in teary eyes, in reminiscent laughs. A duality of ownership and relinquishment was ushered from an array of veteran narratives, as each reading tapped on a shared experience with different hands.

Rittell's reading began with lyrics ("We sang in the sunshine. . . . You know we laughed everyday . . .") while others meditated on the mechanics of healing. Some stories recalled the loss of oneself, one's comrades or both. There were stories that depicted choppy navigations through homecoming and reintegration, and others that painted lighthearted memories, drawing smiles across the room.

Stitched together, the concluding open mic session created a mosaic of the multifaceted veteran experience, and the family born out of this common thread. Through communal, creative engagement, the Veterans Writing Weekend fostered an alternative remedy for healing.

“It’s a way of dealing with inner conflict and pain that may be tied to service or may be tied to your childhood,” said **Rudyard Edick**, a 28-year military retiree, referring to the intergenerational aspects of growing up with a troubled World War II veteran father. “It’s a way of dealing with the pain and negative emotions that arise,” Edick continued. “It’s not just about writing. It’s about the feeling and sense of community.”

Edick belongs to the Syracuse Veteran’s Writers Group that meets monthly to write, workshop and learn techniques behind storytelling. This group, along with the activities that took place on campus (Nov. 7-9), highlights how these veterans—though their military branch, location or dates served may vary—are not isolated in their experience or challenges.

“Writing is such, I think in general, a lonely enterprise,” said **Gwen Keenan** (Coast Guard). Coming together with people and getting feedback helped Keenan realize, “oh, somebody else struggles with that,” recognizing how creative work within these programs helps compose a new narrative around “service.”

“It’s not all trauma. A lot of it’s like, what was really important to you, and what did you take away from it?” Keenan said. “And so, if you get veterans to write about it and it’s shared with a wider audience, you build an appreciation and maybe an understanding of service for the broader population, which I think is important as fewer and fewer people serve.”

The Writing Workshop Weekend evocatively celebrated veteran stories, moving beyond the sometimes-performative “thank you for your service” nods or the corporate discounts on veterans’ meals O’Hare joked about. Instead, the celebration marked an effort to cultivate space for these stories, to empower and amplify veteran voices.

Eileen Schell, the event’s host and professor of Writing and Rhetoric at Syracuse University, put it best: “The best way to celebrate Veteran’s Day is to listen.”

Voices of Service: A Celebration of Veterans Writing and Weekend Workshop was made possible by partnerships between the Syracuse University Press, Syracuse University Libraries, the Syracuse University D’Aniello Institute for Veteran & Military Families (IVMF), the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) and the Syracuse University Humanities Center.



Brett Goldstein '01 Joins Libraries Advisory Board

The Libraries is pleased to announce that **Brett Goldstein** '01 (College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs) of Potomac, MD joined the Libraries Advisory Board this Fall. Goldstein is First Vice President with UBS Private Wealth Management, based in their Washington, DC office.

An active alum, Goldstein is co-chair of the Syracuse University Regional Councils Cabinet, chair of the DC Regional Council and a board member of Bnai Tzedek Congregation. His wife, **Rina Goldstein** '03 (School of Education), works as an educator in Maryland.

“I’m delighted to join such a dynamic group and honored to serve on the Libraries Advisory Board,” said Goldstein. “I look forward to contributing insights, guidance and support and am excited to roll up my sleeves and get to work this fall.”

“Brett makes an excellent addition to the Libraries Advisory Board, bringing new expertise and perspectives to our group,” said **David Seaman**, Dean of the Syracuse University Libraries and University Librarian. “Furthermore, Brett’s involvement in the DC Regional Council and the University’s new center in the area, home to the Institute for Democracy, Journalism and Citizenship and study-away programs, may facilitate the Libraries involvement in research, teaching and learning happening there.”

Artist Warren Kimble '57 Donates Papers to Syracuse University Libraries



Warren Kimble '57 with his collection in the SU Libraries van, October 2025.

Notable artist and Syracuse University alum **Warren Kimble '57** recently gifted his personal papers to the Syracuse University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center (SCRC). The collection includes original sketches, personal correspondence, exhibition materials, product catalogs, press clippings, photographs and other unique materials that trace Kimble's artistic evolution and entrepreneurial journey.

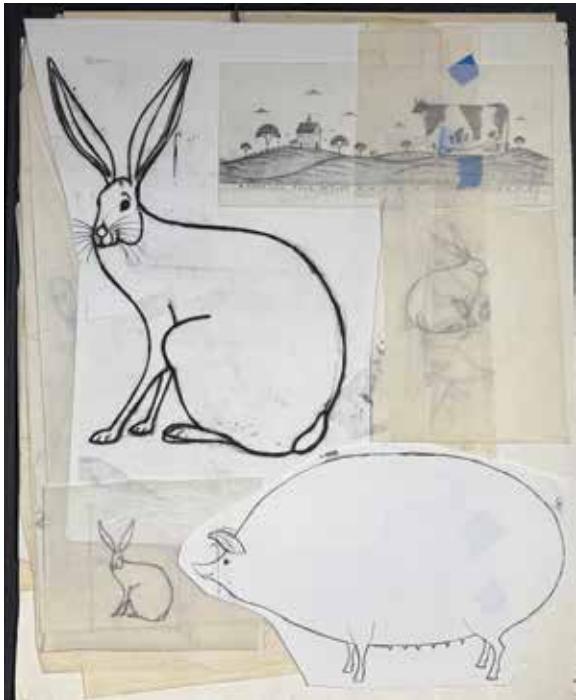
Kimble, who turned 90 in 2025, began his artistic training at Syracuse University, where he studied fine art in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Under the guidance of accomplished faculty, he developed strong foundational skills and experimented with new techniques and mediums, laying the groundwork for his long and varied career. As an undergraduate, Kimble was deeply engaged in campus life – serving as president of both his junior and senior classes, joining Lambda Chi Alpha and leading the cheerleading squad during the golden era of SU athletics when **Jim Brown** helped propel the team to the 1957 Cotton Bowl.

Beyond his student leadership roles, Kimble immersed himself in the University's vibrant artistic community. "I was constantly exposed to new ideas, new mediums, new ways of thinking," Kimble says. "Syracuse encouraged me to explore, and that's what artists do."

Following graduation, Kimble taught art for many years before settling in Vermont in the early 1970s. At age 50, he was "discovered" while selling his folk-inspired art at a local gallery in Woodstock, VT, which launched his national career. At the height of his success, Kimble partnered with more than 50 companies to produce home decor and household goods featuring his artwork. Even during this period of commercial recognition, he continued to broaden his artistic practice. His "Widows of War" series – mixed-media installations inspired by his reflections on the Iraq War and the burden borne by women – marked a shift toward deeply personal and socially reflective themes. Today, Kimble maintains an active studio and gallery where he continues to paint, create new works and engage with the arts community. He currently lives in Brandon, VT, with his wife Lorraine, whom he credits as a significant partner in the success of his business and career.

Kimble's artistic journey has taken him from the traditional to the contemporary, with recurring motifs such as weathered barns, farm animals and New England landscapes—often inspired by his rural surroundings in Vermont. With formats ranging from paintings to assemblages and sculptural works, his work has appeared in reputable galleries in New York and Boston and across New England, as well as in homes across the world via prints, ceramics, furniture, wallpaper and more. The newly donated collection documents the transition of his work from sketches to mass production, and from small gallery showings to national commercial fame. "What makes this collection so significant is that it does not just show a finished product. It shows a life in motion," says archivist **Danielle Rougeau**, Kimble's personal assistant. "You will see original sketches of how his art evolved. It's an archive that speaks to both art and cultural history."

Kimble says his decision to donate his papers to Syracuse University Libraries was easy. Drawn to Syracuse University in 1953 without even taking an entrance exam, Kimble still speaks of the University's early support with gratitude. "They took a chance," he says. "Syracuse gave me everything: direction, mentors and a belief in what I could become. I owe so much to this place, and I am forever grateful. This is my way of giving back and inspiring future artists and creative entrepreneurs."



A selection of animal sketches, Warren Kimble Papers, Special Collections Research Center.

"We are honored and delighted to receive Warren Kimble's papers," says **David Seaman**, Dean of Syracuse University Libraries and University Librarian. "Beyond Warren's affection for Syracuse, he has been a good friend to the Libraries. We were fortunate to capture his story in his own words through SCRC's Access Audio production of *"At Home with Warren Kimble."* He created an original owl painting for Bird Library that we used in our holiday card. He has even welcomed our Libraries team to his home and studio in Brandon, VT. He is a beloved friend of the Libraries, and we are grateful for his generous gift."

As an undergraduate at SU, Kimble was inducted into Orange Key, a Junior Men's honorary, and Tau Theta Upsilon, a Senior Men's Honorary. Throughout his life, Kimble has remained one of Syracuse University's most enthusiastic and engaged alumni. The University awarded him the **George Arents** Pioneer Medal, the highest alumni honor, in 2002 and the **Melvin A. Eggers** Senior Alumni Award in 2017. "I have always felt that what I was doing mattered to Syracuse," Kimble says. The archival donation, he notes, is a homecoming of sorts. "These are the stories behind the work, the trial and error, the joy, the doubts, the breakthroughs. It is my whole journey. And I am thrilled that it will live on at the university that believed in me first."

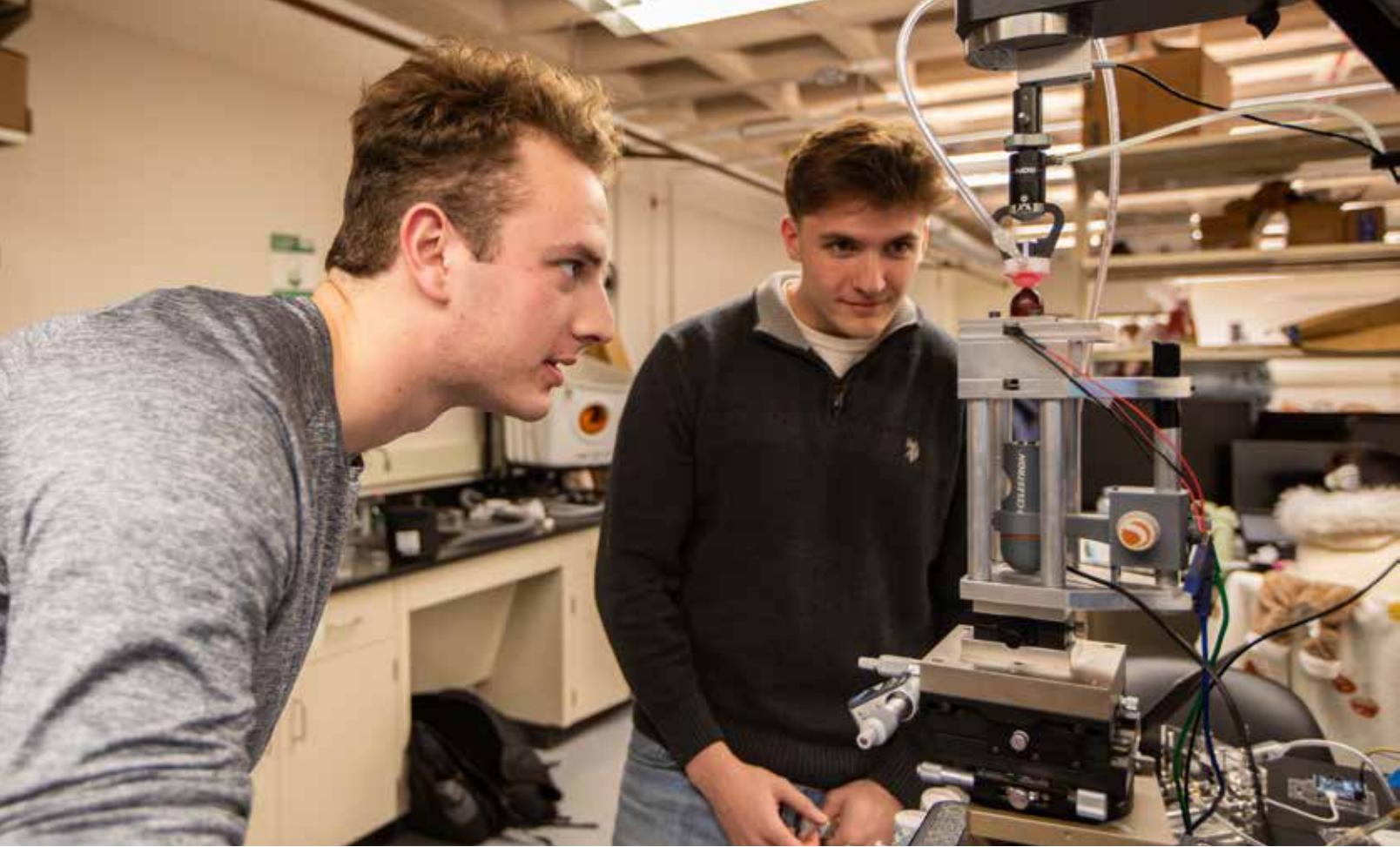


Vanessa St.Oegger-Menn Receives Spotlight Award from Society of American Archivists

Vanessa St.Oegger-Menn, Pan Am 103 Archivist and Assistant University Archivist at Syracuse University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center, was the 2025 recipient of the Spotlight Award from the Society of American Archivists (SAA). Established in 2005, the award recognizes contributions from individuals who work for the good of the profession and archival collections and whose work may not typically receive public recognition.

St.Oegger-Menn holds an MA in twentieth-century British literature from California State University, Long Beach, and she earned her master of library and information science with a concentration in archives and cultural heritage preservation from Syracuse University's School of Information Studies.

Within SAA, St.Oegger-Menn has played a key role in SAA's work to support archivists and communities collecting in times of crisis. In 2018, she served on the initial Tragedy Response Initiative Task Force, which was assembled to create and compile resources for archivists facing sudden tragedy. The Task Force evolved into the Crisis, Disaster, and Tragedy Response Working Group with the charge of maintaining and updating SAA's "Documenting in Times of Crisis: A Resource Kit," developing resources for archivists dealing with crises and building partnerships with organizations focused on relief efforts for cultural organizations. St.Oegger-Menn served as one of the co-chairs of the inaugural working group. Through her work with trauma-informed archives, she has tirelessly supported archivists in times of crisis.



STEM students working on a technology commercialization project in the College of Engineering and Computer Science (Photo taken by Lars Jendruschewitz '27).

Syracuse University Libraries Powers STEM Innovation

This past fall, the Libraries partnered with the National Science Foundation's I-Corps program on a hybrid course focused on semiconductors and microelectronics, fields at the heart of technological transformation. The month-long program culminated in a live immersion at SEMICON West 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona, where Syracuse University faculty and researchers joined peers from across the NSF I-Corps Interior Northeast Hub (NSF I-Corps Hub) to meet with global industry leaders shaping the next generation of chips.

The I-Corps Semiconductor and Microelectronics course was part of a larger national movement to expand innovation training beyond traditional technology hubs. Syracuse University has been a partner in the NSF I-Corps Hub, a five-year, \$15 million initiative led by Cornell University that also includes Dartmouth College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Binghamton University, University at Buffalo, University of Rochester, University of Pittsburgh, University of Vermont and West Virginia University. At most

universities, I-Corps programs are housed in engineering schools or technology transfer offices. However, at Syracuse it is a cross-campus collaboration, led jointly by Syracuse University Libraries, the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and the Center for Advanced Systems and Engineering (CASE).

The NSF I-Corps partnership is an example of how R-1 university libraries are redefined as co-creators of knowledge, conveners of innovation, and vital connectors between research and real-world impact.

"At first glance, it might seem unusual for a library to lead a research innovation program," says **David Seaman**, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian. "But when you think about what libraries do, fostering discovery, curating knowledge, teaching information literacy and connecting people and ideas, it makes perfect sense. Modern research libraries are no longer passive repositories. They are embedded in every stage of the research lifecycle."

Syracuse University Libraries supports data management, intellectual property training, open access publishing and digital scholarship. Through I-Corps, librarians also help build the skills behind breakthrough ideas. Within the program, SU librarians and library staff play a direct role in helping research teams navigate the path from idea to impact. They teach how to assess novelty, conduct product searches, identify patents and discover licensing opportunities. They support market research, competitive intelligence and technology landscape mapping, all critical skills for commercializing research.

“Librarians are uniquely skilled at finding, organizing and interpreting complex information,” Seaman explains. “In I-Corps, those same skills help teams validate ideas, understand market needs and position their innovations in a global context.”

By combining these library-led skill sets with the lean startup methodology central to I-Corps, Syracuse delivers a learning experience that blends research rigor with entrepreneurial insight.

The timing of the I-Corps programs aligns with the transformative economic development transpiring in the Central New York region, as Micron Technology plans to invest up to \$100 billion in a massive semiconductor fabrication facility near Syracuse. The project, the largest private-sector investment in New York State history, is expected to bring 9,000 high-paying jobs and tens of thousands more in related industries.

For Syracuse University and its partners, Micron’s investment represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to align education, research and workforce development around a booming advanced manufacturing ecosystem.

Through the I-Corps course, Syracuse teams explored technologies such as 3D integrated circuits, AI hardware, advanced materials and transistor miniaturization, all directly relevant to Micron’s long-term innovation needs. During SEMICON West, participants conducted interviews with engineers and industry leaders, gaining firsthand exposure to global semiconductor trends and the future of the field.

Acting as the connective tissue across Syracuse’s innovation ecosystem, SU Libraries brings together researchers, entrepreneurs, alumni and partners by hosting workshops on digital scholarship and data visualization, convening interdisciplinary research groups and providing access to critical patent and market databases. This infrastructure helps faculty and students move seamlessly from discovery to deployment, turning ideas into viable innovations.

“Libraries have always been about access,” says Seaman. “Now, we’re also about acceleration, catalyzing research, advancing collaboration and achieving impact.”



University innovators who participated in the Syracuse University-led semiconductor and microelectronics course attended SEMICON West at the conclusion of their instruction. The teams selected for the program represented researchers from Syracuse University, Cornell, Harvard University, University of Rochester and the University of Vermont.

Following the I-Corps experience, SU Libraries continues to nurture ideas through initiatives like the Orange Innovation Fund, set up by **Raj-Ann Rekhi Gill** ‘98, a member of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees. The Fund provides grants to students developing prototypes or testing new products. Many I-Corps graduates have gone on to secure Orange Innovation Fund support or federal SBIR grants. Together, these programs form a continuous pipeline of innovation support: I-Corps builds entrepreneurial mindset and market validation, while the Orange Innovation Fund supplies the early-stage capital to move from concept to prototype.

What makes Syracuse’s model remarkable is how it redefines the library’s role in the innovation economy. By embedding itself in the process of research translation, SU Libraries demonstrates how academic institutions can bridge the gap between knowledge and application. Librarians are now seen not only as stewards of information but as strategic partners in research and entrepreneurship, helping shape a new generation of innovators who are both technically skilled and information fluent.

Innovation, as Seaman notes, does not happen in isolation. It happens through connection. At Syracuse University, those connections increasingly begin in the library.



(Left to right) At SEMICON West, Dr. Tianyi Zhang, founder of Z-SCALE Laboratory and assistant professor of electrical and computer science at Syracuse University; Jeff Fuchsberg, NSF course instructor; and Yanbing Tang G'21, a mechanical and aerospace engineering doctoral student in ECS who is working on a robotic smart finger technology with a sensing system that can handle small, delicate and curved components for precise manipulation in microelectronic assembly lines.

Incoming ECS Faculty Member and Recent NSF I-Corps Participant Leads Semiconductor Materials Research

Dr. **Tianyi Zhang**, who will join Syracuse University in January 2026 as an assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science, recently participated in the National Science Foundation's I-Corps training program focused on semiconductors and microelectronics. The program culminated in an immersive experience at the SEMICON West conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The experience was particularly helpful as he prepares to launch the Z-SCALE Laboratory, a research group dedicated to advancing two-dimensional (2D) electronic and photonic materials to shape the future of information and communication technologies.

"The program really pushed me out of my comfort zone," Dr. Zhang said. "It encouraged me to reach out to industry experts, conduct customer discovery interviews, and better understand how research can align with real-world needs."

"During this program I focused on understanding the current trends in materials innovation for transistor scaling and memory technologies," he noted. "I gained valuable insights into the landscape of semiconductor ecosystem, especially on how industry professionals identify, pilot and evaluate new materials for next-generation devices."

He added that I-Corps helped him develop a clearer picture of the position and opportunities of 2D materials, his research focus, in the development of future semiconductors. "These learnings are very beneficial for me to connect my research innovations with real-world impact and value, as well as explore potential collaboration

opportunities with semiconductor industry leaders such as Micron Technology in Syracuse and IBM in Albany."

"I am very grateful for Syracuse University's encouragement and institutional support, which allowed me to participate in this excellent program as an incoming faculty member. I appreciate the valuable guidance and mentorship throughout the program. With the learnings from the I-Corps program, I look forward to carrying out innovative research, advancing education in semiconductor materials and devices and contributing to the community at Syracuse University."



Angelo Niforatos, founder, Niffy Drones LLC, at the INSPYRE Innovation Hub in downtown Syracuse.

NSF I-Corps Program Helped Founder Angelo Niforatos G'20, G'25 Take Flight

Angelo Niforatos G'20 (College of Engineering & Computer Science), G'25 (Martin J. Whitman School of Management) drew on his experiences at Syracuse University and catalyzed through the NSF I-Corps program to launch an AI-driven autonomous system into a growing business venture.

Niforatos, a systems engineer skilled at hardware and software integration, built his own commercial scale drones and identified a market opportunity to create an AI-powered command solution that would make operating a drone easier and more intuitive. He created Niffy Drone Solutions, LLC as a graduate student. By combining natural language processing, machine learning and offline capabilities, the technology allows users to issue verbal commands and receive intelligent response, even in remote environments with limited connectivity. The result is greater efficiency, safety and autonomy in drone operations across industries such as defense, emergency response and infrastructure inspection.

To test its market viability, Niforatos participated in the NSF I-Corps program where he conducted extensive customer discovery interviews to identify critical use cases and refine Niffy Drone's

business model. “The Syracuse I-Corps program pushed us to get on the road, meet our end users in their space and really understand their needs,” he said. Those customers included first responders, the military and municipalities, among many other segments. “That experience not only helped us validate our direction. It helped us attract key partners who are key to our commercialization roadmap.”

Niforatos quickly secured a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract from the Department of the Air Force’s AFWERX program, recognizing Niffy Drone’s potential to increase mission efficiency in defense and emergency response. He also filed a patent for his novel applications of AI and natural language interfaces in drone control systems.

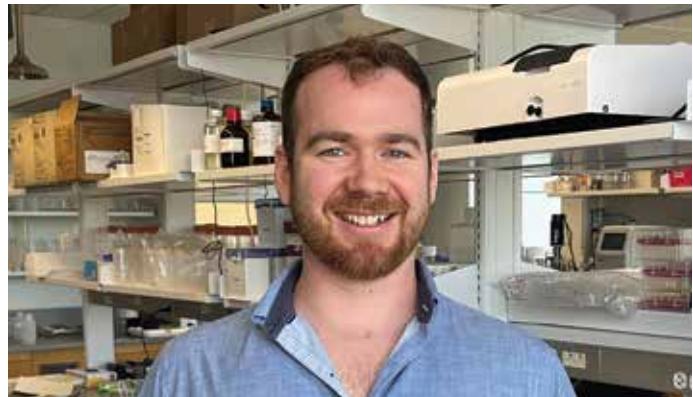
Syracuse University provided additional commercialization funding to advance his prototype and proof of concept, allowing Niforatos to move from idea to implementation, including several Orange Innovation Fund grant awards from SU Libraries to build minimal viable product prototypes for testing, each iteration with additional technical enhancements. In recognition of his accomplishments, he received the prestigious 2025 Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Whitman.

Now, with a working prototype and initial market traction, Niforatos is preparing for his company’s first sales. “Syracuse gave me the tools, the mentorship and the network to bring this vision to life,” he said. “With the help of the NSF and Syracuse University, Niffy Drones is on the path to revolutionizing not only drones but also unmanned aerial, ground and maritime vehicles with solutions where reliability and ease of use are essential.”

NSF I-Corps Program Helped Dr. Chris Thomas Bridge Technical Breakthrough in the Lab with Commercial Success

In 2021, Dr. **Chris Thomas** was a PhD student when he started working in the LaunchPad at Syracuse University Libraries on his idea for a technology startup with a mission to tackle the global health issue of microplastic proliferation using advanced biomaterials that replace plastic in packaging.

Today, he is the CEO and founder of RETRN Bio, a company that has raised more than \$1.7 million in grant funding from sources that included United States Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture, National Science Foundation, FuzeHub, NextCorps Venture for Climate Tech, NYSTAR, New Energy New York, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, Activate and others. SUNY Research Foundation has secured five patents for his proprietary technology licensed exclusively to



Chris Thomas, PhD, Founder and CEO, RETRN Bio

RETRN Bio. Dr. Thomas now has a team of seven employees and seven interns bringing his innovation to market as he is working on closing a \$1 million pre-seed round.

Along the process of turning his technology into a venture, he participated in the National NSF I-Corps program to help bridge his academic research with commercial success.

“The I-Corps program fuses research and discovery,” said Dr. Thomas. “The structured process helps get researchers out of the lab to talk directly with potential customers, which is essential at the early stage of building a business.” As part of the national program, teams are required to conduct 100 interviews. That can be a daunting process, but by adapting methods from the Lean Startup and Business Model Canvas frameworks, it can quickly help academic researchers refine customer segments, channels, pricing and value creation. “It teaches scientists to think like entrepreneurs, making evidence-based decisions rather than purely technology-driven ones. This mindset also helps better position academic researchers and startup ventures for future grant funding and private sector investment.”

Dr. Thomas continues to work with the Syracuse innovation team on structuring his investment round. He was also recently accepted into the Activate Fellowship, a prestigious and highly competitive program that supports scientists and engineers who are turning research and technical innovation into businesses that address important global challenges. Activate Fellows receive research and development funding to support prototype development, testing and validation, and have access to lab space and state of the art equipment at partner research hubs. “This is the exciting next step to make the leap from lab research to market impact.”

As he grows the company, Dr. Thomas remains rooted in the region. He is currently operating out of the Cornell Center for Life Science Ventures while continuing to work closely with both Syracuse University and SUNY ESF, where he earned his PhD in bioprocess engineering.



(Left to right) Chancellor Kent Syverud, student Lylla Schindler '27 (Maxwell School), Tadodaho Sidney Hill, Oren R. Lyons '58, H'93, Professor Philip Arnold (College of Arts & Sciences), SCRC Director Nicolette A. Dobrowolski, and Dean David Seaman at ceremonial event.
(Photo by Amy Manley)

Syracuse University Granted Custodianship of Faithkeeper Oren Lyons' Collection

Syracuse University entered an historic collaborative relationship to steward the **Oren Lyons** Collection through Syracuse University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center (SCRC). The agreement was celebrated at a ceremonial event on Friday, September 26, 2025, on the **Kenneth A. Shaw** Quadrangle.

Oren Lyons and SCRC have collaborated to define shared responsibilities for organizing, accessing, preserving and interpreting the collection, while reaffirming Indigenous nations' rights to manage and control culturally sensitive materials. This collection marks Syracuse University as a trusted repository for Haudenosaunee collections, building on academic leadership and Oren Lyons' global work, establishing an international model for institutional-Indigenous partnerships.

Oren R. Lyons '58, H'93 is a world-renowned Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, an Army veteran, a Syracuse University student athlete alumnus, an award-winning lacrosse player, professor emeritus at State University of New York at Buffalo, an artist, an author and a pivotal figure in international advocacy and diplomacy. The Oren Lyons Collection is comprised of archival material documenting Lyons' engagement in education, lacrosse, the arts and advocacy for environmental protection and Indigenous rights. Included will be his personal and professional

papers along with an extensive collection of photographs, videos and audio recordings.

"Syracuse University Libraries is honored to be granted custodianship of Faithkeeper Oren Lyons' papers. This is a monumental opportunity for scholarship and research around not only Indigenous studies, but also activism, art, lacrosse, history and environmental studies," said **David Seaman**, Dean of Syracuse University Libraries and University Librarian.

The landmark agreement of custodianship was guided by the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials (First Archivist Circle, 2007) which includes recognition of Indigenous sovereignty; respect for cultural values, spiritual beliefs and traditional knowledge systems; the right of Indigenous nations to define access restrictions or contextual framing of materials; and collaboration in descriptive practices to reflect Indigenous worldviews.

"Oren Lyons Collection and his trust in our institution will enable Syracuse University to serve as a research model, to help create more viable relationships around the world with Indigenous Peoples and the land," said **Philip Arnold**, Professor in the Department of Religion in the College of Arts and Sciences. "This will ensure that the Haudenosaunee teachings will continue. This is an awesome responsibility and opportunity."



Rematriated Voices

with

MICHELLE SCHENANDOAH

SCRC's Access Audio and Haudenosaunee Nonprofit Launch 'Rematriated Voices' Talk Show and Podcast

Access Audio, a storytelling initiative of the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at Syracuse University Libraries, and Rematriation, a Haudenosaunee women-led nonprofit organization based in Syracuse, NY, recently partnered to produce a five-part talk show and podcast series convening a distinguished lineup of Indigenous leaders, knowledge keepers and change-makers titled *Rematriated Voices with Michelle Schenandoah*. Hosted and co-produced by Rematriation founder **Michelle Schenandoah** G'19, Oneida Nation Wolf Clan, Rematriated Voices brings together some of the most influential Indigenous voices of our time to share knowledge, values and solutions urgently needed in a world grappling with division, ecological crisis and social upheaval. SCRC's recent collaboration with Rematriation's Spring 2025 Matrilineality Symposium, in addition to this new programmatic series, reflects a shared commitment to celebrate and advance the voices, stories and influence of Haudenosaunee and Indigenous women.

Access Audio Producer and co-producer of *Rematriated Voices*, **Jim O'Connor** states, "The opportunity to collaborate with Rematriation to produce this project and amplify the significance of Indigenous matrilineality as a praxis for global issues has been a formative one. Being on set and facilitating experiential learning by bringing emerging filmmakers and media producers in the presence of such renowned changemakers and traditional knowledge holders was a tremendous education for the students and everyone involved."

The talk show, directed by **Joseph Gabriel**, an adjunct instructor in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, is available via SCRC's

Access Audio (soundbeat.org/sound-beat-access-audio) and in television and radio format through media partner WCNY, the New York PBS affiliate. In addition to WCNY, the radio show is broadcast throughout North America by various outlets, including Native Voice One, a leader in the distribution of audio programming that educates, advocates and celebrates Indigenous life and values. The companion podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and YouTube.

Episodes include:

- Mother Law & the Doctrine of Discovery: Indigenous women working alongside allies to educate the public about the Doctrine of Discovery, the political and legal justification for colonization of Indigenous lands across the planet.
- First Environment: A focus on our relationship with the living world and the first environment we experience as human beings.
- Hidden Roots of Democracy: Haudenosaunee governance supports a matrilineal and matrifocal culture that is rooted in democracy and peacemaking.
- Eve Meets Skywoman: Walking among the Haudenosaunee, the early suffragists saw a world where Indigenous women were in full authority and held absolute autonomy over their bodies, their minds, their children, their homes and the land.
- Matrilineal Men: Matrilineal men stand empowered alongside empowered women. They express their masculinity without diminishing a woman's voice or her autonomy.

Groundbreaking Talk Show Series Brings Indigenous Voices to the Mainstream

by Jen Plummer, Associate Director, Content and Digital Communications, Syracuse University



Michelle Schenandoah (left) sits with Mohawk Bear Clan Mother Louise “Mommabear” McDonald Herne (center) and historian and author Sally Roesch Wagner for the episode titled “Eve and Skywoman.” (Photo courtesy of Rematriation)

When **Ricana Walker** '27 saw an email seeking student production assistants for a film project in fall 2024, she had no idea she was about to be part of something historic—or that the experience would change her understanding of the land beneath her feet as a Syracuse student.

“I had very limited knowledge of Native American culture, especially the Haudenosaunee people,” says Walker, a television, radio and film (TRF) major in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. “I thought it’d be a perfect opportunity for me to not only gain professional experience but also learn about the land Syracuse is built on.”

Walker was one of 10 students who spent a weekend at the University’s Minnowbrook Conference Center in the Adirondacks filming *Rematriated Voices With Michelle Schenandoah*, a five-part talk show and podcast series that premiered on WCNY-TV in October.

The project represents an innovative collaboration between the Special Collections Research Center’s Access Audio storytelling initiative, the Haudenosaunee women-led nonprofit Rematriation, Orange Television Network (OTN) and the audio arts program in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Hosted by **Michelle Schenandoah** G’19, founder of Rematriation and a member of the Oneida Nation Wolf Clan, the series convenes Indigenous thought leaders, traditional knowledge keepers and allies to discuss topics often missing from mainstream education.

3 Years in the Making

Rematriated Voices was three years in the making, from initial research and development through filming and post-production. Schenandoah, who holds a graduate degree in magazine, newspaper and online journalism from Newhouse and law degrees from New York Law School, had long dreamed of creating a talk show format that could extend Indigenous education beyond in-person speaking engagements.

“A lot of our people are invited into spaces to speak on these topics, but you’re limited to whoever’s in the room at that time,” Schenandoah says. “By creating this talk show and podcast series, it allows the information and dialogue to expand further into the world.”

The project evolved from Access Audio’s earlier podcast series *The Land You’re On: Acknowledging the Haudenosaunee*, which featured candid interviews with Indigenous community members. Schenandoah was an interviewee for that 2022 series, which was also produced at Minnowbrook.

When Schenandoah approached **Jim O’Connor**, Access Audio producer and co-producer of Rematriated Voices, about creating another series, she saw an opportunity to expand beyond the podcast format into a video series.

O’Connor assembled a crew of alumni, students, faculty and staff, working with OTN General Manager **Meg Craig** to recruit student videographers. The production crew hired storytelling consultants, including Mohawk filmmaker **Katsitsionni Fox, Rachel Porter** and University Ombuds **Neal Powless**, to ensure the production honored the principles at the heart of the conversations.

Hands-On Learning Meets Indigenous Knowledge

The decision to involve students was central to the project’s mission. A one-credit experiential learning opportunity was offered for students with interest and experience in video production.

As a camera operator on the three-camera setup, Walker filmed interviews that ran two to three hours each—later edited down to one-hour episodes.

“I definitely gained a better understanding of production workflows,” Walker says. “I’ve worked on student sets, but obviously things are more serious on a professional set.”

Between filming sessions, students absorbed conversations with guests, including Mohawk Bear Clan Mother **Louise “Mommabear” McDonald Herne**, botanist and author **Robin Wall Kimmerer**, historian and author **Sally Roesch Wagner** (who passed in June of this year) and traditional leaders from across the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.



As a camera operator, Newhouse student Ricana Walker (right) picked up invaluable experience working on a professional set. She is pictured with fellow TRF major Jessica Whitmire (left) and director Joe Gabriel. (Photo courtesy of Orange Television Network)

The production brought almost 50 people to Minnowbrook for an intensive filming schedule. “The goal is to be able to bring a perspective to viewers and listeners that maybe they haven’t heard before—but one that is relevant and closely tied to their own experience as citizens in this country,” Schenandoah says.

From Campus Collaboration to National Distribution

Based in the University area, Rematriation regularly works with Syracuse student interns through Newhouse and serves as a client for University courses. Support from Chancellor **Kent Syverud**’s office made Minnowbrook available for the production.

Since its premiere, Rematriated Voices has been picked up by PBS stations in Syracuse, Rochester and Watertown, as well as two national Indigenous radio shows including Native Voice One. The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and YouTube. The series can also be viewed on the Libraries website.

For students like Walker, credits on PBS and other distribution networks provide valuable professional credentials. But perhaps more importantly, the experience expanded their understanding of the Indigenous history and contemporary realities.

“I just think it really opened my eyes,” Walker says. “Now I feel like after that, I’ve gained a lot more insight on the Haudenosaunee people.”

Students Engage with Libraries During First Year Seminar Shared Experience

The First Year Seminar (FYS) Shared Experience for the Fall 2025 semester took place the week of September 15. As part of the course revamp, this year students were able to select their own experience during their FYS 101 section time. In alignment with the revised Shared Experience, the Libraries expanded first year students' exposure to the variety of expertise, resources and activities available.

"Shared Experience Week in FYS 101 offers students the opportunity to engage with the campus and community beyond the classroom and discover the many resources and opportunities available to them," said **Shannon Hitchcock Schantz**, Ph.D., Director of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives. "This year's collaboration with the Libraries had a remarkable impact, helping students feel more connected, confident, and curious in their learning. We are deeply grateful to the Libraries team for their creativity and dedication in offering such a wide range of meaningful experiences."

The Libraries hosted 22 events for 448 students enrolled in First Year Seminar 101 classes - a record for the Libraries. The Libraries' First Year Seminar Shared Experiences included:

- Two separate visits to the SU Archives in the Special Collections Research Center, hosted by **Meg Mason**, University Archivist
- Two book repair workshops in the Preservation Lab, hosted by **Marianne Hanley**, Preservation Librarian
- Two separate introductions to primary source research at the Special Collections Research Center and research opportunities available on campus with The SOURCE, hosted by **Jana Rosinski**, SCRC Instruction and Education Librarian, with **Kate Hanson**, Director of The SOURCE, and **Odette Rodriguez**, Assistant Director of The SOURCE
- Two sessions on news and newspaper databases, hosted by **Michael Pasqualoni**, Librarian for the Newhouse School of Public Communications
- Two sessions playing board games and learning about the game collection, hosted by **Kristin Jeter**, Access Services Librarian
- Two sessions playing trivia, hosted by **Michelle Mitchell**, **Gabrielle LaBare** and **Patricia Giles**, Student Community Librarians in Learning and Academic Engagement
- Two sessions on the power of AI, led by **Juan Denzer**, Librarian for the College of Engineering and Computer Science

- Two presentations on Constitution Day, led by **John Olson**, Government and Geo-Information Librarian
- One CoPilot Workshop, led by **John Stawarz**, Online Learning Librarian
- Two sessions on literary treasures, led by **Patrick Williams**, Humanities Librarian
- A Zotero workshop, led by **Winn Wasson**, Social Sciences Librarian, and
- Two Digital Scholarship Space visits, led by **Alexander Schulz**, Information Literacy Scholar

Shared experience instructor and Newhouse Librarian Michael Pasqualoni said, "The subset of FYS 101 students attending the news and newspapers sessions benefited from database recommendations. They also shared back favored news platforms, which included top mentions of titles like: *New York Times*, *CNN*, *TikTok*, *Instagram* and *Wall Street Journal*."

Students in the news and newspaper databases session said, "I learned a lot about news databases, which I believe will help me in my future academic research" and "I liked learning about different resources that the school had that I was unaware of prior to attending."

"I taught a workshop on Zotero, which is a software that can help you save, organize and cite your sources," said Winn Wasson, Social Sciences Librarian. "I could tell the session was a useful and positive experience for attendees. In fact, the next day, as I was walking across the Quad, a student who participated in the workshop saw me and shouted, 'Hey! Zotero!'"

Jana Rosinski, SCRC Instruction and Education Librarian said about the shared experience sessions, "Getting the opportunity to introduce students to research opportunities available to them on campus early on in their academic journey is so important. Oftentimes "research" has particular connotations that we work to expand—research is full of possibilities left to the individual to design for themselves."

One of the peer leaders in the literary treasures session said, "I loved learning more about Bird Library and getting to see everyone excited about books" and another said "I liked getting to know the resources for myself as someone who has been on campus and hadn't even known. Patrick and Alexander were incredibly helpful in answering questions and were very friendly and passionate about their work."



Dean David Seaman, left, with Impact Prize winners Dylan Bardsley '26, Rajdeep Chatterjee G'26, Samantha Kurland '26, Carolina Aguayo-Pla '27, Ava Lubkemann '27, Jacob Kaplan '28 and Haley Greene '26.

Campus Entrepreneurship Hub Turns 10

At Syracuse University, hands-on experiential learning is a key pillar of our academic strategic plan, enabling innovators, creatives, inventors and dreamers to be well-rounded, global citizens and trailblazers in an increasingly entrepreneurial world.

The LaunchPad has served as Syracuse University's entrepreneurship and innovation hub, connecting the campus resource-rich ecosystem with a global network that provides support for aspiring entrepreneurs. The program serves faculty, staff, students and alumni across all disciplines who are interested in entrepreneurship, venture creation and innovation careers.

Located on the main floor of Bird Library, its flexible and accessible space can be used for ideation activities, workshops, classes, team and mentor meetings, co-working, networking events, coaching and training sessions, demonstrations, pop-up shops and product launches, as well as other collaborative activities.

The LaunchPad received initial funding from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation, part of a global network of 70+ universities around the world. Since its inception, the LaunchPad's impact has been widespread, supporting 7,600 innovators from more than 140 countries with 2,300 venture ideas, 220 that were incorporated, and raising more than \$164M funds.

As part of the anniversary celebration, we asked LaunchPad student alumni to share where they are now. Here are ten highlights:

➤ **Erin Miller '16** works on donor engagement and culture strategy for RYSE, a safe space for young people to express themselves, try new things and collaborate with adults that care about them in Richmond, CA.

- **Josh Aviv '15, G'17** is founder/CEO of Sparkcharge, a portable electric vehicle (EV) charger, which has grown to become the world's largest off-grid EV charging network.
- **Julia Haber '18** is co-founder and CEO of Home from College, a career platform and way for brands to hire, acquire and market to Gen Z.
- **Geena Matuson '19** is founder/CEO of Geena Media, providing business, creative, marketing, multimedia, publishing, technology and wellness services with a human-first focus.
- **Kelsey Davis '19, G'20** is senior manager of global communications and content experience at Walmart.
- **James Rudman '21** is a freelance videographer for Rudman Media, where he's created content for artists such as **Travis Barker**, The Chainsmokers and Illenium, as well as major athletes and brands including **Shaun White**, BODYARMOR and Hamilton Watches.
- **Hanna Seraji '20, G'22** is an assistant librarian at SUNY-ESF.
- **Noah Mechnig-Giordano '23** is co-founder/CTO of Audera, an AI-powered audit management platform, built for manufacturers conducting layered process audits.
- **Neil Adams '24** is founder of Brand Launch Media, his own digital marketing business.
- **Lindy Truitt '25** is co-founder and CEO of SipSafe+, a swizzle stick that illuminates when it detects a benzodiazepine—the most popular type of date rape drug. She is also pursuing her master's at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.



Former LaunchPad student Ryan Williams (left) mingles with attendees during the 10-year anniversary celebration of the LaunchPad in October. (Photo by Amy Manley)

LaunchPad Celebrates 10 Years

Empowering Student Entrepreneurs

by John Boccacino, Senior Internal Communications Specialist, Syracuse University

When **Angelo (A.J.) Damiano** '18 came up with the idea for PowerSpike—an influencer platform that connects gamers with potential sponsorship opportunities—as a first-year student, he had no idea his venture would one day grow into a company with more than \$5 million in annual revenue.

But after “learning everything there was to launch a business” from the Blackstone LaunchPad, the University’s hub for innovation and entrepreneurship on campus, that’s exactly what happened to Damiano.

“The LaunchPad gives so many students the skills necessary to go out and build very successful businesses,” says Damiano, who earned bachelor’s degrees in entrepreneurship and emerging enterprises and marketing management from the Whitman School of Management. “What was so magical was that we all helped each other learn from what was working with our business and what was not and then used that knowledge to develop our business.”

Damiano’s journey from Lawrinson Hall to a \$5 million company exemplifies what the LaunchPad has accomplished since opening 10 years ago.

The University community celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the LaunchPad on Oct. 16, with Dean of Libraries and University Librarian **David Seaman** praising an innovative and dynamic space that enhances the student experience on campus.

“This is truly a cross-campus, centrally located, collaborative and interdisciplinary space for our students to develop and launch innovative ventures and to thrive,” Seaman said during the celebration.

Unwavering Support and Mentorship

The LaunchPad helped Damiano develop his product pitch skills, secure funding through campus-wide competitions and foster strong on-campus mentorship relationships.

Damiano learned valuable business lessons from **Linda Dickerson Hartsock**, LaunchPad's first executive director, and from serial entrepreneurs like **Sean Branagan**, founder of the Newhouse School of Public Communications' Center for Digital Media Entrepreneurship, and **John Liddy**, creator of the Student Sandbox, an accelerator that helped students create businesses.

In 2022, Damiano sold PowerSpike to Live Current Media, and now he is co-founder and chief product officer of the social media automation platform, ScrollMark.

"We started from absolutely no experience and grew because of our involvement with this really awesome place called the LaunchPad, which gave us unwavering mentor support and assistance," says Damiano, who was one of the University's first entrepreneurs to be accepted into the prestigious Techstars program.

"The community within the LaunchPad gave us the business training, connections and strong foundation to build our companies and go full-time once we graduated."

Collaborative Entrepreneurial Hub

Students from every school and college on campus are invited to take part in the LaunchPad's more than 200 different offerings, ranging from classes, workshops and business presentations to networking opportunities with alumni entrepreneurs and peer mentorship with the program's approximately 16 student staff members, says current LaunchPad Director **Traci Geisler** '90.

This includes more than a dozen different funding opportunities each academic year for student entrepreneurs to cover the early-stage startup expenses, she says.

"We have LaunchPad entrepreneurs who are generating revenue by their sophomore year in college, students who are closing seven-figure investment rounds and founders who are hiring full-time employees before they graduate," Geisler says.

"Whether you possess a business idea or are already revenue generating, all are welcome at this collaborative space. There is endless potential here," she says.

Founders Circle Alumni Prioritize Giving Back

The LaunchPad also connects students to the University's global network of Founders Circle alumni—graduates who launched or led ventures while contributing to the LaunchPad's development as students.

These alumni support aspiring entrepreneurs through mentorship, advising, judging competitions and donating prize money.

Class of 2025 member **Waqar Hussain** G'25 founded Iconnic.Cloud, a cloud hosting platform engineered with proprietary software that creates customized solutions. Hussain's company won



Former LaunchPad student Geena Matuson '19 (left) mingles with attendees during the 10-year anniversary celebration of the LaunchPad in October. (Photo taken by Lars Jendruschewitz '27)

first place at the annual 'Cuse Tank entrepreneurial event two years in a row, part of more than \$60,000 in annual grants and awards won through pitch competitions.

"LaunchPad helped me tremendously, not only in acquiring funding for my startup, but also by connecting me with alumni and businesspeople who helped me make Iconnic.Cloud what it is today," says Hussain, who earned a master of business administration degree from the Whitman School.

While on campus, **Motolani Oladitan** '24 found herself struggling to access the proper skincare and wellness products tailored to her needs. She wanted to make those products more widely available, so she founded Tà Beautie (Latita Wellness LLC), a virtual marketplace connecting African beauty and wellness brands to global markets.

As she pursues a master's degree in integrated innovation for products and services at Carnegie Mellon University, Oladitan says her experiences with the LaunchPad served as a steppingstone to her passion for skincare innovation for underrepresented consumers.

"The LaunchPad was the incubator for my career, allowing me to learn all about entrepreneurship and figure out how I want to make a career out of social entrepreneurship, because helping people is really important to me," says Oladitan, who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of Arts and Sciences.

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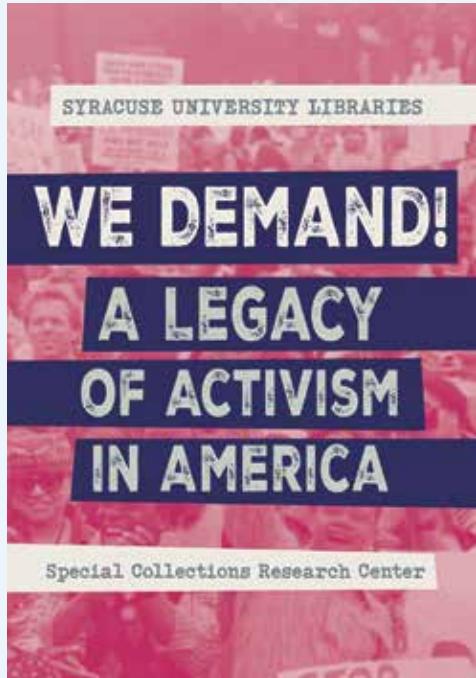
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2026 SCRC Exhibition *We Demand: A Legacy of Activism in America*

Since the country's founding, the American people have shaped—and continue to shape—a more just and equitable future. For decades, Syracuse University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) has collected materials related to histories of activism and social reform in America that illustrate how advancements in rights were made possible by those who came before. This tireless pursuit and ongoing work of individuals and collective groups who have come together to push for change—not always realized during their lifetimes—in the face of extraordinary challenges and circumstances is documented within this exhibition.

Visitors can explore traces of resistance and perseverance in the form of publications, posters, protest signs, photographs, demands, newsletters and more that document the critical role of activism in challenging injustice and securing greater freedoms for all. The exhibition, on display March through December 2026, was curated by **Courtney Hicks**, SCRC Lead Curator and Curator of Plastics and Historical Artifacts, **Jana Rosinski**, SCRC Instruction and Education Librarian, and **Lindy Smith**, SCRC Assistant Director.

We Demand! A Legacy of Activism in America exhibition promotional graphic with image from the "Save Our Cities March + Rally" in Washington, D.C., by Kirk Condyles / Impact Visuals, May 15, 1992, Impact Visuals Photograph Collection, SCRC.

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