Americans value and often pay a great deal of attention to their freedom of speech and their right to bear arms, yet history reveals that the right to assemble and petition has provided our citizenry an even more powerful tool for change. Universities have long been at the center of political and social activism, and Syracuse is no different. Since 1870, Syracuse University has been both a witness to, and a facilitator of, civil unrest and social change. SU was one of the very first co-educational universities in the country. History also tells us that the people of Syracuse and the surrounding areas not only worked to abolish slavery but planted the tree that bore the 1920 ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.

The beginning of the fight for women suffrage is usually traced to the "Declaration of Sentiments" produced at the first woman's rights convention in Seneca Falls, N. Y. in 1848. Four years later, at the Woman's Rights Convention in Syracuse in 1852, Susan B. Anthony joined the fight, arguing that "the right women needed above every other...was the right of suffrage." (http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/nineteentham.htm)

This issue of 804 will highlight just a few later moments in time (1968 to the present) when students voices came together to protest, raise awareness and call for change. Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program and Student Support Services project emerged from the civil right movements and the war on poverty (President John F. Kennedy’s Civil Rights Act and President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Economic Opportunity Act, 1964). Without the work of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr. and the many civil rights leaders to mobilize marches, protests and sit-ins, it is possible that HEOP and SSS may have never come to life. These programs have created change in the world, but they are still necessary, as economic systems of oppression, educational inequalities and social disparities continue to marginalize sectors of our population. You will see on the timeline how efforts to cut HEOP in 1995, by then governor George Pataki, brought over 10,000 concerned people to Albany who marched in a peaceful protest and changed that effort. In the fall of 2014, SU students formed "The General Body" and held a “sit-in” at the administration building to voice concerns regarding lack of resources, the closure of the rape advocacy center and proposed cuts to a program designed to provide admission and support to low-income students. It is difficult to predict what policy changes will come, but we are honored by their activism and celebrate this expression of their freedom.

In this Issue...

46 Years & The Power of Protest at Syracuse University
The Power of Protest Time Line
A Graduating HEOP Student—Marytere Acosta Guillon
Professional Development: SSS & HEOP Students
2015 Senior Celebration Dinner Hosts
Dayana Torres—Alumnae meets incoming HEOP & SSS students

Cover Page (and throughout)
Page 2–Page 6
Page 2
Page 3
Pages 4 & 5
Page 6
More than 100 students protest Dow recruitment on SU Campus. Administration building is blocked (https://sites.google.com/site/warnapalm/student-protest-timelines).

4 Kent State students killed & 9 wounded by Ohio National Guard during a protest against the US Invasion of Cambodia. At Syracuse University students barricaded entrances to campus, broke windows, marched peacefully downtown, and staged a sit-in in the Tolley Administration Building. (Syracuse University archives)

8 African-American football players at Syracuse University boycotted spring practice to protest what they viewed as racial discrimination and insensitivity in the program headed by its longtime coach, Ben Schwartzwalder. The players — Greg Allen, Richard Bulls, John Godbolt, Dana Harrell, John Lobon, Alif Muhammad, Clarence McGill, Duane Walker and Ron Womack — were known at the time as the Syracuse Eight (Syracuse University archives)

It has truly been an emotional and mental roller coaster ride at SU. I’ve had downs, but I’ve luckily had many ups during my 4 years here. My biggest worry was leaving SU as the same person I came in, but I have grown so much. I have become more open-minded and considerate of the struggles my parents endure and have endured on a daily basis for me to be where I am today. I’m humbled to have reached this milestone in my life, and although they believe I did it on my own I have them to thank for all I’ve accomplished. I thank HEOP for believing in me.

My experience with HEOP has been amazing. I have build relationships with my personal counselor as well as other HEOP and SSS counselors in the office. I may not say it often, but I am grateful to them every day for giving me this amazing opportunity of being a student at SU. Everyone deserves to have someone who understands that life isn’t easy, but we also need people to remind us that we have the power to change our circumstance with guidance and faith. My counselor, Dave, had faith in me when I didn’t have faith in myself. There really isn’t any other way to repay people like that in your life then by showing them through your accomplishments that they were right.

HEOP has given me many opportunities, but the best two were the mentors that I could come to for anything and my Summer Start 2011 family. Who would’ve thought the same kids that were running around campus figuring out which academic building was which, researching what organization we wanted to join and/or create, choosing what parties and BBQ’s to attend, etc. that we’d learn each others stories and become important characters in them.

~Marytere Acosta Guillen, Class of 2015
In 1978 members of a Native American student organization headed a protest against using the Saltine Warrior as an athletic mascot. Onondaga Chief Oren Lyons, a 1958 alumnus and former SU lacrosse star, explained that it’s “all in the presentation...The thing that offended me when I was there was that guy running around like a nut. That’s derogatory” (Syracuse University archives).

Cynthia Squillace, Wendy Kohli and other peace activists point bloodied fingers at Secretary of State.

In 1979 members of a Native American student organization headed a protest against using the Saltine Warrior as an athletic mascot. Onondaga Chief Oren Lyons, a 1958 alumnus and former SU lacrosse star, explained that it’s “all in the presentation...The thing that offended me when I was there was that guy running around like a nut. That’s derogatory” (Syracuse University archives).

After several rapes (6 within 2 months) and reports of sexual assaults on or near the Syracuse University campus a student named MaryEllen DiGennaro, co-founder of Students Concerned about Rape Education, had had enough. A series of protest rallies and demonstrations followed. Each year, Syracuse and many campuses across the US hold a “Take Back the Night” event to bring attention to Sexual violence.

46 Years & The Power of Protest at Syracuse University

Students and community members protest Secretary of State Alexander M Haig Jr’s commencement speech and acceptance of an honorary degree. Many inside and outside Carrier Dome wear red armbands. Rallies and peaceful demonstrations occur inside and outside of the dome (Syracuse New Times).
In an 11th hour decision, Governor Pataki of NY decides to cut funding for all HEOP, EOP and SEEK programs. In February of that year over 10,000 HEOP, EOP and SEEK students, administrators and counselors travel to Albany to protest. At Syracuse University, Chancellor Shaw states that the university will continue to fund HEOP for the remainder of the year and provide 1/2 the necessary funds for the following year. Syracuse was one of the only schools to have this sort of backing. The protests were successful and the funds were restored to these amazing programs (Denise Trionfero, SU HEOP Director, provided this information—she and Robert Wilson, SSS Director, traveled with SU students and participated in this political action).

STUDENT PAPER APOLOGIZES FOR ALLEGED RACIST CARTOON SYRACUSE, N.Y. Syracuse University’s student newspaper apologized in print for running an editorial cartoon that sparked a student protest and accusations that the paper was racially insensitive. Protestors said a depiction of Student Government Association President Michaeljulis Idani in Friday’s Daily Orange looked strikingly like the fictitious Little Black Sambo, a century-old storybook character embodying offensive African-American stereotypes. About 200 students protested —MJ Idani was a participant in Syracuse University’s HEOP program. (sources: Congressional Records 1999—2004; Pictures below from Daily Orange http://dailyorange.com/archives/)

I absolutely love this program and I’m happy I was able to be a part of it. I hope I made you guys proud. I truly loved my time at Syracuse University and I cannot believe it is over. I am not ready to leave. I fell in love with the people here and I feel like there’s still more for me to do. The people in the program truly care, and want the best, for you. I hope in the coming years, I make the organization proud as I try to succeed in all aspects of my life.

~ Daniel Nuñez, Class of 2015

Daniel Nuñez came to Syracuse University in the Summer of 2011 and instantly made an impression on his peers, the faculty and all those he met. Already an accomplished classical guitar player he “wowed” the audience at the SummerStart talent show. His motivation and drive was clear—as he explored all the opportunities at Syracuse he was uncertain, at first, that the iSchool was the best place for him. Nonetheless he engaged fully in the campus community; joining Phi Iota Alpha, becoming the “Social Chair” and representative for the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations. After working for a time with SU’s Recreational Services department, he became a Supervisor. He also worked as a tour guide for the Admissions Office, was a student worker for Schine Catering, and for Library Operations. Related to his iSchool degree, he worked technology support for the Whitman computer cluster. He served on the community council for RSA and was a member of Raices Dance Troupe. He was also known for his work as a DJ at Harry’s on South Crouse. Daniel will graduate this May with a BS in Information Management and Technology. Daniel hopes to stay involved with education in some role where he can give back to his community. He’d like to find ways to support young people who have experienced the loss of a parent in addition to running his own business in either the for-profit or not-for-profit sector.

46 Years & The Power of Protest at Syracuse University
Following the lead of Wall Street and the banking industry, students at Syracuse University are looking for a bailout: Save them from the university’s choice of commencement speaker. They don’t want Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan Chase, to speak at the May 16 ceremony. “The Daily Orange,” the student newspaper, has run letters and editorials pro and con, and a group called Take Back Commencement has attracted nearly 900 members to its Facebook page. Today, the tension escalated as Take Back Commencement staged a dance-party protest at 2 p.m. on the stairs of the university’s Hendricks Chapel. The group of roughly 60 protestors carried signs reading “Power to the People” and “No Corporate Commencement” as they chanted, “Stop the profit war on people,” and other mantras expressing their discontent with the commencement speaker. (ABC News 4/16/2010; pictures below from minniebruce.blogspot.com)

Faculty and students protest “the grand jury decision in Missouri to not indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown”. The protest included a “hands up, walk out” and a moment of silence. (source: Syracuse.com)

Brittany Rodriguez is a pre-med student graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in psychology. While at SU, she has worked hard towards her goal of becoming a physician’s assistant. She’s an active member of Syracuse University Ambulance, where she is an Emergency Medical Technician and ambulance driver. She also works back home in Queens with the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps. On campus she has been active with the student organizations Shadows of Health and Syracuse University Red Cross Club, as well as volunteered at Crouse Hospital. Brittany plans to take a gap year to work full-time as an EMT before she applies to PA schools. We wish her the best!

Ever since I can remember I have always wanted to be part of the medical field. I wish to become a Physician Assistant, where I can use my knowledge to help those in need. I not only want to be a health provider that can help cure or treat a patient, but I wish to incorporate my Psychology degree, because I believe that strong communication and interaction with people is significant within the medical field. I want to be able to truly understand the significance of what may patients are experiencing by being someone that they can rely on. Being a health profession is not just about prescribing medication to a someone, it is more about investing yourself in someone’s life in effort to build on trust so that treatment is done appropriately. Lastly, I wish to be challenged within my profession, so that I can be the best and prove myself to others.

When I first arrived to Syracuse University as a new college student I was anxious. I did not know what to expect from the University or the people that accepted me into the SSS program. When I first met my SSS advisor my fears and concerns were alleviated. SSS has been there for me through my hardships, my fears, and even my successes. I could not have asked for a more supportive group of people. They guided me through my every step, and I am grateful to say that I have has the best college experience because of this program.

~ Brittany Rodriguez, Class of 2015

46 Years & The Power of Protest at Syracuse University
As a week-long sit-in continued Sunday night, student protesters met with Syracuse University administrators and expressed concern at the lack of transparency. The sit-in is set to continue at 9 a.m. Monday with a reading at Crouse-Hinds Hall. Later Monday, negotiations with upper-level administration is set to resume. During talks Sunday night, students expressed concern that the "available decision-making channels are not transparent and do not consider student input," protesters with the General Body at SU said in a news release. The General Body at SU has had a laundry list of complaints, and specifically protested administration decisions to close the Advocacy Center, a resource for victims of sexual assault, to stop funding community engagement programs started by former Chancellor Nancy Cantor, and to reduce funding for POSSE, an inner-city student leadership program. (Syracuse.com 10/10/2014).