

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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Higher Education Opportunity Program**

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*After the Orange...Enter A Highly Competitive Job Market or Pursue
(and pay for) a Graduate or Professional Degree ...*

Graduating with a baccalaureate degree brings both joy and trepidation. What next? Of course the level of stress related to graduation varies from student to student and is largely based upon the extent of the planning and preparation for that inevitable day. We, in the Office of Supportive Services (OSS), encourage our students to engage in professional and academic development activities. Many of our graduates will be leaving SU having had internships, study abroad experiences, as well as work-study jobs, and possibly leadership positions in student organizations. Our students work with career specialists in their home colleges and utilize the resources of the Syracuse University Career Center. Many have found great success simply by setting up a file with the Career Center and accessing the Orangelink system. OSS is also fortunate to have several dedicated staff to coordinate career related activities. This issue of 804 is dedicated to supporting our graduates as well as providing some food for thought for future graduates. With this article and the essay by Brad Ellis (page 2: "Testing the Waters") we hope to calm some of the anxiety brought about by the decisions facing graduating seniors. Brad's essay implores students to carefully explore a variety of options as they contemplate their futures. Brad reflects upon his Ameri-corps (<http://www.americorps.gov/>) experience and what that has meant in terms of his own professional aspirations. Hopefully students will be inspired to take a look at the Teach for America (<http://www.teachforamerica.org/>) opportunities as well as the Peace Corps (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/>). Should students decide now, or in the near future, that a graduate or professional program is the right path, then we encourage them to thoroughly research each program they are considering. It is vital that students select programs that will meet their needs. Are the faculty engaging in research and publishing works that spark an interest? Is the program reputable and established? We encourage students to make an effort to speak with current graduate students and faculty at the colleges or universities that they are considering applying to. Achieving a graduate and professional degree requires students to be not only dedicated to a particular field but internally driven and comfortable as independent learners. Certainly a degree in Law or Medicine will require any student to think critically and dedicate countless hours for study and practical experience. Masters and Ph. D degrees in the hard, or social, sciences will demand a great deal of creative and independent thinking. Masters level theses and doctoral dissertations require that the student present an original idea and show how this idea builds upon past works and moves a particular area of study forward. It is our hope that this information is not intimidating but inspirational and maybe a bit helpful.



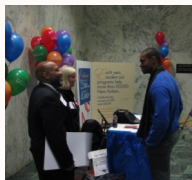
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Congratulations class of 2010—we are honored to have been a part of your experience at Syracuse University and proud of all you have accomplished.

Testing the Waters

“You’ll never get a good job if you don’t get your diploma.” I remember my guidance counselors stopping by my classroom every once in a while and repeating that sentence like a mantra. Oddly enough, by the time I was getting ready to graduate from high school that saying was outdated. A high school diploma was often good enough for my parents and their peers to find gainful employment, but a diploma just wasn’t going to do in the increasingly skilled and competitive work force that my classmates and I found ourselves in. In fact, more and more students are finding that the bachelor’s degree they’ve worked towards for four or five years might make them competitive, but it won’t always put them at the top of the piles of applications sitting on potential employers’ desks. Students graduating now are faced with the dilemma of whether they should try for a job right out of school or if they should plan on pursuing graduate studies. Amid the questions of “Where am I going to live?” “What am I going to eat?” and “What sort of job do I want to pursue?” the question “Am I ready?” is frequently popping into students’ minds. This essay is not meant to put fear or doubt in graduating students’ hearts; rather, I would like to offer a recommendation: If you are thinking of going further in your college career, take a year off. Take a year to get involved in the area that you want to work in. Find out about the inner workings of the field. Instead of guessing, find out if your skill set is sufficient to get the job you’re after *before* you start taking on the challenge of graduate school. Find out if the job you always thought you wanted is the job you do want.



There are many options open to you as you consider a year in the field. Those interested in pursuing a career in business or retail are often pointed towards internships, and the same is true for those in the sciences. The pay that internships offer might not be the greatest, but the hands on experience looks great to potential employers. Those interested in working in the public sector have many options as well; Peace corps, Americorps, and Teach for America are three federal programs that many students join, but there are also thousands of local programs that offer students the same type of experience. When I graduated with a major in English, I found myself facing the dilemma that I mentioned earlier in this piece. I was offered the opportunity to work for a year with a child and family services branch of Americorps, and I took it. To this day, I look back on that decision as one of the better ones that I have made. If not for Americorps, I would not have discovered that I enjoyed working in the area of counseling and social services and I wouldn’t be pursuing the career that I am today.

Whatever you do, whether you jump head first into the job market, go straight on to graduate or professional studies or take a year to get your feet wet in an internship, take the time to consider your options and desires along the way.

Office of Supportive Services Students Featured

“Latinos at SU: A Brief History in Two Parts” Syracuse Manuscript, Fall/Winter 2009-10

(<http://progdev.syr.edu/2009-10%20fallwintermanuscript.pdf>)



Jessica Santana is a junior in the Martin J. Whitman School of Management, majoring in general studies.

“If there is one lesson that I have learned as a student at Syracuse University, it is that I truly can be the change that I want to see in the world. This institution has provided me the opportunity to go where no path has been created—and make one.” Santana is of Puerto Rican heritage.

Melissa Escaño is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in international relations. “I am confident in saying that the person I am today has been molded by Syracuse University’s commitment to the success of its students. I always say that what I like best about SU is that it caters to its students: our voices are heard and our suggestions considered. Because of the faith invested in us we have become great leaders, excel academically, and are active in our community.” Escaño is of Dominican heritage.



Ana Gabriela “Gaby” Urizar is a first year student in the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in international relations. “I’m already impressed with all the opportunities SU has provided me to enrich my mind and help me build my path towards achieving my goals. SU has become an important part of my life. It is providing me with the necessary tools to achieve what a Latino woman is capable of achieving.” Urizar is of Guatemalan heritage.

Kenny Hernández is a senior in the Martin J. Whitman School of Management, majoring in finance. “Syracuse University has provided me with the means to learn, both in and out of the classroom. I know it sounds like a cliché, but I really found myself here. I learned my limits. I learned what to expect from others, as well as from myself. But most importantly I learned how to use my talents and resources to educate and assist others. I have developed lasting relationships with people from all circles of life, which have been mutually enriching. My life has also been enriched by the faculty and staff. They supported me and other students in all of our endeavors and they were there to lend a helping hand and a smile.” Hernández is of Dominican heritage.



Candidate Move

One of a number of possible realistic moves in the game of chess.

There may be a number of legal moves available but only moves that can achieve something positive within the framework of the current game can be called candidate moves.

(<http://www.research.ibm.com/deepblue/reference/html/i.2.html>)



Maurice Gale, a participant in Syracuse University's Student Support Services program and intern with JP Morgan Chase.

Working for JPMorganChase has been one of the most influential experiences that I have had during my time as a college student. I applied through the Career Center's Orangelink network and a few weeks later I was invited to an interview. Since my grades weren't that high, I knew that the interview was my only opportunity to catch their eyes. The interview went very well for me; I answered all of their questions flawlessly. One of the factors that influenced them was my passion for chess. They really liked the fact that I played chess and wanted to know all about my chess history (I'd played in local and state tournaments, during high school and am founder of the SU Chess Club, which has been competing locally as well as at collegiate tournaments for about two years). After the interview I felt confident, and a few weeks later I got the call saying that I got the job.

As an intern I work for the Syracuse Global Technology infrastructure Risk Management (GTI RSM) Unix Team. Here I act as a computer administrator issuing rights to people as well as taking them away. I process many requests to fulfill users' needs. I have to implement many Unix commands to carry out my task. I have learned a great deal about Unix at this job. I went in knowing absolutely nothing about Unix and now I know enough to train new interns. Everyone at the job is very friendly and always wants to teach me something new. Whenever I make a mistake, they tell me what the error was and help me so I will not make that mistake again. This job has been a huge learning experience for me. I have also learned about how to carry myself in a professional environment, from wearing the appropriate attire to my role in conference meetings.

I am learning a lot about Unix security. My goal is to get to the point where I can be considered an expert like the professionals that supervise me. Hopefully, if all goes well, I will be offered a full time position at JPMC. I have already been offered a position for the summer, which means they are interested in me.

When I look at JPMorgan, I look at them as a gateway to success. They didn't simply look at my academic strengths but also my personality, my involvement, and my ability to problem solve (a necessary skill for a good chess player). Usually, when firms see that you don't have a strong GPA you are eliminated right away. JPMC didn't do this, and they gave me an opportunity. I take advantage of this opportunity daily. The thing I like most about the job is that the environment is very welcoming. I do not feel inferior to anyone, and I also feel like a full time worker.

I would highly recommend JPMC to anyone who is looking to learn and gain a great experience. Just because the name is JPMC and they are very well known doesn't mean that you will not have a chance. If I can do it then I know anyone else with a determined spirit can do it. I am now improving my GPA while gaining valuable work experience. JPMC has changed my life dramatically.

-Maurice Gale, Class of 2011
L. C. Smith College of Engineering & Computer Science
Computer Engineering



Office of Supportive Services Congratulates Cathiana Vital!



Student Support Services student Cathiana Vital (Class of 2010) received the 2010 Chancellor's Special Civic Engagement Award Engagement for her outstanding work with Haitian Relief at the Chancellor's Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship Celebration Dinner on Monday April 5, 2010. Cathiana is the president and co-founder of SU's Haitian American Students' Association (H.A.S.A.). With the help of her fellow HASA e-board members, which include SSS students Manoucheka Philantrope (Class of 2011) as Vice President and Blake Hill (Class of 2010) as Treasurer, and Erika Nathan (Class of 2011) as Secretary, Cathiana organized several on-campus events and activities in response to the earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010. These events included a candlelight vigil in front of Hendricks Chapel, Pick-Up Clothing Drive every Friday and Saturday, and a community-wide benefit dinner to raise money for those affected by the earthquake.

The Special Award for Civic Engagement is given to a Syracuse University student who exemplifies the highest ideal of sustained, quality engagement with citizens in the community. Cathiana's work with H.A.S.A. in response to the earthquake is seen as an excellent example of *Scholarship in Action*, the vision for Syracuse University. OSS is very proud of the work H.A.S.A. has done under Cathiana's leadership and thrilled to see our students' hard work recognized. Congratulations!

OSS Proudly Recognizes Ilan Rodriguez for Making a Difference!

Ilan Rodriguez (Class of 2010), an Student Support Services participant, has been getting a lot of attention these days. He received The Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public and Community Service Award and The Macy's Rising Star Award at the Office of Student Activities "44 Stars of Excellence Gala and Celebration" in April 2010. Additionally, as a member of the Lambda Sigma Upsilon fraternity, Ilan was inducted into the Omega Greek Honor Society and was named "Brother of the Year" and "Community Service Chair of the Year" at this year's national award ceremony.



Ilan, a social work major, has been working hard to make a difference in the local Syracuse community. Most recently, he organized a Shadow Day for students at Bellevue Middle School Academy that was themed "Experience the H.Y.P.E. - Helping Youth Experience Excellence." He has also organized events with the AIDS Memorial Convention and P.E.A.C.E., Inc, a local non-profit organization. OSS congratulates Ilan on his outstanding community service and looks forward to hearing more about Ilan's accomplishments as he leaves SU.

The Office of Supportive Services Congratulates the Class of 2010!



This year's Senior Celebration will take place on May 14th at 5pm in the Syracuse University Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center. Hosts for this year's event will be graduating seniors: LaTisha Habersham (A&S) and Matthew Degonzague (A&S). Seniors: Patricia Abraham (A&S), Sandra Appiah (PC), Jeffrey Lott (HE), and Kenny Hernandez (SOM) will offer reflections.

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