

introduction



The courses offered through the Writing Program bring out the wordsmith in us all. Every day, more and more students are discovering their passion and talent for the craft. Yet, we often miss out on the chance to celebrate our peers' most compelling work. This edition of *Intertext* has given us the chance to do just that. The publication provides students with the chance to have their best work published from Writing Program courses at all levels and genres. From creative nonfiction to argumentative writing, this edition explores issues of identity, home, and perspective. Each piece is unique and reflective of our students, our society, and Syracuse University, leaving behind a legacy for us to muse on long after the pages are closed. Most importantly, *Intertext* enhances the sense of community amongst writers from all majors across campus.

Working behind the scenes allowed us to put everything we have learned from our own writing courses into action as we proofread, edited, and designed this publication from start to finish. This collaborative and occasionally chaotic process strengthened our involvement in the writing community and provided us with an idea of what it means to be a part of the publishing industry. Not only that, but we simply enjoyed the experience. The contributions to this issue electrified us, moved us to get human—to laugh, to cry, and to open our eyes to the world around us. Some of these essays are comical, some are serious, and some are a combination of both. This year's issue invites us to reflect on the humor and heartbreak of everyday life. It was a challenging journey bringing these pieces together from manuscript to publication, but we truly believe all the hard work

paid off. From all of us here at *Intertext*, we hope you enjoy the read, and remember, of course, to GET HUMAN!

Acknowledgments

First and foremost, we would like to thank our professor, Patrick W. Berry, without whom none of this would be possible. He facilitated the production of this issue and generously offered his guidance, support, and occasionally cupcakes, all while having unyielding faith and patience in our multifarious opinions, questionable time management skills, and budding abilities.

We are sincerely grateful to Professor Lois Agnew, the Writing Program, and the College of Arts and Sciences, including its iLEARN program, for supporting our work at *Intertext* and all of the aspiring writers here at Syracuse University.

Our gratitude also goes out to Benay Bubar and Wendy Mansfield for providing us with added professional guidance to help make this magazine the best it can be.

We also want to thank the Louise Wetherbee Phelps Award judges—Tyler Dorholt, Anne Fitzsimmons, Brice Nordquist, and Jessica Pauszek—for putting significant time and consideration into choosing the most compelling upper- and lower-division works to receive these awards.

Last, but not least, we are deeply thankful to all of the writers and artists who contributed their work to the magazine this year. *Intertext* is made possible by your willingness to share your work with us and with the Syracuse University community.

—Maura Buckley,
Caleigh Gran, and T.J. Tree