

INTRODUCTION



The editors of *Intertext* welcome you to the 2016 issue of the publication. This year's editors and contributing authors have worked to strengthen the bonds that unite our diverse student body through active reflection and self-expression. The voices of undergraduate students from across the Syracuse campus, including the Writing Program, explore three pressing concerns we face each day: the power of recollection, the confrontation and awareness of injustice, and the necessity of acceptance. Propelled by a natural desire to investigate the unique experiences, interests, and perspectives found at Syracuse University, the work included in the following pages has expertly captured a snapshot of the complex realities manifested in many individuals' daily lives.

Addressing where society has been and where it can go, the thoughtful discourse exhibited on each of these pages promotes both the acceptance

and awareness of the colorful personalities and points of view which exist right here in our campus community. Most importantly, each piece echoes the burgeoning passion and talent for the craft of writing that is prevalent throughout our campus.

While many of the editors this year entered the process inexperienced in designing a publication from start to finish, we remained motivated by our enthusiasm and determination to produce a product that inspires our community beyond the breadth of the Writing Program. Sometimes conflicting, but always collaborative, our spirited teamwork has allowed us to embody the vivacity and zeal of SU and its neighboring communities. The masterful writing and creative innovation of this year's contributing authors have encouraged the editors, and undoubtedly our readers, to mindfully reflect on our own growth within the Writing Program and the many formidable, provocative moments that



Layout by Antoinette Zeina. Photograph by Zach Barlow.

have sparked the creative composer in us all. After months of hard work, we hope you will enjoy the issue and continue to develop and foster your own writing abilities. Without the help, and good faith, of the Syracuse University Writing Program, we would not have been able to create such a wondrous edition—and for that reason, some special thanks are needed.

First and foremost, we would like to thank our professor, Patrick W. Berry, for his dedicated expertise and enthusiastic guidance in making this publication possible. Without his assistance, we would not have been able to realize our ability or appreciation for publishing—no matter how many bumps we hit along the way.

We are sincerely grateful to Professor Lois Agnew, the Writing Program, the College of Arts and Sciences, and its iLEARN program for their continued support of this work. Without this

support, the aspiring writers would miss out on the opportunity to be published in such a remarkable compilation of student initiative.

We would also like to thank Benay Bubar and Wendy Mansfield for providing professional contributions to the edition and guidance in style and design choices. Special thanks also go out to the judges of the Louise Wetherbee Phelps awards for best writing: Jessica Corey, Rebecca Moore Howard, Ariane Vani Kannan, and Faith Plvan.

Lastly, we would like to give a huge thanks to all the authors for their submissions. We hope that as the relationship between readers and aspiring writers strengthens amidst Syracuse University, *Intertext* continues to hold an integral role in this process. We can only hope our community continues to speak, listen, and be heard for many years to come.

—Madison Firkey, Charlotte Oestrich,
and Antoinette Zeina