



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

The College of Arts and Sciences



Meet Our Recent Graduates

PROFILES OF SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI



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THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SUOS
CULTURE
SCIENTIA
CORPUS



The College of Arts and Sciences at Syracuse University

offers a strong undergraduate education across a broad spectrum of the liberal arts: the sciences and mathematics, the social sciences, and the humanities.

The College—with a curriculum emphasizing interdisciplinary learning, research, service, and enterprise—provides students with important skills for life and the world of work: an ability to think critically and creatively, experience working and communicating with others, and a keen knowledge of the increasingly complex world around us.

Appreciating this, many current and prospective students and their families reasonably still ask, “What can one do with a degree from The College of Arts and Sciences?” The answer is, clearly and definitively, “Anything you want!”

Take a look at the roster of young and successful alumni we present on the following pages. Each received a bachelor’s degree from The College and went on to a successful adult life in a variety of graduate education and career fields: medicine, government, social services, communications, education, and administration, among others.

See what our proud graduates have to say about their life today—their jobs, experiences, and continued fondness for their undergraduate Alma Mater: SU’s College of Arts and Sciences.



NINA BABU '03

Biology and Psychology



I JOINED SYRACUSE WITH A DESIRE TO LOSE MYSELF IN A LARGE UNIVERSITY... but found that SU was as small and intimate as one can make it. In fact, it turned out to be quite a ride! Whether it was being geeky dissecting squid or having fun traveling in Europe to compare health-care systems, it was all fun, scholarship, and life experience at its best.

I left The College of Arts and Sciences to study podiatry at Temple University. My residency with Kaiser Permanente took me to San Francisco. Although I enjoyed California, the food, wine and sun, I missed the four seasons. I've now moved closer to "orange central" and am a part of an orthopedic practice as a foot and ankle surgeon in Connecticut.

My stint at SU has given me the tools to be successful, the confidence to excel in a male dominated profession, and the skills to juggle on-call duties with research and mentoring. Now I will be looking at ways to stay involved with SU and giving back to my Alma Mater that has given me so much!

JAMES BIXBY '05

Political Philosophy and English & Textual Studies



AFTER EARNING MY DEGREES IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND ENGLISH & TEXTUAL STUDIES FROM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, I attended law school at Washington University in St. Louis. I graduated in 2008, and since then I've worked as a trial attorney for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC. I represent FERC in litigation over the terms, conditions, and market practices of wholesale electric power generators, transmission owners, and oil and gas pipelines. I've worked on such issues as the development of green energy sources, the implementation of SmartGrid policies, and continuing resolution of the California energy crisis of 2000-2001.

My time in The College of Arts and Sciences has been extremely beneficial to my legal career, specifically the rigorous reading, debate, and writing on a diverse number of abstract and engaging topics required by my majors. This was perfect preparation for the legal reasoning, writing, and oral advocacy that makes up the bulk of my practice. Additionally, my minor in logic was excellent preparation for the LSAT and bar exams.

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ADRIENNE P. BORSCHUK '09

Psychology



AFTER GRADUATING WITH A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY FROM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, I moved to Richmond where I took a position as a research assistant on an NIH-funded grant at Virginia Commonwealth University. The study examined behavioral interventions for adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes and their parents. I learned a lot here, and was accepted into the doctoral psychology program for Fall, 2010.

I am earning my Ph.D. in child clinical psychology and feel that my research experiences at SU helped me tremendously in becoming an attractive candidate for graduate school. I advise all undergraduates to be persistent and proactive in seeking out opportunities which will make them stand out, whether in graduate admissions or in a non-academic setting. Take advantage of all Syracuse University has to offer within and outside the classroom; there's so much to explore!

JOHN (J.T.) COMPEAU '07

Psychology and Television, Radio & Film



THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL I LEARNED AT SU IS NETWORKING. My involvement in The College of Arts and Sciences' Winston Fisher Seminar led to my current position of Senior Analyst, Analytics and Insights, at media agency MEC, which I have held since June, 2007. Through persistence and the ability to learn from contacts and potential colleagues, I have built an incredible support system of amazingly talented people. The best advice I can offer is to throw yourself at every possible opportunity because you truly never know how it can change your life.

In New York City, I'm able to not only work at a company I love, but also participate in a local choir, engage in public speaking, and give back to current SU students in a meaningful way. SU is responsible for a great four years; but more so, for the years following graduation. Enjoy the college experience while you can, but be ready to embrace everything that awaits you later.



CHARLES CUTSHALL '07

International Relations



SINCE COMPLETING MY BA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, I ATTENDED THE MAXWELL SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS. I earned an MPA in 2009, and relocated to DC shortly thereafter. I spent my first few months volunteering with the DC Central Kitchen before finding an internship with the Truman National Security Project -- national security being my area of primary interest. I served briefly as the Truman Project's Associate Fellowship Director before being selected as a 2010 DHS Policy Fellow. As a Policy Fellow for the Department of Homeland Security, I am blessed with the opportunity to both serve as a defender of our freedom and pursue my passion.

As an undergraduate in The College of Arts and Sciences, I enjoyed volunteering. I led multiple efforts to collect needed supplies for the West Side Learning Center, and volunteered with and promoted Meals on Wheels. For my tireless commitment to affecting change in the community, I was recognized as the 2007 Meals on Wheels Volunteer of the Year.

MICHAEL CURTIS '08

Economics and Policy Studies



A SUPERIOR LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, coupled with involvement and leadership roles in a well-balanced mix of extra-curricular activities, prepared me well for life after college. I am a third-year participant in the Insurance Operations Leadership Development Program at Travelers Insurance Company. The program provides rotations throughout the enterprise that help build such skills as project management, business process improvement, and operations management, putting me on track toward a leadership position in the company. I am currently on a six-month assignment in Dublin, Ireland, and loving every minute of it!

SU and The College of Arts and Sciences provided broad exposure to many disciplines, which allowed me to explore my interests. By getting active on campus and in the community I was able to further develop my "soft skills" like problem solving, relationship building, and communication. The balance of my diverse education, leadership experiences, work ethic, and a bit of courage were my keys to finding a fulfilling career after graduation.

NAINA DHAWAN '10

International Relations and Economics

After completing my studies in The College of Arts and Sciences in December, 2009, I returned home to New Delhi, India, with a major in international relations and economics, and a minor in global political economy. Shortly after returning, I began to look for work in the private sector. At first, I felt I had a handicap at trying to find employment in corporations with a degree in the social sciences. However, what I felt would be my disadvantage actually turned out to be an advantage for me. Those who interviewed me were glad somebody outside of business schools was also interested in private companies.

After getting a few offers, I accepted the role of a project manager at McCann Erickson, in New Delhi. The research and critical analysis skills I gained while at Syracuse have really proven beneficial to me as they have aided me greatly in the proposals I send to my clients in order to build their brand. Moreover, a degree in social sciences has shown me society in a completely different light, and this makes it possible for me to bring something new and different to the table where my work is concerned.



LEAH EVERETT '09

Secondary Education and European History



ORIGINALLY FROM DALLAS, TEXAS, I MOVED TO SYRACUSE TO PURSUE STUDIES IN SECONDARY EDUCATION AND EUROPEAN HISTORY. The experience I gained working with kids was invaluable, especially with the organization I'm now starting my second year with. I moved across the country for an AmeriCorps position with CalSERVES, a northern California not-for-profit that runs a tutoring and after-school program in elementary schools. My position as a community liaison has led me to rely on the writing skills I honed in The College of Arts and Sciences, and my historical studies have helped me draw multicultural foci into our after-school lessons.

In college, I was organized, determined, and passionate about my education, and those skills are still serving me in a position that requires more of me than the average job. Service has become my life, and I hope to continuously give my all to any community I am in, while pursuing my future goals.

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MARY GALLAGHER '08

Writing

IN 2005, MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, I began working at the Syracuse University Writing Center. Figuratively speaking, I haven't stopped since: today, I work as a coordinator in the Center for Academic Success at the Universities at Shady Grove, a regional higher education center in the University System of Maryland. My position primarily involves consulting with students on their writing, but I'm also involved in general academic support through presenting and developing workshops on study skills, time management, and writing; providing "academic coaching;" and supervising a peer tutoring program.

I was fortunate enough to be able to turn a pursuit I love into a career that challenges me, mostly because of the valuable advice, support, and development opportunities I was able to take advantage of in my majors. Syracuse was a great place for me not only to grow, but to build important connections: in fact, it was one of my Syracuse professors that forwarded me the announcement for my position and provided my reference. I love what I do, and I can't imagine how I would've gotten where I am without the experiences I was able to have and the contacts I was able to make during my time at Syracuse.



ERIC GLEASON '05

Art History

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WHEN I ARRIVED AT SU'S COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN THE FALL OF 2001, I was a political science major fully committed to one day running for public office. Following a number of life-changing classes, experiences and professors, I redefined my goals. I graduated with a degree in art history and got a job at Marlborough Gallery. Syracuse armed me with a comprehensive knowledge of art history and a vast network of NYC-based connections that were significant contributors to my being promoted to the position of Director in 2007.

Since then, my focus at Marlborough has been discovering innovative young artists, and integrating their work into our program. In late 2009, I was asked by Domenic Iacono, Director of the SUArt Galleries, to curate an exhibition of young artists from New York City that could be brought to the University. "Run and Tell That! New Work from New York" opened November 9th, 2010, at the SUArt Galleries. My being responsible for bringing this contemporary perspective to SU has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my professional career.

CAITLIN HEIKKILA '09

Writing

AS A GRADUATE OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES WRITING PROGRAM, I knew one thing when I graduated: I wanted to write. I moved to New York City, where I started my job search. While the job search was tough, I found that what got me noticed was my writing samples and internships from my SU career. I found my niche at Mother Nature & Partners, a marketing/PR agency that specializes in the environment and corporate responsibility.

This semester, I started working on getting my MA in writing & rhetoric at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus, where I also tutor students in the Writing Center. On top of my job and school work, I have started a popular neighborhood blog called "Becoming Brooklyn," (www.becomingbklyn.com), all about assimilating to the Brooklyn lifestyle. I love that I get to be creative every day, and I'm excited to see what the future will bring!



BENARDETT K. JNO-FINN '06

Biochemistry

Devin Ford Photography



Benardett Jno-Finn (right) with Jane Seymour at the 2010 Miss Universe Competition

MY LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ALLOWED ME TO COMPLEMENT MY STUDIES IN BIOCHEMISTRY WITH OTHER (NONTRADITIONAL) COURSES, and helped improve my general knowledge and skill sets. My time at Syracuse University provided a solid scientific education, the resources needed to contribute to my community, and the ability to practice what I like to call indiscriminate learning. An added benefit of being part of the SU family is the connection to resources and networks globally.

So, today, as I manage my own bath and body company, Sénica, and actively participate in my community, I utilize a lot of the skills I learned in course work. On any given day, whether I am formulating new products, marketing the Sénica brand, or playing with the orchestra at my church, chances are skills learned during my time at Syracuse University are reflected within those activities and experiences. As you consider your options, know that Syracuse University will provide you with a challenging, well-rounded educational experience that will allow you to thrive in the real world and give you a place that you can always come home to. I think that is a beautiful thing.

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COLLIN LONG '08

International Relations

I JOINED THE STAFF OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE DENT IN 2005 AFTER WORKING ON HIS CAMPAIGN DURING THE ELECTION OF 2004. As a young staffer on Capitol Hill, I was responsible for advising the Congressman on policy issues including energy, the environment, and foreign affairs. I discovered that The College of Arts and Sciences' flexible curriculum, which had introduced me to diverse subject matter, provided me with a strong knowledge base to comfortably handle the range of issues I encountered as a legislative aide.

After handling policy for roughly 5 years, I now serve as the Congressman's Communications Director, a role that requires me to clearly and effectively articulate his positions and accomplishments. While transitioning to the communications field, I also developed a greater appreciation for The College's commitment to cultivating clever and proficient writers.

Eager to maintain a connection to the University, I joined the local alumni club when I relocated to the nation's capital. Beyond fostering important professional relationships, I've developed new friendships by remaining an active member of the Orange community. Like many Arts and Sciences alumni, I also participate in The College's mentor program to help students and recent graduates network and gain experience.





CANDRA MCKENZIE '06

English & Textual Studies and Sociology

As an undergraduate in The College of Arts and Sciences, I dual majored in English and textual studies and sociology, with a minor in writing. During my senior year, a guest speaker in Professor DeVault's sociology class discussed the importance of making a difference in young people's lives. This inspired me to apply to the Americorp Program, CityYear. After graduation, for ten months I helped needy students by working in an elementary school in the South Bronx. I participated in a variety of community service activities around the city, as directed by the CityYear organization.

After this experience, I applied to the New York City Teaching Fellows Program to continue making a difference in the lives of our youth. I surprised myself this time and opted for the position of a high school English teacher. This year, I will begin my fourth year as a public school teacher at Astor Collegiate Academy, Bronx, New York.

My classes as an undergrad stressed the importance of being creative and analytical in my work. As a result, it has allowed me to create lesson plans which are relevant and exciting to my students. I am an active member of SUMMA of SU, a mentoring program in which I interact with a high school student, inspiring her to attend college, and promoting Syracuse University.



EJOLEE MITCHELL '10

International Relations



AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, I began working in Jeonju, South Korea, teaching English to elementary and middle school children. I have always wanted to travel and live abroad, and I thought that working abroad is the best way to do so, make a little money, and get to travel at the same time.

I got my job through a friend who is currently working as a teacher and is also an SU alumna. I contacted her last year and she told me her boss might be hiring a new teacher. Luckily for me, a position opened up. My journey to getting a job in South Korea has definitely tested me as a person, but the lessons I learned at SU taught me that staying focused, networking with the people around you, and keeping your goals in the front of your mind will help you reach success.

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Heritage Area
Visitor Center

LAUREN PICARD '08

Psychology

MY ACADEMIC CAREER AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY FOLLOWED A UNIQUE TRAJECTORY. I was accepted into the university as a Coronat Scholar enrolled in both the LC Smith College of Engineering as a civil engineering major and The College of Arts and Sciences as a psychology major. I also spent two years in the SI Newhouse School of Public Communications as an advertising major where I discovered a passion for graphic design. Throughout my studies, as I explored an array of academic interests, I never lost touch with my two life-long aspirations: writing and working with people. In May of 2008, I left SU with a degree in psychology, a minor in English and textual studies, and an arsenal of important skills. My diverse scholarly interests, eclectic job history (including longshoreman and Alzheimer's Services intern), in addition to my strong academic record and references, landed me my first job as a marketing coordinator at an educational design architecture firm.

Currently, I am an MFA candidate for Creative Writing in Fiction at Emerson College in the Writing, Literature, and Publishing program. I work in the Writing Center of an international high school as a Calderwood Fellow, and am an expository and creative writing instructor for Emerson Writes, an urban literacy outreach program. These incredible jobs would not have been possible without the experience and insight I gained at SU.



SARAH ANNE RYMAN '07

International Relations and Spanish Language, Literature and Culture

DURING MY SOPHOMORE YEAR, I STUDIED ABROAD IN ECUADOR AND INTERNEED AT A MIGRANT ORGANIZATION TO LOCATE MISSING PERSONS WHO HAD IMMIGRATED TO THE U.S.. DURING MY JUNIOR YEAR, I participated in the Maxwell in D.C. semester and interned at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

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I was a University Scholar for my graduating class and a recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Public Service. With mentoring from The College of Arts and Sciences faculty, during my final year at SU, I competed in the final rounds for the Rhodes and Gates Cambridge scholarships. Ultimately, I received the Connaught Fellowship to pursue a collaborative Master of Arts in International Relations and Geography at the University of Toronto.

Upon completing my graduate studies, I worked for two years in New York City at a refugee resettlement agency. I am currently employed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and am working on humanitarian and stabilization operations.



ANNA STEWART '07

Biology

AS AN UNDERGRADUATE BIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES MAJOR, I took a broad spectrum of classes in the social sciences, humanities, and law, many of which seemed unrelated to my natural sciences courses and fieldwork. Looking back, this training prepared me well for my current interdisciplinary career path. I am a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a Masters of Public Administration student at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

With the support of a Fulbright Fellowship, I am living in Ecuador for 13 months to research the climatic and social factors that influence the spread of dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease. I am collaborating with government agencies to conduct research that will lay the groundwork for an early warning system to prevent epidemics. Through my interdisciplinary training that began in The College of Arts and Sciences, I aspire to bridge the worlds of science and policy.

ELI TIFFAULT '08

Psychology

I BELIEVE THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ATTENDING SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY IS THE GROUP OF ALUMNI WITH WHICH YOU BECOME CONNECTED. I graduated from The College of Arts and Sciences just before the economy went into a slump; and had it not been for these connections, I may still be jobless. Fortunately, Syracuse University fosters alumni relationships which allowed me to connect with graduates who had already established themselves in the marketplace. The alumni I connected with were more than willing to help, and I was able to line up multiple interviews, eventually landing a job with an industry-leading electrical distributor.

Now, just two years later, I am ready to be handed my own distribution center where I have sole control of all operations and management decisions. Had it not been for the connections that Syracuse University provided me with, I would not be in the position I am today.



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JAMES TOOLEY '09

Biology



MY EXPERIENCE AT SU TAUGHT ME THAT HARD WORK AND STRETCHING OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONES WILL TRANSFORM YOU INTO THE MAN OR WOMAN YOU'RE MEANT TO BECOME. Being at Syracuse prepared me for the real world by teaching me how to network and manage my priorities in a way where I have become a well balanced adult. Starting school can be intimidating for anyone. The students and professors made it very welcoming, yet gave me that challenge I needed to prepare for the real world.

When I graduated from The College of Arts and Sciences with my degree in biology, I had a good idea of where I wanted to be. I made finding a job my number-one priority, and ended up in biotech. I am currently a sales rep for a worldwide biotech company and in charge of over 300 accounts in Los Angeles and Orange County, representing the areas of stem cell research, cloning, protein analysis, DNA/RNA/gene analysis, and drug discovery. Getting here had to do with networking with other alumni and colleagues, and showing companies that they are hiring a leader with good attitude and ambition.



STEPHANIE TORNATORE '07

Psychology

UPON GRADUATING FROM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, I enrolled at Columbia University and earned a Master's degree in organizational psychology. I then moved to Washington, DC, where I am currently employed as a management consultant, focusing on talent and organization performance.

While at SU, I was involved in many organizations and activities that extended beyond the classroom. It was my extra-curricular involvement that helped me recognize the importance of time-management, group relations, and the power and impact of leadership. The connections forged with various members of the campus community, from students to SU faculty and administrators, made a lasting impression and continue to be the foundation of my network.

In these widely uncertain economic times, I believe it was my liberal arts education and active campus participation that helped make me competitive and allowed me to stand out amongst my peers. As I go forward, I will always credit my success to the invaluable opportunities and experiences, the people I met, and the education I obtained at Syracuse.

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KRISTINE "KRISSEY" WOODS '08

Psychology



AFTER I GRADUATED, AT THE START OF THE RECESSION IN 2008, job opportunities were few and far between. However, having a degree from Syracuse definitely gave me the advantage when applying for jobs and graduate schools. I was in constant contact with the mentors found within SU's vast alumni database, as well as employees of the university. Eventually, I landed a great job working in collegiate athletics.

I currently work for the Villanova University Athletic Department in media relations, which means I'm in charge of all the public relations initiatives involving our coaches, student-athletes and varsity sport programs. I've additionally had the opportunity to work for ESPN and their affiliates doing game coverage, and have even dabbled in sideline reporting.

A degree from The College of Arts and Sciences is something that goes well beyond the walls of the university; it will continue to support you for years to come on the regional, national and international stage and in any career path you choose. Go Orange!







THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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