9.11

10 YEARS LATER

REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE

On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the Syracuse University community comes together to reflect, learn, and reach out to others

BY KELLY HOMAN RODOSKI

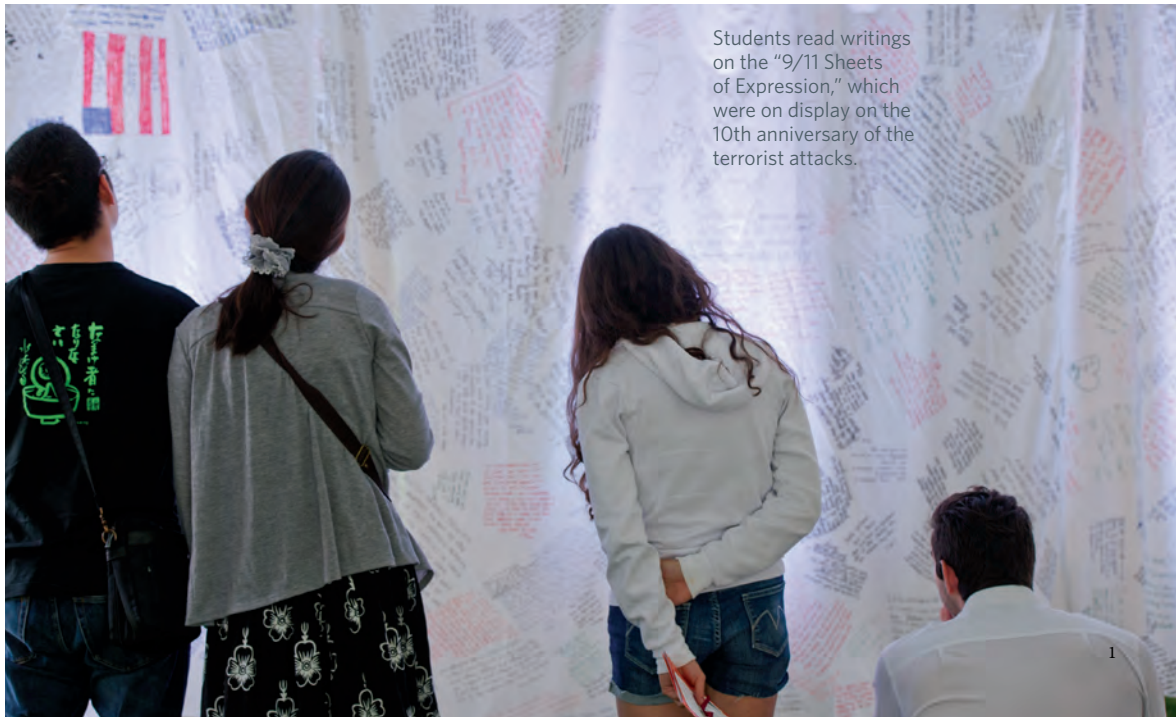
TEN YEARS AGO, UNDER A brilliant blue late-summer sky, students came to the Quad where they poured out their feelings, writing their thoughts on stark white cotton sheets. The day before, on September 11, 2001, terrorists had carried out the worst attack ever on American soil. Nearly 3,000 victims from more than 70 countries—including 30 Syracuse University alumni—died that day. The event affected not just the United States, but the global community as people sought to understand and address the issues that had led to such violence.

On September 11, 2011, members of the Syracuse University community came together for a series of events to mark the 10th anniversary of the day that dramatically changed the nation and the world. Among the events was a service at Hendricks Chapel that featured an interfaith prayer composed by the Hendricks Chapel Chaplains' Council; musical selections performed by the Syracuse University Brass Ensemble, Hendricks Chapel Choir, Black Celestial Choral Ensemble, and Syracuse Children's Chorus; and reflections by the Rev. Tiffany Steinwert, dean of Hendricks Chapel, Thomas V. Wolfe G'02, senior vice president and dean of student affairs, and SU student Laura E. Beachy '12, a Remembrance Scholar (to view the webcast, go to *www.syr.edu/september11*).

In his remarks, Wolfe recalled how the University responded to the needs of the campus community after 9/11. He also spoke about hope. "Today we come to the work of remembrance and hope as human beings," he said. "We are all trying to emerge into a place of clear sight out of our very real and complex emotions of fear, loss, and wanting something meaningful to come out of all of this. Ten years later, we gather here, while memorials of all kinds are being held or dedicated all over the country. How can we be the thinking and feeling human beings we aspire to be? The creative tension between remembrance and hope is still working itself out in us. It is in our very fiber to live and see beyond ourselves, and we are a people still in process."

Beachy, who grew up in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where Flight 93 crashed in a field, reflected on how her life as an 11-year-old was transformed when the threat of terrorism became a part of everyday life. She also spoke about how the members of her small community opened their arms and hearts to the relatives of the victims in the ensuing days, months, and years. "Turn to the person next to you, give them a hug, and thank God you have every day with them," she said.

Steinwert encouraged those assembled to do just that. "This is what community does, isn't it?" she asked. "This is *community*. Together we have been grafted into a community—through tragedy,



Students read writings on the "9/11 Sheets of Expression," which were on display on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Published by SURFACE, 2011

In the footprint where the Twin Towers once stood in lower Manhattan, twin reflecting pools and waterfalls serve as a tribute of remembrance and honor to those killed on 9/11. The National September 11 Memorial was opened to the public on September 12.

yes, but also through hope—into a vibrant, multicultural bounty of potential and possibility. Laura reminded us that even in the midst of sorrow, hope abounds."

Following the service, community members were invited to share their feelings on a sheet outside Hendricks Chapel, just as they did a decade ago. Nearby, on the Shaw Quad, the University will plant *A Tree of 40 Fruit*. The tree, created through a process of budding and grafting by College of Visual and Performing Arts sculpture professor Sam Van Aken, will produce more than 40 different kinds of fruit—symbolizing the success of acceptance, a sign of hope and renewal.

Along with the service, the University launched Better Together Syracuse, part of a national initiative for college students to improve their communities. The program is based on Better Together for 9/11, which was inspired by the victims' family members, who encouraged others to serve their communities as a tribute to lost loved ones and recapture the spirit of compassion and unity that swept the nation following the attacks. To address the issue of hunger, Better Together Syracuse collected 2,805 cans of food to benefit the Interreligious Food Consortium, which distributes goods to more than 70 food pantries in Central New York. In addition, the University's eighth annual Juice Jam concert raised $30,000 for the United Nations World Food Programme for hunger relief in the Horn of Africa. Hendricks Chapel also organized a series of panel discussions that focused on the impact of the September 11 tragedy.

"We wanted to honor the memory of all that was lost that day while exploring the meaning of these events for our wider global community, so that we might move forward into a future with hope," Steinwert said. «

Photo by Frank Ritter (www.RitterPhoto.com)