Introduction

Well-written words have the power to bring about tremendous change—to touch hearts, share experiences, and inspire action. In a powerful culmination of eloquence and emotions that are characteristic of today's sociopolitical atmosphere, the student editors and authors of *Intertext* 2019 have created a publication that expresses acceptance, change, and community.

Intertext seeks to showcase the excellent work that students have produced in the Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition. Offering a plethora of engaging courses that cover many different genres, histories, and theories in the art of rhetoric, the department encourages students to create a broad range of work. Very often, students find—sometimes to their own surprise—issues that ignite a passionate flame within and an expressive voice to speak with. These pieces transcend their original purpose of being submitted for a grade and deserve to be recognized for their merit and the conversations they have the potential to spark.

From explorations of culture and individuality to calls to activism fueled by indignance and fury, this 2019 edition offers rich and distinct perspectives on a multitude of topics. Some stories chronicle accounts of personal growth, while others weave tales of heart-wrenching grief and vehement anger. Many candidly approach delicate issues that are infrequently addressed in everyday conversation due to the discomfort they may cause.

We at *Intertext* ask that you approach these pieces with an open mind and heart—it took a lot of courage for these authors to share their work. The hardships that our

peers overcame helped them become the remarkable people they are today. We hope that these chronicles of adversity and controversy are able to spark discussion of important topics and inspire action, reminding you that difficult times can pass.

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Finally, we would like to acknowledge each and every aspiring writer here at Syracuse University. We hope to someday see your work published in *Intertext*.

—Jennifer Bancamper, Taylor Parks, Annie Shi, and Josh Sholes