ARCHITECTURE NEWS
The newsletter of the Syracuse University School of Architecture

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A Message from the Dean

Although there is no question that the current economic situation is stressful for the profession, in the past, weak markets have also been moments for inventive production and reconsideration of our professional identity. The recent economic vitality has fueled massive innovation in all design fields, but downturns also provoke creative assessment. In the 1960s and 1970s, the experimentation of groups like Archizoom and the drawings of architects such as Peter Eisenman, Hans Hollein, and Bernard Tschumi conferred an often subversive power to architecture. The paper architecture of the 1970s and 1980s has influenced not only how we build, but how we think about building today. Consider the establishment of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies (IAUS) in 1967. Peter Eisenman’s intention was to foster intellectual exchange among practitioners, students, and those interested in architecture’s role in contemporary society, in what Eisenman called, “a halfway house between academe and the profession.” The time Rem Koolhaas spent at the IAUS in the early seventies led to the 1978 publication of his urban manifesto, Delirious New York. The complex ideology would ground much of his later work and, like the Institute itself, support the idea that architecture plays a critical role in raising questions as part of a larger cultural discourse.

The exposure to multiple debates and seemingly irreconcilable realities of economic, technological, and social advancement in the global field is integral to academic preparation. As part of this exploration, graduate students at the School traveled to Medellin this past fall to experience firsthand the role that architecture has played in the renaissance of this city (pgs. 8-9). We were fortunate to have Sergio Fajardo, the mayor of Medellin during this extraordinary time and now a presidential candidate, speak at the School this past February as part of the 2-day “Positioning Practice” event. Joining him were Teddy Cruz, Aaron Levy, and William Menking who presented their work from the American Pavilion at the Venice Bienale.

Expansiveness may seem like a counterintuitive impulse, yet the momentum within the School and the University will only continue through our growth and development. We are in the process of adding permanent faculty with expertise in design, technology, and sustainability and will admit one of the largest and most qualified classes in our history into our graduate and undergraduate programs. We are increasing aid to ensure that all of our talented students can pursue an education with us, and continue to support our academic ambitions and enable new programs and partnerships to emerge. We launched Syracuse Architecture NYC, which joins London and Florence as part of our Global Campus initiative. Craig Dykers of Snøhetta (p. 3) taught the inaugural semester-long studio program this winter and in the fall the studio will be led by Marc Tsurumaki of Lewis, Tsurumaki, Lewis. The new studio space was made possible through the support of Chancellor Nancy Cantor and of donors and friends who believe in the long-range curricular goals of a studio base in New York City.

In Syracuse’s Near Westside neighborhood, students will participate in our first design/build project, with construction of a prefabricated house designed in the fall semester beginning this summer. Plans are also moving toward a public-private partnership for the construction of the three winning entries from our recent design competition, From the Ground Up: Innovative Green Homes. The design competition provides a vision for infill sites on Syracuse’s Near Westside (pgs. 4-5) that we hope will encourage innovative thinking and built work in similar neighborhoods across the country.

Ideally, this broad education allows our students to tap into their unique aptitudes and to participate fully in cultural and professional life. As we go forward, these times will require even greater agility and the need for creativity, recalling the sentiments of scientist and public intellectual Freeman Dyson who, in a recent profile in The New York Times, said, “The purpose of thinking about the future is not to predict it but to raise people’s hopes.” This applies to all of us as architects and scholars within the university and the city and seems appropriate now more than ever.

Mark Robbins

Judith Greenberg Seinfeld ’56 Joins the School of Architecture Advisory Board

University Trustee Judith Greenberg Seinfeld ’56 (Education) joined the School’s Advisory Board in December 2008. Seinfeld is president of Heritage Management Company LLC, a real estate investment, development, and management company based in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Seinfeld is chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees, the Board of Advisors for the School of Education, and has been appointed to the Board of Governors of Hillel at Syracuse.

In 2006, Seinfeld established the Seinfeld Housing Initiative at the School of Architecture, a three-year program which brought together the most enlightened thinking from real estate and architecture to educate future architects and designers. Over the course of the Seinfeld Studio series, Julie Eizenberg of Koning Eizenberg in Santa Monica, NYC architects Jared Della Valle and Andrew Bernheimer of Della Valle + Bernheimer, and Stanley Saitowitz of Natoma Architects in San Francisco all came to Syracuse to teach as visiting critics. Most recently, Seinfeld was instrumental in the establishment of Syracuse Architecture NYC.

Estate Gift Boosts Student Access and Support

Syracuse University alumni Joseph A. Christie ’47 and his wife, Gladys Solnica Christie ’41, remembered the University with $2.5 million from their estate for student access and support initiatives in three schools and colleges. The bulk of the estate gift will fund undergraduate scholarships in the College of Human Ecology, from which Gladys Christie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1941; the School of Architecture, from which Joseph Christie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in landscape architecture in 1947; and the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science. The School of Architecture will use this gift to support two existing endowment funds: the Sargent Visiting Professorship, created in honor of former dean D. Kenneth Sargent; and the Dillenback Endowed Lecture Series, established in memory of Professor Lemuel Cross Dillenback. “The Christies’ commitment to SU will not only help create a rich intellectual environment for future generations of architecture students, but will help those most in need to gain an education. We are very thankful for their support,” says School of Architecture dean, Mark Robbins.

Syracuse Architecture News is published twice yearly in the spring and fall. Comments or questions may be directed to Mary Kate O’Brien, Director of Communications and Media Relations at mcoibrien@syr.edu.
Global Campus Spring 2009

Syracuse Architecture launches NYC program with Dykers Studio

The Syracuse Architecture NYC program, launched in spring 2009, is ideally located at Madison and 33rd Street for students to take advantage of the city's many cultural resources. The program was made possible by the generous support of Jeffrey Gural and James Kuhn of Newmark Knight Frank, Judith Greenberg Seinfeld, Steelcase, Inc., and Stephen Killcroyne '86 of AIA Architects who designed the space.

The inaugural spring 2009 studio was led by world-renowned Norwegian architect Craig Dykers of Snøhetta who also lectured in Syracuse in April. The studio, called "Skyville," focused on exploring options for high-rise structures in Lower Manhattan that are dominated by vacant space and are suitable for rehabilitation according to the idea that changes in use are forthcoming. According to Dykers, "The next stage of development of the high-rise may mean that new solutions for use will create new methods of designing within the existing context." In fall 2009, the NYC studio will be taught by Marc Tsurumaki of Lewis Tsurumaki. Lewis.

"With the launch of this program," says Mark Robbins, dean of the School of Architecture, "we are able to tap into the resources of one of the great design centers of the world and provide our students with a compelling home base for the study of architecture."

In summer 2009, Syracuse Architecture NYC will offer a four-week lecture series for continuing education credits called "From the Ground Up: New Approaches in Affordable Sustainable House Design," presented by the winning architecture firms from the housing competition held in Syracuse at the end of 2008. Principals will discuss synthesizing affordable, sustainable techniques and cutting-edge design:

May 28: Cook + Fox / June 4: Onion Flats / June 11: Della Valle Bernheimer / June 18: Architecture Research Office (ARO)

To register, contact Katryn Hansen at kehansen@syr.edu. Two CEUs will be granted for each lecture. Cost: $100 per lecture or $300 for all four.

Florence Symposium on Civic Identity in Contemporary European Cities

The School of Architecture at Syracuse University in Florence, in collaboration with the Targetti Foundation, held the "Civic Space in Scattered Cities" symposium on March 25 in Florence to explore the possibilities for generating civic identity in the sprawl of contemporary Europe. Professor Margaret Crawford (Harvard University GSD), architect Teddy Cruz (Estudio, San Diego), and Winy Maas (MVRDV, Rotterdam) each introduced strategies for creating new civic spaces in areas that have been challenged by lack of social management and design. Well over 400 people were in attendance - Italian and American students, as well as many local professionals, politicians, and the national press.
From the Ground Up: Innovative Green Homes

Syracuse University School of Architecture, in partnership with the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems and Home HeadQuarters, Inc., hosted the “From the Ground Up: Innovative Green Homes” symposium on February 3 at the school. The symposium featured presentations and a panel discussion by the three winning teams of the “From the Ground Up” housing competition. “From the Ground Up” is a project of UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research, and Real Estate at Syracuse Architecture.

The resulting built work of the three winning designs, shown on this page, from Architectural Research Office and Della Valle Bernheimer, Cook + Fox, and Onion Flats provides a new vision for vacant infill sites in Syracuse’s Near Westside neighborhood and offer a wide range of approaches for cost-efficient prototypes incorporating innovative design and the most advanced green technology. They also demonstrate the value of design within a typically underserved and demographically diverse community. Their ambition is to encourage revitalization in similar neighborhoods across the country, creating innovative green homes, from the ground up. Construction of the three winning designs is scheduled to begin in fall 2009.

R-House, Architectural Research Office and Della Valle Bernheimer

This two-story house transforms a typical gabled roof into a simple folded surface that recalls the appearance and scale of neighboring houses. Its flexible layout accommodates two, three, or four bedrooms within the same shell. The passive solar strategy utilizes a well insulated envelope, airtight construction, an efficient small heating system, controlled ventilation, and windows that optimize solar gain, requiring a negligible amount of heating energy.

Live Work Home, Cook + Fox and Terrapin Bright Green

This single-story, flat roof design is highly flexible and can be transformed to accommodate the changing needs of the residents including a family with children, extended family unit, or students and can easily be converted to function as a home-based small business or artist’s studio. The house is constructed of structural insulated panels and is heated passively. Adjustable reflective screening and skylights fill the space with dappled lighting.

TED, Onion Flats

TED was designed to be built in three different ways: stick framing, modular construction, or structurally insulated panels (SIPs). The structure combines a thick shell and active solar heating to create an energy efficient house. The heating system uses water heated through solar tubing panels mounted on the roof and radiant tubing in all floors. The three-story, gabled roof structure creates an atrium to pull heat out of the home during the summer months, making a space that is efficient year-round. The versatile design can easily be transformed into a two- to four-bedroom, a duplex, or a home office/studio with residence above.
Lumen-Air House
Erdy McHenry + Stenson
This three-story, roof-garden topped house is a machine designed to adjust with the changing weather. Primary environmental systems include passive-first heating and ventilation and thermal buffer zoning. A polycarbonate door system on the south façade opens during warm months to create a shading overhang and closes during the winter to create a solarium, allowing direct solar penetration and passive heating through this thermal buffer zone. During the summer months, water that is passively cooled in a ground loop system circulates through HDPE tubing-lined panels that make up the façades of the house. Lumen-Air uses approximately 60-70% less energy than traditionally constructed houses.

Asymmetric House
Adage / Associates
The two-bedroom, two-story design features a full-length ridge skylight that provides natural daylighting throughout. The nine-inch thick solid timber walls employ the effective heat storage properties of wood, creating a thermal mass that stores and radiates heat into the home. The prefabricated cross-laminated timber panels provide a unique and finished interior surface while reducing construction time. The house is heated passively with radiant hot water heating and utilizes an underground closed-loop heat exchange system. The timber frame is wrapped with insulation and a shell of biodegradable clay tile.

do-it-together.org
This two-bedroom house features a loft area. Spaces of varying proportions spiral around a stair core. Openings in the stair core frame vertical and diagonal views that give the house a sense of spaciousness and allow the penetration of sunlight. The shell is super-insulated and interior spaces are heated by passive solar strategies along with an energy recovery ventilator, making a house that is 90% more energy efficient than traditionally built structures. The adaptable exterior features “clip-on” elements and design options that vary the function, massing, layout, color, and cladding of the basic house.

Office dA and Studio Himma
This 1300-square foot two-bedroom house can expand to 2000 square feet and four bedrooms within the same shell by converting double-height spaces into upper and lower rooms. This flexibility allows the home to adapt to the changing needs of residents. The walls and roof are constructed from structural insulated panels (SIPs). The super-insulated building shell eliminates the need for mechanical heating, and technologies like a heat recovery ventilator and an evacuated tube solar hot water heater increase the home’s efficiency. The exterior is clad with economically locally-salvaged barn wood, and the dual slopes of the roof channel rainwater at a single point into a rain garden planted with native species.
Faculty Focus: Green Design Exhibition

From February 23-April 3, a group of Syracuse Architecture faculty presented "Home Turf" in Stocum Gallery, an exhibition of their own green design research on a broad range of "green" topics—from houses to housing, and from products to infrastructure. The critical importance of building practices as they affect the environment has become conspicuous as the looming crisis of global warming and climate change evolves. The impact of the way we build is a matter of increasing disciplinary significance and societal concern. The research was directed towards the larger project of calibrating building's weight in the planetary balance, and aimed towards contributing to sustainable construction goals and future educational discourse.
1. High Performance House / Associate Professor Ted Brown and Professor Anne Munly (Munly Brown Studio): Single family home featuring extensive use of component-fabrication, minimizing cost and waste.

2. e-flux / Assistant Professor Michael Pelken (energodesignlab): Aerodynamically optimized prototype focused on environmental control and energy generation.

3. Proposed infill housing for Syracuse’s Near Westside / Associate Professor Tim Stenson (Stenson Building + Furniture Design): Develops and deploys construction process efficiencies and improved energy performance to create lower cost “sustainable” houses for a deteriorating urban neighborhood.

4. Camp House / Assistant Professor Albert Marichal (Albert Marichal Studio): An 800 square foot off the grid weekend cabin, currently under construction, located in the hills of upstate NY.

5. Fernhill Urban Cottages, Montreal / Assistant Professor Michael Carroll (atelier BUILD): Two contemporary houses flanking an existing 1920’s single family home; the upper cottage features a passively ventilated atrium with a three-story, south-facing curtain wall with interior/exterior vegetal screens.

6. A project by Assistant Professor Kevin Lair (MOD-ECO) with UPSTATE: Fellow Joe Sisko (CELL).

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**Faculty Books**

**Brian Lonsley**


Contemporary architecture of theme-based design is examined, provoking a new understanding of architecture's role in the increasingly diversified consumer environment. Brian Lonsley is Associate Professor at Syracuse Architecture.

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**Jonathan Massey**


Massey offers the first biography of Claude Bragdon, an early and unique, but often overlooked, advocate of architectural modernism.

Jonathan Massey is Associate Professor and Undergraduate Chair at Syracuse Architecture.

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**Brian McGrath**

Digital Modelling for Urban Design (December 2008 Wiley)

McGrath explores new theories and technologies to create interactive 3-D drawing situated within the histories of urban theory, design and representation.

Brian McGrath teaches Urban Workshop at Syracuse Architecture NYC and is Associate Professor at Parsons, The New School for Design.

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**Admissions Stats**

20% increase over last year in number of applications to graduate program

14% increase over last year in number of minority applicants to undergraduate program

The GPA / SAT score profile for newly admitted B.Arch students is the highest of all Syracuse University schools and colleges.
Student Focus

Positioning Practice at home and abroad

The role of architecture in the transformation of urban centers was a focus at the School during the 2008-2009 academic year as second-year graduate students traveled to Medellín, Colombia and the School of Architecture hosted a symposium called "Positioning Practice" in conjunction with the Visual Arts and Culture Cluster of the Central New York Humanities Corridor, exploring ways in which architects shape their community and the built environment.

Medellín

In October 2008, twenty-four students, along with professors Francisco Sanin and Peter Robinson, spent four days exploring Medellín, a city of approximately three million people that has historically been plagued by drugs and violence. Dean Mark Robbins joined them for part of the trip. The aim of the trip was to study the work developed by the administration of Sergio Fajardo, a former mathematics professor who was mayor of Medellín from 2003 to 2007 and is currently a candidate for the 2010 presidential elections in Colombia.

Fajardo’s administration carefully constructed a social and political program with architecture at the center. Led by those closely involved with the projects and community, students visited sites of small-scale urban interventions that have been the agents of major political and social transformation, including library parks located in the poorest areas of the city, botanic gardens, science parks, shopping malls, and new housing developments. Students attended lectures at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana and met and exchanged ideas and experiences with local students and architects. Medellín was awarded the City to City Prize presented by Barcelona for achievement in comprehensive urban and social development for 2008.

Syracuse

In February 2009, the School of Architecture hosted a two-day event called "Positioning Practice," looking at the role architecture plays in civic engagement and featuring Fajardo, who spoke about his work in Medellín. Teddy Cruz, principal of Estudio Teddy Cruz and architecture professor at the University of California, San Diego presented his recent work which dwells at the border—literally and figuratively—of San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Mexico. He is a proponent of inclusive public housing, as evidenced by his involvement with Casa Familiar and other community-based nonprofits. His

[Images of Medellín, including the Explora Park and Science Museum, Square of Light, Public Square in Barrio San Javier, and Public Library in Barrio San Javier.]
talk was followed by a joint lecture called, “We, the Unsigned: Dispatches from the U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Biennale” by Aaron Levy, executive director of the Slought Foundation, at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches English, and William Menking, founder and editor of "The Architect’s Newspaper,” and historic preservation professor at the Pratt Institute who served as commissioner and curator of the U.S. Pavilion at the 2008 Venice Biennale.

"Architects, artists and community activists are forming new collaborative models for creative production, in response to changing social and environmental conditions,” said Syracuse Architecture assistant professor Jon Yoder, citing economic, geopolitical and technological transformations as key factors. "As a result, global culture seems eager to embrace expanded concepts of design practice and responsibility.” Yoder organized the event with Gregg Lambert, Dean’s Professor of Humanities and founding director of the Humanities Center at Syracuse University.

Design Diversity Week at Syracuse Architecture

The Society of Multicultural Architects and Designers (SMAD) and the National Organization of Minority Architect Students (NOMAS) at Syracuse University hosted the school’s first Design Diversity Week, February 23-27, to explore a range of issues related to multiculturalism and architecture. The week’s events focused on topics of race and ethnicity within the design fields and what it means to represent another culture through design.

“Our goal was to inform individuals about new possibilities and encourage students to do more to ensure we create a better professional climate in architecture for people from all backgrounds to succeed,” said SMAD president and architecture student Daniella Christina Segovia-Burke.

The capstone event of the week was the symposium, “Transitions: Progressing Across a Shifting Cultural Landscape,” featuring panel discussions by prominent academics and minority practitioners: Raymond A. Dalton, executive director of Cornell University’s Office of Minority Educational Affairs; Jamie Winders, assistant professor of Geography, Syracuse University; Armando Rodriguez of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse; Bradford Grant, professor and director of the College of Engineering, Howard University; Syracuse Architecture faculty Jonathan Massey, Francisco Sanin, Yutaka Sho, Peter Robinson, and Scott Ruff; and a keynote lecture by Craig Wilkins, University of Michigan College of Architecture and Urban Planning lecturer and director of the Detroit Community Design Center.

Other events during Design Diversity Week included a student design competition for an outdoor exhibition space celebrating African culture and Black History Month, a design charrette for the program “Go to High School. Go to College.” in which architecture students and members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity conducted a workshop with students at the Southside Academy in Syracuse for a new design for the White House, and a lecture by Yolande Daniels and Sunil Bald of Studio SUMO of NYC.
Events at Syracuse Architecture

1  Stanley Saitowitz / Natoma Architects exhibition; November 4, 2008
2  "From the Ground Up: Innovative Green Homes" exhibition; February 3, 2009
3  Neil M. Denari lecture; October 13, 2008
4  Yolande Daniels (Studio SUMO) lecture; February 26, 2009
5  Yoshihiro Tsukamoto lecture; March 17, 2009
6  Winka Dubbeldam lecture; March 31, 2009
7  Winy Maas; "Civic Space in Scattered Cities" symposium, Florence; March 25, 2009
8  Stephen J. Killcoyne ’86 and Dean Mark Robbins; Syracuse Architecture NYC studio opening reception; March 16, 2009
9  Teddy Cruz, Aaron Levy, Sergio Fajardo, William Menking, Francisco Serrin; "Positioning Practice in Architecture;" February 18, 2009
Alumni Focus: Award-winning Projects

Michael Meredith '94 and Hilary Sample '94
MOS. Cambridge, MA and New Haven, CT
Project: "after party"
Award: Young Architects Program 2009, presented by the Museum of Modern Art and the PS.1 Contemporary Art Center of Queens, NY.

Competitors submitted proposals for a temporary outdoor courtyard recreational area for PS.1’s popular summer music concert series "Warm Up."

The MOS "after party" design entry consists of an unusual mix of forms and materials including aluminum, thatching, and concrete pools, described by the designers as a "passive cooling station." A "Bedouin tent" interior of the conical shelter will provide shade as the dark textile creates a microclimate shield from the summer heat. Cool air from the thermal mass of the courtyard’s shaded concrete walls and concrete water troughs located in the center of the structure will be drawn up through a series of cooling chimneys by induction, creating a breeze and a "cool down" atmosphere. The winning landscape design will be up beginning in late June through the beginning of September.

Gonzalo Diez Ponce '99
Gonzalo Diez Arcquitectos.
Quito, Ecuador
Project: URBANA
Award: Honorable Mention Award from the Municipality of the City of Quito in 2007

The URBANA apartment building project is located in an urban residential area in one of the high geographical points of the city. URBANA is a combination of duplex and flats, "a 3-D puzzle" in which the pieces overlap horizontally and vertically and allow for panoramic views of the city and the Pichincha volcano. The firm was recently selected as one of only twelve in Latin America to participate in the Latin American Biennale in Pamplona, Spain.

Robert Siegel '86
Robert Siegel Architect, NYC
Project: The Land Port of Entry Award: AIA NYC Project Award, 2007

The Land Port of Entry, set for completion in fall 2009, is a 100,000-square-foot border station that will connect the U.S. and Canada in Calais, Maine. Being built for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection, the project is about "creating a visual gateway into the U.S., instead of creating a wall," says Siegel. Surveillance and smoother traffic flow for 1.5 million vehicles per year are key components, while attempting to harmonize with the landscape.

A courtyard contains rocks unearthed on-site. The site will maintain local wildflowers and grasses and include three triangular, man-made wetland basins.
Grad Students Explore Denari's Work

Syracuse Architecture grad students Alex Raynor, Anastasia Gridneva, Elija Yoon, Erik Maso, Mina Panichpakdee, and Shannon Sturm curated the exhibition shell-a-space (above), held April 6 – May 1 in Slocum Hall Gallery. Sixth in the The Architec'ts Work series, the students explored selected techniques used by Neil M. Denari Architects in the design of the new HL23 condominium tower that overlooks the High Line at W. 23rd Street in Manhattan’s Chelsea neighborhood.

Patrick J. Ahearn ’73 Endowed Scholarship Fund Established

The School of Architecture announces the Patrick J. Ahearn ’73 Endowed Scholarship Fund. Established with a commitment of $250,000 by Patrick J. Ahearn ’73, principal of Ahearn-Schlofer & Associates in Boston, MA, the scholarship will provide increased access opportunities through scholarship and financial assistance to undergraduate students enrolled in the School, with preference to students from Levittown, NY, or Boston, MA. It represents one of the largest commitments by a graduate of the program in the history of the School.

“Like many of my fellow students,” Ahearn says, “I was afforded the opportunity to attend Syracuse and study architecture only because of financial aid and the generosity of those who came before me. I felt it important to offer these same opportunities for current students.”

“I am grateful to Patrick for making this opportunity available to our students,” said Dean Mark Robbins. “We are fortunate to have some of the most talented students in the country and I am pleased that we will be able to support their education in such a significant way through the Ahearn Scholarship Fund.”

For more information on giving opportunities, go to http://campaign.syr.edu or contact the School of Architecture’s Office of Development at 315-443-4904.

From the Ground Up Designs to be Exhibited at Van Alen

Syracuse University, School of Architecture, in collaboration with Van Alen Institute, will present an exhibition of the winning and finalist designs from the recent From the Ground Up: Innovative Green Homes housing competition, —a project of UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research, and Real Estate at Syracuse Architecture.

The exhibition will be at Van Alen Institute, 30 West 22nd Street, 6th floor, NYC from May 18 – June 26. An opening reception will take place May 20 from 5-7 pm.

To attend, RSVP by May 15 to 315.443.1292 or email sprender@syr.edu.