

## Syracuse University

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### Upcoming Events:

- October is  
Coming Out Month  
<http://lgbt.syr.edu>
- October 9  
University  
Community Harvest  
Farmers' Market
- October 10  
The BIG Gay Dance
- October 12  
Syracuse Symphony  
Orchestra
- October 16  
SCOPE House Party
- October 17  
Apple Picking
- October 23—25  
Family Weekend
- October 23  
Orientation Leader  
Application Due
- October 25  
Chris Botti Concert

For more information  
on these events,  
please visit  
[suevents.syr.edu](http://suevents.syr.edu)

# Transfer News

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 8, 2009

**Welcome!** You've asked for it and we've got it! First-Year and Transfer Programs has added new information online for transfer students regarding restaurants, shopping in the areas, lodging, transportation, local gas stations, and more! Please let us know what other information you would like to see! And remember, your **mentors** are here to help!

## Prepping for Off-Campus Living

By: Darya Rotblat

Cooking. Budgeting. Paying bills. Shoveling snow. Choosing to live off campus is a decision that will impact your college experience in more ways than you might think. Off-campus housing offers more freedom and often more privacy, but is coupled with greater responsibility. Before you sign that lease, be sure you've thought about what you need, what you're willing to do and what you aren't. Living off-campus can be a great experience, if you're prepared for it. You should never feel rushed to sign a lease and there are still apartments available if you wait until next semester. If you've taken some time to learn about off-campus housing, you'll be able to make a decision you feel good about. Do not sign a

lease until you've done three things:

- 1.) researched the property
- 2.) confirmed your roommates, and
- 3.) had the lease reviewed by Student Legal Services.

These three steps can make the difference between a worry-free experience and a headache. The University area has a number of rentals to choose from, and one of the best sources for advice and information about off-campus housing is your friends and classmates. Ask lots of questions about the apartment, their relationship with their landlord, and the feel of the neighborhood. A good resource is [www.orangehousing.com](http://www.orangehousing.com). It lists apartment offerings in the neighborhoods adjacent to campus. Keep in mind that this local company is not affiliated with SU or SUNY ESF, and there are absolutely no guaran-

tees about the quality and reliability of the information posted on the site. Orange Housing also offers roommate searches, sublet listings and other information. You can also check local newspapers and [www.apartmentfinder.com](http://www.apartmentfinder.com). Lastly, get to know the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services (OCCS). It is committed to offering information, resources, education and programs that promote skill development, independence and civic engagement to all students. In addition, the OCCS provides all students living off-campus or commuting to campus with support, information and resource referrals throughout their off-campus experience. OCCS is available for in person assistance at 754 Ostrom Ave., by phone at 443-5489, web: [offcampus.syr.edu](http://offcampus.syr.edu), and by e-mail: [offcampus@syr.edu](mailto:offcampus@syr.edu).

## Connect with Career Services

By: Dan Klamm

Now that you've settled into life on campus, Career Services is here to help you think about your future – whether you'd like to explore programs of study, discuss career options, strengthen your resume, prepare for graduate school, or search for internships/jobs. As a transfer

student, you have just joined SU's rich network of people and resources; our office can help you connect with alumni and employers. During the spring semester, be on the look-out for a variety of career programming including our Internship & Career Fair, where you

can speak with a diverse range of employers about opportunities with their organizations. Please feel free to e-mail me at ([deklamm@syr.edu](mailto:deklamm@syr.edu)) if you have any questions about our office, located in Suite 235 of the Schine Student Center. I look forward to seeing you in Career Services this semester!

*Have ideas on new and innovative programs for transfers? Let us know!*

*Want to learn about a specific topic? Write to us and we will have that topic in a future newsletter!*

*Future Topics:*

- Academic Success
- Disability Services
- Financial Aid
- Upcoming Events

*Know a transfer student who we should highlight who excels both in and out of the classroom? We will take nominations for students to highlight every month. Please e-mail Laura Crandall: [ldcranda@syr.edu](mailto:ldcranda@syr.edu).*

## Student Spotlight in October: **Shannon Phillips**

If there is one thing that life has taught me, it is that there are very few things in that you have control over. One thing you can control, is what you make of your life. My name is Shannon Phillips and I am a junior biology major on a pre-med tract in the College of Arts and Sciences. My college experience started as most high school students do I suppose and in fall of 2007 I was off to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I was blessed enough to be on an athletic scholarship. It was awesome being paid to do something I love. Everything was going smoothly until spring of my freshman year. At this point, I felt that I needed a change. So in June of 2008, I received my acceptance letter to Syracuse University.

I had hoped that Syracuse would instantly be the change I was looking for but it wasn't. The program that reaches out to transfer students was not well established so it was always difficult to know what was going on at school; especially if you did not live on campus. Since I had applied so late, there was no on campus housing left for me. I ended up finding an overcrowded house with people I didn't know at all, but at least it was a place to live. I started classes only to find that they were harder than any class I



had ever taken before. I was not doing as well as I wanted, despite my best efforts. Also, I had a hard time finding a club or sport to get involved in. Everything that made up the identity I had created for myself, straight A student, athlete, close friends; it was all unraveling in front of me.

It was hard to believe that in a school of twenty thousand students, that I could feel so alone and out of place. I missed my friends from my old school and I began to wonder if transferring to Syracuse had been the right decision for me. However, when faced with an obstacle, you can either get over it and move on with your life, or you can let it consume you and stay where you are. I decided I wanted to make things easier for future transfer students to come. I applied to be a residential advisor for transfer students hoping that their lives would be a little easier when they first stepped foot on Syracuse University campus. I also slowly began to get more involved on campus. I started going to open gym nights to play pickup games. I started to explore new avenues of in-

terest that I had never tried before such as community service and theater.

The circumstances that have brought us all to SU are irrelevant, it is what you do with the gift of being here that determines how you will look back years from now and reflect on your college experience. Even though things were difficult, I never stopped believing that I belong at Syracuse. Despite all of the challenges, now I could not imagine my life without my friends here. I cannot imagine my life not being surrounded by some of the most brilliant minds in the scientific world. I cannot imagine my life not wearing orange and blue with the utmost pride. Just like any family, Syracuse has a place for everyone; you just have to go and discover what your place is. You have been given a gift coming to Syracuse. You have been given the opportunity to do amazing things with limitless resources and people to support you at your finger tips. All I can say is to go confidently in the direction of your dreams and to live the life that you have imagined for yourself. I hope you all have a fantastic semester. If you ever want to talk, have questions or just want to get pizza on Marshall Street, please don't hesitate to get a hold of me. See you guys at school and have an amazing year!