The University Scholar Selection Committee reports that the following students have been selected as Syracuse University Scholars:

Timothy Cheng  (Public Communications)
Alysen Demzik  (Engineering and Computer Science)
Dylan Hsu  (Arts and Sciences)
Alison Joy  (Public Communications)
Brittany R. Legasey  (Arts and Sciences)
Molly Linhorst  (Arts and Sciences)
Yuxiang Luo  (Architecture)
Isaac Messina  (Arts and Sciences)
Kelsey Monteith  (Arts and Sciences)
Ellen B. Moore  (Arts and Sciences)
David Wilson  (Engineering and Computer Science)
Zhi Wang  (Information Studies)
Summary of open forum on the boycott of Israeli educational institutions by American Studies Association (abstracted from the *Daily Orange*, 3/27/14):

On January 7th, 2014 Syracuse University released a statement rejecting the American Studies Association's boycott of Israeli universities, and many members of the University members have expressed dissatisfaction that they weren't consulted about it. Prof. Chandra Talpade Mohanty of the Women's and Gender Studies faculty said that it was clear to her that there needed to be input of faculty, staff and students on any political position that the university took in their name, and that the issue of process was of great concern."

The Academic Affairs committee of the University Senate hosted an open forum to discuss the issues behind the release of the Provost's statement, which roughly 50 students and faculty members attended. Ian MacInnes, chair of the Academic Affairs committee and discussion moderator said that the afternoon's results would be passed on to the administration.

In early December, the A.S.A., a national group dedicated to the study of American culture and history, declared a boycott Israeli academic institutions because of Israel's treatment of Palestinians. Though SU is not a member of the A.S.A. Interim Chancellor Eric Spina said that the University rejected the boycott because it went counter to SU's commitment to the free and open exchange of knowledge, ideas and perspectives.

However, some faculty members and students have said that they were not part of any discussion about the situation, and that the University spoke on their behalf without their consent. The open forum focused on what went wrong in the process and how to ensure better collaboration between administrators and other University members.

Several participants connected SU's statement with its decision to suspend relations with Al-Quds University—another action done without consultation.

Margaret Thompson of the Maxwell faculty said that they were only made aware of the statement shortly before its release, and that some faculty members were afraid to disagree with the declaration. 

Linda Carty of the African American Studies faculty expressed a similar sentiment, and said she was concerned that an environment of fear existed on campus, which was why more faculty members have not contributed. She wondered if SU would support a faculty-student conversation that included more input from various groups. She said the university has not always accommodated the voice of dissent.

Brian Steinberg, a member of Learning about Israel in the Middle East (LIME): An Israeli/Palestinian Dialogue Group, said that it was important to have an organized way of handling the consultation process, advising a look at other universities.

MacInnes said that a strong point made was that the SU should consult the stakeholders before making political statements, and that he would bring his notes to the Academic Affairs committee for further discussion of next steps.