Brianna Herrera’s friends always gathered in her Walnut Avenue apartment, playing Clue or Uno. This Sunday, they passed around photos of Herrera in the apartment’s kitchen. Herrera, a Syracuse University senior, had died in a bus crash on Thursday night. She was 21.

She always stayed busy as an information management and technology major. Her friends said sometimes they would go days without seeing her because she spent most of her time in Bird Library.

Paulina Colon, an SU alumna who roomed with Herrera last year, met her through the Sigma Delta Tau sorority, where they were both members. Colon said Herrera always wanted everyone to have fun and be happy.

“She was just so strong and independent and unapologetic,” said Madison Albert, one of Herrera’s roommates, said she made an unexpected and positive impression on everyone.

Kelly McKeon, one of Herrera’s roommates, said she made an unforgettable first impression on everyone. McKeon met Herrera at the apartment they shared. Herrera, without knowing McKeon, talked to her for two hours.

Sierra Holland, who also lived with Herrera, said the first time she bonded with Herrera was during a discussion in their kitchen about feminism and intersectionality.

“She was just so strong and independent and unapologetically 100 percent herself,” Holland said.

Colon said Herrera wasn’t the biggest baseball fan, but she appreciated the gesture. Herrera was proud of her Puerto Rican heritage and always kept the country’s flag in her Instagram bio, Colon added.

HUNDRED Filled the seats of the Carrier Dome on Sunday to attend Syracuse University’s 34th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. The celebration featured singers, dancers and speakers as part of this year’s theme, “The Global Impact of Civil Rights,” as well as a keynote address from Trevor Noah.

Noah is a comedian, host of “The Daily Show” and author of the autobiography, “Born a Crime.”

He spoke of South African apartheid and its effects on his life. He defined apartheid as “legalized racism, as simple as that.” The legal racial divides made it so that his family — his mother Xhosa and his father Swiss — could not be seen together.

“One of the key things (oppression) strives to do is separate people,” he said.

Noah said one of the life lessons his mother taught him was to never lose the very joy that you wish to fully realize,” Noah said.

Noah spoke of the similarities between Nelson Mandela and King, saying that both fought for equality for all, not just those of their identity.

He added that he learned from Mandela to resist oppression not from a place of anger, but from a place of love.

As for his work as a comedian and his ability to use humor when discussing serious topics, Noah said “humor is how I see the world. It is a visceral expression of our joy,” adding that humor is how he processes the world he’s in.

Noah’s book “Born a Crime” was required reading for all incoming SU freshmen and was discussed during SEM 100, a mandatory five-week course that aimed to address issues surrounding diversity and inclusion on campus.

Noah said he never expected the book to connect with people as much as it did, but it made him realize how similar people are to one another.

“I never knew that people would change the way they thought about the world and themselves because of a book,” Noah said.

“Trevor Noah discussed apartheid in MLK keynote address

By Emma Folts

SU senior dies in bus crash

By Casey Darnell

Five community members receive Unsung Hero Awards at MLK Celebration

By Jaehun Kim

Syracuse University honored five community members Sunday who have made positive impacts on the lives of others, embodying the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr., as part of the annual Unsung Hero Awards.

The theme for SU’s 34th MLK Celebration was “The Global Impact of Civil Rights,” and the awards’ categories were community student, SU student, SU faculty, SU staff and community member.

“Each of these individuals represents the spirit of MLK in their own way,” said Bea Gonzalez, vice president for community engagement, as she presented the awards.

Amiah Crisler, an 11-year-old artist, was awarded in the community student category. Crisler won first place two times in a row as part of a street painting competition in the youth division. One of her pieces has gone viral, with more than 70,000 shares.

“It’s an honor to be selected as a young artist because I think this is an opportunity to bring art into everybody’s homes,” Crisler said in an interview before the event.

Crisler was the youngest among the five to be chosen for the award.

“No one was really cool.”

Byrd said she wants to act as the bridge between SU and the city of Syracuse.

“I don’t do the work that I do for acknowledgment,” she said. “I do it because it’s what I love to do. But being nominated by more than one person was really cool.”

Stephen Mahan, who was a professor in the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the director of the Photography and Literacy Project, also received an award. Through a project, he and SU students helped young people hone their literacy and self-expression.