

Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Thursday, April 19, 2018

Location: Eggers Hall

Remarks: Rededication of the Shaw Quadrangle

*The Chancellor was introduced by Vice President and
Chief Facilities Officer, Pete Sala*

Welcome to all of you who have joined us for the rededication of the Shaw Quadrangle. Welcome especially to Buzz and Mary Ann Shaw and all those present here today who worked with Buzz and Mary Ann to make this a better place and a student-focused research university.

It is a challenging day on our campus. We are dealing with the aftermath of an incident in our university life that challenges what we stand for as a university, and everything Buzz Shaw and Mary Ann helped to build here. We are a university filled with good people who have worked very hard at diversity and inclusion for many years, and at creating a frank and civil environment. And yet we have to face squarely that we have much work remaining to do.

Historians say that you need to wait at least a decade before fairly assessing the legacy of a president. I think that is because it takes at least a decade for everyone to get perspective on the achievements and lasting meaning of a leader and the leader's team.

Buzz Shaw concluded his service as Chancellor in 2004. Later today, we have an academic panel reviewing the legacy of the Shaw years and celebrating the publication of the Sixth volume of the Syracuse University history, which covers those years.

Right now though, we are rededicating the Quadrangle that the board of trustees named for Chancellor Shaw.

I reviewed the program from when the Shaw Quadrangle was first dedicated on November 6, 2010, six years after Buzz completed his service as Chancellor. It is a poignant document today for a couple of reasons. Doug Barclay spoke, and I thank him for speaking again today on the panel on the Shaw years. But the other two speakers were Joe Lampe, for whom we will have a memorial service tomorrow in Hendricks Chapel, and Marty Whitman, who passed away this week. I join you in remembering each of them today, and how each of them cared so much and did so much for Syracuse University, in significant part because of the friendship of Buzz and Mary Ann Shaw.

We are rededicating the Shaw Quadrangle in part because we have finally made the investments in the Quad to enhance its historic role as the living room for our campus, one that is true to the vision and the spirit that Buzz manifested every day as Chancellor. It is a 21st Century living room now, but one Buzz would recognize and embrace.

With leadership from Pete Sala and many others in this room, we have designed and are implementing a campus framework, a roadmap for our facilities and our urban life on campus that supports the student-centered research university ideal. Part of the work to make our campus framework a living, working, ongoing inspiration for our campus design involves remembering our history, including the history of the Shaw Quadrangle.

Before 1929, the space was known as The Oval. Back in the 1880's it held a baseball diamond and a cinder track. In an effort to make it the center of Syracuse University athletics, it was upgraded and became a new athletic field.

With the opening of Archbold Stadium in 1907, most athletic events moved out of The Oval.

It became a space for a rose garden, a skating rink, military drills during World War I, and the terminus of a toboggan slide. By 1929, the Oval was filled with earth creating the central lawn area that became known as the Quad.

The Old Oval had evolved into a formal open green space reinforced with new buildings, including most importantly Hendricks Chapel. What was once just an athletic field now had a more academic feel.

Yet, it was always intended to be student-centered, a place for students to interact with each other and with faculty and staff. Buzz made that happen.

The stories are often told of you leaving your office to walk across the Quad. You would listen to the diverse voices of students who had something important to say.

You practiced management by walking around. You led by listening, sharing your vision and cultivating collaboration. We can all best honor your legacy by continuing to practice that same student-centered, collaborative approach to building our future.

We can all best honor your legacy by remaining focused on our students and how we can help them achieve personal and professional success.

And, we can all best do this by frequently being in Shaw Quadrangle, not always in our devices and at our desks.

Fortunately, the new renovations have made that much more attractive to do. The Quad finally has wiring and plumbing and infrastructure that make events work well and frequently. I am sorry that today's snow

made that harder to demonstrate, but I urge you all to return when the temperatures are above freezing and see the Quad in heavy use.

Buzz, Mary Ann, thank you for the culture you worked to build here. May we all continue to work to make the Quad that bears your name manifest that culture. It was good for Syracuse University then, and it is what Syracuse University continues to need now.

Thank you.

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