

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on May 10, 2014

Location: Chancellor's House

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks Celebrating the 2014 Honorary Degree Recipients

Welcome, and thank you all for coming. Ruth and I are so pleased to host you for this reception, and we are delighted that so many of you made it to Syracuse to be a part of Commencement Weekend.

A very special welcome to Dr. Bruce Alberts and Roy Simmons Jr., two of this year's honorary degree recipients. I am so glad you were able to join us for this reception in your honor. David Remnick could not be here, but we will have a chance to hear from him at tomorrow's commencement ceremony.

I would like to start things off by recognizing all those who had a part in selecting such a distinctive and accomplished trio of honorees:

- Christian Day, who chaired the Honorary Degree Committee
- And the members of the committee:
 - Henry Coslic
 - Cliff Davidson
 - Linda Ferguson
 - Sharon Hollenback
 - Juan Juarez
 - Lawrence Lewandowski
 - Johan Wiklund
 - Carrie Smith
 - Corinne Smith
 - John Wolohan

Thanks also to the sponsors of these honorary degree recipients: Dean George Langford, sponsoring Dr. Alberts; Dr. Daryl Gross, sponsoring Roy Simmons Jr.;

and Dean Lorraine Branham, sponsoring David Remnick and to the Board of Trustees and chairman Richard Thompson for supporting the selection of these individuals.

Finally, thanks to Jean Brooks, director of operations and special events for the residence, and to Catering Services for their work on this reception.

For some of you, this must be the first time in the Chancellor's House. Thanks to the recent renovation, we now have this wonderful venue for special occasions like this. In fact, we already have hosted nearly 1,000 guests here for dinners, receptions and other events, and we will continue to make great use of it in that way.

Now I would like to say a few words about each of our honorary degree recipients. You will hear more about them at commencement tomorrow, but let me just give you a brief introduction now:

Dr. Alberts is a prominent biochemist who has made enormous contributions to our understanding of the core mechanisms involved in cellular replication. He also is a national leader on science policy issues and a passionate advocate for excellence in science education.

Roy Simmons Jr. is probably familiar to many of you. He served for 28 years as coach of men's lacrosse and led the Orange to six NCAA Division I championships. He has distinguished himself off the playing field, too, as a humanitarian and an accomplished artist whose works have been exhibited at the Everson Museum of Art.

Our third honoree, David Remnick, who could not be with us this evening, is a journalist, author, and editor of *The New Yorker* magazine. As a former Moscow bureau chief for *The Washington Post*, he also is an expert on Russian history. He won the Pulitzer Prize and the George Polk Award for Excellence in Journalism for his book *Lenin's Tomb*, which gives an eye-witness account of the fall of the Soviet Union. David will be giving the commencement address at tomorrow's ceremony.

I look forward to recognizing each of these honorees and their achievements more formally tomorrow.

This is my favorite time of the year. It is exciting and wonderful and an affirmation of all the hard work and sweat that our graduates put into their studies. I love seeing the sense of accomplishment in their faces and the sense of pride in their loved ones who made the trip here to celebrate with them.

For Ruth and me, tomorrow's ceremony is even more meaningful because it is our first as members of the Syracuse University community. I am so glad that all of you took the time to come here and be a part of it.

Thank you again for coming, and for all the work you do throughout the year on behalf of Syracuse. I hope you enjoy the evening.

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