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First Floor Bird Library Dedication

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud
Delivered on Thursday, October 9, 2014
Location: First Floor, Bird Library
Remarks: First Floor Bird Library Dedication

The Chancellor was introduced by Interim Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, K. Matthew Dames

Thank you, Matthew. Good morning, everyone. It is a pleasure to be here today to help dedicate this upgraded space for our students and to thank those individuals who have helped make this all possible.

In the course of eight weeks this summer, a team of dedicated people accomplished what seemed impossible when they started. They transformed this space in time for the beginning of classes.

I want to especially thank them for their work in making this project possible:

- TC Carrier, Assistant Dean for Programs, Analytics, and Facilities Management, Syracuse University Libraries
- Elaine Matyevich, Designer from Campus Planning, Design and Construction
- Doug Tankersley, Project Manager from Campus Planning, Design and Construction
- Andrew Pease, with the Library's Program Management Center
- Tom House, with the Library's Facilities and Security
- Joe Canestrare, Electrician with Physical Plant
- Carl Mahar, Communications Technician with University Information Technology and Services
- Michael Culligan and his team from the Physical Plant Environmental Shop

- And Eric Beattie and Brenda Law from Campus Planning, Design and Construction

Most importantly, I want to thank Mark and Christine Turner, who, as parents, know firsthand the value of the libraries in the education of students.

With their lead gift for this project, Mark and Christine honor the University and every Syracuse University student by their generous gift that has helped make possible the upgrade to Bird Library's first floor.

I also want to recognize Polina Turner, Class of 2015, and Sam Turner, Class of 2017, both of whom are current Syracuse students. As a result of their parents' generosity, I am sure they and their fellow students will enjoy these beautiful, updated spaces.

Great institutions act on opportunities to help accelerate the discovery, invention, and creative work of students and faculty.

Great institutions, like Syracuse University, empower the next generation of alumni by providing them access to the world of ideas and knowledge.

Every great institution of higher learning has a great library, which does exactly that and much more.

The quality of campus space for students and faculty to study, to conduct learn, study, research, and collaborate is a vital part of the student experience. It is critical to the success of academic programs.

Bird Library, which opened in 1972, is a central hub for student learning. Between 1.2 and 1.3 million visitors enter the library every year. That's about one person every 30 seconds.

With these new updates, students are now greeted by a clean, modern look. The spaces on the west side of Bird Library offer mobile and high-top tables, couches, group study areas, and whiteboards to foster collaborative learning and enhance tutoring sessions.

The individual spaces on the east side have study carrels and chairs with screens, more conducive to quiet study. Along with new furnishings and carpeting, the spaces are more functional as digital spaces with more outlets and a boost to the floor's network.

The Syracuse University Libraries and its spaces like this provide the environment students need to spark their intellectual curiosity and ensure their academic success at Syracuse.

Again I want to thank Mark and Christine for their support that made this project possible.

Also, congratulations to all the library staff who work every day to support our students and help ensure they receive the best education possible. Thank you.

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