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### Maxwell 90th Anniversary Gala

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# Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Thursday, November 20, 2014

Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC

Remarks: Maxwell 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

*The Chancellor was introduced by University Professor and Co-Chair,  
Sean O'Keefe*

It is such a pleasure to be with all of you here tonight at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the new home of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University in the nation's capital, as we celebrate Maxwell's rich history and promising future.

It's an honor to help usher in the new decade of the Maxwell School that leads up to its centennial anniversary in 2024. The Maxwell School was founded on October 3, 1924, as the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, a unit of Syracuse University's College of Liberal Arts.

The new school offered an undergraduate citizenship course, a new department and weekly seminar in political science, and a one-year graduate program in public administration (the first MPA program in the U.S.).

A lot has changed in the past nine decades, as the Maxwell School, named for founding donor George Maxwell, has become internationally renowned for the quality of its academic programs and graduate and undergraduate classes in the social sciences, for its research and scholarship, and for its reputation as a place where scholars and practitioners work collaboratively.

The outstanding qualities and rigor of the school's departments, centers and programs bring great strength to the academic quality of Syracuse University as a whole.

While many things have changed, some things have stayed consistent from those humble beginnings. Citizenship, social science scholarship and professional education in public affairs remain at the core of the Maxwell experience.

As you will hear later this evening, plans are under way for the launch of a unique initiative to reimagine citizenship education, scholarship and engagement. This will pay homage to the important role Maxwell has played in this area in the past, and will over the next decade and beyond.

The Maxwell community is using a novel way to create excitement around the idea of citizenship—its ToMeCitizenship, the Maxwell School Thought Bubble Campaign. Online and through social media, members of the Maxwell community and others are invited to share what citizenship means to them.

The responses received so far have been as diverse as the community is itself. They include “showing up, being engaged, being involved,” to “working to make the world and nation better,” to “freedom,” to “the world as a single society without boundaries.”

“Citizenship” is one word with so many meanings and interpretations; and there is not a better place in the world to explore the potential and possibilities of those interpretations than the Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

And the person who will lead us into this next exciting decade is Dean James Steinberg. Jim joined Syracuse University as Maxwell's Dean and University Professor of Social Science, International Affairs and Law in July 2011 after serving as Deputy Secretary of State under President Obama and Secretary Clinton.

Since joining our University, Jim has been active in all aspects of University life – as a teacher of both graduate and undergraduate students; as a scholar, co-authoring a book on U.S.-China relations published by Princeton University this year; and of course, as a dean. His wife, Shere Abbott, who is also with us tonight, is a University Professor and our Vice President for Sustainability Initiatives.

Jim’s priorities include helping to raise the profile of Maxwell’s scholars and students not just in the United States, but around the world. The new partnership he has established with the Center for Strategic and International Studies offers exciting new opportunities for our students and faculty to engage with and learn from policy makers and influential thinkers here in Washington and beyond.

Jim has also worked to bring dynamic new faculty members to SU—including most notably, tonight’s co-chair, Sean O’Keefe, who has just been appointed University Professor and Phanstiel Chair. I now welcome Dean Steinberg to the podium.

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