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Lubin House 50th Anniversary

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud
Delivered on Thursday, March 5, 2015
Location: Lubin House
Remarks: Lubin House 50th Anniversary

The Chancellor was introduced by Trustee, Sharon Jacquet

Thank you, Sharon. And thanks to all of you for being here tonight to celebrate the legacy of Mr. Joseph I. Lubin and mark the golden anniversary of Syracuse University's home in New York City.

I would like to thank Andrew Saluti, Assistant Director of the Syracuse University Art Galleries, for mounting this fascinating exhibition with the invaluable help and advice provided by Mr. Lubin's daughter, Barbara Goldsmith.

This exhibition documents his relationship with the University from 1944 to the end of his life, as well as the involvement of succeeding generations in continuing his tremendous legacy.

We are deeply thankful to Barbara for the loan of splendid archival photographs, as well as for writing the brochure that accompanies the exhibition. Barbara also donated the stunning portrait of her father that is displayed in the Lubin House lobby.

I would also like to acknowledge two of Mr. Lubin's grandchildren, Wendy Cohen '70, College of Speech and Dramatic Arts; 2002 honorary degree), a member of our Board of Trustees; and Alice Elgart '80, College of Visual and Performing Arts). Both are featured in the exhibition, and Alice and her family are here with us tonight.

This building represents one of the most significant gifts to the University in its history. Mr. Lubin, a New York accountant, real estate

investor and philanthropist, made this gift as a result of a lifelong friendship he formed with Chancellor William Tolley. That friendship began when Mr. Lubin brought his daughter, Ann, to Syracuse as a freshman in 1944.

Since the year it opened, this house has become the epicenter of Syracuse University activities in Metro New York. It houses an admissions office, and departments of advancement and alumni affairs. It also serves as a warm and welcoming place to host activities for alumni, parents and friends.

A year after the gift was made, Mr. Lubin purchased and donated the adjacent building, Number 15. He funded the renovation and integration of the two buildings, which we now know as “Lubin House.”

As many of you know, Syracuse University has more than 57,000 alumni in the Metro New York area. So Mr. Lubin’s gift could not have been more visionary in creating a home here for our Syracuse family.

More than that, Mr. Lubin’s gift has inspired a tradition of philanthropy in New York City that has resulted in an expansion of Syracuse University's academic presence and reach.

Our goal is to be a great, thriving, engaged international research university. To do that, we must focus on several priorities: enhance undergraduate education; invest in research; embrace change and innovation; and become the best university in the world for veterans.

Our New York presence, through Lubin House and the new Fisher Center, supports those important priorities. The Fisher Center, our academic campus in the city, is the home of several immersion programs, including the Tepper Semester, Syracuse Architecture in NYC, Newhouse in NYC and the Global Enterprise Technology Immersion (GET).

These programs offer unique academic and research opportunities to our students, and give us the chance to embrace change and innovation.

Lubin House helps to highlight some of University's most important initiatives. One such initiative is the Institute for Veterans and Military Families, the first national institute in higher education focused on issues impacting our veterans. Lubin House will host an event on April 27th to introduce New Yorkers to the great work the Institute is engaged in.

Syracuse's proud history in serving veterans is one of Chancellor Tolley's greatest legacies. Embracing today's veterans in a similar spirit is crucial to making Syracuse the best place it can be.

I think we can also say that part of Chancellor Tolley's enormous legacy is his friendship with Joseph I. Lubin-- a friendship that will continue to transform Syracuse University for years to come.

We are so privileged that Barbara is here with us this evening. She is the author and historian of five award-winning New York Times best-selling books. She has written for the New York Times, Vanity Fair, and The New Yorker.

The founder of the PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write award and the foremost expert on preservation and conservation of our written heritage, Barbara has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was recently designated a "Living Landmark" by the New York Landmark Conservancy.

She received an honorary degree (Doctor of Literature) from Syracuse in 1981.

Tonight, she will share with us memories of her father, Joseph I. Lubin. It is with the greatest pleasure that I introduce to you Barbara Goldsmith.

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