

Syracuse University

SURFACE at Syracuse University

Chancellor's Office (2004 - 2013)

University Administration

3-26-2015

Orange Circle Awards

Kent Syverud
Syracuse University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://surface.syr.edu/chancellor>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Syverud, Kent, "Orange Circle Awards" (2015). *Chancellor's Office (2004 - 2013)*. 107.
<https://surface.syr.edu/chancellor/107>

This Speech (Text) is brought to you for free and open access by the University Administration at SURFACE at Syracuse University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chancellor's Office (2004 - 2013) by an authorized administrator of SURFACE at Syracuse University. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.

Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Saturday, March 28, 2015

Location: Hendricks Chapel

Remarks: Dedication of Patricia Meyers Druger Astronomy Learning Center

The Chancellor was introduced by Distinguished Professor, Chemistry and Dean of College Arts and Sciences, Karin Ruhlandt

I am so glad to be here today as we dedicate the Patricia Meyers Druger Astronomy Learning Center at Holden Observatory.

Restoring this iconic structure is a fitting way to honor Pat Druger. Pat loved the stars and she loved Syracuse University.

I have lots of people to thank for getting us to this happy day -- for Arts and Sciences and University.

Chris Danek, assistant director for academic facilities in Campus Planning, Design, and Construction;

Karen Weiss Jones, assistant dean for advancement in the College of Arts and Sciences;

and Christina Walker, former staff member in the University's Office of Gift Planning. They all helped to shepherd this project to completion;

Duncan Brown, physics professor and Alan Middleton, professor and chair of physics in the College of Arts and Sciences. They helped to design the newly renovated space, which will provide laboratory facilities for the Astronomy 101 and 104 classes;

Ruth Chen, who got excited/infected with this project early on and who daily got me excited about it and about Marvin.

Lisa Balogh, administrative assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences, who planned this wonderful event today.

All the donor supporters of the Pat Project, many of whom came from near and far to be here today.

The members of the Druger family

Marvin's brother, Stephen Druger, and sister, Mildred Druger, who are here with us today;

The Druger children, Lauren and Brian Jamieson, James and Elizabeth Druger, and Dr. Robert and Suzanne Druger; and Marvin and Pat's grandchildren;

And Pat's husband, Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence and Emeritus Professor Marvin Druger.

He had a vision to create a memorial that properly reflects Pat's tremendous legacy here at Syracuse University. He has done it.

To me, Marvin and Pat Druger embody what is special about Syracuse University.

Regrettably, I did not have the opportunity to know Pat. She passed away in January 2014, just as I became Chancellor.

But through Marvin and others, I feel as though I did know her. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a talented quilter, and seamstress, and a selfless volunteer.

And she was an educator and a caring mother figure to our students for many years. Pat was well-loved by her co-workers in the biology department and later in the Writing Program.

And she was well-known for her generosity. Marvin, in his book *The Misadventures of Marvin*, related a story that illustrates that.

Marvin and Pat, married for 56 years, set a tremendous example for all of us. Theirs was a true love story.

They had a marriage characterized by a deep love and respect for each other. They were best friends, and had a very healthy sense of humor.

What is so unique about their story is that it included Syracuse University. This was the place where they both found their niche.

Marvin and Pat have given to Syracuse University in many ways through the years. Pat had long been enchanted by Holden Observatory.

Upon learning the observatory's roof was inoperable, she posed a question to Marvin. What about making a donation to bring the building back to its original purpose? For Marvin, the timing just wasn't right.

Now, the timing is right. Marvin believes the restoration of Holden Observatory is the perfect way to honor Pat and what was important to her.

Students will fill the observatory on a regular basis. They will explore the moon and planets, and draw inspiration from what they see.

We are led by distinct priorities in our drive to be a great, thriving, engaged, and diverse international research university.

The Patricia Meyers Druger Astronomy Learning Center will enhance the student experience through new learning opportunities. It will add to the strength of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The center will provide us a powerful tool for research. And, it offers us opportunities to innovate.

It is the right gift, at the right time, for Syracuse University.

Marvin, I speak for the entire Syracuse University community. Thanks to you, and Pat, for your tremendous loyalty, dedication, and love for our University.

The efforts of both of you through the years were centered on our campus community. Your collective impact is realized in our alumni scattered around the globe. Now, it extends beyond our earthly boundaries. Quizzes from the window; radio interviews, jokes.

I called Marvin a couple of days ago. Now that this project is complete, I am counting on him to put his knowledge, loyalty and energy into a new project.

So we needed you Marvin, and we still need you now. Recruiting the next generation of kids who will grow into adults like you see here. Today for you; teaching them Syracuse's history and meaning. Humor and soul.

Thank you.

I now invite Marvin Druger, a great friend to Syracuse University and to me, to come to the podium.

####