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A Tireless Pursuit: Celebrating the life and legacy of Professor Micere Githae Mugo

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Recommended Citation

Syverud, Kent, "A Tireless Pursuit: Celebrating the life and legacy of Professor Micere Githae Mugo" (2015). *Chancellor's Office (2004 - 2013)*. 110.
<https://surface.syr.edu/chancellor/110>

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Monday, April 6, 2015

Location: Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center

Remarks: College of Engineering and Computer Science Nunan
Research Day

The Chancellor was introduced by Interim Dean-Designate of College of Engineering and Computer Science, Chilukuri Mohan

Thank you for inviting me to be with you on this exciting day. It is wonderful to see the College of Engineering and Computer Science and Center for Advanced Systems and Engineering (CASE) collaborate to showcase the cutting-edge research happening on campus.

There are lots of folks who made this event possible today. I especially want to thank:

Interim Dean Chilukuri K. Mohan

Mark Glauser, Associate Dean for Research & Doctoral Programs

Pramod Varshney, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Advanced Systems and Engineering

The chairs of the College's four departments:

Ez Khalifa (mechanical and aerospace engineering)

Kishan Mehrotra (electrical engineering and computer science)

Sam Salem (civil and environmental engineering)

Radkrishna Sureshkumar (biomedical and chemical engineering)

Laura Welch, Deputy Director of the Center for Advanced Systems and Engineering

Denise Hendee, Alumni Events and Special Programs Manager

John-Michael Velarde, mechanical and aerospace engineering graduate assistant

The volunteer judges for the poster session

All of the faculty who encouraged their students to share their research

And all of the competing students for their hard work and perseverance.

We are grateful today for the foresight of Jim Nunan, a 1937 graduate of the College, and his wife, Marge. Their generosity created this distinctive opportunity for all of us.

We are here to celebrate your research. It's also a chance for you to find inspiration and explore pathways for collaborative research and scholarship.

I just viewed some of the graduate poster presentations. This year, there are the largest number of graduate posters in the event's history. I am glad to see so many of our students excited and engaged.

Some of the research our graduate students are engaged in includes:

Exploring alternatives to antibiotics; studying the molecular architecture of the blood-brain barrier; and production of biodiesel under sub/supercritical alcohols conditions (Biomedical and Chemical Engineering);

Exploring the impact of green infrastructure on stormwater quality; studying the mercury cycle in the Adirondacks; and creating safer bridges (Civil and Environmental Engineering);

Studying nanophotonic devices; working on wireless networks; and advancing cybersecurity (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science); and

Exploring anti-plane shear; identification of turbulent structures in pre-mixed reacting flows; and studying countertop commercial appliance emissions (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering).

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Your hard work goes towards making all of our lives better and safer. I am tremendously proud of what you have achieved.

Today's focus is on cyber engineering and security, wireless technology, and big data. These are incredibly sprawling, complex and critical issues.

They are crucial in our shrinking, ever interconnected world. And both bring big challenges and big opportunities.

Well-prepared professionals are in high demand. We need to respond to this need and seize the opportunities. The College of Engineering and Computer Science at Syracuse University is meeting that need.

And doing it well. I have seen proof of that here today.

We are striving to be a great, thriving, engaged, and diverse international research university.

We are focused on how we can create a climate that fosters deeply collaborative, interdisciplinary research.

Syracuse University can and will get better in these areas. We have done it before, and we can do it again. Your work, now and in the future, is all a key part of that.

Today is a chance to celebrate your many achievements. But remember, it is also a day to learn.

In a few minutes, you will hear from faculty members across the college about the research they are engaged in.

I am deeply grateful to our faculty for their dedication. They are renowned, active researchers. They are expert teachers and mentors for tomorrow's engineers.

Later, you will hear from Dr. (H.) Vincent Poor. He is the Michael Henry Strater University Professor of Electrical Engineering and Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University.

So today is a special day for research at Syracuse. Learn. Engage. Network. Find new and novel ways to collaborate. Be bold. Be inspired.

We are proud of you. We know there are more great things to come.

Thank you.

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