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International Welcome Dinner

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Recommended Citation

Syverud, Kent, "International Welcome Dinner" (2021). *Chancellor's Office (2004 - 2013)*. 237.
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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud
Delivered on August 24, 2021
Location: Carrier Dome
Remarks: International Welcome Dinner

The Chancellor and Dr. Chen were introduced by Center for International Services Director, Juan Tavares.

Thank you, Juan. And thanks to you and the team at the Center for International Services for your hard work. Thanks also to all of tonight's presenters including my wife, Dr. Ruth Chen, our recent alumna, Julie Coggiola, and our Muslim chaplain, Imam Amir Duric. Thanks to all of our university staff who also make this evening possible. And thanks to our student leaders serving as International Welcome Ambassadors and our faculty and staff hosts. I appreciate your support of our international students.

To our students here this evening: Welcome to Syracuse University, to New York State and to the United States of America. Welcome to the Orange family, a global network of more than a quarter million alumni of Syracuse University. This includes almost 20,000 international alumni represented in 170 countries

This year's entering class comes from 49 countries. You speak dozens of languages. You join students from 122 countries who are already here at Syracuse. You are of all races. You represent virtually all religions and disciplines. Some of you love snow. Some of you have never seen snow. I promise, Syracuse will bring snow to all of you this year.

Today, you have one important thing in common. Each of you is equally and forever Orange. This means that wherever you go anywhere on earth, you will find someone else who is Orange and wants to help you.

You have all worked so hard to get here. You have braved uncertainty.

Some of you worried that you wouldn't make it to Syracuse, but you made it, and we are very glad that you are here. We hope and believe that studying at Syracuse will change your life for the better.

My wife, Dr. Ruth Chen, and I sent all three of our children to study abroad - in Africa and Australia. We did so because of our own experience.

Dr. Chen came from Southern China to the United States to study, where English was her third language, and the climate and weather were so very different from her home. I studied in Bogota, Colombia, and it opened my eyes to a whole new world.

It was tough at times for each of us, as it will be for each of you, but you will find many at Syracuse University here to help.

You belong here as much as any other student; you are as Orange as anyone. Your presence on this campus is a wonderful blessing to our community.

Welcome.

I pray that each of you has a wonderful year. And I thank you for being Orange.

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