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Syracuse University Magazine (ISSN 1065-884X) is published four times yearly in summer, fall, winter, and spring by Syracuse University and distributed free of charge to alumni, friends, faculty, and staff members. Periodical postage paid at Syracuse, New York, and additional mailing offices.

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OTHER MAGAZINE BUSINESS: *Syracuse University Magazine*, 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308, Syracuse, New York 13244-5040. Telephone: 315-443-5423; Fax: 315-443-5425. E-mail: magazine@syr.edu. Website: <http://www.sumag.syr.edu>.

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POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 009, Syracuse, New York 13244-5040.

• UNIVERSITY MISSION •

To promote learning through teaching, research, scholarship, creative accomplishment, and service.

• UNIVERSITY VISION •

To be the leading student-centered research university with faculty, students, and staff sharing responsibility and working together for academic, professional, and personal growth.

Charboneau: Opening Remarks

Opening Remarks

Welcome Home

It was one of those strikingly perfect Syracuse summer afternoons, the kind that stops you dead in your tracks to turn to the nearest person within earshot and state the sun-dappled obvious: "Boy, isn't it a beautiful day!"

On this particular afternoon it was I who was doing the admiring from the steps of the Women's Building, and Evelyn Walker, director of SU's Program Development Office, who happened by just as I was looking for someone to whom I could deliver my glowing weather report. Evelyn politely stopped to share my appreciation for the glorious day, the two of us squinting and smiling at the acres of summer greenery cast against a flawless blue sky.

What made this moment so notable was how still everything was—an unusual sensation from this usually frenetic campus. There were no cars or buses revving by, no honking horns, no loud voices—even the ever-present hum of the giant generator atop Mt. Olympus had fallen silent. The only sound was the hiss of breeze through a stand of trees, a few birds chirping, and absolutely nothing more.

I remarked to Evelyn what a shame it was that I come to work here every day, yet don't pay much attention to what a beautiful place the University is.

"Chancellor Shaw has really done a lot to improve this campus," Evelyn said. "A few years ago it was looking pretty worn out. Now it's great."

Evelyn went on to say how much she was looking forward to a visit from an SU alumna who was returning to campus for Coming

Back Together, the triennial reunion of African American and Latino alumni. "It's been 20 years since she's been here," Evelyn said. "I can't wait to see the look on her face when she discovers how much the campus has changed."

Evelyn's words started me thinking of the thousands of alumni just like this woman who graduated from SU, packed up, jumped into their cars, and sped away, never to return. What would they think of all the work that has gone into sprucing up this campus? How would they react to the dressed-up buildings, newly planted gardens, mended steps, repaved roads, and all the other improvements that relative novices like myself take for granted?

It seemed there was only one way to find out. Invite them all back for a look. And that's precisely what we at *Syracuse University Magazine* decided to do.

In the front of this issue you may already have noticed a special publication insert: *A Walking Tour: Syracuse University*.

This brochure, produced by SU's Office of News and Publications, offers a brief history of the University, an overview of the many points of interest around campus, and an easy-to-follow campus map. It's a great tool for new students, parents, alumni, and friends of Syracuse University to get reacquainted with the Hill either by reading the brochure or, better yet, bringing it along for an overdue firsthand visit.

Please consider the brochure an invitation to you to come home to SU. We may not be able to promise you perfect weather, but we can promise you the pleasant surprise of a beautiful University campus that's getting better every day.

See you soon!

JEFFREY CHARBONEAU
EDITOR



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