

INbasket

Leadership Transition

Thank you to Chancellor Kenneth Shaw for his outstanding accomplishments over the last 13 years and congratulations to Nancy Cantor as the 11th Chancellor and first female Chancellor and President of this stellar institution. Through this appointment, Syracuse sets an excellent example for both sexes, showing that having a seat at the table is about skills and ability, particularly at a time when across the country there are more females graduating from college than males.

As a black female, I look forward to a time when there are increased numbers of black female faculty members on campus. Women still serve in most second tier positions, and the few in top leadership positions are an exciting demonstration of someone thinking big—understanding that it is not impossible to reach for the stars.

Again, my sincerest congratulations to Chancellor Cantor and may her efforts be crowned with success.

Verna Smith '79, G'80
Brooklyn, New York

Like many alumni, I congratulate Chancellor Shaw on his retirement and his excellent stewardship of Syracuse University since 1991. However, I was deeply troubled that nowhere in the Chancellor's letter or in the article on his tenure (Spring '04) was there a single mention of Chancellor Shaw's predecessor, Mel Eggers. It would be well worth remembering at this time of transition that the primary reason there was a Syracuse University for Chancellor Shaw to lead in 1991 was that 20 years earlier, Eggers stepped into a terrible situation and led SU out of a financial and social crisis and back to stability and growth. The Carrier Dome, the Schine Center, the Big East, a host of academic accomplishments, and numerous respected alumni are all direct results of Eggers's stewardship of SU.

Like many student leaders at the time, I objected to some of Chancellor Eggers's actions, but I always respected his intellect and deep love of Syracuse.

James R. Lewis '81, G'83
Leesburg, Virginia

Fond Memories

I have many great memories of my time at Syracuse University as an undergraduate, a grad student, and an admissions officer. But the picture of Lieutenant Grant Williams ("Positive Presence," Summer 2004) brought forth one of my best memories.

Lieutenant Williams was much more than a security officer to the residents of Brewster-Boland in the 1960s and early 1970s. He was also a person to seek out for advice or friendly conversation. In the often contentious times of that era, I never saw him lose his temper or even his smile. I was a resident advisor (RA) in Brewster-Boland for the academic years 1972-73 and 1973-74. During that time, I had the pleasure of working with Lieutenant Williams on many issues. With his K-9 partner, Gyp, he provided a sense of security for Brewster-Boland residents, treating all students and RAs with a kindness and warmth I have seldom seen.

I am glad to see the University paying tribute to one of its pillars. I have cherished his friendship for more than 30 years and look forward to seeing him at the next Coming Back Together (CBT) weekend in September 2005.

Joseph A. Clore '72, G'74
Plainfield, New Jersey

Conference Shuffle

I never particularly cared about the details of the Big East, ACC, etc., until there was such an uproar. Since it involved SU, I tried to read about it, but couldn't find a comprehensive explanation of what the Big East is, when/why it was formed, what sports were involved or not, etc. Now I can say I understand, thanks to the article, "Big East: The Sequel," by David Marc (Spring 2004). It was clear and informative. I am no longer confused. Thanks!

Barbara Peterman '66
Silver Spring, Maryland

Share Your Thoughts

Syracuse University Magazine welcomes letters from its readers. Address your letters to: Editor, *Syracuse University Magazine*, 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308, Syracuse NY 13244-5040. E-mail letters can be directed to jacox@syr.edu and must include a mailing address. Letters are subject to editing for style, clarity, and space limitations.



The article, "Big East: The Sequel," precipitates this plea, one that I have wished to make for a long time: Please, get out of big-time sports and adopt, along with similarly minded colleges and universities, a policy patterned after the Ivy and Patriot leagues.

With Boston College, Virginia Tech, and Miami out to more fertile pastures, the Big East is being reborn. Why can't its members agree to recruit athletes who genuinely seek a college education and fully intend to graduate, even if doing so minimizes the chances of a bowl bid or a slot in the NCAA basketball tournament?

Syracuse is making such progress in the research and academic fields; shouldn't this achievement be extended to the playing field?

Peter Borgemeister '42
Branford, Connecticut

Familiar Face

As I flipped through the Spring 2004 issue, I stopped on the photograph of Suzanne Wheeler '04 holding a young child named Vera ("Worldview"). I thought to myself, "Gosh, that child looks familiar." That's because she is. I spent January in Woe, Ghana, playing with Vera and all the other kids who hung out at the compound.

Stephanie M. Carter '98
Brooklyn, New York