

November 12, 2019

Dear Maxwell Community,

I am deeply concerned about the reports of racist graffiti found in Day Hall and wanted to reaffirm for all members of our community the Maxwell School's deep and enduring commitment to diversity and inclusion.

There is absolutely no place at Syracuse University for behavior or language that degrades any individual or group's race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity, disability or religious beliefs.

While the University has a number of offices and services available for responding to incidents of racism or discrimination on our campus—and I encourage you to use them—please know that you can contact me directly or Carol Faulkner, Maxwell's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Diversity and Inclusion Officer, to discuss any additional concerns you may have.

We believe that Maxwell's ethos is aptly expressed in the words of the Athenian Oath inscribed on the wall outside the Maxwell Auditorium, to leave what we find better, greater, and more beautiful than we found it. Our values embrace free speech, an exchange of ideas, and an intolerance of intolerance and of those that would marginalize and dehumanize others.

As an academic institution, the University offers many courses across all departments where our faculty and students vigorously examine and discuss issues of diversity and inclusion. Maxwell offers a number of such courses and I'd encourage our students to consider any of these in the coming semesters, and for our faculty to continue to focus their work on these critical issues.

A small sampling include:

- ECN 304 Economics of Social Issues (Professor Liu)
- HST 300 Race and the Law (Professor Gonda)
- ANT 448 Imperial Remains: Archeology of Colonialism (Professor Pezzarossi)
- MAX 123 Critical Issues for the United States (Professor Rupert)
- PSC 300 Black Feminist Politics (Professor Jackson)

- PSC 378 Power and Identity (Professor Cohen)
- SOC 248 Racial and Ethnic Inequalities (Professor Adamo)
- SOC 433 Race, Class, and Gender (Professor Green)

Maxwell was founded as and remains a school that cares deeply about ideas, evidence, and working to make a positive difference for the public good.

I know you will help us to continue to speak out about these important values now and in the future.

Sincerely,
David

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David M. Van Slyke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "S".

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