

REMARKS BY ROGER JEAN '70, HD '06
DEDICATION OF THE ROGER AND FRANCINE JEAN
STUDENT CENTER COMPLEX
MAY 4, 2018

Good morning everyone,

Francine and I are very happy to be here this morning and are so happy that you were able to join us. I want to make just a few comments in both of our names and speak especially to the students gathered here today.

First, I want to commend all of the individuals and companies involved in the planning and building of the Student Center. It is a job well done. The project was completed on time and on budget.

I also want to recognize and thank the individuals working in various departments and student services that were disrupted by the construction and had to work out of improvised spaces while continuing in true Anselmian fashion to serve the student population without missing a beat.

It gives Francine and me great joy today to say to these individuals and all those who will begin to fill these hallways, offices and common spaces: WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME.

You may be asking yourself: WHY THIS BUILDING AND WHY SAINT ANSELM? In answer to the question WHY THIS BUILDING?

I want everyone here, and especially the students, to understand why Francine and I made this gift to replace the old Cushing Center with a new, vibrant and multi-functional student center. We considered this student center as a long-needed addition to the college. One that might even have transformational attributes as Saint Anselm faces the many challenges associated with smaller liberal arts colleges. I say might because this Center obviously fulfills only one of the future needs of the college.

In answer to the question WHY SAINT ANSELM?.... well that`s easy.

It is because Francine and I believe there are actually very few places like Saint Anselm and we believe that these institutions are critical to the sound development of future generations. In the world that we NOW live in, it is imperative that we support institutions that, in this age of ever increasing divisiveness, make it a central part of their mission to bring people together around core values and timeless moral principles.

- ... Places that still make faith the cornerstone of the community.
- ... Places that actively work to create a community that is increasingly diverse even while being unified by a common spirit that inspires learning, working and serving together.
- ... Places that value not just tolerance of others, but active love and service to one another and the wider world.
- ... Places that let you know it is okay to be who you are and also encourage you to strive to be the very best version of yourself you can become.
- ... Places that encourage ethical behavior in your personal and business lives.
- ... Places that really treasure the individual, the community and the broader world.

Like never before, our world needs places like this to flourish.

I was transformed by THIS place a half century ago and Francine and I are proud to have our names permanently associated with Saint Anselm.

We want this Center to truly be a center on campus. A center of learning, laughter, service, work and prayer. A center for dancing, friendship, brainstorming, problem solving and yes even coffee, and especially good conversation and an enthusiastic exchange of ideas.

We know that wonderful things are going to happen within these walls and that lifelong friendships are going to be formed here.

We are so happy that we are able to be a part of all of that and we are VERY proud to help make it happen at Saint Anselm College.

One more thing that I really want to impress upon the students who read or hear my comments. To those of you who are graduating this year.... CONGRATULATIONS.... In a few weeks you will be joining me as a proud alum of this college. I encourage you to continue your relationship with Saint Anselm. You will find that when you hit a rough patch in your life, as we all do, that this community and the people that call themselves Anselmian will be there for you in ways you had never imagined. It is a relationship that will serve you well throughout your lives.

To those of you who have a few more years to go before you graduate please know that your time here will help prepare you to achieve success whatever your definition of that word is. And I promise you that you will be transformed as well. Just as I was many years ago.

Lastly, as future graduates and alums of this great college, I encourage you to financially support this institution. It is a practice that I have followed throughout the last 50 years and I envision one of you someday making a transformational gift to benefit the next generation of Anselmians.

I only hope that when you do that you will experience as much joy as Francine and I have sharing this day with you. Thanks for your attention and let`s get this ribbon cut.