

Good evening,

It is a great honor to be standing here tonight as the representative of two constituencies—the Rockefeller University Board of Trustees, where I serve as vice chair, and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), where I serve as co-president, and I am happy to be joined today by my colleagues at our Board, Spyros Niarchos and Heini Murer.

If you had told me a few years ago that a stretch of FDR Drive would be one of the prettiest and most relaxing spots in Manhattan, I would have told you to come to the Rockefeller University to get your head examined.

But here we are... and the very fact that we are here is a testament to the vision and dedication of Rockefeller's leadership, to the hard work and incredible technical accomplishment of the whole team involved in the project, and to the friendship and support all of you here tonight have shown for this very important and exciting undertaking.

It is deeply moving, for me, that the Stavros Niarchos Foundation-David Rockefeller River Campus joins two names in commemoration of another friendship, that of Stavros Niarchos, my great uncle and founder of our Foundation, and David Rockefeller whom I had the privilege to call a friend.

Stavros Niarchos, and David Rockefeller came perhaps from different backgrounds but they were brought together in friendship and business partnerships that lasted over half a century through a common vision. That of doing well, and they both did, and of doing good, and they both did, and as evident today still continue to do deep into this 21st century. Something tells me that my very good friend for over 30 years now Rick Salomon might elaborate further regarding this personal relationship in his remarks to follow.

It was also an essentially human perspective that led to our SNF's involvement in this project. Since our founding in 1996, SNF has made more than 4,400 grants in 124 countries around the globe to organizations working for broadly shared and lasting positive social change.

From the river, we see a complete, metamorphic transformation. Looking from campus, though, you might not immediately notice that anything had changed. The new campus seamlessly integrates with and the rest of campus and gracefully extends its inviting green space.

This new campus is an amazing achievement. With its magnificent East River views, it will expand the University's horizons. Its beautiful environment will inspire our scientists to ever-greater heights of discovery and, I am sure, more Nobel Prizes; and it will greatly strengthen the already robust biomedical corridor located here on the Upper East Side. It will also enrich New York City's emerging biotech ecosystem.

Through the life-altering research that takes place here at Rockefeller, the impact has the potential to resonate for generations. This institution can claim nearly ten percent of all Nobel laureates in Physiology or Medicine and, were the campus an independent country, it would crack the top ten nations in number of Nobel laureates. Having said that, hopefully Rockefeller's leadership has no plans to secede from the United States anytime soon.

All indications are that this extension and upgrade of campus will meaningfully enhance the Rockefeller University's ability to contribute to science and medicine at large. All indications but one that is.

Rockefeller's Nobel Prize-per-acre metrics just went way down.

Thank you.