Alex Huppé ’69

Alex Huppé has almost no recollection of life without Harpur College. His father, Distinguished Professor Bernard F. Huppé, was one of the college's founding faculty members, a leading scholar of medieval literature who helped design and champion Harpur's liberal arts curriculum, and helped steer the college into the first graduate programs that led to the founding of SUNY Binghamton, now known as Binghamton University.

Huppé is a 1969 Harpur alumnus, graduating with a bachelor's degree with honors. He earned a master's degree in English from the University of Virginia, where he completed his doctoral coursework before beginning a career as a college instructor and later as a public relations executive.

Huppé has taught at community colleges in North Carolina and Virginia, as well as Boston University and the University of Virginia. He also served as assistant dean for external programs at Boston University's College of Communication and director of the Public Communication Institute.

In 1985, Huppé was appointed principal public relations and public information officer at Dartmouth. He joined Harvard in 1995, and as the university's director of public affairs was the chief spokesperson for the university.

He was elected to the Public Relations Society of America in 1980, and cited for distinguished service by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences of New England, an organization that annually awards the Emmys. He was the organizational officer for the Ivy League News Directors from 1988–1991 and on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Boston Public Library.

Huppé also lends his support to Binghamton University on the Harpur College Advisory Council. Because of his concern that the University might lose faculty to competition from institutions with larger endowments, he helped initiate the successful Harpur Dean's Fund for the recruitment and retention of faculty. He has created two funds in honor of his father: the Bernard F. Huppé Scholarship, and the Huppé Fund for Special Collections at the Binghamton University Library, as well as support for the Bernard F. Huppé Reading Room in Special Collections.

Currently he remains active in consulting and in philanthropic activities. He maintains a collection of antique cars, and divides his time between homes in Castine, Me., and Sarasota, Fla. His brother, Geoffrey Huppé, also graduated from Harpur.