WHY I PLEDGED $1 MILLION

CHARLES KIM PLEDGED $1 MILLION TO SUPPORT CURRICULUM ADVANCEMENT AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THE AMERICAN DREAM

I BELIEVE THAT EVERY STUDENT DESERVES A FAIR SHAKA AT SUCCESS, HOWEVER THEY DEFINE THAT SUCCESS.

Out of any place in the world I know, I still believe America gives its youth the best opportunities to make that happen.

The ability to earn a top-notch education at a premier public institution is an important part of keeping America’s playing field level. My family’s background, like that of so many Binghamton students, did not involve a lot of money. But Binghamton was there to give me a solid education at a wonderful institution — at a price that was affordable.

Let’s face it, my gift is not going to catapult the University to some new standard on the endowment league tables, but I hope it fills immediate gaps the University is facing, like for hiring and retaining the best possible faculty and providing the proper tools and facilities necessary to foster a robust learning environment. Nothing fancy, just what the students and professors need to succeed.

Binghamton needs the support of its alumni like never before. Statewide fiscal problems have led to deep budget cuts at the school. The cost of running a high-quality educational institution is increasing rapidly — all while the University is pushing the envelope to become a national tier 1 university, (public or private).

Jean and I made this gift in the hope that other Binghamton alumni will realize that their own success in life can, at least partially, be attributed to the solid foundation laid at Binghamton. I hope my donation will help raise awareness that the school they received so much from needs their help now to enable it to forge ahead and write the next chapter of its development.

It truly will take all of our efforts to help Binghamton University realize its full potential. I hope everyone can lend a hand in whatever way possible to make this a reality.

When the University Health Service first opened in 1966 as an infirmary and outpatient clinic, it held 34 beds and served a student population of 6,000. Now, through the support of a $1.5 million gift from the Charles and Jean Kim Foundation, it has been transformed into an efficient, well-equipped health services center — the Decker Student Health Services Center — that can serve 15,000+ students.

NEWSLETTER / SPRING 2011
**THESE ARE VERY TRYING TIMES FOR EDUCATION**

Police and firemen, medical care, pensions — and that there is just less to go around. Of course these are essential areas, but we should all be worried that something as important as a broad-based education will be taken for granted.

It is imperative that we don’t let that happen.

At Binghamton University, I knew early on I was going to major in political science, but I also took a broad array of courses in economics, history, philosophy and computer science. I even worked in theater tech, handling the sound work for a main stage production of Macbeth. This breadth provided the foundation upon which I built my career in practice, I handle an array of cases involving complex commercial or historical issues.

To counter that shift, Harpur College Dean Don Nieman established the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, which creates a community of students and faculty that explores issues central to the human experience — how and why do individuals make choices, what are our shared values, how do cultures intersect? A number of alumni, like Alex Huppé ’69, have thrown their support behind the institute. Huppé donated $100,000 through a gift annuity, which supplies the institute with essential resources while guaranteeing Huppé a fixed return on investment.

Though they are at the very core of just about any university education, the humanities can be a misunderstood area of study. People hear the word and think “humanitarian” or relate it to some esoteric field of study. Nothing could be further from the truth.

By teaching students how to think critically and creatively, to formulate challenging questions and to find innovative solutions, the humanities open students up to new perspectives, an exposure critical in today’s quickly shrinking world. But in the last couple of decades, funding for the humanities has dropped dramatically in favor of more professional training.

The humanities institute is a move toward opening up the world to our students, rather than narrowing it,” Huppé says. “ ‘Breadth and depth’ made Harpur’s reputation, and still is the core of the institution. The humanities define a Harpur education, but that is a tough battle in today’s intellectual climate.”

Owen Pell ’80, who committed $125,000 to the institute, agrees and says it’s because people’s horizons have shortened, making it hard to see long-term goals.

“ ‘There’s a terrible perception now that something needs to immediately translate into dollars and cents,’ he says. ‘Nobody seems to realize anymore that very few important or good ideas just pop into someone’s head without a lot of basic groundwork being laid before that.’”

Alumna Pat Saunders ’65 gave $50,000 to the institute.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF DONOR-SUPPORTED TECHNOLOGY**

Associate Professor of Chemistry Eriks Rozners involves his students in his work.

“Students essentially do all the research, from simple synthesis to building complex molecules,” says Rozners, who supervises their work, writes up results and develops new research proposals. He and his team of students, ranging from undergrads to post-docs, explore the fundamental properties of nucleic acids, mostly ribonucleic acids (RNAs), with hopes that their research may ultimately lead to new therapeutic measures like antibiotics or anticancer drugs.

To examine the synthetic structures they build in the lab, Rozners used Binghamton University Foundation funds to secure a $550,000 National Science Foundation grant to buy a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) instrument, scheduled to come online by fall 2011. Currently, students manipulate RNA, then send it off to the University of Rochester for analysis.

“As a training mission, it is very important to have modern technology,” Rozners says. “It is vital for the research mission, too. Right now we are obtaining the key results through collaboration, which is great, but from the students’ perspective, they are involved in only one side of research — preparing molecules — and sending them away. When the students can do it all, it will be a much richer research experience.”

The new instrument puts the Chemistry Department ahead of other peer programs and will enable it to grow and realize its full potential.

**ACADEMICS**

**THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES STRENGTHENS CORE OF A BINGHAMTON EDUCATION**

**SUPPORTING BINGHAMTON IS ABOUT NURTUREING GREAT IDEAS, TALENTED PROFESSORS & AMBITIOUS STUDENTS AS THEY MAKE CONNECTIONS ACROSS DISCIPLINES.**

Owen Pell, Major Gifts Outreach Committee Chair

“ ‘Supporting Binghamton is about nurturing great ideas, talented professors and ambitious students as they make connections across disciplines.’ ”

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**SCHOLARSHIPS**

At the annual Binghamton University Foundation’s Scholarship Luncheon, students who earned scholarships shared their dreams and aspirations with scholarship donors. Through the generosity of these donors, who had already achieved their major life goals and are now giving back to the University that enriched their own lives so much, the Binghamton Foundation provides more than $1.5 million to more than 1,000 scholarship, assistantship and fellowship recipients. See the “Aiding the Ambitious” video about the scholarship luncheon at youtube.com/BinghamtonUniversity.