A

s I begin my journey as Binghamton University’s seventh president, I am humbled to be working alongside the fine scholars and mentors, dedicated staff and intellectually engaged students at this exceptional place. I am honored to lead such an extraordinary university, one that encompasses what I see as the perfect combination and balance of attributes.

Binghamton University is large enough to offer our students a well-rounded educational experience, yet small enough to build relationships and connect with them as individuals. We nurture our undergraduate students, providing them a solid foundation from which to enter the workforce or pursue graduate studies; we also deliver excellent graduate programs in a variety of disciplines. When I arrived, I made a commitment to become a student again, in a way, during the first two months of my presidency. I am listening and learning about the University from those who know it best: our students, faculty, staff, community supporters, alumni, volunteers and donors.

I want to thank all of you for your generosity and your dedication. Because of your support, Bold.Bright.Binghamton — The Campaign for Binghamton University recently exceeded the $96 million goal. With your continued support, we will reach $100 million by the end of June.

Binghamton University stands for excellence in everything we do, and you are essential to our future growth and success. My hope is that we can work together to strengthen our connections as we move forward. Please remain connected to Binghamton — visit campus, take part in our programs and events, and serve as University ambassadors. Sincerely,

Harvey G. Stenger, President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR CONNECTIONS

GRANT ENCOURAGES WOMEN TO THINK GLOBALLY

L ast year, the Jewish Foundation for Education of Women (JFEW) awarded SUNY a grant to establish the JFEW-SUNY International Relations and Global Affairs Scholarship Program for students at Binghamton and Stony Brook. The program began with a summer internship for students entering their senior year; 12 Binghamton students were selected. Following a four-day orientation at the SUNY Levin Institute in Manhattan, they were given an overview of international relations and how to succeed in a professional environment, the interns were placed with a variety of international organizations. Along with the experience they gained at their host organization, they took part in topical weekly seminars, participated in networking events, kept a daily journal and completed several assignments. Students received $5,000 for the internship.

DeAnna D’Onofrio ’12, a psychology major from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., who interned with charity:water, says “The JFEW internship taught me essential skills regarding business etiquette, international relations and how to carry myself as a professional, all of which I will remember for the remainder of my career.”

The second element of the scholarship program is the Two-Year Academic Program. Completed during students’ junior and senior years, it includes an academic-year seminar series, a paid summer internship with international organizations, professional development activities, and opportunities to create mentor and peer networks.

Ten Binghamton students were selected for the 2011-13 program; another group will be chosen for 2012-14. These students participate in monthly seminars that give them an overview of key themes, vocabulary and resources in international relations and global affairs. They attend networking, professional development and mentoring sessions. They are also given assignments such as writing a detailed reflection piece following each seminar, authoring briefs of Foreign Affairs magazine articles and submitting editorials authored by New York Times columnists. Students must also maintain a list of women leaders in the news and write a reflection piece about female leadership.

“Working with the JFEW-SUNY program has been an amazing experience,” explains philosophy, politics and law major Kristiana Zuccarini ’13 from Huntington, N.Y. “Through our monthly seminars and regular assignments, I have had the opportunity to combine knowledge learned in the classroom and apply it to current, international affairs.”

Scholarship recipients receive up to $5,000 each academic year, plus $5,000 for their internship. In all, the JFEW-SUNY grant will provide more than $600,000 in scholarship funding at each campus over three years.

“SUNY is extremely grateful to the Jewish Foundation for Education of Women for their generosity and vision in making the program possible,” says Dr. Maryalice Mazzara, director of academic affairs, SUNY Levin Institute. “The JFEW-SUNY International Relations and Global Affairs program is world-class in the quality of its internships and programing. The students have excelled and represent SUNY with pride.”

Meg Mitzel, experiential educational coordinator, Career Development Center, serves as Binghamton University’s liaison for the program, and Seden Akcinaroglu, assistant professor of political science, serves as an advisor.

ACADEMICS

PHILANTHROPY AND SCHOLARSHIP

GRANT ENCOURAGES WOMEN TO THINK GLOBALLY

P hilosophy, politics and law major Elaine Ezrapour ’13 from Teaneck, N.J., received a JFEW-SUNY International Relations and Global Affairs program scholarship for 2011-13 (see article, left). Here is what she has to say about the program:

WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE PROGRAM BEEN LIKE?

First of all, the program makes me feel empowered as a woman. It is specifically designed for females, and it reinforces the notion that as women, we can accomplish our goals just as well as men. This is an important lesson, especially in an era where women are frequently sexually objectified and their abilities are disregarded. We learn that some of the greatest and most powerful leaders today are females, and that gives me a lot of comfort and support for my post-grad aspirations.

Secondly, this program has provided several important resources and techniques to jump-start our careers.

Thirdly, we learn specifically about IR [international relations] — the people, the places, the organizational structures, the jargon — everything. The wisdom we glean is unparalleled.

Finally, we have the opportunity to meet with influential individuals like Dr. Sanwar Kashmiri, who spoke to us about IR and NATO. I felt so accomplished to hear him speak and to completely follow his lecture. Events like this have buttressed my interest in IR and make me even more passionate about continuing in this field.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?

I was raised in a family that speaks English, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and French. Though I am not fluent in all these languages, the fact that I was surrounded by diverse forms of verbal communication led me to comprehend that fundamentally, intercultural understanding begins with the appreciation of other languages.

Upon graduating high school, I embarked on a yearlong coexistence program called Kivunim: New Directions. Through this program, I resided in Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem and studied Hebrew, Arabic, Middle Eastern studies and Judaic studies. These courses demonstrated how two seemingly opposing peoples — Jews and Palestinians — have underlying similarities in their histories, languages, customs and cultures. My teachers and guest speakers provided me with an understanding of the rewards and difficulties that come from working with people of varying backgrounds. I also experienced firsthand the culture and heritage of people we learned about in class. This ignited a passion within me to continue learning about different cultures and to align my career with IR-related work.

I have continued to develop this passion at Binghamton, where I am studying Arabic and Hebrew.

HOW DO YOU THINK YOU’LL BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM?

I know I will walk away with a heightened understanding of IR and with work experience, but I hope I will also leave with boundless self-confidence as a woman and with good friends with whom I will work in the future. I will also benefit from the generous scholarship money, which clearly makes a huge impact on my finances. I will have a leg up in comparison to many of my peers. Not to mention that a Binghamton education in and of itself makes a huge difference in terms of finances, as well!

STUDENTS

SCHOLARSHIP FUELS STUDENT’S PASSION FOR CULTURAL EXPLORATION

L to R: Kristiana Zuccarini and Elaine Ezrapour received JFEW-SUNY International Relations and Global Affairs scholarships.
Many simulations these days — models of plate tectonics, for example — happen in a computer and without a human “in the loop.” Frank Cardullo’s work is different on both counts; he specializes in real-time simulations with human operators.

As a Link Simulation & Training employee, Cardullo worked on the Apollo program and has decades of experience in simulation for flight and aerospace applications. Since joining the Watson School’s faculty in 1980 as a professor of mechanical engineering, he has explored some of the underlying principles of simulation, including mathematical models and signal processing.

“Space simulators are unique, particularly the Apollo simulators,” Cardullo explains. “You can train people to fly airplanes and drive cars by having them fly airplanes and drive cars. But you couldn’t train an astronaut to go to the moon by going to the moon. So you had to have a very sophisticated simulator to do that.”

In recent years, flight and driving simulators have grown increasingly realistic, with significant improvements in motion cues. Cardullo notes that physiology and biology play a growing role in simulation, as do new ideas about cognition and learning.

“Simulators, I think, are creating better pilots,” he says. “They’re better able to handle complex situations.”

Engine failure, like the problem in the 2009 “Miracle on the Hudson” flight, is a prime example. Most pilots experience engine failure only in simulations. Nevertheless, they are often able to identify it and to respond appropriately because of that training.

Cardullo, whose work has been supported by NASA as well as the Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Research Laboratory, sees applications for his work wherever he goes. A decade ago, he explored the possibility that data from simulators could be used to identify specific pilots, which could be useful in determining whether a pilot had been disabled or was impaired in some way. An avid Red Sox fan, he has also considered taking what he knows about brain waves to see whether they are the reason some athletes respond faster than others to visual information. Perhaps, he says, there was some scientific truth behind the “fast eyes” of the late Boston great Ted Williams.

Medical applications of his field also intrigue Cardullo, especially the idea that surgeons can benefit from simulation training in much the same way pilots do. Simulators can present malfunctions and difficulties to doctors so they can become more experienced in dealing with them. Standard training now often relies on pigs.

Cardullo hopes to build a simulator that would provide tactile sensation to surgeons. “My hypothesis is that tactile feedback will improve the surgeon’s performance,” he says. Simulation technology may also lead to improvements in the design of surgical robots, Cardullo adds, just as it has led to better aircraft.