The College of Community and Public Affairs at Binghamton University got a significant boost when Jerome A. Lyman ’78 made his gift to support the college and its programs with Latin American ties.

"Offering international experiences that support our students’ learning and our faculty’s research are high priorities for the University and for CCPA," says Laura Bronstein, CCPA dean. "In our nine years as a college, we have developed relationships that span the globe. Jerome Lyman’s gift is our largest gift to date that supports CCPA’s goal for internationalization. “It will allow us to greatly expand a number of opportunities in Latin America, not the least of which will be supporting student travel for those who would not be able to participate without this assistance,”

Lyman, a supply chain officer for McDonald’s Corp., spent much of his adult life in Latin America, working for the global foodservice retailer. His career with McDonald’s began in 1978, soon after he graduated from Binghamton with a degree in history.

His connections to Latin America are personal too: His wife is from Chile. One of their sons was born in Argentina and the other was born in Venezuela.

Nadia Rubaii, associate professor of public administration, says it was fitting to invite Lyman to campus in fall 2013. He was keynote speaker at an event for students who participated in the University’s first service-learning program in Peru.

“I learned a lot from them too,” Lyman says. "It was very obvious they were very emotionally involved in what they were learning and doing.”

Service-learning experiences abroad are important because they “translate the academic into the real” for students and broaden their perspective, Rubaii says.

“Jerome Lyman and CCPA share a belief that responding to the needs of the 21st century requires competent, informed, well-traveled people in all sectors who can work together and understand not just through books but also through experiences,” Rubaii says. “He saw what we were doing (in Peru) as starting down that road. His support is really helping us do this not on a shoestring budget, but do it well.”

You open doors to global learning experiences

Undergraduate and graduate students spend three weeks from the end of May until mid-June in Peru as part of a six-credit, service-learning program that was launched in 2013.

The Latin American program provides hands-on learning about the dynamics of local development and its connections to environmental issues, economic viability, social equity and cultural identity.

Students stay with host families to facilitate cultural and Spanish language immersion. They also complete various service projects in Peru, such as repairing a youth community center or assisting at a local food bank.

On the cover: Binghamton Assistant Professor of Public Administration Susan Appes (standing, second from right) with students in Plaza Bolívar, Cusco, Peru.
Why I give: Camille A. Paglia '68 describes sentiments behind new scholarship
You inspire students with your support

Camille A. Paglia, an author and professor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, was a guest speaker at the Binghamton University Foundation Scholarship Donors Luncheon, held Nov. 6. She established the Paglia-Colapietro Memorial Scholarship in 2014, Keri Mastro, Class of 2016, in the first recipient of the scholarship.

More than 200 donors, student-aid recipients, staff and other guests attended the Binghamton University Foundation Scholarship Donors Luncheon on campus in November. The annual event is an opportunity for you and the recipients of your support to meet and interact face-to-face. The Foundation awards more than $2.5 million to about 1,000 scholarship, fellowship, assistantship and research grant recipients each year — thanks to you.

Thank you for giving!
Keri Mastro received the Paglia-Colapietro Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded annually based on academic merit to a full-time student of Italian-American descent, with preference for a resident of Broome, Chenango or Onondaga counties.

It was a tremendous thrill to learn that Keri Mastro, the first winner of the Paglia-Colapietro Memorial Scholarship, is not only a resident of my hometown of Endicott but a graduate of Union-Endicott High School, from which my parents and my aunts and uncles also graduated. My sister Lenora Paglia and I were so happy to meet Keri in person and to wish her the best of luck for the future!

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