Decker Foundation creates Innovative Practice Center

The Dr. G. Clifford and Florence B. Decker Foundation has announced a gift of $500,000 to Binghamton University’s Decker School of Nursing to create an Innovative Practice Center. The gift will allow the school to establish a state-of-the-art clinical simulation and multimedia center to support the clinical learning needs of the school’s growing undergraduate and graduate student population.

The announcement was made at the Decker School’s 35th anniversary celebration dinner held in May.

“The Decker Foundation has been an extraordinary supporter of the Decker School of Nursing and the University,” said President Lois B. DeFleur. “This new gift will allow us to be state-of-the-art as well as more efficient in the clinical learning process for our students.”

“The establishment of the Innovative Practice Center exemplifies the mission of the Decker Foundation. Dr. and Mrs. Decker had a passion for excellence and a commitment to higher education in the healthcare field,” said Gerald E. Putman ’76, executive director of the foundation. “With the continuing nationwide shortage of trained nurses, this new facility will help the Decker School of Nursing address that shortage in a very tangible way for our community.”

KLEE FOUNDATION GRANT BOOSTS TRAINING OF LOCAL MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS

The Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation has made a $150,000 grant to the School of Education and Human Development to fund 10 teaching fellowships (five science, five math) in a local school district.

Math and science education programs are faced with several challenges, said Thomas O’Brien, associate professor and science educator at SEHD, chief among them being a massive demographic turnover caused by teacher retirements. This is exacerbated further by a 39-percent attrition rate within the first five years of teaching, rising enrollments in grades 7-12 and higher state and federal standards for both students and teachers.

“Having good teachers in math and science is critical to stimulating interest in those subjects,” O’Brien said. “The teacher is the key. If you don’t have a competent, caring, qualified teacher in the classroom, textbooks, facilities — all those things — are secondary.”

During the first two semesters of their graduate studies, each Klee Teaching Fellow will be required to work 8-10 hours under the tutelage of an experienced teacher, who will serve as cooperating teacher during
Decker Foundation . . . continued from page 1

The federal government projects that the shortage of nurses in New York state alone will exceed 17,000 by 2010 and nearly 30,000 by 2015. The Decker School is focused on helping to fill the gap, said Joyce A. Ferrario, dean of the school. “We’ve increased admissions by almost 100 percent over the last three years, in part through our Baccalaureate Accelerated Track for persons who have already earned a bachelor’s degree in another field,” Ferrario said. “These students are highly motivated and have demonstrated their ability to complete the program and pass the licensure examination in one year.” With increased enrollment comes the need for additional clinical training opportunities, and the Decker School is fast approaching the capacity of affiliating clinical agencies to absorb its students, she added.

The Innovative Practice Center will provide clinical simulation for teaching most nursing procedures. “Given our urgent need to train an increasing number of students more quickly in clinical settings, we’ll now be able to teach them more before they go into the agencies,” said Ferrario. “Expansion of clinical simulations will better prepare our students to use actual clinical time in the most efficient way.”

KLEE FOUNDATION . . . continued from page 1

the third and final semester, when Master’s of Teaching candidates gain experience as student teachers. In addition, the Klee Fellows will also invest 5-10 hours per week on professional development projects and research under the direction of their University advisers.

“Historically, filling math and science slots in secondary education has always been more difficult because there are so many career options in these areas that pay better than teaching,” O’Brien explained, adding that students who enter graduate programs in math and science are typically funded through campus assistantships or fellowships. This is the second Klee Foundation grant to support math and science teacher training at SEHD. The first $144,000 funded six fellowships that offered larger stipends but lacked the in-class component.

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SEHD graduates comprise half of the grade 7–12 science teachers in the Union–Endicott school district, nearly a third of those teachers in Binghamton’s public schools and at least 30 percent of the science teachers in several other local school districts. A significant and growing percentage of the mathematics teachers in local schools are also SEHD graduates.

The Klee Foundation’s $150,000 grant to fund 10 teaching fellowships in math and science is a “win–win–win” scenario for everyone involved, said Thomas O’Brien, associate professor and science educator at SEHD. Teaching fellows get “more experience working with kids and teachers. The kids, particularly at-risk students, benefit from the extra attention, and teachers benefit from having another pair of eyes and hands in the classroom.”
MEDIA

• G. Philip Rightmire, distinguished professor of anthropology, was quoted in the Minneapolis Star Tribune regarding the toothless skull of an early human ancestor discovered in the Caucasus Mountains. Rightmire said this is the oldest known example of compassion given to the elderly and the handicapped. The article also appeared in The New York Times, Sydney Morning Herald, RedNova and the Dallas Morning News.

• Tim Lowenstein, professor of geological sciences, and Cindy Satterfield ’03, a doctoral geology student, were mentioned in an article on the Discovery Channel website related to their study to confirm that the brine and salt crystals found at a site near Carlsbad, N.M., were indeed the world’s oldest life forms. Scientists found a controversial 250-million-year-old bacterium in 2000 that many geologists argued could have been trapped at a much later date. Lowenstein and Satterfield’s subsequent tests confirmed the bacterium from a quarter-billion-year time capsule. The results of Lowenstein and Satterfield’s research appeared in the April issue of the journal Geology.

• Eugene Stevens, professor of chemistry, was quoted in a Business Week article relating to how biotechnology uses bacteria to convert toxins into biodegradable plastic. Stevens claims, “This step, of using bacteria, is very inexpensive. This can be done on a large scale, and the technology is sustainable.” This was also featured on thebostonchannel.com.

• The Jerusalem Post recognized Shelemyahu Zacks, professor of mathematics, for receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Haifa. Zacks was recognized for being “one of the world’s foremost statisticians and mathematicians particularly in the field of probability.”

• Binghamton University was the focus of two features aired on WABC-TV during the spring semester. The first feature focused on the college admissions process and included interviews with Cheryl Brown ’74, director of undergraduate admissions, and highlighted the role of admissions staff in the application process. The second feature covered students who were accepted for spring semester admission at the University. Brian Hazlett ’02, associate director of undergraduate admissions, was interviewed.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

• Ravi Gupta ’05 received an honorable mention for the USA Today All-USA College Academic Team. Gupta, a science, public policy and philosophy major from Staten Island, N.Y., was recognized for his scholarship and the leadership role he played on and off campus.

• Binghamton University boasts six undergraduate and three graduate student winners of Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence this year. Those recognized were: Gerry Keith Chan ’05, Mordechai Nemes ’05, Matthew Schneider ’05 and Krishna Vallabhaneni ’05 from the School of Management; Ravi Gupta ’05 from Harpur College of Arts and Sciences; and Elizabeth Austin MS ’05, Tracy Curtis MAT ’05 and Letitia Moffitt PhD ’05 from the Graduate School. They were among 264 graduating students from 60 SUNY campuses recognized.

• A survey conducted by the National Center for Educational Statistics ranks Binghamton University among the top three in the nation for graduation rates. The survey of four-year graduation rates at public research institutions shows the University as a leader in the state and nation with a 69.8 percent graduation rate. Only the University of Virginia’s main campus and Virginia’s College of William and Mary were ranked higher.

FACULTY RECOGNITION

• Sandra D. Michael, professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Biological Sciences, has been named a distinguished service professor by the SUNY Board of Trustees. Her research in the area of reproductive endocrinology and immunology of female mammals has earned the support of the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation throughout her career. The distinguished professor title, continued ON PAGE 8
The Class of 2005 established a new fundraising record for a senior class gift, raising more than $20,000 for the University’s Memorial Courtyard. President Lois B. DeFleur accepts a replica of a check representing the gift from Senior Class Council President Shamila Dilmaghani ‘05 at the professional schools’ commencement.

Student speaker Ira Glasser ‘05 acknowledges the applause from the audience at the Harpur College commencement ceremonies in May. “Binghamton University is where we began to learn who we are, to trust our instincts and to stand up for our opinions,” Glasser said. “That is, as my teachers always stressed, if you can justify it. Here you learn that you don’t have everything figured out.”

First–semester senior Christina Zawerucha performs the traditional Stepping on the Coat ritual to mark the end of cold weather at the annual Spring Fling in late April. Stepping on the Coat has been a rite of spring since 1962, when Larry Kressel ‘66 defied an April snowfall by flinging his coat to the ground, stomping on it and vowing not to wear it that spring.

(From left) Justin Tan ‘05, Elaine Lin ‘05, Christopher Man Chan ‘05 and Debbie Charalaivan ‘05 jump up from the granite wall outside the Events Center following the Harpur College commencement.
Distinguished nursing educator and researcher Ada Sue Hinshaw was awarded an honorary degree at the professional schools’ commencement ceremonies in May. The founding director of the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Nursing Research and dean of the University of Michigan School of Nursing, Hinshaw urged graduates to be “aware of two constants — change and challenge.” “You are intellectually prepared for both,” she said. “Remember, change and challenge are opportunities to be sought and embraced. As you assume your place in the global society, ask consistently: How can you be the change you wish to see?”

More than 7,400 fans had “the time of their lives” at the April 27 Green Day concert, held at the University’s Events Center. Although the doors didn’t open for the concert until around 6:30 p.m., eager fans started lining up at 7 a.m. in order to secure a spot near the stage.

Richard Couper (center) and Katharine “Kay” Couper Watrous (left) were each awarded the University Medal in a ceremony preceding the 13th annual Edgar W. Couper Lecture in May. The son and daughter of University benefactors Edgar W. and Esther Couper, they have both played a supportive and significant role in the continuing development of the University, said President Lois B. DeFleur. “For nearly six decades, the Couper family has been significant both to the region and to the University,” said DeFleur. “Kay Couper Watrous and Richard Couper have continued this marvelous legacy and enhanced it. They have provided handsomely for the University, the School of Education and Human Development and, most importantly, for our students.”

Binghamton’s Nick Billings ’05 shoots over fellow seven-footer Kirsten Zoellner of the University of Albany during the Bearcats’ 76-70 win against the Great Danes during the America East basketball tournament in March. The victory at the Events Center was the Bearcats’ first-ever post-season win in Division I competition.

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Faculty Development Fund Initiative nears goal

Nearly two years before its 2007 deadline, the Harpur College Faculty Development Fund Initiative is more than two-thirds of the way to its $1 million goal.

The two-phase initiative began in 2003. More than $178,000 was raised in the first phase — exceeding the initial goal of $150,000. The goal of the second phase, which began in 2004, is to bring the fund to $1 million by 2007. As of the close of 2004-05 fiscal year, more than $680,000 in cash and pledges had been received.

“In order to maintain and build on its excellent academic reputation, Binghamton University has to be able to attract and retain the best faculty,” said Paul Turovsky ’73, chair of the Harpur College Dean’s Advisory Council, who has committed $100,000 to the fund.

Funding still lags well behind need for supporting faculty endeavors at the University, while research and travel costs increase constantly. Even as budgets are stretched by decreased state funding, the state disallows the payment of certain ancillary costs, such as travel when a prospective faculty member is being recruited.

“Our faculty have always been the cornerstone of Harpur College,” said Jean-Pierre Mileur, dean of the college. “The Faculty Development Fund strengthens our capability to recruit and retain faculty in a competitive market.”

Since its inception, the Faculty Development Fund has already made an impact in a number of ways, including:

- helping to retain a psychology professor widely regarded for his research on schizophrenia: recruited to Binghamton University from Harvard, this professor recently turned down an offer from Cornell Medical School because Harpur College provided a competitive budget for conference and research travel;
- enabling an art historian to travel through Yemen to photograph, study and write a book on that country’s ancient architecture and history as a 16th-century trading center;
- supporting the efforts of a chemistry professor whose laboratory is one of the world’s leading centers for sensor research and whose work may one day provide warning against a broad range of chemical and biochemical threats.

Larry Schorr ’75, MA ’77, co-chair of the initiative, and his wife, Jennifer Brink Schorr MBA ’81, have also committed $100,000 to the fund.

“The Faculty Development Fund is intended to be a tool that can be used to improve Binghamton University’s ability to attract and retain quality faculty,” said Larry Schorr. “We all believe that the faculty are a most important resource for both the experience of the students and the reputation of the University.”

Giving to Binghamton University shows that you believe in giving deserving students an affordable, top-quality education. Binghamton is state-supported, not state-funded. Your gift will help keep Binghamton one of the most distinctive and highly regarded public universities in the nation. All gifts make a difference.

Binghamton University accepts:

- cash, checks and credit cards
- electronic fund transfers
- stocks and securities
- planned gifts (bequests, charitable trusts, life insurance, etc.)
- real estate and personal property
- endowments and awards

Naming opportunities are available for leadership gifts that meet minimum guidelines and dollar amounts. Many companies match their employees’ charitable donations. Please check with your employer about matching your gift.

The Binghamton University Foundation
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In Memoriam

Remembering long-time colleagues

The Binghamton University Community mourns the loss of three accomplished faculty members since the start of the year. One was a revered teacher and respected scholar of existentialism. Another was a compassionate teacher and productive researcher. Yet another was equally passionate about teaching and mountain climbing, which he regarded as metaphor for life. All were known for their devotion to their families. They are missed.

**Martin Dillon**
Distinguished teaching professor of philosophy

Martin Dillon, 66, distinguished teaching professor of philosophy, died of a heart attack March 10, while visiting his daughter in Switzerland. Dillon came to Binghamton in 1968 as an instructor in philosophy and was recognized with the distinguished teaching professor title by the board of trustees in 1993. He was also a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

A retired captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Dillon authored three books and more than 50 articles, edited two books and was in the process of writing others whose working titles were *The Ethics of Particularity and Art, Truth, and Illusion: Nietzsche’s Ontology* and the novel, *The Powerjuice Agon*.

Dillon earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia, a master’s degree in philosophy from the University of California–Berkeley and another master’s and his doctorate in philosophy from Yale University.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne, three daughters and two grandsons.

**Gary Lehmann**
Associate professor of mechanical engineering

Gary Lehmann, 47, associate professor of mechanical engineering, was killed in a car accident west of Albany on June 23. Lehmann earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate from Clarkson University and joined the Binghamton faculty in fall 1985. He is survived by his wife, Bruch, his sons, Christopher and David, and his daughter, Katie.

Contributions in Lehmann’s memory may be made to an education fund established for his children, made payable to Kristin B. Lehmann and mailed to HSBC Bank USA, c/o Eli Rabinowitz, 95 Wolf Rd., Albany, New York 12205.

**Yong-Soon Kang**
Associate professor of marketing

Yong-Soon Kang, 46, associate professor of marketing in the School of Management, died April 22, following an illness.

Kang joined the Binghamton faculty in 1997 and taught marketing research, marketing strategy and advertising. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English literature from Han Yang University, Seoul; his MBA from California State University in Los Angeles; and his doctorate in business administration and marketing from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Prior to coming to Binghamton, Kang served as a research associate and a lecturer in the College of Business Administration at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He also worked for the Korea National Tourism Organization and for the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee.

A dedicated mountain climber, Kang climbed in the Himalayas with a joint U.S.–Korean expedition. He was the recipient of the 1995 Best Article Award from the *Journal of Travel Research* and won the Marketing Science Institute’s 1994 Alden G. Clayton Doctoral Dissertation Competition. He was a fellow of the 1994 American Marketing Association Doctoral Consortium. Kang was also a member of the American Marketing Association, Association for Consumer Research, American Psychological Association, American Economic Association, Institute of Management Sciences and Travel and Tourism Research Association.

Kang is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.
granted by SUNY trustees, is the highest academic rank possible and is conferred on individuals who have achieved national or international prominence.

- **Gerald Sonnenfeld**, vice president for research, received the 2004 Orr E. Reynolds Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology last December. Sonnenfeld is an internationally recognized immunologist and a groundbreaking space-flight researcher whose experiments have been part of several space shuttle flights and three Russian biosatellites. His research focuses on how space flight affects the immune system and, among his many awards, he has been recognized with the Founders Award by the American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology. He holds two U.S. patents and one from Canada, and is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Association of Immunologists, the American Society for Microbiology, the American Society for Virology and the Surgical Infection Society. He is a founding board member of the Tissue Engineering Society.

- **Craig Laramee**, research assistant professor in bioengineering, will receive a $200,000 research award to support projects designed to improve polycystic ovary syndrome diagnostics and real-time monitoring of chemotherapy patients. Laramee is one of 10 researchers in New York state to receive a share of $2 million in funding under the James D. Watson Investigator initiative, which is designed to support outstanding scientists and engineers showing potential for leadership and scientific discovery in the field of biotechnology. Candidates for the awards must have been awarded a doctoral degree and have less than five years of experience in the field since receiving their doctoral degree. Only one award was made per institution.

- **Immanuel Wallerstein**, distinguished professor emeritus of sociology and director of the Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems, and Civilizations, was honored by three European universities in the spring. Wallerstein received honorary degrees from Lund University in Sweden, the High School of Economics in Russia and Kharkov National University in Ukraine.