Binghamton University received a record-setting donation from UGS Corp. this August. The global provider of product lifecycle management software and services has given the University software with a commercial value of $13.2 million.

Texas-based UGS will provide digital manufacturing simulation software from its Tecnomatix suite of products, which is used by major international companies to improve the ergonomics of product design and workplace tasks.

The software will enable undergraduate and graduate students in industrial and systems science engineering classes to create digital humans of various sizes in virtual environments, assign them tasks and analyze their performance. This information helps organizations improve the ergonomics of product design and create workplace tasks that are safer and more effective.

“UGS’ ongoing support allows Binghamton University students to gain valuable hands-on experience using leading industrial software,”

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“I BELIEVE IN THIS UNIVERSITY…”

If Marcia R. Craner MA ’94 hadn’t hit the ground running as Binghamton University’s new vice president for external affairs, history might have run her over.

Instead, Craner set about to implement an ambitious agenda during the first 90 days of her vice presidency, foreshadowing an extremely busy future for the Division of External Affairs.

“I’m a product of public higher education,” said Craner, a graduate of Geneseo. “I believe in the SUNY system. I’ve spent 23 years of my life at Binghamton, I certainly believe in this University and all it has to offer.”

Since Craner assumed her new duties in July, the division has set about to accomplish several new goals and objectives in fundraising, alumni and parent relations, University communications and marketing, and divisional operations and management.

“We realize this University attracts incredibly talented students, and we want to continue to do so. With that, we want to retain, attract and invest in our excellent faculty, innovative academic programs and our infrastructure,” said Craner. “To do that, we need to build strong partnerships with our various constituencies. We’re working hard to recruit alumni leaders to help our fundraising. We’re working with all campus leaders, particularly the vice presidents, provost and deans and directors, to articulate the vision and mission of the University.”

continued on page 3

Marcia R. Craner MA ’94 succeeded Thomas Kelly as the University’s vice president for external affairs in July. “I’m a product of public higher education,” said Craner. “I’ve spent 23 years of my life at Binghamton, I certainly believe in this University and all it has to offer.”
President Lois B. DeFleur said. “These kinds of partnerships open many doors for instructional and research developments across our campus and have the potential to forge innovative relationships with small to mid-sized businesses in Greater Binghamton and across New York State,” she added.

In 2004 and 2005, UGS provided the University with grants of Solid Edge, 3D computer-aided design (CAD) software, now available to all undergraduate and graduate students in the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science.

“The advances that our University can make by bringing together our bright students with inspired faculty and corporate friends such as UGS enhance the value of student experience at Binghamton University,” said DeFleur.

The grant is being made through UGS’ Global Opportunities in Product Lifecycle Management (GO PLM) initiative, which provides PLM technology to more than 860,000 students annually at nearly 8,400 institutions around the world.

“This software will provide Binghamton University undergraduate and graduate students with the same tools used in product innovation efforts by some of the world’s leading global manufacturers,” said Charles R. Westgate, dean of the Watson School. “A wide range of Fortune 100 and Global 50 companies use UGS’ software and solutions, so having our students gain experience with this cutting-edge technology will prepare them to be leaders in a global work environment.”

Under the guidance of Mohammad Khasawneh, assistant professor of systems science and industrial engineering, Tecnomatix tools are also expected to create collaborations across the University’s academic environment.

“This software will initially be used to enhance our human factors instruction, but it has potential for so much more,” Khasawneh said. “The flexibility of Binghamton’s academic environment will foster and encourage unique partnerships across disciplines to serve both instructional and research opportunities. We are also looking forward to the possibility of working with UGS to generate next-generation products to serve an even broader clientele.”
Banner year for Binghamton Fund

The Binghamton Fund, the University’s annual giving program, had strong results during fiscal year 2005-06, with gifts from alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends exceeding $1 million.

The fund’s successful year is the result of direct mail, telefund, e-solicitation, staff and volunteer efforts targeted to University constituents, explained Melinda Holicky, director of the Binghamton Fund.

“Annual giving is essential to the University. These gifts provide sustaining support for students, programs and services with the greatest need and allow deans and unit directors to address important priorities in their respective areas,” said Holicky. “Annual gifts support the life of the University and contribute to Binghamton’s standing among the nation’s leading public institutions.”

The $1 million total in support to the University through the Binghamton Fund is equivalent to the annual proceeds from a $20 million endowment, she added.

During the 2005-06 fiscal year, gifts to the Binghamton Fund enabled nearly 100 students to participate in undergraduate research projects. More than 60 graduate students benefited from Graduate Fellowships and Travel Grants. The Binghamton Fund also provides critical resources to support admissions recruitment efforts that help the University attract a diverse population of high-achieving students, support teaching needs and provide for programming for students, alumni and parents.

Michael Needle, MD ’81 and his wife, Marcy, are among several alumni who have been consistent and loyal supporters of the Binghamton Fund. “We’re are glad to support the University through the Binghamton Fund on a personal level because we feel a debt of gratitude for the education and experiences that I had there as a student,” said Needle. “We believe strongly in the value of exceptional public education, which is why we designate our contributions to general University support. We realize how important it is that the University have the flexible resources to address important needs.”

“I BELIEVE…” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The division’s new goals and objectives include planning for more ambitious fundraising efforts, recruiting alumni leaders to lead those efforts, implementing the Alumni Association’s new long-range plan, and implementing the first phase of a new integrated branding and marketing initiative.

As part of restructuring within the division, many of Craner’s former responsibilities have been divided between Mary Woolson, assistant vice president for alumni and constituent relations, and Sheila Doyle, assistant vice president for development-finance and administration. Doyle was also named interim executive director of the Binghamton University Foundation. A national search is underway to fill the newly created post of assistant vice president for development, who will oversee the directors of development and the Office of Research and Prospect Management.

Before coming to Binghamton, Craner served as director of alumni affairs and assistant director of communications and development for Geneseo. She earned a bachelor of arts in art history and communications from Geneseo and a master of arts in social science from Binghamton. She is also a graduate of the Kellogg Center for Leadership Program at Binghamton and the Harvard University Executive Leadership Program. She holds certification as a Certified Fund Raising Executive from the American Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Craner succeeded Thomas Kelly, who led the Division of External Affairs for 15 years. Kelly has returned to the faculty of the School of Management.

“Tom is a wonderful and committed leader and professional,” Craner said. “He is a good human being who cares deeply for the University. Tom was instrumental in guiding us through some difficult transitions, gaining the trust needed for a strong institutional advancement program to succeed.”
Believe!

**CLASS BREAK**

*Evelyn Glennie, a deaf percussionist from Scotland who has performed twice on campus, received a doctor of music degree during the Harpur College Commencement ceremony. “As you lie in your beds at night, ask yourself, ‘Who or what has inspired me today, and who have I been able to inspire?’ Remember that each of our individual life paths cannot be retraced because each of us is an original being,” Glennie said.*

*Tom Kelly marches at the Harpur College Commencement ceremony for the last time as vice president for external affairs. Kelly is returning to the School of Management faculty after leading the University’s external affairs division for 15 years.*

*Class President Evelyn Vasquez ’06 announces the Class of 2006 gift of more than $23,000 during the Professional Schools ceremony held at the Events Center. The gift is being used for 10 benches and landscaping areas for the Peace Quad renovation project and a Memorial Courtyard plaque in memory of classmate Jonathan Ozimek.*

*A member of the Class of 2006 gathers memories for a photo album during Harpur College’s Commencement ceremonies at the Events Center.*
Author and sports writer Frank Deford was the featured speaker at the Harpur Forum annual dinner held in June. Deford, who is also a commentator on HBO's Real Sports and National Public Radio's Morning Edition, said that he places great importance on teamwork, which he believes is truly entrenched in American culture. Americans, he said, balance the individual and the group better than people from anywhere else. “We learn to do things together this way, on teams,” he said of Americans.

Dr. Deborah Tannen ’66, honorary PhD ’93, and talk-show host Larry King held a lively discussion about Tannen's latest bestseller, You’re Wearing That? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in April. Before the event, Tannen, a professor of linguistics at Georgetown University, had dinner with a group of alumni donors and leaders, including Binghamton University Foundation Board President David Kushner ’70, Alumni Association Board President Joseph Bress ’66, and Marcia R. Craner, vice president for external affairs.

Several hundred residents of the Greater Binghamton area sought shelter in the Events Center in the wake of flooding that ravaged upstate New York and northeastern Pennsylvania in late June. An enormous response from the University community helped to ensure that evacuees were safe and relatively comfortable.

Binghamton University employees pay their respects to the 15 alumni who perished in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. President Lois B. DeFleur laid a wreath in the Memorial Courtyard during a ceremony marking the fifth anniversary.

Jessica McKinney ’10 of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., receives a lei from Debra Sweersky ’77 as McKinney checked into her new home at Oneida Hall in College-in-the-Woods.
Progress Report

• Alex Huppé ’69 has joined with a private family foundation to contribute $100,000 toward the establishment of the Bernard F. Huppé Endowment for Special Collections.

• Sodexho Campus Services contributed a total of $60,000 to the Sodexho Scholarship ($50,000) and the University Athletic Club ($10,000).

• Gary Kunis ’73 made a gift of $50,000 to the Kunis Scholarship for Computing Excellence.

• The Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund contributed a total of $40,000 to the Unger Family Fund ($10,000), Unger Family Scholarship ($20,000) and an unrestricted gift of $10,000.

• Robert F. Schumann contributed $40,000 to the Schumann Stewardship of Natural Areas.

• Stanley J. ’64 and Susan M. ’65 Riefer have made a gift of $35,000 for renovations to the Art Museum mezzanine.

Wish List

The Department of Music at Binghamton University would greatly welcome the donation of a new Steinway grand piano. The current concert piano is rather aged, so the need for a high-quality concert grand piano is felt daily by students and faculty. The instrument would inevitably be used for piano recitals at the undergraduate and graduate levels, by Binghamton’s distinguished piano faculty for their solo and ensemble/orchestral concerts, and by guest artists. For more information, please contact Lisa Court, director of development for Harpur College of Arts and Sciences, 607-777-4277, lcourt@binghamton.edu.

Binghamton University’s Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) provides assistance to students with physical, learning or other disabilities. Two services, the provision of text materials in alternate formats and in-class note-taking assistance, are seeing increased demand. During the past year the SSD provided 136 texts in alternate format to students with print-related disabilities and 6,500 hours of in-class note-taking assistance to students whose disabilities make it difficult or impossible for them to take notes on their own. The office owns one high-speed scanner and one copy machine. Acquisition of an additional high-speed scanner ($3,000) and an additional copy machine ($1,200) would enable staff to provide these critical services more quickly and more efficiently and would do much to ensure uninterrupted service in the event of equipment malfunction. For more information, please contact Laurie Miller, director of development for student affairs, 607-777-4430, lmiller@binghamton.edu.

Thomas Kelly has stepped down as vice president for external affairs to return to the School of Management faculty. A scholarship fund has been established in recognition of Tom’s distinguished service to the University. If you wish to contribute to the Dr. Thomas F. Kelly and Nancy K. Kelly Scholarship, please make your check payable to the Binghamton University Foundation, denoting account #2034950 in the memo line of your check. Gifts may be sent to: Binghamton University Foundation, PO Box 6005, Binghamton, New York 13902-6005. For further information, please contact the Foundation Office at 607-777-6208.

Ways to Give

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 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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media

• For the 10th consecutive year, Binghamton University ranks among the elite top 50 public national universities in the annual list published by U.S. News & World Report. This year, USN&WR lists Binghamton 38th among its Top 50 Public National Universities that grant doctoral degrees. Binghamton is 86th overall in the publication’s ranking of all doctoral-granting universities, public and private.

The USN&WR list cites Binghamton’s 91 percent freshman retention rate as well as the school’s six-year graduation rate of 79 percent among its strengths. And Binghamton students enroll with SAT scores averaging 1265, about 200 points higher than the national average.

• The 2007 edition of the Fiske Guide to Colleges again calls Binghamton the “premier public university in the Northeast,” citing the Binghamton Scholars and Discovery programs. The book says Binghamton boasts the third-highest four-year graduation rate in the country among public universities.

• The new list of Best 361 Colleges from the Princeton Review includes Binghamton and, quoting students, highlights the management, biology, psychology and politics, philosophy and law programs. Also mentioned are Binghamton’s great computer facilities and library, diverse student body and safe campus. The University is ranked 17th on the book’s “more to do on campus” list.

• Robert Van Buskirk, professor of biological sciences, and Anthony Robilotto, a research fellow, were quoted in a March 20 issue of Life Science Weekly, in an article about a joint study involving scientists for BioLife Cell Preservation Services, Inc. and Binghamton University. The study revealed a series of new findings and detailed a molecular-based investigation into the mechanism of cell death and survival following cryopreservation.

The article also ran in Pharma Investments, Ventures & Law Weekly; Pharma Business Week; Health & Medicine Week; Biotech Business Week; Science Letter; Elder Law Weekly; Disease Prevention Week; Medical Device Business Week; Biotech Week; Drug Week; Obesity, Fitness & Wellness Week; and Law and Health Weekly.

• Omowunmi Sadik, chemistry professor, was featured in the May issue of Black Enterprise magazine in an article titled “Masters of Technology.” Focusing on Sadik’s work in developing an “electronic nose,” the article explained how microelectrode biosensors are used to mimic the way mammals detect odor, thus enabling the e-nose to monitor scents and detect illicit drugs and chemicals. “We pre-design polymers to sense a particular molecule in certain odors, drugs or pathogens; we pre-design them to sense a particular molecule,” said Sadik. Using specially designed software, the biosensors are trained to build a database of different things that could be sensed in the same way a brain stores data.

• Binghamton University researchers, led by Jessica Fridrich, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, were mentioned in the May 1 issue of the Tampa Tribune, in an article about digital forensics research. Fridrich has developed a technique to help prove that an individual picture came from a specific camera. The technique exploits the fact that every camera produces a unique “fingerprint.”

Fridrich and Binghamton University researchers Jan Lukas and Miroslav Goljan were also featured in the May 2 issue of Discovery Channel News magazine. Fridrich was quoted: “When a suspect is caught with images on the computer and the suspect has a digital camera in possession, the standard defense is that the images are computer-generated or downloaded from the Internet. Imagine now that you can tie them unmistakably to the camera that is in possession of the suspect.”

Fridrich was also featured for her new technique in the May 8 issue of the “News in Science” section of The Lab, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s online database.

• Rose Frierman, MASS ’90, director of alumni and parent relations, was quoted in the May issue of the Membership Management Report, in an article about the need for confidentiality as it relates to the tracking of member information. Frierman noted that many alumni share contact information with the University and protecting that information is a responsibility taken very seriously. “In today’s world of spam and junk mail, alumni need to know we’re not selling their information. We view it as a privilege to acquire and protect an alumn’s address.”
In Memoriam

Walter Lowen, former dean

Walter Lowen, 84, founding dean of the School of Advanced Technology (SAT), the precursor to the Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science, died May 3 at his home in Louisville, Ky., where he had recently relocated.

A professor of mechanical engineering at Union College when he was recruited to help launch the SAT in 1967, Lowen returned to teaching in 1977 at Binghamton as professor of systems science and industrial engineering. He retired in December 1990, then served the University for two more years as a Bartle Professor.

Michael McGoff, vice provost for strategic and fiscal planning, worked closely with Lowen in his former roles as assistant dean and acting dean of the SAT, and associate dean of the Watson School. “Walter Lowen was the most forward-thinking, creative and caring teacher and mentor I ever knew,” McGoff said. “In creating the School of Advanced Technology, Walter had a vision and brought together the leading people in the field to create a wonderful opportunity for students from varying academic backgrounds to earn a master’s degree in one of these fields.”

Lowen is survived by his wife, Sylvia, and two sons. In his honor, an endowment has been established in his name. Gifts can be made to the Binghamton University Foundation, Walter Lowen Student Endowment, account #2034050.

John J. McKenna IV ’98

John J. McKenna IV ’98, was killed by enemy fire August 17 outside Fallujah, Iraq.

McKenna, 30, was serving as a captain with the U.S. Marine Corps.

He joined the New York State Police in 2005 and was assigned to Troop F at Kingston when he was recalled to military duty. He previously served with the Marines in Afghanistan and as part of the initial invasion force during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

McKenna, an Eagle Scout who grew up in Brooklyn, studied history at Binghamton and participated in the crew team. The military medals and awards he earned included the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, Naval Meritorious Unit Commendation, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Purple Heart, among others.

McKenna is survived by his parents, John and Karen McKenna, and a sister and her husband. He was buried at Saratoga National Cemetery.

The Alumni Association and Binghamton University Foundation has contributed funds in McKenna’s memory to Honor with Books, a program run by the Binghamton University Libraries.

“As much goodwill may be conveyed in one hearty word as in many.”
— Charlotte Brontë