

# Believe!



SPRING 2004

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## Two million-dollar gifts support entrepreneurship, arts center

**W**ithin the span of three short months, Ray Osterhout, retired group vice president and underwriting and marketing manager for Swiss Reinsurance Corp., and his wife, Wanda, have given \$2 million to Binghamton University — \$1 million each to two very different programs.

Through an endowment announced in December, the Ray and Wanda Osterhout Distinguished Professorship in Entrepreneurship was established to support the continued growth of one of the



*Major gifts from Ray and Wanda Osterhout will support both the School of Management and the Anderson Center for the Arts.*

School of Management's most innovative new programs.

Before the end of February, President Lois B. DeFleur announced the naming of the Osterhout Concert Theater in the Anderson

Center for the Arts after the Osterhouts provided an additional endowment to support the facility.

"If it wasn't for Binghamton University, this area would be a lot

sadder now. We've given these gifts because this is our home and for three other reasons," Ray Osterhout said. "We want to, we can and it's the right thing to do."

"Through the generosity and vision of Ray and Wanda Osterhout, the University will not only provide our business students with a superior understanding of entrepreneurial theory and practice, as well as opportunities for experiential learning and mentoring to help them succeed in the marketplace, but will also bring the gifts of music, theater and other arts to students, faculty, staff and the community for generations to come," DeFleur said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### EVENTS CENTER READY TO ROCK

**T**he Jan. 31 tipoff against the University of Hartford was much more than the start of an exciting Bearcats basketball game. As the first game in the new Binghamton University Events Center, it marked the beginning of a whole new era in University athletics.

"This is an exciting milestone in the life of our University and the Greater Binghamton community," said University President Lois B. DeFleur.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## OSTERHOUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Their support will potentially create new businesses and renewed economic activity in our region and state while we continue to bring the world’s best performers to what is already an internationally renowned stage,” she added.

“This gift for our entrepreneurial program will transform the school and move us to the next level,” said Upinder Dhillon, dean of the School of Management. “We plan to take a leadership role in entrepreneurial

training and work with this area to support economic efforts and encourage new business.”

Osterhout’s gift to the Anderson Center will help maintain the high integrity of its technical equipment, as well as the high caliber of performances, said Floyd Herzog, director of the center. “Artistically, this gift will help us continue bringing the finest artists from around the world to the Osterhout Concert Theater stage. It will have a significant impact on the lives of thousands of people.”

“We appreciate these extraordinary gifts, which further demonstrate the commitment of Ray and Wanda Osterhout to the enhancement of the Greater Binghamton community through their support for what they believe is the community’s strongest asset — Binghamton University,” said



Ray and Wanda Osterhout join University President Lois B. DeFleur (center) at a reception in the couple’s honor.

Thomas Kelly, vice president for external affairs. The Osterhouts have close ties to the community. Both graduated from high school in Windsor, N.Y. They married while Ray attended Syracuse University on a full

scholarship. His talent in cross-country running led to a series of collegiate records and prestigious individual and team championships.

Osterhout then completed a five-year Chartered Property-Casualty Underwriter certification program at Bryn Mawr. After working with a New York-based company for several years, he and a partner launched their own reinsurance firm for a time.

While working for Swiss Reinsurance, Osterhout invested in a private insurance start-up based in Nashville. The company recently enjoyed a highly successful IPO. Osterhout now serves on its board of directors and chairs several of the board’s committees.

# Believe!

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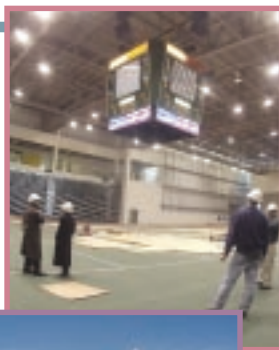
## REFURBISHING A PERFORMING ARTS “JEWEL”

Ray and Wanda Osterhout aren’t the only friends of Binghamton University who have chosen recently to make a gift to the Anderson Center for the Arts. The Osterhout Concert Theater will benefit from an updated sound system and new stage curtains, thanks to a major gift from community resident James Ross Rinker and the Rinker Ross Memorial Foundation.

Rinker said he wanted to do something that would be of lasting benefit to many, and that reflects his personal goals and

values. “This will benefit the Binghamton campus and the Greater Binghamton community at large,” he said. “It will touch a number of people’s lives.”

The Anderson Center, which opened in 1986, began a fund-raising initiative last year with the goal of upgrading its technical equipment and stage furnishings, continuing the center’s high-quality international programming, and meeting and enhancing its educational goals. The center draws 100,000 people to campus each year.



The Jan. 31 men's basketball game against the University of Hartford marked the official opening of the Binghamton University Events Center. Right, a series of photos illustrates progressive construction of the \$33 million facility.

## Events Center . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The \$33 million Events Center was built with money appropriated from the State University Construction Fund, but those funds may not be used for furnishings and equipment. Many alumni, corporations and friends have come forward to support the "Building the Legacy" initiative, raising funds for the Events Center, athletic facilities, programs and scholarships, with more than \$3.67 million in private gifts.

More than just an athletic facility that can seat up to 6,000 for basketball, the Events Center will also play host to hundreds of University, educational and community events each year. Cheers and applause will resound at concerts, summer camps and sports clinics. On May 16, Commencement will be held on campus for the first time – the new facility will eventually seat up to 8,000 for special events.

The Events Center will also be one of the focal points of competition in this summer's Empire State Games, July 28-Aug. 1. The games

will draw tens of thousands of athletes, family members and friends from across New York state.

The Events Center is the largest facility of its kind in the America East Conference and one of the largest in central New York state and northeast Pennsylvania. Construction of the 156,000-square-foot facility began in 2000 and was completed nine months ahead of schedule.

More than 100,000 visitors are expected to attend events at the center each year, contributing significantly to the region's economy.

The Events Center will help Binghamton University compete for the brightest, most talented scholar-athletes, and offers them an excellent venue for athletic training as well as conference and regional NCAA competitions. The move to Division I has already increased the exposure of University athletics in such major media as CNN, ESPN, *The New York Times*, *USA Today* and the *Washington Post*.

### Binghamton University "BUILDING THE LEGACY" DONORS

*Binghamton University gratefully acknowledges those who have supported the "Building the Legacy" fundraising initiative.*

#### Significant Corporate Partnerships

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Marilyn M. Wasserman and  
Stephen R. Wasserman '74

*Listing as of Feb. 10, 2004*

Join the "Legacy." For more information, contact Thomas Brush, director of development for athletics, at 607-777-6389.



*Major corporate gifts help the Watson School celebrate 20th anniversary*

## Supporting student diversity, faculty development, labs

**B**AE Systems Platform Solutions, IBM Corp. and the Eastman Kodak Company are helping to mark the 20th anniversary of the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science with gifts that encourage more under-represented minorities to enter careers in high technology, maintain laboratories as state-of-the-art teaching facilities, and help recruit and retain an excellent faculty.



*William Berical*

“Committed industry partners helped found the Watson School, and it has continued to receive generous support throughout 20 years of growth and innovation,” said University President Lois B. DeFleur.

“The Watson School is a major asset to the community – especially to companies like BAE Systems that benefit from having access to such a large base of engineering talent,” said William Berical, vice president of engineering at BAE Systems Platform Solutions and chair of the Watson School Advisory Committee. In his role as chair, Berical was a key player in securing BAE Systems’ gift and those from Advisory Committee member companies IBM and Kodak.

“Technology has emerged as the driver of the world’s economy, and the Watson School will play an important

role in preparing future generations to succeed in that environment. In that light, we consider this grant to be an extremely sound investment,” he said.

Watson School Dean Charles R. Westgate said the gifts recognize the school’s advancement over its 20-year history into a leading engineering institution that plays a critical role in economic development throughout New York state and beyond. “I especially appreciate the generosity of our friends who face real challenges in

today’s economy but who recognize the importance of this investment in the future of our school,” Westgate said.

Half of BAE Systems’ gift of \$100,000, along with Kodak’s gift of \$10,000, will support greater diversity among students of engineering and computer science by providing resources for the Binghamton Success Program, as well as peer mentoring and exchange experiences for under-represented minority students.

### PROGRAM HELPS MINORITY STUDENTS TO EXCEL

**A**frican Americans, Hispanics and American Indians account for more than 25 percent of the population of the United States. But fewer than 10 percent of engineering and computer science graduates from American universities are members of these ethnic groups.

The Binghamton Success Program (BSP), funded by the National Science Foundation, works to increase the number of minority students majoring in engineering, math and the sciences, and encourages them to continue on to graduate school.

“These students are incredibly bright, high achievers from good schools,” said program coordina-

tor Karen Catalano. “They’ve all made the top of their class, but they’ve never learned how to study.”

About 150 students are enrolled in the program, which offers content-specific study strategies, tutoring, networking and peer mentoring.

The program has shown demonstrable results, Catalano said. The number of BSP students participating in summer research programs has jumped, and grades have improved. Just two of 143 participants dropped out of school last year, a significant reduction from previous years. And 48 percent of BSP participants enrolled in graduate school in 2002, up from 22 percent the previous year, she said.

—20th Anniversary—  
**WATSON SCHOOL**

## \$3M grant will “transform” curriculum

**U**GS PLM Solutions, the product lifecycle subsidiary of EDS, has awarded a grant of more than \$3 million in computer-aided design (CAD) software to support undergraduate engineering students at the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science.

The 600 seats of Solid Edge software are the largest single gift-in-kind in Watson School history and a capstone to events marking the school's 20th anniversary year.

“This gift will have a transformational impact on our undergraduate engineering curriculum,” said President Lois B. DeFleur. “The support of corporate friends such as UGS PLM Solutions enables us to enhance the Watson School's excellent programs, faculty, staff and students.”

Binghamton University is among a number of institutions that have received multimillion-dollar

software grants from UGS PLM Solutions. The grants provide leading-edge technology to enhance the talent and skills of university graduates who, in turn, will help their future employers to become more competitive in an increasingly complex global environment.

“UGS PLM Solutions is pleased to provide this grant to Binghamton University,” said Stephen Brown, vice president of channel sales in the Americas for UGS PLM Solutions. “Today's leading manufacturing and technology companies compete on the basis of time to market, production cost, quality and innovation. Students must have the opportunity to gain experience with technology that supports these objectives. We hope that our support for Binghamton's excellent engineering programs will add value for both its students and the manufacturing community.”

“Today's engineers need to



*Professor Roy McGrann will use the software donated by UGS to introduce undergraduate students to the complexities of computer-aided design. Pictured here with McGrann is Eyal Cohen.*

understand and apply computer-aided design in myriad applications,” said Charles R. Westgate, dean of the Watson School. “With the support of UGS, our students will be exposed to cutting-edge software from their freshman year through their graduation, preparing them for success in their careers.”

“The Watson School is dedicated to providing greater opportunities for under-represented students majoring in engineering and computer science,” Westgate said. “These gifts will support programs that prepare our highly talented students of color for success in the workforce and for advanced study.”

Alumnus James Manchisi '82 helped secure the gift from Kodak. Manchisi obtained his master's degree from the School of Advanced Technology, predecessor of the Watson School.

“As a company headquartered in New York state, Kodak is proud to support our universities' initiatives to provide quality educational opportunities for all of New York's citizens,” said Manchisi, president of Commercial and Government Systems and vice president of Eastman Kodak.

The remainder of BAE Systems' gift will be used for instructional laboratory enhancements, and a \$25,000 gift from IBM will assist the Watson School in faculty recruitment and development.

“This gift will greatly assist in supporting our newly hired faculty with their research and will advance our national reputation,” Westgate said. “We have been most fortunate in recruiting outstanding young faculty to the school, and it is vital that we help them succeed.”

“IBM is pleased to support the growth of the Watson School in size and stature,” said Diana Bendz, senior location executive of IBM Corp. in Endicott. “Recruiting and retaining key faculty is essential to this growth.”

# CLASS BREAK



*Sophomore Graham Munro celebrates as the men's soccer team beats Northeastern to capture the America East conference championship.*



*New York State Attorney General Elliot Spitzer delivered the University's annual Abraham J. Briloff Lecture Series on Accounting and Society. Spitzer discussed ethics in financial markets.*



*Left, athletics staff member Dave Simek checks out a quilt crafted from T-shirts donated from University alumni. About 150 T-shirts were donated overall and will be used to make five separate quilts, each with a different theme.*

## B DIALOG

The average combined SAT score of BU freshmen has jumped 20 points over the past two years to 1235. In terms of selectivity, BU ranks with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

*Source: BU Office of Institutional Research*

*University President Lois B. DeFleur hangs a mitzvah card during Hillel/Jewish Student Union and Chabad House's Mitzvah Marathon, a 12-hour event that asked members of the campus community to perform good deeds.*



*A record-breaking crowd attended the first game ever played in Binghamton University's new \$33 million Events Center Jan. 31, as the men's basketball team defeated Hartford 75-68.*



*This work by Dave Berrang '87, titled **Autumn**, was featured in an alumni art exhibit organized by the University Art Museum and the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.*



*An honorary doctorate of letters is conferred upon Kemal Guruz (above), president of the Higher Education Council of Turkey, by University President Lois B. DeFleur and SUNY Chancellor Robert L. King. During the same ceremony, former Turkish president Suleyman Demirel (left) received a SUNY citation, the highest award conferred by the system. Guruz and Demirel were commended for their work to advance educational opportunities for Turkish students.*



## Progress Report



• **The A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation** donated a \$14,500 matching grant to Binghamton University's Decker School of Nursing to fund Facts for Action, which provides stroke treatment and other heart-health education programs in Delaware County.

• **The Hoyt Foundation's** \$59,675 gift is supporting **Center City Coordination**, a Binghamton neighborhood revitalization program that pairs the University with 25 community agencies.

• **TIAA-CREF** has donated \$12,500 for a lecture series in the **School of Management**.

• **Marilyn M. Myers '73** gave a leadership gift to the **Clifford E. Myers Fund** in honor of her late husband, a professor emeritus of chemistry who helped establish BU's Materials Research Center.

• **Saul Levin and Ruth E. Levin '72** have donated leadership gifts to the **Saul & Ruth Levin Fund**, which supports students of Greek, Latin and other languages, and the **Levin Assistantship Fund**, which supports a graduate assistantship in classical and Near East studies. Saul Levin is a distinguished professor emeritus of ancient languages.



• **Dr. Thomas C. Brown '61 and Lillian Brown** donated a leadership gift to enhance the **Dr. Thomas '61 and Beverly Adler Brown Scholarship** for students interested in health careers.

• **Visions Federal Credit Union** made a major gift to the **Anderson Center for the Arts**.

### DIALOG

"When state appropriations for higher education are cut, tuition tends to go up."

— *Joni Finney, vice president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, responding to a survey that showed tuition hikes at state colleges and universities in 37 states, almost all of them made as a result of state budget cuts.*

Source: CNN

## Ways TO Give

**Giving to Binghamton University shows that you believe in giving deserving students an affordable, top-quality public 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.**

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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.

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## In Memoriam

# A legacy of dedication, giving back

**F**aculty members at Binghamton University dedicate their lives to teaching, mentoring and research. Often, they give back to the University in other ways too. Three recently deceased professors emeriti – Paul Weigand, one of the original faculty members of Triple Cities College and, later, Harpur College; Christian “Pete” Gruber, who taught English and theater, also in Harpur; and Philip Piaker, a professional accountant who taught in the School of Management for 40 years – have given not only of their knowledge and expertise, but also through major gifts that will have a lasting and significant impact on the quality of academic excellence at Binghamton. They are deeply missed.

### Paul Weigand

#### Professor emeritus of German

A native of Austria, Weigand taught at Triple Cities College and Harpur College for 32 years. He lived alone for most of his life and had no heirs. Upon his death last year, he left an estate of \$1 million to Binghamton University.

The gift endowed support for undergraduate and graduate students majoring or minoring in German language or literature. The endowment may support tuition as well as studies abroad in Germany or German-speaking nations.

“This gift will energize our department in ways we could never have hoped for,” said Rosmarie Morewedge, associate professor and chair of the German, Russian and East Asian Languages department. “It’s a wonder-

ful gift that will enhance international studies for all our students.”

“Dr. Weigand was an excellent teacher who made every class exciting,” said a former student, Larry Silverstein ’54. “I will remember him as a person who made my Harpur experience pleasant and productive.”

### Christian “Pete” Gruber

#### Distinguished professor emeritus of English, theater

Gruber began his career at Harpur College when the fledgling school was just four years old. He taught the college’s first courses on theater, directed its first departmental performances and held several senior administrative positions. Gruber died last year after a lifetime of service to the University.

A performance studio in the University’s Fine Arts Building will be named in Gruber’s honor.

Gruber and his wife, Marilynn, endowed a scholarship for students of English and theater, as well as a gift annuity to increase the endowment. They also established a gift annuity to support the S. Stewart Gordon Memorial Scholarship, in honor of the late founding dean of Harpur College.

“He was the driving force behind the arts being a full partner with the humanities,” said Aldo Bernardo, distinguished service professor emeritus of Italian and comparative literature.

### Philip Piaker

#### Distinguished professor emeritus of accounting

One of the School of Management’s founding faculty members and co-owner of a prominent accounting firm, Piaker left a legacy of mentoring, philanthropy and an unswerving commitment to ethics in business and accounting. He died last fall.

Piaker’s gifts to Binghamton included SOM enrichment funds and support for an accounting professorship, gifts to the Judaic Studies Department in Harpur College, and support for a visiting professorship in creative writing and of the Milton Kessler Distinguished Poetry Reader Series.

Piaker once said his charitable giving reflected the qualities personally important to him: truth, clarity of expression and religious devotion.

“Beyond all else, he was dedicated heart and soul to his family, and to the life of Jewishness in his community and in the world,” said his colleague and friend, Liz Rosenberg, professor of English. “(He led) such a beautiful, remarkable and complex life – rich with accomplishment and cloaked in modesty . . . I have never witnessed such a young and flexible spirit in one so venerable and wise.”



*Philip Piaker*



*Christian “Pete” Gruber*

# Head of the CLASS

## Valerie Mincello '04 In the spirit of giving

Each Saturday, Valerie Mincello gets on a school bus and, with a group of other Binghamton University students, rides around the city to pick up underprivileged children. Through a program run by the Broome County Department of Social Services called SUNY Kids, Mincello and the other volunteers take the kids out for a day of fun — skating, bowling, to the movies or swimming in the West Gym pool. With donations from Newing Dining Hall, they also provide lunch to the children, who range in age from 5 to 13.

“The kids are great, and you really get to know them,” said Mincello, a senior in the School of Management

who has volunteered with the group since her sophomore year. “The relationships you build are priceless.”

In recognition of her work, this year Mincello was awarded the Robert Mancini '80 Scholarship for Community Service. Mancini established the scholarship in 1999 to help encourage students to develop a sense of responsibility toward the less fortunate and a commitment to helping them.

As a special thank-you, Mincello sent Mancini a handmade scrapbook of photos from SUNY Kids activities.

In addition to her work with SUNY Kids, Mincello has served as a volunteer tour guide for the University and as an admissions work-study student delegate. She was named Sophomore Student Employee of the Year in 2002.

Her major is finance with a Spanish minor, and she has also earned an international studies certificate. A study-abroad scholarship endowed by Dr. Israel Rosefsky enabled her to spend the spring 2003 semester at the International Institute in Madrid, Spain. All of her classes were held in Spanish, and she

boarded with a Madrid resident.

Mincello worried that her classroom Spanish wouldn't be adequate preparation, but the experience in total immersion was not as difficult as she had feared. “When I got there, I had more ability than I thought I'd have,” she said. “The first week was mind-boggling . . . but by the time I left, I wished I could have stayed longer.”

Upon graduation, Mincello will



Finance major Valerie Mincello enjoys helping underprivileged children in her spare time.

### ROBERT MANCINI '80

*“We hope to cultivate an environment at Binghamton University where students like Valerie, who work with underprivileged children, are held out as role models by which other students will be inspired to give back in their own way.”*

— Robert Mancini '80  
Managing director  
Goldman, Sachs & Co.



### B DIALOG

Over the past decade, the federal government is estimated to have spent as much as \$10 on upper-income students for every new dollar spent on the poor. Currently, about 25 percent of high-achieving poor students do not enroll in college at all.

Source: *The New York Times*

# THE “A” LIST

## MEDIA

• **Binghamton University** was named “the premier public university in the Northeast” by *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*. The University also received four out of four stars for selectivity by the Princeton Review’s *The Best 351 Colleges* and was ranked 35th among the nation’s top public universities by *U.S. News & World Report*.

• **David Sloan Wilson**, professor of biological sciences, was quoted in a New York Times special feature celebrating the anniversary of the Science Times section of the paper. The feature addressed what the newspaper saw as the 10 major questions facing scientists today.

• **Anna Klintsova**, assistant professor of psychology, was featured in a New York Times article that suggests that improvements can be made in children diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome if therapy is started early in life.

## STUDENT COMPETITIONS

• **Kristi Snyder**, PhD candidate in biological sciences, won the prestigious Peter L. Steponkus Crystal Award for her presentation at the Society for Cryobiology at an annual conference in Portugal.

• A five-member team of students from the **Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science** placed second in a national engineering design competition at the American Society for Engineering Education.

## FACULTY RECOGNITION

• **C.J. Zhong**, professor of chemistry, received a \$465,000 career award from the National Science Foundation to explore his nano-level research where structures are tens of thousands of times smaller than a human hair.

• Professor of mechanical engineering **Ron Miles** won a \$6.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to support his work in hearing aid technology.

• **Paul Goldstaub**, assistant professor of music, received an award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for the quality of his original compositions and recent performances.

• Economist **Kenneth Greene**, psychologist **Ralph Miller** and Africana studies professor **Isidore Okpewho** were named distinguished professors by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

• Associate professor of chemistry **Omowunmi Sadik** received an interim faculty appointment at Harvard University and was named a distinguished invited fellow for Fall 2003 at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

• **Immanuel Wallerstein**, distinguished professor emeritus of sociology, received the American Sociological Association’s Career for Distinguished Scholarship Award for 2003.

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“Because of Binghamton, I’m a different person now.”

— Megan Jones '04, Telefund caller

## OFF CAMPUS

### Grant funds partnership on interactive sculpture

The Discovery Center of the Southern Tier and the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science are partners in the creation of an outdoor interactive sculpture to be placed at the center's main entrance. The sculpture will be an introduction to the hands-on experiences offered in the center, a children's museum and activity facility in Binghamton.

The project is supported by a grant from the Marilyn Gaddis Rose and Stephen David Ross University



Binghamton engineering students Jackie Walsh, Gary Mackiewicz and Kate Williams hold a model of a 6-foot sculpture they are building for the Discovery Center of the Southern Tier.

and Community Projects Fund, which supports cooperative projects between the University and community non-profit agencies. The fund was established through a commitment by University faculty members Rose and Ross.

The interactive sculpture was the

only project chosen to receive a grant in 2003, for the maximum award of \$25,000. Watson engineering students are providing technical expertise to the project, while senior art student Jill Griffin has been working with the sculptor, Yvonne Robare Hobbs of Nichols.

### GIFT FUNDS RETROSPECTIVE ART EXHIBIT



A self-portrait of the artist (right) was included in a retrospective exhibit of the late Angelo Ippolito, professor emeritus of painting at Binghamton University and a major figure in abstract expressionism. The exhibit, held in the University Art Museum, was funded by a gift from the Judith Rothschild Foundation.



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