

Believe!



FALL 2007

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

DeFleur's McGraw Prize funds international innovations

Building on Binghamton University's innovative, comprehensive and nationally recognized programs that foster global awareness, President Lois B. DeFleur has established the Lois B. DeFleur International Innovation Fund to support University initiatives that provide opportunities for students to gain international experience. DeFleur used the \$25,000 gift she received as recipient of the 2007 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education to create the fund.

DeFleur was honored with the award because she is "a visionary and an innovator in educating students for a global age," according to The McGraw-Hill Companies. She was recognized with the McGraw Prize at a dinner at the New York Public Library on Sept. 25, accepting it on behalf of Binghamton University and its students.

DeFleur understands "that a well-rounded education is the new currency of today's global economy and [has] demonstrated a true commitment to helping young people develop the skill sets needed to succeed," said Harold McGraw III, chairman, president and chief executive officer of The McGraw-Hill Companies.

The University has advanced ground-breaking programs that encourage language education across the curriculum and dual-diploma

programs with other universities under DeFleur's leadership. "Today, we are on the cutting edge, and we're proud of the many national awards we've won," she said. "Our programs are innovative and comprehensive — from inside the classroom to out of the classroom, from the welcome banner on campus to our international arts programs. We also bring the world to campus with students from more than 100 nations, international festivals, our dual-degree program with Turkey and our University Award of Excellence in International Activities."

Continuing to increase the breadth and depth of international experiences will be enabled by the DeFleur International Innovation Fund, which will provide support for initiatives such as the recent international co-production of *West Side Story* by Binghamton and DUOC Universidad Católica in Chile.

"These things help us keep our 'eyes on the prize,'" said DeFleur. "That prize is global awareness, global respect and global competence."

The McGraw Prize annually recognizes outstanding individuals who



President Lois B. DeFleur

have dedicated themselves to enhancing learning and whose contributions are making a difference. Winners, chosen by a distinguished panel of judges from the education community, receive a gift of \$25,000 and a bronze sculpture.

Reynauld Smith, an American history teacher in Washington, D.C., and Vivien Stewart, vice president for education of the Asia Society, were also honored this year.

"The success of our students and the competitiveness of our nation are dependent upon new and creative thinking by educators," said McGraw. "The 2007 McGraw Prize honorees, like those who have gone before them, are focused on the challenges the next generation will be facing, and how to best help them learn and achieve."

DeFleur joins past honorees including former first lady and founder of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, Barbara Bush; former U.S. secretaries of education Richard Riley and Rod Paige; and Wendy Kopp, chief executive officer and founder of Teach for America.

Stipends make learning and living possible

Not everyone has the time, patience and passion to pursue a doctoral degree. Maureen Squires does. Earning the highest degree in an area of study, though, requires more than the right attitude, and until she received a teaching assistantship and stipend from Binghamton University, she lacked one crucial piece: resources to live while she learned.

Squires is seeking a doctorate in education, a degree she knows does not guarantee a hefty salary. She has made peace with this, possibly because her ambitions transcend a paycheck. With her education, she hopes to influence the paradigms that dictate how children are taught.

“My research is providing data that I can use to critique my effectiveness as a teacher,” said Squires, who plans to return to her classroom as a change agent. “I’m also hoping to gain the skills necessary to help other people analyze techniques and approaches through a different lens. I want to light a fire, so we all can question and critique traditional approaches.”

Squires is on a two-year leave from the LaFayette, N.Y., school district where she teaches English. Nearly 25 percent of her students are Native American. Many of them struggle to learn, because our approaches, she said, were designed for someone who typically brings different cultural insights, religious values and beliefs to the classroom.

“Our materials are not culturally relevant, they don’t bridge the gap between school and home life, and the tests are not culturally sensitive,” said Squires, who notes that without the stipend, the opportunity to learn and share transformational ideas would have been delayed at least a



Doctoral student Maureen Squires

decade. “My immediate goal is to get the skills I need to help influence the graduation rates among Native Americans.”

These skills, though, transfer not just across populations, but also to every individual. They are, Squires said, the foundation for recognizing that all students bring a unique set of experiences, capacity and goals with them.

At Binghamton, Squires is both student and teacher. She received a full-tuition scholarship and a \$15,500 annual stipend through a teaching assistantship. Approximately \$6,000 more than what Squires would have been offered prior to 2006, the stipend is part of an initiative to increase funds for graduate students by \$2.5 million. Binghamton’s average stipends (which vary by program) are now in the top 25 percent of what public universities offered for 2004–05, according to a survey conducted by the University.

The results provided empirically derived national averages for stipends in 2003 and 2004. The survey also clearly indicated that to remain competitive, stipends must increase by 3 to 5 percent annually.

“Supporting graduate students is a moving target,” said Nancy Stamp, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School. “But it is absolutely essential. As teaching assistants, they help shape the undergraduate experience, and our faculty need superior graduate students to help advance the research mission of the University. In every aspect of university life, the absence of talented graduate students would have a negative impact.”

Editor’s Note: Camille Paglia ’68 was incorrectly identified in the spring 2007 issue of *Believe!* Paglia is a scholar and culture critic who writes about poetry, as in her most recent book, *Break, Blow, Burn: Camille Paglia Reads Forty-Three of the World’s Best Poems*. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Tiny miracles

Learning is supposed to be fun. It should challenge and stimulate, capture children's imaginations and prepare them for greater successes. It can happen after months of practice or in a single second of astonishment. Just as there is no right way to learn, there is no right place to learn. At Binghamton's Institute for Child Development, the more ways, places and opportunities to learn, the better.

Six-year-old Jenna is a student at the institute. Although she doesn't communicate verbally, it is easy to see her passion for fresh air and freedom. She loves soaring on trampolines and swing sets and adores splashing in pools.

"Jenna learns a great deal through play," said Maureen Yacynych, Jenna's mother, adding that it is clear her daughter's preference is to play outside. Most learning for a student at the institute, though, happens inside because an outdoor Social Learning Center is still just a vision.

The vision, though, is clear. The Social Learning Center, or playground, will be adapted to the special physical and safety needs of children

like Jenna who are challenged by autism. The year-round playground will provide children with a safe place to play and learn outdoors. Students will learn the need for and importance of individual compromise, self-control

and keeping themselves safe; gain an ability to play independently and in groups; and build their motor skills, strength and coordination. Designed to facilitate staff observation, encouragement and instruction, the center will nurture interaction, communication and confidence.

"For some children, knowing how to play, how to interact and how to be a teammate comes naturally," said Yacynych. "For others, like Jenna, they take intense concentration and intervention. The center is designed with these goals in mind. I'm excited to see the little miracles that will



Special education teacher Jessica Hull with Jenna Yacynych

happen on this playground."

Yacynych's family has staunchly supported autism research for several years. This year they have chosen to support the Social Learning Center.

"The value that Jenna and our family receive from the institute is beyond words. We celebrate each skill that she masters," said Yacynych. "Someday, Jenna will communicate. Each skill that she learns opens doors for us to do more together as a family, and to us, that truly is a miracle."

For more information, contact Mary Woolson at mwoolson@binghamton.edu.

WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



Mathwon Howard

Some opportunities are too great to ignore. It may be that the time is right. Or the location is sweet. It could be that the team is truly inviting, or the challenge enticing.

"The pieces fell into place," said Mathwon Howard, who joined the Binghamton University Foundation in July as the assistant vice president for development, citing

all of the above reasons. "I feel very fortunate to have joined an organization that leads, with a team that innovates and results that touch thousands of lives."

As an assistant vice president, Howard will leverage more than a decade of experience in many aspects of

institutional advancement, including alumni relations, annual giving, board relations, events, research, major gifts and campaigns. He comes to Binghamton from the Eastern Michigan University Foundation, where he was the senior director of major gifts and campaign director.

At Binghamton, Howard hopes to conduct listening tours.

"We want to hear from the University's alumni and friends and really understand their interests," said Howard. "From there, we can introduce people to opportunities that will satisfy their personal goals and further the University's mission."

Howard's personal interests include reading, cooking and exploring libraries. He and his family live in Vestal.

CLASS BREAK



Rory Quiller '07, MBA '09 is a two-time NCAA Division I All-American pole vaulter. He won the 2007 East Region Outdoor pole vault title, was named the Most Outstanding Men's Field Athlete at the America East Indoor Championships three times and was named to the 2007 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Team.



Screen actor William Baldwin '85 addresses a group of about 200 Binghamton University alumni, friends and supporters during a reception he and his wife, Chynna Phillips, hosted at their Westchester County home, Saturday, May 12, 2007. Binghamton University President Lois B. DeFleur, center, watches. Baldwin concluded his speech by presenting DeFleur with a check for \$10,000 to show his support for the University.



Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (center, right) cited the Decker School of Nursing as a model program during a summer visit to campus. She toured the Innovative Practice Center, spoke with students and faculty, and tried her hand at the lab's simulations. President DeFleur (center, left), Dean Joyce Ferrario, and Vice President Gerry Sonnenfeld accompanied Clinton on her tour.



Roughly 2,200 freshmen and 850 transfer students joined the Binghamton University community this year, bringing with them impressive résumés and high aspirations. The entering class has an average SAT score approaching 1270, well above the national average of 1028.

Beginning a career with a jump start

Binghamton University graduates are sought by some of the most prestigious organizations in the country. Corporations that look for hard-working, ambitious, talented employees routinely begin their search at Binghamton University.



Gene Caiola '80 (with President DeFleur and Dean Seshu Desu) presented VISUAL Enterprise software to Binghamton University in September.

Many factors converge to prepare our graduates to meet professional challenges, including strategic opportunities for hands-on learning. Students in the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science and the School of Management recently acquired a new tool that facilitates firsthand exploration: VISUAL Enterprise, a world-class enterprise resources planning (ERP) software program.

With a commercial value of \$165,000, the gift-in-kind from Infor Global Solutions and Synergy Resources was made possible with the help of Gene Caiola '80 of Synergy Resources, who leveraged his longtime relationship with Infor to bring the software to campus. The gift also includes implementation and training services from Synergy Resources.

"It is important for young engineering and management students in this country to gain a working knowledge of ERP systems," said Caiola. "With the knowledge they gain by working with VISUAL, these students will have a competitive edge in the job market and be able to make an immediate, positive impact on manufacturing in this country."

Students will learn how to use this technology to manage the integrated supply chain for a company, ranging from manufacturing and purchasing to warehousing and distribution. With this knowledge they are equipped to assist large and small manufacturers to improve productivity and profitability by providing real-time data on business operations.

"The connection between the classroom and industry is the backbone of the Watson School," said Dean Seshu Desu. "We believe in being an active driver in the economic development of the region. In addition to educating students on the use of ERP systems, the gift will allow the school to further develop research and projects to keep companies competitive and nimble."

The VISUAL software also has the potential of serving organizations in the Greater Binghamton area and across New York state through research partnerships. These projects would offer businesses access to services that combine this ERP software and University expertise.



WITH AN EYE FOR ART

Born in 1924, John Frederick Kellogg was a radio transmitter during World War II for the Office of the Strategic Services, the precursor of the CIA. He worked in secrecy, gathering information from spies while he was based in China and India. Upon his return to the states, Kellogg went on to pursue a career much less dangerous but equally challenging: he became a teacher.

Kellogg came to Binghamton University early in his career to teach English. In 1966, he earned a master's degree in English from Harpur College. During the 1980s and 1990s, he taught at Binghamton Central High School and enjoyed a few years in retirement before passing away in 2006 at the age of 81. Kellogg's legacy lives on, though, through a gift-in-kind to Binghamton University's Art Museum.

Kellogg's impressive art collection, which he started by purchasing watercolors, embroideries and ceramics while he was stationed in China, is now available to University students and members of the community. This gift enhances the museum's permanent collection, which houses the most significant historical collections in the area.



Progress Report



Recent Gifts and Pledges

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund — \$26,000, on behalf of advisee **Joseph and Sharon Yacura**, for the Yacura Graduate Fellowship; and \$30,000, on behalf of advisee **Howard and Mindy Unger**, for the Unger Family Fund and Unger Family Scholarship Fund

Helen Fuld Health Trust — \$217,500, for the Fuld Health Trust Scholarship, Baccalaureate Nursing

Mr. Sheldon I. Goldfarb '73 — \$100,000 pledge, for the Harpur College Constitutional Law Professorship

Lockheed Martin System Integration — \$75,000 pledge, for Lockheed Martin Honors Scholars

Manley's Mighty Mart LLC — \$130,000 pledge, for Manley's Service Learning Initiative and the Center for Leadership Studies

Edwin E. Hatch Foundation — \$25,000, for the Hatch Foundation Scholarship

Miss Marilyn Link — \$25,664.70, for the Link Organ Music Professorship

A. Lindsay & Olive B. O'Connor Trust — \$131,118.78, for the O'Connor Scholarship in Harpur College

Mr. Robert F. Schumann — \$40,000, for the Schumann Steward of Natural Areas

THE "A" LIST

For the 11th consecutive year, Binghamton University is ranked among the nation's top 50 public universities, according to the 2008 edition of "America's Best Colleges" by *U.S. News & World Report*. According to the latest edition of the magazine, Binghamton University ranks 37th among public universities and colleges and 82nd among all universities. Binghamton is the top-ranked public school in New York.

The annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings represent the most comprehensive comparison of schools, based on a set of 15 widely accepted indicators of excellence. The rankings help parents and students evaluate and compare data compiled from more than 1,400 accredited four-year schools.

NPR highlighted Distinguished Professor **David Sloan Wilson** on its *Off the Page* program. Wilson's book, *Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think about Our Lives*, clearly presents basic evolutionary principles, discussing evolution and religion in a noncontroversial manner. Printed in 2007 by Bantam Press, his book has been reviewed in many publications, including *Science Daily*.

A \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health will fund a new malaria study at Binghamton University.

J. Koji Lum, associate professor of anthropology and biological sciences, is the principal investigator for the grant. Scientists hope to understand

how the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* evolved resistance to the once-effective medication, chloroquine. Malaria is responsible for 1-3 million deaths a year, most of which are children under 5 in sub-Saharan Africa, according to Lum.

A study conducted by Professor **Mark Lenzenweger** and colleagues at Cornell's Weill College of Medicine was recently published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. The research illustrated that an intensive form of talk therapy has the potential to reduce irritability, suicidal behaviors and angry behaviors.

Jonathan Krasno, a political scientist and expert on campaign fundraising issues, was quoted in *Forbes* magazine. The article examined the recent phenomenon of donors supporting multiple candidates. According to Krasno, "It's not unusual at this stage, when no one knows who the nominee will be, for people who are committed Democrats or committed Republicans to give money to two or more candidates they like best."

Distinguished Professor and paleoanthropologist **Philip Rightmire** was invited to comment on the significance of two fossils recently unearthed near a lake in Kenya. In the article published in *Scientific American*, Rightmire explained that the findings suggest that *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus* evolved separately, despite long-held views that *habilis* beget *erectus*.

University Downtown Center opens

The opening of the University Downtown Center in August was heralded by state and local dignitaries, University President Lois B. DeFleur, and University faculty, staff and students. Constructed on time and on budget, the building welcomed nearly 800 students and faculty from the College of Community and Public Affairs (CCPA) for the 2007-08 academic year.

CCPA offers programs in human development, public administration and social work, preparing students to assume leadership roles critical for successful communities.

"Locating this college in the heart of Binghamton makes tremendous sense," said Patricia W. Ingraham, dean of CCPA. "To complete the program, our students are encouraged to gain firsthand experience by interacting closely with community organizations. These partnerships benefit all involved. Our students'



The University Downtown Center opened in August — on time and on budget.

educations are enhanced through direct access to real-life challenges, and local agencies have access to additional resources who are talented, enthusiastic and eager to make a difference."

Also envisioned to support the community, the Washington Street building facilitates public access to



University President Lois B. DeFleur, left, talks with New York state Sen. Thomas W. Libous and Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo during the opening reception at the University Downtown Center.

the library's materials and scholarly journals, reference assistance, 36 public computers, and 24 laptops for daily loans. It is equipped with wireless capability throughout and includes 11 state-of-the-art classrooms, conference areas, office space for CCPA and Broome Community College officials, a coffee kiosk and student lounge. In

addition, the University Downtown Center features a three-story atrium with a view of the Chenango and Susquehanna rivers.

Constructed of brick and limestone, the 74,400-square-foot building is certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental (LEED) Design

Green Building Rating System and boasts high-efficiency mechanical equipment and lighting, energy-efficient windows, daylight views to reduce dependency on artificial lighting, and recycled building materials. The \$29 million state-of-the-art construction project used state funds, created 840 jobs and has resulted in an economic impact of \$57 million.



COMMENTS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY DOWNTOWN CENTER

"... A CATALYST FOR LONG-TERM GROWTH."

— Former New York state Gov. George E. Pataki

"... IMPRESSED WITH THE BEAUTY, BUT ALSO WITH WHAT WILL HAPPEN HERE."

— Broome County Executive Barbara Fiala '90

"... NEW CHAPTER AND PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMUNITY."

— New York Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo '83

Give a gift every year.
Make a difference
every day.



THE BINGHAMTON FUND

Powerful. Immediate. Essential.

“The telefund is in full swing right now: students are calling alumni and friends, asking for a gift to the Binghamton Fund. Supporting the Binghamton Fund is one of the most effective ways we can help the University because it is in the best position to know where the needs are greatest. These gifts are powerful. They go to work immediately and fund essential opportunities for students and faculty. The impact of your gift is truly compelling. In order to reinforce the importance of the Binghamton Fund, I have established a \$100,000 challenge grant and will match the first \$100,000 contributed to the Binghamton Fund by new donors. When the University’s students call, please join me and say *yes* to the Binghamton Fund.”

Mark Deutsch '81

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Binghamton, N.Y.

Believe! is a publication of the Binghamton University Foundation and the Office of Communications and Marketing. Please call 607-777-6208 or fax 607-777-2945 for a free subscription.