Luba and Ezra Hanz filled a pressing need on campus by supporting a lab equipment purchase that will enhance student learning: “I value education a great deal. Education is the source of light in anyone’s life,” Ezra says. Their son, Sam, is a sophomore at Binghamton University majoring in neuroscience and minoring in religious studies. He spends a lot of time in University science labs as part of his regular coursework and for special research opportunities with faculty.

Too few spectrophotometers in the biochemistry lab created challenges for students like Sam, teaching assistants and instructors. The Hanz gift enabled the purchase of a spectrophotometer plus some additional small equipment.

The spectrophotometer is the “work horse” instrument of the Biochemistry 426 laboratory course and is used in other biochemistry courses, according to Paulina Schertzer, an instructional support technician in the Biological Sciences Department.

Students use the instrument to determine the protein concentration of an unknown sample, she says. Students also purify lysozyme from egg whites and use the spectrophotometer to quantify its activity, to name some examples.

“We already have some spectrophotometers, but because they are such a frequently used instrument, we desperately needed more,” Schertzer says. “Now everyone will be able to work simultaneously, finish their work in the allotted time, and best of all, the teaching assistant will be able to help everyone more effectively.”

Sam dreams of becoming a doctor specializing in neurology or neurosurgery, curing diseases and winning a Nobel Prize in medicine. The high-quality education he is getting at Binghamton, particularly for the price, is already a “dream come true,” he says.

A reception was held in May on campus to celebrate five study-abroad scholarship programs. They are the Dr. Israel J. Rosefsky Language and Culture Scholarship, Evelio Figueroa Memorial Study Abroad Scholarship, Marjorie B. Turnbull Spanish Language & Culture Scholarship, Myers Family Study Abroad Scholarship and the Reeves-Ellington International Studies Scholarship.

Donor support increases access to the study-abroad experience so students can enhance their education in life-changing ways.
Richard S. Sarumi, a Binghamton University student, was remembered fondly by his fellow choir members. After his untimely death in 2013, his family established the Richard S. Sarumi Memorial Scholarship to honor his legacy. The scholarship is awarded to two undergraduate students involved with the University Gospel Choir, with preferences for a male student of African, Caribbean or African American descent; students with financial need; and residents of the five boroughs of New York City.

Lisa Lewis, Richard's sister, and Sola R. Sarumi, his father, have endowed this scholarship in his memory. The goal is to provide students with a supportive and enriching environment similar to what Richard experienced with the choir.

Elizabeth “Lisa” Reese, who touched many on campus and in the community as a longtime faculty member of the Decker School of Nursing and nurse practitioner in private practice, passed away in 2014 at age 66. She battled breast cancer after being diagnosed in 1998, but remained committed to making the best out of life and sharing her passion for nursing with others. The Elizabeth “Lisa” Reese Scholarship was established in her name. The scholarship supports a senior student in the Decker School of Nursing who is committed to the nursing profession and enthusiastic about patient care. Academic merit and financial need are also considered.

Gabriela Acobo ’16, who is the first-generation college student, shared her gratitude: “One former student captured what Lisa Reese meant to students when he said, ‘If I ever find myself in a difficult situation as a nurse, I know with confidence that I can think back to what Lisa Reese has taught me about nursing to find my solution.’”

Memorial scholarship to provide impact that lasts
You help students make their dreams come true

T he Binghamton University Gospel Choir provided a home away from home for Richard S. Sarumi. He referred to his fellow choir members as family. After Sarumi’s life was cut short in 2013 at age 33, his family wanted an enduring way to honor his life and legacy. His sister, Lisa Lewis, and their father, Sola R. Sarumi, established the Richard S. Sarumi Memorial Scholarship this year.

The scholarship is awarded to two undergraduate students involved with the University Gospel Choir, with preferences for a male student of African, Caribbean or African American descent; students with financial need; and residents of the five boroughs of New York City.

It warms my heart to know that students will benefit from this scholarship in my brother’s name,” Lewis says. “It is especially gratifying to know that the scholarship may benefit several young men who share common interests and background with my late brother.”

Richard was a Binghamton student for only two semesters, but the academic experience he had and deep and lasting friendships he formed with members of the choir and University community made a meaningful impact, Lewis says.

According to Lewis, Richard transferred to SUNY College of Old Westbury in part to contribute to the care of their mother who was battling breast cancer. Their mother predeceased Richard in 2003. Richard graduated from SUNY Old Westbury with a bachelor’s degree in management information systems. He went on to work in the information technology field.

Your scholarship support opens doors

David G. Reese and his late wife, Elizabeth “Lisa” A. Reese, MSEd ’86, touched many lives on campus and in the community as a longtime faculty member of the Decker School of Nursing and nurse practitioner in private practice.

Decker School of Nursing

My family was met with an abundance of challenges assimilating into a different culture and learning a new language but was determined to give me every opportunity to succeed. With their determination and the kindness of selfless people like you, I have succeeded in school and found a love for learning. Paying for college has been increasingly difficult. This scholarship is greatly helping me achieve my goals and I cannot thank you enough.

— Elizabeth “Lisa” Reese Scholarship recipient Gabriela Acobo, Class of 2016. First-generation college student. Immigrated, with her parents, to the U.S. from Peru at age 4. Dreams of becoming an ER nurse or member of a national disaster medical assistance team.