



COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

Halfway There!

Gifts from the heart push SU's Commitment to Learning campaign past the midpoint

STEVE PARKER



We've just passed the midpoint of the seven-year Commitment to Learning campaign, and the University is more than halfway to its \$300 million goal, having brought in \$157 million as of December 31, 1996.

Why has the campaign been successful? Two major gifts that came in December tell the story; both illustrate the fund-raising adage that "people helping people" is what motivates campaign commitments.

Lillian Slutzker is known to the SU community as the former owner of Manny's on Marshall Street. The only member of her immediate family to escape Hitler's "final solution," Slutzker left her native Budapest for England in 1939. She met her husband, Emmanuel—who'd served in Patton's army for three-and-a-half years—on D-Day, June 6, 1944, at a USO dance.

"A week later, he and the troops were somewhere in the woods," recalls Slutzker, "and he called me to propose." In 1947, she followed him to the United States.

In 1949, the couple opened Manny's, selling Penguin paperbacks and everything "from nails to toothpaste." "My husband had a rapport with the students," she says. When her husband's health declined in 1981, Lillian took over the business, expanding the store. "I discovered talents I never knew about," she says.

Slutzker sold the store in 1995. Now, she's making a \$100,000 outright gift to men's lacrosse scholarships, with a \$500,000 bequest to follow. The Slutzkers—including son Craig '79—were friends with Coach Roy Simmons—both father and son. "I like what Roy has done for lacrosse at Syracuse—

he's really put the sport on the map," she says.

Coach Simmons Jr. got to know Manny while running a framing shop on Marshall Street. Simmons shifted to coaching just as Manny's expanded to sell athletic gear.

Lillian Slutzker's gift of two endowed scholarships surprised Simmons. "It's the third largest gift to athletics," he says. "We're all thrilled. She's been very generous."

Daniel Kaseman, who graduated with an M.B.A. in 1980, is also giving in recognition of a long relationship. Kaseman attended Syracuse as a recipient of the Donald F. and Maxine B. Davison Scholarship and maintained a close relationship with Donald '27 (now deceased) and Maxine '33, both School of Management graduates.

"When I received that scholarship, I said to myself, 'Someday I'm going to return this favor,'" says Kaseman, who runs two Virginia-based companies. "At the time, I didn't know how; I and my four brothers and four sisters weren't born into any money."

Kaseman's gift is \$50,000 toward the John and Margaret Kaseman Scholarship Fund, named for his parents. "I'm making this commitment before I've had a lot of financial reward myself," he says. "But in the scheme of things, this was important to me."

Kaseman views the Davisons as mentors. "You can count on one hand the number of people who've had an effect on your moral values. They had that kind of impact on me. And the difficult part of this whole picture is setting the example, the way the Davisons did. To follow the example is easy."

Now both Kaseman and Slutzker are setting examples for future alumni.

To receive a free copy of Commitments, Syracuse University's newsletter about the Commitment to Learning campaign, please write or call Cheri Johnson at 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 100, Syracuse, NY 13244-5040. Telephone: 315-443-2865. Those interested in making a gift should contact Sid Micek, vice president for development and director of the campaign, at the same address and phone number.