

PHILANTHROPY

Musical Gifts

Martin '49 and Joan Messinger endow the deanship at the Eastman School.

By Helene Snihur

DOUGLAS LOWRY, THE EASTMAN SCHOOL'S sixth dean, will be named the first Joan and Martin Messinger Dean of the Eastman School of Music, thanks to a commitment from Martin Messinger '49, a life trustee of the University, and his late wife, Joan, who died in April.

The endowed deanship provides a source of permanent funding in support of programming and areas of critical need for the dean of the Eastman School.

"Marty has been a steadfast believer in the University, and his support of Eastman has been truly inspirational," Lowry says. "Joan and Marty's values, wisdom, and sense of family are only a few of their admirable traits, and we treasure their being part of the Eastman family."

Messinger has been a member of the Eastman School's Board of Managers since 1998, and his family has supported programs and initiatives across the University, including Rush Rhees Library and its facilities.

The Messingers also have established funds supporting the Judaic studies program, the student Debate Union, and the Messinger Library Recognition Award.

At Eastman, the Messingers helped to provide a new home for the Eastman Community Music School at 10 Gibbs



DEANSHIP: The endowed deanship, named in recognition of Martin Messinger '49 (right) and his late wife, Joan, will be held by Douglas Lowry (left), the school's sixth dean.

St., a facility dedicated in 2005 in memory of Messinger's mother, Anne Waltuck Messinger.

"I am proud to be associated with the Eastman School of Music, one of the world's premier institutions for music performance, scholarship, and entrepreneurship," Messinger says. "This commitment is just the beginning. It is my hope that oth-

ers will join us in honoring the Eastman School's legacy of innovation and artistry through generous endowed funding for its faculty leaders."

Lowry will be officially installed in the new deanship this fall. 

Helene Snihur is an assistant director of public relations at the Eastman School.

UPDATE

Student Found Not Guilty

Judge rules that junior Daren Venable acted in self-defense in stabbing.

A Monroe County District judge ruled this spring that junior Daren Venable acted in self-defense when he fatally stabbed fellow junior Jeffrey Bordeaux Jr. during a fight on the Fraternity Quad last winter.

The April ruling by Judge John DeMarco found Venable not guilty of all the charges he faced in the incident.

In electronic messages to the University community, President Joel Seligman acknowledged that criminal trials are difficult for all who are involved in them, but he requested that students, alumni, faculty, and

staff respect the verdict.

"No one who was not in the courtroom throughout the entire proceeding can fully appreciate the full extent of evidence that was presented to Judge DeMarco," Seligman said.

"The overarching tragedy remains that our student, Jeffrey Bordeaux Jr., has died. Let me again articulate my sadness and empathy for both families. Regardless of the trial verdict, the death of Jeffrey Bordeaux will weigh heavily on Daren Venable the rest of his life.

"I urge all in our community to respect this verdict, regardless of their feelings," he said. "Let us also always remember Jeffrey Bordeaux Jr."

Venable was charged in January after Bordeaux died from stab wounds suffered in a fight at a fraternity house on campus. DeMarco issued his ruling after hearing testimony during a weeklong, nonjury trial.

Sue Stewart, University vice president and general counsel, expects to finish an internal investigation of the incident this spring.

—Scott Hauser