The Dyslexic Mind:
Researcher Applies His Theory of Cerebrodiversity in Schools

PLUS: Snapshots from Reunion 2015
and Education Alumni Woven Into School’s Success
On Saturday, Nov. 14, Homecoming will march its way back to SUNY Oswego!

Homecoming celebration features:
• Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Luncheon
• GOLD Alumni-Student Networking Reception
• Campus/Building Tours, including “Hallcoming” for alumni to visit their former residence halls
• Women’s Hockey Game vs. Utica
• Women’s Basketball Game vs. Clarkson
• Homecoming Tailgate
• Men’s Hockey Game vs. Potsdam
• Art/Music Performance
• DJ Dance Party
• Homecoming Bonfire

Plus, Homecoming will include Spirit Week activities, a fundraising challenge, donor recognition events, other sports teams’ home games, the first meeting of the Reunion 2016 Planning Committee and more.

Visit alumni.oswego.edu/homecoming for the latest updates.
Alumni Establish a New Greek Life Fund 16
The Greek Life Fund will support educational programming and leadership development for Greeks on campus.

Education Alumni Woven Into School’s Success 20
Oswego alumni teachers and school administrators are a primary thread woven into the transformative School of Education fabric, as they host and mentor teacher candidates in their classrooms and have a symbiotic relationship with School of Education faculty and teacher candidates.

Bridging the Chasm 24
After 20 years studying brain development and learning, psychology graduate Gordon Sherman ’75, Ph.D., heads back to school to apply his theories by working directly with students with dyslexia.

More Than 1,000 Alumni Celebrate Reunion 2015 28
Alumni reconnected and reminisced with friends on our lakeside campus for the biggest alumni party of the year.

Commander’s Success Buoys Career Options for Women 34
C. Clair Wylie ’63 credits SUNY Oswego with teaching her leadership skills that prepared her for success as a U.S. Naval commander, chalkling up many firsts for women along the way.

PLUS
Campus Currents 3
Calendar 15
Class Notes 33
Alumni Bookshelf 38
Weddings 42
In Memoriam 44

ON THE COVER:
Illustration by Roy Scott/Ikon Images/Corbis
President’s Desk

Educating teachers is in SUNY Oswego’s DNA. Since our founding by Edward Austin Sheldon more than 150 years ago, we have incorporated and developed the most effective teaching techniques to educate students. In the late-1800s, that meant adopting “object learning” or using multisensory techniques to reach a wide range of learners.

Today, we continue that tradition, as you will read in this issue. We feature a psychology alumnus Gordon Sherman ‘75 whose career in researching the brains of dyslexic individuals informs his work today as the founder of the Laurel School of Princeton, a 1-8 grade school in New Jersey for students with dyslexia (story on page 24). The founding principle of his school—“to inspire students and equip them with the tools needed to achieve academic success…through a powerful combination of teaching methodologies and technology”—mirrors the student-centered, active learning style Sheldon instituted at SUNY Oswego so many years ago.

We remain a leader in education, and I was happy to appoint Pam Michel dean of the School of Education earlier this summer. Having served as interim dean since 2011, Dr. Michel led the school to a flawless reaccreditation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), whose team of reviewers indicated that Oswego excelled in and performed beyond expectations in all of the standards, including the self-identified area of excellence on field experience and clinical practice. Our excellence in teacher preparation has garnered attention and clinical practice. Our excellence in

Teachers and administrators from around the globe come to our campus to learn how to use technologies more effectively in their schools and classrooms. Our International Professional Achievement Academy, now in its second year, has achieved remarkable success with its cross-cultural programs, this year with delegations from China and India attending our workshops (story on page 22). Our education alumni support current Oswego students’ success by hosting and mentoring the future educators during their student-teaching placements (story on page 20).

Earlier this summer, more than 1,000 of our alumni returned to campus for Reunion 2015. (See photos on page 28.) Many of you dedicated your careers to educating generations of young people, and you shared stories about your time as teachers and as students at Oswego. You expressed gratitude to your alma mater about how fortunate you feel to have had such a rewarding career, and we are proud to celebrate your accomplishments and the impact you have made.

Now, as summer moves into fall, we welcome our new and returning students who, today, enroll in more than 110 majors and minors and come from all corners of the world. Although we have broadened our mission to educate students who will take roles in a variety of professions, we remain committed to a bold and progressive vision that SUNY Oswego will graduate leaders whose hands-on, minds-on philosophy will help make a positive difference for future generations.

President Deborah F. Stanley

with Passion & Purpose
The Campaign for SUNY Oswego

OSWEGO Alumni Magazine is printed on recycled paper with inks that are non-toxic, contain no heavy metals, and are composed of bio-derived renewable resources ranging from 25-40% (as a percentage of total ink weight).
President Stanley Hosts Town Hall Discussion With Students

In the spring semester, SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley hosted two “Conversations with the President,” a town hall-style forum for students to voice their concerns and opinions.

“These meetings give me the opportunity to see you and address your questions in person,” Stanley said. “There are so many things happening on campus and now is the time to talk openly about them.”

Nearly 50 students from various backgrounds and organizations asked questions about such topics as green initiatives, campus beautification and construction, parking, the course registration process, the tobacco-free “Oz Quits” program and end-of-semester celebrations.

President Stanley invited students to enjoy the Ozfest activities on the last day of classes. Ozfest is a new spring celebration coordinated by the Student Association and supported by the college. The daylong event attracted thousands and featured a concert with several musical acts, including B.o.B, Mac Miller, Big Sean and Timeflies.

One concern raised by Alex George ’16 was potholes and heaves in the sidewalks and roads around campus.

Associate Vice President for Facilities Services Mitch Fields helped explain that remedial measures are always being put into effect, but Oswego winters are rough on the walking paths and roads.

Almost $900 million in capital construction projects have taken place on campus over the last 15 years, Stanley said.

“We make sure that our projects meet high standards set by our office of sustainability,” she said.

Stanley said she expects to hold two or three meetings with students during the fall semester.

—Tyler Edic ’13

Students Celebrate Ozfest

The first Ozfest, a new spring celebration coordinated by the Student Association and supported by the college, featured games, rides and food in the quad near the Marano Campus Center. The highlight of the daylong festival was a concert featuring several popular musicians.

‘It’s On Us’ Campaign Seeks to End Sexual Assaults

President Deborah F. Stanley (front right) joins others around campus who take the “It’s On Us” pledge for sexual assault awareness April 21 in the Marano Campus Center. The pledge and photo were among a number of “It’s On Us” events during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Title IX Committee sponsored information sessions and teamed with other offices and organizations around campus to recognize and support victims of non-consensual sex and to promote an environment in which sexual assault is not acceptable.
Educators Hope to Inspire Future Teachers at Oswego

Dr. Joseph A. Merenda ‘50 M’54 and his wife, Marie, have been educators for many years, and they’re so passionate about education they established a scholarship to help inspire future teachers from SUNY Oswego.

But for Joseph, an Oswego native, the start on the path to becoming an educator may have begun at SUNY Oswego’s Campus School, where he attended second through eighth grades.

“We did wonderful things there,” said Joseph, who went on to become a teacher and principal. “We were so busy doing things, learning things, presenting things. Of course, we had the college right at our back door. Oswego was a place where teachers, and many student teachers, hovered over us, and were passionate about children and teaching. This experience gave me a positive outlook of the college and teaching.”

The Merendas met on the job; he was a teacher and she was the school secretary at No. 30 School in Rochester, N.Y. They married and had five children, Joseph Jr., Jean Merenda Conway M’95, Elizabeth, Rosemarie and Albert. After raising their children, Marie returned to school and became a teacher and principal herself.

Being educators strongly influenced their decision to establish a scholarship at Oswego.

“It made us become more active in our pursuit of providing more and better opportunities for all students,” Marie said. “It provided us with continuing interest and responsibility to be active participants in organizations that respond to the needs of children.”

The scholarship they established will be awarded to an incoming first-year SUNY Oswego student with financial need who enrolls in the School of Education. The first scholarship will be awarded for a freshman entering in fall 2015.

“We encourage the recipient to pursue excellence in his or her studies and to be passionate about teaching and educational opportunities for all students, as we are,” Marie said. “We want all children to be successful, especially those who are disadvantaged. We both taught in inner city schools, and we know educational opportunities are very important.”

—Edwin Acevedo M’09

Oswego's Summer Read Illuminates Animal-Human Divide

The Oswego Reading Initiative has chosen Karen Joy Fowler’s PEN/Faulkner Award-winning novel We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves as the summer read for the SUNY Oswego and greater Oswego communities.

Described as layered, funny and poignant, yet deeply human, the book takes on issues that cross academic disciplines and emotions: grief, love, ethics, scientific experimentation and animal rights, and what defines humanity, to name a few.

The ORI program encourages SUNY Oswego faculty to bring each year’s selection into classroom plans and organizes events to encourage discussion about the book on campus and in the greater Oswego community.

Fowler will appear on campus Wednesday, Sept. 30, for a talk and book signing, classroom visits and dinner with students, according to SUNY Oswego Associate Provost Rameen Mohammadi, who chairs the 33-member campus-and-commuinity ORI committee.

NYU Treasurer Addressed Honors Students

Stephanie Pianka ’87, treasurer and vice president of financial operations at New York University, addresses the Honors Convocation on April 17 as keynote speaker. Pianka, a computer science graduate from Oswego, oversees finance for the nation’s largest private research university. Sponsored by Vega, the SUNY Oswego student women’s honor society, the Honors Convocation recognized the achievements of approximately 115 students throughout the disciplines.
College Launches New Diversity Awareness Campaign

A diversity awareness initiative, “Shine the Light on Oz,” is the latest in a series of projects nurtured over the past year by the college’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. The campaign encourages meaningful conversation—in person and on social media—among students, faculty and staff about understanding differences in realms such as race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion and socioeconomic circumstances.

Jerald Woolfolk, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, launched a campus-wide task force last April to improve the college community atmosphere and to educate the campus about issues of diversity. College President Deborah F. Stanley recently named Woolfolk the college’s interim diversity and inclusion officer.

Kiplinger’s Names SUNY Oswego a 2015 Best Value College

SUNY Oswego has been named to Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine’s list of 100 best values in public colleges for 2015. The ranking cites four-year schools that combine outstanding academics with affordable cost.

Kiplinger’s assesses quality according to metrics that include the admission rate, the percentage of students who return for sophomore year, the student-faculty ratio and the four-year graduation rate. Cost criteria include sticker prices, financial aid and average debt at graduation.

SUNY Oswego’s distinctive Oswego Guarantee, which holds a student’s cost for room and meal plans consistent for four consecutive years, helps keep costs down for families over four years.

The Kiplinger rankings, however, are based on first-year costs alone and do not figure in this aspect of Oswego’s cost advantage. The complete Kiplinger rankings are available online at kiplinger.com/links/college.

Alumna and Husband Establish Accounting Excellence Fund

Nancy Smith Salisbury ’93 sees how her support makes an impact on campus firsthand. Salisbury and her husband established the Nancy ’93 and Kurt Salisbury Scholarship, awarded to a highly involved student in the School of Business.

The first scholarship recipient, Lindsey Forte ’12, spent a semester abroad because of the scholarship, Salisbury said. Dianora De Marco ’14 M’15, who received the scholarship for two consecutive years, recently obtained a highly competitive post-graduate fellowship at the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB.

“Oswego definitely prepared me for my career at Ernst & Young, and I want students to have the same success I have had.”

—Nancy Smith Salisbury ’93

“I reached out to some friends at the FASB and talked with Dianora a couple times to help her prepare for the interview,” Salisbury said. “Dianora got the position on her own merits. That was a great experience to work with and help her.”

With guidance from Tom Sullivan ’89, Salisbury started her career at Ernst & Young after graduation following an on-campus interview at the Big Four accounting and professional services firm. She considers his advice a significant factor in her success.

“Obviously, working hard in the classroom and getting good grades are important,” Salisbury said, “but that only goes so far. Build your network. Reach out to alumni who you know are out there and willing to help.”

To complement their scholarship, Nancy and Kurt recently established the Salisbury Accounting Excellence Fund with a gift to Oswego, matched equally by Ernst & Young, where Nancy is a partner. The endowed fund will support the accounting program in Oswego’s renowned School of Business.

“Kurt and I first established the scholarship fund because it’s important to us to help individual students,” Nancy said. “In talking to faculty and staff around campus, we’ve gained an appreciation for the support needed by departments and professors as well.”

Salisbury has been involved at Oswego since graduating, serving as vice president of the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors, mentoring students through the ASK program and consistently providing financial support for today’s students. She has supported The Fund for Oswego by serving as a challenger in the 2014 Lakers Athletics Challenge and in March Matchness 2013, both highly successful fundraising initiatives.

“Oswego definitely prepared me for my career at Ernst & Young, and I want students to have the same success I have had,” she said.

—Tyler Edic ‘13

The Campaign for SUNY Oswego

With Passion & Purpose
Three Alumni Provide Inspirational Send-Offs to New Graduates at Commencement Ceremonies

Three distinguished alumni were the featured speakers at SUNY Oswego's three 154th Commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 16 in the Arena and Convocation Center in the Marano Campus Center.

The speakers were: Margaret “Peggy” LaTulip Focarino ’77, now retired commissioner for patents in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences ceremony; Yvonne Spicer ’84 M’85, vice president at the National Center for Technological Literacy, at the School of Education ceremony; and Fritz Messere ’71 M’76, the founding dean of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, at the combined ceremony for his school and the School of Business.

Before delivering her address, Focarino received an honorary doctor of science degree from the State University of New York. She graduated with a degree in physics, the only woman in her major, and then began a 37-year career as a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, eventually becoming the first woman to be named commissioner for patents. She retired in June.

She offered some advice to graduates: embrace diversity and seek differing opinions, keep a sense of humor and perspective, be open-minded, be humble, put people first and never give up.

“You get to decide what kind of footprint, what kind of impression, you want to make during your life’s journey—a journey that will be shaped by the quality of your decision-making and the people you surround yourself with,” she said.

During the School of Education ceremony, Spicer told the graduates that the word “teach” is an acronym: T is for tenacity. E is for excellence. A is for accountability. C is for compassion. H is for heart.

“Class of 2015, if you choose to teach, bring your A-game,” she said. “Children don’t have time to waste. They expect your best. They deserve your best.”

During the final Commencement ceremony, Messere entertained graduates and their families by quoting Douglas Adams' The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and drawing on audio clips and visuals to punctuate his remarks.

“SUNY Oswego is truly one of America’s best schools and very best financial deals,” Messere said.

“Make sure that you give back to the community along the way,” he said. “Be a volunteer, run for local office, find ways to help the needy and make a real difference.”

—Margaret Spillett
Commencement Eve Torchlight 2015

Oswego Alumni Association’s 2015 Outstanding Senior
Laura Pavlus Kelly ’09 (left), alumni relations director, presents public relations major Bridget Jackson ’15 of Buffalo, N.Y., with the Oswego Alumni Association’s 2015 Outstanding Senior Award at the Commencement Eve Dinner on Friday, May 15. Jackson was selected based on her academic achievements, campus involvement and service to her community. “Receiving this award could not be any more of a dream,” Jackson said. “So many of my classmates are truly deserving of this award. I am honored.”

Keynote Speaker Scott Wiley ’99 Welcomes Class of 2015 into Oswego Family
Torchlight keynote speaker and president/chief executive of The Ohio Society of CPAs Scott Wiley ’99 delivers humorous and heart-warming remarks to graduates and their families during the Commencement Eve Torchlight Dinner: “And to the Class of 2015—tonight, as your time as a student draws to a close, it is important to know you, too, are our family. Our Family—79,000 strong. We are sending you off to do big things. To inspire. To dream. To create what today is unimaginable. In doing so, you will face heady winds, challenging times, uncertainty and doubt. But you will also have this family by your side, each day rooting for you, cheering you on and encouraging you to become the best version of yourself.

“As you do, I leave you with these thoughts: Live your dreams to the fullest; seek and create every opportunity that you can; and as Simon Sinek reminds us, start with ‘why?’ … It is the question that matters most. If you can answer that question, you can chart your course to the future you envision.”

Student Speaker Reminds Graduates to Carry Oswego Memories Into Tomorrow
Anja Godlewski-Dykes ’15 reflects on her four years at Oswego during the Commencement Eve Torchlight Ceremony on the north lawn outside of the Marano Campus Center. “The people we have met, memories we have created and sunsets we have watched will always be part of who we are,” she said. “And although we will leave Oswego, Oswego will never truly leave us. We will be reminded of our beloved alma mater in every sunset we see—no matter where we are.”

Nicole Wilson ’15 and President Stanley
Noteworthy News

Oswego Again Recognized as ‘Green College’

SUNY Oswego is designated among the nation’s top “green colleges” again this year, receiving 92 out of a possible 99 points, in the sixth annual edition of “The Princeton Review’s Guide to 353 Green Colleges.”

A charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, Oswego offers an academic program in sustainability studies and has designed all new facilities since 2005 to meet at least the silver rating of the U.S. Green Building Council standards of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

The guide recognized Oswego for its:
- on-campus facilities for bicycle commuters (bike storage, showers and lockers), campus shuttle and car sharing services;
- formal sustainability committee and a sustainability office;
- a waste diversion rate of 19 percent; and
- spending 13 percent of the college’s food budget on locally grown or organic products.

The free 218-page guide can be downloaded at www.princetonreview.com/green-guide.

College Expands Opportunity with Syracuse Campus

With the official designation of the SUNY Oswego Metro Center as a branch campus, people residing or working in the area will be able to complete in-demand degree and certificate programs in Clinton Square. Courses in support of master’s and graduate certificate programs have been offered at the center for more than six years, but until now students were not able to take all courses necessary to complete a degree or certificate at the Syracuse location.

The subject areas of the degrees and certificates newly approved for Oswego’s Syracuse campus are ones that lead directly to professional careers. Master’s level programs lead to the MBA, MS in mental health counseling and MST in childhood education. A post-graduate Certificate of Advanced Study in educational leadership is available to professionals in education. And advanced certificates are offered in gerontology, integrated health systems and health information technology. By fall 2016, students will be able to transfer in undergraduate credits and complete bachelor’s degree requirements with upper division classes in business administration and public justice, with human development to follow. For more details, visit oswego.edu/syracuse.

RecycleMania Receives National Honor

Chelsea Frisbie ’15 (left) speaks about Garbage Pail Kids, a campus recycling education initiative, with zoology major Karen Alvarado ’16 and biology major Sebin Joseph ’16 at a recycling station near Crossroads in Marano Campus Center. Co-founded by Frisbie, a broadcasting and mass communication major, and by Sustainability Program Coordinator Jamie Hutt Adams ’01, the effort stationed volunteers near waste receptacles to clarify recycling guidelines. SUNY Oswego won one of only eight honors nationally in the first-ever 3R Actions Challenge sponsored by RecycleMania, thanks to more than 700 texts and photos of the project sent through myActions.org.
2015 SUNY Chancellor’s Awards Recognize Student, Employee Excellence

The Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence are system-level honors conferred to acknowledge and provide SUNY-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. These programs underscore SUNY’s commitment to sustaining intellectual vibrancy, advancing the boundaries of knowledge, providing the highest quality of instruction and serving the public good.

2015 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence

Dianora De Marco ’14 M’15 of the Bronx, N.Y., five-year accounting-MBA major
Joshua Drake ’15 of Fulton, N.Y., biology major
Molly Matott ’15 of North Syracuse, N.Y., meteorology major
David Owens ’15 of Cato, N.Y., studio art major
Eyub Yegen ’15 of Schwaebisch Gmuend, Germany, dual major in finance and applied mathematical economics

2015 SUNY Chancellor’s Scholar Athlete Award

Emma Geyer ’18 of Liverpool, N.Y., wellness management major, women’s soccer
Shawn Hulshof ’17 of Stouffville, Ontario, business administration major, men’s hockey

2015 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Professional Service

Andrew Michaelis ’91, systems administrator and Oracle database administrator
Gary Morris ’88, director of career services

2015 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Classified Service

John Ferlito, campus electrical supervisor

Honoring a Theatre Scholar

Henry Shikongo of the theatre department recently was chosen for SUNY’s prestigious Faculty Diversity Program, a three-year, salary-assistance and research award that enabled him to join the department on a tenure track as an assistant professor. An Ottawa, Canada, native, Shikongo earned an MFA from the American Repertory Theater Institute of Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University in 2013.

Hosting Prestigious ‘Metascience’ Journal

With K. Brad Wray, professor of philosophy, taking over as co-editor of the journal Metascience, the Springer publication will call SUNY Oswego its new headquarters. The journal is printed three times a year and publishes about 40 scholarly reviews of books in the fields of the philosophy, sociology and history of science in each issue, which are made available for purchase in advance at the Metascience website, http://link.springer.com/journal/11016.
Snapshots: Faculty Research and Creative Work

Combatting Obesity
Amy Bidwell (left) and Elizabeth Keida of the health promotion and wellness faculty meet in Mary Walker Health Center to talk about a program to help obese children in Oswego County and in northeast Brazil learn about nutrition, exercise and behavioral triggers for unhealthy eating. Thanks to earning a highly competitive grant from 100,000 Strong in the Americas, Oswego and SUNY Ulster, along with a Brazilian university, will recruit college students to help implement the 16-week program in both nations.

Preserving an Indigenous Language in Paraguay
Tracy K. Lewis, distinguished teaching professor in the modern languages and literatures department, has been named a member and honorary professor in the Ateneo de Lengua y Cultura Guarani in Paraguay, in recognition of his career-long dedication to Guarani, the South American nation’s co-official language, with Spanish. Throughout his career, Lewis has perpetuated Guarani—the only indigenous language of the Americas whose speakers include a large proportion of non-indigenous people—through his poetry, many literary translations, conference appearances, advocacy for the language and other scholarship.

Using Games to Inform Scholarship
Computer science faculty member Christopher Harris earned a Fulbright Scholar award to spend 10 months in Finland teaching courses in human-computer interaction and working with video-game developers and business people. He hopes to learn from Scandinavia’s successful gaming industry—birthplace of such games as “Angry Birds,” “Clash of Clans” and “Minecraft”—to improve student engagement in learning, users’ experiences in other realms and online business, among other areas.

Tracing Science Advances to Ancient Asian Culture
Alok Kumar, a professor of physics, wrote two books that focus on the multicultural nature of science and the role of ancient civilizations on the modern world. Sciences of the Ancient Hindus, published in 2014 by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, describes many discoveries and advances of the ancient inhabitants of the country now known as India. His next book, written with Scott L. Montgomery of the University of Washington, is A History of Science in World Cultures: Voices of Knowledge, to be published in 2015 by Routledge.
Recognizing a Young Faculty Researcher, Teacher

Christopher Chandler of the biological sciences department recently earned a highly competitive National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development grant. The award, the most prestigious the foundation gives to junior faculty, will provide more than $640,000 over the course of five years to fund advanced genomic research for Chandler and his students. The grant will allow Chandler and his students to expand their research and collect more data on isopods, commonly known as pillbugs or potato bugs.

“They are a special species that has bacteria that live in them that can cause them to change from male to female to ensure the survival of the species,” he said. “Understanding the sex chromosomes in the genes is very important. From an evolutionary standpoint, we think this is key to understanding how one species may divide into two species.” The grant will provide more hands-on research for students.

Chandler currently makes genomic research available in a small Biology 492 capstone class, but this grant can allow this work to become more cutting-edge, replicable and widely disseminated.

Chandler joined Oswego’s faculty in 2012 after earning a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from Iowa State University, followed by postdoctoral research at Michigan State University.

Creating an Interdisciplinary Multimedia Magazine

Graphic design majors Julio Valenzuela ’15 (left) and Guilherme Assis ’15 display a part of the work that has gone into the Exist magazine app, a collaborative project of student artists, writers, illustrators, filmmakers, musicians, editors, designers and others based on the Graphic Flash fiction-and-artwork exhibitions of recent semesters. With the assistance of nearly $10,000 from a SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grant, published Volume 1, Issue 1 of Exist, available for free on Appster for iPad.

Showcasing Student Scholarship

Quest, the annual day-long symposium, dedicated to sharing the scholarly and creative pursuits of students, faculty and staff at SUNY Oswego, celebrated 35 years in April.

Throughout the day, presentations spanning multiple curricula were held in the Marano Campus Center and the Shineman Center for Science, Engineering and Innovation. No regular classes were held so students and faculty could attend lectures and presentations of interest, experience research from their peers and support their friends and classmates.

During the poster presentation session in the Marano Campus Center, Roodline Cineus ’15, a biology major, presented her research, “The Abundance and Characteristics of Aquatic Tree Hole Communities in Three German Forests.”

“I like Quest a lot because not only do I get to teach others about my findings, but I also have the chance to learn about other projects,” Cineus said. “It’s a day that the professors become the students.”

The daylong event is coordinated by the Scholarly and Creative Activities Committee and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Find out more and see the full list of presentations at oswego.edu/quest.

―Tyler Edic ’13
Alumni Network Strengthens Students’ Experience

This spring, 51 alumni returned to campus through the Oswego Alumni Association’s Alumni-In-Residence program to share their expertise and to offer themselves as one of the first connections in SUNY Oswego students’ professional network. The program is made possible in part by The Fund for Oswego.

Alumnus to Students: Know Your Business

As vice president for the Syracuse-based company Haylor, Freyer & Coon, Tony Procopio Jr. ’85 navigates the intricacies of a complex insurance industry with precision, thanks to his Oswego roots.

Procopio highlighted his formative experiences with School of Business students.

“I was a kid from the city of Syracuse, one of seven children,” he said. “I considered a trade, like cabinet making. I attended and graduated from community college, but SUNY Oswego was the place where things came together.”

He started at Oswego as a computer science major, spending countless hours in the computer lab. He eventually switched to a management major, but the mathematics and computer science education came in handy in his professional work.

“I was able to gain entry as an underwriter, handling a large book of commercial business,” Procopio said. “That experience has proved invaluable in sales. I can provide clients with total insurance solutions.”

Procopio emphasized that whatever career path students choose to pursue, they need to “know their business.” He said to learn everything they can about it, even if it initially seems unrelated to their specific job responsibilities.

Procopio graduated from Oswego with deep campus connections, lifelong friendships and his wife, Julie Feck Procopio ’92, whose father, Donald Feck, is a retired emeritus professor of technology.

“I never thought I would be back, 30 years later, to speak in front of students,” Procopio said. “It’s an honor.”

—Jerry Jaworski

Alumnae Stress the Value of Clean Resume, Professional Online Presence

The Public Relations Student Society of America’s fourth annual “What’s Next?” seminar featured five panelists, including alumnae Mary Jo Godnick ’14, brand strategist for Terakeet in Syracuse, N.Y.; Traci Legonelli ’12, an associate public relations manager for Tipping Point Communications in Rochester, N.Y.; and Meghan Wells ’11, event manager for the OnCenter in Syracuse.

The panelists provided students with advice on finding jobs, the importance of networking and a glimpse of the professional world.

“Having an error-free resume is absolutely essential when applying for jobs,” Legonelli said. “I was the only applicant to send in a spotless resume, and I believe that’s what got me the interview.”

Wells used Oswego’s Career Services Office to aid in the creation of a clean resume to attract more attention from employers.

“Gary Morris ’88 over at Career Services helped me out with creating resumes and cover letters,” Wells said. “He even got me connected with LinkedIn, enabling me to build a network with other Oswego alumni.”

Moderator Anja Godlewski-Dykes ’15, a public relations major who attended the session all four years, said interacting with alumni and learning from their experiences prove to be vital for any student, regardless of the major.

“As a new graduate, it was interesting to hear how the panelists landed their first job and how they adjusted to post-grad life,” Godlewski-Dykes said.

—Ryan Haas ’15
Communication Critically Important to Business, Alumnus Tells Students

Dan Lopez ’09 is a pro at making the sales pitch, a skill he sharpened at SUNY Oswego and continues to hone at his job with a fast-growing Central New York startup called Plowz & Mowz.

The on-demand snow plowing and lawn mowing service has been a huge success, starting with eight plow subcontractors in Syracuse in 2013 and growing to 1,600 plows in 34 cities from Anchorage to Boston today. The company added 300 plows in Boston late last year, just in time for winter storm Juno to drop more than 2 feet of snow in January.

“The communication department at Oswego was really great at getting you to use your brain,” he said. “They’re pretty good at outside-the-box thinking.”

—Edwin Acevedo M’09

Take Advantage of Hands-On Experiences, Broadcasting Alumni Advise

The first Oz Empire State Panel, co-sponsored by the student-run TV station, WTOP, and the Oswego Alumni Association, featured meteorologist Patrick Cavlin ’13, post-production manager Barry Gliner ’84, broadcast engineer Ben Gordon ’13, reporter Tammy Palmer ’98 and media adviser and instructor Marie Villa ’11. Marissa Sarbak ’15 served as moderator.

The alumni, reflecting on their experiences at Oswego and leading up to their professional jobs, acknowledged WTOP as the steppingstone that began their careers. WTOP provides students with the opportunity to learn various roles within television production—as on-air talent, a producer or a member of the crew.

In addition to encouraging students to get experience at WTOP, the panelists advised student attendees to always say “yes” to opportunities and to apply for internships.

“I would not have a job in broadcasting if it wasn’t for my internship,” Palmer said.

Palmer interned with ABC News Channel 9 in Syracuse, N.Y., while attending SUNY Oswego. She said the internship not only gave her necessary experience, but helped her make a good impression with supervisors, which eventually led to full-time employment with the station.

“Reality is, life is a cycle, and it’s about creating positive relationships for the future and helping other people,” Palmer said. “So for me, I feel like it’s my time to pay it forward. Someone did it for me, and now 16 years in, it’s time for me do that for someone else.”

—DJ Manou ’16
Remembering a Health Care Advocate through a New Peer Health Educator Award

Jean Grant, the former director of the Mary Walker Health Services Center at SUNY Oswego, shared her extraordinary skill, compassion and empathy with students and campus members for 37 years. She died in 2013 at the age of 65, but she left behind a legacy that helped improve American healthcare and established SUNY Oswego as a leader in college health administration.

As director of Health Services, Grant led the Mary Walker Health Center to national accreditation and successfully lobbied the New York State Legislature to recognize the emerging role of nurse practitioners in modern health care. She was among the first nurse practitioners in New York State, served as a founding member of the state Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and helped solidify nurse practitioners’ role in delivering high-quality and compassionate healthcare.

Her skill and dedication were evident in her work every day, including when a SUNY Oswego student was diagnosed with measles a few decades ago. She led a massive immunization campaign for all students, and eventually the state health department passed a law requiring immunization of all students.

Those who knew Jean remember her intelligence, integrity, compassion, leadership, generosity, commitment, warmth and good humor.

In recognition of her dedication to health education and care at SUNY Oswego, her husband, Joe, a former vice president of student affairs and enrollment, established the Jean M. Grant Student Peer Health Educator Memorial Award. The award recognizes an outstanding student health educator who provided distinguished service to the college community.

"Peer health education had a special place in Jean's heart," Joe said. "She strongly believed that students have the capacity to help other students make positive life choices. We hope this award encourages students to become involved as health educators and do their best to deliver those messages to help their peers make better decisions. In a small way, the award helps share Jean's remarkable assets with future generations of students."

In April, the first Jean Grant memorial award was presented to Tracey Hagan '16, a wellness management and human resource management double major from Burnt Hills, N.Y. Hagan was a peer educator and intern in the Lifestyles Center, a health promotion organization on campus, and volunteers with the Counseling Center’s Peer-2-Peer program.

"I would not be the same person I am today without becoming a peer educator," said Hagan, who hopes to pursue a career as a health educator. "It trained me to specialize in topics that were relevant to my peers but also my own development. I definitely feel like I have made an impact on the well-being of my friends and that I can be a resource to them when they need it."

"I have heard that Jean was an amazing health educator with a great sense of humor," she said. "Receiving this award was a tremendous honor and incredibly humbling."

—Margaret Spillett

College Announces New Leadership for School of Communication, Media and the Arts

Julie Pretzat, the former associate dean of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, was promoted to dean of the school effective July 1, President Deborah F. Stanley announced. Faculty member Jennifer Knapp, former chair of the Department of Communication Studies, was named associate dean of the school.

“In her nearly 30 years at SUNY Oswego, Dr. Pretzat has distinguished herself through excellence in teaching and mentoring students, extraordinary productivity in the performing arts and, most recently, accomplishments as an academic administrator and campus community leader,” Stanley said.

Pretzat succeeds the founding dean of the school, Fritz Messere '71 M'76, who retired June 30.

Pretzat received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006 as well as the Central New York Education Consortium’s Educator of Excellence honor. Her musical accomplishments include organizing and conducting hundreds of performances by the Oswego Festival Chorus and college choirs. She has collaborated with musical and theatrical groups throughout Central New York.

Her institutional leadership positions include co-chairing the 2012 Middle States accreditation review for SUNY Oswego and chairing Oswego’s music department for six years before becoming associate dean of SCMA. In the latter capacity, she created the Adopt-a-School program and led development of new interdisciplinary minors.

Appointed to the SUNY Oswego faculty in 1985, Pretzat holds a bachelor’s degree from Smith College, a master’s in music from the University of Michigan and a doctorate in choral conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.
IRS Praises Oswego’s Tax Assistance Program

The Internal Revenue Service visited SUNY Oswego’s student-run Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at Hamilton Homes in Oswego and gave it a perfect site review. VITA provides income tax assistance to low- and moderate-income households in the Oswego and Fulton areas.

Andrea Zielinski Pagano ’07 M’08, assistant visiting professor of accounting, oversees the program as faculty coordinator. Volunteers from Beta Alpha Psi, a chapter of the national honor accounting society, operate and support the program.

Field site visits by the IRS evaluate the site’s overall adherence to quality site requirements and volunteer standards of conduct. The Hamilton Homes site met all 10 of the quality site requirements.

In addition to the Hamilton Homes site, the college’s VITA volunteers offer their services at SUNY Oswego’s School of Business and at the county office building in Fulton. Earlier this year, the organization Recognizing Oswego County named Oswego’s VITA program as its Community Champion of the month for February.
Share Your Winter Campus Photos

Winters along Lake Ontario are a rite of passage for SUNY Oswego students. Those who survive share stories of frigid winds, record snowfalls and more ice than what the Lakers hockey teams play on. Alumni wear their Oswego winter survivals as a badge of honor.

But now Oswego Alumni Magazine is issuing this challenge: Show us, don’t tell us!

Send us your photos of the worst (or best!) winters throughout campus history. Photos can be emailed to alumni@oswego.edu or copies can be mailed to: King Alumni Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego NY 13126.

Please note: Prints will not be returned. By submitting a photo, you acknowledge that the Oswego Alumni Association Inc. has the right to reproduce the photo in all present and future print and electronic communications.

Support the Greek Life Fund

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to the Greek Life Fund can contact the Oswego College Foundation at 315-312-3003, develop@oswego.edu or alumni.oswego.edu/givenow.

Or checks payable to the Oswego College Foundation Inc. (memo line: Greek Life Fund) can be mailed to: Oswego College Foundation Inc., 215 Sheldon Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego NY 13126.

Were you involved in Greek life?

Let us know, and we will update your record, so you can hear about events and news from your fraternity or sorority. Contact us at alumni@oswego.edu; 315-312-2258; or King Alumni Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego NY 13126.
Oswego Family Comes Together by Giving Back

This year, it wasn’t just one generous supporter who inspired GOLD (Graduates Of the Last Decade) to participate in the March Matchness Challenge, it was a team of four, the Tascarella family. Ron ‘79, Cindy Dickerson ‘79, Ron ‘06 and Dan ‘06 M’07 came together as a family to support the place to which they say they owe their careers and success.

The Tascarella family agreed to give $15,000 to The Fund for Oswego if 250 GOLD alumni made a gift during the month of March. After reaching the initial goal, the Tascarellas agreed to give an additional $15,000 if a total of 300 GOLD alumni participated.

Alongside the Tascarellas, three mini-challengers, Kevin L. Sutherland ‘05, Steven DiMarzo ‘11 M’15 and Tyler Edic ’13, agreed to give $10 for every donor from their respective class. The Class of 2014 ended up in first place and a record-breaking total of 324 GOLD alumni participated in the monthlong challenge, which netted more than $38,000 for the college.

In gratitude for all SUNY Oswego has given them, the Tascarellas decided to endow a scholarship with their gift. The Tascarella Family Scholarship will be awarded to a student interested in the banking and accounting field who has demonstrated outstanding service, academic excellence, involvement and leadership.

“We wanted to create this scholarship as a way to recognize an Oswego student who really stands out because of his or her active involvement,” said Ron Sr., senior vice president and chief credit officer at Pathfinder Bank. “My education provided the foundation for my career, but many of the lessons I learned outside of the classroom helped me develop the skills I needed to achieve success.”

Ron Sr. and Cindy, a senior accountant at Oswego Hospital, recognize the importance of giving back and getting involved in other aspects of their lives. They both actively participate in local organizations in Oswego, where they reside. Cindy is the secretary of the Oswego Sunrise Rotary Club and treasurer of the Oswego Public Library. Ron is an advisor for the SUNY Oswego Student Investment Club, serves on the Arise Advisory Committee and is a member of the international World Blind Union, to name a few.

Their sons, Ron and Dan, learned the importance of getting involved from their parents and wanted to get the most out of their education at Oswego.

“Growing up, we saw how involved our parents were and they laid a great foundation for us,” said Dan, an auditor at PwC. “We learned valuable lessons from our experiences at Oswego that we carry with us today.”

As Oswego students, Dan served as the Student Association President from 2006-2007 and Ron served as a Sheldon Leader. By participating in internships, they gained professional perspectives of their fields of study, and as members of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, they made lifelong friendships.

“At Oswego, I learned that with hard work, critical thinking and an ambitious attitude, you can accomplish whatever you want,” said Ron Jr., assistant vice president at M&T Bank. “We want to honor students who share these values and help them finish school with less debt for the future.”

—Megan Andolina

Thank you to the 324 GOLD donors who participated in the 2015 March Matchness Challenge, and a special shout out to the Class of 2014 who had more than twice as many donors (71) as its closest competitor.
Baseball Has Strongest Season in Nearly Two Decades

SUNY Oswego finished the season at 27-13, tying the program record for the most wins in a single season. The team also made its first NCAA Championship appearance since 1996, earning the four seed in the New York Regional. Several team members earned accolades for their performances throughout the season.

After being selected to the D3baseball.com All-Region Team, first baseman and pitcher Jordan Giller ’16 of Toronto, infielder and catcher Eric Hamilton ’17 of Liverpool, N.Y., pitcher Brendyn Karinchak ’15 of Walden, N.Y., and outfielder Dan Saccocio ’15 of Scotia, N.Y., were named to the All-New York Region Teams as recognized by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings. Giller and Saccocio both took home first team honors, while Karinchak earned second team and Hamilton third team accolades.

Giller and Saccocio were also selected as First Team All-District 3 members of the 2015 Capital One Academic All-District Baseball Teams, selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Saccocio was recognized by CoSIDA as a Capital One First Team Academic All-American. The senior maintained a 3.95 grade-point average in business administration while he finished the season ranked in the top 30 of seven different national statistical categories.

Two Senior Athletes Earn Prestigious Awards

Two student-athletes have garnered awards that reflect their work inside the classroom as well as in athletics. Nick Montesano ’15 of the men’s cross country and track and field teams has earned the Donald Snygg Award while Bridget Smith ’15 of the women’s ice hockey team won the Oswego Woman Scholar Athlete Award.

These awards are presented to Laker student-athletes who have demonstrated athletic and academic success in at least two years of participation, while having earned a minimum 3.3 cumulative grade point average, and are voted on by athletic department staff.

Montesano, who carried a grade-point average of 3.83 in graphic design, is a four-year member of both the cross country team and the track and field team, serving as a captain for both squads this year. He has been on the SUNYAC All-Academic list since 2011 and the Commissioner’s List since 2012.

Smith, who had a 3.69 overall GPA in chemistry, was a member of the women’s ice hockey team since freshman year. The goaltender has repeatedly been recognized for her performance in the classroom, being named to the ECAC West All-Academic team every year since 2012, the SUNYAC All-Academic list since 2011 and the SUNYAC Commissioner’s List since 2012.

The Hamburg, N.Y., native received numerous awards for her efforts in net, including ECAC West First Team All-Conference 2014-15 and most recently ACHA First Team All-America, the first player in program history to receive that honor. Her 35 wins in net is the most in program history.
Oswego Athletics Selects 2015 Outstanding Senior Athletes

The Oswego Athletics Department named its 2015 Outstanding Male and Female Senior Athletes at its annual All-Athlete Banquet in May. Georgia Traynor ’15 of the women’s soccer team and Bobby Gertsakis ’15 of the men’s ice hockey team took home this year’s honors.

Traynor played in 63 of a possible 68 games during her career, starting in all 63 of those contests. She earned region and conference recognition in each of her last two years, both at different positions. As a junior, the ECAC named her a Second Team All-Upstate performer as a defender following her First Team All-SUNYAC recognition. This season, Traynor again earned ECAC Second Team All-Upstate and First Team All-SUNYAC, this time as a midfielder. Despite playing defense for the majority of her career, the senior scored twice and added nine assists for a 13-point career. The Tomkins Cove, N.Y., native and captain was part of the 2013 squad that made the program’s first SUNYAC Championship appearance since 2002.

As a senior, Gertsakis was named First Team All-American by the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) and First Team All-SUNYAC. During his junior campaign, Gertsakis earned Second Team All-Conference accolades. He was named to the NCAA and SUNYAC All-Tournament Teams as a sophomore. The NCAA All-Tournament selection came on the heels of scoring two of Oswego’s three goals during a 5-3 loss in the 2013 NCAA Championship title game. The Pickering, Ontario, native finished with 12 goals and 57 assists for a 69-point career.

—Oswego Athletics

Standing

The following Lakers student-athletes who play spring sports have received honors from SUNYAC:

FIRST TEAM
Jordan Giller ’16 of Toronto, baseball
Eric Hamilton ’17 of Liverpool, N.Y., baseball
Brendyn Karinchak ’15 of Walden, N.Y., baseball
Mickey Putillo ’15 of Brewster, N.Y., baseball
Dan Saccocio ’15 of Scotia, N.Y., baseball

SECOND TEAM
Chris Bridgewater ’15 of Brooklyn, N.Y., track and field
Esther Gabriel ’16 of Lancaster, N.Y., women’s lacrosse
Myles Kutscher ’17 of Glen Head, N.Y., baseball
Matt McDorman ’15 of Wolcott, N.Y., track and field
Nick Reinsdorf ’15 of Niverville, N.Y., track and field

THIRD TEAM
Erannan Shattuck ’16 of Syracuse, N.Y., women’s lacrosse

HONORABLE MENTION
Nick Giampaolo ’15 of Setauket, N.Y., men’s lacrosse

Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 • Register today!

Join us as we recognize the contributions of the following former student-athletes who will be inducted in the Class of 2015 Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame at Homecoming 2015:

Patrick Chetney ’93 M’00 (Swimming and Diving)
Janet D’Agostino Davis ’98 (Women’s Soccer)
Charlie Manners ’96 (Swimming and Diving)
Pual Mizer ’85 (Men’s Lacrosse)
Mary "M.J." O’Toole ’95 (Women’s Basketball)
Angela Ryan ’85 (Softball and Field Hockey)
Tom Stanbro ’83 M’90 (Wrestling)

For more information and to register, visit alumni.oswego.edu/halloffame.
When a team of evaluators for the National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education Board of Examiners visited campus in April 2014 to attend a school partnership showcase, they received programs with the Oswego School of Education logo printed on the front. The image features the word “weaving” and represents the intertwined elements essential to the creation of “a transformative school fabric.”

A primary thread in that fabric is the constant, interwoven involvement of successful Oswego alumni teachers and school administrators. Pat Russo ’72 M’79 CAS ’85, director of the Center for Urban Schools, said, “It’s important to remember that alumni contribute to their alma mater in very concrete ways every year as they host our candidates.”

Oswego’s education degree candidates student-teach in schools with diverse populations, where they learn to integrate theory with practice, an attribute of Oswego’s program that dates back to the Normal School and, ultimately, to Oswego’s founder, Edward Austin Sheldon.

Liverpool technology teacher Karin M. Dykeman ’91 M’99 sees her mentorship as a matter of scale in her quest to improve the universal quality of life. “Clearly, rather than acting alone, I have a broader positive influence by helping student-teachers be dynamic, caring professionals,” she said. “Through them, I can indirectly influence more young people to change the world for the better.”

Dykeman also views her commitment as a means of taking her place in the long line of graduates reaching out to Oswego students. “Mentoring is an important professional obligation,” she said. “I was fortunate to be mentored by Gerald Kranz ’61 and Donna Matteson ’83 M’88. They modeled high standards of professionalism, school and community engagement, instructional innovation and lifelong learning. I benefitted. Consequently, my students have benefitted. Now, it’s my turn to do the same for others.”

ALUMNI: AN ESSENTIAL STRAND

Pamela Michel, dean, celebrates alumni who are already successful in their teaching careers for mentoring aspiring teachers, providing valuable support by sharing experiences and expertise. She notes the success of innovative Oswego programs such as the TESOL Bridges, Oswego’s intensive full-time teaching residency program focused on teaching English to speakers of other languages.
and the MAT, in which candidates for the Master of Arts in Teaching complete graduate coursework and, simultaneously, participate in intensive classroom residencies. Host teachers who participate in these, and other successful programs, view this contribution to their alma mater as a positive experience for all involved.

Syracuse’s Fowler High School math teacher Jake Taylor ’08 said it’s a privilege to give back to the college where he received positive support from outstanding faculty members. “Working with SUNY Oswego in its clinically rich approach, I was impressed with the preparation and readiness of the teacher candidates I hosted,” he said.

Pupils in classes taught by Oswego alumni and teacher candidates ultimately benefit from having two teachers for an academic year. “Data from my classroom shows positive and encouraging results,” ESL teacher Holly Henderson Ashcraft ’09 said. “The variety of how content,
Faculty Share Expertise with International Educators through Achievement Academy

Xiao Yin, a professor at Central China Normal School, enjoyed visiting Pam Delfino ’10 and her first-grade class at Minetto (N.Y.) Elementary School in June as the students gave PowerPoint presentations about Hurricane Katrina in a segment about “Wild Weather.” Yin said she was impressed with the small class size, the technology sophistication, equipment available in the primary school classroom and the style of teaching. She said it was very different from her son’s classrooms in Wuhan, China.

The visit to the Minetto school was an important part of the day’s activities for the 18 teachers from China who were attending SUNY Oswego’s International Professional Achievement Academy at the School of Education. The visit enabled the Chinese delegation to see the practical application of a lesson taught by School of Education Professor Amanda Fenlon earlier in the day about using technology to educate students in an inclusive setting.

“We’ve been an inclusive school for 25 years,” said Minetto School Principal Julie Kimmel-Gorman ’94 M’01 CAS ’11, who hosted practicum students and teacher candidates from her alma mater over a period of 12 years, praises the clinically rich model.

Learning Communities Interwoven

“The partnership with SUNY Oswego joins two learning communities together,” Proud said. “The college student and the middle school students benefit from the relationships. I have had a positive experience using the model. I am still in touch with many of my former student teachers, and I often collaborate with them during their first years of teaching.”

“The interaction between alumni and current students provides opportunities for candidates to learn about diverse social, cultural and theoretical perspectives,” Michel said. “These programs build on Oswego’s legacy as a fount of excellence in teacher preparation. When alumni reach out to current students, they join together to weave Oswego’s successful past into its vibrant and effective future.”

“My SUNY Oswego education prepared me to teach the students of the future. I had great mentors along the way. That is why I give back to the college by taking student-teachers, too. I feel that it is essential for new teachers to understand what they are up against and that our profession is among the most important careers in America.”

BRAD DEPOINT ’05
J.E. LANIGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
6TH GRADE TEACHER, FULTON, N.Y.
I take student-teachers from my alma mater because of Oswego's longstanding traditions in education. Oswego remains focused on quality teaching and learning, just as Edward Austin Sheldon promoted more than 150 years ago.”

DON LITTLE '91 M'94
NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL, SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER, SYRACUSE, N.Y.

and school leaders from India earlier that month.

“These groups are coming to SUNY Oswego because we have been recognized as a leader in curriculum, pedagogy and assessment,” said newly appointed School of Education Dean Pam Michel. “We focus on the individual needs of the particular group. Each professional development series is designed by our faculty to meet the needs of whatever institution or organization is being received.”

For example, the presentation for the Indian delegation focused on educational leadership while mixing in curriculum, instruction and special education topics. The on-campus presentations were building on the work of School of Education faculty members who traveled to India last year to deliver professional development courses.

“We came to show them what SUNY Oswego has to offer, and they loved it,” said Jason MacLeod ’12 M’14, project and operations coordinator for the Achievement Academy. “They couldn’t get enough of the instruction they were receiving. They wanted to come to the United States and learn about pedagogy, technology and educational leadership. And who better to teach that than our School of Education faculty?”

The workshops for the Chinese delegation covered how to use instructional technology to enhance teaching for all learners. These educators’ involvement in the Achievement Academy stems from a larger partnership between SUNY Oswego and Central China Normal School, which encourages opportunities for faculty and student exchanges.

Dr. Pamela Michel, Leadership:
Faculty:
Students:
Departments:
Facilities:
Field Placements:

“Promoted more than 150 years ago.”

Don Little '91 M'94

Field Placements: More than 1,200 placements in 300 schools/ agencies each academic year.

Facilities:

- Park Hall: Named for industrial arts professor and scholar Joseph C. Park, Class of 1902, the building recently received a two-year, $17.5 million modernization, including a new roof, mechanical systems, sprinkler system, windows, high-tech flexible classrooms, a webinar room, fully renovated transportation lab and a new south-facing main entrance. The entrance

and atrium with three levels of walkways connects to the school’s adjacent Wilber Hall and, through it, the Shineman Center.

- Wilber Hall: Recent $5.8 million, 13,700-square-foot addition houses two glass-walled, state-of-the-art labs for wood production and polymers and the school’s field placement office.

Accreditation: National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (soon to be CAEP, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation)

Points of Distinction:

- 75 years hosting the Tech Conference
- 37 years hosting the Sheldon Institute summer enrichment program
- 10-plus years running the Project SMART, Science and Math Applied Resources for Teaching professional development program

- Team Sheldon, partnership with Oswego County public schools and Oswego County BOCES
- Educational Leadership Institute, International Professional Achievement Academy, Reading Clinics, Professional Development Workshops, Writing Institutes, Onondaga Nation Partnership

Vision Statement Excerpt:
The School of Education fosters a vibrant intellectual community that values teaching, collaboration and scholarship, as well as promotes and supports socially just policies and practices.

Mission Statement Excerpt:
We will instruct, involve, challenge and care for all learners, children and adults, in the legacy of Edward Austin Sheldon.

Linda Stummer, a Minetto Elementary special education teacher and SUNY Oswego adjunct professor, points out educational techniques to teachers from Central China Normal School who were in Oswego in June through the college’s International Professional Achievement Academy.

“When we bring people from other countries to our campus, we certainly learn about new cultures,” Michel said. “They expand our knowledge about teaching as well.”

—Margaret Spillett
s a newly minted Ph.D. graduate, Gordon F. Sherman ’75 was studying the donated brain of a dyslexic individual, and he and his colleagues at a Harvard University lab noted unusual clusters of neurons in the left hemisphere—the part of the brain responsible for language.

But while the senior researchers were concentrating on those clusters, Sherman noticed there were differences in the right hemisphere as well.

That meant dyslexia affected the brain in regions outside of language development. Some of these differences resulted in stronger than average development of portions of the brain responsible for visual and spatial skills.

His 20 years of research at the Dyslexia Laboratory at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School eventually led to the development of a concept he calls “cerebrodiversity.” The term, which he coined, refers to humanity’s collective neural heterogeneity and places brain variation in an evolutionary context.

Cerebrodiversity asserts that brains are unique (much like our fingerprints, he says) and process information differently from each other, and those differences within a brain can simultaneously present advantages and disadvantages for an individual.

Many people with dyslexia have found great success in many areas—particularly subjects or activities that benefit from a “big picture” perspective or “out-of-the-box” thinking, including as inventors, musicians, artists, entrepreneurs, baseball outfielders and even writers and poets. Among those reported to be dyslexic are Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Leonardo DaVinci, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Erin Brockovich, Nelson Rockefeller, Agatha Christie, Charles Schwab and Steven Spielberg, among many others.

Sherman believes the diversity in our brains creates an adaptive advantage for humans as a species and allows us to leverage individuals’ strengths for collective success.

For example, Sherman points out that dyslexia as a disability didn’t exist until after the advent of the printing press, but it is very likely that there were people with brains that had the same clusters of neurons in their cerebral cortex.

Likewise, the pervasiveness of technology in our society might lead to the discovery of “dystechnia” in people whose brains are unable to adapt quickly to technological changes, he half-joked.

“I thought I would be a researcher forever,” Sherman said. “But then I was challenged to think about what could be done for people with dyslexia. What could I do to be more hands on and help people?”

When the founders of the Newgrange School in Hamilton, N.J., approached Sherman in 2000 to become head of the school, he remembers balking.

“It sounded ridiculous,” he said. “I knew a lot about dyslexia, but what did I know about schools? Then I realized I could help bridge the chasm between research and education. It would be a great challenge, and I was ready to take it on.”

After all, this wasn’t the first time that Sherman’s life course took an unexpected turn.

“I thought I would be a researcher forever. But then I was challenged to be more hands on and help people.”

—Dr. Gordon Sherman
“I thought I would be a researcher forever. But then I thought about what could be done for people with dyslexia. What could I do to be more hands on and help people?”

—Dr. Gordon Sherman
As the only son of a World War II and Korean War veteran and a mother who worked in retail, Sherman was expected to work in a Rome, N.Y., factory alongside his father.

“I worked on the dangerous assembly line at the Revere Copper and Brass factory, clipping off the sharp edges of big Dutch Oven pans,” he said. “It was the worst summer of my life. Then out of the blue, an aunt of mine said she heard that there were openings for the incoming freshman class at Oswego State and maybe we should check it out.”

He was accepted into the freshman class and hoped this would be the first step toward helping him figure out what he wanted to do with his life.

“I entered Funnelle Hall, and my life changed very quickly in a positive way,” said Sherman, who was the first in his family to attend college. He said he wanted to get the most out of his Oswego experience, including “trying out all the grades.”

“The first semester I got all the grades—A, B, C and D,” he said. While he still contends the D in his German class was unfair, the A he earned in his psychology class that first semester launched what would become a very successful career in neuroscience research.

“I had been waiting for a class like psychology—where I began to understand a lot of the issues we all have and why we think like we do or how the brain works,” he said. Much of his time at Oswego, including summers and breaks, he spent in the psychology labs in the basement of Mahar Hall—or with his future wife, the late Nancee Griffiths Sherman ’74.

“He has helped us provide multisensory education that was an outgrowth of his research. It’s one thing to do the research, but he’s put that into practice. He is so admired by the students and parents.” —Ann Robinowitz

The couple married in August 1975 and moved to Connecticut, where Gordon enrolled in the Ph.D. program in developmental psychobiology at the University of Connecticut. After graduation, they moved to Boston for Gordon’s job at the Dyslexia Laboratory.

But after 20 years, research in his field was shifting toward neurobiology and mapping of individual neurons, and the Newgrange School had inquired about his interest in being the new executive director.

“I had been doing many presentations on my research, and that work opened my eyes to the possibility of doing something else and having more of a direct impact on children with dyslexia,” Sherman said. “Plus, if I was going to make a change, this would be the time to move my family.”
And after some thought, Sherman, his wife and their two daughters, Laura and Emily, left Boston for Princeton, N.J.

“When I heard he was coming to New Jersey, I felt like we had been given a gift,” said Ann Robinowitz, a learning disability teacher of 35 years who knew Sherman when he was president of the International Dyslexia Association and has now worked with him for the past six years on the Newgrange School Board of Trustees.

“He is absolutely eye-opening,” she said. “He has helped us provide multisensory education that was an outgrowth of his research. It’s one thing to do the research, but he’s put that into practice. He is so admired by the students and parents.”

Today, Sherman is the executive director of the Newgrange School of Princeton, which includes the Newgrange School in Hamilton, N.J., a publicly and privately funded school for students with a range of learning differences, and its sister school, the Laurel School of Princeton, a private school for students with dyslexia that he founded three years ago.

Although he has written and edited more than 80 scientific articles, reviews and books; was the recipient of the Samuel T. Orton Award; has been the featured speaker at numerous conferences and was inducted into the International Dyslexia Association’s Sylvia O. Richardson Hall of Honor, Sherman said he is most proud of his work with Newgrange and Laurel schools.

Dr. Sherman’s Top 5 Predictions

1. Creative technologies empower all brains to perform at increased levels of proficiency.

2. “Design-thinking curricula” revolutionize teaching and learning, advancing not only creativity and innovation, but also critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

3. The faulty premise behind IQ and the limitations of standardized testing are understood and the dominance of both erodes.

4. Biotech memory enhancers improve learning and lead to breakthroughs in diseases such as Alzheimer’s.

5. We abandon the 19th century model of schooling and adopt a differentiated, technology-based, humane model that prepares children to lead fulfilling, productive and responsible lives in a digital society.

“We took a concept and made it a guide in establishing a school for dyslexic children,” he said. “We sought to create a warm and supportive environment that would allow the students to be confident in their ability to learn to read and write well. Providing that environment—seeing how the students react and how their self-esteem remains high when working with a very difficult set of issues—that is what I am most proud of,” he said.

Much as SUNY Oswego founder Edward Austin Sheldon employed “object learning” and the Pestalozzian Method’s belief in the capability of every individual to learn, Sherman, informed by decades of research, is committed to create an educational environment in which diverse learners—with their unique strengths and weaknesses—can thrive.

Sarah Piano, whose 9-year-old son, Andrew, attends the Laurel School, said Sherman’s methods have transformed her son.

Three years ago, Andrew was struggling in school and was starting to fall behind in reading. Today, his mother said her son, who has been diagnosed with multiple learning disabilities, including dyslexia, enjoys reading and loves attending school.

“Dr. Sherman is an outstanding researcher and educator in the field of dyslexia, and he truly cares about his students’ success,” she said. “I am thrilled with the progress my son has made. He has definitely benefited from the individualized programs here at the Laurel School. They have tailored his education to take into account his strengths and weaknesses, and he learned to read using multisensory, structured techniques and using technology like an iPad and a Chromebook.”

Although Sherman earned a degree in psychology, not teaching, at SUNY Oswego, he said a recent trip to campus for his 40th Reunion in June made him remember how much his education shaped his future.

“If I hadn’t come to Oswego, who knows where I would have ended up,” he said.
More than 1,000 alumni and friends returned to Oswego June 4-7 for a “hula-day,” our luau-themed Reunion 2015. This year, President Deborah F. and Michael Stanley welcomed alumni from 29 states and as far away as Australia and from class years ranging from 1942 to 2015.

Reunion 2015 offered a wide array of activities. The sporting folks played in a golf outing at the Oswego Country Club (and witnessed a foursome sink an eagle shot 130 yards away from the green!), ran in a 5K on campus or started their morning with group yoga.

Others took the opportunity to learn about the campus during a college update by Executive Assistant to the President Howard Gordon ’74 M’78, about the stars during a planetarium show, about new resources and equipment, including a 3D printer at Penfield Library or about how hat fashions have evolved over the past 100 years in a presentation by Marlene Gilbert Miner ’55.

All Reunion attendees saw firsthand how their beautiful lakeside campus continues to grow and improve. Some opted to take the “hard hat” tour of Tyler Hall as well as tours of many new and renovated campus spaces, including Romney Field House, Rice Creek Field Station, Village Townhouses and Shineman Center for Science, Engineering and Innovation.

We made time to remember our deceased classmates during special gatherings, including the Class of 1965 Remembrance Ceremony hosted by President Deborah F. Stanley and Michael Stanley at Shady Shore and the dedication of a new campus memorial, Peace—Free and Easy, in memory of four alumni lost on 9/11 and Pan Am Flight 103: Colleen Brunner ’90, Richard Caproni ’89, Michael Hannan ’89 and Lynne Hartunian ’89.

A total of 892 people made gifts in honor of Reunion, raising $154,676 for their alma mater. The Class of 1965 had the largest percentage of classmates participate in the giving challenge with 20 percent and won the 2015 Participation Cup. While the Class of 1975 had 11 percent participation, it raised the most money, giving $41,155. But not to be outdone, Sonya Buecken Lorrain ’94 made a last-minute cash gift of $90 at the luau picnic on Saturday to ensure her gift was reflective of her graduation year—increasing the total amount from $19,004 to $19,094.

With 16 mini-reunion groups and 13 milestone anniversary classes celebrating, the whole campus and Oswego community were hopping with activities. The Friday night BBQ at Fallbrook brought together more than 600 people and 258 alumni opted to relive their college days, staying in on-campus housing in Hart and Sheldon halls.

Don’t miss out on next year’s festivities! Mark your calendars now for Reunion 2016, June 9-12.
Class of 1990 25th Reunion

Back Row: Christine Walker Beck ’90, David Carlson ’90, Mike Delaney ’90, Chris Parmelee ’90, Kristen Caprio Blanchard ’90, Danielle Remington Carr ’90, Kelly Perotti Stevens ’90, Holly Graham ’90, Maria Trombeta ’90, Stacy Spance Atteslon ’90, Colleen Sullivan Hall ’90, Jen Drake ’90 and Marc Heller ’90.

Front Row: Alicia Kammerling ’90, Jennifer “JP” Palmeri Hermann ’90, Tammy Thompson Elowsky ’90, Susan Zullo Katz ’90, Gerri Kaserman ’90 and Barbara Bolte Moore ’90.
Special thanks to the 2015 Reunion Planning and Giving Volunteers!

Class of 1965 50th Reunion


Never too early to start planning...

Sign up to be a Reunion class or group volunteer. It’s a great opportunity to:

- Network with classmates
- Plan the weekend’s activities
- Have fun

If you are interested in being part of the Reunion 2016 Planning Committee, please contact us at 315-312-2258 or reunion@oswego.edu by Oct. 1, 2015, to join our volunteer team! To plan a mini-reunion for your group or organization, please let us know by Oct. 15.

Reunion Hotline: 315-312-5559
Email: reunion@oswego.edu
Web: alumni.oswego.edu/reunion

More than 1,000 alumni returned for Reunion 2015. They reconnected with friends, visited favorite campus spots, toured new facilities, reminisced over food and drink and snapped selfies in front of the best sunsets in the world.

Help us make next year’s celebration even bigger!

Everyone is welcome, but special events are planned for these milestone classes and groups:

- 1991 – 25th
- 1976 – 40th
- 1971 – 45th
- 1966 – 50th
- 1961 – 55th
- 1956 – 60th
- 1951 – 65th
- 1946 – 70th
- 1941 – 75th
- Delta Kappa Kappa – 90th
- Theta Chi Rho – 60th

REUNION 2017
JUNE 8 – 11
- 1992 – 25th
- 1977 – 40th
- 1972 – 45th
- 1967 – 50th
- 1962 – 55th
- 1957 – 60th
- 1952 – 65th
- 1947 – 70th

REUNION 2018
JUNE 7 – 10
- 1993 – 25th
- 1978 – 40th
- 1973 – 45th
- 1968 – 50th
- 1963 – 55th
- 1958 – 60th
- 1953 – 65th
- 1948 – 70th

REUNION 2019
JUNE 6 – 9
- 1994 – 25th
- 1979 – 40th
- 1974 – 45th
- 1969 – 50th
- 1964 – 55th
- 1959 – 60th
- 1954 – 65th
- 1949 – 70th

REUNION 2020
JUNE 4 – 7
- 1995 – 25th
- 1991 – 30th
- 1990 – 30th
- 1989 – 30th
- 1980 – 40th
- 1975 – 45th
- 1970 – 50th
- 1965 – 55th
- 1960 – 60th
- 1955 – 65th
- 1950 – 70th
- 1945 – 75th

REUNION 2021
JUNE 10 – 13
- 2002 – 20th
- 2001 – 20th
- 2000 – 20th
- 1996 – 25th
- 1981 – 40th
- 1976 – 45th
- 1971 – 50th
- 1966 – 55th
- 1961 – 60th
- 1956 – 65th
- 1951 – 70th
- 1946 – 75th
Education Alumna Stays Active in Sunshine State

Even though Marie Wise Ellis ’53 hasn’t visited her alma mater in a long time, she keeps up on all things SUNY Oswego by reading her copy of the OSWEGO Alumni Magazine "from front to back."

After a career in teaching, Ellis enjoys her retirement ballroom dancing, square dancing and—twice weekly—artistic dance roller skating. She has also won awards for her bird and flower photographs. All are hobbies she has enjoyed since childhood.

"Florida is great for taking photos because of the weather and surrounding nature," Ellis said. "It’s much warmer than Oswego. I remember there was one time at Oswego, we couldn’t get home in time for Easter because the buses weren’t running."

Ellis first came to Oswego in January 1950 to study childhood education. "It was the only college I applied to," she said.

"In my class, there were only 50 students who entered in January," Ellis said. "Many of them left or joined the service, so only 25 students graduated from our class. We all did it in three and a half years, because you can’t find a job teaching mid-year."

She stayed involved at Oswego. "I did every sport there was at Oswego, I went with the seasons," Ellis said. "I received the Oswego ‘O’ for playing softball."

After leaving Oswego, Ellis pursued her master’s degree at Queens College in Flushing, N.Y., and her doctorate in reading at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. She taught in East Meadow, N.Y., and North Port, N.Y., before moving to Florida in 1990.

"I loved Oswego very much," Ellis said. "I got a good education there. I think most everyone would say that."

—Tyler Edic ’13
Driving his 1931 Model A Ford and riding his motorcycle near his home in East Hampton, Conn., Marianne Fleckenstein McGrath ’72 has loved Halloween parties ever since she met her husband, James McGrath ’72, at one in Waterbury Hall in 1968.

Barbara Edson ’72 retired from her 40-year library career in Midland, Texas, in late January. She enjoyed her library work as well as motorcycling.

Patricia Hartnagle Smith ’73 and Matthew Smith ’72 celebrated their 42nd anniversary in June. They met at Romney Field House when Patricia was finishing figure skating and Matthew was coming for ice hockey practice. They got engaged in 1971 and married in 1972. They have two daughters in Cazenovia, N.Y., and have been in the same house for 30 years.

John Doscher ’74 graduated from SUNY Oswego Summa Cum Laude, and afterward earned a law degree at the University at Buffalo in Buffalo, N.Y. He worked for Erie County’s District Attorney’s office for 28 years. For the past 14 years he was the bureau chief for White Collar Prosecution and retired in December 2014. Doscher’s favorite courses at SUNY Oswego were foreign languages, and in retirement, he plans on learning Italian.

Gloria Greenfield ’74, a filmmaker, showed her documentary Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., in late March. The documentary portrays a comprehensive examination of the deep conne-

Naval Commander’s Success Provides Smooth Sailing for Other Women

Retiring from the United States Navy as a commander in 1985 makes Carolina Clair Wylie ’63 a pioneer. When American women were advocating for workplace equity, she was finding her niche in the Navy, where equal pay for equal work was an established principle.

“Leadership skills I learned at Oswego prepared me,” Wylie said. She was president of Alpha Epsilon and Inter-Sorority Council and worked on the orientation committee.

She won the outstanding speaker award at a debate club competition.

“I knew, then, that I could do anything,” she said. “By graduation, I knew how to establish a collegial working environment and get the job done. That served me well in my 20-year Naval career.”

Wylie said Oswego professors were always accessible.

“Dr. Paul Goodwin and his wife, Lois ’54, not only invited me into their home, but also encouraged me as I prepared for the GREs,” she said. “Professors steered me to political science, which led to government, which led to the military.”

After Oswego and graduate work at St. John’s University, Wylie went to the nation’s capital.

“Women in uniform were getting into meetings I didn’t have access to; they were getting ahead,” she said. “I signed up for the Navy and hit the ground running.”

Assignments took Wylie from the Pentagon’s top-secret communications office, to the Naval Justice School, to the United States Senate, as the first female Navy liaison officer. In the 1970s, she went from the New York recruiting district to the personal staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, in the Pentagon, to a year at the Naval War College, then to London, as the first woman flag secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe.

She came back to the Pentagon, yet again, as manpower and healthcare analyst to the Secretary of the Navy, in the Office of Program Appraisal, prior to her final assignment as the only female faculty member at the Armed Forces Staff College.

Wylie, of Virginia, was married to a retired Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps captain, the late Capt. Peter Wylie, and is the mother of Peter, who works in the entertainment industry in Los Angeles, and Jamie, a playwright, who works in marketing at Stanbridge College in Irvine, Calif.

“I promised my children I’d retire as soon as I was eligible,” Wylie said. “I left on Halloween—with the rest of the witches.” She placed a broom, instead of her car, in her honorary final-day parking spot.

“In the Navy, I stood on the shoulders of women who could only aspire to be mid-grade officers,” she said. “Now, we have multiple flag officers, including our first four-star.”

Wylie lists her accomplishments as having recruited one of the first women aviators, mentored one of the first women at the Naval Academy and recruited the first African-American woman Navy flag officer.

“For me,” Wylie said, “success was based on whether I had done well enough that the command wanted another woman to replace me.”

— Linda Loomis ’90 M’97
Communication Alumnus Commands Canals from Capital Region

In 1905, Vaudeville Musician Thomas S. Allen wrote the famous song "Low Bridge" about the early years of the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825. As director of the New York State Canal Corporation, Brian Stratton ’79 probably relates to the song's chorus: "Every inch of the way I know, from Albany to Buffalo."

Stratton oversees 524 miles of the state's canal system, including the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Champlain and Oswego canals. More than 200 towns and communities reside along the Erie Canal, now entering 191 seasons of operation, and it is Stratton's job to travel the state and work with local officials to identify economic opportunities along the canal.

"Sometimes I like to go along the lock, greet boaters and thank them for using the canal system," Stratton said.

Stratton, who is also a member of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's cabinet of advisors, was appointed to his role in early 2011 after serving as the mayor of Schenectady, NY.

Stratton was narrowly elected mayor in 2003, and won a landslide re-election in 2007. During his tenure, Stratton and his team turned around a $10 million deficit and brought in more than $300 million in new private development. Stratton also had a unique one-on-one interaction with President Obama following the 2011 U.S. Conference of Mayors held in Washington, D.C.

"I never thought that, as mayor of a smaller city like Schenectady, I would walk across the South Lawn of the White House to board Marine One with the President of the United States," Stratton said. "What a great opportunity that was for my city, to rise above the rest." Stratton flew to Schenectady aboard Marine One and Air Force One during the president's visit to the Capital Region.

Although he grew up outside of Washington, D.C., Stratton spent part of his childhood in Upstate New York with his father, Samuel Stratton, a longtime New York U.S. Representative and former mayor of Schenectady.

His long, winding career can be traced all the way back to 1977 when Stratton transferred from Montgomery College to SUNY Oswego to earn a bachelor's degree in communication studies.

"One of the greatest classes I took at Oswego was introduction to constitutional law with [Emeritus Professor] Bruce Altschuler," Stratton said. "I remember that I just came alive in that class. It was a great exposure to civil rights, law and government."

"I was only at Oswego for two years, but it will always have a wonderful, warm spot in my heart."

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Brian Stratton ’79, director of the New York State Canal Corporation, speaks with Andy Derby, chief of Lock 24 in Baldwinsville, N.Y., during one of his regular visits to the area.


Going to college wasn’t even something Debbie Poland MacAvoy ‘81 considered pursuing until she sat down with her guidance counselor in 1977 to talk about her options. She grew up in McDonough, N.Y., and graduated with fewer than 100 people.

“My guidance counselor said, ‘I think you need to go to college,’” MacAvoy said. “And I said, ‘I don’t really have any money so I don’t think I can go.’ But she helped me go through the application process; she helped me decide where to go, what major—everything. If it weren’t for her, I wouldn’t have gone to college.”

Now, MacAvoy lives in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and works in quality assurance, testing software for Informz, an email marketing company for associations.

MacAvoy likes to think she is paying it forward now by being a long-term mentor to Shelly Pettit ’19, an incoming freshman to SUNY Oswego who had similar feelings about college that 17-year-old MacAvoy did. Pettit is also the first to go to college in her family.

MacAvoy started tutoring Pettit when the student was in sixth grade. When Pettit started at Saratoga Springs High School, MacAvoy called the school to see if Pettit could be enrolled in Sponsor-A-Scholar, a program to help economically disadvantaged students succeed in high school and go on to college. Over the years the relationship has turned into more than just tutoring.

Through the program and the mentorship, Pettit found her way to SUNY Oswego.

MacAvoy came with Pettit and her mom to Accepted Students Day at SUNY Oswego in spring, and that is when Pettit made her decision on where to go.

“I actually fell in love with the campus,” Pettit said. “Oswego is just beautiful and peaceful.”

The two know they will stay close even after Pettit’s freshman year, and MacAvoy plans on bringing Pettit to and from campus in the fall and in the spring.

“It’s important for people to do their part to make the world a better place,” MacAvoy said. “It’s important to put their time in as well as giving money.”

—Cassidy Carroll ’15
Erica Lakin Russo ’90 is the corporate vice president at New York Life Insurance Company in New York City.

Elizabeth Yinger Carrasco ’91 and her company VIP Interior Design were featured in Gary Magazine’s Home & Garden “Home Tour: Inside Out Patio” section. The five-page spread included several photos of her outdoor living renovation project and an interview with her and the homeowner.

Diane Kruse Bush ’92 M’99 and her husband, Richard Bush ’92 M’97, are celebrating 22 years together. They met on their first week of freshman year on the 8th floor in Funnelle Hall. They officially started dating in September of their freshman year; they married in 1993. Their fondness of SUNY Oswego brought them back in 2000 when Rich became a professor in the Department of Technology.

Suzie Collier Phillips ’92 was named senior benefits accounts manager at Gilroy, Kerman & Gilroy Inc. in New Hartford, N.Y. She previously served as director of human resources for 16 years at The House of the Good Shepherd in Utica, N.Y. Phillips is a member of the National Mohawk Valley Societies for Human Resource Management and a native of Clinton, N.Y., where she still lives.

Michael R. Cornell ’93 is the new Hamburg Central School District superintendent in Hamburg, N.Y. Cornell was assistant principal for instruction and curriculum at Lancaster (N.Y.) Central High School. Before that he taught high school social studies for 11 years in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District.

Lloyd “Joe” Peck ’93 CAS’04 extended his contract with the Chenango Forks Central School District as superintendent for another five years. Peck earned his bachelor’s from SUNY Oswego in political science as well as a certificate of advanced studies. He has a master’s in education from LeMoyne College and a doctorate of education from Walden University.

Stacy L. Kehrer ’94 was named chief financial officer of Genesee Country Village & Museum, which has served the Le Roy, N.Y., community for nearly 50 years. She is also a certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner. She lives in Le Roy, N.Y., with her sons, Drew and Shawn.

Mitchell Roshel ’94 was appointed director of admissions for New York University College of Dentistry in Manhattan.

Len Perno ’95 played for his first professional hockey team, the now defunct Reno Renegades, between 1995-96. After spending 15 years searching for the No. 28 jerseys he wore, he got an email from a man who had the jerseys saying he would give them to Perno for no cost. Today, Perno serves as a volunteer goalie coach at SUNY Geneseo for his son’s youth team, and president of the Perno Group LLC, an IT recruitment and account management firm.

Ronald Ryan ’95 was added as an accountant for Cuddy Financial Services in Auburn, N.Y. He is licensed CPA in New York with 20 years of experience.

Patricia Plumley Hildreth ’96 M’03 is the principal assessment editor at CTB/McGraw-Hill in Las Vegas.

Kristin Nelson MacDonald ’96 lives in Pennellville, N.Y., and teaches in the counseling and psychological services department at SUNY Oswego.

Rosemarie Pupparo ’96 M’99 is the assistant director of residence life at Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, N.Y.

Peter Burkhardt ’97 M’05 has been a teaching for the New York City Department of Education for the past 16 years. He is permanently certified in English and biology. He lives in Queens, N.Y.

Vincent “Vinny” Garrison ’97 M’00 recently started a business using drones to do photography and videography, Flying Films NY, near his home in Nanuet, N.Y.

Melissa Vincent ’97 works in new product secrecy for Apple. She lives outside San Francisco, Calif., where she sails, surfs, climbs, hikes, bikes and camps. She loves her work at Apple and is the happiest she has ever been. Previously, she worked at Comcast HQ for 10 years.

Keith Daniel Washo ’97 was named vice president of sales and marketing for Adaptive Sound Technologies Inc. in San Jose, Calif. Before ASTI, Washo led partner marketing and channel sales for Qualcomm.

Michael Cassidy ’98 was recently elected to the board of directors of a nonprofit organization Friends of Karen, which is based in North Salem, N.Y. Cassidy is the chairman of the board and former chief executive officer of Undertone, an international digital advertising company.

Damon Gonzalez ’98 is busi-

From Oswego to HBO, Alumnus Finds His Passion

Aunrèe J. Houston ’00 fondly reflects on his time at Oswego as he glances at a photo of his Commencement Eve Torchlight Ceremony displayed on his desk. As a student he created his own production company, and today, he serves as the director of marketing operations for programming sales at HBO and works as an empowerment life coach under his branded company, Aunrèe Jac.

When Houston first graduated, he struggled to find his next steps. He was determined to work on Broadway but needed a reliable job. His godmother, a former vice president at HBO, encouraged him to join the company’s temp pool. He enjoyed his experience and was able to excel and grow within the company. In his current position, he and his team ensures that HBO Original Programming and the HBO brand is promoted throughout the world.

Houston studied drama therapy at NYU Steinhardt. The program combines theatrical methods and psychology to support mental health and positive transformation. He applies his knowledge to his role as an empowerment life coach. He works to empower his clients to live positively, progressively, beautifully, spiritually and dynamically—a philosophy better known as the Aunrèe Aesthetic.

When Houston is looking for guidance, Mark Cole ’73, former professor and chair of the theatre department, comes to mind. “He inspired me to be regal, sophisticated and resilient,” said Houston. “He inspired me to follow my dreams, exercise my talents, challenge myself and truly enjoy my life.”

—Megan Andolina
We celebrate and share the success of Oswego alumni authors, illustrators and recording artists, who may ask their publisher/distributor to send a copy of the work to the Oswego alumni office to be considered for this column and our website, where cover photos of all works in this column will be displayed.

**Guy Abell ’65**

*Roman Guy: A Collection of Columns & Musings*

RED BARN BOOKS OF VERMONT, 2014.

Abell began writing the columns and stories in *Roman Guy*, which depict his life, travels and family, over 15 years ago during an internship with a newspaper in Pennsylvania. The topics of the 10-chapter book range from his dream of owning a sports car to his experience of getting tested for prostate cancer.

**John Amerigo Merenda ’65**

*Straight to the White House*

MIRA DIGITAL PUBLISHING, 2014.

*Straight to the White House* tells the story of a young boy finding his identity through themes of sexuality, war, repressed childhood trauma and spirituality.

**Anthony Gero ’70**

*The Night Dancer Chronicles: Book 1*

DOWNTOWN BOOKS PUBLISHING, 2014.

Based on the *Book of Job* and various vampire legends, *The Night Dancer Chronicles: Book 1* begins in the 20th century when a golden-haired vampire attempts to bring about Satan’s new millennium. The tale about the growing power of evil and the prophesied return of Satan is conveyed through both historical and fictional characters.

**Leonard "Lost Lenny" Nicholas ’71**

*The Hall*

AUTHORHOUSE, 2013.

*The Hall*, partly based on Nicholas’ college experiences, provides insight into the culture on college campuses. The book is about one man’s adventure during his freshman year of college and the difficulties of dormitory life.

**Peter Bernhardt ’74**

*Darwin’s Orchids: Then & Now*


In *Darwin’s Orchids*, an international group of orchid biologists unites to celebrate and explore the continuum that stretches from Darwin’s groundbreaking orchid research to that of today. This book seeks to answer the questions of orchid pollination.

**Sandra Carroll Mann ’74**

*Loving Lacie: "I’m the best!"*

BRYCE CULLEN PUBLISHING, 2015.

Lacie, an energetic 4-year-old girl, is always busy with activities like sports, ballet and piano. She has no time to play or relax until she realizes she needs to slow down in order to appreciate the love and acceptance that surround her. The book is written in rhyme and was inspired by one of MacDonald’s favorite childhood authors, Shel Silverstein.

**Jeff Stage ’77**

*Chasing Jenny: A Philatelic Mystery*

BOOKBABY, 2013.

Lizzy and Miles frantically search for a set of rare and valuable missing stamps in this first novel in a mayhem-filled series titled, *Chasing Jenny: A Philatelic Mystery*. See Last Word on page 48.

**Tracy Tripp ’91**

*Parting Gifts*

OUTSKIRTS PRESS, 2015.

Switching between the present and the past, *Parting Gifts* is about a friendship, secrets and choices that change the lives of two women. Its powerful story unfolds through four different sections, titled after each decision made. The relationship between Sarah and Mary reveals true friendship, regret and forgiveness.

**Kristin MacDonald ’96**

*Loving Lacie: "I’m the best!"*

BRYCE CULLEN PUBLISHING, 2015.

Lacie, an energetic 4-year-old girl, is always busy with activities like sports, ballet and piano. She has no time to play or relax until she realizes she needs to slow down in order to appreciate the love and acceptance that surround her. The book is written in rhyme and was inspired by one of MacDonald’s favorite childhood authors, Shel Silverstein.
ness manager at Bon Appetit. He is responsible for advertising, positioning and layout. Gonzalez is also an actor, writer and commentator, appearing on TMZ Live. Recently he had essays published in The Advocate. He said SUNY Oswego has always been a special place for him.

Melanie Christopher Bionty ‘99 and her husband, Chris, welcomed twin boys, Mason Christopher and Kyle Anthony Bionty on Aug. 3, 2014. The healthy boys were born two months early in Cincinnati, Ohio, and went home sooner than expected.

Jacquelyn M. Reisdorf ‘99 was promoted to director of administration at the John R. Oishi Foundation in Buffalo, N.Y. Reisdorf manages the daily office operations, office management, technology and human resources. She has been with the foundation for five years and lives in North Java, N.Y., with her husband, Timothy McCutcheon, and stepdaughter, Chloe.

Steven Wheeler ‘99 joined Eric Mower & Associates as the senior interactive art director. Before this position he was the senior digital art director at Welch Allyn. He lives in Liverpool, N.Y.

‘00, ‘01, ‘02 15th Reunion Reunion 2016 JUNE 9-12

Matt Dawson ‘00 added space to his growing businesses by relocating to a 3,274 square-foot building in Oswego, N.Y. Dawson started MyDigitalDiscount.com, an e-commerce company that specializes in computer and electronic file storage devices, as a student at SUNY Oswego, then later launched B’nB Broker-Buyer, a consignment store. He and his wife, Stephanie Smith Dawson ‘02 M’05, and their two children live in Minetto, N.Y.

Kathleen McGrath ‘01 is an actor, screenwriter and business director for Feenix Films LLC. She lives in New York City.

Joseph McManus ‘02 was named assistant vice president and computer operations manager at Pathfinder Bank in Oswego. He maintains and improves network security, as well as manages and maintains the bank’s network infrastructure. Previously, he worked as senior network technician for the Oswego County National Bank.

Jennifer Ravas ‘02 was promoted to business development specialist at POMCO Group. Before the promotion, she was a receptionist for three years. She lives in Liverpool, N.Y.

Amy Roepnack M’02 became an assistant professor at Herkimer County Community College in Herkimer, N.Y., teaching fashion buying and merchandising. Roepnack earned a master's in arts in teaching from SUNY Oswego after realizing she was not interested in a financial career.

Kevin Relf ’02 M’04, a resident of Syracuse, N.Y., joined Dannible & McKee LLP as the tax manager. Previously, he was the company’s staff accountant.

Katherine Doe ’05 accepted a job as the marketing director for Pan Performance Assessment Network. The company develops and sells tools for assessing skills and knowledge. She lives in Mount Pleasant, S.C., where she is involved with many charitable organizations and causes.

Gregory Larson ‘05 is the assistant news director for Chadbay Bay Broadcasting in Dunkirk, N.Y.

Trevor Lehman ’05 M’06 was promoted to supervisor at DiMarco, Abiusi & Pascarella Certified Public Accountants in Syracuse, N.Y. He specializes in tax return preparation for real estate entities, small businesses and individuals.

Jerri Murray ’05 is currently a programmer for Onondaga County’s IT department in Syracuse, N.Y. Since 2009, the Onondaga County Justice Center and the Department of Correction have been using a web-based inmate information system that Murray co-wrote.

Stephanie Johnson Riley ‘05 is the manager of broker development for Unum, an insurance company. She supports 32 field-offices nationwide with training and development initiatives in addition to event planning for business partners. She and her husband, James Riley ‘04, welcomed their son, Timothy James, on Nov. 3, 2014. They live near Annapolis, Md.

Patrick Hasselwander ’06 reached full-time status in the technical systems and services department at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. Before, Hasselwander worked part-time with the university for more than four years. He earned a BFA in graphic arts from SUNY Oswego.

Michael Ruffles ’07 became the business manager in the Orthopedic and Spine Co-Management at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y.

Jillian Fay ’08 joined the front office of the Charlotte Independence soccer team in September 2014. She is responsible for marketing and public relations for the United Soccer League team in Charlotte, N.C.

Lucaya Luckey-Bethany ’08 earned a master’s in International Relations and Conflict Resolution from the American Military University in Charles Town, W.Va.

Kathryn Brador Martinez ’08 married Juan Martinez on Dec. 13, 2014. The two met in fall 2004 through the Latino Student Union at SUNY Oswego.

Tamar-Tafari Greene ’09 advanced to the semifinals of the Lotte Lenya Competition. It is a theater singing competition, emphasizing the acting of songs within a dramatic framework.

Philip Sconzert ’09 is the new regional director of pool operations at the Y of Central Maryland in Baltimore.

Kayla Mackie ’10, who has a degree in communications, is a brand strategist at Terakeet, an Internet marketing service in Syracuse, N.Y.

Colleen O’Hara M’10 earned tenure as a family and consumer science teacher at Skaneateles (N.Y.) Middle School. She said it was a dream come true to work for Skaneateles Schools.

Todd Brian Backus ’11 is a director, producer, illustrator and photographer. He co-curated and produced two seasons of StageWhispers in Portland, Maine. He is looking to bring the series to New York City. In the past, he has designed for LCT3, the New York Neo Futurists and Portland Stage Company.

Tyler Maxon ’11 graduated in May with a doctorate of optometry from SUNY State College of Optometry in New York City.

Sarah Morrison ’11 M’12 was promoted to senior accountant at DiMarco, Abiusi & Pascarella Certified Public Accountants in Syracuse, N.Y. She specializes in audits and tax return preparation for real estate, individuals and entities.

Jessica Bagdovitz ’12 became the digital media producer for Digital Hyve in Syracuse, N.Y.

Robert Cardillo ’12 took 10 precepts of Buddhist vows in November and became a Sramanera—a novice monk—in the Five Mountain Zen Order. He was given the title and name Reverend Do’an Prajna. Cardillo is enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Buddha Dharma University. He is the Abbot of the Lotus Heart Zen practice center in Oneida, N.Y., where he teaches meditation classes, leads Zen practice groups and other Buddhist services.

Christopher Daniel ’12 M’13 joined Dermody, Burke & Brown CPAs LLC as an associate in the tax department. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Thomas Humbert M’12 became the associate director of valuation and advising at Cushman & Wakefield. He joined the company in the summer of 2011 as a commercial real estate appraiser. Before working for Cushman & Wakefield, Humbert worked with J.W. Burns & Company, an equity investment firm in Syracuse, N.Y. He did equity research, analysis and portfolio management with the firm.

Ashley Mills ’12 M’13 joined Mirror Show Management, an exhibit design and customer experience firm, as staff accountant in Webster, N.Y. Mills was most recently a staff accountant at Exelis Inc.

Rosa Rivera ’12 graduated from Loyola University of Chicago in December 2014. She formed a volunteer group called Come Unity Alliance during the summer 2014 in Schenectady, N.Y. The group’s pur-
RAISING THE BAR:  
Alumnus Defends Disability Rights Law

Stefen Short ’10 likes to be on the front line of change.

When Short came to SUNY Oswego from Centerport, N.Y., to study political science, he immediately got involved. He was a member of the New York Public Interest Research Group, a student interest and rights advocacy group, served as vice president of the Student Association and joined the club crew team.

After graduation, Short earned a J.D. at Albany Law School before passing the New York State bar exam and transitioning to his current role as a staff attorney at Disability Rights New York in Brooklyn. He has remained involved with Oswego as a member of the GOLD Leadership Council, planning and attending alumni events, giving back and hosting a webinar in September 2014. He joined the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors on July 1.

Short describes his time at Oswego, particularly his involvement with the Student Association, as “the most transformative and informative experience I’ve had.”

Describe some of your work with the Student Association.

One of the most memorable things we did was some administrative advocacy work. When I was vice president, we made a list of 19 administrative requests—anything from funding club sports to extending late night dining hours—that students wanted to change or see added to services on campus.

Were the requests fulfilled?

Some of them were. It was a year-and-a-half campaign that extended into law school for me. There’s a lot of collaborative activity between the Student Association administration and the campus administration. It’s great knowing that you’re supported by the people who are running the campus.

How did Oswego help you in law school?

In law school, I was up against some Ivy League students, but the SUNY students were the most well-prepared. I’m not just saying that. I think a lot of that is because of the individual attention we get at Oswego. If students want to grow, the opportunity is there.

How have you found success in your career?

In my direct representation cases, I’ve gotten people employment support through their state agency so they can go work. I have a lot of cases on behalf of prisoners with disabilities for reasonable accommodations and services, so when they get released, they’re rehabilitated. It’s all over the map. We also do systemic and institutional work as well. Through the threat of litigation, we’ve worked with schools to redesign their concussion management policy.

Why do you stay involved and give back to SUNY Oswego?

It’s broader than just Oswego. Public higher education is the most important social good that a state and a society can supply its people. It’s the obligation of alumni and current students to be engaged in the fight to preserve that social good, especially if they had a phenomenal experience like I did. Oswego’s a very special place. I want that opportunity to persist for other students. That’s really the reason I stay involved.

—Tyler Edic ’13
pose is to connect neighborhood efforts to organizational efforts in order to make the community safer.

Rebecca Schretzmeir ’12 is stage manager of the Sesame Street show at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va.

Aimee Anno ’13 was hired as junior art director by Pinckney Hugo Group, which is a full-service marketing communications firm in Syracuse, N.Y.

Anthony Cerra ’13 is the manager of a recently opened Train Hard Fitness in Endwell, N.Y. Cerra said the new location is an ideal starting spot for the business.

Samantha DiMascio ’13 transitioned from the weekend producer to a general assignment reporter at WNYT NewsChannel 13. At SUNY Oswego, she was a reporter, anchor, producer and news director at WTOP-10. She lives in East Greenbush, N.Y., with her family and three dogs.

Kelsey Harvey ’13 is a brand strategist at Terakeet in Syracuse, N.Y.

Michelle Ruskey ’13 is the manager at Waterfall Designs in Chittenango, N.Y.

Richard Stein ’13 is a director of communications in the office of New York State Assemblyman David Buchwald, based in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

Elaine Vanderweken ’13 is a club manager and personal trainer at Snap Fitness in Red Oak, Texas. In fall 2015 she will begin a master’s in health education at Texas A&M.

Kristin Borenan ’14 is a brand strategist at Terakeet in Syracuse, N.Y.

Ronald Desarro ’14 is a brand strategist at Terakeet in Syracuse, N.Y.

Alicia Fine ’13 M’14 is an assistant accountant at Bonadio Group in Syracuse, N.Y. Fine participates in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

David Goro ’14 is a distribution analyst for J. Crew in Scarsdale, N.Y.

Alex Jurczynski ’14 is the new head baseball coach for Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, N.Y. Jurczynski played catcher for Schenectady High School and continued playing at SUNY Oswego.

Lindsay King ’14 is an assistant director of admissions at The Sage Colleges in Troy, N.Y.

Jeremy Long ’14 moved to Charlotte, N.C., after graduation to become a project production assistant at ESPNNU. He fulfills producers’ requests when they ask for specialty edits, like cutting voiceovers, or game melts from past games that they use for their on-site games.

Lauren Micale ’14 was named production assistant at WCNY in Syracuse, N.Y. Previously, she worked as a production intern for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences at USA Network in Los Angeles. She lives in Liverpool, N.Y.

Matthew Noonan M’14 is a staff accountant at DiMarco, Abiusi & Pascarella Certified Public Accountants in Syracuse, N.Y.

Dena Sangese ’14 is an audit associate at Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, N.Y.

Adam Searl ’14 is in the East Coast Page Program for NBC Universal in New York City.

Jonathan Witherell M’14 joined the tax department at Dannible & McKee LLP in Syracuse, N.Y. Before this position, Witherell was a financial representative intern at Northwestern Mutual. He lives in Liverpool, N.Y.

Molly Matott ’15 is the Weekend Morning meteorologist for NBC3’s CNY Central in Syracuse, N.Y.
Annette Kellogg ’05 married Ryan Utegg on July 4, 2014, at Shorewood Country Club in Dunkirk, N.Y. Pictured from left, are Jennifer Utegg, Amberly Lynn Kelley, Hannah Price, Matron of Honor Candice Berardi O’Mealia ’05, Maid of Honor Samantha Kellogg, Joshua Brunagin, Art Miller, Aaron Delcamp, Charles Utegg and Aaron Utegg. The bride and groom reside in Findley Lake, N.Y.

Melisa "Missy" Verdoliva ’99 (left) and Megan Daley were married Aug. 3, 2013, at Springside Park in Napanee, Ontario, Canada. Picture from left, Tammy Atkinson, Barbara Verdoliva Carroll ’93 M’99, Maryann Grimshaw, Missy Verdoliva ’99, Megan Daley, Sarah Daley, Dana MacDonald and Victor Licatese ’87 M’89.
Craig Mazuchowski '10 and Jessica Rainey Mazuchowski '10 were married on Aug. 9, 2014. The couple met at Pathfinder Dining Hall on campus where they worked together in 2008. Pictured from left, back row, are Greg Donohue '10, Nick Masia '10, Eric Dlugolecki '11, Pat Quast '10, Casey Calhoun '13, Chris Tynan '00, Brandy Dunn Tynan '98, Dave Buckpitt '79, Lindsay Brockmann '06, Jessica Furner '10, Catherine McCarthy '10 and Sue Harrington. Pictured from left, front row, are Katie Mazuchowski '12, Joe Hirtreiter '14, Susan Lanigan '12, Andy Serles '11, Craig Mazuchowski '10, Jessica Rainey Mazuchowski '10, Tim Rainey '09 and Cari Johnson '10.

Tricia Wilner-LoPresti '05 married Anthony LoPresti on Aug. 1, 2014, in Hopewell Junction, NY. The couple now lives in Wappingers Falls, NY. In attendance were Linda Berkovitch '01 M'03, Jamie Wilner Haug '01 M'08, James Bitts '05, Ann Marie Puma Bitts '05, John Sebalos '06, Becka Mance Castellano '05, Darcie Lesniak, Jill Matyjasik Sweeney '08, Bill Sweeney '04 and Cindy Roth '05.
**IN MEMORIAM**

Ruth Hackett Kitney ’34 of Fulton, N.Y., died Feb. 13, 2015, at the age of 103. She began her teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse in Ira, N.Y. For more than 30 years she taught in the Fulton School District, retiring in 1969. She is survived by three children, 12 grandchildren, including Ryan Terpening ’04, and 21 great-grandchildren.

Grace Kraft ’36 of Oswego died March 17, 2015. She taught in the Oswego City School District at Cooper School, Kingsford Park School and Leighton School, where she also served as vice principal and acting principal.

Helen Pingio Decker ’40 of Baldwinsville, N.Y., died April 1, 2015. Helen taught at Glens Falls and Rochester, N.Y., before settling in Baldwinsville. She taught in the Phoenix (N.Y.) Central School District for 40 years. Surviving are three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Lois Crump Howe ’40 of Santa Rosa, Calif., died Nov. 17, 2014.


John Williamson ’41 of Sun City Center, Fla., died Feb. 11, 2015. He served with the U.S. Navy in World War II. He was a teacher and principal in Watertown, N.Y., for many years. John is survived by four children, Ann Lachenauer, Stephen, Kathy Davis and Jay ’85; his wife, Vicky Posso Williamson ’85; 10 grandchildren, including Lucas Williamson ’17; and five great-grandchildren.

Jean McGivney Leonard ’46 of Henderson, N.Y., died March 8, 2015. She is survived by five children, 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Thomas LePine ’47 of Silver Spring, Md., died Dec. 3, 2013. He was a veteran of World War II. "Jack" earned a master’s degree at Gallaudet University. He retired from the Environmental Protection Agency. Shortly after his death, his wife, Jean Redden LePine ’46, died Jan. 14, 2015. She taught for 36 years at Gallaudet University and Arcola Elementary School. They are survived by two children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.


Ernest Seifried ’48 of St. Augustine, Fla., died May 12, 2015. He served with the U.S. Army during World War II. He earned a master’s degree in 1950 from St. Lawrence University. Ernie taught industrial arts technology in Saranac Lake for 18 years before becoming superintendent of schools. He retired in 1983. Surviving are his wife, Mary "Gay," six children, including Randall ’72 and Scott ’76; and his wife, Ann ’02; 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Jarvis Baillargeon ’49 of Valatie, N.Y., died March 3, 2015. He served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He taught industrial arts technology for 15 years before serving as an associate supervisor of the NYS Department of Education, where he developed statewide industrial arts curriculum. Jarvis is survived by his wife, Marie Casey Baillargeon ’50, nine children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Alfred Nudd ’49 of Delmar, N.Y., died March 4, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army-Air Force Corps of Engineers during World War II. He earned a master’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He was on the faculty at SUNY Alfred for more than 31 years, retiring in 1985. Al is survived by his wife, Jayne, three daughters and six grandchildren.

Otis "Monte" White ’49 of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., died March 26, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army-Air Force Corps during World War II. He taught industrial arts for a short time before joining IBM in Poughkeepsie in 1952 as a commercial artist and technical writer. Monte retired in 1987 after 36 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Bernice, two sons, a grandson, three stepchildren and five great step grandchildren.


Edward Boudreau ’51 of Waterloo, N.Y., died Jan. 31, 2015. He served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He spent his entire career as an educator in the Waterloo Central School District, starting in 1951 as a teacher and coach before becoming a guidance counselor in 1964. He became the Waterloo Junior High School principal in 1965, serving until 1984 when he was appointed principal at Waterloo High School. Ed retired in 1989. He is survived by his wife, Cecelia Bertino Boudreau ’77, three children, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Frances Hitchcock Casper ’51 of Vero Beach, Fla., died Jan. 26, 2015. She is survived by her husband, Reginald; five children, Robert, former director of Career Services at Oswego, Gary, Lynne, Martha and Janet; nine grandchildren, including Ted Casper ’08; and one great-granddaughter.

Joseph Giorgio ’51 of Monroe, Conn., died Feb. 4, 2015. He served with the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1955. Joseph was an educator and administrator in the Connecticut Public School System for over 34 years. Surviving are his wife, Rose, three children and nine grandchildren.

Raymond “Kay” Hathaway ’51 of Deposit, N.Y., died Feb. 28, 2015. He served with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and remained active in the Air Force Reserve, retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel. Kay taught industrial arts and driver’s education at Deposit Central School for 30 years. He is survived by five children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Karl Schmidt ’52 of Utica, N.Y., died March 5, 2014.

Lucille Drucker Schrager ’52 of Voorhees, N.J., died Oct. 17, 2012. She is survived by a son, David, and a grandson, Craig.

Charles "Fritz" Dodge ’53 of Latham, N.Y., died Jan. 17, 2015. He served with the Merchant Marines during World War II and later served with the U.S. Army, Navy and Coast Guard. Fritz was a principal in the Holland Patent School District and also taught in Niskayuna and Albany, N.Y. He served as a vocational teacher for the NYS Department of Corrections at Greene Correctional Facility and for the Glenmont Job Corps. Surviving are his wife, Betty, four children, eight grandchildren, one great-grandson three stepchildren and three step-grandchildren.

Patricia Shaw Harvey-Cooney ’53 of Port St. Lucie, Fla., died Aug. 25, 2014. She taught in the Farmingdale and North Babylon School Districts for over 35 years. Surviving are her husband, John Cooney, four children, nine grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, six stepchildren and several step-grandchildren.

Marilyn Warrin ’53 of Northfield, Mass., died Aug. 7, 2014. She received a master’s degree from Hofstra University. Lynne taught in several schools in New York before joining the faculty at Eaglebrook School in Deerfield, Mass., where she taught for 27 years. She is survived by a sister.

Richard Bower ’54 of Tupper Lake, N.Y., died Jan. 27, 2015. He served in the U.S. Coast...
Guard. Dick taught industrial arts in Nanuet Public Schools and driver education in Rockland County for many years. He was predeceased by his wife, Ethel Anderson Bower ’54. Surviving are his children, Rick ’80 and his wife, Beth Bobbette ’80; Stephen ’82 and his wife, Karen; David ’83 and his wife, Kristin; and Nancy and her husband, Rich; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Adrienne Clos ’54 of Syracuse, N.Y., died April 22, 2015. She taught in the Liverpool Central School District for 30 years, retiring from Chestnut Hill Elementary School. She is survived by two nieces, aunts, uncles and cousins.

John Bond ’55 of Oswego died April 6, 2015. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He taught English and history for many years in the Fulton and Oswego City School Districts. John is survived by his wife, Elaine Reap Bond ’55; four daughters, Susan, Carolyn Thompson, Sharon Bonacorsi ’84 and Terri Lee Dean; and seven grandchildren.

William Pugh ’55 of Canandaigua, N.Y., died Nov. 12, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Bill was a principal in the Rochester City School District for 30 years, retiring from the early 1990s. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, three children and four grandchildren.

Elizabeth Brackett Barner ’56 of Rensselaer, N.Y., died Aug. 13, 2014. Betty is survived by her husband, Harry ’56; six children, Ginger, Stephen, Harry ’82, Phil, Paul and Tim; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by three children, Susan, Marie and Bobby.

Richard Rawlings ’58 of Ellsbury, N.Y., died May 7, 2015. He was a teacher and vice principal in the Hounsfield Central School District (now Sackets Harbor Central School) before becoming superintendent of the Copenhagen Central School District. He is survived by his wife, Florence, two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Reed Tinkler ’58 of Clinton, N.Y., died May 1, 2015. He began his career in education as an industrial arts and driver’s education teacher at New Hartford High School in 1958. After completing a master’s degree at Syracuse University in 1968, he spent more than 20 years as a guidance counselor at Ralph Perry Junior High School. He was also the director of the Adult Education Program at New Hartford Central School District for many years. Reed retired in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Rosemarie Limmer Tinkler ’75, four children and seven grandchildren.

William Bacon ’59 of Bonita Springs, Fla., died Feb. 11, 2015. Bill had been an industrial arts teacher and retired as a guidance counselor from North Rockland High School. Bill then worked as an admissions representative for SUNY Oswego and served on the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors. He was predeceased by his wife, Patricia Kallmeyer Bacon ’60. Surviving are his children; Diana Rizzo ’88 and her husband, Donald ’87; William IV ’90 and his wife, Holly Roth ’88; and Robert ’95 and his wife, Kathleen Liguori ’95; his companion, Mary Lou Eichert; and seven grandchildren.


Ruth Wenegrat Youngman ’59 of Henderson, Nev., died Nov. 16, 2013. Ruth taught junior high school English in Webster, N.Y., for over 10 years. She left teaching in the mid-1970s and, with a friend, opened the Webster Book Shop where she worked until her retirement the early 1990s. She was predeceased by her husband, Donald. Surviving are her children, Garvin and Todd Thorp, and two grandchildren.

John Hansen ’60 of Speculator, N.Y., died March 14, 2015. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. John earned a master’s degree at Stony Brook University. He taught industrial arts and mechanical drawing at Walt Whitman High School in the South Huntington School District for 30 years, retiring in the early 1990s. John is survived by his wife, Beverly Cubit Hansen ’59; and children, John and wife, Pamela; Peter and wife, Lisa (Ammian) ’89; and Marbeth and her husband, Michael Serencsics; and 11 grandchildren.

Mary Stroud ’62 of Huntersville, N.C., died June 12, 2014.

Thomas Lacy ’63 of Fayetteville, N.Y., died Jan. 28, 2015. Tom had been a teacher in the Jamesville-Dewitt School District for 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Donna, two children and seven grandchildren.

Howard Walker ’63 of Washington, Pa., died Nov. 1, 2013. He was a teacher and guidance counselor in the New Hartford Central School District before moving to Pennsylvania, where he spent 20 years as a guidance counselor at Burgettstown High School, retiring in 2002. Howard is survived by his wife, Carol, five children and 15 grandchildren.

Michael Mead ’65 of Huntington Station, N.Y., died Sept. 5, 2011.

Frederick Zumperetti ’65 of Rome, N.Y., died March 23, 2015. He earned a master’s degree at St. Lawrence University. Fred began his career in education as a teacher and administrator in Lowville. He was later a principal at Canajoharie High School, Adirondack High School in Boonville and Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES in Williamson, retiring in 1998. He began a second career as an interim administrator in various schools in the area. He retired once again on Dec. 31, 2014. Surviving Fred are his wife, Ellen; his mother, Catherine; and children, John ’90, Jill Heintz and Ben Pokines; and five grandchildren.

Sandra Franck ’66 of Greer, S.C., died March 18, 2012.

Barry Daley ’67 of Lyons, N.Y., died June 12, 2013. He taught French and Spanish in the Clyde-Savannah Central School District for 23 years. He worked for NDC for 10 years in direct care. Barry is survived by a son, Sean, and two grandchildren.


George Hutko ’68 of Minoa, N.Y., died March 3, 2015. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. George taught briefly at Dolgeville High School. He taught earth science at Chittenango High School for many years until his retirement. He is survived by his wife, Susan Thompson Hutko ’68, four children, eight grandchildren, a sister, Loraine Maseoy, and two brothers, Daniel and Paul Hutko, Associate Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Oswego.

Warren Johnson ’68 of Gloversville, N.Y., died Jan. 23, 2015. He earned a master’s degree at Syracuse University. Warren and his wife, Betty, were officers in the Salvation Army, spending 22 years in the U.S. Southern Territory before returning to Gloversville in 2002. In addition to Betty, he is survived by three sons, five grandchildren, and a foster son and his children.

Robert Campagna ’69 of Little Falls, N.Y., died April 5, 2015. He owned and operated Campagna’s Restaurant, was the head chef for The Mohawk Station in the late 1980s and was last employed as the chef for the Sojourn House in Schenectady. Bob is survived by six children, eight grandchildren and a great-grandchild.


Donald Solomon ’69 of Endicott, N.Y., died Jan. 12, 2015. He was employed for many years at Enjoie Golf Course Restaurant and at the Endicott Elks Lodge. After his retirement, he worked for Top of the Morning Restaurant and...
D&P Payroll. Surviving are his wife, Ellie, two children and four grandchildren.

Roberta Hayes Zerrahn ‘70 of Farmington, N.Y., died May 27, 2010. She worked as a librarian in the Mexico School District and at the Gorham Free Library and Red Jacket Community Library. Surviving are two daughters and two grandsons.

Dennis Dayboch ‘73 of Sanford, Fla., died Nov. 7, 2013.

Deborah Ziegler-Stebbins ‘74 of Baldwinsville, N.Y., died April 17, 2015. She worked for more than 30 years with the Onondaga County Parks office in various roles with the zoo and parks administrative office. Debbie is survived by her husband, Bruce; her mother, Virginia Ziegler; two daughters and two grandsons.

Charles DiNatale ‘75 of East Rochester, N.Y., died Oct. 12, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Ellwanger DiNatale ‘75; his mother, Rose Marie; and three children.

Paul Etu ’77 of Winchester, Va., died Sept. 15, 2013. He was a graduate of Adiron- dack Community College and earned a master’s degree in clinical psychology at Marquette University. He earned a second master’s degree and CAS in school psychology and a doctorate in psychology at the University at Albany. Paul began his career as a mental-health practitioner working at the Prospect Center in Queensbury, N.Y. in 1973. He later was a school psychologist in Glens Falls and Queensbury. He then spent almost 20 years in private practice as a licensed psychologist. He recently served as a forensic psychologist with the NYS Office of Mental Health in conjunction with the NYS Office of the Attorney General. Surviving are his wife, Marcia, three sons and three grandchildren.

Molly Martin ‘77 CAS ’90 of Sterling, N.Y., died April 16, 2015. She earned a master’s degree at SUNY Geneseo. Molly worked as a speech language pathologist in the North Rose Central School District for more than 20 years and had previously worked in the Hannibal Central School District. She is survived by her brother, Matthew.

Carolyn Summers Bridgers ‘78 of Raleigh, N.C., died Feb. 4, 2015. Prior to her retirement, she was employed with the Oswego Alumni Association. Carolyn was predeceased by her husband, Raymond Bridgers, Professor Emeritus of Education at Oswego. She is survived by six children, Cynthia, Michael, Brad ‘05, Katherine, Holly and Lori ‘87; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Myra Held Piracci ‘79 of Glendale, Ariz., died April 30, 2015. She is survived by her husband, Ron.

John Creatorio ‘80 M’88 of Mobile, Ala., died March 18, 2015. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. John served as a lay missionary in Zaire, Africa, and later was a Peace Corps volunteer in Congo-Zaïre, Africa. In 1980, he was ordained a permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Syracuse, retiring in 2003 to Mobile to continue as a permanent Deacon in the service of the Archdiocese of Mobile. John is survived by his wife, JoAnne, two sisters and a brother.

Alan McCartney M’80 of Voorheesville, N.Y., died May 8, 2015. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Thiel College and a doctorate in education from Columbia University Teachers College. At the time of his passing, he had been superintendent of schools in the Ravana-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District since 2012. He was previously superintendent of the Voorheesville Central School District for 16 years, retiring in 2005. He had been a superintendent of the Crown Point Central School District and was an assistant principal in the Mexico Central School District. He is survived by his wife, Marcia, two children and four grandchildren.

Carolyn Goetsch McKenzie M’87 of Webster, N.Y., died Feb. 4, 2015. She earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She was an English teacher at Liverpool Middle School from 1981 until her retirement in 2002. Carolyn is survived by three daughters and five grandchildren.

Sarah Fadden ‘88 of Plattsburgh, N.Y., died April 1, 2015. She was a registered nurse. Sarah is survived by a son, Tyler, and a grandson, Aiden.

Margaret Ellis Powell ‘88 of Fernandina Beach, Fla., died Feb. 17, 2014. She earned her master’s degree from SUNY Cortland. She was a teacher in the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School District until her retirement in 2003. Margaret is survived by her husband, William, two daughters and two grandchildren.

Robert Haeger M’90 of Verona, N.Y., died Feb. 14, 2015. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Cornell University in 1960. He retired from the U.S. Naval Reserves with 30 years of service in 1985. He was a teacher at Utica Free Academy and Oneida County BOCES, retiring in 1996. Surviving are his wife, Fran, three children and four grandchildren.

Rosemarie “Penny” Sowards Schrader ’91 of Oswego died March 3, 2015. She was a graduate of the Deaconess School of Nursing in Milwaukee and earned a master’s degree at Oswego in 2000. Penny worked at Oswego Hospital for 20 years and for Oswego County until she retired. She is survived by her husband, Paul; two children, Andrea ‘89 and Matthew and his wife, Jennifer Mackaig Schrader M’97; and two grandsons.

Michael Lynne CAS ‘92 of Oswego died Feb. 5, 2015. He earned a BFA and master’s degrees from Rochester Institute of Technology. He taught at Oswego High School for 25 years. Michael is survived by his wife, Evelyn, a son, a daughter and a granddaughter.

Kevin Kretser ‘95 of Waterford, N.Y., died Feb. 16, 2014. He was self-employed and the owner of Beacon Media Consultants. He is survived by his parents, Diane and Art Perkins and Steven Kretser, two step-sisters and his girlfriend, Pam Thomas.

Jamie Woodcock ‘00 of Morristown, N.Y., died Jan. 20, 2015. He was a graduate of SUNY Canton and earned a master’s degree at SUNY Potsdam. Jamie taught for nine years at Geneseo High School and was most recently employed as a business teacher for St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES and Gouverneur Central School. He is survived by his wife, Lauren, two children, a stepdaughter and his parents, Lyle and Pat.

Kaseh Pelletier ‘07 of Denver, Colo., died March 26, 2015. She earned a master’s degree from SUNY Empire State College in 2012. She is survived by her fiancé, Christopher Iverson; her father and stepmother, Matthew and Cindy Pelletier; her mother, Ivy Stevens-Gupta and stepfather, Sachin Gupta; a brother and two step-siblings.

Zachary Primrose ’10 of Fulton, N.Y., died March 1, 2015. He earned a Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law and was employed as an attorney at Riehlman, Schafer and Schaer in Tully. Zachary is survived by his parents, Douglas and Jacqueline; and his brothers, Joshua and Jacob.

Daniel Barach, Professor Emeritus of Music, died May 10, 2015. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Michigan State and a master’s degree at the University of Illinois. While playing viola in the Houston Symphony, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served with the
7th Army Symphony. Upon his discharge, he joined the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. In 1964, he joined the faculty at Oswego, retiring in May 2014. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, two daughters and two grandchildren.

John Glinski, Professor Emeritus of Health and Physical Education, died April 13, 2015. He earned a bachelor’s degree at SUNY Cortland, a master’s degree at the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. at Indiana University. He was appointed as the athletic director at Oswego in 1958, a position he held until 1976, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award ECAC-SUNYAC. John retired in 1991. Surviving are his wife, Kathleen, five children and 10 grandchildren.

Dan Michalak, Associate Professor Emeritus of Education, died Dec. 27, 2011. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Buffalo State College and a Ph.D. at Wayne State University. Prior to coming to Oswego, he was an elementary teacher and assistant district principal in suburban Buffalo. Dan is survived by his wife, Gayle, two children and four grandchildren.

George O’Connell, Professor Emeritus of Art, died May 11, 2015. He earned degrees at the University of Wisconsin and continued his studies at Ohio State University. He was the recipient of a Fulbright Award and concluded his studies at the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, in Amsterdam from 1959-1960. He was a member of Oswego’s art department from 1969 until his retirement in 1991. He had previously taught at the University of Maryland, SUNY Buffalo and the California College of Arts and Crafts. George is survived by his wife, Marilyn, a son and two grandchildren.

Charles Phallen, Professor Emeritus of Industrial Arts, died March 7, 2015. He served with the U.S. Army during World War II. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Otterbein College in 1947, a master’s degree from Ohio State in 1948 and a Ph.D. from Ohio State in 1958. Charles taught high school in Ohio and California, then joined the Oswego faculty in 1958. He retired in 1983. He is survived by his son, Iver; his daughter, Annalissa; three grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Frederick Ratzeburg, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, died April 20, 2015. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. Fred earned a bachelor’s degree in 1949 from Willamette University and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Syracuse University in 1959. He was appointed at Oswego in 1959. While at Oswego, he served as a psychological consultant to the Oswego and Hannibal School Districts. Fred retired in 1977 but continued to teach as an adjunct until 1988 while serving as a network psychologist for the NYS Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and providing psychological screening services for the Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant. Gifts in Dr. Ratzeburg’s memory may be made to the Beta Tau Epsilon Service Scholarship, c/o the Oswego College Foundation Inc., 215 Sheldon Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126.

Constance Van Kirk Ryan M’84, Librarian Emerita, died Feb. 19, 2015. She earned a bachelor’s degree at Nazareth College, and master’s degrees at Columbia College and SUNY Oswego. She retired from Oswego in 1996. Constance is survived by her son, Stephen; daughters, Elizabeth and Eileen; and a granddaughter.

Campus and Country Mourn the Tragic Death of Former Oswego Professor

Warren Weinstein, former professor at SUNY Oswego, died Jan. 14, 2015, in a U.S. counterterrorism drone strike while being held hostage by Al Qaeda in Pakistan for four years.

Weinstein was a tenured professor who taught political science between 1970 and 1979. He left the position to help people of developing nations with the U.S. Agency for International Development. He was abducted by Al Qaeda from his home in Lahore, Pakistan, on Aug. 13, 2011.

His SUNY Oswego colleagues remember him for being adventurous, energetic, open to new experiences and willing to take action.

“Dr. Weinstein devoted his life to making the world a better place,” said SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley. “He left us to serve others in some of the world’s most impoverished and troubled regions. His life was an inspiration that will not die.”

Weinstein is survived by his wife, Ellen; his two daughters; a son-in-law; and two grandchildren.

—Aaron Wilson ’17
My fourth-grade teacher had one major criticism during her parent-teacher conference with my parents so many years ago.

“He doesn’t participate enough,” she told Mom and Dad. “I know he understands the material, but he doesn’t raise his hand or participate much. He’s like a sponge.”

I guess I always felt it was more important to learn from the teacher, materials and classmates rather than to demonstrate that I knew something. I was shy. I also feared the label “smarty pants.”

We all change. Today, some folks say I babble too much. But, I have always exhibited a sponge-like ability—absorbing all I can from my environment.

So I was pretty much in education heaven when I attended Oswego State in the 1970s.

The teachers and classes were outstanding. It seemed I was interested in everything, from the familiar to the foreign: geography, statistics, history of the English language, accounting, computers, education, psychology, etc. Was it any surprise that I changed majors six times, beginning and ending with a not-particularly marketable—but very much appreciated—English degree?

About three semesters into my collegiate career, I switched to my fourth major—computer science. At a keyboard on the first floor of Culkin Hall, typing on data processors no one would recognize today, I punched programs onto hundreds of IBM cards that I carried around in a long cardboard box. Because I switched majors and needed to catch up, I took nothing but computer and business-related courses.

I knew we were facing a world where we would have to be more and more connected to computers, but I realized that I did not want to work with their innards. So I returned to English and renewed my interest in becoming a reporter—the perfect job for a sponge.

I spent plenty of time in Sheldon Hall, with its stately columns and clock tower standing firm behind a statue of its namesake, Edward Austin Sheldon. Yes, he’s still holding that apple* and lecturing that young boy. I took every newspaper and journalism course—including two internships at the Oswego Palladium-Times—that I could take from James Brett.

Brett knew his stuff. Following his commonsense approach to the tradition of journalism—then still entrenched in the world of print—led to my career of more than 36 years as a reporter and editor, mostly spent at the dailies in Syracuse. Whenever I had a reporting assignment that I hated, I inevitably remembered Brett’s professional warning: The night you decide to skip out to the bar across the street instead of attending the common council meeting at City Hall is the exact night that something dramatic will happen in the meeting.

For decades, I found that if I listened closely, every routine story offered me plenty of new information, perspectives and insights.

Lessons learned by a sponge. Thanks, Oswego State.

Jeff Stage ’77 worked 36 years as a reporter and editor for the daily Syracuse newspapers. Stage is now an editorial associate for the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, Pa. His first novel, Chasing Jenny, focused on the theft of a set of rare stamps. Read a snippet on his website, www.jeffstage.com.

*Editor’s Note: Although many presume the object in the hand of the copper Edward Austin Sheldon statue is an apple, the founder actually holds a sphere—one of the objects that made up the tool kit of instructors in the Pestalozzian Method, which Sheldon popularized among American educators.
You can make an Oswego education even better for future generations!

By including SUNY Oswego in your will or estate plans, you have the power to make an impact on the lives of future generations of students. Plus, you will join others who are dedicated to carrying out the work of Oswego’s founder, Edward Austin Sheldon, as members of the Sheldon Legacy Society.

For more information about including SUNY Oswego in your estate plans, please contact:

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alumni.oswego.edu/plannedgiving.
Brian Betz, Ph.D., professor emeritus of communication studies, started his storied career as a clergyman. Born Richard Ferdinand Betz, he took the name Brian when he became a monk. He entered the seminary when he was 14 years old to become a priest, and later a monk, where he started on his path to education, teaching speech correction and language in the monastery in St. Meinrad, Ind.

He left the priesthood to pursue master’s and doctorate degrees in communication studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and married his wife, Beth. The couple later had Brian ’95, and the family moved to Oswego in 1977. Betz interviewed for teaching jobs around the country, but ultimately arrived at SUNY Oswego’s communication studies department.

Then chair, Lewis B. O’Donnell, Ph.D., after whom the annual Media Summit is named, assigned Betz some of the more challenging tasks, like mentoring a student who had been incarcerated.

“He figured because I had been a priest, I could deal with difficult situations,” Betz said.

O’Donnell was right. During Betz’s appointment as chaplain of the Woodmere State Mental Hospital in Evansville, Ind., a disturbed man walked into his office with a loaded handgun.

“He said, ‘Are you a priest?’” Betz said. “And I said, ‘Yes, I am.’ Then he pulled out a handgun, which looked like a double barrel shotgun at the time.”

Betz remembers being scared, but recalled the Catholic belief of “Refugium Peccatorum,” or the refuge of sinners, as he calmly talked with the man and successfully convinced him not to take his own life.

“All of those experiences, talking about conflict and so forth helped me teach,” he said.

At SUNY Oswego, Betz taught various communication classes in the department. He was known for his humor and compassion toward his students as well as his coworkers. He served as president of SUNY Oswego’s chapter of UUP, or United University Professionals, the union for faculty on campus, advocating for benefits and negotiating contracts. Part of his legacy at Oswego is the development of the peer review center.

Described as an innovator by his wife, Betz said that, as a curriculum, “Communications isn’t burdened with a long history. It provides a flexibility, which I think is good.”

— Tyler Edic ’13