Farm Chic
Global food entrepreneur Tessa Edick ’92 brings local farming to the table

PLUS:
- A historical look at Residence Life
- Homecoming 2015
- Loyal Lakers Society recognizes consecutive donors
REWARD

YEE-HAW! Anyone who saddles up to attend Reunion 2016 can expect a good ole hootenanny.

- Chew the fat with friends at Friday’s “Come As You Were” BBQ at Fallbrook.
- Grab some chow at the watering hole (a.k.a. “Picnic on the Lake”) on Saturday afternoon.
- Giddy up over to the “Rodeo Tailgate” on Saturday early evening.
- Stomp your foot at the “Hoedown Concert,” co-sponsored by DKK and featuring Jumbo Shrimp and The Gravelding Brothers, Saturday night.

All cowboys and cowgirls are 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
- 1936 - 80th
- 1931 - 85th
- 1926 - 90th
- 1921 - 95th
- 1916 - 100th
- 1911 - 105th
- 1906 - 110th
- 1901 - 115th
- 1896 - 120th

Alpha Epsilon Phi (30th Anniversary), Alpha Sigma Chi, Arethusa Eta, Baseball, Beta Tau Epsilon, Delta Chi Omega/TKE, Delta Kappa Kappa (90th Anniversary), Men's Soccer, Omega Delta Phi, Phi Lambda Phi, Pi Delta Chi, Psi Phi Gamma, Sigma Gamma, Sigma Tau Chi (70th Anniversary), Symphonic Choir and Theta Chi Rho (60th Anniversary)

For more information:
Reunion Hotline 315-312-5559 • Email: reunion@oswego.edu
Advance registration is required and can be completed online: alumni.oswego.edu/reunion.
Shack up on campus in air-conditioned Johnson and Riggs halls.
Take advantage of early-bird pricing and register before May 20!
New Loyal Lakers Society Recognizes Consistent Supporters 4

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The re-instituted Homecoming tradition brings together students and alumni in a daylong celebration of Oswego pride.

Farm Chic 20
Tessa Edick ‘92 hopes to revolutionize the way New Yorkers eat to save local farming, improve nutrition and build stronger communities.

A Sense of Place 26
Residential life is an essential component of a SUNY Oswego student’s experience that builds a sense of community and nurtures a spirit of lifelong learning.

The Last Word 48
Retired teacher and humorist Ermine Calandra Cunningham ’73 remembers learning about new cultures during a semester abroad at the University of Puerto Rico in her original piece, Bell Bottom Blues.

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ON THE COVER:
Tessa Edick ’92, food entrepreneur, philanthropist and founder of FarmOn! Foundation, at the foundation’s Empire Farm in Copake, N.Y. Photo by Travis W. Keyes Photography.
President’s Desk

As I write this column, temperatures dip below freezing, and ice and snow blanket the campus. Students take refuge in their cozy residence halls with their textbooks and laptops. They fill their dining trays with warming comfort foods like fresh, home-cooked soups. Just as the natural world is gearing up for spring, our students are preparing for the transformation that happens every May on campus, when they will graduate and blossom into professionals in a variety of careers. Our job is to provide them with the best living and learning environment to nurture their development and safeguard their success.

In this issue, you will read on page 26 about our students’ on-campus residential life and the college’s history of creating experiences that support students’ personal, cultural and academic growth. Living on campus is an immersive experience that literally changes the way students live, learn, and play. They develop good habits that last a lifetime and—like Tessa—become models in leading the way to a more sustainable lifestyle, one of the grand challenges of our times.

Warm wishes,
Deborah F. Stanley, President

With Passion & Purpose
The Campaign for SUNY Oswego

Make a gift before June 30!
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OSWEGO Alumni Magazine

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The Oswego Alumni Association, Inc.

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Four Join the OAA Board of Directors

Four graduates who have already demonstrated their commitment to SUNY Oswego and its students have been elected to the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors, the policy-setting arm of the OAA. They attended their initial meeting on campus on Nov. 13. Each will serve a three-year term.

Joining the board are:

Karen Colucci Coia '89 of Williamsville, N.Y., is a territory manager for Pfizer Inc. She has served as chair of Senior Challenge '89, a Reunion volunteer and a Free and Easy Memorial volunteer. She was a communication studies major.

Kathy Smits Evans '84 of Baldwinsville, N.Y., is assistant vice president of Student Affairs at SUNY Oswego. She has served as a Reunion volunteer, an alumni advisor to Phi Lambda Phi sorority and a volunteer for many major campus events, including campaign launch events and celebrations. She was a business administration major.

Stefen Short '10 of Brooklyn, N.Y., is an attorney with Disability Rights New York in Brooklyn. He served as vice president of the Student Association and on the Graduates Of the Last Decade (GOLD) Leadership Council. He was a political science major.

Kevin Sutherland ’05 is the city administrator in Saco, Maine. He served as Student Association president, a GOLD Leadership Council member, a 10-year Reunion Giving chair and an Alumni-In-Residence speaker. He was a political science major.

Learn more about the Oswego Alumni Association board at alumni.oswego.edu/alumniboard.

Educators Gather To Learn, Share Technology for the Classroom

Students in the Florida (N.Y.) Union Free School District can make a pancake breakfast for their technology teacher, Jeffrey Rodman ’13 M’14.

But first they have to design it.

The district has a PancakeBot, which uses 3D printer technology to build 3D models using—yes, pancake batter—as the modeling material.

“My seniors come in and design what we’re going to eat,” said Rodman, who is spearheading a district effort to have students design and build actual 3D printers on CNC machines.

Rodman was among more than 100 technology educators who packed a session on 3D printer classroom applications, presented by Professor Donna Matteson ’83 M’88 with students Jonathan Russo ’16 and Rachel Edic ’16. The session was part of the SUNY Oswego Department of Technology’s 76th Fall Conference Oct. 29-30, which drew more than 500 education professionals to more than 50 programs and commercial exhibitions showcasing the latest for the classroom and laboratory.

Presenters at the 3D printing session offered tips for the introduction of 3D printing into middle and high school classrooms, as well as showing the capabilities of printers at SUNY Oswego, including the Makerbot Replicator 2 in the Penfield Library, which is available for public printing.

Participants were shown examples of items created with both the Makerbot and printers in the technology lab: a duck’s head, a knife, a lion’s head and architectural home models, to name a few. They also learned about the processes used to create, digitize and print in 3D.

“This is an amazing technology that’s growing and constantly changing,” Matteson said. “It’s also coming to the point of higher affordability and quality, to meet classroom needs.”

Other sessions that drew participants to the two-day conference included a number of robotics projects, including the student-built SeaPerch underwater remotely operated vehicles presented by Niskayuna (N.Y.) Central School District technology educators Michael Petrone Jr. ’11 M’13 and Tom Blechinger M’86, iron casting using computers, using hockey to teach STEM concepts, graphic media, high altitude ballooning and much more.

—Eileen Crandall
College to Launch New Giving Society to Recognize Loyal Donors July 1

Irma Johnston Lent ’59 vaguely remembers the first gift she ever made to SUNY Oswego back in 1976. Her two daughters were in school, she had just returned to teaching at an elementary school in the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery (N.Y.) Central School District, and she and her husband, Duke, had purchased their house.

“I must have received a solicitation from the college, and we were in a stable place financially,” Lent said. “I always believed if you can help, you should. It wasn’t much, as I was a schoolteacher. But if everybody gave a little, it would be a lot.”

Thirty-nine years later, she looks forward to receiving the annual phone call from the Oswego students who seek support for The Fund for Oswego.

“It’s fun talking with the students,” she said. “It reminds me where the money goes and who I’m supporting.”

Since that first gift in 1976, Lent has never forgotten her alma mater. In fact, she is the longest consecutive donor at the college. She will be among the 1,700 college supporters, including 190 who have given more than 25 years in a row, who will be welcomed into the new Loyal Lakers Society, which will launch on July 1, 2016.

The society will recognize the most loyal supporters on whom the college can count to contribute to The Fund for Oswego every year. Their consistent financial support provides Oswego with the confidence and resources to achieve new goals and carry out its mission of educating future leaders.

“We wanted to establish this new giving society to recognize this very deserving group of donors,” said Betsy Oberst, associate vice president of alumni relations and stewardship. “We cherish the commitment of our supporters who make it a priority to make a gift to Oswego every year, as they are the backbone of The Fund for Oswego. This new society seeks to honor their consistent loyalty to the college.”

Entrance into the Loyal Lakers Society is automatic and occurs after five consecutive years of giving at any level to Oswego. Recognition is based on the total of gifts and pledge payments received in a single fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). Couples are recognized for the combined total of their contributions.

Members will receive special invitations to events, recognition ribbons at events and special communications to recognize their consecutive years of giving.

As for Lent, she was “flabbergasted” to learn that she is the longest consecutive donor at the college and said she has no intention of slowing her support for the college.

“Once you start, you don’t stop,” she said. “I come back to campus almost every year, and I am amazed at how big the college has grown—the new construction, the spectacular new hockey rink. The college has grown well and is so impressive. It was a wonderful four years of my life, and I feel blessed that I was able to become a teacher. To me, Oswego was everything I wanted in my college experience.”

To learn more about the new society, visit alumni.oswego.edu/loyallakers.

—Margaret Spillett

with Passion & Purpose

The Campaign for SUNY Oswego

‘Appreciate Those Who Help You,’ Alumnus Tells New Graduates

Commencement Eve Dessert Reception Keynote Speaker Jeff Knauss ’07 addressed December graduates and their families Dec. 11, 2015, in the Sheldon Hall Ballroom. Knauss shared stories about his journey from graduation to his current position as owner of The Digital Hyve, a digital marketing agency specializing in website design, search engine optimization, social media and online marketing, based in Syracuse, N.Y. See related story on page 42.
11th Annual Media Summit Explores Diversity and Inclusion

Hundreds gathered Oct. 21 in the Sheldon Hall Ballroom and nearly 600 people tuned in for the live webcast of A Mile in My Shoes: Reflections on Equality & Diversity in the Media during the 11th Annual Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit.

The event featured a panel of media professionals, most of whom are alumni and all of whom represent a diverse voice:

Michelle Garcia ’06, identities editor at Mic.com in New York City and former managing editor of The Advocate, a bi-monthly magazine and website that focuses on news, politics, opinion and entertainment of interest to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

Kendis Gibson ’94, ABC News national correspondent who reports for all programs and platforms, including Good Morning America, World News Tonight with David Muir, Nightline and 20/20.

Dave Longley ’94, chief meteorologist on NewsChannel 9 WSYR-TV who told his viewers in 2011 that he had been living with multiple sclerosis for five years after the disease started to affect his speech.

Jennifer Sanders, anchor and reporter of The Morning News and The Noon News at NewsChannel 9 WSYR-TV in Syracuse.

The college also broke some glass ceilings of its own this year in its organization of the event. For the first-time ever, then Student Association president, Christopher Collins-McNeil ’16, moderated the panel and a female student, Lauren Toscano ’16, directed the WTOP10-TV live broadcast of the Media Summit.

The Media Summit is almost entirely organized, marketed and executed by a team of student volunteers, under the leadership of event coordinators Kalie Hudson ’17 and Victoria Love ’16. Rob Hackford ’16 and Rob Pagan ’16 were the Red Carpet Show Producers. Professor Michael Riecke served as the faculty advisor.

The Media Summit was founded in 2005 through the generosity of Louis A. Borrelli Jr. ’77. In 2007, Al Roker ’76, weatherman and host of NBC’s Today show, provided additional funding to rename the summit in memory of longtime professor Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell, a seminal figure in the college experiences of Borrelli and Roker.

—Margaret Spillett

Young Alumni Career Connectors Provide Advice at Media Summit

In conjunction with the Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit, the college hosted the annual Career Connectors panel, which provides an opportunity for students to hear the firsthand accounts from professionals who had been in their position just a few years earlier. Seated from left to right, student moderators Kalie Hudson ’17, a public relations major, and Victoria Love ’16, a broadcasting and mass communication major, and the 2015 Career Connectors:

Mike Toper ’11, video journalist for Time Warner Cable News in Ithaca, N.Y.

Stephanie Meyering Beahan ’08, account executive at Kellen Communications in New York, N.Y.


Adam Campbell-Schmitt ’06, television writer, comedian, digital producer for Food & Wine Magazine in New York, N.Y.

Mary Godnick ’14, senior brand strategist-SEO at Terakeet in Syracuse, N.Y.

Chris Horvatits ’13, reporter for News10NBC in Rochester, N.Y.
Noteworthy News

Business School Continues to Earn National Attention

The Princeton Review has named the School of Business at SUNY Oswego among the nation's most outstanding MBA-granting business schools for the 12th consecutive year. The college's MBA program also tied for 20th among online master of business administration programs nationally — the highest of any institution in the state, according to U.S. News' 2016 “Best Online Degree Programs: MBA” rankings published Jan. 12.

Oswego’s School of Business, accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, was the only public school in New York to crack the U.S. News' top 100 online graduate business programs list. After Oswego's spot at number 20, other NY institutions on the list include Rochester Institute of Technology's Saunders College of Business at 31st, Clarkson University at 36th and Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management at 44th.

"Students who enroll in the School of Business at SUNY Oswego can expect several things: excellent value for their money, intimate classes, knowledgeable professors, state-of-the-art facilities and an excellent hockey team," the Princeton Review wrote in the school's profile.

SUNY Oswego also offers customizable MBA programs in health services administration, management, public accounting and a variety of five-year options that combine an MBA with such undergraduate disciplines as broadcasting, psychology and public accounting. MBA delivery options include classroom-based in Oswego and/or at the SUNY Oswego Metro Center in Syracuse, blended classroom-online programs and the highly regarded, all-online MBA.

Report Card on Tobacco-Free Policies Gives College an 'A'

SUNY Oswego achieved an A on “Tobacco Free U: 2015 Dean's List,” a report card on efforts around New York state to prohibit smoking and other tobacco use on college campuses.

The college was among 60 on a list of 201 public and private colleges and universities—including community colleges and degree-granting technical and graduate schools—in the state to receive a grade of A in the report compiled by the American Cancer Society, its Cancer Action Network lobbying arm and the New York State Colleges Tobacco-Free Initiative.

For more information, visit oswego.edu/ozquits, maintained by the college’s Clean Air Committee.

Financial Honor Organization Wins Recognition

SUNY Oswego’s chapter of Beta Alpha Psi—the international honor organization for financial information students and professionals—has achieved "superior" status based on its performance in 2014-15.

School of Business faculty member Andrea Zielinski Pagano ’08 advises the Lambda Zeta chapter at Oswego.

To achieve superior chapter status, chapters must include essential skill programs for their members, attend a regional or annual BAP meeting, and report a designated amount of outreach activities. In addition, each chapter member must have a certain number of professional and service hours.

About 150 chapters achieved the honor this year. Superior designation includes an award of $275 sponsored by the KPMG Foundation.

Oswego Earns 2016 Best for Vets Recognition

Military Times has named SUNY Oswego a 2016 Best for Vets College, ranking it among only 125 four-year colleges and universities nationwide for the second consecutive year.

Oswego ranked 73rd, tops among the four State University of New York institutions on the list, which weighs results of detailed surveys and comparative national data. Other SUNY schools on the list were SUNY Plattsburgh, University at Buffalo and SUNY Cobleskill.

Services to veterans at Oswego include assistance with applications for admission; transfer of military and other college-eligible credits and financial aid; specialized academic advisement; emphasis on policies that are friendly to non-traditional students—those who do not follow a traditional high school-to-college path—and a Veterans Lounge and Veterans Club.

SUNY Council Honors Student Affairs Programs

Top SUNY student affairs awards recently went to groundbreaking SUNY Oswego programs designed to shift campus culture in reporting and response to sexual violence and to build respect for those of different races and ethnicities.

A program titled "Creating a Culture of Reporting and Response: A Collaborative Approach" led by Lisa Evaneski,
Title IX coordinator for the college, won a SUNY Council of Chief Student Affairs Officers Outstanding Student Affairs Program Award in the category of violence education and prevention, crisis management, campus security and related programs.

The multifaceted “I Am Oz” campaign won a similar honor in the international; multicultural; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning gender; spirituality; disability; and related programs category. The program encourages mutual respect through meaningful conversation and understanding of cultural and other differences in regard to race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion and socioeconomic circumstances.

The cross-campus Diversity and Inclusion Committee has tackled such projects as diversity training for leaders of student organizations and resident assistants and staff; the ongoing “I Am Oz” poster campaign; and expanded efforts to encourage dialogue during the annual student-spearheaded Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month celebrations, including appearances by actor Hill Harper and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Douglas Blackmon. Jerald Woolfolk, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, recently was named interim chief diversity officer for the college.

In the same competition, the Student Association-led inaugural observance of OzFest won honorable mention. The last-day-of-class spring celebration, an alternative to the Bridge Street Run pub crawl, drew students by the hundreds to the center of campus for giant inflated thrill rides, games, music, refreshments and an evening concert.

**Campaign, Report Honored in CASE District II Accolades**

The campaign launch of 2014 as well as the college’s 2014 annual report have earned recognition in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education 2015 Accolades Awards District II program. The Division of Development and Alumni Relations received the bronze award in the special events-individual event category for the launch of the public phase of the college’s With Passion and Purpose fundraising campaign on Oct. 16, 2014.

The mammoth project brought Al Roker ’76 and the Today show as well as ESPN’s Steve Levy ’87 to campus, coordinated with a special edition of the O’Donnell Media Summit that honored media icon Charlie Rose and celebrated the academic pursuits of a diverse range of faculty and students.

The college’s 2014 annual report, We Dwell in Possibility, captured the Gold Award in its category of digital annual or institutional reports. The Office of Communications and Marketing produced the report.

The recognitions come in a district with 700 institutions among seven states, two U.S. territories and Canada — the largest in CASE.

The Institute for International Education chose Oswego’s campaign for honorable mention in its Andrew Heiskell Awards for Innovation in International Education program. The honor was one of only three awarded in the study-abroad category. An initiative of the college’s Office of International Education and Programs and students serving as study-abroad mentors, “I, Too, Am Study Abroad” seeks to raise awareness among students who have been underrepresented in study abroad programs, informing them of the benefits of international education and the availability of scholarships to help pay for it.

The Marketing major Tiana Morris ’16 (left) organized and led a panel presentation last semester for students seeking opportunities to overcome financial and other challenges to study abroad. Panels, posters and student mentors from among study-abroad veterans are all part of a campaign titled “I, Too, Am Study Abroad.”
Alumnus Honors Memory of Alumna Wife Who Paid Her “Second Chance” Forward To Others

Marilyn Burkell Roth ’63 nearly dropped out of college following the unexpected death of her father during her freshman year at SUNY Oswego.

“She was very academically inclined,” said her husband of 50 years, John Robert “Bob” Roth ’64. “But her father died suddenly, her grades suffered and she went from an outstanding scholar to considering leaving school.”

Decades later, Marilyn would be a driving force in helping high school girls stay in school long enough to graduate as a founding member of the International Trade Education Programs (ITEP), a California-based non-profit organization formed in the 1990s. ITEP brings together private industry and public education to provide opportunities for high school students at risk, serving students from seven public high schools in low-income communities.

“She became a mentor for high school girls, guiding them to earn what was often the first high school diploma in their families,” Bob said. “She was instrumental in their success.”

Marilyn earned the prestigious Bill Stein Memorial Leadership Award in March 2014 for her efforts to facilitate students on the path of achievement through education. She received a Congressional Commendation from the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as letters of commendation from the California legislature, several California senators, the Los Angeles Unified School District board of education, and the city and county of Los Angeles.

Marilyn died in August 2014. In honor of her life—and the life they navigated together since they met at SUNY Oswego—Bob has dedicated the Marilyn Burkell Roth ’63 and John Robert Roth ’64 Second Chance Scholarship in her memory. The scholarship is for students who need support to make a major change in their lives after an unfortunate setback. The Second Chance Scholarship is one of five new endowed scholarships created by Bob to support students at SUNY Oswego.

“When she put her mind to something, she really ran with it,” Bob said of Marilyn’s dedication to all of her pursuits. “We’ve had such a variety of life experiences, and it’s easy to see how a 360-turnaround in someone’s life can make a difference.”

In addition to the Second Chance Scholarship, Bob has established two scholarships for students in the School of Education, one scholarship for a non-traditional student and one scholarship for a student majoring in technology. Each annual award is $1,500 and is renewable for up to five years.

—Eileen Crandall

Alumni Legacy Reception Links Generations of Oswego College Community Members

More than two dozen families stopped by the Alumni Legacy Reception in King Hall Oct. 24 during Friends & Family Weekend. In addition to making connections with each other, the alumni and their SUNY Oswego students learned about scholarship opportunities and about student programs sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association, with support from The Fund for Oswego.
SUNY Oswego Receives More Than $1 Million to Support Degree Completion

In the SUNY-wide competition for project grants from the SUNY Investment and Performance Fund, SUNY Oswego will receive $1,025,000 for two projects.

One of Oswego’s winning projects, SUMS, focuses on helping students who encounter mathematics as a barrier to academic success, and the other, Start Now, partners with Jefferson Community College in Watertown, N.Y., to build an alternative path to college for students who are not accepted at Oswego.

In addition, Oswego is partner to a third project, funded at $575,000, to establish a cancer study and care center at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y.

“These projects grow out of efforts we have already been pursuing with notable results,” Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley said. “This welcome infusion of resources will allow us to prove and formalize programs that other campuses can then replicate to help even more students finish college and go on to successful careers.”

In all, 32 project grants totaling $18 million were awarded to SUNY campuses in January as a result of the university system’s Investment and Performance Fund, established in the 2015-16 state budget. Campus awards will support SUNY’s Completion Agenda, which aims to boost the number of degrees awarded annually by bringing evidence-based programs to scale.

In addition to the awards above, SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher announced that SUNY is committed to funding campus proposals in areas that were common among applicants. Among them is the Smart Track Re-Enroll to Complete initiative. More than 25 SUNY campuses, including Oswego, are involved in that initiative to proactively engage with students who have withdrawn and encourage them to return and finish their degree.

MLK’s Daughter, Grammy-Winning Singer Featured in Campus Celebration

SUNY Oswego’s Jan. 29 Martin Luther King Jr. celebration featured Bernice A. King (pictured below), daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and chief executive of the King Center, and Grammy-winning gospel singer Smokie Norful. King’s speech acknowledged the impact of her father’s legacy and its relevance to social movements today. She reflected upon her father’s idea of shifting to a “person-driven society from a profit-driven society,” and that securing the well-being of people would naturally eradicate racism, poverty and other social ills.

Mark Your Calendars Now:
JUNE 8-11 Reunion 2017

* Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258
** University Development, 315-312-3003

alumni.oswego.edu/events
Beta Brothers Endow Scholarship, Earn Permanent Place on Campus

In 2015, a group of Beta Tau Epsilon brothers decided to establish an endowed scholarship at their alma mater. In doing so, they would support a current Greek student and—equally important—keep the name of their now disbanded fraternity alive on campus.

To endow the scholarship, the group needed to raise $25,000, an ambitious goal for the approximately 300 brothers who have stayed in touch through email. They had hoped to raise that amount by Dec. 31, 2016. But less than a year after announcing their goal, 150 brothers and friends have made gifts to the Beta Tau Epsilon Scholarship totaling $63,000.

"I am proud of how my Beta brothers stepped forward to support this scholarship," said Jerry Esposito ’70, Oswego Alumni Association board member and Beta brother. "Together, we have ensured the name of Beta Tau Epsilon will live in perpetuity at Oswego."

During Reunion 2015, Davis Parker ’47, Mike Andolina ’67 and Esposito presented a check for $28,742 to the college, establishing the first endowed fund by any Greek group at Oswego.

Now, the Beta brothers hope to reach $100,000 to increase the payout of the scholarship or possibly support more students.

The inaugural scholarship will be awarded during the 2016-17 academic year to a student (male or female) who is in good standing with SUNY Oswego and with a Greek organization, demonstrates financial need and is engaged in some type of service to the college community.

Beta Tau Epsilon was founded in 1939, and remained active hosting many annual formals, social events and service projects until it disbanded in 1973. Today, as the youngest remaining Beta brothers enter their 60s, the members remain connected through several annual events held in Oswego, New York City and Florida.

"I am happy knowing that the organization that played such an important role in my development as a young adult will help support future generations of Oswego students through this scholarship," Esposito said.

Gifts to the Beta Tau Epsilon Service Scholarship can be made by phone at 315-312-3003, email develop@oswego.edu or online at alumni.oswego.edu/givewow. The family of Dr. Fred Ratzeburg, the long-time advisor of Beta Tau Epsilon who died in 2015, is encouraging gifts to the BTE scholarship in his memory.

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Find the Founder!

In the Fall-Winter 2015 issue, the Sheldon statue can be found in the upper right side of the photo of Sharon Watroba Burns ’71 and Kenn Naegle ’72 on page 36. Grand prize winner of a College Store gift certificate and Sheldon Hall print is April Stokes ’00. Winning Sheldon Hall prints are Nancy Lause Middlebrook ’72, Rob Daniels ’89, Chuck Durante ’73, Laurie Harrison Kennes ’87 and Victor Parker ’04 M’13. A tiny replica of the Sheldon statue pictured here is hidden somewhere in this issue. Find the Founder and send us a letter with the location and page number, your name, class year and address. We will draw one entry at random from all the correct answers and the winner will receive a $25 gift certificate to the College Store and a print of Sheldon Hall.

The next five entries drawn will receive Sheldon Hall prints. Send your entry to Find the Founder, King Alumni Hall, 300 Washington Blvd., Oswego, NY 13126, or email to findthefounder@oswego.edu. Entries must be postmarked or emailed by June 1.

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Beta Tau Epsilon was founded in 1939, and remained active hosting many annual formals, social events and service projects until it disbanded in 1973. Today, as the youngest remaining Beta brothers enter their 60s, the members remain connected through several annual events held in Oswego, New York City and Florida.

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—Margaret Spillett
SRC Establishes Endowed Scholarship Program for SUNY Oswego Business, Engineering Students

SUNY Oswego will offer four new scholarships to Central New York students, thanks to the generosity of a Syracuse-based research and development company.

SRC Inc., which develops solutions for customers in the defense, environment and intelligence industries, established the scholarships to support future STEM and business professionals and to acknowledge the role a vibrant workforce plays in creating a successful Central New York community.

“This leadership gift from one of our most valued and esteemed community partners reinforces what we know to be true,” said Deborah F. Stanley, SUNY Oswego president. “Our students and graduates provide their communities with the intellectual capital, professional expertise and ethical service that they need to thrive. By establishing these scholarships, SRC is investing in the future of not only its prospective employee pool but also in the larger community. We are grateful for their support of our students and our region.”

“SRC knows how important it is to cultivate an interest in STEM and business to be successful,” said Paul Tremont, president and CEO of SRC Inc. “These students will help us and other companies prosper, and we look forward to continuing the relationship with SUNY Oswego and the students.”

SRC’s gift establishes the SRC Inc. School of Business and Engineering Programs Scholarship, an endowed scholarship program for students whose primary residence is in the seven-county Central New York region (Cayuga, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego) and who meet other applicable criteria.

Two $1,000 scholarships will be awarded annually for four years to incoming first-year School of Business students who have demonstrated high academic achievement in high school and who maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA at SUNY Oswego.

In addition, two $1,000 scholarships will be awarded for a maximum of two years to sophomores or juniors majoring in one of Oswego’s engineering programs who maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA at SUNY Oswego.

This scholarship program builds on an established partnership between SUNY Oswego and SRC. For example, in fall 2014, the college teamed with the company to deliver a customized MBA degree program to SRC employees at its North Syracuse offices. Several of its employees, including James Holland ’82, serve on college advisory boards. SRC has also supported the Genius Environmental Project Olympiad, the Possibility Scholars program and other initiatives.

—Margaret Spillett

College President Elected Chair-Elect of AASCU Board

SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley was elected chair-elect of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ board of directors during the association’s annual meeting. She will serve as chair in 2017, succeeding Stephen M. Jordan, president of Metropolitan State University of Denver who became chair in fall 2015.

Stanley recently completed a three-year term as secretary-treasurer on the AASCU board, which included service on the board’s executive committee.

Stanley has served on AASCU’s Millennium Leadership Initiative steering committee and as a MLI mentor. She also has served on AASCU’s Financial Review Task Force, the investment committee, the Council of State Representatives, the committee on international education, the nominating committee, and committee on policies and purposes.

Among duties of the office, the chair-elect serves as the chair of AASCU’s Council of State Representatives, which is responsible for helping to formulate and recommend the public policy agenda to the association and assist in carrying out the agenda. The council has a high priority role of observing and providing counsel on state higher education trends and issues.
Pathfinder Bank Establishes Scholarship for SUNY Oswego Students with Financial Need

From sponsoring the annual showing of the holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Oswego Cinema 7 to providing loans to locally owned companies, Pathfinder Bank and its employees give time, leadership and financial resources to those organizations that help the region grow and thrive.

"That's why it's so easy to be supportive of SUNY Oswego because nothing has greater impact on the local economy than SUNY Oswego and its faculty and student population," said Pathfinder CEO Thomas W. Schneider. "The organization has been such a shining example of leadership and growth, and it has progressively positioned itself for the future."

The bank decided to establish a scholarship to help ensure a well-educated and diverse workforce for the region's future. Pathfinder's $30,000 gift to the college will establish the $25,000 Pathfinder Bank Opportunities Scholarship Endowment and will provide $5,000 to make annual awards of $1,000 for the first five years, beginning in fall 2016.

"Through this scholarship, Pathfinder supports our mission to provide a transformative experience to a diverse body of students, empowering them to live meaningful lives and build a better world," said SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley. "We are grateful to have such a longstanding and generous partner in our community."

SUNY Oswego freshmen, sophomores or juniors who have completed at least 12 credits, maintain a 2.8 GPA or higher and have demonstrated financial need will be eligible to apply for the $1,000 scholarship, which will be automatically renewed for a maximum of three years.

Interested students must also submit a 150-word essay demonstrating how they have overcome a disadvantage or impediment to succeed in higher education or how they have contributed to the diversity of the student body in their major or extracurricular activity.

The scholarship is just one way Pathfinder supports the college and its mission. The bank also sponsors an annual men's ice hockey tournament, athletics excellence funds, the Genius Environmental Project Olympiad and other special programs as well as encouraging its staff members to serve on college advisory boards and sharing their professional expertise as adjunct professors in classes.

—Margaret Spillett

STEM Student Retention Rises Thanks to NSF Grant, Campus Teamwork

A five-year National Science Foundation grant to increase retention of freshmen and sophomores in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs has succeeded beyond expectations in its first three years, fueling growth in peer-mentored labs, tutoring and math-in-context courses, among other support services.

Jaclyn Lovell '18 (right), a biochemistry major, works with Andrew McElwain of the biological sciences faculty to look for freshwater snails in Rice Creek that may carry parasites. Funded by a five-year NSF STEP grant, Early Summer Scholars is one of five programs designed to encourage freshmen and sophomores to stay with majors in the STEM fields. The college's proposal had anticipated the five-program suite of early-college support services would have improved retention in STEM majors from freshman to sophomore years by 10 percent to 12 percent at this stage of the grant. With two years remaining in the grant, several of the programs have achieved increases of 13 percent to 15 percent in freshman-to-sophomore retention.
Millennial Alumni Find a Home in Fast-Growing Tech Company

If you are offered a ride on a rocket ship, get on board.

Christopher Loman ‘08 did, and now he is vice president for operations at one of the fastest-growing software and online marketing companies.

“Just get on board, and don’t worry about which seat,” Loman told current SUNY Oswego students. “Realize that the opportunities are vast within a start-up company, and plan to learn a lot and be an active component. Don’t just live up to a job description, go way beyond.”

Loman, who joined the Syracuse, N.Y., company Terakeet in 2007 as an intern, was among Terakeet staff who welcomed students on Oct. 16 as part of a Test Drive Your Career event coordinated by Mallory Bower, associate director of career services at SUNY Oswego, and Adam Marinelli ‘04 M’08, Terakeet’s professional development coordinator.

Tours, a talk with chief executive officer and co-founder MacLaren “Mac” Cummings and an Oswego alumni panel were all part of the day’s events. In fact, Terakeet boasts 25 SUNY Oswego alumni as employees, one of the largest college representations among its staff of 150.

“We want our region’s best and brightest college graduates to remain here in Central New York,” Marinelli said. “Terakeet has become a formidable company of choice to utilize the talents of SUNY Oswego graduates, particularly in the communications and business fields. Providing recent graduates with a chance to begin and advance their careers in CNY is something we take great pride in.”

Panelists, who included Loman, Bryan Conte ’08, Nathaniel Zera ’13, Mary Godnick ’14, Jordan Tetro Arnold ’10 and Astin Joeckel ’09, encouraged students to pursue diverse interests that can translate to valuable skills they can offer to future employers.

Marketing student Jeff Allen ’17, who completed an internship in a traditional corporate setting this past summer, said he is excited about the Terakeet culture and its focus on young grads.

“I look around, and the employees all look like me,” he said. “The environment is friendly and filled with energy. I wanted to come here today to get a feel for whether a company like this fits me, and I really like it. I feel like it’s [current] with the times.”

–Eileen Crandall

Oswego Loves Our Donors

On Feb. 12, the Oswego Alumni Association held its third annual Love a Donor Day, a celebration for students and campus members to express thanks to all the donors of the college and to learn about the role of philanthropy on campus. Students showed their appreciation through postcards that were mailed directly to some of the more than 7,500 SUNY Oswego donors who gave more than $5.2 million last year.

President Deborah F. Stanley hosted a breakfast for faculty and staff donors in the Sheldon Hall Ballroom, and thanked them for their support.

NAME A SEAT IN THE SHAMELY HALL BALLROOM FOR $500 PER SEAT. LEARN MORE AT ALUMNI.OSWEGO.EDU/WATERMANSEATS OR 315-312-3003.
Labs to Jobs Consortium Includes SUNY Oswego Biomedical Labs

The new SUNY Labs to Jobs Consortium will establish a “Smart Health” Biomedical and Health Informatics Research Lab and a Biomedical Instrumentation Teaching Lab for SUNY Oswego as well as provide additional equipment for the college’s Advanced Wireless Systems Research Center.

The five-campus consortium, supported by $18 million from the fourth round of the NY SUNY 2020 Challenge Grant program, is led by Onondaga Community College and includes SUNY Oswego, Upstate Medical University, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and Morrisville State College.

Together they will share seven advanced labs located across the region. The labs will provide students with spaces that simulate various workplaces and house workforce development training in fields such as medicine, engineering and business. The initiative builds on existing partnerships among these institutions that started as a result of round two NY SUNY 2020 funding, which established the Institute for Environmental Health and Environmental Medicine.

“We are finding that the capacity for innovation when our institutions’ professors and researchers join forces is just astounding,” said SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley. “In the Labs to Jobs Consortium, we will be working together and with business partners to lift the health and vitality of our region.”

New SUNY Oswego Facilities

SUNY Oswego’s campuses in Oswego and Syracuse will have two of the consortium’s new labs, costing just over $2 million. The $1.42 million research lab will be in the SUNY Oswego Metro Center in Oswego. The $230,000 teaching lab will be in the college’s electrical and computer engineering department in the Shineman Center for Science, Engineering and Innovation on the college’s main campus in Oswego. The Oswego campus is also home to the wireless research center, which will receive $360,000 in new equipment.

The labs and new state-of-the-art equipment are expected to be fully operational by the fall 2016 semester.

The research lab will support the college’s forthcoming master’s degree in biomedical and health informatics. It will feature advanced and innovative technology in a suite of professional stations, including one for telehealth to distantly interact with patients in the clinic and the home, one for the “intelligent hospital” with patient monitoring and alert systems that integrate patient data from different devices and hospital units, and a demo space for such sophisticated technology as wearable and mobile health devices and health-related robotics.

The Biomedical Instrumentation Teaching Lab will feature 12 workstations, at which students can work in groups of two, learning electrical engineering fundamentals and applying those skills to the operation, design and construction of biomedical instruments.

For example, a device developer could test a wearable sensor that monitors the physiological and biochemical conditions of the human body and wirelessly transmits data to both nearby and remote sites.

The funds for the wireless research center will upgrade its existing facilities to accommodate the 5G mobile network and provide additional wireless sensor and signal processing measurement equipment.

Borrelli Awarded Honorary Doctorate During December Commencement

Louis A. Borrelli Jr. ’77, media pioneer and founder of the Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit, received an honorary doctor of humane letters from SUNY and addressed graduates and their families Dec. 12, 2015, at the college’s winter Commencement ceremony. Formerly a senior vice president for America Online, Borrelli most recently was chief marketing officer of NimbleTV, a service designed to allow subscribers to access television programs from any device, and chief executive officer of NEP Broadcasting LLC, the leading international provider of outsourced teleproduction for major live sports and entertainment events around the world. He was a founding partner, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Marcus Cable Company L.P., which under his leadership became the nation’s largest privately held cable company with 1.3 million customers. He is well-known on campus as the founder of the media summit, which has brought to Oswego such luminaries as Ben Bradlee, legendary editor of the Washington Post during Watergate; media critic and technology writer Ken Auletta ’63, and world-renowned broadcast interviewer Charlie Rose.
Students Make Career Connections With Metropolitan New York Alumni

More than 120 juniors and seniors from SUNY Oswego received advice from alumni representing a variety of careers at the annual New York City Career Connections event on Jan. 7.

Afternoon events included visits to some of the workplaces of alumni, after which students traveled to the Fashion Institute of Technology for a keynote speaker and the opportunity to network with 25 alumni who have pursued careers in the metropolitan New York region.

“This event is a ‘must’ for students who want to relocate to or work in New York City after graduation,” said Shaunna Arnold-Plank M’04, associate director of alumni and parent relations. “Our alumni who have done exactly that can be a great resource on everything from job searching, transitions to life in the city.”

At the evening portion of the event, keynote speaker Mark Lobel ’85 encouraged students to make impactful choices as they begin their careers.

Lobel, principal partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC, is responsible for providing consulting services to major entertainment companies on cyber security issues. He provided attendees with an overview of consulting opportunities, and how he shaped his own career at PwC following eight years in radio.

“I encourage you to assess and access your own strengths, and leverage them for success,” he said.

An Afternoon at Google

Google Accounts Strategist Cydni Williams ’13 greeted students in one of the company’s lobbies, and whisked them through hallways (each area of the building that takes up an entire Manhattan city block has a seasonal theme) to a conference room for an overview of the Google company, and what it’s like to work for it.

The Manhattan office is Google’s second largest location with approximately 5,000 employees—about half the size of the Googleplex in Mountain View, Calif. The majority of employees in New York work in sales and engineering and on a variety of creative teams.

Throughout Williams’ tour of the building, employees could be found tucked away in tiny pillowed nooks and on sofas overlooking the Manhattan skyline, with laptops propped on their laps. Google has game rooms, quirky decor, and cheerful lounges and food courts—all part of its goal to provide a flexible workspace to ignite creativity and productivity.

Williams held two summer internships with Google that led to her job, which entails working with clients to optimize ad space and use of media, she told attendees.

An Afternoon at Good Morning America/ABC Studios

As they filed down a narrow hallway inside ABC Studios in Manhattan, students attending the afternoon session at ABC Studios were encouraged to speak quietly. On the other side of a hall-length plate glass window, they had a bird’s eye view into a massive studio, where World News Tonight With David Muir was being recorded.

This was one of many stops along a tour conducted by Cameron Jones ’09, who is the operations coordinator for Good Morning America. Jones, who is responsible for a variety of tasks related to production, operations and logistics, showed students the site’s studios and shared his experiences and advice for success.

“Be resourceful,” Jones told the more than 30 students who attended the event. “Be scrappy and run with a ‘yes’ before you hear a ‘no.’ Show you have pride in your work.”

Jones invited recent SUNY Oswego graduate Matthew Stone ’15 to speak with attendees. Stone was hired by ABC News after Jones received a resume for an internship about three years ago and immediately noticed it came from a student at SUNY Oswego. It was a foot in the door that Stone followed up with a lot of hustle and a willingness to work on holidays, nights and vacations.

“My advice is that when you do an internship, take what you’ve learned there back to the classroom,” Stone told students.

In fact, the value of internships is huge, Jones said. He encouraged students to pursue as many internships as possible, and introduced them to Disney program internship recruiters during their visit.

Additional participant sites for afternoon sessions were FCB Health with Lisa DuJat ’92, executive vice president/chief talent officer; Mitsubishi UFJ Securities with Keith McDermott ’81, chief financial officer; and News America with Ryan DeVoe ’93, senior vice president/regional manager of sales.

Alumni participants in the evening sessions represented Major League Baseball, Discovery Communications, Bloomberg LP, New York City Department of Education, Kellen Communications, U.S. Bank, MSNBC, Home Box Office, Tough Mudder Inc. and World Wrestling Entertainment, to name only a few.

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to sign up in fall 2016 to attend the January 2017 event. Details at alumni.oswego.edu/nyccareers.

—Eileen Crandall
Life Lessons Are in the AIR

Last fall, 82 alumni returned to campus though the Oswego Alumni Association’s Alumni-In-Residence (AIR) program, sharing their experience with more than 4,000 students and connecting with 128 faculty and staff.

Jenny Roxas (standing), career development specialist, Office of Career Services, with L-R: Steven York, previous manager of Kallet Theatre; Tammy Wilkinson ’94, founder of Theatre Du Jour, traveling dinner theatre; Beverly Cooney Poznoski ’68, performer with more than 150 productions, over 50 years of experience acting.

Rebecca LaBarge ’09, clinician, Behavioral Health Center Northeast Parent & Child Society; Meave Gillen, director for the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Oswego County; Frances Lanigan ’73, deputy commissioner, Social Services, Oswego County.

Dennis Shuler ’78, chief human resources officer, NXP Semiconductors.

Dan Walker ’91, lighting designer, Full Spectrum Productions.

Check out more coverage of Fall 2015 AIR visits online at alumni.oswego.edu/magazine.

Tony Procopio ’85, vice president of Haylor, Freyer & Coon; Mary Rodgers, Marcia Belmar Willock ’50 Endowed Visiting Assistant Professorship of Finance; Holly Schill Vanderhoof ’07, case manager of the NYS Insurance Fund; and Erison Rodriguez ’05 M’09, regional sales and marketing manager at ProAct.
Standing

Crumb Sets School Record in Long Jump At Brockport

Adam Crumb '17 of Wayne, N.Y., set a new Oswego State record in the long jump during a Jan. 30 meet at SUNY Brockport. He hopped 6.79 meters, which surpasses the previous record of 6.78 meters, jumped by Chris Bridgewater '15 in 2015.

Sortino Reaches 1,000 Point Milestone

During Oswego State men’s basketball game against the Cortland Red Dragons on Jan. 23, Brian Sortino '17 of Fairport, N.Y., scored a total of 22 points, but one of those points early in the game was more exciting than the others.

Shortly after hitting a three-point shot in the first half, Sortino hit a pair of free-throws. The first of those freebies earned him a spot in the Oswego State men’s basketball 1,000 point club, becoming the 17th member in school history.

Sorrell’s Career Day Earns Her Spot in School History

During a Jan. 16 women’s basketball win over Potsdam, the Lakers got off to a quick start, going on an 8-0 run. Taylor Sorrell '16 of Hannibal, N.Y., recorded six of those on two made 3-pointers, starting what would be a career day for the senior. She would go on to make five more threes throughout the contest, tying the record for second most in school history. She finished the day with a career-high 25 points.

Seven Inducted Into 2015 Athletic Hall of Fame

The following alumni-athletes were inducted into the SUNY Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2015 on Nov. 14 in the Sheldon Hall Ballroom: (seated from left) women’s basketball alumna Mary Jane “M.J.” O’Toole Radel ’95, of Rochester, N.Y.; men’s swimming and diving team alumnus Charles William Manners III ’96, of Baltimore, Md.; field hockey and softball alumnus Angela Ryan Patterson ’85, of Webster, NY; (standing from left) wrestling alumnus Thomas Stanbro ’83 M’90, of Greene, N.Y.; men’s swimming and diving team alumnus Patrick Chetney ’93 M’00, of Baldwinsville, NY; and men’s lacrosse alumnus Paul Mizer ’85, of Syracuse, N.Y. Women’s soccer alumna Janet D’Agostino Davis ’98, of Marietta, Ga., received her award from former wrestler and fellow Athletic Hall of Fame member Joseph Farmer ’60 during a Nov. 19 event in Atlanta.
Re-Instituted Homecoming Brings Together Alumni and Students

Hundreds of alumni, students, faculty, staff, family and friends traveled from near and far to celebrate our re-established campus tradition on Nov. 14 and show their Laker pride.

“We were very happy with the number of Oswego family members who turned out for Homecoming 2015,” said Laura Pavlus Kelly ’09, director of alumni and parent relations. “One of the goals of the Oswego Alumni Association in re-instituting Homecoming was to get our recent alumni—our Graduates Of the Last Decade—to return to campus and connect with us, and our GOLD alumni represented approximately 28 percent of the alumni who participated in Homecoming. That is a great start, and I know this newly re-established tradition will continue to grow.”

For some, the day started off with a recognition breakfast. GOLD donors—many of whom support the annual “March Matchness” fundraising challenge—attended an informal breakfast as a thank you for their generosity as well as a way to network with each other.

Donors who have established a scholarship at SUNY Oswego were invited to a breakfast to meet the recipients of their scholarships and hear a heartfelt thanks from College President Deborah F. Stanley and student scholarship recipient Darlene Le ’16, who spoke on behalf of the 354 SUNY Oswego students who received support from donor-funded scholarships this year.

Approximately 130 people celebrated over lunch in the Sheldon Ballroom as seven alumni-athletes were inducted into the SUNY Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame, joining 89 others who have received the honor. See photos on page 17.

A few dozen alumni took advantage of HALLcoming, an opportunity to visit their old...
residence halls, check out the updates and meet the current students living in their former stomping grounds.

Another highlight of the day was the GOLD Alumni-Student Networking Reception, which featured a panel of young alumni who shared their experiences transitioning from student to professional.

Homecoming attendees were also invited to a range of other activities throughout the day, including women’s basketball and women’s hockey games, a Del Sarte Dance Recital, Story Hour at Rice Creek Field Station and a Music/Theatre Department Showcase, among others.

But for many the highlight of the day was the Homecoming Tailgate and the men’s ice hockey game versus Potsdam.

A bonfire planned to cap off the daylong event was canceled due to high winds, but a dance party continued as planned inside the Marano Campus Center Activity Court.

To wrap up the Homecoming celebration, the college community also successfully met the first-ever Homecoming Challenge. The 876 donors who made a gift during the five-day challenge raised a total of $143,677 for The Fund for Oswego, including a $25,000 gift from Jeff ’92, a member of the Oswego Alumni Board of Directors, and Ginger Bray Sorensen ’93 and a $15,000 gift from an anonymous second challenger.

“I am so proud of our college community, and the way so many alumni, employees and friends rallied around our Homecoming celebration by participating in this challenge,” said Joy Westerberg Knopp ’92, director of annual giving. “I am particularly thankful for the generosity of our challengers—the Sorensens and our anonymous second challenger. These gifts support a range of programs that make a direct impact on students’ experiences inside and outside of the classroom.”

While we celebrate the success of this re-instituted tradition, we know there’s always room to improve! We welcome your comments, questions and suggestions at alumni@oswego.edu.

Read full coverage of Homecoming 2015 and check out the photo gallery at alumni.oswego.edu/magazine.

—Margaret Spillett
FarmChic

Tessa Edick ’92 hopes to revolutionize the way New Yorkers eat to save local farming, improve nutrition and build stronger communities.

BY MARGARET SPILLETT
With more than a third of all farmers in America over the age of 65 and the percentage of farmers younger than 35 steadily declining to now less than 5.6 percent, one Oswego graduate is asking: Who is going to feed us in the future? Where will our food come from?

On a brisk, sunny day in January, Tessa Edick ’92 throws on her fur-hooded coat and fingerless knit mittens, with her long red locks secured under a matching knit hat, to check on the status of several priorities on the Empire Farm in the Hudson Valley’s Copake, N.Y.

As she heads out of the farm’s main office, her 11-month-old English Mastiff puppy, Trudie, darts out to lead the way to the nearby farmhouse. This farmhouse has been gutted for renovation, and will soon feature four bedrooms with private baths, a large seminar room, a commercial teaching kitchen and a food prep room. It will be the central hub for the Ag Academy, a joint venture of Edick’s FarmOn Foundation with the State University of New York and Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Science to provide applied learning experiences to college students that connect agriculture and entrepreneurship, and Camp FarmOn!, a one-week summer camp where kids pitch their profitable agricultural solutions to a panel of venture capitalists.

Creating Her Own Possibilities
As a child, Edick handmade her Barbie doll’s clothes, selling tickets to friends and family for the hottest fashion show of the year. At Lourdes Camp on Skaneateles Lake, she discovered by selling her candy to fellow campers instead of eating it herself, she could earn enough money to buy a camp T-shirt, shorts or other gear and still have cash leftover.

“I guess that was the first sign of entrepreneurial thinking,” said Edick, the oldest of three children.

Raised by a single mother who worked several jobs, she spent much of her free time and summers at her maternal grandparents’ dairy farm in Jefferson County. Family members had their own Mason jar salt shaker to take with them to the vegetable garden so they could snack as they worked.

Processed foods, sodas and meat from the grocery store never made their way onto the family table. But the farming life was hard, and she saw collapsing barns, families struggling to survive and a lifestyle that she didn’t want.

“We were poor and farm life was smelly and broke, and I didn’t want anything to do with it,” she said. “I wanted to make money, have glamour and success.”

When it came time to think about college, her mother suggested that she...
attend SUNY’s Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. But Edick decided she wanted to become a lawyer and attended SUNY Oswego as a communication studies major.

Edick developed her event planning and community organizing skills as the social chair for her sorority, Sigma Delta Tau, and through organizing a United Way walk-a-thon for a public relations class project. She tended bar at The Sting and saved all her money to fund backpacking trips throughout Europe during her summers.

“I was her big sister when she pledged, and just fell in love with her from day one,” said sorority sister Kerry McAleer ’90. “She’s a warm, smart, passionate and fun person. She was always full of energy, and I knew she would be successful at whatever she set out to do.”

Following graduation, Edick headed to Boston and enrolled at Suffolk University Law School. Then her world turned upside down.

“My mother died in a car accident,” she said. “People always feel sorry for you when you lose someone close to you. You lose unconditional love, but you gain a perspective early on that most people take half their lives to figure out. You get to see life differently because what’s important is so apparent, so quickly. You have no choice. You can’t just expect that things are going to be done for you.

“I think there’s a real gift in that,” she said. “It gives you a real advantage competitively to thinking and resource-finding and really digging into make something come to fruition. You have to flower.”

Finding Her Own Way in the World

Having dropped out of law school to handle family matters, she returned to Boston to find a new path. Through a SUNY Oswego connection, Edick landed a job with American Council International Studies (ACIS), an educational travel company in Boston.

Able to speak Italian and French, Edick excelled in an executive assistant job that took her to big cities around the globe and also befriended company founder and president Peter Jones, who mentored and supported her.

“She was an incredible avenue to creativity,” Jones said. “She was always ahead of the game and always got things done. She pushed me, and every day I wondered what new ideas would come flying in my door. She has ‘entrepreneur’ stamped all over her.”

Edick started a scholarship program, a photography contest and an online store for the company, which created a special projects position for her to encourage her lucrative innovations.

“The day she quit, I hugged her and smiled,” Jones said. “I knew we had caged her and had to let her go. She’s a remarkable person with an incredible energy, and I knew she would find great success.”

During this time, she met her now estranged husband who was studying at Boston University. Together, they launched a pasta sauce company, called Sauces ‘n Love Inc. Pulling from her agrarian roots, she decided to source the tomatoes, basil and other ingredients from local farmers, not from a can.

“I realized that when you scale and grow, you can take those people with you and share the wealth,” she said. “And when you do well and your community does well, then everyone does well—which is the exact opposite
of how I grew up in economic depression.”

Her company and its naturally farm-sourced product garnered 16 National Association for the Specialty Food Association awards, known in the industry as the Oscars of food, and was featured in Oprah Magazine’s “O” list twice, among 200 other national media outlets.

To reach a volume needed for profitability, her company started to co-pack or privately label their sauce for other chefs, which laid the groundwork for Edick’s later venture, Culinary Partnership, a branding and consulting company.

She purchased a vacation home in the Hudson Valley with childhood friend and interior designer, Thom Filicia of “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” TV series fame, and sold her half of the company.

Giving Everyone a Seat at the Table

Together, they hosted dinner parties centered around cooking and eating, all sourced by produce and meat from local farmers.

“Everyone was commenting, ‘Oh the food is so good,’” she said. “And I would say, ‘You shouldn’t thank me. You should thank the farmer.’”

“Seven years, I would stop by Sir William Farm down the road, take meat out of the freezer and put money in the honor box,” Edick said. “The farmer never spoke to me—in my fancy truck, in my fancy shoes, some fancy New Yorker. He didn’t want anything to do with me. He’d give an obligatory wave or nod every now and then.”

So imagine his surprise when Edick in all her “fanciness” showed up at his doorstep pitching an idea to organize a “Friends of the Farmer Festival.”

MAJOR PROGRAMS

Milk Money: Brings Hudson Valley fresh milk from cow to kid in 36 hours through partnerships with eight school districts and expanding statewide.

Edible Education/School Victory Gardens: Offering Hudson Valley school districts gardens to give students hands-on learning opportunities and life skills tied to education.

ABCSA: A collaboration between Chef Jean-George’s ABC Restaurant and FarmOn, which buys fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products from 30 local farms and delivers for distribution to the ABC Kitchen in New York City and the TasteNY Todd Hill Rest Station on the Taconic Parkway.

Camp FarmOn!: A five-day entrepreneurial agriculture experience where students in grades 8 through 11 visit farms and food businesses, come up with a product or service to sustain profitability and pitch it to a panel of prospective venture capitalists, the “shark tank.”

Ag Academy: SUNY- and Cornell University-accredited apprentice/applied learning program for 17 to 20-year-olds who live and work at the Empire Farm, and learn firsthand about the farm to table revenue stream custom growing for NYC chefs.

Slam Dunk Your Veggies: In partnership with School Victory Gardens and her boyfriend, retired NBA player Eric Williams, Edick arranges assemblies with NBA players to get children excited about eating their vegetables.
Permaculture Living Laboratory:
INFUSING THE CAMPUS WITH A SELF-SUSTAINING DESIGN

For Grace Maxon-Clarke ’11 M’14 sustainable farming is a matter of social justice, empowering people to grow their own food and take charge of their own well-being.

The academic planning counselor with the Educational Opportunity Program sees great potential for a campus-wide project she and visiting assistant professor of math Kate Spector M’10 launched two years ago.

The duo created a 38,500-square-foot Permaculture Living Laboratory—or a sustainable micro-farm and landscape project—on the Lee Hall Quad, between Lee and Wilber halls and the Shineman Center. Permaculture, a mashup of “permanent” and “agriculture,” is a creative design process intended to imitate patterns and mutually beneficial relationships found in nature for sustainable and self-sufficient gardens.

With the help of hundreds of student, faculty and staff, and community volunteers, Maxon-Clarke and Spector have transformed a site—which formerly housed construction trailers and was of poor soil condition that frequently flooded—into a self-regulating edible landscape.

“We want everyone on this campus, but especially our students, to feel ownership of this space,” Maxon-Clarke said. “We want them to pick some berries on their way into the gym.”

A host of fruit trees and bushes, perennial plants and vegetables, grasses and flowers have been planted, and sidewalks wind through the garden, which will also feature benches and an outdoor classroom.

The PLL is providing a variety of learning opportunities for students of all majors, including:
- Tech Ed students who are designing the outdoor classroom, building a shed and have created a bin for a bicycle to transport compost from Lakeside Dining to the PLL compost bin.
- Computer science students who will install air quality sensors in the composting bins.
- English and graphic design students who are creating an app that will describe each plant and why it was chosen for the space.
- Sustainability studies students who are learning about the design and construction of the site.
- Biology students who are studying the symbiotic relationships between two living things, such as apple trees and strawberry plants, or between a particular plant and bug.

“I have a lot of respect for her,” said farmer Bruce Conover, owner of Sir William Farm. “She’s working with cantankerous farmers like me, but she’s just as feisty as I am, which is I guess why we can work together. She’s trying to recruit the next generation of farmers, and that’s an uphill battle. But at least she’s trying.”

Over the next few months, Edick visited hundreds of farms, recruiting farmers to participate in the festival and providing tips on getting their preserves, jams, cookies, ice cream and other products to market, pro bono.

“Farmers are always working,” Edick said. “They struggle to get their food to market. They aren’t keyed into trends for labeling or merchandising. They don’t write business plans or understand what margins yield. Are they making profits?”

An idea was starting to formulate in Edick’s mind. She wanted to find a way to promote honest and responsible food, combine agricultural and entrepreneurial training for the next generation of farmers and create impactful food experiences.

Building on the success of the first Friends of the Farmer Festival, she founded the FarmOn! Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization and public charity.

Today, the foundation employs three full-time and two part-time staff members, owns and runs the 217-acre Empire Farm (thanks to the generosity of the C.J. Mack Foundation) and hosts a robust list of events and programs (See page 23).

Funding for these programs comes from a variety of sources: donors, events, auctions, corporate sponsors, grants and partnerships.

“It’s a lot of me going and pouring my heart out to people, saying, ‘I really believe in this. Do you, too? And if you do, can you help underwrite this educational program for youth?’”

And Edick delivers a convincing pitch. She lives by a 70-30 rule, so she eats local food and purchases local goods 70 percent of the time.

“You can’t ‘should’ people about what to eat,” she said. “You have to give them the food and let them choose.

“Food from your local farm tastes better because it is better. Fresher food has more nutrients and satisfies your body, so you end up eating less.”

A highlight of the year is the annual hootenanny fund-raiser that is hosted at Empire Farm, and features food and drink sourced within 5 miles of the table and prepared by celebrity chefs from New York City.

“We invite those farmers as our guests to come sit at the table for a ‘meet your farmer’ experience as folks shake the hands that feed them,” she said. “You eat together. The chic part of it is having Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten at your event and leverage that notoriety to build excitement and sell tickets to benefit farmers. The truth is that it compels you to continue in a FarmOn! lifestyle with a connection to the farmer at the table who gets up at 4 a.m. everyday to feed you.”

This combination of truth and glamour has attracted some significant attention from nearby Albany. She recently served
From Farm to Campus: EATING LOCAL BENEFITS HEALTH AND ECONOMY

SUNY Oswego Dining Services sources nearly one-third of all its purchases—or approximately $1.76 million worth of goods—locally and in New York State. And that number is rising.

“We very consciously look at what we purchase and where it is coming from,” said Ruth Stevens, director of residential dining at Auxiliary Services. “While quality is our No. 1 goal, we also focus on purchasing food locally whenever possible.”

Often those two criteria go hand-in-hand, said Stevens, who holds a degree in nutrition. For example, this year, the college is partnering with a local family farm to purchase real maple syrup. The result is a tastier, more nutrient-packed option for students this year, the college is partnering with a local family farm to purchase real maple syrup. The result is a tastier, more nutrient-packed option for students and their pancakes. Last year, the college also began purchasing 21,600 eggs a month from a farm in Onondaga County.

In addition to providing an influx of business in the local economy, purchasing food locally means that food is fresher and fresher food maintains nutrients better, Stevens said.

Dining services tries to educate students about their food choices by providing all nutritional information online as well as sharing informational posters in the dining halls about the farmers who provide their milk or the local farm who collected the syrup, Stevens said.

In fact, Oswego was one of four SUNY campuses that recently worked to promote locally grown vegetables as part of a federal grant, Farm to Campus initiative.

Jamie Hutt Adams ’01, sustainability program coordinator, helped run the awareness campaign on campus. She created table tents, posters, digital signage and T-shirt giveaways to highlight the Harvest of the Month, and organized such events as the Campus Crunch Challenge, which brought together hundreds of campus members to bite an apple at the same time to try to break a record.

“Our goal was to make students aware that their food choices have an impact on the economy, their health and the health of their community,” Adams said. “We hope that we can help them develop lifelong patterns of sustainable living.”

The college is also working to reduce its waste, develop a food recovery program to fight waste and feed people, expand the bike share program and become climate neutral by 2050.

While sustainable and “local” initiatives are gaining more momentum nationally, SUNY Oswego has been a leader for years. For more than a decade, the college has purchased produce from an Oswego distributor, C’s Farm Market, including thousands of gallons of cider and hundreds of bushels of apples from Ontario Orchards, owned by Dennis and June Ouellette ’79.

Through the years, the college has added locally sourced dairy, meat, baked goods, cooking oil, condiments and coffee products, as well.

“Our goal every day is to provide the last customer coming in the door with the same quality service and food as the first person in,” Stevens said. “We also know our students are here to learn, and we encourage them to try new things in the dining centers, too.”

And, often, they do.

“Like kale,” Stevens said. “We’ve found a local purveyor who sells kale, and our students love it!”
Residential life is part of the culture of SUNY Oswego, an essential component of a student’s experience. It is the intersection of people and place, an active and vibrant core of college life that builds a sense of community and nurtures a spirit of lifelong learning.

Research supports the idea that students who live in on-campus housing are more academically and socially engaged in the college environment. Those who live on campus for even one year tend to earn better grades and graduate because of the increased opportunity that on-campus housing provides for student engagement.

A place to sleep, a desk for studying and a dining hall nearby. And in the memories of SUNY Oswego alumni—so much more.

**Oswego Residence Halls in Use Today**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hall</th>
<th>Year Open</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon*</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackin Complex</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lonis and Moreland)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riggs</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scales</td>
<td>1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hart</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funnelle</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayuga</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onondaga</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oneida</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Village</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Only used as a residence hall since 2008, Sheldon houses about 70 juniors and seniors on the second and third floors.
The chants become boisterous and palpable. It’s the opening Welcoming Torchlight Ceremony in the Marano Campus Center, and nervous newcomers have quickly become unified by chanting the names of residence halls. These are the members of the Class of 2019, abuzz with excitement. They have just begun to define their sense of place among hundreds of peers who have gathered to begin their SUNY Oswego journey.

They are capturing the moment on cell phones. They are posting it to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Technology use reflects the day-to-day life of millennials, and at the same time it has fused with a long-standing tradition of a college education: Life in a residence hall.

In fact, college residence halls have mirrored shifting educational, social, political, moral and technological standards through the decades, and for this youngest group of students, it is no different. While technology may be a defining part of their collective identity, they have responded to the residential campus experience in much the same way as those who have lived in SUNY Oswego’s halls before them—with a sense of community and pride.

“What you bring to the world is the result of what you’ve synthesized from immersing yourself in your environment,” President Deborah F. Stanley said during the Fall 2015 School of Business Symposium. While “everything is infused with technology,” technology cannot replace the robust face-to-face interaction that occurs within the physical classroom and the physical campus.

“College is an immersion experience,” said Richard Kolenda, assistant vice president for residence life and housing at SUNY Oswego. “It’s the entire package. It’s not just classes. Residence hall life is often what people remember most; the sense of connection to other students and the campus.”

About 4,300 students—around 1,500 of them freshmen—live on the SUNY Oswego campus, in 13 residence halls and 68 townhome units. According to Kolenda, today’s residents come from 22 states and 16 countries.

“Although I did not know it then, it was a preview of life ahead and a wonderful playground for exploration, building relationships, resolving conflict, celebrating accomplishments and professional growth,” said Ron Kurtz ’82, who served as a resident adviser in Oneida Hall for three years and today is financial controller for Shyft Analytics in Boston. “I value my lessons from living on campus. Professionally, it has paid off in career growth. As a person, it has made me a happy man.”

No longer can you find residences in the form of barracks parked along the bluffs overlooking the lake. Gone are some of the residence halls that former students may have known well: Kingsford, Pathfinder and Farnham, to name a few. Today’s residence halls are contemporary, renovated and devoid of the stark cinderblock walls that past students remember not-so-fondly for their inability to pierce with thumbtacks to hang Elvis Presley, and eventually Led Zeppelin posters. But while decor, architecture and musical tastes may have changed, the benefits of life in a building full of diverse peers has not.
“I lived in an Irish Catholic neighborhood growing up,” said Kevin Moran ’87, who is now executive sports editor for The Troy Record/Saratogian newspaper in Troy, N.Y. “I never met an African-American from Brooklyn or a Jewish kid from Long Island until I moved into Cayuga Hall. I experienced diversity and new cultures for the first time.”

Chuck Weeks, the retired director of residence life and housing who spent 40 years at Oswego, likes to call it the “residential curriculum.”

“It’s like a laboratory, and Oswego is the perfect place for students to learn people skills and explore issues,” Weeks said.

Alumni from the 1950s through the 1970s tell stories of lights-out policies and protest headquarters, house mothers who enforced strict rules and the eyebrow-raising change to coed dorms. Today’s students have wifi, eco-friendly amenities, fitness centers and individual restrooms. And over the decades, all have found ways to unite as a campus community.

“Each fall, Residence Life would show a slide show of the four seasons of Oswego life,” Kurtz said. “We started with hot nights in August, moved on to fall sunsets, survived winters and celebrated spring when it finally arrived. During this slide show, everyone alternately cheered and cried seeing the slides as they flashed.”

There’s always been that sense of campus unity. Today, the main objective of housing remains the promotion of communities conducive to learning, personal growth and supportive of diversity, Kolenda said. And it pays off.

“The research is very clear that students who live in the residence halls tend to have higher grade point averages; are retained at higher rates; graduate sooner; and become more engaged with the campus community,” said Dr. Jerald Woolfolk, Oswego’s vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. “Residence hall students better navigate the process from access to graduation compared to their off-campus counterparts.

“The residence hall experience at SUNY Oswego is very robust and intentional in enhancing student success,” Woolfolk said.

It’s been an evolution through the decades, with a common thread for all alumni, regardless of graduation year: Residential life at SUNY Oswego creates a sense of home away from home.

“Did you live in King Hall?”

King Hall (formerly Draper Hall), a residence built in 1929 on Washington Boulevard across from Sheldon Hall, is home today to the Oswego Alumni Association. The college acquired it in 1954 to serve as a residence hall for SUNY Oswego students.

One of its alumnae is Liz Collis Quigley ’66.

“Because it was a house, I thought it would be a great change from traditional dorm life,” Quigley said. The three-story home housed only 13 female students when Quigley lived there: eight on the second floor, five on the third.

“The house forced you to live like a family,” she said. “Everyone got to know everybody better.”

Quigley is coordinating a reunion of former King Hall residents during Reunion 2016 (her 50th) this June. Are you a former resident? Join the King Hall reunion by contacting her at quig45@comcast.net.

Share your residence life memories online at oswego.edu/magazine or email them to alumni@oswego.edu.
Residential Life Through the Decades

THE 1940s

Thanks to the G.I. bill, World War II veterans and their wives flocked to campuses across the country, where they often lived in temporary trailer-park style housing. At SUNY Oswego, the student housing shortage was addressed by obtaining surplus military barracks and erecting them along the bluff behind what is now Park Hall. This makeshift housing became known as Splinter Village.

“I lived in Splinter Village.”

Installation of the barracks began in spring 1947, with 74 units open for living by June. The buildings soon became known as Splinter Village, and the village had its own fire truck and snow plow.

According to David J. Kidd ’49, author of Splinter Village 1947-1949, each apartment was heated by a coal stove in the living room. Rent was $18 a month. Very few tenants felt they could afford a telephone, but a public phone booth was attached to the end wall of the most centrally located apartment building.

“For those of us who lived in Splinter Village, our social life was mostly with other married couples,” Kidd wrote. “For the most part, we stayed close to home. No one owned a TV set.”

THE 1950s & 1960s

In the late 50s and 60s nationwide, the trend was to build large but modest residence halls. The leading principle was form follows purpose, which resulted in corridor-style brick and concrete box buildings on college campuses. At SUNY Oswego, this was a period of rapid growth in on-campus housing: In the 1950s and 1960s, 11 residence hall were erected and opened.

“We lived in Moreland Hall.”

Equipped with women’s rule books and a pamphlet titled Oswetiquette, Moreland residents were subjected to strict curfews—and even clothing choice was part of the rules.

“No slacks before 4 p.m.,” said Susan Harsh Belloma ’65. “Our knees were chapped from wearing skirts in the cold.”

Each night at 10 p.m., the women of Moreland Hall would dance in the hallways to a 45 record of “Runaround Sue” by Dion before quiet hours were enforced. And that same 45 record is still in existence in a box of momentos maintained by Marie Darmento Scarchella ’65, full of the contents of a “more simple” time. Scarchella is an historian of sorts for the Moreland Girls, who get together regularly—even vacation together—because they bonded so closely in Moreland Hall.

continued on page 30
continued from page 29

“We’ve stayed friends through everything—getting married, having kids, now our grandkids,” Scarcella said. “I came to college with a transistor radio and a typewriter. Life was so different then, but the friends I made have lasted a lifetime.”

Social activities with the opposite gender were often structured. Men could call on the women from the lobby during appropriate times, and dances provided an opportunity to interact.

“Away from home for the first time, we were strangers to one another and to our surroundings,” said Louise Franco Hornung ’65. “Yet, we all got along, helped each other and had fun. We bonded because we didn’t have so many distractions.”

In the 1970s, many U.S. colleges moved from having only single-sex residence halls to providing coed residence halls, with male and female students housed on alternating floors or wings.

“We lived in Waterbury Hall.”

“It was second semester of her freshman year when Judy Jaffie ’75 heard the news: Waterbury was going coed.

In her sophomore year, Jaffie became part of the first contingency of women to take on coed living at SUNY Oswego’s Waterbury Hall, where there was a male wing and a female wing on each floor. Initial resentment gradually diminished, and the women felt accepted, she said.

“The main lounge was the social center,” Jaffie said. So were dining halls and floor lounges, where students often gathered to share stories of ‘last night.’

“We played cards; listened to dorm mates play guitar or piano; played countless games of pinball, ping pong, and foosball in the basement,” Jaffie said. During her junior year there was a student living below her who always played loud music at night.

“I used to go bang on his door and demand he turn down the volume,” Jaffie said.

The downstairs student was Mark Shupe ’77, and the couple will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in May.

“Since Waterbury was so important to us, we requested permission and were married outside there,” Jaffie said.

“The friendships made in Waterbury have been central to our lives,” Jaffie said. “Viva coed!”

An Early Residence for Oswego Students

Located on West Third Street, the Welland provided living quarters for up to 100 students who attended Oswego Normal. Bustling until the institution moved to its new home in 1913 with the opening of what is now Sheldon Hall, the Welland closed in 1918, temporarily reopening later that year as a hospital during the Spanish influenza epidemic. Although it was not an official Oswego Normal building, the Welland’s student occupants were subjected to the strict policies and rules dictated by social norms of the time. The first residence hall fully operated by the college opened in 1951: the Mackin Complex, with its Lonis and Moreland wings—welcoming 300 students total in separate areas for men and women.
Scales Hall: Programs Help Form A Community

Myles Clendenin’s office has inspirational messages, a superhero cut-out poster and a general sense of high volume activity. He’s in charge of the residential experience for the more than 200 students who live in Scales Hall.

Clendenin took the helm as Scales Hall director in Fall 2015, and was immediately immersed in a supportive environment of colleagues and students, he said. Clendenin oversees seven resident assistants, daily operations and a variety of programming for his building. His goal, he said, is to “make people feel comfortable here, like they are at home.

“I truly care about how they are doing, both academically and socially,” Clendenin said. “We have the opportunity to make an impact on students and help them grow into the strong leaders of tomorrow.”

Residence hall activities are both social and educational. In his first semester, Clendenin held socials that included interactive aspects, such as wearing masks to facilitate conversation on microaggressions—a term used to capture commonplace insults or slights, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostility and negative perceptions. With his help, his resident assistants have integrated diversity discussions and social support services into their programming plans. For the spring semester and future programming plans, he wants to help his resident assistants bring more opportunities for academic and career support into their programming.

“We have good turnouts,” he said of building programs. “It’s important to offer a safe, supportive environment. We have a tight-knit community here.”

In fact, residence halls throughout campus offer a wide range of programs to instill community and aid students—about 400 programs annually, plus opportunities to engage in hall council leadership roles, civic opportunities and other learning moments, according to Richard Kolenda, assistant vice president for residence life and housing at SUNY Oswego.

Programs range from floor dinners and socials, to off-campus trips, volunteerism and much more. Residential community councils serve as the governing body for each hall; students elect representatives to provide campus-wide input for that residential community.

Unique experiences related to a student’s interests are also available. Living and Learning Communities offer first-year students the opportunity to live with other students with similar career interests: Comm-Unity is for communication, public relations and broadcasting majors in Seneca Hall; a program for first-year Business majors is located in Funnelle Hall. Johnson Hall remains the residence hall of choice for 250 coed first-year students.

Hart Hall Global Living & Learning Center is a residential community focusing on academics and social responsibility within a global context. Because Hart is home to many international students, Hart residents have the opportunity to live and learn side by side with people from all over the world.

THE 1980s

In the 1980s nationwide, the cinder-block dorms of the 1950s were ill-equipped to handle the cusp of the computer revolution, and the drinking age was increased to 21. Coed hallways and bathrooms became more common, further shocking traditionalists.

“I lived in Cayuga Hall.”

Kevin Moran ’87 remembers the day he moved into Cayuga.

“My family and I were carrying in my belongings,” recalled Moran, who had been encouraged by his parents to request a quiet floor so he could focus on his studies. “What I didn’t realize is the front half of the hallway was male rooms and the back half of the hallway, separated by a fire door, was for females. Right then and there, I knew the quiet floor was not going to be so bad.”

Moran said the camaraderie in Cayuga built from that day forward. “There was no social media, no Internet,” he said. “We practically became family in the residence hall.”

Dining halls and floor lounges brought 80s students together. Television sets were often a reason to gather—to view everything from world events to the marriage of Luke and Laura on General Hospital in 1981.

Moran said the sense of allegiance to one’s own residence hall on campus was very apparent once a year—during the Battle of the Bridge, a.k.a the great snowball fight between new campus and old campus residence halls.

“It happened the first significant snowfall of the season,” he said. “Word would spread, and then there would be 500 or 600 kids involved with this tradition.”

Residents of west campus or “new” campus would try to make their way to old campus, and vice versa, Moran said.

“The fight would go back-and-forth across campus as each side gained more reinforcements to gain an edge,” he said. “I don’t think anyone really won.”

What did happen, Moran said, was a sense of devotion and loyalty to one’s own residence hall.
THE 1990s

In the 1990s nationwide, more civic and college-sponsored social programs were introduced as a component of residential living, and resident advisors became educational agents and peer counselors. This was in great contrast to the 1960s and earlier, when administrators believed it was their in loco parentis responsibility to ensure morality and integrity were maintained by young students.

“I lived in Funnelle Hall.”

Jerrell Robinson ’94 M’96 arrived on campus as a freshman from Harlem. “I was very aware of my opportunity to be successful, as well as the sacrifices made to put me in a position to attend and complete college,” Robinson said.

There was an abundance of activities—from social events to intellectual lectures. Resident advisors brought students together with movie nights in the lounge, ice cream socials, hall meetings, sports and group dinners in the dining hall.

“Life on campus during the early 90s was vibrant,” Robinson said. “What stands out was the campus life in the Hewitt Union. It was the focal point of the campus. It was the social mecca for all students during that time, where students gathered, ate, studied, debated, celebrated culture, protested, met new people. The Hewitt Union was the life of the campus.”

Philanthropy played a critical role in Robinson’s college experiences. Active in Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, he engaged in programs designed to give back.

“I continue to stand by our motto, ‘Culture for Service and Service for Humanity,’” he said. “Our very existence was founded on the idea that we must give back to our communities.”

Living in the residence hall was his first college lesson on the meaning of community, said Robinson, who is now senior director of student life for health and wellness services at CUNY LaGuardia Community College.

“I was able to learn that diversity is not defined by who you are, but by your experiences and your willingness to learn about others and be accepting of difference,” Robinson said.

THE 2000s

Across U.S. college campuses, a push to renovate for efficiencies to control operational costs—and introduce green concepts and sustainability—took the forefront in residence hall design.

At SUNY Oswego, some residence halls were renovated with all of that in mind, including Riggs Hall and Johnson Hall, the latter of which underwent a $14 million renovation prior to reopening in 2003. (See photographs of the book left by the first women of Johnson Hall in 1958-59 for future residents in our exclusive online content).

“I lived in Riggs Hall.”

Giselle Guerrero ’09 was among the first resident assistants when Riggs Hall reopened in 2007 following its $10 million renovation.

“To be a resident assistant in a brand new building was amazing,” Guerrero said. “Everything was so new and the environment … felt so magical.”

The renovation included Lakeside Dining Hall. Students from Riggs Hall were particularly pleased that the renovations included an indoor walkway between their residence hall and the dining center.

“The dining hall was beautiful; eating and looking out to the lake,” Guerrero said. As a resident assistant, Guerrero invited students to go to the dining hall together.

As they walked, the group would grow larger and larger as more Riggs students saw them gathering to go eat together.

“While this is a very simple task, it shows the sense of community Riggs had,” she said. “Residents went to dinner together and enjoyed each other’s company at a moment’s notice.”

Some of her fondest memories of college happened within the walls of the residence halls, Guerrero said.

“Living with diverse people, I learned you have more things in common than you think. Give everyone a chance.”
THE 2010s

In the 2010s nationally, students are still asking for technology—and more. Upscale living with deluxe laundry facilities, air conditioning, fitness rooms, satellite dining facilities, coffee shops and convenience stores are routinely considered for new construction and renovation projects. Common spaces for socializing and studying are becoming abundant.

“I lived in The Village.”

Anna Hu ’13 was among the first residents of a $42 million Tudor-style townhome complex, opened in 2010. The Village is located just south of Glimmerglass Lagoon, and each four- and six-person unit features a full kitchen with dishwasher, furnished living room and laundry facilities, all built with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles of conservation. Students today clamor for a spot in The Village, which is home for about 350 juniors, seniors and graduate students.

“It was as much a part of the learning experience as taking classes,” Hu said. “You learn to live on your own and build relationships with complete strangers.”

Hu, a post-production assistant at Sirens Media in New York City, said life in The Village was made easy by the amenities. Plus, she learned to cook and got a taste of the responsibility of cleaning and maintaining a home.

But most importantly, she learned about other people, and herself.

“The people you live with can wind up becoming your best friends for the rest of your life,” Hu said.

Hu echoed the sentiments shared by alumni through the decades—from Waterbury to Funnelle, from the 1940s to present day.

“Living on campus is an extremely critical component to the college experience,” she said.

It’s all the pieces—academic growth, understanding of diverse peers, funny moments, camaraderie and immersion in all the campus offers that add up to the final result of the residential college experience:

“I learned how to grow as a person,” Hu said.
Oswego’s Promise Fulfilled


“I had a learning disability, in a time when no one knew what a learning disability was,” Winters said. “As a result, I was average-to-low in performance in academics in high school. I had decided that I needed to drop out and figure out what to do with my life.”

It was a counselor at Christopher Columbus High School in The Bronx, N.Y., who convinced Winters she should attend SUNY Oswego. Her parents couldn’t make the trip to bring her to college, so she caught a ride with the father of the assigned roommate she was meeting for the first time, and arrived on campus with suitcase in hand.

“I was astonished by this gorgeous place on the lake,” she said. “I really started to think, ‘who am I capable of being?’”

Winters now answers her own question with a list of accomplishments that include school counselor, private practice psychologist, lecturer, composer, artist and playwright. Following her years at SUNY Oswego, she went on to earn a doctorate in psychology from Rutgers University, opened a private practice and became a national and international consultant and trainer of psychodrama for universities ranging from Princeton to Oxford.

Winters, who lives in Cary, N.C., has been a featured guest on numerous radio and television programs, and hosted her own cable program, “Psychology in Action” in Princeton, N.J., for years.

She has received numerous awards for her work, including the American Society for Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama Lifetime Achievement Award.

Today, Winters still runs a weekly training group for psychodrama and is instrumental in a grief retreat program for adolescents. She spends time with her family, paints and writes. She has co-written a play with her husband, Al.

“We named our play Pitfalls and Promises, and the title captures how easily I could have fallen into a pitfall,” Winters said. “But Oswego promised me I could be something, if I put myself to it. Oswego convinced me I could. So I did. My high school counselor’s insistence that I go to college at Oswego ended up being the best thing anyone could have done for me.”

—Eileen Crandall

Natalie (Linda) Richman Winters ’59, Ed.D.
that promotes wine tour train trips aboard the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad in Bryson City, N.C., and supports vineyards and their products. He retired to Marshall, N.C., from New Jersey, following a career in school administration.

Craig Fisher ’65, Ph.D., of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and colleague Maria Espona from Argentina won the Best Paper Award at the Information Systems Educators’ Conference on Nov. 5, 2015, in Orlando, Fla. Their paper featured methods to improve collection processes and quality of information used for government decision making.

Mary Jacobs White ’65 of Grass Valley, Calif., is a retired deputy probation officer. During her time at SUNY Oswego, she was a member of Blackfriars and Alpha Psi Omega. She enjoys traveling abroad.

Kenneth Blaisdell ’66, Ph.D., of Richmond, Va., started Blaisdell Consult, a strategic management consulting service offering assessment, program design, budgeting, board and volunteer development, advancement, publications and marketing for higher education institutions and companies.

Charles Ferguson ’66 of Holland, Mich., retired after 45 years in product design and documentation for recreation, aerospace, office furniture and more, and he continues to teach geometric dimensioning and tolerancing (GD&T) for companies in the U.S. and Europe. He served for more than 20 years on the GD&T Standard Y14.5 national committee. He and wife celebrated 53 years of marriage, and they have three children and seven grandchildren. He has engaged a new career: an artist of segmented wood-turned products.

Charles Kaplan ’69 of New York City is chief research analyst for Lampert Capital Markets.

David Milliman ’69 was inducted into Waterloo (N.Y.) High School Hall of Fame Class of 2015. Milliman coached the golf team from 1982-2001 and led the Indians to five league championships and an overall record of 158-97-12. Five members of his teams went on to play professionally. Milliman retired from his teaching position in the Waterloo district in 2001.

Robert Jones ’70 of Bryan, Texas, is director of utilization/quality management for Mental Health Routine Services of Brazos Valley, Texas.

David Lamont ’70, who was active in the United States Army National Guard, has retired and lives in Hamburg, N.Y.

Gail Gruebel ’71, who played basketball for SUNY Oswego, resides in New Port Richey, Fla.

Steven Strange ’72 received first prize in the new member category at the East Hartford (Conn.) Spring Arts Festival in 2015 for his oil painting titled “Aranjuez.” He has also had poems published in the literary magazine La Baquiana. During 2015 several of his columns on Spanish language and literature appeared in “La lengua viva” of Yahoo en español and the Colombian journal Redipe. He is an associate member of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language.

Grace Bruzek Finn ’73 M’81 retired in June 2014 from Luna Sharp Elementary School in Pulaski, N.Y., after a 41-year teaching career. Her husband, James Finn ’73 M’99, retired in May 2015. Their daughter, Mary Finn ’15, continued the family legacy of a SUNY Oswego education, graduating with a bachelor’s in psychology in May 2015.

Steven Gelt ’73 of Berlin, Germany, is a freelance life coach and writer.

Robert Sbordone ’73 of Nyack, N.Y., is the director of workforce development for Jawonio Main Campus in New City, N.Y.

Peter Bernhardt ’74, professor of biology at St. Louis University, received a fellowship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and spent summer 2015 as a visiting professor at the Kunming Institute of Botany (Yunnan). He also received a grant from the Australian Orchid Foundation to work on the pollination of midge orchids (corunastylis) at the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust. In November 2015 he received notice of funding from a National Science Foundation of China grant to work on pollination of threatened species in the Yunnan Himalayas.

Barbara Chillemi Gianetto ’74 works in the accounting department of Oswego Hospital.
Defending Victims of Crime in New York City

High-profile court cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, and police misconduct have been part of the fabric of a career for Julie Schwartz ’85.

From 2005 to 2014, Schwartz served as the deputy commissioner for the New York City Police Department’s Advocate Office. After earning a juris doctorate from Brooklyn Law School, she began her career in the field of criminal justice in 1989 as an assistant district attorney in the Kings County District Attorney’s Office, later advancing to bureau chief of the Sex Crimes/Special Victims Unit and deputy of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

In her tenure, she has tried numerous felony cases, including several that were prominent and precedent-setting. While reflecting on her time in a field that many would find difficult, she thinks about the victims most.

“The victims stay with me,” Schwartz said. “But the outcomes can make you feel good about what you are doing every day, and there are resources and assistance programs to help them.” Cases with a low rate of survivor recovery are particularly anguishing, she said.

“There have been some tough ones in my career,” Schwartz said, when she reflects on the impact of heinous crime on victims.

Over the years, Schwartz saw many changes brought about by the use of technology in the courtroom, particularly in the use of DNA.

“It has really changed the face of how you try a case, and it allowed us to open up many cold cases and make great strides in their resolution,” she said.

Schwartz was also instrumental in discipline and training for New York City police officers, and has lectured at the New York State Prosecutors Training Institute on the jury selection process.

Since leaving the police department, Schwartz has taken responsibility for the oversight of forensic investigations in Barclay Bank’s cybersecurity operations center in Manhattan.

“It’s crucial to have women be part of male-dominated organizations,” she said.

—Eileen Crandall

Don Sanford ’74 has authored a book, On Fourth Lake: A Social History of Lake Mendota. Sanford grew up on the shores of Cazenovia Lake, where he first developed his interest in social history. He moved to Madison, Wis., in 1976 to work for Wisconsin Public Television (WPT). During nearly three decades at WPT, he served as lighting director, production manager, volunteer manager and occasional on-air host.

Frank Fish ’75, Ph.D., received an Excellence in Science Communication award at the Society for Marine Mammalogy’s 21st biennial meeting in San Francisco in December 2015. Fish has been a member of the biology faculty of West Chester University, a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in West Chester, Pa., for the past 35 years.

Holly Kurzman ’75, a career coach and jewelry designer, moved to Pezenas, France, after nearly 30 years in San Francisco. She continues coaching and training U.S.-based clients from her home.

Alice McDermott ’75 was a featured author for the Syracuse (N.Y.) Gifford Lecture Series in November 2015. The series is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Onondaga County Public Library.

Stephen Chirello ’77 became a SUNY Oswego adjunct professor in Fall 2015 for communications studies, teaching news writing and reporting.

Michael Marciuliano ’77 of Staten Island, N.Y., is a systems analyst for Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ in Jersey City, N.J. While attending SUNY Oswego, he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

George Paturalski ’78 of Signal Mountain, Tenn., is corporate director of risk management for Environmental Solutions Group in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Gregory Barbagallo ’79 retired after a 32-year career with the United States Border Patrol. Barbagallo started with the USBP in Temecula, Calif., and transferred to the Buffalo, N.Y., sector where he finished his career.

Barbara Edwards ’79, retired principal of Broadus Wood Elementary School in Earlysville, Va., will be interim principal during a candidate search for a new principal in the Brownsville Elementary School in Crozet, Va. She served for 12 years as principal of Broadus Wood and previously was an elementary school principal with two other Virginia school divisions. She began her career in education as a reading specialist.

Charles Leunig ’79 retired as superintendent of schools for the Copiague (N.Y.) Public School District in August 2015 after a 36-year career in public education. Prior to his years in the Copiague district, he taught industrial arts and technology and later served as an administrator in the Uniondale Public School District. He began his teaching career in the Suffield (Conn.) Public Schools.

Elizabeth Meyer Fuller ’80 of Schenectady, N.Y., is an investigator for the New York State Justice Center. She is active in community service, including Girl Scouts, the American Red Cross and a soup kitchen.

Lynn Kiyasu Hartwell ’80 of Mahopac, N.Y., is the global procurement manager for PepsiCo.

Joseph Pochkar ’80 of Endicott, N.Y., is a software developer for Security Mutual Life.

Karen Unger Rosenthal ’80 is dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine and a professor of exotic animal medicine at St. Matthew’s University in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands in the Caribbean.

Mark Notarnicola ’81 is a technology teacher at Cairo-Durham High School in Cairo, N.Y.

Lawrence Streb ’81 of Andover, Mass., is a financial planner for Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. in Manchester, N.H.

Kimberly Young ’81 of Albion, N.Y., is assistant professor of broadcast journalism at SUNY College at Brockport.
Stephen Barone ’82 of Ronkonkoma, N.Y., is senior compliance manager for U.S. Bancorp in New York City.

Joseph Coughlin ’82, Ph.D., director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab, has been named to the Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging Advisory Board. The advisory board was created to help shape the agenda of the institute’s new Center for the Future of Aging. Coughlin shares his research, findings and related commentary on his blog “Disruptive Demographics.”

John Miller ’84 and Paul Reichel ’84 were selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America, 2015 edition. They are attorneys for Bond, Schoenek & King PLLC in Albany (N.Y.) and Syracuse (N.Y.), respectively.

Robert J. Pagano Jr. ’84 is chief executive officer for Watts Water Technologies Inc. Prior to taking the helm at Watts Water Technologies, he was vice president of finance, corporate controller and president of ITT Industrial Products. He started his career at the accounting firm KPMG LLP.

Milagros (Milly) Kabas Vasallo ’85 of Wyckoff, N.J., is a 2015-2016 inductee into the National Association of Professional Women Woman of the Year Circle. She is a member of the National Association of Legal Administrators and the New Jersey Association of Legal Administrators. She is a manager for Bressler, Amery & Ross, PC.

Michelle Horton Crisafulli ’86 M’95 CAS’09 is the principal of the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown (N.Y.) junior/senior high school. Previously, she taught in the Baldwinsville (N.Y.) Central School District, and acted as the assistant principal of Charles W. Baker High School in Baldwinsville for three years and principal for four years.

Jean Flood Fitzsimonds ’86 of Charlotte, N.C., is a financial advisor for TIAA-CREF, a company she has been with for 28 years—working both in New York City and Charlotte, N.C. She and her husband of 23 years, Shawn, have two children.

Kraig Hannum ’86 of Dorset, Vt., is a trustee for Vermont State Colleges.

Anthony Tardugno ’86 is senior vice president, chief information officer and security officer for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana.

David R. Young ’86 is sales director for DocuSign Enterprise Sales at eOriginal Inc. Previously, he served as the vice president of sales and business development for North America, Europe and Latin America for MasterCard Advisors. Prior to his time with MasterCard, Young held executive sales positions with FICO, Fannie Mae and Standard & Poors.

Wendy Cobrda ’87 of Manlius, N.Y., is business intelligence director at Gannett Co., providing strategic research for 96 Gannett Local Media Solutions properties and sites.

Patricia Del Buono ’88 is a personal lines account manager for Gilroy Kerman & Gilroy Inc. (GKGI) of New Hartford, N.Y., Del Buono, a New York State licensed agent for property/casualty, life and health insurance products and services, began her insurance career in 1991 with State Farm Insurance.

Thomas J. Douglas ’88 M’91 became the superintendent of schools for the Horseheads (N.Y.) Central School District in August 2015. Prior to Horseheads, he worked for the Bethlehem (N.Y.) Central School District and has worked as a teacher, principal and superintendent in other New York districts. He is married and has a 6-year-old son.

Tamara Lundrigan Bonomo ’89 is the municipal clerk and treasurer in the village of Camden, N.Y.

Ben Corpus ’89, Ph.D., is vice provost for enrollment management at the University of Texas at Austin, where he is also a clinical associate professor in the College of Education.

Robert J. Hitchcock ’89, M.D., FACAP, is the medical director of the Frisco-Eldorado First Choice Emergency Room facility in Frisco, Texas.

David S. Wyman ’89, an agent with American National Insurance Company, received the 2014 President’s Trophy Gold Multiple Line General Agent of the Year award, which is presented to the highest-performing American National Multiple Line General Agent. In addition, he was also awarded the 2014 President’s Trophy Silver Manager Leadership Award, the Bronze MLGA Top Life Producer of the Year and the Bronze MLGA Team Tri-Line Award. He lives in Fayetteville, N.Y.

Edward Joy ’90 of Liverpool, N.Y., is an analyst for the New York Army National Guard.

Michelle Bianco Ekross ’91 M’10 of Baldwinsville, N.Y., is the art teacher for Most Holy Rosary School in Syracuse, N.Y.

Lee Kaiser ’91, who was recognized in 2012 with the Fairfax County (Va.) Public Schools Outstanding Elementary School Counselor Award, was nominated in Fall 2015 for the Life Changer of the Year Award. Sponsored by the National Life Group, the award recognizes school employees across the United States who exemplify excellence, positive influence and leadership. Kaiser is the school counselor at the Centreville (Va.) Elementary School.

Christine Howes Town ’91 is the executive vice president of enterprise services for SRC Inc. in Syracuse, N.Y. An employee of SRC Inc. for 24 years, she is an active member of the Society of Human Resource Managers.

Timothy Newbold ’93 is head of school for the Village School of North Bennington, Vt.

Sean Ohnmacht ’94 is a counselor for Greene’s Ale House & Grille in Oswego, which won the top newcomer’s trophy at the National Buffalo Wing Festival. It was Greene’s first appearance at the invitation-only competition, held in September 2015 at Coca-Cola Field in Buffalo, N.Y. Greene’s is a three-time winner in the Best Wings in Oswego County contest. Ohnmacht has owned Greene’s since 2007.

Donna Perl Trost ’94 M’98 received the Coaches Who Care Award, a joint initiative by the Democrat and Chronicle and Compeer Rochester (N.Y.) that recognizes top high school coaches. The history teacher is in her ninth season coaching Our Lady of Mercy High School varsity soccer, with Section V championships in 2008 and 2011. She is married and has three children.


Julie Zaryski Chetney ’95 received the 2015 Amelia Earhart Woman of Achievement Award from the Zonta Club of Oswego. The award honors a woman who has dedicated herself to making a difference in her community and serving as a positive role model to other women. Chetney is currently the director of St. Francis Commons Assisted Living Program at St. Luke. She lives in Oswego with her husband, Brian, and four children.

Dana Pierce M’95, a counselor in Fayetteville-Manlius (N.Y.) High School, was named the 2015 School Counselor of the Year by the New York State School Counselor Association. The award recognizes a counselor who has exhibited outstanding service to students and the profession by demonstrating creative school counseling innovations, effective counseling programs, leadership skills and contributions to student enhancement.

Patricia Plumley Hildreth ’96 M’03 of Henderson, Nev., is manager of English language arts test development and senior content consultant for the American Institute for Research.

Todd Pagano ’96, Ph.D., has been appointed associate dean for Teaching and Scholarship Excellence at Rochester Institute of Technology’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Pagano is also an associate professor and director of NTID’s Laboratory Science Technology.

George Irwin ’97 M’99, coordinator of alternate format for the Office of Disability Services at Syracuse University, retired. He began working at the university in 2002 as a counselor. Irwin was a runner up for the Chancellor’s Medal in 2004 and has been a longtime member of the NYS Disability Services Council.

Carl “Duke” Wallin ’98 M’06 received the National Career Development Association Outstanding Career Development Facilitator Award in 2015 at the NCDA Global
Hockey Alumnus Goes from Canada to California to Teach Quantum Physics

Despite earning a bachelor’s degree in physics and applied mathematics, Justin Perron ’05 came to SUNY Oswego for a different reason entirely.

“I was recruited by Coach [George] Roll to play hockey,” Perron said.

A native of Dundas, Ontario, Canada, Perron was playing hockey for the Burlington Cougars when he met then head men’s ice hockey coach George Roll and current coach Ed Gosek ’83 M’01. Perron stayed connected with the coaches and witnessed the Lakers take on Plattsburgh, before deciding to transfer to Oswego.

“My last year at Oswego was the year they broke ground on the new facility,” Perron laughed, referring to the arena in the Marano Campus Center. “I’ve been back to campus since, and it makes me jealous.”

After graduating from Oswego, Perron earned a doctorate in physics from the University of Buffalo in Buffalo, N.Y., then joined the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST, outside of Washington, D.C., to research solid state quantum computation.

“At NIST, I really enjoyed the research we were doing,” Perron said. “We were using single electron transistors for research in metrology [science of measuring] and quantum computing.”

With wife, Lindsay, whom he met at Buffalo, and daughter, Winnie, Perron moved to Southern California in August 2015 after he accepted a position as assistant professor at California State University San Marcos.

“After I finished my Ph.D., I really wanted to be in the classroom teaching. I like both teaching and researching, depending on the day, so I’m lucky to be where I am,” Perron said.

Perron stays in touch with his teammates and classmates, primarily through social media, and tries to stay active on the ice. In D.C., he played on a men’s ice hockey league.

“After I finished my Ph.D., I really wanted to be in the classroom teaching. I like both teaching and researching, depending on the day, so I’m lucky to be where I am,” Perron said. “Perron stays in touch with his teammates and classmates, primarily through social media, and tries to stay active on the ice. In D.C., he played on a men’s ice hockey league."

“I haven’t laced them up since we moved to San Marcos,” Perron said. “I hope to, soon.”

–Tyler Edic ’13
on Nov. 8, 2015. Giada joins big brother, Luca.

**Stephanie Gilbert M’04** received the 2014-15 School Psychologist Practitioner of the Year award from the New York Association of School Psychologists Chapter A. Gilbert is the school psychologist at Heuvelton (N.Y.) Central School District, where she has been working for the past 10 years.

**Pauline Johnson ‘04 M’05** of Rochester, N.Y., is marketing director for Premium Mortgage.

**Maureen Flynn Kratz ‘04**, a member of Delta Phi Epsilon, is the managing director of corporate services/technology support for Quadsimia LLC. Previously, he was a graphic designer for Farm Credit Inc. in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. He and his wife, Amanda, have two children.

**Kristin Quinn ‘08** is editorial director for the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) in Maryland.

**Andrew Drogo ‘05** of Brooktondale, N.Y., is a product manager for Xactly Corporation, which provides cloud-based enterprise software and services.

**Andrew Zuber ‘05** is the network administrator in the information services/technology support department of the South Jefferson Central School District in Adams, N.Y.

**Nora Gannon-Slater ‘06**, Ph.D., of Pittman, N.J., is an evaluation and research coordinator for the Elk Township, Delsea Regional and Franklin Township school district boards of education.

**Danielle Dills Cummins ‘07** is a marketing agent for Farm Credit East in the Rochester, N.Y., region.

**Samantha Morgan ‘07** of Adams Center, N.Y., is a teacher assistant and substitute teacher for the South Jefferson Central School District in Adams, N.Y.

**Christopher Sciocehetti ‘07** of Merrick, N.Y., is chief operating officer for the Barberry Rose Management Company in Woodmere, N.Y.

**Dan Delcese ‘08** is the assistant project manager/social media support for Quadsimia LLC. Previously, he was a graphic designer at ConMed Corporation’s Utica headquarters and freelance graphic designer. He lives in Vernon Center, N.Y., with his wife, Tara, and their son.

**Victoria Cafalone Furlong ‘08 M’10** is assistant vice president for finance and budget at SUNY Oswego.

**King Li ‘08** of Brooklyn, N.Y., works in investment sales for GFI Capital in New York City.

**Lucian McCarty ‘08** of Schuy- nerville, N.Y., was promoted to sergeant in the New York Army National Guard. McCarty is a full-time soldier who works as an administrative specialist in the Adjutant General’s Office at New York National Guard headquarters in Latham, N.Y. Previously, he worked as a newspaper reporter in New York, Maine and New Hampshire, and he most recently worked at *The Saratogian* in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. He and his wife, Amanda, have two children.

**Ryan Santiago ‘08** received a nomination for the SALT (Syracuse N.Y. Area Live Theater) Award in the best supporting actor category, for his portrayal of John Wilkes Booth in Covey Theatre Company’s production of *Lincoln’s Blood*.

**Lucas Seelig ‘08** of Trumbull, Conn., is the northeast director of business development for Apogee Inc.

**Robin E. Stephenson ‘08** was awarded the 2015 Boots to Business Instructor of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration. She is the advanced certified business advisor of the New York Small Business Development Center at Jefferson Community College in Watertown, N.Y. One of five recipients chosen from 200 nominees, Stephenson was honored at an event in Washington, D.C.

**Krista Schneider Kremen ‘09** of North Syracuse, N.Y., is the graphic designer for The Fulton Companies in Pulaski, N.Y.

**Michael McGinn ‘09** of Hobbaken, N.J., is an associate analyst for Wells Fargo Securities in New York City.

**Jason Rasmussen ‘09** is serving in the United States Navy.

**Kevin P. Randall ‘09** is director of finance at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y. Previously, he served as manager of finance.

**Rebecca Baldwin Spadaro ‘09** is a board member at Felder-Syracuse Track and Field Stadium Inc. in Syracuse, N.Y. She is the co-founder of Face First Creative, a marketing agency specializing in graphic and web design and development.

**Jennifer A. Cymbala ‘10** is assistant director of operations for Path Medical Center Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Erin O’Connor Goldman ‘10** is controller for Auxiliary Services at SUNY Oswego. She was active in Alpha Delta Eta sorority.

**Stephanie Bliss Neuman ‘10** is manager for Walk to End Alzheimer’s for the Alzheimer’s Association Central New York Chapter. She joined the chapter in 2012 as its constituent relations coordinator.

**Kayle Light Curtin ‘11** of Syracuse, N.Y., is an academic counselor for Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, N.Y.

**Krisztan Paczkowski ‘M11** and Matthew Kremers were married on July 18, 2015, at the Lodge at Welch Allyn, Skaneateles. She works as a school psychologist for the Churchville-Chili School District in Churchville, N.Y.

**Matthew Berrigan ‘12 M’13** is an audit associate for Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, N.Y. Berrigan works with commercial, not-for-profit and healthcare clients.

**Connor Harrington ‘12** of Waltham, Mass., is a human resources employee representative for Wegmans Food Markets in Boston.

**Nicole Lannie ‘12 M’13** is a senior audit associate at Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Daniel Myers ‘12** of Troy, N.Y., is a producer for Time Warner Cable News in Albany, N.Y.

**Kimberly Sands ‘12** of Liverpool, N.Y., is assistant account manager for the Pinckney Hugo Group, a marketing communications firm in Syracuse, N.Y. Previously, she worked in New York City at Sentrix Health Communications, joonbug.com and iadventure.com.

**Lisa Thibault ‘12** studied terrestrial, coastal and coral reef communities in Belize during summer 2015 as part of Miami University’s Global Field Program. She is an education programs specialist at the Buffalo (N.Y.) Zoo.

**Samantha DiMascio ‘13** joined the WTEN News10 ABC team in Albany, N.Y., as the weekday morning reporter in October 2015. Previously, she was a producer and general assignment reporter for WNYT in Albany, N.Y.

**Deirdre Donley ‘13** of Cooperstown, N.Y., is an associate financial representative for Northwestern Mutual.

**Paul Rodrigues ‘13** has joined the South Carolina Stingrays professional ice hockey team. The 5-foot-10 forward was previously on the roster for the Pensacola Ice Flyers and spent the majority of the 2014-2015 season with the Greenville (S.C.) Swamp Rabbits. He is in his third professional season.

**Matthew Slocum ‘13** is a senior audit associate at Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Katharine Tricarico ‘13** is an assistant teacher for the Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School in Amityville, N.Y.

**Samantha Wessing ‘13** is a weather forecaster for WKTV NEWS2Channel Weekend Today in Utica, N.Y., and the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. news.

**Jennifer Xu ‘13** is a teacher in the New York City Department of Education and completed a master’s degree at Teachers College, Columbia University. She previously taught in the Ithaca (N.Y.) City School District.

**Andrew Batruch ‘14** is an accounts payable representative for CXtec Corporation in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Katherine Bott ‘14 M’15** is an audit associate for Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Kathleen Jackson M’14** is an audit associate for Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Emily Kelly ‘14 M’15** is an audit associate for Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Antonina Konstantinidi ‘14 M’15** joined the tax department of Dannible & McKee LLP in Syracuse, N.Y. Previously, she worked at the Slavic Baptist Church in Camillus, N.Y.

**Steven Leventoff ‘14** of Cortland Manor, N.Y., works for Informa Investment Solutions.

**Jeremy Long ‘14** is a traffic specialist for Raycom Media in Charlotte, N.C.
Alumni Bookshelf

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.

Alan Scott ’55

Dearie Goes to the Opera and Dearie Goes to the Dentist
AMERICA STAR BOOKS, 2015.

The second in Scott’s Dearie series, Dearie Goes to the Opera is an introduction to opera alongside 10-year-old Dearie, as her parents prepare her to see The Barber of Seville at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. It includes an opera dictionary to help young people enjoy the opera. In Scott’s third book, Dearie Goes to the Dentist, readers join Dearie on a dental visit where she learns the importance of oral hygiene.

Gary Fuller ’64

The Trivia Lover’s Guide to Even More of the World: Geography for the Global Generation

Fuller’s guide, a follow-up to his Trivia Lover’s Guide to the World: Geography for the Lost and Found, uses geographic trivia questions as a springboard to learning about non-trivial aspects of our globe. Fuller provides engaging maps and photos, plus thorough explanations for each intriguing trivia question.

Lois Frankel ’73

CRAFTY SISTERS PRESS, 2015.

After spending a year speaking with—and photographing—women around the globe and collecting stories and remembrances from the families of women who have passed away, Frankel offers this compilation of wisdom that ranges from heartwarming to hilarious.

Don Sanford ’74

On Fourth Lake: A Social History of Lake Mendota
COMMODORE’S PRESS, 2015.

Sanford details the people, places and events that have shaped the shoreline of Lake Mendota, Wis., from native people to boat captains, inventors, scientists and Olympians, much of it in their own words. It is illustrated with more than 500 maps, newspaper articles and photographs. Many of the images were sourced from private collections and have never before been available to the public.

Al Roker ’76 and Deborah Roberts, with Laura Morton

Been There, Done That: Family Wisdom for Modern Times
NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY, 2016.

Been There, Done That is a funny, heartfelt, and empowering collection of life lessons, hard-won wisdom, and instructive family anecdotes from New York Times bestselling author and Today show personality Al Roker and his wife, ABC news journalist Deborah Roberts.

Yvona Fast ’81

My Nine Lives: A Memoir
POLISH-JEWISH HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF CANADA, 2011.

Co-authored with her mother, Dana Fast, Yvona Fast shares her mother’s experiences before, during and after World War II. Dana Fast was an 8-year-old living in an upper-middle-class Jewish family in Warsaw when German troops marched into Poland in 1939. She eventually made her home in Adirondack Park.

Dave Goldberg ’87

The One Thing Happening: Aikido Master Sam Rye Jones Shares His Rants and Wisdom
ILLUSIONOFF PRESS, 2015.

Irreverent loner and martial arts master Sam Rye Jones shares his post-awakening journey and ranting moments of clarity as he and the cast of characters converge in an endearing, gritty and playful story that explores big questions of life that we all share—questions of happiness, identity, purpose and reality.

Tim Mollen ’91

Lost Journal Vol. 2: Five Older Brothers, Twenty Bad Jobs and Zero Dates
SHILO RUBY PRESS, 2014.

Volume 2 of Mollen’s three-part memoir series collects the best of his nationally syndicated column, distributed through more than 300 newspapers and websites. Each column is a humorous snapshot of a day in the author’s past, often including stories of growing up in the 1970s and ’80s as the youngest of six boys in a middle-class, Irish Catholic family. This volume follows Lost Journal Vol. 1: Confessions of a Failed Paperboy.

Tessa Edick ’92

Hudson Valley Food & Farming: Why Didn’t Anyone Ever Tell Me That?
AMERICAN PALATE, 2014.

Edick, founder and executive director of FarmOn! Foundation, educates the public about the Hudson Valley farming community and encourages the reader to choose local, fresh foods. By becoming a “locavore,” Americans can revitalize their local economy, become healthier and sustain
Trisha Nojaim ’14 M’15 is an audit associate for Fust Charles Chambers LLP in Syracuse, N.Y.

Gianna Putrino ’14 received the Broome County (N.Y.) Arts Council Emerging Artist of the Year Award and accepted a scholarship to the New York Academy of Art in New York City.

Spencer Smith ’14 M’15 of Oswego recently joined the audit department of Dannible & McKee LLP in Syracuse, N.Y.

Michael Mangino ’15 of Schenectady, N.Y., is a credit analyst with New York Business Development Corporation in Albany, N.Y.

Quentin Mariano ’15 of Nanuet, N.Y., is a deck electrician for Troika Entertainment. While a student at SUNY Oswego, he was active in Paintball Club, SAVAC, Vocal Effect, Blackfriars and Alpha Psi Omega.

William Reese ’15 is an insight executive for Kadence International in Boston.

Nicole Schnorr ’15 is a human resources generalist for Constellation Brands in Napa and Sonoma, Calif. She provides support to the operations teams at various wineries, including Robert Mondavi, Francisca Casa, Clos du Bois, Simi and Ravenswood. She is a member of the GOLD Leadership Council.

Tucker Sholtes ’15 is a management consulting analyst for Accen­ture in St. Louis. He is a member of the GOLD Leadership Council.

Taylor Wendler M’15 is an associate at Dermody, Burke & Brown CPAs LLC in Syracuse, N.Y.

Oswego Matters

By Executive Director

Betsy Oberst

Our first “re-established” Homecoming celebration in November 2015 was an unqualified success, with a total of more than 800 attend­ees at various events and close to 400 individual participants throughout the day! We will continue to build and expand upon our activities for current students and alumni this fall.

So, mark your calendars for an expanded schedule of activities November 4-6, 2016. Plans are underway for adding a bonfire and other fun activities to bring even more alumni and students together.

We are in the homestretch this spring of our historic $40 million fund­raising campaign, With Passion and Purpose. With everyone’s help (every gift counts!), we are confident we will cross the finish line on June 30 and surpass our ambitious goal. Thank you to all who have supported Oswego to date, as we’ve invigorated our intellectual climate with new technology, equipment and excellence funds; increased access, experience and success with many new scholarships and support services for students; and dra­matically increased our endowment.

All of these initiatives increase our strength as a college of choice for more and more students. Alumni support—both financially—and in help­ing provide career advice, internships and assistance in helping new grads launch their careers—is a longstanding hallmark of our powerful alumni network at Oswego.

Our alumni network is now more than 80,000 strong. Well over 100 alumni return to campus each year to speak with students in classes and on campus to share their knowledge and lend a hand through our Alumni-In­Residence (AIR) program. Hundreds more share their time and expertise through the Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) program and still more at regional events and career networking events around the country. Please consider getting involved in any of these programs if you are not already.

And, some of the local happenings and establishments around Oswego that resonate with so many alumni from across the generations are ramping up as we inch toward spring. As I write this, Rudy’s is opening and a brand new Wade’s Diner (destroyed in a fire last summer) has just re­opened to serve up their iconic raisin toast and more! So, if nothing else, a trip back to Oswego should be on your to-do list for a tour of campus (a lot is new!), a coney hot, a fish sandwich, an Oswego Sub Shop sub, raisin toast, a Press Box burger, a visit to Canale’s ... and of course, an unrivaled Oswego sunset!

Reunion 2016 is the perfect opportunity June 9-12 ... or Homecoming November 4-6. Or any time that works for you. Make a visit to King Alumni Hall one of your first stops. One of our favorite activities is hearing your stories and reminiscences, and we’ll promise to try and deliver that fabulous Oswego sunset for your visit!
Alumnus Adapts Advertising to Digital Age

Jeff Knauss ’07, co-founder of The Digital Hyve, a full service digital marketing agency based in Syracuse, N.Y., always knew he wanted to work in advertising.

“I wasn’t like most people,” said Knauss, a former member of the Oswego Alumni Association GOLD Leadership Council. “I wasn’t annoyed by commercials. I always thought it was interesting how an ad can change someone’s behavior, either consciously or subconsciously.”

Knauss earned a bachelor’s in public relations from Oswego, which included a semester in Nice, France, where he met his wife, Heta, who was studying abroad from her home in Finland. After graduation, Knauss worked as a television advertising account executive in Rochester, N.Y., and as TV sales manager in Syracuse, N.Y. He decided to transition from traditional marketing to digital marketing by co-founding The Digital Hyve in 2014 with business partner, Jacob Tanner ’12.

Can you give an example of a digital marketing campaign?

Jeff: We did an ad campaign for Destiny USA during March Madness when the Elite 8 teams were at The [Carrier] Dome. They saw a unique opportunity to target people who were in town to watch the games but didn't necessarily know Syracuse well and everything it has to offer. So we targeted people currently traveling who live at least 100 miles away from Syracuse, who were currently in a 30-mile radius of Destiny USA and who were fans of the teams that were playing. It was a specific campaign with an extremely targeted audience, and it produced great results.

Is the competition stiff in Syracuse?

Jeff: There are a few companies doing what we do, but I don’t feel like we’re too competitive. Our entire business is based on referrals. Because we specialize in digital marketing, we’re able to collaborate with other local traditional ad agencies and media companies.

What’s next for The Digital Hyve?

Jeff: We have a total of 12 folks right now, including designers, developers and people who focus specifically on social media marketing like Jessica Bagdovitz ’12. We’re hoping to be named in the top 500 of Inc. Magazine’s list of 5,000 fastest growing companies in 2016.

What is it about Oswego that keeps you involved?

Jeff: I didn't have a job coming out of school and I remember how stressful that was. Giving advice to students, to help alleviate that feeling and tell them, "It's going to be okay," is my way of giving back I guess.

Read the full interview at alumni.oswego.edu/magazine.

—Tyler Edic ’13
**Kayle Light ’11 and David Curtin ’10** were married on June 6, 2015, in Skaneateles, N.Y. The couple met on a SUNY Oswego ski club trip. Pictured are: front row from left, Chris Tompkins, Hannah Moreau ’12 and Elisa Bailey ’12; middle row from left, Jim Roland ’07 M’08, Danielle Rozler Walsh ’09, Richard Budd ’09, Kayle Light Curtin ’11, David Curtin ’10, Megan Andersen ’12 and Brittney Anthony ’12; back row from left, Christopher Zaloga ’11, Christina Blanchard ’12, Eric Cohoon ’07 M’08, Ben Sharman ’12, Curt Natalizio ’08, Brian Luke ’11 and Kyle Cardinal ’12.

**Ariel Powers ’13 and Brian West ’13** were married Aug. 15, 2015, at the home of the bride's parents. Pictured from left are: Stefanie Cornnell ’13 M’14, Alex Elkins ’14; Daniela Pirraglia ’14; Alfred Stamm, SUNY Oswego professor of meteorology; Brian Donegan ’13; Mehran Nojan, SUNY Oswego director of institutional research; Ariel Powers-West ’13; Brian West ’13; Riann Warren-Donegan ’13; William Powers Jr. ’73; Katie Lolascone Maxwell ’97 M’02, senior assistant director in the SUNY Oswego Office of Admissions; Ryan Lemon ’00, SUNY Oswego international recruitment manager; Gary Morris ’88, SUNY Oswego director of career services; and Sandy Mitchell Morris ’89. The couple met at SUNY Oswego freshman orientation. They now reside in West Laurens, N.Y.

**Matthew Oberst ’03 M’06** and Michelle Grimm were married on Aug. 14, 2015 in Canandaigua, N.Y. Matt is a technology teacher and coach in Canandaigua and Michelle is a math teacher in Penfield, N.Y. The couple resides in Farmington, N.Y. Pictured from left: George Young ’04, Leann Donnelly Young ’05 M’07, Scott Jones ’05, Christine Jones, Matthew ’03 M’06 and Michelle Grimm Oberst, Lex Barker ’03, Michelle Barker, Senior Associate Director of Admissions Jerry Oberst ’77, Heather Barnford Robbins ’05, Matt Robbins, Philip Oberst ’82, Aubrey Clements and John Clements ’05.

**Kristyn Bermingham ’12 and Andrew Williams ’12** were married on July 11, 2015, at Briarwood Country Club in Buffalo, N.Y. Pictured are: back row, from left Nick DeFrancesco ’10, Kyle Wojciechowski ’11 and Justin Beehler ’12; middle row, from left Amy Ray ’11, Kristyn Bermingham Williams ’12, Andrew Williams ’12, Georgia Anderson ’11 and Emily Swartz ’12; and front row, from left Alex Romano ’11, Christopher Tompkins ’12 and Andrew Preischel ’12.

**Tyrell Musch ’05 M’08 and Kristin Feedley** were married Aug. 8, 2015, in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. Pictured are: from left to right, Jeff Butler ’05 M’08, John Ditton M’09, Lucas Bliss ’99, Kevin Yahm ’03 M’08, Randy Salzer ’07, Adam Wheeler ’04, Christian Woolston ’99 M’09, Josh Sickler, Scott Richards ’05, Tracy Nichols Richards ’09, A. Drew McNichol ’07, Jackie Sovie McNichol ’07, Mike Turk ’01, Jed Musch ’03 M’05, Gina Marino ’03, Brian Pelc ’08 and Carey Pelc.
Mary Bertlesman Young ’34 of Port Charlotte, Fla., died Sept. 4, 2011, the Alumni Office recently learned. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles Young ’34.

Donn Billings ’40 of Dumfries, Va., died Dec. 31, 2013, the Alumni Office recently learned. He earned a master’s degree from Oklahoma State University and a doctorate from New York University, where he became a professor and director of education. During World War II, Donn was a teacher-trainer for the U.S. Navy and later a structural aircraft engineering instructor for the Army Air Corps. Donn was a director of vocational education for the state of New York, where he initiated and directed the Cooperative Vocational Education Institute. Prior to retiring, Donn worked as an education specialist for the U.S. Department of Education. Surviving are his wife, Providence, four children, 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mary Alexander Hamer ’40 of Fulton, N.Y., died Sept. 20, 2015. Following graduation from Oswego, Mary taught for several years before joining the U.S. Navy, where she served as a link flight instructor/specialist first class, and met her husband, Ernest. Following her discharge, she and Ernie moved to Fulton, where Mary resumed her teaching career. She is survived by her husband, three daughters, a son, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Edmond Benini ’42 of Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., died July 4, 2015. He served with the U.S. Army during World War II. Edmond taught industrial arts at Ossining High School for many years and taught for five years in Japan. He is survived by his wife, Janice, two children and three grandchildren.

Charles Groat ’43 of Oswego died Nov. 21, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from SUNY Albany, did graduate work at Columbia University and earned a Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 1963. He began his college teaching career at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, then taught at SUNY Oswego for two years. He also taught for one year at Oswego High School. Charles then taught at Cayuga Community College for 25 years, where he was chair of the Social Science Department for 13 years. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and his sister, Tracy Groat Gillette ’45.

Ferne “Penny” Wittenberg Wolf ’43 of Penfield, N.Y., died Oct. 10, 2015. She was an elementary teacher in the North Syracuse Central School District for many years. Penny is survived by her children, Tom, Pamela Wolf Postle ’68, Susan Knodell and Jeffrey ’84; her son-in-law, Larry Postle ’70; her sister, Nancy Jones; several grandchildren, including Steve Postle ’93 and his wife, Jennifer Fauvell Postle ’95; and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, William Wittenberg ’52, and her husband, Lloyd Wolf ’49.

Frances Moroney Whited ’44 of Brockport, N.Y., died Dec. 31, 2015. She earned a master’s degree from Catholic University of America and an Ed.D. from Pennsylvania State University. Fran was a professor of literacy education at SUNY Brockport. She is survived by a stepson, a stepdaughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Fran was predeceased by her sister, Marie Moroney Fox ’40.

Irwin Bitter ’47 of Punta Gorda, Fla., died Sept. 17, 2015. He served with the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. He later served in the Education and Training Staff Office of the U.S. Air Force in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Irwin taught industrial arts in Ossining, Pleasantville and Yorktown, N.Y. After retiring, he served as director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Charlotte County, Fla. Surviving are a son, two daughters, a stepdaughter, three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Irving Klein ’47 of Flushing, N.Y., died Nov. 20, 2015.

Harvey Handel ’48 of Ballston Spa, N.Y., died Oct. 17, 2015. He served as a Seabee with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He earned a master’s degree at Columbia University Teachers College. Harvey was a teacher and principal in Schenectady. He later served as the superintendent of the Schalmont Central School District. Following his retirement, he became vice president at the Schenectady Trust Company, and then executive director of the Mohawk Pathways Girl Scout Council. He is survived by his wife, Ellen Christensen Handel ’48, five children and eight grandchildren.

An Feekey Kelly ’49 of Concord, N.H., died Dec. 7, 2015. She was a teacher in Hanover and Pittsfield, N.H., for many years, before retiring in 2000. Surviving are her husband, Robert, three children and six grandchildren.

Robert Rudd ’50 of St. Petersbug, Fla., died Jan. 1, 2011, the Alumni Office recently learned.

Marvin Gassman ’51 of Longwood, Fla., died Sept. 24, 2015. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Army. Marvin earned a master’s degree from Rollins College. He was a project engineer for NASA for more than 40 years, working on the Apollo, Gemini, Skylab and Shuttle programs. Surviving are three sons and six grandchildren.


Ann Wood McMurry ’51 of Audubon, Pa., died Sept. 25, 2015. Surviving are her husband, Robert, a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Robert Roblin ’52 of Bradenton, Fla., died Feb. 10, 2012, the Alumni Office recently learned. He served with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He taught at Oriskany Central School for over 25 years. He earned a master’s degree at Syracuse University and won a National Science Foundation Grant to attend Colgate University. He is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.


Anne Tormay Sweeney ’51 of Los Angeles died Dec. 11, 2015. She started her teaching career in Liverpool, N.Y., before moving to the Hudson Valley where she taught in Hudson and later the Kingston Consolidated School District for 18 years. Anne is survived by three children and seven grandchildren.

Evelyn Pivrnec Jones ’52 of East Marion, N.Y., died Aug. 25, 2015. She is survived by her husband, John ’51, six children, eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

John Moses ’52 of Tinton Falls, N.J., died Sept. 1, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from Kean University in Union, N.J. He taught for many years in Red Bank, retiring as vice principal of Red Bank Regional High School in Little Silver, N.J., in 1991. John is survived by his wife, Alma Brown Moses ’54; a daughter and three grandchildren.

Elizabeth Petta Palma ’52 of Camillus, N.Y., died Nov. 15, 2015. She earned a master’s degree from Syracuse University, Betty taught in the West Genesee Central School District for 25 years, before retiring in 1985. She is survived by her husband, Ernest; two children, Nicki Andrews ’82 and Mark; her son-in-law, James Andrews ’80; and three grandchildren.

Thomas Claps ’53 of Wheatley Heights, N.Y., died June 11, 2015. He served with the U.S. Army from 1953–55. Tom earned a master’s degree at the University of Florida. He taught industrial arts in the Levittown (N.Y.) School District for more than 30 years. Tom is survived by his wife, Barbara Prentiss Claps ’52; three children; six grandchildren; siblings Michael ’63, Gerald ’68 and Maria Claps Hartranft ’65; his sister-in-law, Carol Hilfiker Claps ’68; and his brother-in-law, Robert Hartranft ’64.

James Hogue ’54 of Syracuse, N.Y., died Oct. 5, 2015. He earned a Ph.D. at Syracuse University. He started his career as an industrial arts teacher and later became a vice principal at Jamesville DeWitt High School. He retired in 1980. James is survived by a son, Howard ’76; a daughter, five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Douglas Kessler ’54 of Pittsford, N.Y., died Oct. 7, 2015. Doug served with the U.S. Army following graduation. He taught industrial arts at Pittsford High School and graduate classes at Rochester Institute of Technology. Surviving are three sons, six grandchildren and his partner, Fran Wittig.

Gladys Cohen Schwartz ’54 of Baldwin, N.Y., died Sept. 29, 2015. She is survived by her husband, Martin.

Herbert Simonson ’54 of Perkasie, Pa., died Dec. 18, 2013, the Alumni Office recently learned. He served with the U.S. Air Force. Herb began his teaching career as an industrial arts teacher in the Central Bucks (Pa.) School District. He and his family went abroad where he taught at a public high school and a mission in Palau, Micronesia,
and later, with his wife, taught at Samoana High School in Pago Pago, American Samoa. He also spent a year in missionary service in the Philippines teaching carpentry. Herb left teaching to work as a cabinetmaker for A. Luther Nash Company before opening his own shop, where he did custom cabinetry and wood turning until he retired in March 2013. Surviving are three children and three grandchildren.

Alan Maher ’55 of Massapequa Park, N.Y., died Sept. 12, 2015. Alan had been an educator in Massapequa until his retirement. He is survived by his wife, Angela, two children and six grandchildren.

Oliver Simonsen ’55 of Palatine Bridge, N.Y., died Aug. 2, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from Columbia University. Ollie began his teaching career in New Hartford, N.Y., where he eventually became principal. In 1963, he became principal at Canajoharie Central School, where he remained until his retirement in 1988. Ollie is survived by his wife, Virginia, three sons, eight grandchildren and a great-grandson.


Loyola Henderson Kranz ’56 of Slingerlands, N.Y., died Sept. 28, 2015. She taught for many years at Westmere Elementary School in Albany, N.Y. While she officially retired in 1989, Loy continued to substitute teach until spring 2015. With her sister, she spent time teaching in Seoul, South Korea. Surviving are her husband, Phillip Kranz ’57, two sons and four grandchildren.

Julius Perillo ’57 of Frankfort, N.Y., died Nov. 6, 2015. Following graduation, he served with the U.S. Army, Julius earned a master’s degree from SUNY Oneonta in 1966. He taught in the Rome (N.Y.) City School District for 31 years as an elementary teacher, principal, assistant superintendent and acting superintendent, and was appointed superintendent in 1988. Julius retired in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Diane, two sons and four grandchildren.

Andrew Dixon ’60 of Keesville, N.Y., died Oct. 30, 2014. He earned a master’s degree at SUNY Plattsburgh. Andy was a technology/driver education teacher at Chestertown High School, AuSable Forks High School, Lake Placid High School, Saranac Central School, Clinton Essex Franklin BOCES, Clinton Community College and AuSable Valley Central School in New York. He also worked for Torrington Industries and was a master instructor for the NYS Pupil Transportation Safety Institute. Andy is survived by his wife, Karen, and two children.

Roger Allen ’61 of Geneva, N.Y., died Jan. 6, 2016. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Roger earned a master’s degree from New York University. He taught industrial arts in the Babylon Union Free School District in Long Island until his retirement. Surviving are his wife, Linda, two children, three stepchildren, two grandchildren and six step-grandchildren.

Lawrence Douglas ’61 of Key West, Fla., and Bristol, N.H., died Nov. 15, 2015. He served with the U.S. Naval Reserve for 39 years, seeing active duty during the Cold War and Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He retired as a captain in 1991. Larry earned a Ph.D. from Syracuse University and taught for several years at the University of Rochester and Nazareth College. In 1973, he accepted a position at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire and spent many years as dean of undergraduate affairs and of graduate studies and as a professor of history, retiring in 2000. Larry is survived by his wife, Barbara, three children, two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Eugene Field ’61 of Hartwell, Ga., died Nov. 1, 2015. He was a teacher in the West Genesee (N.Y.) Central School District until his retirement. Surviving are his wife, Nancy, three children and six grandchildren.

Mary Anne Quinn Lesniak ’63 of Elizabeth­town, Pa., died Oct. 30, 2015. She was a teacher in the Syracuse City School District before moving to Pennsylvania. Mary Anne is survived by three children.

Frederick Maley ’63 of Brewster, N.Y., died Dec. 1, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from New York University. Fred was a special education teacher at BOCES in Yorktown, N.Y., until his retirement in 1991. He is survived by his wife, Beth, two children and three granddaughters.

John Ruf ’63 M’69 of Oswego died Dec. 3, 2015. He began his teaching career as a special education teacher at Oswego County BOCES. He moved to Mexico Academy and Central School District, where he taught 6th grade before becoming principal of Mexico Middle School. He retired in 1997 after 25 years as principal. John is survived by his wife, Virginia Fones Ruf ’63; three children, Rebecca Weiss, Rachel Ruf Baker ’90 M’93 and Ryan ’01; and five grandchildren.

Robert Weathers ’63 of New Smyrna, Fla., died Sept. 21, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from Clarkson University. Bob taught physics for 37 years at Onondaga County Community College, before retiring in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, three children and four grandchildren.

Ronald Archambo ’66 of Melbourne, Fla., died Dec. 2, 2015. Ron taught in the Central Square (N.Y.) School District for 20 years, retiring in 1986. He is survived by his wife, Alice, four daughters, eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mildred Ward Beebe ’66 of Baldwinsville, N.Y., died Jan. 29, 2012, at the age of 102, the Alumni Office recently learned. She taught for more than 30 years. She is survived by a granddaughter.

Michael Koes ’67 of Madison, N.Y., died Feb. 9, 2015. She taught at Hamilton Central School, and then at Madison Central School for 30 years, before retiring in 1995. She is survived by a son, Mark West, and three grandchildren.

Robert Ross ’67 of Auburn, N.Y., died Sept. 19, 2015. He was a career Army Reserve officer with over 33 years of service, retiring in 2000 as a colonel in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Robert earned master’s degrees in instructional technology and library science, and an Ed.D. in higher education administration at Syracuse University. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Laido Ross ’67; daughters, Heather Ross and Stacie Ross ’98; and a granddaughter.

Clifford “Jack” Wraith ’68 of Wayland, N.Y., died June 27, 2015. He earned an associate’s degree from SUNY Morrisville, and a master’s degree in 1987 from St. Bonaventure University. Jack taught industrial arts, technology and driver’s education in Naples, Caledonia and Arkport. He also taught at Alfred State College. He is survived by his companion, Rosalie Forsythe, two sons, four grandchildren, and Rosalie’s children and grandchildren.

Frederick Farrar ’69 of Canastota, N.Y., and Ormond Beach, Fla., died Oct. 9, 2015. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. Fred began his teaching career as an auto mechanic teacher at Oneida High School. He was an associate professor at SUNY Morrisville for 19 years, before retiring in 1992. Following his retirement, he worked for General Motors for five years. He had worked with the Madison County Sheriff’s Department for more than 20 years. He is survived by his companion, Elizabeth Aloisa, three sons, three daughters and 10 grandchildren.

Alfred Farnell ’70 of Auburn, N.Y., died Oct. 6, 2015. He served with the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to 1966. Alfred earned an associate’s degree at Auburn Community College. He was a technology teacher for 31 years at East Middle School.
until his retirement in 2001. Surviving are his wife, Patricia; daughters, Kimberly Christopher and Amy Farnell Kozlowski ’97; and five grandsons.

Michael Gallagher M’70 of Jordan, N.Y., died Nov. 20, 2015. He earned a bachelor’s degree from St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. He was employed as a food broker for 20 years and taught in the Jordan-Elbridge (N.Y.) Central School District for 10 years. Michael is survived by his father, Joseph Gallagher, a sister, brother, and several nieces and nephews.

Thomas McAnaney ’70 M’71 of Oswego died on Nov. 20, 2015. Tom was employed for 44 years as a light motor equipment operator for the Oswego City School District. He is survived by his cousin, Marilyn Price Kovarik ’75.

Glenn Wheeler ’70 of Wilmington, N.C., died Nov. 6, 2015. Glenn worked for Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals for 20 years before moving to Wilmington, where he continued his career at AALPharma Services for 22 years. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, and two sons.

Timothy Baker ’71 of New Orleans, La., died Oct. 29, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from the United States International University in San Diego. Tim worked as an actor and dancer in many productions in New York City. Tim returned to Oswego for several summers to direct musicals for the campus’ Lakeside Dinner Theatre and Summer Lyric Theatre. After moving to New Orleans, Tim worked for more than 25 years at Delgado Community College, where he created the Theatre Department and served as the college’s director of theatre. He is survived by four siblings and many nieces and nephews.

Thomas Coffey ’71 of Oswego died Nov. 28, 2015. Until his retirement, he was employed at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant as a lead systems analyst for 31 years. Tom is survived by his wife, Terry Fosco Coffey ’77; two children; a grandson; his sister, JoAnne Coffey Kapuscinski ’78; three brothers and his brother-in-law, Joseph Kapuscinski ’69. He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas ’64 and Katherine Coffey. Contributions in Tom’s memory may be made to the Rice Creek Field Station, c/o Oswego College Foundation, 215 Sheldon Hall, Oswego NY 13126.

Thomas Weslowski ’71 of Flushing, Mich., died Dec. 25, 2012, the Alumni Office recently learned. He is survived by his wife, Valerie Neumann.

William “Gary” Bliss ’72 of Lake Placid, N.Y., died Oct. 6, 2015. He earned a master’s degree at SUNY Plattsburgh. He taught at Lake Placid High School until 1980 when he left teaching to work at the Lake Placid Winter Olympics. Following the Olympics, he built Adirondack camps, and later was a caretaker for a camp on Lake Placid. Gary is survived by his wife, Kathy, two children and a granddaughter.

Robert Palmer ’72 CAS ’76 of Liverpool, N.Y., died Oct. 30, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from Syracuse University in 1973. Bob had a long career as a school psychologist in the Southwestern School District, North Syracuse Central School District and the Liverpool Central School District. Bob is survived by his wife, Floris; a daughter, son, two grandchildren; his mother, Barbara Palmer Shimenin ’65 M’71, Professor Emeritus of Education; and his sister. He was predeceased by his father, Robert Palmer Sr.; his stepfather, Richard Shimenin, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry; and his brother-in-law, Stephen Barker.

Dorothy Schatz Donlon ’73 of Clifton Park, N.Y., died Nov. 8, 2015. She earned a degree in special education from SUNY Albany in 1974. She worked as a special education teacher and an administrator for over 35 years beginning at the Washington-Warren BOCES and the Beagle School in New York. Most recently she served as an administrator in the Shenendehowa Central School District, retiring in 2012 as an associate principal of Shenendehowa High School. Dorothy is survived by her husband, Edward, two children and a grandson.

Robert Page ’73 of Newark, Del., died Aug. 31, 2015. He was a senior project manager at CB&I. Surviving are his wife, Antoinette Noto Page ’76, three children and four grandchildren.

Laurie Knapp ’74 of Oswego died Nov. 29, 2015. She worked for Niagara Mohawk until her retirement, and later was a teacher’s aide at Leighton Elementary School. Laurie is survived by two daughters and her sister.

Henry Pieniaszek ’74 of Newark, Del., died May 28, 2015. He earned a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Arizona. He worked for DuPont Merck Pharmaceuticals for 20 years and later owned a consulting firm. Henry is survived by his mother, Helen; his companion, Anna Davidson; and two daughters.

Janet Marquez Flauim ’75 of Middletown, N.Y., died Dec. 9, 2015. She taught English at Minisink Valley (N.Y.) Middle School for more than 30 years. Surviving are two daughters.

Lawrence Peck ’75 of Oswego died June 5, 2015. He was a teacher for the NY Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He was also an assistant administrator at Harr-Wood Nursing Home. Larry is survived by his wife, Phyllis Caster Peck ’92; daughter, Kelyn Peck Gordon ’89; son, Kevin; three granddaughters, including Stephanie Peck Moore ’14; and a great-grandson.

William Phelan ’75 of Lexington, Ky, died Aug. 30, 2015. He was a purchasing agent for the University of Kentucky. Bill is survived by his wife, Jill, and two sons.

Frederick Schlomann ’75 of Shrewsbury, N.J., died Nov. 8, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from the United States International University in San Diego. He worked for DuPont Merck Pharmaceuticals for 20 years and later owned a consulting firm. Henry is survived by his mother, Helen; his companion, Anna Davidson; and two daughters.

Richard Shineman, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry; and his brother-in-law, Stephen Barker.
and the John Adams High School. She is survived by her husband, Chris, and two children.

Carol Brennan Ware ’95 M’06 of Fulton, N.Y., died Nov. 2, 2015. She began her teaching career in the Syracuse City School District and was most recently the librarian at Cuyler Elementary School in Red Creek. Surviving are her husband, Dale, three sons and seven grandchildren.

Robert Senko ’96 of Schenectady, N.Y., died Sept. 23, 2015. He began his career with General Electric before becoming a computer programmer for the New York Department of State. Robert is survived by his mother, Kathryn, a brother and three sisters.

Catherine Gallagher Healy ’99 M’03 of Clay, N.Y., died Dec. 11, 2015. She was a teacher in the Fulton City School District. She is survived by her husband, Clint Healy ’97, and a daughter.

Joseph Solar ’99 of Syracuse, N.Y., died Sept. 30, 2015. He was a member of the Turtle Clan in the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. Joe is survived by his sister, Debbie Watson.

Josh Abrams ’00 of Bayville, N.Y., died Oct. 16, 2015. He earned a master’s degree from Long Island University and was a physical education teacher at Junior High School 157 Stephen Halsey in Rego Park, N.Y. Josh is survived by his wife, Jessica, and a son.

Michael Medionte ’07 of Vestal, N.Y., died Sept. 2, 2015. Michael was a senior account executive at TEQ. He is survived by a daughter, his partner, Heather, and her daughter; his parents and his sister.

Liliya Bezhenar ’08 of Lakeland, N.Y., died Jan. 11, 2016. She was employed by KBM Management Inc. and had previously worked for United Healthcare. Liliya is survived by her parents, a sister and two brothers.

Adam Nesbitt ’14 of Alexandria, Va., died Oct. 4, 2015. He was a teacher at Gunston Middle School in Arlington, Va. He is survived by his mother, Diane Nesbitt, and her fiancé; a brother, great-grandmother, grandparents; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Elizabeth Allen, Associate Professor Emerita, Swetman Center, died Dec. 25, 2015. She came to Oswego in 1961 to teach in the Campus School, where she taught until her retirement in 1984. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Roger Dickinson-Brown, former Associate Professor of English, died in April 2015. He taught at Oswego from 1970 until 1981.

Rodica Ieta, Visiting Assistant Professor of English, died Oct. 21, 2015. She earned an undergraduate degree in English and philosophy at the University of Timisoara, Romania, and a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Surviving are her husband, Adrian; a daughter and a brother in Romania.

Frank Mazzoli, former Assistant Vice President of the Physical Plant, died Oct. 18, 2015. He served with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He retired from SUNY Oswego in 1990. Frank is survived by his wife, Katherine, a daughter, son and two grandchildren.

Gubbi Sachidanandan, Associate Professor Emeritus of Psychology, died Dec. 23, 2015. He was appointed at Oswego on Sept. 1, 1961. He served as coordinator of sponsored research, director of sponsored research, associate provost for research and sponsored programs, and associate professor, before retiring on Sept. 1, 1988. He earned undergraduate degrees in chemistry, botany, zoology and psychology from the University of Mysore, India, and a master’s degree in social and industrial psychology from the University of Maryland. He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth Winchell Sachidanandan ’79. Sachi is survived by his children, Sushila Gezik, Kamala Sachidanandan and Prakash Sachi; six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. He is also survived by a son, Pratap, and two grandchildren in India. A memorial celebration will be held later this spring at Rice Creek Field Station. Those interested should contact Rice Creek at 315-312-6677 after May 15 for details. Gifts in Sachi’s memory can be made to Ruth’s Herb Garden at Rice Creek Field Station, c/o Oswego College Foundation, 215 Sheldon Hall, Oswego NY 13126.

Stay on Campus for Harborfest—Special Alumni Discount

The Oswego Alumni Association is pleased to offer a special alumni discount for on-campus housing for alumni who wish to relive their favorite Oswego memories while attending this year’s Harborfest, July 28 to 31.

Alumni will be housed in Seneca Hall according to class year, with a maximum of two adults per room. Alumni may begin checking in at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 28, and must check out by 11 a.m. Sunday, July 31.

There is an early-bird alumni discount special of $68 per night for those making reservations on or before July 15 at 4 p.m. Alumni reservations made after that time will be $72 per night until July 27 at 4 p.m.

The special alumni discount rate will not be available after July 27 at 4 p.m., and all alumni will be charged the regular “walk-in rate” of $77.70 per night.

Those alumni making reservations by 4 p.m. July 27 can also rent a refrigerator and mattresses for children 16 years and younger, for an additional $10 each for the weekend. Linens for beds and towels will be supplied. The Centro bus will run a convenient shuttle service from campus to the festival grounds.

Don’t miss the opportunity to attend this exciting Oswego tradition and show your Laker Pride!

To make reservations, please visit alumni.oswego.edu/harborfest, or you may contact Allison Craine at allison.craine@oswego.edu or 315-312-2258 with questions.

To register for Harborfest Housing, you will need to login through OsweGoConnect at alumni.oswego.edu. Your unique security code to enter the community is the 9-digit ID number located above your address on the mailing label of this alumni magazine. You will only need this the first time you enter and then you will choose your own personal password.
Bell Bottom Blues

by Ermine Calandra Cunningham '73

I was trying to lie low in my dorm room after the raucous lunchtime incident. There was nobody I could talk to about it, either; the other girls spoke little English, and my Spanish wasn’t good enough yet to describe what had happened.

It was Friday afternoon and classes were finished for the week. My roommates were waiting downstairs in La Residencia, the three-story girls’ dorm at the University of Puerto Rico, for a ride home. All but a few of the girls went home every weekend to visit their families and novios (sweethearts). It would be a ghost town by five o’clock. The long halls were dark; the rare echoing footsteps made me feel abandoned.

Earlier, after my last class, I had changed into my funky, worn-out jeans from home. A small red bandana patch was sewn on the lower part of the butt area where they’d ripped. I ambled over to the main cafeteria and went through the food line; as I reached the register, some boys on the balcony began pointing and shouting, but the only words I understood were, rojo (red) and Mira! Mira! (Look! Look!)

It dawned on me then that my patch was sending out some kind of hussy signal. My ribs squeezed in panic; my face must have matched the shade of the bandana patch. I pretended I didn’t see or hear them, ate by myself and slipped out when I was sure they’d left.

That was in 1970, but it may as well have been the 1870s in San Juan. Young women on campus wore dresses and skirts below the knee, coordinated with matching shoes and handbags. Conversely, my wardrobe consisted of: one high-necked granny dress, three pairs of jeans, a bunch of T-shirts, black and white striped elephant-leg bell-bottoms, sandals and white platform shoes (for the elephant bells). There had to have been a few daring Puerto Rican women who were beginning to experience the freedom of pants, but where were they? It felt strange to be around peers who dressed like June Cleaver.

Being an exchange student was not turning out so well for me. The other six Oswego students had refused to live in the dorms—too many rules—and ended up sharing apartments. They had a fabulous semester, but learned little Spanish; I stayed put and became somewhat fluent in Spanish—a huge asset in my life—but felt lonely and isolated much of the time. Looking back, I realize that this experience gave me the gift of understanding culture shock firsthand, and planted the seed for my perfect-fit career as an English as a second language teacher. But I still wish I hadn’t sewn that patch on.

Ermine Calandra Cunningham '73 taught special education preschool in Rochester, N.Y., and English as a second language in Syracuse, N.Y. After retiring in 2010, she completed a two-year creative nonfiction program at the Syracuse Writers Center. Her humorous short story Sometimes Dreams Do Come True was featured on the Erma Bombeck Writers Workshop website. She authored the book, Pretend You Know What You’re Doing: My Voyage from Teacher to Humor Writer (Create Space, 2014). Check out more of her work at ermigal.wordpress.com.
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Photo by Brandyn Peters ’14
Professor emeritus Richard Zakin’s home in Oswego reflects a life immersed in art. Walls and shelves display artwork both collected and made; Zakin’s own hand-built clay pieces capture his formidable skill at a variety of ceramic techniques.

“I always liked art that forced me to use my brain,” Zakin said, as he showed how adding an underlying structural foundation to one of his pieces prevented it from cracking in the kiln.

Diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in 2015, Zakin has integrated his diagnosis into his life’s pursuit of art and knowledge. His recent projects range from digital art to hand-sketching to writing. His writing fuses his research of the disease with his own experiences, expanding his love of visual art to the imagery of words. The project is both a quest for understanding and a desire to share his observations on the inner workings of Alzheimer’s.

“We as humans, as artists, we are always capable of change,” he said. And Alzheimer’s is no different—it’s a change, a challenge to meet.

Zakin, who graduated from Syracuse University and the Brooklyn Museum School and earned a Master of Fine Arts in ceramics from Alfred University, taught art at SUNY Oswego from 1967 until his retirement in 2008. He has authored many books and articles on the subjects of pottery form, clays, glazes and kilns. He has exhibited his work at colleges and galleries, and led workshops across the U.S.

Zakin was honored with the SUNY Oswego President’s Award for Creative Research in 1994. In October 2015, the Central New York chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association asked Zakin to be the keynote speaker at the beginning of its 25th Annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s. He attends meetings with the chapter regularly, finding kinship and encouragement among its membership.

Zakin adds what he refers to as “Zakinian” pencil sketches to the pages of his written works; he avidly discusses angles, lighting and contrast in photography with SUNY Oswego campus photographer Jim Russell ’83, who refers to Zakin as one of his lifelong mentors. Zakin is quick to point out pieces of art given to him by his students.

“They inspired me,” he said, pausing to share stories of students who are attached to particular pieces of art in his collection. His own story, he keeps in a black binder from which he reads excerpts—stopping to contemplate word choices, message, and the artistic limitations and freedoms of the medium.

“That happens with art, it leads you down many paths,” said Zakin, who lives with his wife of more than 40 years, Professor Emerita of Art Helen Zakin. Helen retired from SUNY Oswego in 2009.

“Life leads you down so many paths, too,” he said.

Zakin plans to continue his research and document his personal knowledge of Alzheimer’s. To get it down on paper. To reveal its impact on an artist’s mind. To learn what he can from it.

“An artist never stops learning,” he said.

—Eileen Crandall