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Thank you!

FitnessLink, a Web site devoted to providing original health and fitness information online, is the brainchild of Shannon Reuter Entin ’91. She and her husband, Paul Entin ’91 are two of the many Oswego alumni featured in this issue’s e-commerce section.

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In this issue, we will take you into the exciting new field of e-Business. Oswego State graduates have been pioneers in many fields throughout the years. In these pages they will take you into the fast-paced, rapidly evolving world of the Internet. E-Business continues to change the way companies operate in today’s world. Information is much more readily available to the consumer and Oswego alumni lead the way in exciting new endeavors - from start-up dot-coms to billion dollar global enterprises.

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Alumni in e-Business

By Patricia Rycraft O'Toole '79
From start-up dot-coms to global e-businesses, Oswego State alumni are taking their place in the Internet revolution that is changing the world.

Four short years ago, Shannon Reuter Entin '91 quit her job as a business journalist for Bloomberg Financial Markets to devote full time to her fledgling Web site. Now, her FitnessLink.com boasts one million page views a month and a waiting list of national companies eager to advertise on the site. FitnessLink is such a success, her husband, Paul Entin ’91, who worked in public relations, has become a full-time partner in the business.

When Mark Fedor ’86 graduated from Oswego, no one had even heard of the Internet but he had already worked on networking the computers at the campus Instructional Computing Center. A year later, he co-founded a company that would evolve into PSINet, a billion-dollar global Internet service company based in Virginia. Today, Fedor is PSINet’s senior vice president of global engineering. Several other Oswego alumni also work for the company.

TV sports anchor/reporter Dave Benz ’92 was an unlikely entrepreneur until his own frustrating online job search gave him an idea. His Sportscastingjobs.com launched this past June, and he hopes to make job searches for fellow sports journalists easier and more rewarding.

The Entins, Fedor and Benz are among the Oswego alumni who are helping to shape this new e-conomy.
Shannon’s job includes publishing daily health and fitness articles, which are written primarily by freelance writers, as well as designing and editing five e-mail newsletters (the editors for the London Times and Fox News subscribe to their on-line newsletter). Paul, who majored in business administration with a minor in political science, is responsible for advertising and marketing, and also does some writing.

Like others who have found success in the new e-world, there are adjustments and trade-offs for the Entins.

“The biggest problem we have is time,” said Shannon. They usually work opposite hours, allowing Shannon or Paul to spend time with Logan so they can use a babysitter as little as possible. Shannon begins her work day at 4 a.m., Paul works mid-morning until early evening and Shannon is back at work again in the evening.

One of the few times Shannon and Paul have together is their daily workouts at the gym. “That’s when we have some of our best brainstorming sessions,” she said.

Paul credits Shannon for having the vision that made FitnessLink such a success.

“What she has done is such a great story,” said Paul. “Here is a woman who took a huge risk, quit a great job to jump on the Internet at a time when people thought it was going to go away.”

For Shannon, FitnessLink’s mission is her passion.

“It’s great to be able to provide all of this information free to help people educate themselves and become healthier,” she said. “Seeing something you invented grow is continually motivating.”

Global Internet Super Carrier

From its corporate headquarters in Ashburn, Va., global Internet super carrier PSINet provides the technology and know-how for businesses in 26 countries to stay at the forefront of e-business. At 10,000 employees strong and projected revenues of $1 billion this year, PSINet is one of the world’s largest and most experienced providers of IP-based communication services for business.

Mark Fedor, co-founder and senior vice president of global engineering, says his success was directly influenced by his experience at the Instructional Computing Center at Oswego.

“I initially got bitten by the computer network/Internet bug while working at the computer center at SUNY-Oswego,” said Fedor. “I set up the first network between the Instructional Computing Center computers. The network was based on the same technology that eventually went on to form what we know as the Internet today.

“I was intrigued by the fact that I could communicate with people and computers around the globe from my desk,” he said. “When I graduated, I knew I wanted to stay in the computer networking/Internet field so I hooked up with the Cornell University Theory Center, which managed the first National computer network (NSFNET).”

Fedor and two other colleagues then formed the New York State Education and Research Network, or NYSENE, a non-profit regional link of the national computer network. Fedor was network engineer.

The network was originally not-for-profit and available only for research and education, but businesses were clamoring for access to this new communication technology. A group of people with NYSENE then went on to form PSINet, a commercial Internet service provider.

“Our job was to put together the technology to make access possible for businesses of all sizes, to develop the technology and also to bring the cost down to allow as many people as possible to access the Internet, to allow the Internet to grow to where it is today,” said Fedor.

Founded in 1990, PSINet provides e-commerce infrastructure, end-to-end Internet technology solutions and a full suite of retail and wholesale Internet services through wholly-owned PSINet subsidiaries. Services are provided on PSINet-owned and operated fiber, satellite, Web hosting and switching facilities, providing direct access in more than 900 metropolitan areas in 26 countries on five continents.

PSINet’s global data communications network provides Internet business solutions from basic connectivity to more complex e-commerce solutions. It competes with technology giants such as AT&T and Sprint.

PSINet also has offices in New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Atlanta, with its operations center for the network and its high-end customer service center located in Troy. You can also find the PSINet name in Baltimore. The place where the NFL Ravens play recently was renamed PSINet Stadium.

“PSINet provides the technology to help businesses use the Internet to reach out to their customers, improve communication and to conduct e-commerce,” said Fedor. The company also provides consulting services to advise companies on how to best use the Internet to better their business.

The most exciting aspect of the Internet is “the way it has changed society,” said Fedor. “E-commerce has changed the way people relate to companies and businesses that supply them services and goods. It has also made people much more informed. Look at how e-commerce and the Internet has changed how we buy automobiles and real estate. The consumer is at an advantage now. not the traditional salesperson.”
PSINet Welcomes Oswego Grads

Tom Bonavita ’95 is PSINet’s director of sales engineering for North America, based in Virginia. An information science major and computer science minor, Bonavita was hired upon graduating from Oswego.

He manages a team of technical consultants that design state-of-the-art networking, security solutions, data hosting and e-commerce services.

“I was originally focused on helping corporations design and implement their computer systems connectivity to the Internet,” he said. “The Internet evolved from relatively casual and informational-based Web sites to an efficient way to incorporate their business models in an effort to better their market reach and scope.”

Bonavita said his college experience, especially the “long nights in the Snygg bit-pit prepared me for the long nights at the office.”

Mike Jensen ’95 is an e-business executive at PSINet’s San Francisco office.

“I find new business opportunities for PSINet with Fortune 500 companies and work with them developing services and an environment to run their e-business,” said Jensen, a biology major. “I consult with companies on how to take their business on-line using PSINet’s products and services.”

He enjoys working with companies of all sizes, from new dot-coms to some of the nation’s largest companies. “The aspects I find most exciting with e-commerce are the new applications and services which companies are providing businesses, such as on-line inventory, shipping and billing services,” said Jensen. “Another exciting part of working in the e-commerce industry is working with the new start-up companies and seeing what new products are around the corner, that the world has yet to see.”

His advice for people thinking about getting into the field: “I would recommend that they read as much current literature on the subject as possible. Industry magazines are the best place to start. This will give them a feel for where the industry is currently and where it is heading. Once they understand some basics, I would recommend looking for a position that they already know in an e-commerce corporation. For example, if they are an accountant, try to find a position for an accountant in an e-commerce company, then do some research into what kind of careers they have to offer outside of their current position.”

Shawn Carroll ’95, senior engineering consultant, joined PSINet soon after graduating. He also designs networking, security systems, data hosting and e-commerce services for customers.

“A true Internet devotee, Carroll said he shops on the Internet for “everything.” He and his wife, Amy Gleason Carroll ’95, have bought everything from groceries to a car on-line. They live in Sterling, Va., with their son.

Bob Picarillo ’97 is also a senior engineering consultant in Virginia. An information science major, he too, joined PSINet right after graduation.

“The most challenging part of my job is just keeping pace with the technology,” said Picarillo. “Every day there is something new, and as a consultant, you are expected to know what is out there.”

He lives in Northern Virginia.

Lori Argenio Stallard ’95 is PSINet’s director of Global Partners, based at the corporate headquarters. “My current responsibilities are to work with very large global technology partners to create programs in order to capture market share together through our strategic partnerships,” said Stallard.

With a double major in business and mathematics, she joined PSINet in June 1995.

“I made the move to technology after weighing my options and five other job offers in the financial industry,” she said. “I decided that technology would allow me to grow to a greater degree and would offer more career opportunities; all of which have proven to be the case.”

In the five years since Stallard joined PSINet, “the company has grown from a business operating in two countries with a few hundred employees to a business operating in 26 countries with 10,000 employees,” she said.

Her career advice for those thinking about pursuing an e-business career?

“Go for it! Especially if you are not currently in the technology. You will be challenged, learn the technology and have a significant impact on most companies that you would work for.”

She lives in Centreville, Va., with her husband, Eric.

Anthony Grossi ’95, an Internet engineer who majored in computer science, builds networks for PSINet, combining computer hardware and telecommunications.

“It is a dynamic environment to run and as a consultant, you are expected to know what is out there.”

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Anthony Grossi ’95, an Internet engineer who majored in computer science, builds networks for PSINet, combining computer hardware and telecommunications. He is based in the Virginia headquarters.

Working in PSINet’s Troy location is Douglas King ’96, senior systems administrator. A computer science major, King discovered PSINet at a job fair held on the Oswego campus.

“I enjoyed working with Internet-based software, so I thought that helping to run the infrastructure for a global Internet service provider would be exciting,” he said.

His job responsibilities include design, implementation and maintenance of distributed Internet services. He helps run the company’s internal staff mail system as well as the mail system used by PSINet’s business customers including hundreds of thousands of individual e-mail accounts.

King previously worked for a consulting firm that helped install 700 new computers for the Oswego City School District in 1996-1997. While at Oswego State, he worked at the college store selling and repairing computers.

He lives near Albany with wife, Maureen Blum King ’97, and their son.

Also working at the Troy operations center are:

Chris Bergman ’90, senior network engineer, who majored in information science with a computer science concentration. At PSINet, Chris manages existing networking equipment and incorporates new equipment into the core of the super carrier’s global network. He resides in Clifton Park.

Stephen More ’95, application programmer, who majored in computer science. More creates and maintains critical internal PSINet systems. He lives in Clifton Park with his wife, Kelly.

Brian Rosenthal ’95, systems administrator, also majored in computer science. His group at PSINet manages more than 400 operating system computers worldwide. “I personally have been involved with integrating subsidiaries’ servers into the PSINet infrastructure,” said Rosenthal, who also lives in Clifton Park.

Chista Wilary ’95, business analyst for the Network Management Systems division. Wilary, who majored in business administration and public justice, joined PSINet three years ago. Wilary analyzes internal business processes and procedures to make sure PSINet’s internal systems meet business requirements. She also gathers business requirements for system enhancements for PSINet’s program developers to implement. She, too, lives in Clifton Park.

PSINet information can be obtained by accessing the Web site at www.psinet.com, by e-mail at infot@psinet.com, or by calling 800-799-0676.
Because of his positive experience at Oswego, Fedor says PSINet considers his alma mater the perfect place to recruit new employees. “We get a lot of graduates ready to accept the challenge,” he said.

“Even when the company was just a start-up, there were talented SUNY Oswego graduates willing to take a risk,” he said. “Our success in the company allowed other people to say ‘yeah, why not?’"

“I received so much practical experience by working at the computer center (ICC),” he said. “By the time I left Oswego, I had worked on technology that professionals in my field were working on. I really had a small learning curve going from Oswego to the cutting edge of computer networking. I attribute a lot of my learning and experience to the support and confidence of Ed Beadel (ICC director) and advisor Doug Lea, and a few seniors who worked before me at ICC.”

Fedor lives in Purcellville, Va., with his wife, Vicki Haenel Fedor ’87, and their two children.

Another NYSERNet veteran, Chris Kolb ’88, Herndon, Va., is now PSINet’s director of Shared Hosting Services. He, too, has been with the company from the start.

“I manage a small group of people who design, build, operate, market and sell low-cost hosting services on the Internet,” said Kolb, who majored in computer science and minored in mathematics.

“Among those services are Web site and e-commerce hosting.” Hosting centers “house” Web sites for companies close to the center of a network to provide continual service and a high level of security, rather than having a Web site based at a company, for instance. “Our customers focus on (the content of) their Web sites and let us worry about their Web servers,” he said.

Chris first joined NYSERNet to initiate its software development, and was one of the first 10 to 15 people to move on from NYSERNet to PSINet.

“E-commerce is changing the world and altering how individuals, businesses and governments interact with one another,” said Kolb, who works at the Virginia location. “It holds the potential of leveling the playing field between big and small players, reducing costs of doing business, saving time and providing easy access to things that may not have been accessible before.”

Non-techie Starts a Business

Dave Benz ’92 calls himself a “perfect example” of how someone with a non-technical background can join the world of e-business.

“A year and a half ago, I never would have imagined I’d be running my own business via the Internet,” said Benz.

It all started when Benz, a TV sports anchor/reporter in Green Bay, was searching on-line for jobs in larger markets. “I found there was not one site I could go to that provided me with accurate and up-to-date information for the types of job I was looking for,” he said.

About that time, he met a Web page designer, and they came up with the idea for Sportscastingjobs.com, a subscription-based employment listing service specializing in job openings in all aspects of sports media (TV, radio, print and Internet).

They launched their site in June. Benz plans to expand offerings to include on-line resume posting; video and audio resume posting; a resume tape critique service; feature articles from sportscasters, producers and writers; and a message board for visitors to discuss the hot issues in the industry.

Sportscastingjobs.com is actually a side project for him. He is a sports anchor/reporter at WAMI-TV in Miami. The station owns local broadcasting rights to the Florida Marlins and the Miami Heat.

Getting the Goods On-line

Companies worldwide will conduct more than $500 billion in “e-procurement” by the end of 2001, according to industry analysts. Two alumni positioned to take advantage of the rapidly escalating demand are Fred Festa ’82 and Paul Perdue ’87.

Both are with ICG Commerce, based in Jenkintown, Pa., the world’s first comprehensive business-to-business procurement service. ICG Commerce provides comprehensive on-line procurement services that enable mid-size and large companies to purchase goods and services through the Internet at lower prices. ICG Commerce gets volume pricing for its customers through the company’s relationships with global suppliers. ICG Commerce also helps companies find additional savings through analysis of their purchasing practices.

The ICG Commerce technology is Internet-enabled, allowing customers to instantly access supplier catalogs, conduct on-line auctions and perform payment processing electronically.

Festa, a business administration major, is senior vice president and chief operating officer for ICG Commerce.

“The most exciting part of e-commerce is that the rules are being written as we go,” said Festa. “Traditional business practices and norms do not apply. This is a chance to create the second industrial revolution. People will not have a choice. There will no longer be e-commerce and old economy companies. Every business going forward will become Web-enabled.”

Festa lives near Richmond, Va., with his wife, MaryLynn Barbero Festa ’82, and their three children.

Perdue, a communications studies major, is senior manager for Marketing Communications for ICG Commerce, responsible for all public relations, media relations and analyst relations activities.

He joined the company in June. “I knew that to advance in my field, I might need to start looking at an e-commerce company,” said Perdue. “ICG Commerce offers a challenging and rewarding future in an industry that will dominate the business landscape.”

ICG Commerce helps companies buy goods such as office supplies and equipment, computer

Dave Benz

Paul Perdue

Fred Festa
equipment and replacement parts for machinery. “Customers such as Sunoco and Unisys use our Web-based technology to purchase the goods and services they need to conduct their business,” said Perdue. “By buying through the Web, companies save money, reduce paperwork, and dramatically improve work efficiencies.” Other customers include Amazon.com, Staples and Mack Trucks.

Perdue lives in Narbeth, Pa., just outside of Philadelphia.

David Melfi Focuses on Technology

After working in traditional retail and banking, David Melfi ’88 decided seven years ago to focus his career on technology.

His first exposure to computers came when he worked for a bank and “found them more interesting than accounting,” said Melfi, an accounting major and economics minor. He took advantage of his finance background to get a position within the software division of SunGard financial systems in Boston.

“With (Oswego) class work coupled with job experience at other software companies, I was able to segue into the e-commerce world,” said Melfi.

He now works as a sales account manager for eBusiness Technologies, selling to companies that range in size from start-up dot-coms to Fortune 200 companies. He covers accounts in Upstate New York, Northern New England and Canada.

Based in Providence, R.I., eBusiness Technologies produces Web content and management software that helps companies organize, protect and more effectively customize their Web sites.

“What I like most is meeting these very talented people who are building dot-com companies and in charge of managing an e-commerce division of larger companies, hearing their pains and solving a large amount of their pain with EBT software,” said Melfi.

He lives in Somerville, Mass., just outside of Boston.

Building Web sites for Merchants

For several years, NextJump Inc. has provided localized guidebooks for college students at nearly 200 campuses nationwide. Co-founded by Jean Ellen Murphy ’95, NextJump is meeting with success with its expansion into on-line services.

After taking guidebook, CollegiateWeb, on-line (www.CollegiateWeb.com), NextJump created its JumpShop division, which focuses on building Web sites for merchants in college communities.
“The college students are very important to local merchants and we provide them with direct access to a market they want to reach,” said Kate Mclaughlin ’95, director of communications and content. “We’re helping local merchants to bring their business on-line.”

The company has helped 1,000 merchants go on-line in more than 100 college communities. Merchants can either choose a basic Web site or one that gives them the ability to sell their products on-line.

Other Oswego alumnae at NextJump are: Penny Koch ’95, a Boston-based product manager for CollegiateWeb; Kerri Wakeman ’95 who heads the Client Services department in Boston, which is responsible for building and maintaining strong relationships with local merchants; Tracy Glogaza ’96, who works in the company’s finance department in New York City; Heather Obst ’99, graphic designer; and Staci Schneible ’96, human resources manager.

NextJump has offices in Boston, New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Chicago.

150,000 Copies Sold in Six Languages

When it comes to e-business, Marcia Robinson ’86 wrote the book. In fact, the book she co-wrote with her husband, Ravi Kalakota, e-Business: Roadmap for Success, sold 150,000 copies, has been translated into six languages and reached #3 on the Amazon Business Bestseller List.

The book, published by Addison-Wesley Longman, presents strategies for decision-makers who are creating or operating e-businesses to successfully do business in the information economy. First published in 1999, the second edition, e-Business 2.0, will be published in December.

Robinson is founder and president of e-Business Strategies, based in Atlanta. The firm provides consulting services to senior management of Fortune 1,000 companies, offering expertise in strategy development, business plan creation and e-business assessment methodology.

“My computer science background from Oswego helped me to gain the technical understanding necessary to create, operate and manage the complex new economy companies,” said Robinson. “Successful e-commerce companies require an integration of technology, managerial and customer-centric thinking. Oswego helped me lay the groundwork that ultimately made that all possible.”

‘92 Graduate Felt Pull to the Internet

Lyndsay Jenks Hanchett ’92 was working in publishing at Time Inc. when she “felt a pull toward the Internet.” Today, she is an e-commerce program manager for Lycos, Inc., an Internet service provider.

“I had been doing traditional marketing at a traditional company and noticed how Internet marketing/e-commerce had dramatically changed over the relatively short period of time that I had been in the workplace,” she said. “I realized that e-commerce was the future of business as we know it. I wanted to be a part of it – not passed by.”

She manages clients’ advertising and content on the Lycos Network.

Lycos, Inc. is a global Internet leader with a major presence throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, Canada and Latin America. The Lycos Network is one of the most visited hubs of the Internet, reaching nearly one out of every two U.S. Web users, said Hanchett.

The Lycos Network is a unified set of Web sites, offering services including: Web search and navigation resources; free homepage building; e-mail; clubs and chat; instant messages; a shopping center featuring more than 3,100 merchants, games, music, and news; educational information and activities for children; and information about investing, technology, entertainment, sports, small business, travel and more.

Hanchett, a communication studies major and business administration minor, is married to Drew Hanchett ’91. They live in Boston.

ArtsZone is Morse’s Latest Initiative

ArtsZone, an on-line arts education site for schools, is one of the latest initiatives of Harold E. Morse ’61, Ph.D., president and CEO of Ovation, a founder of The Learning Channel and a founding board member of Cable in the Classroom. An all-arts network, Ovation features performance and documentary style programming on the arts – theatre, dance, opera, jazz, classical music, literature and the visual arts.

ArtsZone is a supplemental educational program that schools and universities can use to enhance their arts and music programs, said Morse. About 15,000 school districts are already using it, as well as universities such as Stanford and Harvard, he said. West Virginia uses ArtsZone state-wide to supplement in-school arts programs.

ArtsZone has proved valuable to school districts facing budget constraints, said Morse. Ovation is now providing arts supplies, in conjunction with ArtsZone, to schools that need assistance.

“It’s kind of scary that particularly in the rural or poorer school districts, when they have to make cuts it’s usually arts and music that have to go,” said Morse.

ArtsZone features material for students, as well as teachers’ guides. To check out ArtsZone, go to Ovation’s Web site, ovationtv.com.

Morse is also involved in developing another Web site outside of Ovation, called NativeArtNet.com. “We’re expecting to have quite an inventory of great art available to the public to buy and also have some auctions,” he said. The site, expected to be up by the end of the year, will feature works by Native American artists including ceramics, sculptures and paintings priced at between $1,000 to $25,000.

Morse lives in Falls Church, Va., with his wife, Sue.

Linking Consumers and Health Care

E d Zecchini ’82, a computer science major, is chief technology officer at HealthMarket Inc., an e-Business start-up. Zecchini has spent his entire career in the information industry, including technology management positions at SportsTicker and Medical Economics.

HealthMarket Inc. is an Internet service that links consumers and providers of health care to allow individuals and businesses to locate, evaluate and purchase health care services.

Launched in July, HealthMarket Inc. allows consumers to buy a traditional health care policy or shop for specific healthcare services. HealthMarket subscribers can select any hospital, physician, or health care provider without utilization review, medical management or other cost containment constraints, according to the company. Instead, this “self-directed” health plan provides payment of benefits for particular health services.


“My degree coupled with my work experience at the Instructional Computing Center (ICC) has been critical to my career and its success,” said Zecchini. “I have always been in positions where the mission is to use the latest technology to create information products. This encompasses gathering, manipulating and disseminating...
critical information throughout the world."

"I continue to have an exciting career in information technology as a result of fully leveraging all I have learned at Oswego," said Zecchini, who lives in Scarsdale with his wife, Grace, and their four children.

Keeping Pace With the e-Business World

Oswego State is keeping pace with the changing e-world, said Lanny Karns, dean of the School of Business.

"It is obvious that e-commerce must evolve much more quickly than past changes into Business School topics, courses and areas of concentration," said Karns.

A graduate level web-based e-business course will be offered beginning in the spring, said James Molinari, chairman of the Marketing Management department.

"Our focus at Oswego will be to integrate topics and courses across our curriculum in an expeditious manner," said Karns. "We have already laid the groundwork by infusing state of the art technology into all our classrooms and making e-commerce related topics a high priority. We look forward to the challenge of presenting an integrated e-commerce curriculum."
When Dr. Geraldine Forbes, distinguished teaching professor of history, teaches women's history, she used to feel like a character out of the Thirty Years War. “I use a lot of video-clips and slides. I’m putting all my lectures on PowerPoint. Now I have to bring in an overhead projector, a video cassette player and a slide projector,” she said. “You’d feel like Mother Courage lugging in this whole wag-onload of things.”

As of this fall, she does not have to. She is teaching the course in one of the three new advanced technology classrooms outfitted as demonstrations of what can be done as planned capital projects renew teaching space all over campus.

Most academic buildings at Oswego will undergo massive renovations in the next several years. The renovations will create the opportunity to make 30-year-old classrooms compatible with 21st century teaching methods.

Forbes was one of five faculty members who served on the advanced technology committee with administrators and design consultants to decide how best to spend $500,000 to design and create demonstration classrooms. They chose to concentrate on one small, one medium and one large classroom, rooms 215 and 220 in Mahar Hall and room 107 in Langan Hall.

The demonstration classrooms all have full multimedia podiums for the instructor, projection systems and wiring for student computers.

“We’re just trying to get our feet wet and find out what works well, before we spend $10 million on a building,” said interim Chief Technology Officer Bill Gruszka.

Several Oswego faculty members visited Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology and SUNY Binghamton to see what other institutions had done. Forbes said that Steelcase, a vendor that has set up demonstrations of a number of modern classroom designs, turned diagrams and floor plans into a walk-through experience. “It was amazing for us to see how industries are doing things,” she said. “It gave us an idea of what is possible.”

Unlike the earlier “smart” classrooms built on campus, which Forbes said were based on “an older idea of enhanced chalk-and-talk lectures,” the three new rooms provide for a more interactive approach to teaching.

“The new trend is to move away from the lecture format so that you’re having activities and class participation all the time,” Forbes said. Today’s students are not accustomed to the lecture format, she said. “Kids are not ready to sit for 50 minutes. In class, they want to be stimulated and to work together in groups.”

Faculty and student needs are reflected in Oswego’s demonstration classrooms. “We wanted to be able to support small group activity even in large classrooms,” said David Bozak, associate dean of arts and sciences.

In Room 107 of Langan, new aisles divide what was a solid bank of about 100 seats into three sections, and the chairs swivel so that students can turn around to interact with the row behind them. Chairs are on casters in the two Mahar rooms, and all the furniture in the small room, 215, is movable.

Long-term, what is most significant about the designs, Gruszka said, is technological flexibility. “The technology changes so quickly that you have to be flexible,” he said.

The demonstration rooms have more than just new learning and teaching technology. New ceilings, diffused lighting, carpeting, furniture and paint were all part of the refurbishing this summer.
Lakeside to Get a Facelift

When freshmen entering Oswego two years from now move into Johnson Hall, one of the campus's oldest residence halls, they will be greeted by a look that is much different from the accommodations enjoyed by decades of former residents.

"Johnson is scheduled to open in fall 2002 as a very modern facility with state-of-the-art living arrangements that we've planned in consultation with students and staff on campus," said Dr. Joseph F. Grant Jr., vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

The design for Johnson features an added fourth floor with a new rooftop which will create an architectural image that can be extended throughout the lakeside buildings.

It is being designed as part of a complex, including Lakeside Dining Center and Riggs Hall.

The conceptual design phase for the complex is nearly complete, Grant said. That phase included setting objectives, such as an easily accessible link between Johnson Hall and Lakeside Dining Center

that will be usable by people with disabilities and a new entry that reinforces the space as a social hub for informal meetings, "hanging out" and access to advisers.

The building axis will be shifted 10 degrees off perpendicular to make the building more visible and identifiable. The interior will have a series of single and two-level spaces that focus views to the lake.

When renovations are complete, Johnson will house 236 students and be headquarters for the First Year Experience, which is temporarily housed in Riggs Hall during the renovation.

The complex has a long history. Johnson Hall opened in 1958 and was home to women students until fall 1997, when it became dedicated to housing first year students. Johnson was named for Harold B. Johnson, a member of the campus board of visitors who was instrumental in Oswego’s transformation from a Normal School to a college. Riggs Hall, named for James G. Riggs, who served as principal of Oswego

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Infusion of Presidential Scholars Boosts Class Profile, Honors Program

Oswego State's freshman classes are coming to campus a little smarter each year, and their numbers boost enrollment in top-shelf academic programs like the Honors Program. The changes are due, in part, to the Presidential Scholarship program, which began in the fall of 1997.

Since then, the investment of over $841,550 from Fall Classic sponsors to generate scholarships for high-achieving new students has increased Oswego’s number of applicants and their academic profile.

“This is our largest class ever,” said Dr. Norman Weiner, distinguished service professor and director of the Honors Program for the past eight years. Of the 85 freshman students in the fall 2000 class of honors students, about 60 are Presidential Scholars.

Not only are their numbers impressive, but their performance is, as well. “What I’m hearing from freshman faculty is that they are very impressed with this class,” Weiner said. “They are a very bright group, very willing to pursue new ideas.”

Weiner said this is the first year that Presidential Scholars have been linked to the Honors Program. In the future, “we will pursue that connection in a more aggressive way,” he said. “We want people to know it’s out there. We want to say, ‘Hey! This program is good. Come and get it!’”

Being more aggressive about recruiting Presidential Scholars is also a goal for the Admissions Office. “We are planning full tuition scholarships for fall 2001, in order to continue to attract the best and brightest the state education system has to offer,” said Daniel Griffin, associate director of admissions.

The Presidential Scholars helped boost Oswego's numbers — both in the numbers of applicants and their academic qualifications, according to Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Joseph F. Grant Jr.

“Because we are able to pick up people with higher scores, on balance, the quality of our students has increased,” he said.

According to SUNY System Administration figures for fall 2000, Oswego’s freshman applications rose 7.3 percent. Nearly 10,000 prospective freshmen and transfers applied for a class of just over 2,000.

Admissions Office figures for the fall 2000 incoming class show that the SAT composite score was up 20 points since 1996, the last year before the Presidential Scholar program began. The number of students with high school averages greater than 90 was up 95 percent, and the number of students whose high school averages were below 84 was down 37 percent.

“The Presidential Scholars program places us in a more competitive position with the private sector, which has been able to offer merit scholarships for some time,” Grant said.

Oswego is among the institutions in SUNY that offer the most money in merit scholarships.
Social Studies Teacher of the Year Helps Students Know the World

A veteran teacher, who never really yearned for a career in the classroom, was named the 1999 New York State Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

"I come from a background that gave academically oriented girls the choice of either nursing or teaching," says Deborah Berlt-Schraven '73. "Although I never sought it, I was lucky enough, once I got into teaching, to discover that I could stick it out."

Over the 26 years of her career, Berlt-Schraven has far exceeded simple endurance; she has, in fact, become that consummate ideal: a good teacher.

"I have stayed in teaching—even when other opportunities arose and when my colleagues left for jobs in business or industry—because of the intrinsic rewards," she says. "As a teacher, you're doing something every day that leaves a mark on a person's life."

At C.W. Baker High School, Berlt-Schraven's mark on the lives of students includes appreciation for cultures other than their own. After traveling to Japan in 1988 on a Keizai Koho Fellowship, she worked with the Baldwinsville Central School District to establish an exchange program that is now in its 11th season.

Each March, 10 to 12 Japanese students with their teachers visit Baker High School, and each summer Baker High students study in Japan. In each country, students live with families and take part in cultural and social activities as well as classes. "Understanding the world means understanding the people in it. We try to abolish ethnocentrism and stereotypes."

Berlt-Schraven, who grew up in a small town in Columbia County, credits her Oswego State experience with providing an awareness of what some of the possibilities for her life might be. She recalls mentors in her education classes who taught valuable methods and techniques that are still valid in teaching today.

"I especially credit Dr. Geraldine Forbes with being a role model and a great influence. In the early '70s, she represented to us the vision of what a woman could achieve. She taught us to think big, to believe we could do more than the roles that had been cast for us."

Berlt-Schraven says she gives her all to students each day of the year. "Whatever I do, I want to do in a way that makes me proud to put my name on it," she says.

New Jersey Teacher of the Year Says Every Day at School is Reunion

Teaching at a small elementary school in Pennington, N. J., Connie Cloonan '74 says she feels privileged to work with two other Oswego graduates: Cheryl Kurtz Burd '68 and Margaret Chun Yi '95.

"Although we were at Oswego at very different times, it is great fun to have been trained at the same school," says Cloonan. "We come from different parts of New York State, now we share our common backgrounds as we teach together at the Toll Gate School."

A third grade teacher, who was Teacher of the Year for the state of New Jersey in 1990-91, Cloonan says that hers is one of the most important and one of the most challenging professions. "What attracted me to education is the same thing that sustains so many of us through the challenges—our love of children. There is simply no joy like that which comes from watching students learn, whether they are understanding a new concept, writing a beautiful story or poem, or becoming aware of some special wonder in their world."

Cloonan is convinced that the role of teachers will be even more essential over the next decades than it is now as we move into a "knowledge economy" in which information will be the currency.

"We've already seen an amazing acceleration in the pace of change in technology and the demands of globalization. In this new era, the ability to be a lifelong learner will be what separates those who are successful from those who are not."

Cloonan believes that her role is to teach higher level thinking in addition to content (math, reading, etc.). "Most importantly, we have to help our students become lifelong learners by developing their love for the learning process itself."

Cloonan says her Oswego experience provided two special things: professors who shared their passion for teaching and their skills so that she could become a good teacher and a diverse group of classmates with whom she could share, learn and grow.

For the essentials of what a teacher should be, Cloonan turns to her eighth grade math teacher, Sister Bridgid Michael, as her inspiration. "She set very high standards, expected a great deal from each student, and motivated us to work harder. She believed in us, and she understood that she could make a difference in our lives. Every good teacher must have that understanding and that belief."

Colleagues Name '62 Alumnus "Teacher of Year"

William Wemple '52 was recognized last March in the Teacher of the Year program run by The Daytona Beach News-Journal. He has spent his entire career in the classroom, first at Oneonta Middle School, then in Fairport, where he worked at BOCES with children with handicapping conditions. He has taught applied technology in New Smyrna Beach High School in Florida for the past 15 years, earning the respect of his colleagues, who nominated him for the award.

Honored for Graphic Arts Teaching

Ronald Hindmarsh '71 directs the Hilton School District program that has produced a host of prize-winning graphic artists. Hindmarsh received the 1999 Kagi Award of the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation's Society of Fellows for his instructional leadership, professionalism, innovation and promotion of the graphic arts industry. He was recognized for having built the Hilton High graphic arts technology programs, which annually enroll more than 200 students.

Oswego State

Dr. Jack Narayan has been named dean of graduate studies and research at Oswego State. He has served as interim dean since 1995, and director of research and sponsored programs since 1990.

The appointment concludes a national search to fill the dean’s position. Four finalists interviewed on campus in May.

"Dr. Narayan has served admirably in this position in an interim capacity," Provost John Presley said in announcing the appointment.

Programs for the master of arts in teaching degree in art and chemistry were approved during Narayan’s tenure as interim dean. Sponsored research annual awards have more than doubled under his leadership in the past 10 years. He
Oswego Earns Good Marks

Oswego State has made Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine's list of 100 best values in public colleges and universities again this year. The list, which includes seven SUNY campuses, came out in the October issue.

Oswego also appears in the college guide issued this fall by U.S. News and World Report, which uses 16 criteria of academic excellence. Oswego again appears in the top half of the U.S. News rankings of Northern Universities.

Campus Begins to Implement Visionary Plan

The Strategic Planning Advisory Board this summer completed the campus strategic plan, "Engagement 2000 -- Beyond Aspirations: A Learner-Centered Culture." President Deborah F. Stanley formally approved this plan to lead Oswego State boldly forward into the new century.

A campus strategic initiatives fund of nearly $450,000 for 2000-01 provides money to support elements of the plan.

The plan encompasses strategic goals in six areas:

- Improving the quality of academic life
- A faculty committed to enriching and expanding the classroom
- A diverse learning community that nurtures academic growth, personal success and social responsibility
- Strengthening our use of technology in support of student learning
- An inviting physical setting
- Increased resources to meet the challenge

President Stanley stresses that the strategic plan is a living document to be frequently revised and updated. The Strategic Planning Advisory Board will move forward by overseeing implementation of the plan and assessing results.

World-Class Hits in Economics

If you're surfing the Web for information on economics, chances are you've used sites put together by Oswego professors. Economics Web pages put together by our professors consistently rate in the top 10 in the world in number of hits.

"The economics department pages receive about 30,000 hits a week," says Professor John Kane. "The department's pages are popular because we were on the Internet relatively early and provide information that is useful for economists."

One of the most used is http://www.oswego.edu/~econ/ econweb.htm. Another is Bill Goffe's Resources for Economists on the Internet. Goffe joined Oswego's economics department this fall.

Telecommuting Study Gets $300,000 Grant

With modern technology and increasingly flexible employers, more and more people are choosing to telecommute. How their decisions affect transportation and telecommunications systems is the focus of a three-year $300,000 National Science Foundation grant to Dr. June Qiong Dong of Oswego's School of Business and two colleagues from other universities.

Dong is a co-principal investigator, along with Dr. Anna Nagurney of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Dr. Patricia L. Mokhtarian of the University of California at Davis. They will study how the transportation and telecommunications systems mesh and how people behave when they try to make a decision about telecommuting.

"The impact of this study could be very broad," Dong says.

The data may be used in policymaking, for example, to determine road tolls or pollution control laws. Also, it can be used to help companies provide packages of benefits to help workers decide between telecommuting or traditional jobs.

Passion for Old Boats Leads to Third Book

When Peter Hunn of Oswego's communications studies department was 5-years-old, a family visit to the Adirondacks led him into a lifelong affair with outboard motors. That passion has resulted in his third book on the subject, "The Golden Age of the Racing Outboard," published this summer by Deveraux Books.

Hunn spent two years researching and writing "The Golden Age of the Racing Outboard," which includes a wealth of insider information about key motor manufacturers such as Mercury, Johnson and Evinrude. Additionally, he chronicled dozens of racing-boat makers that thrived from the late 1920s through the end of the Eisenhower era.

His earlier books include two versions of "The Old Outboard Book," published by McGraw-Hill's International Marine Division.

Updated Campus Web Site

Take a look at the revamped Oswego State Web site. For more than a year, a dedicated campus Web committee and a design firm have worked to overhaul the college's Web site. Check it out at www.oswego.edu and let us know what you think.

Award-Winning Annual Report

Alcan Sponsors Research Fellowship

Undergraduate fellows who work in the Environmental Research Center in Piez Hall know that their research is important.

“There are multiple projects going on. I’m part of something big here,” says senior Ryan Fuller, recipient of this year’s $6,000 Environmental Fellowship, which is funded by the Alcan Aluminum Corporation.

Devoting eight hours a day all summer, Fuller tested cores of sediment deposits from the floor of the Oswego River to measure past and present polychlorinated biphenyl contamination.

He continues to work part-time during the school year and is involved in ongoing studies of the uptake, distribution, and metabolism of PCBs in the offspring of laboratory rats fed Lake Ontario salmon. This project is a collaboration between Oswego State’s ERC and the Center for Neurobehavioral Effects of Environmental Toxics.

“We put undergraduates in an environment where they are conducting genuine, quality research,” explains James Pagano ’74, assistant director of the ERC. “What they do is part of the larger effort of ongoing research concerning the distribution and health effects of PCBs in Lake Ontario water.”

This is the second round of funding for student research from Alcan, which focuses on the protection of the environment by recycling aluminium and which maintains high environmental standards that have won awards from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Alcan’s Oswego facility also won New York state’s first annual Governor’s Award for Pollution Prevention.

Oswego State President Deborah F. Stanley says, “This partnership benefits our students by giving them valuable research experience, and it unites the long-standing environmental interests of this college and Alcan.”

Conducting research is only one facet of the fellowship; students are also required to present their findings at Quest, Oswego State’s annual celebration of scholarly and creative work, and at the Great Lakes Research Consortium Annual Conference.

Former undergraduate student researchers have conducted studies on such topics as biomonitoring turtles on the Hudson River, the impact of zebra mussels on remobilizing trace metals, and how PCBs move through the food web.

Pagano says most of the former student researchers have pursued successful careers in industry, academia, or research.

Laura Williamson ’98, who was co-author with Pagano on a paper about her undergraduate research with snapping turtles, works at the Bronx Zoo and is participating in a field herpetology project with National Parks Service. She says of the undergraduate fellowship, “It showed me the correct procedures for conducting research. The day-to-day precision of quality research meant that if I messed up in even a small way, the whole thing would be scrapped, and we’d start again. It taught me so much about discipline.”

Fuller, who is putting himself through school working two jobs, says he feels honored to carry on the Oswego State tradition of undergraduate research. “I talked to other students who had done this fellowship, and I saw it as an opportunity for genuine research experience,” he says. “We really do need opportunities like this for Oswego students.”

We Thought So All Along: Vacations Can Promote Health

Pack your bags, leave the cell phone in a drawer, and head for the hills. Your heart will thank you.

Dr. Brooks B. Gump, health psychologist and epidemiologist at Oswego State, helps answer the question: “Are Vacations Good for Your Health?” His findings are based on a study, “Mortality Experience After the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial,” conducted with principal investigator Karen A. Matthews from the University of Pittsburgh. Gump used the data gathered to determine if middle-aged men with a high risk of coronary heart disease may benefit from regular vacations.

The findings were encouraging, if not entirely conclusive: vacations may be good for your health.

The original study looked at 12,866 men deemed at high risk for coronary heart disease. Specifically, Gump evaluated the nine-year posttrial mortality and cause of death as a function of the number of annual vacations assessed during the seven years of the trial. He included statistical controls for nonfatal health-related events and socioeconomic status.

The data gathered during the MRFIT did not provide vacation specifics. Men did not describe the length or quality of the vacations, nor did they indicate whether vacations were taken alone or with a partner or children.

When all factors were evaluated, however, vacations looked like a good option for longer life. Gump’s supposition was that less, or lower, vigilance, provided by a formal respite, may improve your health. He said he was drawn to this study partly because it involved removing a potential threat in order to create a beneficial result.

Gump isn’t sure North American society is equipped to incorporate findings from this study. He said he believes a number of factors would, perhaps, discourage this, such as work ethic, business expectations, financial demands and societal standards. In many European countries, conversely, government sometimes mandates six to eight weeks of vacation per year. Not surprisingly, coronary heart disease is less prevalent in many of those countries.

Now, when your boss tells you things are too busy to take time off, present her with an informed rejoinder: vacations could improve your heart health — a positive and economically beneficial outcome for both of you.

—Janna L. Viles
Laker Sports Update

The 2000 Oswego State women's lacrosse team concluded one of its finest seasons, earning the program's first bid to the NYSWCAA Championship tournament and advancing to the SUNYAC Championship game. Kat Stead '03 led Oswego with 66 goals and 19 assists for the Lakers. Stead broke the Lakers' single season record for goals scored and earned Second Team New York State Regional All-American honors.

Kelly Webb '01 set a new Laker standard for most assists in a season (25). Stead joined sister Annette '01 on the SUNYAC First Team while honorable mention honors were earned by seniors Kelly Filipkowski '00 and Helen Lunkenheimer '00.

The Laker baseball team posted a 15-12 record and placed four players on the All-SUNYAC team. Honorees included two time selections Sean McLaughlin '00 and Pat LeClair '00, as well as first-time selections Jed Musch '02 and Pete Ross '01. McLaughlin led Division III and broke the Laker single-season batting average title with an astounding .563 average. Musch joined the prestigious .400 Club with the 13th highest single season batting average in program history.

The men's lacrosse team enjoyed a solid season, posting a 9-7 overall and 5-2 SUNYAC record. The Lakers returned to post-season action with a bid to the ECAC Championship tournament. Four members of the Laker squad earned All-Conference honors in the first year of SUNYAC competition. First Team All-SUNYAC honorees were Jeff Winchell '00 and Jason Hawthorne '02. Second Team honors were bestowed upon Steve Eck '01 and Kevin Scanlon '00.

The men's golf team enjoyed another successful season. Top outings for the Lakers were first place at the Elmira Invitational, second place at Hartwick and fourth place at the Palamountain Invitational at Skidmore. Leading the team were Erik Hansen '01, Jason Allen '00 and Perry Noun '02.

The Oswego State track and field program has made great strides since the program was re-established in the 1996-97 season. In 1999, Laker track and field came under the guidance of full-time head coach Tim Boyce, who returned to the area after five years of track and cross country coaching in Eugene, Ore.

Boyce is a native of Marcellus, where he was a three-time Section III champion for the Marcellus Mustangs.

By the end of the spring outdoor season, the combined indoor and outdoor teams had broken 49 Laker records. The Lakers sent qualifiers to the winter ECAC Championships in 11 events. Bridget Wiedl '01 competed in the NCAA championships in the 800 meters. In the spring, Lakers qualified for the NYSCTC championship meet in 14 different events, their largest contingent since the program was re-established in 1996.

Note: For the latest in Lakers' sports news, you can link onto the athletic department Web site from the Oswego State home page: www.oswego.edu

Hall of Fame Wrestler

Doug Morse '84 was inducted into the NCAA Division III Hall of Fame at a banquet held in March, prior to the division championships at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. At left is former Laker wrestling coach and NCAA Division III Hall of Fame member Jim Howard. Doug's wife Mary is at right. At Oswego, Morse set a career record of 105-24-1 and was a three-time NCAA Division III All-American. He earned bachelor of science and master of science degrees in technology education at Oswego State and teaches in Adams.

Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame

The Oswego Athletic Alumni Association is preparing for the first Athletic Hall of Fame induction in spring 2001. In year one, only charter members will be inducted into the newly formed Hall of Fame. Criteria for charter membership includes:

- Any Oswego athlete who has been selected for membership in any national hall of fame or national athletic foundation
- Any coach or athlete who has been chosen as a member of an Olympic team
- Any Oswego athlete who has been an NCAA champion

If you know of any Oswego alumni athletes or coaches who meet these criteria for charter membership, you can fill out a form on-line at www.oswegolaumni.oswego.edu/halloffame or contact the Alumni Office no later than Jan. 1, 2001.

The induction of charter members will take place at the first Hall of Fame Dinner in April 2001.
Oswego 

Club News

Arizona 
Following a dinner on April 29 with President Deborah F. Stanley, Bob Sweet '48 and Charles Weigand '50 have volunteered to help rejuvenate the Arizona Alumni Club. They held planning meetings on Sept. 20 and Nov. 15 and are looking for area alumni volunteers and/or event ideas.

Atlanta 
The Atlanta Club is looking for event ideas. Tentative upcoming events include a polo match, a college football social and a Thrashers game. The club’s most recent event was a Commencement Day celebration on May 13. For information about upcoming events, or to volunteer to help, check out the club’s Web site (http://www.geocities.com/oswegoalumni) or contact Jeffrey Travis '89.

Buffalo 
Area alumni attended a Buffalo Bisons baseball game in August and a Bills football game in October. The club is looking forward to attending a Lakers versus Buffalo State hockey game Feb. 3, and a Sabres’ game early in 2001. If you have other event ideas, or for more information, contact Larry Coon '83.

Capital District (Albany) 
Linda Woytowich '92 has volunteered to work with other area alumni to rejuvenate the Capital District Alumni Club. Event ideas include an evening at the Saratoga Raceway, socials in downtown Albany and Albany River Rats hockey. Alumni volunteers are needed in the Capital District to help plan future events. If you are interested in helping, please contact Linda or the alumni office.

New York City 
Jennifer McGuire Higbee '93 has volunteered to work with other NYC area alumni to plan and coordinate events. She would like to invite alumni to attend a farewell concert for Johnny Vegas (they are calling it quits) Dec. 1 at The Bitter End, 147 Bleeker St. at Thompson St., 212-673-7030. Jennifer would also like the help of other area alumni to plan upcoming events, including a social for Graduates of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.). Contact Jennifer via the NYC Web site, e-mail or phone.

North Carolina 
Mark Kujian '91 has volunteered to help coordinate the North Carolina Club. If you have event ideas or would like to assist with the club, please contact Mark or the alumni office.

Oswego 
In September, Oswego area alumni gathered for a pre-show reception in Tyler Hall prior to a Garth Fagan dance performance. Alumni also boarded buses for a day trip to Kingston, Ontario, Canada for a ChiliFest celebration, coordinated by Sylvia Gaines '76. If you have other event ideas for Oswego area alumni please contact the alumni office.

San Francisco Bay Area 
The club is looking for area alumni to help plan events. Jay Rubin '93 is looking forward to following up on the dinner the club held over a year ago. Jay wants to hold a planning meeting with interested volunteers. E-mail Jay at sfoswego@yahoo.com or jay@yahoo-inc.com, or call 650-961-1699.
To protect personal privacy, we currently do not publish Alumni classnotes on our website. If you are interested in reading this part of our magazine and did not receive a copy please contact us with your updated address and we will send you on.
Alumni who graduated mid-century in the Class of 1950, celebrated their Golden Anniversary on campus July 21 - 23. They were honored guests of President Deborah F. Stanley for Saturday morning breakfast, and, at a luncheon later in the day, were inducted into the Golden Alumni Society. Assembled for a class photo on the steps of Sheldon Hall are, from left, front row—Bonnie Gutlaizer Lewis, Marcia Belmar Willock, Jim Halajian, Athena Frangos Sawyer, John A. Walley, Edith Maloney Knight, Charles J. Weigand, Louise Cooper Kellogg, Marie Dunham Leonard; row two—Marjorie Mackay Shapiro, Jean Church Goodwin, Harriet Landau Knighten, Frances Stiehl Stuart, Bob Ely, Martin Dwyer, and Warren Crandell; row three—Emily Greenapple Schneider, Geraldine Negin Brown, Doris Duffy Raudenbush, Bill Schlageter, and Charles Trabold; row four—Joe Lewis, Lee Salsbury, Frank Overstrom, Harry Kershen, Bob Connal, and Joe Merenda; row five—Tom Gargiulo, John Krempa, Heinz Walter, Bob Mumford, Frank Silvestri, John Jones, and Harold D. Manning
Members of the Class of 1975 gathered on the steps of Shady Shore following a reception in their honor hosted by President Deborah F. Stanley and her husband, Michael J. Stanley during Reunion 2000. They are, from left, on ground in front—L. David Ashworth, Stewart Koenig, Bob Nelson, Jeffrey Wicks, and Tony Bertucci; seated in front—Ellen Wentworth-Norris, Evelyn Smithem, Cathy Thompson Bazycki, Josephine Manasseri Adams, Susan Greenstein, Judy Jaffie, Nancy Patiucci, and Ann Valenta Marsh; row two—John Kelly, Susan Foster, Marcia Kalsuga Ferguson, Pattie Roberts, Karen Reid, Debra Goldman, Kathy Huftalen, Mary Bateman Marturano, George Marturano, and Lynn VanStrien Riposa; row three—Carol Sommer Walker, Erin McQuiston, Jackie Dalton-Switzer, and Linda Manzano Johnson; row four—George Mayer, Barbara Sutcliffe Mayer, Susan Cadwell Kennedy, Sue Tuori Leone, Pat Golde Sentoff, Colleen Manion Folgherait, Barbara Anderson Messina, Stephen Kott, Judith Gardner Piarulli, Debra Sanderson, and Christie Meagley; row 5—Rick Geer, Mark Snyder, Debbie DeClerck Hudson, Charles L. Brooks, and Patrick L. Scully; row 6—John Austin, George Fairchild, Melissa Stewart, Mark Freinberg, and David DiRoma.
With the pervasiveness of technology on campus today, recent graduates and current students may find it difficult to imagine a time when term papers were produced on typewriters, grades were computed on adding machines, and reference materials were accessible only during open hours at Penfield Library.

The past several decades have produced a computer revolution at Oswego State, one that can be traced to Dr. Oebele Van Dyk, who launched the college’s Computer Center and, ultimately, its Computer Science Department. He arrived in a 1966 snowstorm as a troubleshooter for IBM, was hired later that year, and stayed until his retirement in 1985.

In Reminiscing on Computing at Oswego State, a 1985 memoir, Van Dyk writes of being summoned to Oswego in January 1966 to deal with the months-old IBM 1130: “Its first major task was calculating the grade point averages, using the fall semester grades. And, even though numerous test runs had been successful during the actual runs that week, a serious snag developed.”

Van Dyk unsnagged the computer and, undeterred by the blizzard, returned in September as director of the Academic Computing Center, then located in Piez Hall. He taught the first computer science courses in the spring of 1967 and recalls those earliest students as being “bitten by the computer bug.”

A proposal for a major in computer science passed on campus, surviving what Van Dyk calls the liberal arts education “purists” and going on to win state approval in 1970.

Centralization of computing facilities was the prevailing philosophy, writes Van Dyk, prompting the combined Academic Computing Center, Computer Science program, and Administrative Data Processing center to be located on the first floor of the newly completed Culkin Hall.

About that same time, SUNY Central decreed that 11 campuses would use the same computer system, a move that would simplify the projected transition to regional computing centers. Van Dyk was chairperson of the SUNY Academic Computing Task Force and a member of the selection committee, which chose the Burroughs B3500, “even though the Academic Computing Task Force had serious objections.”

To compensate for lack of speed in running batches of student programs in FORTRAN, Burroughs offered a grant of $75,000 for the development of a compiler that would increase the speed. Oswego State accepted the grant, increased running time by 10, and coined the acronym COFFEE for Compiler of FORTRAN for an Educational Environment, which was adopted widely across the SUNY system.

By 1972, in his annual report, Van Dyk wrote: “The need for computing facilities on our campus is steadily increasing.” A landmark had been reached — the use of computers for instruction was roughly even with that of data processing. In 1973 the Computer Science Department began to stand on its own, with offices and classrooms in Snygg Hall.

Van Dyk writes: “The vision of a centralized computing center, predominant in the early ’70s, shattered in the early ’80s. Owing to new technological breakthroughs, hardware costs came down precipitously, whereas software costs were ever increasing. Decentralization became the prudent way to go.”

Editor’s Note: We appreciate the contribution of the Penfield Library Special Collections department to this article.

Dr. Oebele Van Dyk explains the system to Oswego State colleagues.
Family Visit

Dorothy Sheldon Knight, great granddaughter of founder Edward Austin Sheldon, and members of her extended family visited Oswego State June 30. Knight said she always understood she was heir of a special legacy. Not until she became an adult, however, did she fully comprehend the importance of her ancestor’s contributions to American education. Now, she believes it is important to share that inheritance with her descendants.

Knight, whose father was born in Shady Shore and given Edward Austin Sheldon’s name, and her husband, Francis, had seven children. She says she taught them about her great-grandfather, sharing stories from his autobiography and other writings.

“Edward Austin Sheldon went to a one-room school. He did not enjoy learning by rote,” she says. “After several business ventures, he became an educator. When he came to Oswego and saw all the children from the families that worked along the canal, he decided to provide schooling for them. Those children had very little material goods or education. That’s when he started the school for them, and he started the training school for teachers in order to implement the methods that he believed in.”

Knight responded to questions from grandchildren ranging in age from 13 to 3, and gathered them together for photos around the statue of Edward Austin Sheldon that greets visitors from the circle in front of Sheldon Hall. She and her husband are to the right of the statue in the photo.
Pontiac Boys’ Great Adventure

David Peck ’78, a database administrator for Merrill Lynch in Somerset, N. J., reports that he and three other “Pontiac Boys” had high adventure in the West this summer. He writes:

“It was our junior year when Marc Nussbaum, Ron Duffy Bellows, Allen Nathan and I moved off campus into the Pontiac Hotel on West First Street. After graduating in 1978, we continued our friendship, attending each other’s weddings and planning occasional get-togethers to celebrate old times.

“In March, we met on Long Island to plan a trip to Nevada for the Laughlin River Run, where thousands of motorcyclists explore the Colorado River and visit the casinos.”

Peck and Bellows began their drive through the Sierra Nevada mountains in late April, touring Yosemite National Park and Lake Tahoe before heading south, surrounded by snow-capped mountains, toward the desert near Barstow, California.

Meanwhile, Nathan met Nussbaum and his wife, Sherri, in Irvine and arrived in Laughlin early to spend three days cruising the river and reminiscing. When all the Pontiac Boys were together, they rode motorcycles through the desert and celebrated their more than 25-year friendship, with its roots at Oswego State.

Richard Jay-Alexander ’74 is pictured with Bernadette Peters at the Grammy Awards where their recording of “Sondheim, Etc., Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall” was one of the nominees.
Friends, classmates and current Psi Phi Gamma brothers gathered during Reunion Weekend 2000 for a bench and tree memorial dedication in memory of Thomas “Jake” Jacobsen ’77. Jacobsen, a long-time alumni volunteer, was killed in an accident in January. Spearheaded by classmates Art Bartholomew and Al Lederer, funds for the bench were donated by friends and classmates. Megan Cree Sollecito ’77, and her husband, Jim, owners of Sollecito Garden Center in Syracuse, donated the tree.
Meet New Alumni Board Members

Three new members were sworn in this fall for three-year terms to the Board of Directors of the Oswego Alumni Association, Inc. Executive Director Betsy Oberst said, “We welcome the enthusiasm and expertise of these three accomplished alumni volunteers as they join our national board of directors. All three have been and continue to be strong supporters of Oswego State and our alumni programs.” Recently elected officers of the Oswego Alumni Association, Inc. Board of Directors are Lori Golden Kiewe ’84, president; Mark Tryniski ’85, first vice president; and Jennifer Shropshire ’86, second vice president.

Norman Brust ’49 - Retired school administrator. Brust was a member of Reunion ’99 Executive Committee and served as master of ceremonies at the Golden Alumni Society luncheon in 1999. He resides in Massachusetts and Florida.

John Daken ’66 - Retired guidance counselor. Daken is presently working as a regional admissions representative for Oswego State, recruiting prospective students. He is the former Executive Secretary of the Oswego Alumni Association, Inc. (1970s) and is coordinating the reunion of alumni who lived in the Fallbrook Residence for Reunion ’01. He resides in Buffalo.

Constance Schwartz ’90 - Vice president of Marketing, Arista Records in New York City. Schwartz has returned to campus twice as an Alumna-in-Residence when she was the Special Events Coordinator for the National Football League. Schwartz has also been a donor to the Oswego State Fall Classic. She resides in New York City.

Dr. Thomas F. Schaller ’89, left, a political scientist at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, recently attended the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles with his former Oswego Communication Studies professor and good friend, Dr. John Kares Smith. Schaller and Smith also went to New Hampshire last January for the final weekend of the presidential primary.
The event that brings together the largest number of Oswego alumni each year is Reunion Weekend, held during the third weekend of July. This year, over 900 alumni and friends returned to our beautiful lakeside campus for a weekend of great times, great food, reconnecting with college friends, and reminiscing. These reunions offer a special opportunity to rekindle those special Oswego memories — this year we even included a spectacular sunset at the Friday night Kick-Off BBQ on the lakeside!

One thing we do continually at the Alumni Office is to critique and assess our many programs and to look to you — our alumni — for feedback on how we’re doing and what you want. We are taking this opportunity to take a critical look at our reunion program, and we need your help. (We won’t make any changes for Reunion ’01 - already scheduled for July 20 to 22. See Reunion Reminder on page 26.)

Almost 20 years ago, we moved Reunion Weekend to July in an effort to take advantage of Oswego’s beautiful summer weather and on-campus housing. We’d like to know — is that when you’d like to return to campus? Another suggestion is to hold Reunion Weekend in early June before the summer vacation season starts for so many alumni.

Several years ago, in response to alumni requests, we also implemented the Cluster Reunion system. This means that some reunions are “clustered” with the classes ahead of and behind them, to give alumni an opportunity to see more of their college friends. For instance, in 2001, the classes of ’85, ’86 and ’87 will “cluster” for their 15th reunion, and classes of ’65, ’66 and ’67 will “cluster” for their 35th reunion. This means that the classes of ’67 and ’87 will NOT have a separate class reunion in 2002. Let us know — do you like the “cluster” concept? Is it something you want us to continue to offer? Or do you prefer to always celebrate your reunion with only your class year?

You can fill out a brief survey on-line at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/reunionquiz, drop us a note, or e-mail your thoughts to alumni@oswego.edu. Our goal is to make our annual Reunion Weekend what YOU want. If it is your reunion in 2001, please consider signing up for the planning committee. The committee helps plan the weekend’s activities and helps get friends and classmates to return to campus. And we have a lot of fun in the process! Just contact the Alumni Office.

We’ll update you in our next issue and share what you’ve let us know about Reunion Weekend. Stay tuned!

Betsy Oberst
Reunion Reminder—July 20-22, 2001

Join classmates and friends for three days of celebration as you relive your Oswego experience at Reunion '01. Every member of the Oswego family is welcome home for Reunion July 20, 21, 22. Attention classes of '65, '67, '85 and '87: This is YOUR reunion. Because of the Cluster Reunion system, the classes of '65 and '85 did not celebrate a reunion last year, and the classes of '67 and '87 will not officially celebrate a reunion in 2002. As always, all class years are welcome to attend any reunion! If you're interested in serving on the committee to help plan Reunion '01, please contact the Alumni Office right away.

Mini-reunions

Mini-reunions are reunions of special interest groups such as Greek organizations, residence halls, or clubs or organizations. Already in the planning stages for Reunion '01 is: Fallbrook Residence. If you lived in Fallbrook Residence and would like to be included on the mailing list, please contact the Alumni Office. If you would like to plan a reunion for your group, please contact the Alumni Office no later than Feb. 28, 2001.

S.A. Reunion in the Works

Picture yourself in this photo. To get on the mailing list for a mini-reunion of Student Association officers and senators, please send your name, what office you held, class year, address and telephone number to the Alumni Office, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State, Oswego, NY 13126 or e-mail us at alumni@oswego.edu. Former presidents pictured above gathered for the wedding of Jeff Kuryla. They are, from left, front row—Jim Rogers, Kevin Burns ’95, Chris Friskey ’96, and Paul Austin ’92; back row—Brian Quail ’94, Kuryla, Brian Hurd ’94, David Bloom ’93, Dan Taft ’92, and Emeritus Dean James Wassenaar.
Alumni Bookshelf

This column celebrates the publishing success of Oswego alumni authors and illustrators. Congratulations to those whose books are mentioned. Please keep us informed about new books by requesting that your publisher send a copy for the Oswego Alumni bookshelf at King Alumni Hall.

New Party Politics: From Jefferson and Hamilton to the Information Age, co-author: Daniel M. Shea ’84. A professor at Allegheny College, Shea, writing with Catholic University of America Professor John Kenneth White, examines the role of political parties in America, their adaptation and renewal. The authors make a case for the survival of major parties, which will be forced to become more interactive through the use of technology in order to communicate with a generation of new voters, who are already comfortable with the tools of the Information Age. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2000.

A Coeur Nu: Poesie Diaphane (A Naked Heart), by Elie Fleurant ’76, is a book of poetry in several languages, which the author describes as “diaphanous poetry,” poetry that has airy, diaphanous qualities. An instructor and Senate Representative at Bronx Community College, Professor Fleurant expands Descartes’ theory to: “I think, I reason, I am; therefore, I am real.” He says, “Diaphanism is the discovery of reality through reason and conscious.” Bellmore: Centaur Editions, 1999.

Don’t Make Me Stop This Car! Adventures in Fatherhood, by Al Roker ’76, is a rollicking account of America’s premier weathercaster in his role as father to a teenager and a toddler. As he grapples with issues of parental authority, Roker finds himself slipping into a conversation mode that contains many of his own father’s phrases, which he had vowed would never pass his lips. New York: Scribner, 2000.

Younger Than That Now, by Jeff Durstewitz ’73 (with Ruth Williams) recounts, in epistle and memoir, the coming of age of one group of friends in the angst-ridden years of the Vietnam War. Through campus unrest, personal tragedy, and the eventual taming of a wild generation, Jeff, a politically active Long Island native, and Ruth, a product and resident of the old South, sustained one another with 25 years of friendship, expressed primarily in letters. Durstewitz’s many references to Oswego State and the surrounding area make this book a must-read for those who recall the student takeover of Culkin Hall, or Jeff’s band—the Second Coming—playing gigs at Buckland’s, or classes taught by Campbell Black, Fred Bartle, or Don Vanouse, who are mentioned in the text and in acknowledgments. Bantam Books, 2000.

Peanut Butter and Jelly, by Dr. Athena Sawyer ’50, is a teaching tool for parents and teachers of children ages two to six. The book is comprised of 26 alphabet stories designed to be read aloud to children as part of the gradual process of continuous growth toward independent reading. Dr. Sawyer is a clinical psychologist and educator, who is a commissioner on the California Board of Licensing for review of applicants for the psychologist license. Her other books include Let’s Write, a Walt Disney Schoolhouse publication. For information: drsawyer@earthlink.net.

Connections, Contexts and Possibilities, an instructive anthology, by Stephen Murabito ’80.

“The text was 18 months in production, and, overall, it represents about eight years of teaching at Pitt,” says Murabito, who is an associate professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh’s Greensburg Campus.

The book contains readings, exercises, notes on grammar and student examples. Murabito was recently presented with the President’s Award for Outstanding Professional Development. He and his wife, April, have four children, Angelina, Estella, Antonia and Sebastian. They live in Saltsburg, Pa.
### Alumni Calendar

**December 16**
- December Graduation

**January 1**
- Deadline to submit Alumni Award Nominations
- Alumni Awards Committee, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State, Oswego, NY 13126, 315-312-2258 Fax 315-312-5570

**January 1**
- Deadline to submit Nominations for charter members for the Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame.
- Hall of Fame Awards Committee, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State, Oswego, NY 13126, 315-312-2258 Fax 315-312-5570

**January 31**
- Scholarship Deadline

**February 3**
- Buffalo Alumni Club to attend Oswego State Lakers vs. Buffalo State hockey game.
- Contact Larry Coon '83 716-852-1321

**February 21-24**
- SUNYAC Men’s and Women’s Basketball Tournament, Utica Memorial Auditorium
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**Week of February 26**
- Florida area alumni events with President Deborah F. Stanley
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**March 31**
- Board of Directors Meeting, Oswego Alumni Association, Inc.
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**March 31**
- SUNY Job Fair, Carousel Center Skydeck, Syracuse, NY. Free and open to all SUNY students and alumni. No pre-registration required.
- Office of Career Services, 315-312-2255

**April 9**
- College Admissions Open House
- Office of Admissions, 315-312-2250

**April 15 - June 5**
- NYS Virtual Job Fair
- Office of Career Services, 315-312-2255

**April 21**
- Political Science Alumni Mini-Reunion
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**April 28**
- Inaugural Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**May 11**
- Commencement Eve Dinner and Torchlight Ceremony
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**May 12**
- Commencement

**June 9**
- Annual Business Meeting, Oswego Alumni Association, Inc.
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**July 20, 21, & 22**
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**July 26-29**
- The City of Oswego Harborfest! On-campus housing available to alumni, friends and family.
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

**August 6**
- Emeriti Luncheon
- Office of University Development, 315-312-3003

**September 13 and 14**
- 12th Annual Oswego State Fall Classic
- Office of Alumni and University Development, 315-312-3003

**October 4 -7**
- Alumni of Color Reunion - Return to Oz II
- Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258

### Where in the World are Oswego Alumni?

In the next issue of Oswego alumni magazine, we’ll celebrate our international flair. Please help us locate graduates who are at work around the world. We’ll celebrate our study abroad programs, look at the contributions of our alumni around the globe, and ponder the reach of Oswego State faculty, students and alumni as we enter the new millennium.

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**Alumnae association forming**

**A**lpha Sigma Chi Sorority is proud to announce the launch of the Golden Rose Alumnae Association. If you would like more information about chapters in your area, check at [www.AlphaSigmaChi.com](http://www.AlphaSigmaChi.com) or contact the local chapter head. For more information, or to start a chapter, please contact **Jennifer McGuire Higbee ‘93** (JenniferHigbee@hotmail.com or 212-289-5133).
2000 Alumni Awards

Anniversary Class award recipients honored by the Oswego Alumni Association, Inc. at Reunion 2000 were Gary Izzo ’80, left, and Linda Cohn ’81. Pictured with President Deborah F. Stanley is Senator James W. Wright ’71, honored with the Oswego Alumni Association’s Lifetime Award of Merit at a ceremony this fall at Shady Shore.

• Linda Cohn is a SportsCenter anchor on ESPN, the premier sports broadcasting network - one of only two female anchors. Only a select few sports broadcasters ever make it to a national level, and, remarkably, Cohn attained that spot in a male-dominated field only 11 years after graduating. At ESPN, she not only anchors SportsCenter, she has hosted Baseball Tonight and National Hockey Night, as well as serving as a regular host of LPGA tournaments on ESPN and ESPN2. She also holds the distinction of being the first female to work full time as a sports anchor on a national radio network (ABC).

• Gary Izzo is a world renowned producer of interactive theatre. In 1989, he was hired by Walt Disney World to develop “Streetmosphere,” a highly successful improvisational theatre experience for visitors at the Orlando theme park. He now heads his own company, Interactive Artists. Most recently, he created an interactive attraction based on Star Trek: The Next Generation, which will tour Europe for six years and which combines live action with video and special effects.

• Senator James W. Wright’s life’s work is a paragon of public service. He became the first County Administrator of Oswego County in 1979, where his many accomplishments included: significant economic development initiatives and the development of a nationally recognized waste management program. Wright was elected to the New York state Senate in 1992 where he has continued to make his mark in the area of economic development. He has been recognized for his work with small businesses and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Economic Developer Merit Award. He has secured funding for many Oswego State initiatives through the Senate.

Call for Nominations

If you know an Oswego alumnus or alumna who might qualify for an award from the Oswego Alumni Association, Inc., please let us know by Jan. 1, 2001.

The volunteer awards committee will evaluate nominations for recognition in one of the following categories: Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna (must have national or international prominence and philanthropic activities), Anniversary Class Award (outstanding professional accomplishment and community service; member of a 2001 reunion class), Alumni Service Award, Lifetime Award of Merit, Sheldon Award for Excellence in Education, and the GOLD Award for outstanding graduates of the last decade.

To request a nomination form, please contact the Alumni Office. Or you can fill one out on-line at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu
Return to Oz II

Mark your calendars now for the second Alumni of Color Reunion - Return to Oz II - planned for Oct. 4-7, 2001. We’re now actively recruiting committee members to assist in the planning of our second reunion. If you’re willing to help, contact the Alumni Office or sign up on-line. You can check out the latest information online at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/returntooz Above, attendees at the first Alumni of Color Reunion in 1996 gather at Shady Shore.
Meeting the Challenges at Verizon

For Jason Fitzgerald ’97, every day brings a series of challenges. As a Network Service Manager for Verizon Telecom, his clientele has included everyone from the neighborhood farmer to the First Family.

But Fitzgerald is not one to subscribe to an “all work and no play” lifestyle. Graduate study and an intense love of jazz music keep him engaged in worlds beyond his office.

Oswego: What exactly does a Network Service Manager do?
Jason: This title encompasses many things. My department implements telecom service for all New York state agencies. My main purpose is to isolate “process problems” between people and departments, but constant contact with customers forces me to pick up the ball and run with it in many situations.

The list of small problems within a large organization can get out of control. I once promised a state agency in White Plains that I would get them a field technician on site “first thing tomorrow”. When he didn’t show, I found out that he was whisked away to be “on call” for possible problems at the new home of Bill and Hillary Clinton! Every day is a new adventure for me.

Oswego: Is it stressful handling these larger accounts?
Jason: If stress were hamburgers, you could call me Ronald at the drive-through. I handle a lot of it.

Oswego: You recently were involved with a major project with SUNY Central Administration. What was that like?
Jason: Chancellor Robert King (head of the whole SUNY system) recently had his office phones converted to digital sets. The combination of the building’s ancient wiring and our modern switch programming made for a challenging installation. The building’s telecom manager, several technicians and I worked throughout the night. After much coffee and a little nap, we trained the administrative staff to use their new features the next morning. After all was said and done, I must say that hanging out in the SUNY seat of power was just a little exciting.

Oswego: When you were at Oswego State, did you foresee yourself having so much responsibility so soon?
Jason: When I was at Oswego State, I was busy trying to foresee where my next beverage was coming from! KIDDING. Seriously, I had no idea. I live in a different world now.

Oswego: How long have you been with Bell Atlantic/Verizon?
Jason: 3 years as of May 2000.

Oswego: What was the most challenging account you have worked on so far?
Jason: I really can’t separate an account out for you. Telecom problems are basically universal. I must say that problems on lines belonging to the Governor’s office or other high profile agencies cause one’s blood pressure to go up drastically though.

Oswego: What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?
Jason: I can’t stand to see a job not completed. Although stressful, my job allows me to tackle tough problems and fight through them until the customer is satisfied. Arriving at that moment makes the whole ride worth it.

Oswego: What is the most difficult?
Jason: Walking in every morning knowing a pile of problems is about to land on me like a load of dirty diapers.

Oswego: What was the most important thing you learned at Oswego that helps you in your work today?
Jason: How to handle groups of people. How to manage them and guide them to meet objectives.

Oswego: How do you spend your free time?
Jason: Believe it or not, I consider the classes I take in my masters program (at SUNY Albany’s School of Information Science and Policy) to be part of my free time! I think when learning is not your primary occupation as it is when you are a full time student, it becomes easier, even relaxing. I also have done a little private music instruction – I try to keep my talents up to par. Occasionally I’ll play out, and a jazz combo is perpetually on the back burner. Other than that, I manage to jog a couple miles a day, hang out with friends, and plug around with a little Web design.

Oswego: What career aspirations can you foresee down the road?
Jason: I’ll either be a telecom executive or a roadie for Phish. Music continually pulls me away from my “real” job and I hope I’ll be able to use it someday.

Oswego: What is the most important personal attribute you bring to your work?
Jason: As the former chair of the SUNY Oswego music department Dr. Jerry Exline used to say: “Perseverance is the key!” I found during my senior year, I could get anything done between 8 and 10 in the morning. Everybody was sleeping! I use the same philosophy now—Get up early and attack the day. I also digest everything with a side of humor. Laughing is the best way to overcome stress for me. Any time things get out of hand, I’m always the first one to break out of the stress zone with a good joke. It keeps things light and it keeps me sane.

Oswego: What non-academic memories of your time at Oswego do you most cherish?
Jason: Playing music with great friends.

Will You Help?

Ready to offer a helping hand to Oswego? The Office of Alumni Relations has two programs that count on support from people just like you:

- A.S.K.—Alumni Sharing Knowledge—graduates who have gained practical job market and career skills can help pave the way for current students by serving as job mentors.

- Host “day on the job” visits
- Critique resumes
- Provide relocation information
- Provide career information
- Alumni in Admissions—help us reach out to potential students in your geographical area by sharing your Oswego experience. Want details? Contact us in any way listed below.

Do You Use E-mail?

If you do, check out the Oswego Alumni E-mail Directory at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/alumni Add your information or search for your classmates’ addresses.

Credit Card Company Helps OAA

If you’re planning to get a credit card, please consider using the one that gives a percentage of profits to the Oswego Alumni Association. Please take a minute to call us, and we’ll be happy to see that you receive information.

Contact Us:
Address: Oswego Alumni Association
King Alumni Hall
Oswego, NY 13126
Web: www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu
Phone: 315-312-2258
E-mail: alumni@oswego.edu
Fax: 315-312-5570
Your Final Answer?

Two Oswego State alumni have made it big on game shows. Jeff Mazurak ’98 won $64,000 in March on Who Wants to be a Millionaire? He graciously invited host Regis Filburn to attend his wedding in July. Rocco Sinisi ’85 had his moment of fame in December on Jeopardy, where he bested a four-day champion to win $12,000. He quickly changed clothes to tape the next segment of the show, which saw him lose to a challenger. The shows didn’t air until March, during which time Sinisi says he kept his Oswego State friends in the dark as to the outcome.

Swimming in October. A warm breeze on the deck at Greene’s. Overloading the dish room with soap at the dining hall. Road trips. Dirt Day.

Oswego: Do you get back to Oswego very often?

Jason: As a matter of fact, I played a great gig at the Harborfest Jazz stage this year. I got to see old friends and go to favorite places. It’s really all about the people. The memories still hit home.

Oswego: What advice would you give to an incoming college freshman?

Jason: Do your job and get those grades, but live as much life as you can. Full time college life moves faster than life will ever move again. The friends you meet today will be the friends you call on someday when you’re fat and old!

Oswego: What advice would you give to a graduating senior?

Jason: Don’t be afraid to jump into the “bottom” of a business. I spent two years at less than $10 an hour and it taught me more about telecom and life in general than I could ever hope to learn by walking into a high paying job. It’s much easier to work alongside veterans when they know you’ve earned your place. You’ve learned how to learn in school. Now go out and learn a business. It’s different and the rules always change, so adaptation is an important skill to keep handy. Never burn a bridge. I don’t want to cliché you to death. Before you leave Oswego, remember to do these things with good friends:

Take a Road Trip
Do a bonfire at the Cliffs
Graduate!

—Tammy DiDomenico
Fall Classic Breaks Record

The 11th annual Oswego State Fall Classic, held Sept. 14 and 15, generated record gifts for the Presidential Scholars Program, totaling $320,247. Oswego thanks major sponsors — ANR Pipeline Company, Enron, New York State Laborers’ Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET), Sithe and Telergy — and more than 90 other local and national sponsors for this success. Over the past 11 years, the Classic has raised more than $2 million for Oswego State. Presenting the check are from left, Dorie Hitchcock, ENRON; Bill Shannon, LECET; Stephanie Miller, ENRON; Della Rupkey, ANR; President Deborah F. Stanley, Stan Babiuk, ANR; Chris Zona, ANR; Robin Rando, Sithe; and Chris Meyer, ENRON.
In Memoriam

Lelah Melvin Downing '18 of Fulton died March 25. She returned to Oswego to earn her bachelor of arts degree in education in 1958. She taught in Central Square and at Mexico Central School, and in the Ludington, Volney, Love District and Gilbert Mills one-room schools. Lelah is survived by five sons, including Alan ’60, 20 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

Alada Quackenbush '23 of Baldwinsville died April 20. She was a teacher in the Baldwinsville School District, retiring in 1969. Alada is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mary Crahan Dyer '25 of Fulton died May 4. She retired in 1971 from the U.S. Postal Service. Mary is survived by a son, two daughters, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.


Clara Whalen Fletcher '26 of Oswego died June 23.

Elizabeth Conklin '27 of Utica died April 8. She was a music teacher in the Utica School District, retiring in 1968. Elizabeth is survived by a daughter, three sons, 18 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Eleanor White Flaherty '29 of Utica died March 11. She retired from the Utica City School District. Eleanor is survived by two sons, two daughters, 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Lois Kimball O’Grady '31 of Oswego died May 7. She taught for many years in the Oswego City School District. Lois is survived by a brother.

Anna Mae Parker Boyd '37 of Pulaski died July 13. She and her husband owned and operated Pulaski Radio & Electric from 1937 to 1983. Anna is survived by a daughter, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Vivian Megraw Hoskins ’37 of Camillus died Aug. 2. Prior to her retirement, she taught in the Port Byron school district. Vivian is survived by a daughter, a son, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Esther Willis Dungan ’38 of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. died July 9. She is survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

Howard Darling ’40 of Spring Hill, Fla. died April 18. He taught industrial arts at Jordan-Elbridge High School, retiring in 1972. Surviving are his wife, Marion, two daughters, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Thomas Moore ’40 of Clarksville, Va. died March 25.

Mary Ann Gadwood Lavoie ’41 of Mexico died July 17. Prior to retiring from Parish Elementary School, Mary had taught in Mexico and Syracuse. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

Samuel Balaban ’44 of Anna died Feb. 20. He was an engineer for General Electric for 35 years, retiring in 1983. Sam is survived by his wife, Frances, a son, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

Neil Blackwood ’47 of Lake Wales, Fla. died Jan. 1. Neil served with the U.S. Army during World War II and was involved in the Battle of the Bulge. He was an industrial arts teacher in Brewster from 1946 until 1979. Surviving are his wife, Jane, and three grandchildren.

Reginald Swinyard ’47 of Kinderhook died Feb. 28. He earned his master of science degree at Oswego in 1952. Doc taught industrial arts at Ichabod Crane Central School for over 35 years, retiring in 1979. He is survived by his wife, Edna Grubel ’43; two daughters, and two grandchildren.

Mark Phillips ’49 of Sun City, Ariz., died Feb. 9.

Joseph Dille ’50 of White Plains died Feb. 17, 1999. Following his graduation from Oswego, he graduated from Officers Candidate School and served with the U.S. Army in the Korean Conflict. Joseph earned a masters degree at New York University. For 36 years, he was an educator and administrator for the New York City Board of Education, retiring in 1985. Surviving are his wife, Barbara; a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

Arthur Pelton ’50 of Southold died Jan. 8. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He earned a master’s degree from New York University and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. Arthur was formerly an industrial arts teacher and coordinator of the adult education program at Hewlett-Woodmere public schools. He is survived by two daughters and a grandson.

Richard Nicholson ’51 of Lyons died April 15. He taught industrial arts and driver education at Lyons Central Schools for 34 years, retiring in 1985. Richard is survived by his wife, Irma, and two sons.

K. Gerald Middleton ’58 of Rochester died July 11, 1999. Gerry taught history and economics for 28 years at Gates-Chili High School. He is survived by his wife, Jean, and three daughters.

Clifford Fries ’61 of Beltsville, Md. died Dec. 26. He taught in Montgomery County public schools for 30 years. Clifford is survived by his wife, Jacqueline; two daughters, two sons and 10 grandchildren.

Roberta Ostroy Kirschner ’61 of Boynton Beach, Fla. died Dec. 2 after a long illness. She retired from the New York City school system in 1995. Roberta is survived by her husband, Bob; two sons, and a granddaughter.


Kermit Harper ’65 of Oswego died July 29. He had taught at Hannibal High School for 25 years. Surviving are his wife, Charlene; three daughters, Cherie Williams, Kathy Harper and Kim Skinner ’92; and three grandchildren.

David Harter ’65 of Auburn died Aug. 3. He had been a guidance counselor at East Middle School, retiring in 1998. David is survived by his wife, Elaine.

Ray Pennock ’66 of Lacona died June 19. He was a teacher and coach for 34 years and had taught in the Sandy Creek School District since 1970. While at Oswego, Ray was a member of the men’s basketball team, winning a state championship. Ray had the privilege of coaching all three of his sons on the Sandy Creek High School basketball team. This past season, he was able to watch two of his sons carry on his legacy, as Paul served as the JV basketball coach of the Trumansburg High School team and Ken, a senior at Ithaca College, served as his assistant. Ray is survived by his wife, Gail Brownell ’65; and three sons, Timothy, Paul ’95, MS ’97 and Kenneth.

Robert Cochrane ’67 of Cumberland Co., Nova Scotia, Canada passed away April 25.

Nina LoSurdo Sacco ’72 of Solon, Ohio died May 24. She had previously worked for 10 years as operations manager and programs analyst in the computer center at SUNY Oswego. Nina is survived by her husband, David; a daughter, a son, her mother, and two sisters, including Ellie LoSurdo-Clines ’83.

Kevin Bratt ’95 of Binghamton died April 24. He was a restaurant manager with Kevin’s Triple Cities Café in Binghamton. Kevin is survived by his parents, a sister and three brothers.

Brian Robinson ’97 of Charlotte, NC, died July 24 as a result of a swimming accident. He is survived by his parents, Charles and Lisa Robinson.

Shaojun Lu, assistant professor of computer science, died March 1. Dr. Lu had taught at Oswego since the fall of 1999. Prior to joining Oswego’s faculty, he had taught at the University of Iowa and at Wuhan University in China. He earned his bachelor’s degree in 1984 from Northeast Normal University and his master’s degree in 1987 from Wuhan University, both in China. Dr. Lu came to the United States in 1993 and earned his doctorate in 1998 from the University of California at Los Angeles.

C. Robert Otis, lecturer emeritus died June 2. He was a member of the faculty of the Educational Administration Department and the Campus School.

Erwin Palmer, emeritus professor of English died Oct. 17. Dr. Palmer received his bachelor and doctor degrees from Syracuse University and his master’s degree from Middlebury College. He retired after 26 years at Oswego State where he also served as chair of the English Department. Dr. Palmer is survived by his wife, Catherine Whitney Palmer ’36; a daughter, Suzanne Forbes; a son, Gerard; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Contributions may be made to the Private Collection at Penfield Library, Oswego State.
Amy Miller Bujanos ’97 was married to Norman V. Bujanos ’96 on Feb. 12. The wedding took place in Austin, Texas, where they currently reside. Oswego Alumni in attendance were bridesmaid Lynne Guadagnino ’97, bridesmaid Karen Israel ’99, and groomsman Luigi Morfea ’96.

Laura Guyon ’98 and C. A. Foehser II ’97 were married Sept. 18, 1999 in Saratoga Springs. Among the many Oswego State friends attending the wedding were, from left, front row — The bridegroom and bride, Kevin Parker ’98 and Brad Ferraro ’97; back row — Shannon Perez ’97, Rafael Perez ’97, Alicia McFall ’98, M. Jennifer Feider ’98, an unnamed non-alumni, Rosie Burell Manley ’67, Nicole Ditoro ’98, Kimberly Herrick ’97, the maid of honor; Heather Robbins ’98, James Kruger ’98, Kurt Hoffman ’68, Jane Corrigan Guyon ’67, mother of the bride and Charles Guyon ’67, father of the bride; those kneeling are unnamed non-alumni.

Jim Marchak ’94 and Renee Abstender Marchak ’94 were married in September 1999 in West Haverstraw.

Katherine Seeback Meddaugh ’96 and Eric Meddaugh ’95 were married Dec. 11, 1999 in Rochester, where they now live. Oswego alumni who attended the wedding are, from left, front row — Kim Kalmanovits ’96, Kristen Johnson ’96, the bride and bridegroom, Tony Procopio, Addi Gaash ’98, and Roberta Meddaugh; row two — Jessica Tanner ’95, Amy Brienza Kilpatrick ’96, John Humphrey, John Petro ’97, and Kelly Smith; back row — Tony Di Bartolo ’94, Dave Gouer, Keith Childsey, Eric Seebach ’93, Chris Littler ’95, Maureen Berson ’96 and Joe Berson.

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Nicole Hessberger Carlin ’94 and Matthew Egan Carlin were married June 5, 1999 at Sacred Heart Church, Natick, Mass. The couple honeymooned in Italy. Matt and Nicole own Resource Options, Inc., a staffing firm located near Boston. They live in Natick. One member of the wedding party, pictured directly behind the bride, was Lara Jacobs ’95. She is engaged to Bill McKenna ’96.

Marie Cooper ’91 married Kent Penney July 8 in St. James. Marie is vice president and associate media director at FCB Worldwide Advertising. Other Oswego State alumni in attendance include, from left, top row, Maureen Linekin Milner ’90, Joe Albano ’90, Constance Schwartz ’90, Carol Capuano Mondschein ’91, Christine Dodge Botari ’92, Kelly Konack O’Donnell ’91, Christine Batista ’90 and Patty Kunus Sharkey ’91; front, Kent MacAleer Albano ’90, Susan Kenner, Harold Mondschein ’91, Kent Penney, Marie Cooper Penney ’91, Rich Einhorn ’92, and Shannon Peabody ’91.

Karen McNeill McDermott ’94 and Brian McDermott were married June 26, 1999. They make their home in Sunnyside. Karen teaches first grade for the New York City Board of Education, and Brian is a medical student. Attending their wedding were Oswego State alumni, from left, front row — Julie Knight ’94, Patti McNeill ’95, Kate McLauchlin ’95 and Kathryn Smith ’94; back — Dave Geller ’93, the bride and bridegroom, Allison Goldstein ’94, Gary Goldstein ’94, Femm Steenhuis ’94 and Allan Saffer, ’93.

Alpha Epsilon Phi and Oswego State alumni attending the recent wedding of Amanda Villa Stanton ’94 and Doug Stanton ’94, included Laura Connolly Kelly ’94, Heather Blum ’94, Lisa Carlfett Vletes ’94, Bridget Carey ’94, Doug and Amanda, Rhonda Schiller ’94 and Christine Lopez ’94.

Janice Sabol Dougherty ’96 wed Liam Dougherty in July in Great River. Oswego friends, all former residents of Seneca Hall, include, from left, back row, Brian Kurz (attended ’92 - ’93), Dan Heimerle ’94, Amy Bobbette ’95, Bob Villatore ’96, Josh Scott (attended ’92 - ’93) and Michelle Ferriter Scott ’96; front, Dave Thitchner ’94, Carrie Armenio ’96, the Doughertys, and Matt Gordon ’96. Janice is an elementary art teacher and Liam is a warehouse manager for a tile company. The couple will reside in Islip.

Bridal groom Doug Stanton and his three brothers, Mike, Brian and Jon, are all Oswego State graduates. Brian recently became engaged to Jennifer Kane, also an alumna. Pictured, from left — Mike Gennarelli ’94, best man; Jon Stanton ’00, Chris Huff, Doug Stanton, Mike Stanton ’92, Brian Stanton ’96 and Adam Weinstein. The bride and bridal groom say a special thanks to all the Alpha Epsilon Phi sisters and Sigma Tau Chi brothers who came from out of state for the ceremony.
**Tell Us About Yourself**
Share your information in the Classnotes section of the next Oswego Magazine.

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Clip and mail to The Office of Alumni Relations, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State, Oswego, NY 13126 or respond electronically on our Web site at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu

**Policy on Release of Names**
The policy of the Oswego Alumni Association is not to release names and addresses except to Oswego State offices and departments for specific activities which support the mission of the university, or to alumni volunteers with whom we are working on a specific alumni activity. Please understand that we cannot provide any information about a former classmate or friend by telephone. We are happy to forward requests on to the person being sought, thus protecting the privacy of our alumni and allowing that person to decide whether to contact the inquiring friend.

The easiest way to attempt to contact an alumnus or alumna is to send to our office a letter in a sealed, stamped envelope with the name of the person you are attempting to locate. We will add the address and drop the letter in the mail.

We suggest that you contact us, either via telephone or e-mail, to confirm that we do have an address on file before sending the letter.

Send your request to: Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State, Oswego, NY 13126.
Oswego alumni know that private colleges and big state universities are not the only places to get a first-rate education. But did you know that Oswego State has the numbers to prove it?

Oswego offers 109 majors, minors, preprofessional and cooperative programs, from Accounting to Zoology. Challenging, involving programs taught by professors whose number one priority is teaching undergraduates.

There are more than 8,000 students at Oswego, but classes are still small – around 24 students – for more personal attention and hands-on learning, whether it’s working at WTOP as a freshman or observing elementary school classes in sophomore year. Add in 900 internships, and it’s no wonder our six-month placement rate for graduates is over 90 percent!

We also offer $2 million in merit scholarships for entering students, an honors program and free Internet access in every student’s room. All on 690 beautiful acres, with the same Lake Ontario sunsets that you remember. It’s no wonder that Kiplinger’s Personal Finance ranks Oswego among the 100 best values in public colleges.

Wish you were still here? You could be through our continuing education program, Alumni Sharing Knowledge (A.S.K.), Alumni Association activities, by supporting The Fund for Oswego, or perhaps there’s a prospective student that you want to recommend. There are lots of ways to stay connected to Oswego. And that brings us to one more number – 315-312-2258 – The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. Call us to see how you can be involved, or visit us at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu
When Barbara Palmer Shineman moved to Oswego in 1958, she was among the first wave of women who said: "Now it's my turn." She had already helped put her husband through school and was eager to begin her own studies.

"I had an eight-year old and a three-year old, and I was more mature than most of the students at Oswego" she says. "But, doors were opened for me."

Shineman says she loved the course work and the outstanding teachers, who nurtured her enthusiasm for learning and teaching.

"I'll always remember the late Dr. Erwin Palmer and his wife, Catherine, who hosted the English Honors Society and encouraged us to read and to love literature. Bob Canfield was a wonderful mentor during my graduate years. And, I was fortunate to have as my master teachers Connie Bond '51, who has so much creativity herself that she could encourage it in pupils, and the late Dorothy Brown Clark '36, who taught us to find an encouraging thing to say to each child every day."

After earning a bachelor's degree in 1965, Dr. Shineman completed a master's in reading. She was hired in 1969 for a one-year sabbatical replacement in the Campus School. The appointment was extended, and she taught until the school closed, at which time President Virginia Radley assigned her to the Elementary Education department. There, Shineman was instrumental in the development of the Sheldon Institute for Gifted Students, and she advised Kappa Delta Phi, the education honorary. While fulfilling her Oswego internship for the CAS in the late 1970s, she worked on a Syracuse City School District initiative to help talented teacher-assistants earn degrees at Oswego. In 1980, she completed a Ph.D. at Syracuse University.

Whether teaching elementary pupils, future teachers, or graduate students, Shineman always imbued them with a true love of learning. A proponent of continuing in-service education, she says, "I always hoped that my students—who were so enthusiastic about teaching—wouldn't become jaded after years in the profession."

Cautioning against using names, lest she leave someone out, Shineman lists dozens of former students who have affirmed her teaching over the years. "My greatest reward is to hear from some of the most influential educators in America today and realize that they began their careers right here at Oswego State."

Shineman and her husband, Dr. Richard Shineman, professor emeritus of chemistry, are active in the Oswego State Emeriti Association and are members of the President's Circle, Oswego's most loyal and committed supporters. She has served as national chair of the Fund for Oswego and is the recipient of the Oswego Alumni Association's Lifetime Award of Merit.

"Oswego State means a lot to me because it's been a significant part of my life," says Shineman, who has been associated with the college for more than 40 years, worked with five of its 10 presidents, and contributed significantly to its growth and stature.