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- Return to Oz
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*Laptop pictured is for illustration only. Actual model may vary.
Today at Oswego 13
Al Roker '76 showcased his alma mater to a national audience this fall.

New Media, New Beginnings 16
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ON THE COVER:
Al Roker '76 featured Oswego State in his Oct. 18 “Today” show broadcast.
Photo by Robert Mescavage Photography
Return to Oz reunion was a great and uniting success. Much of this was made possible by Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego. We kicked off our campaign in September 2005 and in October 2006 we met our $17 million goal, eight months ahead of schedule. Now we have just six months left in our campaign, which ends June 30. We are at more than $21 million and have nearly $2 million left to raise toward our expanded goal of $23 million. Our success so far has been due to the Oswego tradition of working together. Donors giving $25, $1,000, $25,000 or more have made our success possible, and they will put us over the top. Every gift counts. Please consider being part of this historic campaign while there is still time. And experience the magic that happens when we all — alumni, faculty, staff and students — work together for the future of Oswego.

Deborah F. Stanley
President

Remember how, on the Oswego campus in late autumn, the wind would pick up little piles of dried leaves and swirl them around, like a mini-tornado? That was what our autumn felt like this year. Return to Oz III, the opening of the Campus Center, raising the championship banner for men’s hockey, the media summit, and a broadcast by Al Roker ’76 and the “Today” show, all within a three-week span. It really was a whirlwind of activity, and left me — like all the alumni and development staff — somewhat breathless.

But, picture that little pile of leaves again. What do you remember about it? What do you take away from it? I’ll just bet it’s the sheer beauty of it. Each leaf a little gem — red, gold and green — and swirling together, it was a kaleidoscope of color. And that’s what we’ll take away from this autumn: those of us involved behind the scenes, those who participated in those events in person, and now you, as you behold the images reproduced in the pages of this magazine. That’s what’s so great about Oswego. It may take us on a wild ride, sometimes its wind buffets us. But we will always remember its beauty, good times and the good friends we shared them with.

Michele A. Reed
Oswego editor
As the sun sets on

Inspiring Horizons...

The end of Inspired Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego is fast approaching. The campaign officially ends June 30. But there’s still time for you to be part of this historic first campaign for Oswego.

Every day, we see evidence of how Inspired Horizons has helped to change the face of campus — and the lives of our students. Whether a donor-sponsored fellowship program provided the opportunity of a lifetime or lectures paid for with a departmental excellence fund sparked an abiding passion, whether their education was made possible with a scholarship or they participated in student organizations at the new Campus Center, students’ lives were touched by donors to the campaign.

To those generous supporters, thank you! If you have not yet made a gift, there’s still time to make a difference. Inspired Horizons has raised more than $21 million toward our $23 million goal. But there’s still much more to be done. Contact the Office of University Development at 315-312-3003 or e-mail give2@oswego.edu today.
Growing up in Massachusetts, Dr. Augustine Silveira's passion for chemistry began while performing magic tricks for his family and friends. His interest was further ignited when he received a chemistry kit as a Christmas gift.

As an undergraduate student at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Silveira's main interest was in textile chemistry. When he found out during his senior year that he was colorblind and could not properly match textile dyes, Silveira shifted gears toward organic chemistry and a career in teaching.

Prior to coming to Oswego, Silveira taught at other colleges including Rutgers University and the University of California Irvine. When Silveira came to Oswego in 1963, he was entertaining offers from several other colleges, but it was the “ground floor level” of the chemistry department that caught his attention.

“I thought for a young person I could really be involved with a lot of other young people in developing the chemistry program. I just fell in love with Oswego and the students,” said Silveira.

Silveira taught at Oswego for 38 years, 33 as chair of the chemistry department, until his retirement in 2000.

Silveira’s favorite part of teaching was conducting research, because it was an opportunity to work one-on-one with students. The bulk of that joint research was on synthesizing compounds for useful pharmaceutical drugs.

According to Silveira, the unique thing about Oswego State is that students get extensive hands-on experience with laboratory equipment.

“That is why our students can get jobs, because they learn how to do it all,” he said.

Silveira talked with pride of his students who have gone on to become successful doctors and chemists.

“Oswego is all over the map,” he said. “I’ve been asked to speak all over the world, to talk about our students and what they have done.”

Since retirement, Silveira has kept in touch with Oswego in several ways, especially by reading the chemistry department newsletter.

“The new science facilities, the new faculty, the students…it reminds me of the ’60s. It’s an exciting time,” he said.

Shortly after Silveira’s retirement, he was honored by a former student, Dr. Thomas Weil ’66, with the creation of the Augustine Silveira Jr. Fund, which supports scholarships, fellowships and guest lectures in chemistry.

In April, Silveira was honored by his alma mater, UMass Dartmouth, with the Samuel Stone Lifetime Science Award. He also gave the commencement address to the college of arts and sciences there in May. He has visited Massachusetts high schools to talk with students about opportunities in the sciences and was a visiting scholar at SUNY Purchase.

In retirement, Silveira and his wife, Beverly, live in California during the winter months and in Massachusetts throughout the summer. They enjoy traveling, square dancing, biking, kayaking, tai chi, yoga and music and art appreciation classes.

Dr. Augustine ‘Gus’ Silveira Jr.
SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley unveiled the strategic plan that will guide the college to its 150th anniversary in 2011 as the fall 2007 semester got under way.

“Our goal is to ensure that all our students receive the best education possible,” Stanley said. She described the plan as “an ambitious document that takes bold, innovative steps to develop our students as true global citizens.”

Engaging Challenge: The Sesquicentennial Plan outlines goals in five categories comprising “SUNY Oswego’s Views” under the headings Vitality, Intellectual rigor, Engagement, World awareness and Solutions. These five strategic directions specify priorities that will help ensure that SUNY Oswego becomes a stronger college in the future, Stanley said.

- Vitality involves designing exemplary academic programs, recruiting faculty and staff of distinction, securing robust financial support, and creating a sense of pride.
- Intellectual rigor includes fostering an atmosphere of high expectations, recruiting highly motivated students, and providing transformative learning experiences and expanded scholarly and research opportunities.
- Engagement entails broadening the college’s service mission and building understanding of civic engagement and a shared sense of community.
- World awareness encompasses promoting appreciation of diversity, expanding multicultural and international experiences, and demonstrating stewardship of the environment, and
- Solutions involve nurturing students’ social consciousness, increasing understanding of complicated problems and translating knowledge important to society.

“We’re going to have an exciting time going forward with this plan,” Stanley told a gathering of faculty and professional staff that kicked off the first day of classes. “We will move this college to a new level.”

The plan emerged from hundreds of hours of deliberations by the 30-member Sesquicentennial Planning Advisory Board and focus groups of students, faculty, staff and community members.

Next, the president said, she will charge the college’s vice presidents to work toward action plans to implement elements of the plan and then move cross functionally to coordinate them. During implementation, she said, there will be annual updates on progress.

For a copy of the plan, call Oswego’s Office of Business and Community Relations at 315-312-3492.

— Julie Harrison Blissert

Global awareness is one component of the Sesquicentennial Plan.
Riggs, Lakeside reopen to rave reviews

Riggs Residence Hall and Lakeside Dining Hall reopened last fall after a period of renovation, and the student reception of the new facilities is overwhelmingly positive.

The renovations to Riggs Hall cost $13 million to complete over a construction period of two years, while Lakeside Dining Hall renovations tallied about $7.2 million with a construction time of a year and a half, according to Director of Facilities Design and Construction Tom Simmonds ’84, M ’88. The projects were done through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

Riggs Hall has spacious rooms, large windows providing a spectacular view of Lake Ontario, and several lounges and common areas for students to gather for study or fun. “It’s colorful, it’s new, it’s got a lot of gathering space and it takes advantage of the views of the lake,” said Simmonds.

Roommates Lindsay Norton ’11, a zoology major, and Colleen Czajak ’11, an adolescence education major, interviewed in August, were thrilled with their new home in Riggs Hall. “There are lots of places to hang out, including one room that has a fireplace. It’s great to meet new people, especially the upperclassmen, who have been so helpful,” Czajak said.

“The other night we and some friends took candles out and sat on the rocks by the lake. It was beautiful,” said Norton.

Perhaps one of the best things about living in Riggs Hall is that it is connected to the newly renovated Lakeside Dining Hall. The dining hall features modern designs, a bright, clean atmosphere and a view like none other.

Windows span the entire north wall from floor to ceiling, providing the perfect setting to enjoy a meal. The sitting area is reminiscent of a café, featuring round tables and booths ideal for large groups, and smaller tall tables and chairs, perfect for a quiet meal for two.

Funky lights and geometric designs hang from the ceiling, while hues of green and tan mimic the natural setting viewed through the windows.

The most unique thing about Lakeside Dining Hall is the serving style. Rather than having students go through one line to select their meals, they receive their food in stations, serving pasta, deli, grilled and vegetarian selections. The dining hall also features Asian cuisine as the dinner specialty.

— Kristin Quinn ’08

At the Riggs Hall front desk are, from left, Desk Attendant Patricia Hollister ’08 and Resident Assistants Giselle Guerrero ’08 and Mike Kiley ’08.
Undergrads do hands-on research

Undergraduate students at SUNY Oswego have the unique opportunity to participate in federally sponsored research projects on campus, gaining valuable hands-on experience and real-world perspective.

Wes Laurion '10, majoring in adolescence education and physics at Oswego, works with geographic information system software in the Snygg Hall computer lab last summer. He is one of four Oswego undergraduates currently working on a project funded by the Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology.

Through a $45,000 grant from the NASA-sponsored Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology, Oswego faculty and staff are working together to create teaching modules that incorporate such new technologies as satellite imaging, visualization technologies and geographic information systems. These modules will be used to teach college science courses and train professionals in upstate New York and across the country.

“We will be able to support eight students over two summers,” said director Dr. Jack Gelfund. Students currently assisting in project research include Wes Laurion '10, Steven Smith '08, Josh Valentino '10 and Eric Wenke '08.

Gelfund’s co-directors on the overall project are Alok Kumar of the physics department; David Valentino of the geology department; Scott Steiger '99, Robert Ballentine and Steve Skubis of the meteorology faculty; and Nancy Potter Bellow '78 of the Office of Business and Community Relations.

Two students will also be able to participate in a study sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health concerning the effects of even low levels of lead on cardiovascular functioning in children and how a child’s socioeconomic status relates to these effects.

Lead is an environmental pollutant that can find its way into the human body. Children are particularly susceptible to lead poisoning, which can result in damage to the kidneys and nervous system; poor muscle coordination; and speech, language and behavior problems.

Brooks Gump of Oswego’s psychology department is the principal investigator on the new $205,741 two-year project. He is supported by co-principal investigators James MacKenzie of the biological sciences department and Kestas Bendiskas of the chemistry department, as well as area doctors and Oswego Hospital staff.

The research team plans to study blood samples from 100 children ages 9 or 10, with about 25 coming from the Hispanic community. The team will utilize the college’s Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Center and the Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Center to determine if lead has an effect on the hundreds of proteins in the blood.

College launches presence downtown

SUNY OSWEGO OPENED THE DOORS ON its first presence in downtown Oswego in October.

The college has signed a four-year lease for space in the building on the southwest corner of Oswego’s historic business center, the intersection of West First and Bridge streets. The college’s Auxiliary Services will staff and operate the site, which was a bank for many years and more recently a gallery.

“It really is an anchor for downtown,” said Michael Flaherty, Auxiliary Services manager.

He said SUNY Oswego Downtown will sell emblematic merchandise, display art work by faculty and students, host receptions when exhibitions open and provide information about events and programs happening on campus together with parking information. Eventually, it will provide a ticket outlet for a variety of campus events, from intercollegiate ice hockey games to chamber music concerts by visiting musicians to student theatre productions.

The first art exhibition was under the direction of Julieve Jubin of the art department and her students. The students prepared the gallery space, installed the artwork and publicized the exhibition, called “Ready.”

The college’s arts programming coordinator, Mary Avrakotos, has been part of a campus group meeting to plan the new venture. “The opportunity to have this arm out into the community is really great,” she said.

She foresees the site “creating a wonderful synergy” with “our students going downtown for selected projects and activities” and community organizations and businesses finding ways to interact with the new college presence. When the Oswego Film Group shows a movie, it might hold its post-screening discussion there, she suggested. Oswego State Downtown, at 186 W. First St. in Oswego, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday; and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.
More than 150 Oswego State students volunteered their time Aug. 29 to interact with the Oswego community through various volunteer efforts during Project Serve.

This year marked Oswego State’s second Project Serve, which was a success, according to Caitlin Dorrance ’04 of the Center for Community Service and Service Learning. There were significantly more volunteers this year than in the past, with the majority being freshmen and some incoming transfer students.

Volunteer work included painting at Camp Hollis and the Oswego YMCA, gardening at Rice Creek Field Station and Fallbrook, voter registration, preparing and serving lunch at the Salvation Army, cleaning the Oswego Community Christian School and working on a Habitat for Humanity home.

Project Serve is a good way for incoming students to learn about both the Oswego community and each other, according to Dorrance.

“I think it’s important for students to get involved right when they get to college so that they can learn about the community. It’s also a great way for them to explore volunteer options,” said Dorrance.

Cliff Ohrnberger ’11 volunteered at the Salvation Army. His job was to work in the pantry, putting food orders together for families in need.

“I learned that there are people in the community that are in need, but also that there are plenty of people in the community willing to help. It felt good to help, and I felt like the usual volunteers really appreciated the extra help we offered. If Project Serve went back to the Salvation Army, I would definitely go,” Ohrnberger said.

Patrick Decker ’11 helped cook food at the Salvation Army. “I had fun volunteering. I met some new people and got a day off campus. I would definitely do it again,” he said.

Students were well received by the community, according to Dorrance. “From everything that I heard from all the placement sites, they thought the students did a great job and encouraged them to come back again,” she said.

Project Serve was a great day and is an effort that the Center for Community Service and Service Learning plans to continue in the future, according to Dorrance.

— Kristin Quinn ’08

Izzo honored as volunteer

WHEN BERNIE HENDERSON SPOKE AT Carrie Izzo’s 2005 Leadership Oswego County graduation, his speech had a profound influence on her.

“I remember thinking to myself, that’s what I want to do, give back and get involved, and make a difference,” said Izzo, a program assistant for the master’s of business administration program.

When Izzo received the Bernie Henderson Award for Outstanding Volunteerism at Oswego State’s Employee Recognition and Award Ceremony in May, Henderson himself presented it to her.

“I feel fortunate to call him a friend,” said Izzo.

Izzo’s resume of volunteer activities on campus include being building coordinator for SEFA, involvement with the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Fund, board member for the Employee Assistance Program and involvement with Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego. She is also a fund-raising volunteer for WRVO radio.

In the community, Izzo is a tutor for Literacy Volunteers and a volunteer and park manager for Harborfest.

“My favorite thing about volunteering is being in the company of people from all walks of life with the same goals and objectives, to make this world a better place,” said Izzo.

For those who want to be more involved in volunteerism, Izzo offers this advice: “Whether you’re involved a lot or a little, it’s all important. Whether you’re helping a neighbor, family, a campus or a community, the feeling of being a part of a significant, unselfish, positive act is its own reward.”

— Kristin Quinn ’08

Carrie Izzo, left, receives the Bernie Henderson Award for Outstanding Volunteerism at Oswego State’s Employee Recognition and Award Ceremony, presented by Henderson, who is the Inspiring Horizons campaign co-chair and served on the College Council for many years.
Note-worthy Reunion

Nearly 100 alumni returned to Oswego Sept. 7 to 9 for the music department’s very first reunion. The weekend kicked off with an alumni discussion panel Friday night followed by a jam session at Patz on the River restaurant featuring the Oswego Jazz Project. On Saturday, graduates attended rehearsals, toured the new Campus Center and caught up with friends. A buffet-style dinner, held in the Forum Restaurant later that evening, brought alumni and their families together to share memories and honor department supporters. The highlight of the weekend — Saturday’s reunion concert — featured soloists and ensembles from Oswego’s past and present. Department Chair Julie Pretzat-Merchant also unveiled a plaque and framed photograph display honoring Maurice Boyd, James “Doc” Soluri, Paul Rogers, Dorothy Hickock and Sylvia Irwin. The weekend concluded with a “Bon Voyage” breakfast in the Campus Center Activity Court and the anticipation of returning “home” again to Oswego in the very near future.

— Meagan Smith ’07
Students participate in Project Play, an Opening Week activity held by Intramurals and Recreation at Oswego State. The event was held Aug. 28 at the Lee Hall athletic fields. New freshmen and transfer students came together to compete, make friends and have fun. Resident Assistants volunteered to be team captains of their respective residence halls, gathered up participants and headed to Lee Hall. Students then joined together with their hallmates and captains to take part in various games and competitions against other halls. They competed in basketball games, dodgeball (shown here), an obstacle course and kickball. After the competition, Johnson Hall was named to the Hall of Champions for the third year in a row. Project Play has long been an Opening Week tradition. This year’s event saw over 325 participants, according to Assistant Director of Campus Life for Intramurals and Recreation Sandra Keenan Jeffers. — Jessica Skeldon '09

UNY Oswego added two new graduate programs last year: play therapy and master of arts in teaching mathematics (MAT-math). The college has also developed a dual degree in business and psychology.

Oswego’s play therapy certificate program is offered by only one other college on the East Coast, Johns Hopkins University. Play therapy is a means of communicating with children who cannot verbalize their problems, according to program coordinator Dr. Jodi Weinstein Mullen ’92. Part of Oswego’s counseling and psychological services department, the program prepares graduates to become credentialed play therapists.

Students in the MAT-math degree program will meet a pressing need for math teachers in grades 7 through 12. Dr. Chris Baltus of the math department said the degree will appeal to math majors who don’t decide until their senior year that they want to teach. Since the college had no previous graduate program in math, courses were created just for this curriculum. Ideally, graduates will be able to complete the program in one summer, an academic year and another summer.

The dual degree, possibly the first of its kind, combines a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s in business administration. The combination requires fewer credits than doing the programs separately, which means students can complete both degrees in five years. Dr. Richard Skolnik, interim dean of the School of Business and one of the program’s creators, says that psychology is a key part of business, so the dual degree will enhance students’ marketability.

These new programs offer students an opportunity to study rare and in-demand fields while providing them with the experience needed to start a career. —

New programs, more opportunities at Oswego State
Baseball

The Oswego State baseball team returned to the postseason for the first time in three years by qualifying for the Eastern College Athletic Conference Upstate Tournament with a 14-12 record. Two players earned All-SUNYAC honors as Nick Perioli '08, the Lakers’ leading hitter, was named to the First Team as an outfielder and Tom Farrell '07 was named to the Second Team as a utility player. Brett Shaffer '08 earned a prestigious award, by being named to the Rawlings Gold Glove Team for the New York Region in Division III Baseball.

Other awards rolled in during the season as pitcher Justin White '08 was named SUNYAC and ECAC Upstate Pitcher of the Week for the week of April 23.

Oswego State turned 27 double plays through its first 26 games, and played a schedule that included nine games against teams that received votes in the national poll during the year.

Men's Lacrosse

The Oswego State men’s lacrosse team won its first two games of the year but lost several close games and finished 3-11 on the year. Four of the Lakers’ losses were by just one goal and they faced three teams that are nationally ranked. Mike Strohm '08 led the team in scoring with 20 goals and 35 points. Steve Tronovitch '07 was second with 26 points.

Women's Lacrosse

The Lakers defended their home field by winning two out of their three home games on the season, including an exciting 12-10 victory over Fredonia. Tricia McNeilly '07 became just the seventh player in Oswego State program history to record at least 100 points as she finished her stellar four-year career with 61 goals, 57 assists and 118 points. She also set a school record with seven assists April 11 in a game at Potsdam.

Rachel Ventresca '09 led the Lakers with 26 goals on the year. Oswego State finished with a 5-9 record despite playing most of its games on the road.

Softball

The Oswego State softball team finished with a 7-22 overall record and scored its biggest win with a 5-4 extra-inning victory at Geneseo April 24. The Lakers scored two runs in the seventh to force extra innings and won it with two more runs in the eighth.

Jessica Mills '07 led the team in hitting with a .373 batting average and .478 slugging percentage. Fellow classmates Ashley Mead '08, Mallory Eggert '07, Carolyn Agle '07 and Kaitlyn Thibodeau '07 also finished their careers at Oswego State.

Golf

The Oswego State men’s golf team turned in three second-place finishes and a third-place finish in 10 invitational events. Adam Seifts '08 led the team with an overall scoring average of 77.94 for the combined seasons.

Women's Lacrosse star Tricia McNeilly '07 became just the seventh player in Oswego State program history to record at least 100 points.

Men's Tennis

The Oswego State men's tennis team finished with a 3-2 record in matches this spring, including 9-0 wins over Utica and Elmira to start the season. The Lakers also defeated St. John Fisher 5-4. Ryan Thomas '07 had a winning record at first singles and first doubles.

Track and Field

Under the guidance of new head coach Christian Weigandt, the Laker outdoor track and field team set numerous school records and achieved many personal best performances. Heidi Armstrong '08 led the way by winning the SUNYAC title and setting the Oswego State record in the javelin. Track newcomer Andrew Hale '11 set school records in both of the men’s hurdle events.

— Joe Gladziszewski, Sports Information Director
The 18th annual Oswego State Fall Classic Sept. 14 raised more than $137,310 to support the Presidential Scholars Program at Oswego.

“We are extremely grateful to our Presidential Sponsors — Constellation Energy and the New York State Laborers’ Employers’ Cooperation and Education Trust Fund — as well as our local sponsors and golfers, who support scholarships at the college,” said President Deborah F. Stanley. “Your support makes it possible for our students to realize their dreams of a college education.”

At the Fall Classic finale, Stanley presented a framed “Oswego Family Portrait” to representatives of LECET in honor of their 10 years of supporting the annual fundraising event.

Stanley praised the New York State Laborers for their loyalty and support of the college and thanked Constellation Energy for their six years of support.

William Shannon, business manager of the Upstate New York Laborers’ District Council, in accepting the recognition, reiterated the Laborers’ commitment to higher education and SUNY Oswego.

Presidential Scholar Ryan Mott ’08 thanked the donors present. He shared that he participated in an Oswego program, Hollywood POV, and has aspirations to work in the television and film industry as a stunt coordinator and screenwriter.

“I believe I will reach my goals, thanks to the education I received here at Oswego, made possible by my Presidential Scholarship,” Mott said. “And I am just one of more than a thousand Presidential Scholars who have studied here at Oswego during the past 10 years. If your support has meant this much to me, think of the difference it has made in hundreds of other lives. And as we graduate and go on to careers in education, business, communications, and many, many other fields, your gift is in turn affecting the lives of all the people we touch.”

Since its inception in 1990, the Fall Classic has raised more than $3.2 million to help support students, especially through the Presidential Scholars Program.

— Michele Reed
Six SUNY Oswego graduate students were given extraordinary opportunities during the summer of 2007, made possible by the new Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship. The fellowship was founded by President and CEO of W.R. Grace & Co. Fred Festa ’81 and his wife, MaryLynn Barbero Festa ’82.

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide graduate students with unique experiences in their field of interest that would not be possible without the fellowship stipend of $5,000 to $10,000. The fellowship goes beyond what an internship would entail, allowing students to gain leadership experience. In order to apply for a fellowship, students propose a site and mentor, as well as formulate a plan of study and a budget. They then undergo a review process to be selected.

Dean of Graduate Studies and Research David King said the fellowship program is “a very unique opportunity to work directly with leaders of businesses, educational and non-profit organizations. These placements are not entry-level internships, but rather positions of considerable responsibility mentored by someone in senior management in the organization.”

Three fellows were mentored by Executive Director of the Central New York Biotechnology Research Center Dr. John Fieschko. Graphic design student Kacie Haynes ’04 M ’07 created Web site and promotional materials for CNY-BRC. Jonathan Bentley M ’07, an MBA student, worked on financial planning at the center, while Sagar Adik M ’07, also an MBA student, formulated a marketing plan and campaign.

“The Festa Fellowship at the CNY-BRC has proven to be extremely beneficial to my career as it has provided an out of the classroom opportunity to practically implement, demonstrate and test the acquired knowledge in my MBA program,” said Adik.

Human computer interaction student Benjamin Hance ’04 M ’07 was mentored by Heather Erickson, president of Med Tech, where he helped to improve communication systems.

History major Michael Lipton M ’08 worked with Manager Paul Lear at Fort Ontario, learning the operations of a government historical site. “The Festa Fellowship was a tremendous opportunity, allowing me to devote a summer to the study of local history, and providing experience in the practical world of the public historical trust. I truly enjoyed my time at Fort Ontario, and had the chance to involve myself in the many aspects of the site’s daily management,” Lipton said.

Educational administration student Christine Walsh ’04, M ’07 had the opportunity to work with Dean DeSantis from The Frazer School in Syracuse, where she observed and even had a chance to take part in the routine of an urban school administrator. “The Festa Fellowship gave me the ultimate gift: It confirmed my life-long passion for building relationships and empowering people in educational settings,” Walsh wrote in the Sheldon Sphere.

Fellowships can be for the duration of one semester or summer, combined over the course of two semesters or a semester and a summer.

“This program will offer unique learning experiences for additional graduate students in the years ahead and will help us recruit more outstanding applicants for our graduate programs,” said King.

— Kristin Quinn ’08
Oswego’s Endowment Doubles

Oswego State’s endowment has more than doubled in the past five years, growing from $4 million on July 1, 2002, to $8.66 million on June 30, 2007.

The growth is due to the generosity of donors during Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego and an excellent return on investment, 17.5 percent during the fiscal year ended June 30, according to Director of Finance for Alumni and Development Mark R. Slayton.

During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Foundation deposited nearly $1 million in new gifts to the endowment, including a bequest of $685,000, and $250,000 from the first installment of a $1 million donation by Marcia Belmar Willock ’50 to endow a professorship in finance, as well as several endowed scholarship donations by individuals.

Careful stewardship of the endowment by the Foundation’s Investment Committee contributed to the substantial growth, Slayton added.

“The growth of our endowment is a testament to the loyalty and generosity of Oswego’s supporters, including alumni, faculty and staff, and friends of the college,” said Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81. “It will continue to make a difference in the lives of Oswego students for generations, as it grows and produces income to support scholarships, research and student life at Oswego.”

New Web Site Helps Gift Planning

OSWEGO’S PLANNED GIVING WEB SITE, LAUNCHED THIS FALL, gives donors a new tool for meeting their philanthropic goals.

“Our goal is to make it easy for those who love Oswego to support the college while still making sure their families are cared for,” said Mark R. Slayton, director of finance for alumni and development.

The Web site offers an explanation of planned giving, options for giving and a calculator, so that visitors to the site can figure out the tax benefits of their planned gifts.

Alumni who have chosen to make planned gifts to Oswego share their stories of why they chose to leave a legacy to their alma mater.

Planned gifts, including bequests, trusts or annuities, are eligible for membership in the Sheldon Legacy Society. They also count toward Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego.

To access the planned giving site, go to www.oswego.edu/giving and click on Gift Planning.

Foundation Turns 60

The Oswego College Foundation Inc. is officially a senior citizen, having celebrated its 60th birthday. On June 23, 1947, a group of local people incorporated with three goals: to promote interaction among students and alumni; to aid students “in their work, student living and extracurricular activities”; and to establish a memorial to founder Edward Austin Sheldon.

Today the Foundation does all these things and more. It supports programs like Alumni Sharing Knowledge and Alumni in Residence; funds scholarships, library acquisitions and student-faculty research projects; and carries on the work of the founder through the Sheldon Legacy Society.

Alumni Legacy Scholarship Offered

The Oswego Alumni Association announces the Alumni Legacy Scholarship. Three or four scholarships of $1,000 will be awarded each year to children, step-children or parents of SUNY Oswego alumni/alumnae. Candidates must be current SUNY Oswego students and demonstrate a commitment to the excellence of the college and the community through academic achievements, leadership and involvement in campus clubs and organizations. Complete the scholarship application and essay at http://www.oswego.edu/giving/scholarships/index.html. The deadline is April 11. 
Students began to form a line as early as 5 a.m. to see Al Roker ’76 and be part of the NBC “Today” show broadcasts from SUNY Oswego’s new Campus Center Oct. 18.

Roker was visiting Oswego as the moderator of the third annual Louis A. Borrelli Jr. Media Summit, held Oct. 17, which he and Louis A. Borrelli Jr. ’77 renamed in honor of their beloved professor, Dr. Lewis B. “Doc” O’Donnell, who passed away Aug. 28.

Students showed their enthusiasm for the “Today” broadcasts with large colorful signs such as: “Oswego Loves Al,” “Al, You’re my Hero [illustrated with a sub sandwich],” “Hi Mom,” “Al Roker for President” and “Happy Al-Oween.”

One group of students wore bathrobes and slippers, while another student wore a neon green wig and painted his face green and gold. The first 1,000 people to arrive at the Campus Center for the event received free bright yellow T-shirts which read “Oswego on Today” to wear during the broadcast.

Jaclyn Guilfoyle ’11, Tim Fischofer ’11 and Kellie Schieber ’11 said that they stayed up all night to attend the “Today” broadcast. “It’s exciting,” said Guilfoyle. “But, if we had gone to sleep we might not have woken up in time.”

From 5 to 7 a.m., local NBC affiliate WSTM broadcast live from the Campus Center, with meteorologist Chris Brandolino ’94 interviewing President Deborah F. Stanley and Roker.

Between 7 and 9:45 a.m. seven short live remotes took place, some in the new Al Roker ’76 WTOP Television Studio, others outdoors from the plaza circle entrance to the Campus Center, and the final broadcasts took place in the Campus Center ice arena and convocation center.

As Roker showed off the new WTOP studio on “Today” he said, “I am so proud.” He joked with his co-hosts at NBC that with the hands-on experience students will receive in the studio, “Future broadcast students will be able to come in and take our jobs.”

General Manager of WTOP Jaclyn Kahn ’08 said, “This morning was an amazing experience for WTOP to have Al use our brand new studio, as well as for us to see how production out in the field is created.”

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WTOP Underwriter Director Jason Siegel '08 said that the day’s events gave him “a vision of what to shoot for in the future.”

Editor-in-chief of The Oswegonian Anthony Borrelli ’08 said that the “Today” broadcast was a wonderful opportunity for all members of campus media to observe the pros in action. “It’s good exposure for the school and it’s great to be a part of seeing such a successful alumnus return,” he added.

When Roker broadcast outdoors from the plaza circle, students, faculty, staff and community members gathered around and cheered. Roker wore a gold and green hockey jersey with “Roker 76” on the back, complemented by an Oswego baseball cap. He took the time to sign autographs and shake as many hands as he could.

The atmosphere for the ice arena broadcasts was exhilarating. The audience sipped hot chocolate and coffee supplied by the Alumni Association, while the Oswego Jazz Project provided entertainment. The men’s and women’s hockey teams took the ice in uniform, and technology majors showed off their prized project, the remote-controlled mini Zamboni.

“I’m amazed and proud that our school can be on TV for millions of people to see,” said an enthusiastic Elizabeth Palma ’08 as she cheered from the audience.
Al Roker ’76 speaks

On the new Al Roker ’76 Television Studio:
- It’s really unbelievable. When I came in ’72 the studio was in Piez Hall. The ceiling was 2/3 of this one. You actually had to watch so you didn’t bump your head on the lights. We had turret lenses, black and white cameras, cast-off industrial equipment. Now it’s all high-tech — a lot more than some commercial studios have.
- This will give these kids a leg up on other students coming out and competing for jobs.

On how Oswego influenced him:
- It’s what fired up your imagination, what got you started.
- I wanted to be behind the camera: a producer, director or cameraman.

On what Oswego means to him:
- They were the four greatest years of my young adult life. It was a transformative experience.

On Dr. Lew O’Donnell:
- If you are reflective, you know: Family is one thing, but there are people in your life that affect you professionally. This was one of those places and Lew O’Donnell was one of those people.
The biggest change in the media today, according to Paul Condolora ’82, senior vice president and general manager for Cartoon Network New Media, is the control the consumer has. “On-demand is revolutionizing the media,” he told those assembled for the third annual Louis A. Borrelli Jr. ’77 Media Summit Oct. 17 in Sheldon Hall on campus. “We will access media when, where and how we want.”

The top names in the media industry convened on the Oswego State campus to discuss how new technologies and new generations are creating the media of the future.

The daylong event featured classroom visits and small discussions with panelists, highlighted by a panel presentation moderated by Al Roker ’76 of NBC’s “Today” show.

In addition to Condolora, this year’s panelists included Geraldine B. Laybourne, founder, chair and CEO of Oxygen Media; Doug McMonagle, regional director of Inergize Digital Media; Russell Quy, vice president and executive producer of IMG Media; and Shelly Palmer, managing director of Advanced Media Ventures Group LLC.

Moderator Roker had a personal message for the students in the audience. As an alumnus, he said, “I feel blessed I got to go to this school. This school will allow you to do whatever you want.”

The summit closed with a moving tribute to a former professor. Borrelli and Roker have started an endowed fund to name the summit in honor of Dr. Lewis B. “Doc” O’Donnell, professor emeritus of communication studies, who passed away Aug. 28. Doc’s widow, Betty ’68, and several family members were on hand for the unveiling of the new logo for the Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit.

“Interning for the summit really helped me to see what’s available out there, careerwise,” said journalism major Anthony Borrelli ’08. “Being on the inside of the summit and really involved throughout the day opened my eyes more than just attending the panel discussion. It was a whole new perspective.”

— Kristin Quinn ’08 and Michele Reed contributed to this article
There was a frisson of excitement as guests gathered in the new Campus Center Oct. 12. This wouldn’t be just any ordinary ribbon-cutting.

At a signal from SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley, the assembled dignitaries raised their golden hammers. They tapped upon a wall emblazoned with photos of the Campus Center construction: the 2003 groundbreaking, the “Big Dig,” steel going up, finishing touches. Then they burst through, from the arena/convocation center opened last fall into the former Swetman Hall, now newly remodeled to house student organizations, student services and more.

On to the 200-seat auditorium they filed, to hear from campus, community and labor leaders, and honor the donors whose gifts had made much of the building possible.

Later they would tour the building and see the men’s Division III ice hockey championship banner raised to the rafters.

It was the first time most of those present — alumni; donors; faculty, staff and students; government representatives; College Council, Foundation and Alumni Association board members; labor leaders and community guests — would see the transformations to the central part of the Campus Center. They met student leaders in The Point, home to Student Association and other organizations. They explored the Compass, where services from orientation to career planning are housed. And they marveled at the Chu Atrium, a soaring, two-story entrance to this magnificent structure.

As they made their way from one area of the building to another, guests traversed the Charles L. Wiley ’22 Alumni Concourse, a light-filled walkway that provides passage from the westernmost part of the convocation center through to Poucher Hall on the east, sheltering walkers from Oswego’s harsh winds.

“This building is a structure of bricks and mortar, but it represents what this community is all about,” said Stanley.

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“This breakthrough connects our campus in an academic, social and community sense,” the president added.

Director of Campus Life Rich Hughes agreed that the new complex lays a unique foundation for communication and convergence. “I don’t know of any other campuses where the lives of students, faculty and staff crisscross on a daily basis in so many different ways in a single building,” he said.

State Sen. Jim Wright ’71, who secured $17 million in state funding for the new building, recalled his time as a freshman on campus, when academic buildings and residence halls were brand new in 1967. “That was the last time an investment was made, until we started to transform this campus under the leadership of President Stanley,” he said. Stanley ensured that investments were made with students in mind, Wright said, so that “student life would be enhanced and students would in turn carry those experiences with them, as I have.”

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Dignitaries and donors, along with faculty, staff, students and alumni, celebrated the opening of the Campus Center in the new 200-seat auditorium.

Dr. David King, dean of graduate studies, points out features of the Chu Atrium to a group of alumni, donors and friends, on a Campus Center tour. In the foreground are Joanne and Gerald Chu, children of Hsien-jen “James” and Sylvia Chu, for whom the space is named.
The opening of the Campus Center marks a new juncture for SUNY Oswego. It’s the linking of east and west, north and south. But it’s also the joining of the old and the new, the past and the future, our history and our destiny. This is where our academic, social and athletic lives come together. Where students and faculty share knowledge collaboratively. Where undergrads and alumni form common bonds.

Come along on a tour of this magnificent building and celebrate our many connections. Kris Vicencio ’07 of the Admissions Office tour team will be your guide as we explore the Campus Center.
At the Core of a Great Building

We'll start our tour at the Chu Atrium, the central entrance to the Campus Center, in what used to be called Swetman Hall. Standing in this soaring space, with its gleaming birch paneling and dramatic clerestory windows, it’s OK to be a little awestruck. But you’ll come back down to earth with the aroma of Starbucks coffee and pastries from the smoothie shop. If the Campus Center is the hub of Oswego State, the Chu Atrium is the nucleus of this unifying building. Down the stairs you see the Compass, Continuing Education and Campus Life. Cast your eyes up and you see cozy sitting areas, perfect for a quiet read or collaborating with classmates. Turn around and you can make your way along the Charles L. Wiley ’22 Alumni Concourse, west to the arena/convocation center and activity court, and east to Poucher Hall. It’s bustling at class change time, and you hear snippets of conversation as friends call greetings to one another, discuss assignments for the next class or share plans for the weekend. How good the sun feels, pouring through those huge windows, while outside, Oswego’s winter winds blow snow sideways!
$53 million: cost of Campus Center

7 flat screen TVs listing events and services
Compass Points the Way

Just off the Wiley Concourse sits The Point, home to Oswego’s Student Association and other organizations. The place buzzes with energy as students book bands and speakers, plan lectures and rallies, share their passions. Campus Life staff are on hand to help the groups, to organize college-wide happenings and to manage spaces here and in the Hewitt Union. The Oswegonian newsroom is here, and passers-by can look right into the studios of student-run radio station WNYO and TV station WTOP. Across from The Point, a new 200-seat auditorium beckons. Stop in and admire the golden-hued wood-paneled walls. Sink into a comfy seat.

You’re in luck — There’s a guest lecturer today. Grab a post-lecture snack in the activity and food court, or browse Oswego gear in the College Store’s new retail space. Stop in at the new computer lab or use the wireless spaces to check e-mail, research an assignment online or just chat with friends. A little farther down the concourse, you come full-circle to the Compass under the Chu Atrium, where students find help for every stage of their college careers — from orientation to a career search — with Peer Navigators. They can look for an internship, sign up for community service, have a resume critique — it’s “one-stop shopping” for a successful college experience.

As the sun sets in a fiery ball over Lake Ontario, just as you remember it from your undergrad days, you can watch the spectacle from the west meeting room or the Hearth Lounge. And when you leave, you’ll see the lights of the building glowing like a beacon. It’s a perfect end to a day at Oswego’s new Campus Center.

— Michele Reed

138 registered student organizations housed in The Point
528 feet of radiant-heated porcelain tile flooring in the Wiley Concourse.
Memories, fun and giving back were recurrent themes when alumni of color returned to campus Sept. 28 to 30 for Return to Oz III. A faculty/alumni mixer, a picnic at Fallbrook with a Caribbean steel band, and a grand dinner-dance, including a performance by the Praise Dance Group and Gospel Choir members past and present led by Kahan Sablo ’90, marked the first reunion of color since 2002.

“You are such an important part of the history of this campus,” President Deborah F. Stanley told the alumni at a dinner she hosted. She urged them to share their experiences with current students.

“Everything I’ve become I can in one way or another tie to Oswego,” Errol Taylor ’77, a speaker at the dinner, said. Taylor, an expert in intellectual property law, is a partner in the New York City law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP.

He encouraged his fellow alumni to become more involved. “Find a way to get back in touch with the school and give back to students.”

One way Taylor is giving back is by an innovative challenge he has announced. He will match any gifts up to $15,000 from alumni who attended the Return to Oz reunion or were eligible to attend. For more information contact the Office of University Development at give2@oswego.edu or call 315-312-3003.

Kendis Gibson ’94, co-host of the HGTV show “I Want That!”, was presented with the GOLD Award for Graduates of the Last Decade. He was chosen for the recognition in 2004, but was unable to come back to campus to receive his award at that time.

Gibson also urged his fellow alumni to get involved with the college. “It’s really important to give back [to Oswego],” he said. “I hope a lot of other people will decide to do that, too.”

— Michele Reed
Three Generations, One Alma Mater

Mike Marcellino ‘47 and Julia Danehy Marcellino ‘48 were thrilled when their daughter, Ann-Carol Marcellino Claudet ‘71, decided to come to Oswego four decades ago. When their grandson, Kevin Claudet ‘08, likewise chose their alma mater, they were overjoyed. “It’s an exciting thing to think our daughter and now our grandson could share in our experiences,” said Julia.

Ann-Carol chose Oswego at the age of 5 when she was flipping through photo albums and saw a picture of her mother and “aunt” Sylvia Norton Griffin ‘47 in their bathing suits at Shady Shore.

For his part, Kevin said he chose Oswego because he wanted to be a teacher like his mother, grandfather and grandmother before him, and Oswego was among the top schools for teaching. “I’m very traditional,” he said. “I had heard about the great times they had and wanted to make my own memories here. Plus the lake . . . I love the water.” He is majoring in childhood education with a concentrate in English and a minor in coaching.

A group of friends from the Class of 1956 had a get-together at the Saratoga Steak House in Syracuse. In attendance were, first row, Una Kieffer Zona ’56; second row from left, Louise Davis ’56, Phyllis Clark Fenner ’56, Jean Dippole Fuller ’56, Audrey Bradt Earl ’56 and Gail Hamberger Williams ’56; third row from left, Georgiana Delich Poullott ’56, Peggy Gehrig ’56, Carolyn Evans Wilson ’56, Bea Donahue Turner ’56, Gerry St. Denis ’56 and Rita Larkin Stone ’56.

Three generations of one family chose Oswego. Front row, from left, are Michael Marcellino ’47, Ann-Carol Marcellino Claudet ’71, Kevin Claudet ’08, Julia Danehy Marcellino ’48, and back row, from left, family friends Sylvia Norton Griffin ‘47 and Denham Griffin ’47.
Golden Anniversary Class

Class of 1957 alumni gathered on the steps of Shady Shore following a breakfast hosted by President Deborah F. Stanley to celebrate their 50th reunion. They are, front row from left, Fletch Bolsover, Albina Zanini Giardino, Rita Larkin Stone, Genevieve Mullen Maloney, Hilda “Midge” Cohen Yanofsky, Bill Stone and Marlene MacKenzie Wynne; second row from left, Ann Westover Johnson, Bobbie Bernstein Libman, Ellie Atlas Front, Elaine Swiller Spanier, Ritamarie Gordon Simpson and Eileen Gore McCabe; third row from left, Sandy Mabie Caldeira, Darlene Mitchell Adydan, Pat Gallager, Millie Bellon Bond, Thomas Geary, Mary Ann Glancy Stirling and Frank McCabe; fourth row from left, E. Joyce Snell Jewell, Eleanor Timerson Pittroff, Elsie Schulz Tietjen, Marilee King Maroney, Suzanne Dunbar Hershey, Jean Duncan Myers and Barbara Huckabee Handley-Place; fifth row from left, Geraldine Ferraro Simpson, Phoebe Kay Pynn Haas, Anne Scheutzow Bostley, Elsie Farrell, Bill Mayer, Shirley Robinson Tuttle and Jack Proud; sixth row from left, Dave Valentine, Dick Shanley, Charles Alsdorf, Paul Greene, Ron Burke and Myron Phillips.
Raising Hero Dogs

JUST 10 DAYS BEFORE HER GRADUATION from the Oswego State Teacher’s College, Jean Haug Turner ’63 became a mother when her daughter Janet was born. Since then, Turner has become a “mother” to 10 generations — hundreds of champion and hero German Shepherd puppies.

“They’re my best friends and my real family,” Turner said of her beloved dogs. “Shepherds are so intelligent.”

Turner first purchased a German Shepherd as a birthday gift for her husband, who found that he didn’t particularly care for the less glamorous aspects of pet care. But Turner didn’t mind them one bit and joined the Pensacola German Shepherd Club to learn more about her quick-witted canine.

Through club training sessions and matches, Turner found that she loved working with animals, and the kindergarten teacher jumped into the world of dog breeding.

The process requires a great deal of passion and patience, which Turner has certainly cultivated throughout her 30 years as a breeder. Her Shepherds are known for their pleasant temperament and heroic loyalty in roles ranging from family pets to narcotics detectors.

Capt. Dan Barker of the United States Air Force purchased one of Turner’s Shepherds that was named the 2003 Hero Dog by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America. Blue is credited with saving a young girl from drowning and for protecting another child from a pit bull attack. Zoe, another of Turner’s Shepherds, refused to allow a 2-year-old to leave the yard when a rattlesnake was hidden in the grass nearby.

“Animals have a sixth sense like that,” Turner said. “They can tell when something is wrong.”

Turner also works as a preschool teacher and said that there are many similarities between working with children and raising puppies. “When I have 2-year-olds, the vocabulary is the same,” she laughed. “Sit. Stay. Come. No bite — NO bite!”

Her time at Oswego gave Turner a firm foundation for a successful career in education. Almost immediately after graduation, she and a teacher from California created the very first kindergarten curriculum in Santa Rosa County in Florida and taught in newly integrated classrooms.

“I loved becoming who God wanted me to be, and that was a teacher,” she said.

Although Turner has traded the white snows of Oswego for the white beaches of Florida, she recalls her years on campus with fondness and appreciation. “Oh, what fun it was,” she said. “It was like a family away from home.”

— Meagan Smith ’07
Soccer Champs Reunite

MEN’S SOCCER ALUMNI AND THEIR families gathered in Oswego Sept. 21 and 22 to reminisce, support the current varsity men’s soccer team and honor former Coach Ernie Luongo and his 1966 SUNY Athletic Conference championship team.

The weekend kicked off Friday with the Oswego State men’s soccer game vs. SUNY Morrisville, which Oswego won 4-0. Having alumni and former coaches in attendance was great encouragement for the team.

"I think the coolest thing about the reunion is having Ernie here. He gave a halftime speech at the Morrisville game that was just great," said team member William Bussert ’08.

The Morrisville game was followed by an informal gathering at a restaurant in Oswego.

Saturday’s events began with an alumni game at Laker field. The men were divided into teams of evens and odds based upon their graduation years. The evens and odds tied 4-4.

"The best part of this weekend is to come back and see the old team, have the chance to play, go out and do all the same things we used to do," said Dan Kincaid ’04. Following the alumni game, there was a barbecue for alumni, families and friends. At 4 p.m. Saturday, the Oswego State men’s soccer team faced SUNYIT, and defeated them 5-0. At halftime, Coach Ernie Luongo and members of the 1966 championship team, represented by Dan Scaia ’68, Larry Smith ’67, Tony Mercep ’67 and John Bome ’68, were honored.

"I really looked forward to seeing my players from 1966," said Luongo. "It’s not only a warm and embracing reunion, but it’s just great to see how well my players from ’66 have conducted themselves in their life pursuits."

Luongo’s team members from 1966 had nothing but praise, stories and laughter to share with their former coach.

“Coach created a lot of memories for us. On many occasions we all get together and reminisce,” said Dan Scaia ’68. Tony Mercep ’67 spoke of what an inspiration Coach Luongo is, not only for those he coached, but for future players as well. “Ernie set the bar very high with his coaching ability. He motivated us and touched many people. He gave the future teams something to shoot for. He’s a good man.”

Ernie beamed with pride while surrounded by his former players. "I appreciate what the college has done for the soccer alumni reunion. It will be remembered for an eternity," he said.

— Kristin Quinn ’08

Alumni returned in September to celebrate the 1966 championship team with Coach Ernie Luongo (right) and Assistant Coach Harry Nash (left).
As I write this, one of the most spectacular fall seasons that I can recall is just winding down in Oswego. We had warm, sunny, dry weather and we enjoyed the continuation of what seems like our all-too-brief summer season!

It was an exciting time here on campus as well — full of many wonderful alumni gatherings and campus events. In September, three different alumni groups came together on campus. Our music department held their first-ever reunion of music majors and anyone who had participated in any of the vocal or instrumental ensembles over the years. The weekend culminated in a rousing Alumni Concert that brought down the house — with alumni from the Class of 1951 to Class of 2007 participating.

Later in September, we welcomed alumni of color back to campus for our third Return to Oz Reunion. Alumni took part in a faculty/alumni mixer, a way-too-fun picnic at Fallbrook with a Caribbean steel band, and a grand dinner-dance, including a performance by the current Praise Dance Group and Gospel Choir members past and present, led by Kahan Sablo ’90.

Also in September, we welcomed men’s soccer alumni back to campus and honored the 1966 SUNYAC championship team and coaches Ernie Luongo and Harry Nash.

In October we officially dedicated our new Campus Center, which includes an ice arena/convention center which opened last fall and now physically connects to the former Swetman Hall — newly remodeled to house student organizations, student services and more — and Poucher Hall, which is home to the Departments of English/Writing Arts and Modern Languages. The college also hosted the third annual Louis A. Borrelli Jr. ’77 Media Summit, which was then renamed by Al Roker ’76 and Lou Borrelli in memory of beloved former faculty member, Dr. Lewis B. “Doc” O’Donnell, who passed away in August.

Also in October, the Board of Directors of the Oswego Alumni Association met and finalized the next strategic plan of the Alumni Association. As rapidly as technology changes, it’s always exciting to be forward-thinking and to look at where we need to go to better serve alumni. Some of the highlights as we look ahead include: assessing and revamping our reunion program; revitalizing our regional events network; improving and strengthening our online alumni community and electronic communications; launching official Oswego Alumni Facebook and MySpace pages; establishing a program of events and communications for Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) alumni; expanding our career networking and mentoring opportunities for alumni and students alike, and planning for alumni involvement in the college’s sesquicentennial in 2011 — to name just a few.

What an exciting time for all of us — current students, faculty and staff and alumni alike — to be a part of our Oswego family. So, as always, we invite your involvement and engagement as we reach out to you for your input and ideas as we head down the path to better keep alumni connected with and informed about Oswego.

We invite you, too, to come home to campus and see all of the exciting new changes on campus for yourself. And while you’re here, stop in at your “alumni home” in King Alumni Hall and meet the alumni staff. We’ll offer a comfortable chair, a cup of coffee and a friendly hello.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Betsy Obersh
World Teacher

DAVID HULTS ’72 HAD HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE with international education when Oswego State offered him the opportunity to study abroad in London. Hults has since built a career in international education, teaching in Western Australia for 35 years and being awarded an Asia Education Fellowship, with the opportunity to travel to China and Indonesia for curriculum development.

“I cherish the fact that I gained a truly liberal education during my studies for my B.A. at Oswego. It gave me the educational foundation on which to develop my knowledge of the modern world beyond my major of political science,” said Hults.

Hults took a position in 2007 as deputy principal at Tunku Putra School in Kuching, Malaysia. He first came to Kuching while conducting overseas marketing for the International Student Office within Tuart College. Upon visiting Kuching, Hults says he immediately fell in love with the city.

As deputy principal at Tunku Putra, Hults administers international curriculum and works closely with the staff to improve the professional development of teachers. He is also active in combining existing teaching methods with more innovative styles and technology.

“My travels across various education systems around the world have taught me that schools and teaching are very much the same wherever you go,” said Hults. He did cite a few differences. Students and parents tend to be more respectful of teachers in Malaysia and there are fewer distractions for students.

When he’s not teaching, Hults finds time to enjoy the cultural vibrancy that Kuching has to offer.

“I am a true foodie,” Hults says, adding that for those who like spicy food and seafood, Kuching is "paradise."

Hults also enjoys the laid-back lifestyle in Kuching. “Here people work to live, not live to work. Work is only a means to an end, so people come first. You can find time to smell the roses.”

Hults’ true passion will always be teaching. “The greatest reward in teaching comes from the students who many years later acknowledge the role that you as teacher have played in their lives.”

— Kristin Quinn ’08
Two outstanding alumni were honored during Reunion 2007. Jack James ’62 received the Lifetime Award of Merit, and Douglas Ruff ’73 was recognized with the Anniversary Class Award.

James served a 29-year career in the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring with the rank of colonel. He currently teaches adult education courses at the College of Management and Business at National-Louis University. James is a founding member of the Washington, D.C., alumni committee and 2007 Reunion committee. He established the Jack C. James ’62 Scholarship in support of non-traditional students at Oswego and is active in other philanthropic endeavors.

“Giving something back to Oswego in whatever unique way works for each of us...seems only natural,” James said in his acceptance speech. “As some way of thanking Oswego for what a great institution has done for me, and you, and as an investment in the future.”

An attorney, Ruff is director of litigation for Nassau/Suffolk Law Services, Long Island’s largest poverty law program. He has developed a special expertise in the area of public benefits and rights of the homeless. Ruff founded the Legal Support Center for Advocates. He has been honored by the New York State Bar Association and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for his work with the poor and disadvantaged.

“I am very proud of the fact that I went to Oswego,” Ruff said in accepting the award. “I received an excellent liberal arts education and it provided a great foundation for law school.”

— Michele Reed
Alumni Bookshelf

This column celebrates the publishing success of Oswego alumni authors, illustrators and recording artists. Please keep us informed about new books and CDs by requesting that your publisher or distributor send a copy for the Oswego Alumni Bookshelf at King Alumni Hall.


*The Saving Light* by Thomas J. Prestopnik ’85 is Book III in the fantasy-adventure Endora Trilogy for pre-teens and older. The conclusion of the series follows Christopher and Molly Jordan as they team up to stop an evil spirit. Infinity Publishing, 2007.

*Origin* by Diana Abu-Jaber ’80 is her first novel in the mystery genre. Set in Syracuse, it follows the story of fingerprint specialist Lena Dawson, who is investigating infant deaths. Lena struggles with questions about her own orphaned childhood as she becomes deeply connected to the case. Author Andre Dubus III calls *Origin* “a superbly written and utterly compelling novel.” W.W. Norton, 2007.

FROM OUR EMERITI:


— Jessica Skeldon ’09
AFTER A CAREER AS A TEACHER AND counselor, and nearly two decades waiting for her fiction to be published, Mary Fussa Mitchell '73 has hit the big time with her novel Starting Out Sideways, published by St. Martin's Press in May 2007.

"Write what you know," they say, and in writing her novel, Mitchell, an elementary education major at Oswego, drew on her own experiences as a teacher and counselor to create Roseanna Plow, a vocational counselor who trains developmentally disabled young adults to successfully enter the world of work.

Publisher's Weekly says of the result, "New England PEN Discovery Award-winner Mitchell writes prose that hums with vibrant characters, zippy dialogue and a poignant humor."

Like her character, Mitchell showed a lot of determination and a sense of humor in the face of rejection. Despite winning awards for her prose, she wrote for 18 years before St Martin's signed her to a two-book deal.

But once she was published, she met with acceptance by readers and critics alike. The Seattle Times gave Starting Out Sideways 3 1/2 "chicks" out of four on its short list of worthy new "chick-lit" novels. It made The Charlotte Observer's "Best Books of Summer" list.

Mitchell achieved her publishing dream by writing a popular novel, but on her own terms. "I told myself I'll write a book that people want to read, but it's not going to have a beautiful blonde in a corner office with lots of glass, and really great shoes. I want its characters and its issues to be real," she told the Boston Globe in a June 7 article.

"So, almost in a passive-aggressive mood, I created Roseanna. I made her chubby, I gave her office plywood walls, and I made her job far from glamorous. And that was so much more fun for me to write about."

Mitchell returned to Oswego last summer for a reading at the River's End Bookstore. "What a thrill it was for me to read in my beloved college town!" she writes. During her book tour, she met up with several Oswego friends. Joseph Curatolo '73 and his wife, Pat, and Janice Contos '74 caught up with Mitchell at a Pittsford event for the novel, and in Kingston she met with her best friend and Oswego roommate, Michele Gambon Palmer '73, who is married to Raymond Palmer '73.
Law Career has Oswego Roots

Danielle West-Chuhta ’00 is a litigation attorney with the Kennebunk, Maine, firm of Bergen & Parkinson LLC. She focuses on municipal law, including environmental issues and land use.

Q. Did you always want to be a lawyer?
A. Ever since high school, I wanted to be a lawyer. My father always wanted to be a lawyer, and I wanted to emulate him. At Oswego I was a political science major. I really enjoyed taking a lot of classes in that field, and started to like that area of legal work, the political stuff. And I thought it could further my political aspirations.

Q. What have you done in politics?
A. When I went to law school at the University of Maine in Portland, I worked on a couple of campaigns, and also worked on Hillary Clinton’s campaign here in Maine. I have not yet done any campaigning for a position for myself.

Q. What’s a day in the life of Danielle West-Chuhta like?
A. It’s different every day. I do appear in court quite frequently. A day in court may be a small trial in front of a judge to enforce a local ordinance against a property owner, for example. On other days, I’m in the office drafting memorandums, legal opinions, briefs. Often, I’m out in the field working, developing or helping to develop records. I may be at a local town hall or city hall digging up information about parties to cases. I also do a lot of talking on the phone with other attorneys or clients, and by e-mail, trying to resolve cases, speaking to clients about cases and questions they have about the law.

Q. So are most of your clients businesses?
A. We represent a good mix: individual clients, corporations and businesses. In municipal law work, we represent large and small towns, and individuals in personal injury or other disputes with towns. We may help businesses that want to locate in a town.

Q. What do you like most about your job?
A. What I like the most is helping people: helping them try to solve their problems, thinking of creative ways to solve their problems. When somebody comes to a lawyer they are in a bad situation and want to get out of it. I really enjoy helping them, trying to get them out of that situation and make it better for them.

Q. What’s the most challenging?
A. My husband, Dan, and I just began a family. Trying to get that work/life balance has become the most challenging. Jacob was born in May 2006.

Q. Any Oswego influences on your career?
A. There are several, but three popped into my head immediately.

Robin McAleese ’93 — I worked with her as a student orientation leader. Her incredible work ethic and being focused on the details. Seventy-five percent of what I do is look at details and focus on details. I have stayed friends with her.

President [Deborah F.] Stanley — She has always been an influence. I saw she had gone to law school and that caused me to speak to her about that. She helped me get into law school, and she always checks in with me about how my career is going.

And Political Science Professor Lorrie Clemo — whom I respected a good deal as a woman in the field of political science and how she was always ready for whatever she would be teaching us. [I was impressed with] how she moved ahead in her career in a field dominated by men, and that has helped me in my career, in a field dominated by men.

Q. Favorite Oswego memories?
A. I met my husband there. We met at Waterbury Hall. We both lived there and he proposed to me outside of Waterbury Hall. Definitely a special memory for me.

I keep in touch with a lot of friends from my Oswego years, and they are still some of my best friends. It was a special time. Those years went by too fast.

Q. What about the future?
A. I’ve been thinking about that lately, trying to figure out what the next step is. I hope to continue my career and expand. Now I am working for other people; I would like to begin having some of my own clients and expand on those political aspirations. I’d like to come into my own and get onto a local board or council in Maine. I would love if our family expanded.

Q. Do you ever get back to Oswego?
A. My husband and I try to go back to Oswego every couple of years. We have fond memories. We see Oswego as a shining spot in our lives. We really loved the school and everything we experienced there. We’re so proud to be alumni — We make sure our son wears his Oswego shirts proudly. We bring him back to campus and hope he’ll go to Oswego someday.

— Michele Reed
IT MAY SEEM LIKE A STRANGE TRANSITION for an accounting major to go on to work at Cartoon Network, but for Paul Condolora ’82, his roots in business prepared him for a successful career in media.

“I knew that being a certified public accountant was not a career for me, but a great foundation for a business career,” he said. “My thought was...getting exposure to various industries and find the one I like the most.”

Fortunately for him, Condolora found an occupation he truly enjoys in the entertainment business. As senior vice president and general manager of Cartoon Network New Media, he oversees the development of products and services for Internet, mobile, Video on Demand and Interactive TV for both Cartoon Network and its late-night partner, Adult Swim.

Condolora’s department is currently developing a multi-player video game and a cell phone application called CaliToons that allows users to transform their phones into their favorite cartoon characters. Both are due out in 2008.

While Condolora attended Oswego State, he lived in Seneca and Moreland halls, worked at the dining hall and was involved in wrestling. He also took dance classes his senior year, which had a positive effect by giving him a creative outlet.

“Believe me, I am not a dancer,” Condolora said. “But this experience was the beginning of participating in the creative process, and finding where your abilities can make a contribution.”

After graduating from UCLA with a master’s degree in entertainment management, Condolora worked for Sony Pictures in Hollywood before moving to Atlanta to join Turner Broadcasting, home of Cartoon Network.

Condolora attributes the passion he has for his job to Professor William Lundy of the accounting department at Oswego State. He said Professor Lundy showed an interest in Condolora’s capabilities and brought enthusiasm to the classroom every day, a quality that he has emulated in his own career.

“Colleagues all the time tell me I’m passionate about my business,” Condolora said. “When they do, I smile and think of Professor Lundy.”

— Jessica Skeldon ’09
Silver Anniversary Class

Members of the Class of 1982 celebrated their 25th reunion with a special reception at Shady Shore. Shown on the steps of Founder Edward Austin Sheldon’s family home are, front row from left, Eileen Hennessy Pratt, President Deborah F. Stanley, Ann Calbi-Alley, Beth Merola Bernardone, Eileen Hartmann and Maureen Harrington Nappi; second row from left: Timothy Suppes, Debbie Ilowite Hermane, Patti Lee Morell, Cathy Pasquarella Lunde, Nancy Soellner Stuart, Beverlie Heyman Marks, Sue Tighe Cushman, Gina Giacobbe Lumia, James Bernardone and Valerie Gotham Dorfer; third row from left: Holly Hartloff Jessen, Liz Kudan, Connie Linsler Valentine, Patty Sweeney Dahl, George Edwards, Babette Schaefer Komnick, Nancy Fitzgerald Ermini and Lisa Giacobbe Charles; fourth row from left: Leslie Arduser-Brogan, Joyce Richburg Kays, Kristie Hearle Simco, Christie Toner Fernandez, Cheryl Groce-Wright, David Martin, Mark Lester and Eileen Michalak Edwards; fifth row from left: Dan Witmer, Karen Carlson-Shares, Christopher Keenan, Chris Estus and Kathleen Fix; sixth row from left: Steve Doran, Cameron Cox, Greg Nagle, Laurie Wainwright McEvoy, Eileen Green White and Jackie Wilbur; seventh row from left: Peter Cohn, Edward Zecchini, Greg Adams, Agustin Echeandia and Peter McCarthy.
Love Blooms at Reunion

BETSY GRISWOLD SWEETING ’54 AND EDWIN PETERSON ’54 are an Oswego Reunion love story.

Betsy was widowed after a long happy marriage to Charles Sweeting ’56, and Ed had recently lost his beloved wife, Kathleen Manley Peterson ’54.

Betsy and Ed were on the deck of Johnson Hall during Reunion 2004, enjoying the sunset with Betsy’s college roommate Abby Weller Herring ’54, when staff photographer Jim Russell ’83 snapped their picture. When the photo appeared in Oswego alumni magazine the next summer, Betsy’s daughter Pamela Sweeting Kuczawa ’91 and Ed’s sister Sharon Peterson Siraguse ’63 both clipped and passed it on. Ed and Betsy began e-mailing, then calling, then dating. The rest, as they say, is history.

Betsy shared the story of their Reunion romance in the following verse:

Reunions are fun!  
Reunions are great!  
You’d better attend one  
Before it’s too late.

The reason we say this  
Is perfectly clear.  
We have an announcement  
We’d like you to hear:

Betsy Griswold Sweeting ’54 and Edwin Peterson ’54 met at their 50th Reunion in 2004 and were married Nov. 24, 2007, in Oswego.

Betsy and Ed have a bit of advice for their fellow alumni: “Come back to Reunion — You never know what might happen!”
FORMER OSWEGO LAKER LACROSSE captain and college coach Frank Aloi ’87 has built a winning team in the financial services industry.

Aloi, who once coached Merrimack College to three Eastern College Athletic Conference titles and was thrice named New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Coach of the Year, is the founder and CEO of ath Power Consulting (pronounced “eighth”). In its 11 years in business, ath Power has made the Inc. list of 500 fastest growing companies three times and has twice been named one of the “Best Places to Work” in Massachusetts by Boston Business Journal.

The customer experience research firm has offices in Boston, Maryland and Chicago, and is looking to expand to the West Coast.

Aloi, an applied mathematical economics major at Oswego, worked in banking before starting ath Power out of his former apartment off of Harvard Square. The company has moved twice and its 35 employees are outgrowing the current office space.

With a variety of services including mystery shopping and staff training, ath Power caters to the needs of financial services clients. “We measure the difference between what an institution’s brand promise is and how it’s being carried out on a daily basis,” he says.

Aloi draws many parallels between the roles of coach and entrepreneur.

“Really, the dynamic between coaching and trying to build a company is scarcely similar,” he says. “They’re both about developing a team that can work under any parameters. You instill confidence in your players, so that when they hit the field they are confident in their general ability. They have to adapt quickly.”

To accomplish this, he uses teambuilding techniques from his lacrosse days, renting ice cream trucks, going bowling or building boats to race.

“When the teammates get along, you can do some pretty incredible things,” he says.

One of his ath Power team members is a fellow Oswego grad, Eileen Johnson Sciarra ’83, who started as a part-time account coordinator, and is now director of client development. A marketing major at Oswego, Sciarra calls Professor James Molinari ’75 a big influence on her career.

For Aloi, the Oswego connection is a strong one. He first came to Boston with Oswego friends Tom Loomis ’87 and Matt Pepe ’87, and coached at Boston University with Chris Fagan ’88. He made many friends at Oswego on the lacrosse team and through his work as assistant finance director of Student Association and bartending downtown, and he keeps in touch with many.

“My best friends today are from Oswego,” Aloi says.

— Michele Reed
ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Auburn-Cayuga chapter in January 2007, Eliezer Hernandez ’96 spreads his passion for diversity throughout both his community and his high school classroom.

As one of only five African, Latino, Asian and Native American (ALANA) teachers in the Auburn Enlarged City School District, Hernandez was keenly aware of the need to cultivate diversity appreciation among his students. When a fellow faculty member suggested that Hernandez and his wife join the local NAACP chapter, the couple became active members, and two years later, Hernandez was asked to head the organization.

During his years on campus, Hernandez was active with Campus Life, the Leadership Education Activities and Development (LEAD) Center, Residence Life and Housing, the Latino Student Union (LSU) and the Latino Greek Council — and left his mark wherever he went.

In his position as the Riggs Hall director, Hernandez organized an Earth Day celebration complete with Jell-O wrestling and T-shirt giveaways. The LSU annual dinner attendance more than doubled during his two years as the club’s president and Hernandez helped to bring more Latino groups to the Oswego campus.

"It’s difficult for anyone to tell me, ‘It can’t be done,’” said Hernandez.

And that includes bringing 24 high school students to visit his family in Puerto Rico, a trip that Hernandez said was the “most amazing experience” of his life. He has also organized trips to Spain and the Dominican Republic for the high school Spanish club and treats its members like "a little LSU." Hernandez also spearheaded cultural education training for fellow teachers.

With goals to nearly double the NAACP chapter membership and build scholarship support for ALANA high school students, Hernandez is excited for the challenges — and successes — that lie ahead. "I left Oswego feeling confident in who I was and what I would be doing," he said. "This is what I am going to dedicate my life to.”

— Meagan Smith ’07
A Grrrrreat Career

A CHILDHOOD LOVE FOR TIGERS LED Emily McCormack ’99 to her dream career: rescuing and taking care of exotic cats at the Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in Eureka Springs, Ark.

Turpentine Creek rescues tigers, lions, black bears, cougars and other animals acquired from the exotic pet trade who have been neglected and abused. The refuge gives these animals a place to live and invites the public to learn about them.

McCormack manages the interns at the refuge, sending out fliers twice a year to advertise the program she once took part in. The interns she helps go on to work at zoos across the country.

“That’s definitely been a fulfilling part of my job,” McCormack said about seeing her interns succeed.

As staff zoologist/volunteer coordinator, she also works closely with the veterinarians and helps plan the construction of new “natural habitat” enclosures for the animals. The Refuge currently has 23 enclosures occupied by 70 cats.

“What really keeps me at this facility is their mission and goals,” McCormack said. “Not only rescuing the cats, but constant construction of new exhibits.”

As a zoology major at Oswego State, McCormack studied snow leopards with Dr. Diane Chepko-Sade and gained first-hand experience with captive wild cats at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. A student in her zoo seminar brought the internship at Turpentine Creek to her attention. The fact that they had over 100 cats, half of them tigers, really appealed to her.

“It was a dream come true when I got the call after my interview,” McCormack said.

McCormack’s goals aren’t just to help the tigers and other animals, but also to change the laws regarding keeping exotic pets. She realizes it isn’t as simple as outlawing them altogether.

“If they just made it illegal, there’d be nowhere for the animals to go,” she said.

McCormack credits Oswego State with preparing her and giving her the knowledge needed to succeed, as well as giving her the opportunity to fulfill her dream of helping to better the lives of animals.

— Jessica Skeldon ’09
Reaching New Heights

Jeremy Dunn ’02 grew up playing in the woods and going on camping trips, but it wasn’t until he climbed Mt. Marcy in the Adirondacks with some friends while attending Oswego State that he fell in love with hiking.

Since then, Dunn and fellow Oswego grad Matt Saucier ’00 have been inducted into the Adirondack 46ers, for climbers who have reached the summit of all 46 major Adirondack peaks.

“Being inducted into the 46ers was one of the best accomplishments of my life. It was just as exciting as graduating college. The work that went in, the sense of accomplishment and community…it was a life-changing event,” said Dunn.

Dunn said having summers off from his job as a technology teacher at Maine-Endwell Middle School made the accomplishment a possibility. Dunn and Saucier, accompanied by Saucier’s dog Shipwreck, a 100-pound Labrador-Great Dane mixed breed, would basically live in a tent all summer.

Along with fellow teacher Andrew Krise, Dunn formed a hiking club with Maine-Endwell students last spring. The club began with three local hikes and a high ropes course, before hiking Slide Mountain, the tallest peak in the Catskills. Dunn said all 25 students who participated succeeded in reaching the top.

“I think it builds confidence, it builds self esteem and the sense of accomplishment of setting out and doing something difficult is very rewarding,” Dunn said of how students can benefit from hiking.

This year the hiking club hopes to hike in the Adirondacks and Dunn said that there are even more students wanting to join.

Dunn is also pursuing his Winter 46, for all climbers who make it to the 46 Adirondack peaks between Dec. 21 and March 21, as well as the Catskill 3500s for hiking all 35 peaks in the Catskills. In Summer 2007, Dunn and his girlfriend, Sarah Walker, traveled to the West Coast to hike.

“I think a lot of people lose being in touch with nature,” said Dunn. “Technology is wonderful but it’s also great to have an appreciation for the natural.”

— Kristin Quinn ’08
New members of the Oswego Alumni Association board of directors are, from left, Thomas Ryan ’74, Timothy Barnhart ’02, Lisa Court ’83 and Michael Byrne ’79. Ryan, a retired SUNY Oswego police chief, is now assistant professor of criminal justice and coordinator of advisement for economic crime, cybercrime and forensics online program at Utica College of Syracuse University and senior partner with CRJ Associates criminal justice consulting firm. Barnhart is field director with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network of Northwestern Mutual Life. Court is director of development for Harpur College at Binghamton University. Byrne is vice president of Guardian Life Insurance Co. in New York City.
Nicholas Bargovic ’04 and Jennifer Wachunas ’05 were married May 19. The Bargovics honeymooned in Europe, visiting the Czech Republic, Austria and Italy. Also pictured are Kathleen McGurn ’06 (maid of honor); Rebecca Parker ’02 (maid of honor); the bride; Shannon Fake (bridesmaid); Lindsay Corbett ’05 (bridesmaid) and Regina Peterson (bridesmaid).

Amy Nicole Fires ’01 and Brian Scott Bonanno were married May 11 in Loudonville at the Newtonville United Methodist Church. A reception was held at The Century House in Latham. The bride’s attendants included matron of honor Nicole Branch; maid of honor Kori Tolbert; and bridesmaids Lynne Ottalagana, Leigh Caruana ’01 and Kimberly Bonanno. Attending the groom were best man Anthony Zippo and groomsmen Richard Bonanno, John Hartigan, John Pielli and Pete Maggio. The couple honeymooned in Mexico and now lives in Loudonville. Amy is a public information officer for the Office of Homeland Security and Brian is a state police trooper. Both serve in the New York Army National Guard and are preparing for deployment to Afghanistan in 2008.

Julie Dougall ’04 and Benjamin Slate were married Sept. 2, 2006, in Philadelphia, N.Y. A reception was held in Fort Drum. Many Oswego alumni were in attendance, including Julie’s entire immediate family. Pictured are, first row from left: Alison Dougall Albright ’02 (sister of the bride), and Sarah Phillips ’05; second row, from left: Victoria Vanderwerf ’04, the bride and Whitney Middlemiss ’04; third row, from left: Peter Dougall ’74 (father of the bride), Brooke Gavin ’04, Joan Crumb Dougall ’74 (mother of the bride), Krista Cole Jimenez ’03, Alexisa Collins ’04, Patricia Hoffman ’74, Lin Panarities Sweeting ’75, Linda McNeil Finley ’74, Dionne Hendrickson Hamilton ’00, Jason Hamilton ’04 and Stephanie Kennedy Whitaker ’03. Julie currently works for Bryant and Stratton College as a high school admissions coordinator and is working toward her MBA through Medaille College. The couple resides in Brockport.

Matthew Bartlet ’98 and Rachel Stewart ’00 were married Dec. 29, 2005, in Runaway Bay, Jamaica. Oswego Alumni in attendance were from left to right, Jason Wertheimer ’99, Keith Roach ’99, Chris Watson ’98, Michelle Cogitore, the bridegroom, the bride, Mckenzie Simmons ’01, Ian Kelly ’98, Emily List Gunn and Peter Gunn ’99.
Scott Georger ’01 and Sonja Andrews ’01 were married July 9, 2005, at Wagner’s Winery in Lodi. Guests included, from left: Kathy Day ’01, Seth Thibault ’04, Nick Drogo ’02, Chris Snyder ’89, Katie Kuebler ’04, Michelle Kuraszewicz ’00, Sarah Hansen ’03, Chris and Andrea Pauling, Randy Wharton ’99, Beth Wharton ’00, Matt Bellaire ’02, Richard Keppler ’02, Brian Christman ’00, Bobby Williams ’98 and Amy Mawn ’02. Also present but not pictured were Brian Perkins and David Jennings ’01. All men pictured were members of Sigma Tau Chi fraternity.

Brian Potter ’06 and Christine Paliotta M ’05 were married July 7 at the LeMoyne College Chapel. A reception was held at Borio’s. Oswego alumni in attendance included Ann Losurdo ’73, Don Unger ’71, Jeanne Choman Unger ’77, Bob Clark ’78, Henaris Burke ’88, David Sherman ’04, Julie Stanka ’08 and Ryan Schaffer ’05, who provided the music. Oswego State employees Lisa Potter (mother of the groom), Kathy Clark and Shelley Love were also in attendance. Brian is a staff accountant for Dannible & McKee, LLP in Syracuse and Christine is a substitute teacher. The couple resides in Liverpool.

Ellen Paul ’94 (Phi Sigma Sigma) and Patrick Mallon were married July 9, 2006, at Blessed Sacrament Church in New Rochelle. Oswego friends in attendance were: back row, left to right, Brian Schroeder ’94, Bill Paul ’96 (Delta Kappa Kappa), Jon Gregurich ’94 (Alpha Phi Omega), front row, left to right, Katie Flanigan ’95 (Alpha Phi Omega), Colin Carmody, Victoria Ottaviani Carmody ’94 (Alpha Phi Omega), Ellen and Patrick, Michelle Hines Baldwin ’94 (Phi Sigma Sigma), and Christine Amodeo ’95 (Phi Sigma Sigma). A reception was held at Beckwith Pointe in New Rochelle. Ellen is a special education teacher in Somers and Patrick is employed with Cablevision.

William LaVelle ’96 and Kristen Kurilovitch ’96, M ’98 were married June 30 in the Thousand Islands. Alumni in attendance included front row, from left: Kristin Gublo ’96, M ’98, the bride and bridegroom, Edward Gublo ’95, M ’97; back row, from left: Christopher Kapusta ’96, Todd Pagano ’96, Joe Samuels ’08, Steven Kurilovitch ’04, Kelly Crisafulli Cole ’97, M ’02, Brian Cole ’06 and Tanya Rutter ’97, M ’99. William is a chemist at Bristol-Meyers Squibb in Syracuse and Kristen teaches earth science for the North Syracuse Central School District. The couple resides in Liverpool.

Mayme LaFortuna Paeno ’30 of Oswego died July 3. She was a case-worker for more than 35 years for the City of Oswego Welfare Department, retiring in 1972.


Thelma McDorman Scott ’37 of Sodus died May 13, 2006.

Evelyn Stout Fues ’38 of Dade City died Nov. 28, 2006.

Reta Merriam ’38 of Fulton died Dec. 10, 2005. Prior to her retirement in 1972, Reta taught at State Street Elementary School in Fulton for 27 years. She also taught in several rural school districts in the area.

Grace Cottle Weal ’38 of Carthage died Nov. 30, 2006.

Herbert Siegel ’40 of Jamesville passed away July 16. Herb served with the U.S. Army in the Pacific during World War II. He was an industrial arts teacher and school administrator for the New York City Board of Education, eventually becoming director of industrial arts for the City of New York. Herb served for many years on the Oswego Alumni Association board of directors. Very philanthropic to Oswego, he established the Herbert ’40 and Hazel Murray Siegel ’37 Scholarship with his wife, Hazel, who survives him.

Robert Valentine ’41 of Phoenix, Ariz., passed away March 15. Following graduation from Oswego, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet. Bob served in World War II, commanding bombers in the Northwestern Atlantic and the Central Pacific. He achieved the rank of captain and was recognized with the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. Following military service, Bob flew as an airline pilot for 34 years. Surviving are his wife, Jimmie; three children including JoAnne Powell ’68; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Irene O’Conner Bannon ’43 of Auburn passed away June 24.


Herbert Cavanagh ’46 of Fort Myers, Fla., died Feb. 18, 2005.


Denver Miles ’50 of Sandy Creek passed away May 8. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Denver earned a master’s degree from Syracuse University. He taught for 32 years in Sandy Creek. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Hopkin ’53; four children, including Randy ’79; and 10 grandchildren.

John Walley ’50 of Rochester passed away Nov. 20, 2006.


Amelia Carpenter ’54 of Liverpool died March 12, 2006.

Carolyn Long ’54 of Fulton passed away May 27. She taught at Phillips Street School and later at G. Ray Bodley High School in Fulton for 36 years. Carolyn co-authored a book on teaching reading. She was co-owner of East Bridge Antiques in Oswego for 20 years. Carolyn is survived by a brother, Robert.


Frederick Plau mann ’59 of Vestal died April 26.

Lawrence Chaikin ’63 of Staten Island and Lake Worth, Fla., passed away Aug. 21. He earned his master’s degree from New York University. Lawrence taught industrial arts for more than 28 years at Barnes Intermediate School in Great Kills, retiring in 1996. He was also an adjunct professor at City College of New York, teaching vocational education. For over 30 summers he was the head of the arts and crafts program at Camp Teyva in Brookline, N.H. He is survived by his wife, Roberta; two sons and two granddaughters.

Russell Druce ’63 of Camillus passed away April 11.

Richard Hart ’64 of Malone passed away May 11. He earned a master’s degree at SUNY Plattsburgh. He was a teacher and administrator in the Malone Central School District from 1964 until his retirement. Richard was ordained as a deacon on Oct. 4, 1980. He served in parishes in Malone and at the Clinton and Upstate Correctional Facilities, retiring from prison ministry in 2006. Surviving are his wife, Linda; and four daughters.

Gerard Friel ’66 of Durham, N.H., passed away Aug. 20. He was a longtime basketball coach, beginning his career at G. Ray Bodley High School in Fulton. He served as an assistant coach under former Boston Celtic great Bob Cousy at Boston College. Gerry then took over as head coach at the University of New Hampshire, a position he held until 1989 when he became director of university athletic relations. He later became director of athletic fundraising and served as associate vice president of the UNH Foundation. Gerry is survived by his wife, Joan; and five children.

Cecelia Heaslip ’67 of Carlsbad, Calif., passed away Aug. 12 following a devastating accident. She taught in Prince George’s County, Md., for 30 years. She also consulted to the University of Maryland leading stress management courses for educators. Cell was proud of the fact that she overcame a disadvantaged childhood to obtain her Oswego education, so she established a scholarship at Oswego State to help current and future students receive a quality education. Donations may be made in her memory to the Cecelia Heaslip Scholarship and mailed to the Oswego College Foundation, 219 Sheldon Hall, Oswego, NY 13126.


Michael McKiernan ’69 of The Villages, Fla., died June 23. He taught math and science for 30 years at Tom’s River Intermediate School West/North before becoming assistant principal for an additional seven years. Mick is survived by his wife, Geraldine Giambon ’69; two children; and two granddaughters.

Marjorie Henderson Melfi ’70 of Oswego passed away June 5. She is survived by her husband, James; a daughter and two sons.

Marcia Capetto ’71 of Washington Crossing, Pa., died Aug. 11, 2005.

Marjorie Carlson ’71 of Colorado Springs, Colo., died March 31.

Stephen Gray ’71 of Redondo Beach, Calif., died Nov. 13, 2005.

Donna Nichols Ruva ’71 of Palm Harbor died April 6. She was a human services counselor with the Florida Department of Children and Family. Donna earned a master’s degree in recreation therapy at SUNY Cortland. She is survived by her husband, Joseph; a son and a daughter.

Philip Pakin ’75 of Katonah passed away April 14, 2005.

Gregg Wheeler ’76 of Laguna Beach died June 17, 2006.

Daniel Collins ’77 of Cocoa Beach died May 13.


Tracey Talbot Kennedy ’87 of Chittenango died June 25. She is survived by a son.

Elizabeth Burns Sheehan ’87 of Massapequa died May 19, 2006.

David Gugel ’90 of Clearwater died Nov. 18, 2006.

Anthony Stell ’91 of Clyde passed away Feb. 27, 2007.

Michael Grace ’95 of Syracuse died April 21, 2004.

Thomas Campany ’96 of Lowville passed away Dec. 16, 2006.


Catherine Trappaso ’98 of Fulton died June 19. She was a piano teacher for many years. Surviving are her husband, Benny; five children, including Carrie Halladay ’97; and 22 grandchildren.

Richard Doyle ’02 of Wolcott passed away June 17.

Stacy Phillips ’05 of Watertown passed away June 2.

Charles Linn, Associate Professor Emeritus of Education, died Sept. 9. He was a graduate of Colgate University. Chuck served with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Prior to coming to Oswego, he taught middle school and high school in Connecticut. He taught at Oswego for 27 years, retiring in 1992. Surviving are his wife, Nancy; a son; four daughters; and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell, Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies, of Ft. Myers, Fla., and Georgia, died Aug. 28. “Doc” O’Donnell was founding chair of the SUNY Oswego communication studies department and a 26-year employee of the college, retiring in 1989. He received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. SUNY Oswego honored him in October by naming the national media summit in his memory. He was also well known and loved throughout upstate New York as the character Mr. Trolley on the Syracuse children’s program “The Magic Toyshop.” Doc received his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate from Syracuse University. He served in Korea with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Prior to joining Oswego State, he spent several years in radio and television broadcasting, including stations in Buffalo and Syracuse. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth ’68, three children and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to: The Oswego College Foundation, Inc., 219 Sheldon Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126, to endow the Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit.

Paul Shaver, Associate Professor Emeritus of Earth Sciences, passed away Aug. 2. He attended Syracuse University, earning his bachelor’s degree in 1942, his master’s degree in 1947, and his Ph.D. in 1969. Paul taught at Oswego until his retirement in 1983. Surviving are his wife, Kathry n; two sons, Michael ’73 and Thomas; and six grandchildren including Daniel ’01.

In Memoriam Policy

Printing notices of alumni deaths is an important service of Oswego Alumni magazine. In order to insure the accuracy of our reports, we require verification before we can publish a death notice—an obituary or a letter signed by a family member. Because the magazine is published only three times a year and we are working on an issue months in advance, there may be a delay of several months between the time we receive notification and the news is printed in the magazine. Thank you for your patience!
How My Private, Personal Journal Became This Tribute to the Union

Julia Rozines DeVillers ’89

I’m sitting here in Oswego’s Campus Center.

OK, that was strange for me to write. First of all, just that I’m in Oswego since I haven’t been back in a decade. Second, that there’s a new “Campus Center.”

I’m back on campus to speak about my experiences as an author of books for children and teens. One of the books I wrote is called How My Private, Personal Journal Became a Bestseller. It was adapted into a Disney Channel TV movie called “Read it and Weep” last year.

To prepare for my speech, I decided to dig up some old memories for anecdotes. And in storage, I found one of my own real life “Private, Personal Journals”—a small, brown notebook that I’d used as a diary when I was at Oswego.

Nope, I’m not going to reveal anything too private and personal. The notebook documents that I had fun at college. Suffice it to say I bartended at Broadwells and lived in an apartment over Bucklands. So if you went to Oswego before those fine institutions were replaced with McDonalds and a drugstore, you can draw your own conclusions.

But throughout my journal, there also was one place ON campus that was a central theme: the Union. The Hewitt Union, of course, was our Campus Center.

From 1985—

First day…it’s so weird. I can’t believe I’m going to live here for four years surrounded by thousands of strangers. More later—I’m going to the Union.

Why was I going to the Union on my first day? No clue. But I certainly spent a lot of time there the next four years.

Random excerpts:

Am sitting in the Union waiting for class. Well, I’m actually waiting for [insert my current crush’s name] to show up. Then I can go to class.

We got an ATM machine in the Union! We don’t have to walk to the bank anymore!

Pledging ended! I officially sat at the AEPhi table as a sister today!!!

Need to get home to Albany. Going to the Union to check the ride board.

They made a pizza place in the Union. Timepieces. I’m going to start working there Monday. Free pizza!!!

Yes, I used a lot of exclamation points. Hey, free pizza was exciting. Going to the bookstore downstairs, a catered event upstairs, to a movie. Having lunch at one of “the tables” or having a meeting in one of the rooms upstairs. Just hanging out, seeing and being seen. The Union was the place.

And now I’m sitting here, writing in my MacBook instead of that little brown journal.

I’m surrounded by current Oswego students — who in their oversized hooded sweatshirts don’t look that different from the way we did when I went here (our ‘80s hair was a lot bigger, though).

These students will be able to look back at memories of hanging out in their new “student union” — the Campus Center.

It really is a beautiful building. I’m a little jealous. It would have been nice to have had the smoothie shop, the coffee bar and the food courts. It would have been nice to watch the hockey team play in this amazing new (not freezing!! with real seats!!) arena. To watch the flat-screen HDTVs hanging all over the walls. I was a Comm major and would have loved the uber high-tech Al Roker ‘76 TV Studio. And it definitely would have been nice to have the glassed-in heated walkway on those freezing days.

But when Michele, the editor of this magazine, asked me to write an article for the issue featuring the new Campus Center, I couldn’t help think of another building.

When I walk out of this Campus Center, I’ll see a view that makes it easy to forget that two decades have gone by. I’ll still see a virtually unchanged landscape. Funnelle and Hart. New Campus and Lakeside. Of course, the lake itself.

And in the center of it all, the Union is still there. And though it may no longer be the center of campus life to future Oswego students, I thought it deserved a tribute from one from its past.

From 1989—

I’m freaking out. Only one more final left. Time is going too fast. This is real life coming up, but I can hardly imagine life outside Oswego. Have to go with Carol to the Union to pick up some graduation papers. I’ll be back—

Julia Rozines DeVillers ’89 is married to David DeVillers ’89, whom she remembers scoping out at the DKK table in the Union. They live in Columbus, Ohio, with their two children.

Her upcoming books include:

Trading Faces, co-authored with her twin sister Jennifer, who also attended Oswego, and

Princess of Gossip, co-authored with Sabrina Bryan of “Dancing with the Stars” and “The Cheetah Girls” (Simon&Schuster/MTV books).

Say hi at www.myspace.com/girlwise.