The Wild Career of Jarod Miller ’00

PLUS

- An Ocean of Possibilities
- Big Brother, Big Heart
- Time for Kids to Read
Don’t miss the hottest event of the year!

Reunion 2009
June 5–7

Reunion 2008 was so “Hot, Hot, Hot,” it drew a record 1,100 attendees. Next year’s Reunion promises to be just as much fun. Come back for good friends, great memories and a spectacular sunset!

Everyone is welcome, but special events are planned for Reunion classes of:

- 1929
- 1934
- 1939
- 1944
- 1949
- 1954
- 1959 – 50th Reunion
- 1964
- 1969
- 1984 – 25th Reunion
- 1999 – 10th Reunion
- Newman Center 75th Anniversary
- Alpha Sigma Chi
- Beta Tau Epsilon
- Delta Chi/TKE
- Delta Kappa Kappa
- Phi Lambda Phi
- Theta Chi Rho
- Zeta Chi Zeta

To plan a mini-reunion for your group or organization, please let us know by Jan. 1, 2009.

Join the fun as a Reunion Class Volunteer! It’s a great opportunity to
- Network with classmates
- Plan the weekend’s activities
- Have fun!

Please contact the Alumni Office by Oct. 15, 2008, to volunteer.

Phone: 315-312-2258
E-mail: reunion@oswego.edu

For the most up-to-date information on Reunion 2009:
Check out the Web site at www.oswego.edu/alumni/reunion

All events require advance reservations.
Watch for registration materials in the mail this spring!
Jarod Miller’s Wild Ride 18
He’s handled a deadly black mamba, gotten shocked by an electric eel and fed a 2,000-pound crocosaurus. Now Jarod Miller ’00 introduces us to a new side of man’s best friend in the CBS reality TV show, “Greatest American Dog.”

Time for Kids to Read 22
Animals, the arts, politics — Claudia Atticot ’99 covers all these topics for young readers in Time for Kids — and helps make reading fun.

An Ocean of Possibilities 24
Biologist Dr. Frank Fish ’75 found “fin-spiration” in a whale’s flipper to create a more energy-efficient design for earth-friendly wind turbines.

Big Brother, Big Heart 27
Kevin Phelps ’01 and Zachary Dahlem are better than friends. They’re brothers through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. Though Phelps earned New York’s “Big Brother of the Year,” he says meeting Dahlem has been his greatest reward.

ON THE COVER: Jarod Miller ’00 and “Doc,” a 24-year-old male California sea lion, at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, Calif.
President’s Desk

When Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego concluded on June 30, 2008, it was beyond expectations. We exceeded our campaign goal and raised $23,857,114, making the college’s first comprehensive campaign an overwhelming success. I am honored to congratulate the Oswego community on this tremendous accomplishment. This is truly one of our proudest moments.

The campaign brought unprecedented support and new opportunities for current and future generations of students, faculty and scholars. It is particularly impressive to know that more than 22,000 alumni, parents and friends made gifts to the campaign over the past six years. This speaks volumes to the loyalty and generosity of our alumni and friends and serves as a categorical endorsement of our educational mission.

The campaign’s impact is significant. Through the generosity of our donors, we have strategically advanced our academic goals, expanded undergraduate and graduate student support, and enhanced our competitiveness in research and education. As a result of the campaign, we have strengthened the foundations of Oswego and we have positioned SUNY Oswego to better serve the needs of a new generation of students.

The compelling vision of a more powerful future for SUNY Oswego has united alumni, faculty, staff, students and the community at the start of the campaign and created a culture of giving and a new optimism on campus that ensures our continued drive for unparalleled excellence for generations to come. On behalf of the entire college community, I offer you our sincere appreciation for your support. We are extremely grateful to the thousands of donors whose contributions, both large and small, made Inspiring Horizons a resounding success!

Deborah F. Stanley
President

FROM THE
Editor's Pen

I call this one: “Close Encounters of the Interspecies Kind.” When Jarod Miller ’00 visited Sheldon Hall to be interviewed for this issue, he was on his way back from an animal demonstration at a local elementary school. I admit I’m like a kid when Jarod visits. My first question: Did you bring an animal? He had, a tiny swift fox pup, only 6 weeks old. The little ball of reddish tan fluff was barely bigger than my palm. Associate Alumni Director Michelle Tackett-Spinner ’98 brought her 2-year-old son, Mikey, and the fun really began. There was much excited squealing on the part of both species (including me!). The fox Takota, running laps around my office, would wipe out every time he hit the smooth surface of my chair mat. Whenever he approached, Mikey would pet him gently. Watching them, I was reminded of the incredible importance of educating people — especially our youngest — about the animals who share this planet with us. It also put me in mind of a story Jarod tells of an encounter he had with a deer at age 4 — a meeting that would set in motion his life’s path. Our other feature subjects also contribute to interspecies understanding. Like Jarod, Claudia Atticott ’99 shares the love of animals with children, through some of her stories in Time for Kids. And Dr. Frank Fish ’75 takes understanding animals to new heights, using the fin structure of whales to perfect new energy resources for humans. Hurray for them. And hurray for Mikey and Takota. Here’s to continuing positive encounters among the species!

Michele A. Reed
Oswego editor
Thanks to everyone who helped — especially our more than 22,000 generous donors — *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego* has surpassed its goal. As of June 30, the official end of the campaign, we had raised $23,857,114 to support scholarships, important campus programs, faculty research and capital projects, including our magnificent new Campus Center.

Your gifts have helped to change the face of campus in so many ways. They will insure that a quality Oswego education will be available to future students for generations to come.

You have created a new culture of philanthropy on our campus by your participation in this historic first campaign for Oswego. For this — and for all you do to support your alma mater — we offer our sincerest appreciation.

Thank you!

Learn more about our success!
Visit [www.oswego.edu/giving/campaign](http://www.oswego.edu/giving/campaign) for campaign reports and to see the impact of philanthropy.
Dr. Ram Das Chaudhari, professor emeritus of physics, has a big résumé and an even bigger heart. Before his 32 years on the SUNY Oswego faculty, Chaudhari grew up in India, where he developed a strong social awareness. After reading the biography of Mohandas Gandhi in grade 9, Chaudhari began his own journey to help others.

After graduating from Agra College, he served as lecturer in physics at Motilal Nehru Science Mahavidyalaya in Bhopal. He discovered he could learn more about his passion for mathematics through the physical sciences, so he traveled to the United States to further pursue his love of knowledge.

Chaudhari obtained his Ph.D. in physics at the University of British Columbia and completed his post-doctoral research at the Royal Military College of Canada. Although he could have taken a job working in the industry for twice the pay, Chaudhari decided to go back to teaching. During his time as professor, Chaudhari was active in many ways outside of the classroom, both in Upstate New York and India.

Chaudhari is executive director and founder of the World Hindi Foundation, created to foster global awareness of the Hindi language. He serves as chief editor of Vigyan Prakash, WHF’s quarterly science magazine.

Chaudhari has published a collection of essays on the life and mission of sons of India, and he is currently writing a second book, History of Science, both in the Hindi language. He has published physics articles on superconductivity and kinetics of surface segregation.

In 1985, Chaudhari brought a taste of his own culture to SUNY Oswego when he served as chairman of the Festival of India Committee.

While making his mark in Oswego, Chaudhari made sure to stay true to his roots.

For the last 40 years, he has been instrumental in initiating projects at his birthplace, Bhopur. In 1968, Chaudhari founded the Kisan Middle School in an attempt to promote education. In Chaudhari’s village, about 60 percent of women and 40 percent of men are illiterate. At the time, girls’ participation in schools was rare. In Chaudhari’s effort to change this, the middle school has since transformed into a co-ed Intermediate College comprising a high school and middle school, where he said the girls perform better than the boys.

Along with Chaudhari’s family and friends providing funds for the school, the Rotary Foundation of Oswego gave a grant of $14,762. Personally, Chaudhari has contributed $87,000.

Chaudhari has been generous with his time too, playing a vital role within the physics department at SUNY Oswego. During his semesters teaching, Chaudhari instructed 18 courses. Based on student demands, he implemented medical physics and biological physics into the classroom. Chaudhari said he was best known for helping others, especially since he held an “open door” policy.

Today that door is still open. Chaudhari, who enjoys playing tennis in retirement, still holds an office on campus where he can be found any day of the week, even sometimes on weekends, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“I’m satisfied with what I’ve done in my life. In addition to personal advancement, I’ve always been involved in some sort of cause,” he says. “That is something I like about myself — helping others. It is something that I’ve always enjoyed.”

— Meredith T. Thomas ’08
$69.5 million to renovate science facilities

The 2008-09 New York state budget includes $69.5 million for a new science building at SUNY Oswego. The strategic initiative funding supports the third phase of improvements to the college’s 1960s-era science facilities.

The entire project essentially reconstructs Piez Hall and adds new construction around it to transform the 46-year-old building into a 262,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art science facility that would house the college’s existing biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, earth sciences, physics and math departments, plus new programs in engineering.

“This funding is wonderful news for our campus. We are already well under way and this will keep us moving forward.”
— President Deborah F. Stanley

The facility will be built to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, Silver standard in line with SUNY Oswego’s commitment to sustainable environmental practices.

The $69.5 million allocation will support construction of 132,000 square feet of the final project. This new laboratory space is expected to front the existing Piez Hall on Takamine Street.

“The strategic initiative funding is wonderful news for our campus. We are already well under way and this will keep us moving forward,” President Deborah F. Stanley said.

“The final, consolidated science, math and engineering facility will showcase these disciplines on our campus and allow us to attract more high-performing students, recruit top-notch faculty members and produce well-prepared graduates who can put their learning to work in businesses and industries in the region,” she said.

Two years ago SUNY Oswego received $25.4 million in state funds, secured by then-state Sen. Jim Wright ’71, to begin renovating its science facilities. Cannon Design architectural firm, headquartered in Buffalo, was retained to begin design for this first phase of the project, which will be a 50,000-square-foot addition to the 80,000-square-foot Piez Hall. Groundbreaking for that phase is scheduled for the summer of 2009.

In addition to the strategic initiative funding, the new state budget includes several million dollars in critical maintenance funding for the rehabilitation of Piez Hall itself. The science building project’s total cost is estimated at $110 million to $120 million. Oswego’s science and math departments are now in Snygg Hall, which dates from 1968, and Piez, which was finished in 1962. Neither building has undergone significant renovation since its construction.

— Julie Harrison Blissett
Reunion 2008 was ‘Hot, Hot, Hot’

More than 1,100 Oswego alumni and their families came from all over the country and world in June to revive the good vibes from their collegiate experiences.

Many in the largest-ever Reunion group came to catch up with friends or catch a sunset on the lake. Even for circles that have stayed close since graduation, gathering on campus made for a special experience.

“It’s nice to come back here and be together in a familiar setting,” said Sherrie-An Brutsman Nacke ’98, who spent most of her weekend with former roommates.

“It’s the great experience I had here,” said Dale Kaiser ’78 while attending the “Come as You Were” barbecue and bonfire at Fallbrook. “I’ve had a pretty good life, but those were the most fun four years.”

Major events like the barbecue drew several hundred members of all classes while the Golden Alumni Society, Class of 1968 and silver anniversary Class of 1983 had more intimate get-togethers.

John ’58 and Pauline Blanchard Hamann ’57 met as students and married, as did their friends Liz Durie Bakenhus ’58 and her late husband, Warren ’58.

“We’ve stayed in touch all these years,” Bakenhus said at the Bon Voyage Breakfast.


Alpha Sigma Chi celebrated its 85th anniversary, while Alpha Delta Eta, Beta Tau Epsilon, Delta Chi, Delta Kappa Kappa, Phi Lambda Phi, Sigma Tau and Theta Chi Rho all hosted reunion activities that drew together current members and those with more distant pledge years.

“It’s one thing to see their faces on a composite photo, it’s another to meet them in person,” Delta Kappa Kappa President Tom DiRoma ’10 said.

Fraternity and sorority brothers and sisters also made for a memorable Saturday night at the Elks Lodge in the city of Oswego. More than 500 danced up a storm to music by Edge of Darkness, a reunited band of 1960s alumni.

A full gallery of Reunion photos is available online at www.oswego.edu/alumni/reunion.

— Shane M. Liebler and Michele Reed
Gift Club and Volunteer Reception

Come as You Were Barbecue

Come as You Were Barbecue

Class of 1968 reception

Picnic by the Lake
Alumni share insights

ROBERT FEINBERG ’78 OFFERED A glimpse at current corporate policy and explored gender equity issues with “Introduction to Women’s Studies” students in March.

The Ernst & Young executive advised students to get comfortable projecting confidence in the workplace. “How do you become an advocate for yourself without feeling like you’re self-promoting?” he said. “You don’t have to do it like the guys do.”

Feinberg was one of more than 40 alumni who returned for the Oswego Alumni Association’s Alumni-in-residence program this spring. Together they reached more than 2,500 students with their messages of inspiration and insight into life after graduation.

“My path was starting my own business,” ROBERT NATOLI ’80, a communications major at Oswego who went on to start a multi-million-dollar venture, told students in a business class. “I did it, you can do it — or whatever goal you have.”

Back in the mid-1980s, Natoli’s budding rent-to-own business was razed by a fire. His entrepreneurial spirit was dampened as 32 banks declined loan applications for rebuilding, until the 33rd bank said yes.

“Never stop until you get the desired result,” Natoli told Professor Ashraf Attia’s classes in the School of Business, likening success in business to the reward of competition that an Olympic athlete trains years for.

VICTORIA VITARELLI ’92 urged students to continue building their “resumes of life” when she spoke at Honors Convocation April 25. Professional development should be accompanied by community service and other life experience, she said. “When you give back, you’ll be amazed at what you get in return.” Vitarelli shared her experiences as New York Jets senior director of marketing along with her friend, CHRISTINE BOWES MORLEY ’92, senior account executive with TV Guide, in marketing classes earlier that day.

Professional science master’s begins

The State University of New York has a two-year $455,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to establish a number of new professional science master’s degree programs, and SUNY Oswego’s Dean of Graduate Studies and Research David King is coordinating the effort.

King is now director of the SUNY/Sloan Foundation Professional Science Master’s Program. The program awarded grants to several campuses to begin developing PSM degree programs.

Professional science master’s degrees fill a need for science-trained professionals to work in business and industry.

A $15,000 campus award went to Oswego to develop new PSM degrees from existing master’s programs in chemistry and human-computer interaction, King said. Students pursuing graduate study in these two disciplines will be able to choose from two tracks, with the PSM option providing a professional track designed to lead directly to employment in business or industry.

King has been party to SUNY Oswego’s discussions with senior management in Central New York business and industry in recent years aimed at developing academic programs relevant to workforce needs.

— Julie Harrison Blissert
Business visit

Mae Squier-Dow ’83 (center) is flanked by School of Business Dean Richard Skolnik and Associate Dean Pamela Cox April 25 at Sheldon Hall. The CURRENT Communications executive was named the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society chapter’s honoree this year. A former Fund for Oswego national chair and member of the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors, Squier-Dow congratulated 28 inductees from the School of Business. Beta Gamma Sigma candidates must achieve a grade point average that ranks in the top 10 percent of their class.

Find the Founder!

IN THE SPRING 2008 ISSUE, the founder could be found in the photo of a Habitat for Humanity home on page 9. The grand prize winner of a bookstore gift certificate and Sheldon Hall print is Dr. Frederick E. Dever ’52. Winning Sheldon Hall prints are Grace Finn ’73, Brien Hollowood ’80, Yvonne Jardin Kniskern ’71, Scott Kroczyński ’81, Bernetta A. Sweezy ’38 and Charles Wing Jr. ’97.

A tiny replica of the Sheldon statue pictured here is hidden somewhere in this issue. Find the Founder and send us a letter with the location and page number, your name, class year and address. We will draw one entry at random from all the correct answers and the winner will receive a $25 gift certificate to the Campus Store and a print of Sheldon Hall. The next six entries drawn will receive Sheldon Hall prints. Send your entry to Find the Founder, 219 Sheldon Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126. Entries must be postmarked by Nov. 1.

Write on!

Oswego’s Creative Writing Program celebrated its 40th anniversary at Quest April 23 with a cake and readings in honor of its founder, Professor Emeritus Lewis P. Turco, (with Professor Leigh Wilson at right). An acclaimed poet, Turco founded Oswego’s program in 1968 and taught until 2000, when he retired. Director of Creative Writing Brad Korbesmeyer said the basic structure Turco set in place stayed the same throughout the four decades.

“It has certain core values that kept it a current, viable, sought-after major over that time,” Korbesmeyer said.

The program’s core values include the use of professional writers as professors, the workshop experience, ties to literature, emphasis on genre and critical-thinking skills.

“All that was very forward-thinking,” said Korbesmeyer. “To think that he planted those seeds 40 years ago shows that Lew was a visionary in undergraduate education in writing.”

The program graduates between 30 and 40 writers each year.

— Michele Reed

Senior moments

Senior Week 2008 was filled with toasts, networking and farewells, and with two special first-time events. President Deborah F. Stanley and her husband, Michael J. Stanley, hosted seniors May 10 at a picnic (right) at their lakeside residence, Shady Shore, originally the home of college Founder Edward Austin Sheldon. The weekend before, a group of seniors enjoyed a class trip (above) to the Thousand Islands and Alexandria Bay.
GOLD program engages recent alumni

Graduates of the Last Decade are using Oswego degrees to do great things in every corner of the country. An Oswego Alumni Association program will draw them together and keep young alumni well-connected with their collegiate home.

The GOLD initiative aims to strengthen communication, offer more events and tailor fundraising campaigns for former students who are navigating a transitional time in their lives.

The Leadership Council of about two dozen volunteers met for the first time April 26 to begin building the program. Representatives from each class year dating back to 1998 shared ideas about the GOLD mission and how leadership will help accomplish the task.

The GOLD network will establish a vital link between current students, college staff and the dozens of older alumni classes, said Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81, college vice president for development and alumni relations.

In addition to engaging the college’s most recent graduates, the GOLD program will eventually provide current students with a network for internships, employment and practical guidance from peers in their age group.

The council drafted a mission statement that commits the program to boosting communication, fundraising, event attendance and volunteerism among Oswego graduates of the last 10 years. Fundraising, Communications, Event and Bylaw committees will work in their respective areas and prepare for the next face-to-face meeting of the GOLD Leadership Council this fall.

For more information on GOLD or to join a committee, contact Associate Director of Alumni Relations Michelle Tackett-Spinner ’98 at 315-312-2258 or tackett@oswego.edu. — Shane M. Liebler

Former SA members wanted!

THE FIRST-EVER REUNION OF ALL former members of Student Association will be held April 24 to 26.

Visit the spectacular Student Association office complex at The Point in the new Campus Center. Meet current members of Student Association and share your memories with former friends and classmates.

But, we need your help to compile a comprehensive list of all who participated in Student Association as an officer or a senator. If you were a member of SA, please e-mail alumni@oswego.edu, with “SA Reunion” in the subject line, so we can make sure you’re on the mailing list. If you’d like to be involved in planning the reunion and in networking with other SA members to bring them back, please fill out the volunteer form at www.oswego.edu/alumni/volunteer/form.html.

Most importantly, don’t miss out! Mark your calendars now to join fellow SA-ers in Oswego April 24 to 26! — Shane M. Liebler

Maureen Flynn ’04 and Craig Little ’98 participate in an ice-breaking activity at the GOLD steering committee meeting.

The members of the Student Association mug for their 1985 yearbook shot. Pictured left to right are: (Back row) Legal Aids Intern Michael Neaton ’85, Director of Refrigeration Thomas Kinslow ’85, Senate Clerk Elaine Burgess ’87, Director of Finance Peter Devine ’86, and Assistant Director of Finance John Deighan ’87; (middle row) Assistant to the President Suzanne Kwasniewski ’85, Legal Aid Intern Kathy Bower ’85, Vice President Walter Bowler ’85, and assistant directors of finance Debbie Greene Edick ’91 and Jeff Jones ’86; (seated) Assistant to the President Janine Frainier, Bookkeeper Cindi Donovan, Finance Secretary Ann Woodworth, Receptionist Bev O’Connell and President Jim Dingley ’85.
Peace, love . . . and protest

IT WAS DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN, as a group of students took onlookers back to the ’60s and ’70s during Quest 2008, April 23. Tie-dye, peace signs and protest songs abounded as students chanted anti-war slogans including “Make Love Not War” and “Hell No, We Won’t Go!” in the Charles L. Wiley ’22 Alumni Concourse at the Campus Center. The “happening” was organized by students interested in peace and conflict studies, who researched slogans, posters, music and dress to illustrate the similarities and differences between the forms of protest and press coverage during the Vietnam and Iraq wars. Many of the participants — like Jason DeMauro ’09, above — were in the PST 101 class, “Introduction to Conflict Studies,” taught by Nola Heidlebaugh, who sponsored their Quest project.

— Michele Reed

Student media move into Campus Center

SUNY Oswego’s student-run television, radio and print media have all officially moved into their new homes in the college’s Campus Center complex. WTOP-TV 10, WNYO-FM 88.9 and the Oswegonian all transitioned into upgraded offices and studios from their former basement locations in Hewitt Union by April.

“It’s a better location because it’s in the middle of campus, and there is a lot of student traffic going through that building,” said Jaclyn Kahn ’08, general manager of WTOP for 2007-08. “In Hewitt, we were out of the way and not visible to the public. In the new Campus Center people can see us easier and know who we are.”

The move meant an upgrade in equipment for the media groups. The Oswegonian received new computers to write stories while WTOP received new digital switchers, a digital graphics system and an expanded routing interface along with new cameras. WNYO received upgrades with new microphones, sound-effects board and mixer box.

The upgrade means that students will get hands-on training with state-of-the-art technology. “It’s a huge advantage for us to work with this equipment,” said new WTOP 10 General Manager Dan Seymore ’09. “It gives our students a chance to work with equipment that is very close to the standard of that in the work world.”

The improvements add to SUNY Oswego’s already outstanding communications programs. The book Television, Film and Digital Media Programs: 556 Outstanding Programs at Top Colleges and Universities Across the Nation, produced by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, includes Oswego’s programs in broadcasting and mass communications, public relations, journalism and graphic design.

— Christopher Hill ’08

On the first day in their new studios, WNYO staffers (seated, from left) Ryan Pregent ’09, business administration major and WNYO public relations director, and Ed Smith ’08, broadcasting major and WNYO general manager, interview media secretary Faith Chaffee. David Austen ’08, journalism major on the WNYO DJ and news crew, looks on.

New name, title in Continuing Ed

SUNY Oswego’s Division of Continuing Education and its director have new titles. Current division director Yvonne Petrella assumed the title of Dean of Extended Learning on July 1. The change from the Division of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions to the Division of Extended Learning was intended to coincide with the opening of the college’s Metro Center in downtown Syracuse this summer.

“When you start to look at the full scope of what we do, ‘extended learning’ provides a good umbrella term that covers all those things,” said Petrella, who joined Oswego in 1977.

The division will oversee Metro Center operations and continue to administer evening and online degree completion programs as well as summer and winter sessions. Professional development offerings and greater use of the Web are part of future plans, which will mainly depend on students and clients.

“Our goal is to be responsive,” Petrella said.

For a full slate of course offerings and other information, visit the Division of Extended Learning Web site at www.oswego.edu/extendedlearning.

— Shane M. Liebler

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— Christopher Hill ’08
OJP releases new album

THE OSWEGO JAZZ PROJECT, WHICH includes music professors Rob Auler on piano, Trevor Jorgensen on saxophone and Eric Schmitz on drums with alumnus Max McKee ’07 on bass, this spring released their second album of original compositions and jazz standards in the style of their weekly public jams. “And the Time is Now” received favorable reviews in the Syracuse Post-Standard. Critic Mark Bialczak wrote, “Their work is hip enough for the students to hold an allure, and the fact they invited a batch to perform on the CD is cool, too. And the whole gang really swings on ‘Oswego State Alma Mater.’ Boo-yah!”

OJP began in 2006 to increase jazz activity in the Oswego community and provide experience for students, especially during Wednesday night jams at King Arthur’s in Oswego.

“We are especially happy with the large number of our students who now play with us regularly and are pleased to feature a track on this album which was performed and mixed entirely by our students (‘Tug’),” said group leader Schmitz.

To hear clips from the album, go to http://cdbaby.com/cd/ojp2.

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Trevor Jorgensen on saxophone, Eric Schmitz on drums, Max McKee ’07 on bass, and Robert Auler on keyboards perform at the Oswego Jazz Project’s CD release party.

Hero’s welcome

John McLoughlin ’75 speaks to Professor Amy Shore’s “Modern Culture and Media” class April 30. The retired New York Port Authority Police officer visited campus to share his experiences as a survivor of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and subject of the 2006 movie “World Trade Center.” Nicholas Cage played the part of McLoughlin, who was one of only 20 survivors pulled from the rubble. McLoughlin capped off a day of visits in cinema studies classes with a screening of the film and Q-and-A session with about 230 students and other spectators in the Campus Center auditorium. McLoughlin’s stepson, Steven Tobler ’08, was a member of the class. The Monday after Commencement, Steven began work with Paramount to promote the new “Indiana Jones” movie.

— Arlee J. Logan ’09 and Shane M. Liebler
Spring 2008 Sports

Softball

The Oswego State softball team qualified for the SUNY Athletic Conference playoffs for the first time in program history with a 12-10 record in conference play as a part of an overall campaign that included 17 wins.

Catcher Sarah Castaldo ’08 led the Lakers with a .431 batting average, 44 hits, 26 runs, seven home runs and 30 RBI. She also earned a selection on the All-SUNYAC First Team.

Pitcher Michelle Jackson ’09 was 12-10 on the year with a 2.91 earned run average.

Baseball

The Oswego State baseball team won the 2008 Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Upstate Championship with a 12-9 victory over Brockport in the second game of the championship round May 11 in Oneonta.

Designated hitter Tom Benedetto ’09 was named “Most Outstanding Player” of the tournament. He batted .389 over the course of four weekend games and had six RBI to tie for the tournament lead in that category.

The Lakers finished their season with an 18-12 record. Oswego State was seeded fifth, defeated St. John Fisher in a first-round game, and then won the title on the weekend with three wins and one loss.

Outfielder Wes O’Connor ’09 was named to the All-SUNYAC First Team after batting .379 for the year with a .534 slugging percentage. The first ECAC championship for the Lakers came in 1995.

Men’s Lacrosse

The Laker men’s lacrosse team earned two of its three wins at home and finished sixth in SUNYAC, just short of a three-way tie for the last playoff spot. Mike Brewster ’08 was named to the All-SUNYAC First Team.

Brewster tied for the Lakers’ team lead with 23 goals and led all Oswego State players with 20 assists and 43 points.

Mike Recor ’09 also had 23 goals for the Lakers, and Mike Strohm ’08 had 20 goals and 10 assists for 30 points. Goalie Judd Robinson ’10 started all 15 games and had a .555 save percentage. He was named SUNYAC “Goalie of the Week” March 17.

Women’s Lacrosse

The Oswego State women’s lacrosse team ranked among the nation’s leaders in goal-scoring this season with a total of 189 goals as part of a 5-11 season. Rachel Ventresca ’10 earned All-SUNYAC Second Team recognition for the second year in a row.

Ventresca led Oswego State with 45 goals and 20 assists for 65 points. Michelle MenDell ’08 had 43 goals and 16 assists for 59 points and Alisha Sarubbi ’08 had 28 goals and 41 points on the year.

The Lakers played three games in the Pacific Northwest at the beginning of the year, earning two wins against teams from Oregon and Washington.

Outdoor Track and Field

Oswego State’s Shomari Felder ’08 won the men’s high jump at the SUNYAC Track and Field Championships and was joined as a conference champion by Lake women Megan Boggan ’09 and Heidi Armstrong ’08. Felder and Armstrong also went on to win the men’s high jump and women’s javelin titles at the New York State Collegiate Track Conference Meet.

Armstrong qualified for the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships in the javelin, where she finished 13th overall.

Ray Richardson ’11 and Boggan were named SUNYAC Track Athletes of the Week after setting school records.

Boggan has been taking down several school records. She ran a school-record time of 1:03.79 in the 400-meter hurdles in winning the SUNYAC’s, bettering the mark she set one week earlier by nearly two seconds.

Her time was an NCAA provisional qualifying mark. She also set a new school mark as part of the 4x400-meter relay team, and set a new school record in the 400-meter dash.

Richardson jumped 14.16 meters in the triple jump, meeting the NCAA provisional qualifying standard and setting a personal best mark.

Men’s Tennis

The Oswego State men’s tennis team finished its season on a winning note with a 7-2 victory at Elmira. The Lakers were led in wins by Nate Wood ’08 and Ben Williams ’11 this season, as well as leadership from Paul D’Addio ’08, Shaun Del Rosario ’08 and Ron Slater ’08.

Golf

The Laker golf team turned in several strong performances at invitational tournaments during the fall and spring seasons.

The Lakers finished the spring season by winning the Elmira College Spring Invitational. Adam Seifts ’08 won the individual title at Elmira.

The Lakers placed second in the Oswego State Fall and Spring invitations as well as at the Elmira College Fall Invitational.

— Joe Gladziszewski
Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego has exceeded its goal and raised $23,857,114, making SUNY Oswego’s first comprehensive campaign an overwhelming success.

“I am honored to congratulate the Oswego community on this tremendous accomplishment. This is truly one of our proudest moments,” said President Deborah F. Stanley.

“The campaign’s impact is significant. Through the generosity of our donors we have strategically advanced our academic goals, expanded undergraduate and graduate student support, and enhanced our competitiveness in research and education. As a result of the campaign, we have strengthened the foundations of Oswego and we have positioned SUNY Oswego to better serve the needs of a new generation of students.”

Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego began in 2002. The campaign met its first goal of $17 million in October 2006. An enhanced goal of $23 million was then set. As of June 30, the campaign had officially exceeded that goal by more than $800,000.

“It was launched with a mock snowstorm, a student showcase and more than 1,000 Oswego students, faculty and staff gathering on the lawn outside Lee Hall for a ‘family portrait.’ Now, six years after it originally began, Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego has met its goal with the help of more than 22,000 generous donors,” said Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Kerry Casey Dorsey ‘81.

Dorsey noted that participation in the campaign included volunteers who gave time, effort and advice, in addition to their financial commitment.

One of those volunteers, who gave his enthusiasm and leadership, was Al Roker ’76, honorary campaign chair. “The forecast for SUNY Oswego features excellence, quality and distinction, thanks to the success of Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego! As Honorary Chair, I want to personally thank and congratulate everyone involved in raising $23,857,114 in this historic first campaign, including President Stanley, our chairs and volunteers, the college faculty and staff, and more than 22,000 of our loyal supporters,” Roker said. “As an alumnus of SUNY Oswego, I couldn’t be prouder of my alma mater for this tremendous accomplishment.”

“Without philanthropy we would not have the value-added elements for this campus,” said Bernie Henderson, one of three campaign co-chairs. He pointed to the state-of-the-art facilities in Rich Hall for the School of Business, the Campus Center that serves to bring faculty and students together, and renovations to Oswego’s most historic building, Sheldon Hall, as among the accomplishments of the capital portion of the campaign.

Hal Morse ’61, another campaign co-chair, focused on the good that endowment gifts can do for students of the future. During the Inspiring Horizons campaign, the endowment grew from $4 million to nearly $9 million, and provided excellence funds for departments, student/faculty research projects and scholarships. “Donor gifts have also increased the number of scholarships for our students, to make their dreams come true. Many of them, just like me, are the first in their families to attend college.”

Co-chair Mae Squier-Dow ‘83 addressed the third focus of the campaign: The Fund for Oswego. “I have been chair of The Fund for Oswego, and have been in the Telefund room when student callers are dialing up alumni,” she said. “So I have felt the energy of the student callers, their excitement at speaking with you and hearing your stories, and the thrill when a gift is received.” She pointed out that The Fund for Oswego dollars go toward immediate needs of the college.

“The compelling vision of a more powerful future for SUNY Oswego has united alumni, faculty, staff, students and the community from the start of the campaign and created a culture of giving and a new optimism on campus that ensures our continued drive for unparalleled excellence for generations to come,” President Stanley said.

Coming this fall on our Web site (www.oswego.edu/giving/campaign), look for a comprehensive campaign report and a multi-media presentation featuring stories about the impact of philanthropy on our students. ●

—Michele Reed
Communicating Support: Cranes Pledge Gift to New School

Rose Cardamone Crane ’81 met her husband, Douglas ’80, at Oswego and the communication studies department holds many happy memories of professors and friends who meant a lot to her.

“Professor John Kares Smith was one of my absolute favorites,” said Rose, who majored in communications. “He’s so active with his classes, really involves students.

“He’s infectious, contagious,” she said with a laugh. “His enthusiasm — You can’t help but love going to that class!”

So when she and Doug decided to make a second major gift of $25,000 to Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego, they designated it for the new School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

“When President Stanley laid out her plans for the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, given my background, I thought that it would be a great place to give,” said Rose, a member of the Oswego College Foundation board of directors.

“I think her view and plans were strong, and I wanted to make sure it was supported.”

It’s not the first time this generous couple has supported their alma mater. They previously made a major gift to the School of Business for a faculty office suite in renovated Rich Hall and the Crane Business Scholarship.

Rose became involved with the School of Business when former Dean Lanny Karns attended a talk she gave to a business association in Syracuse and invited her to join the Dean’s Advisory Board.

She did, and she liked the changes she saw going on at her alma mater.

The notion of a scholarship was important to her. “For kids who need the help, I thought that was a nice way to provide support,” she said. “I got wonderful letters from the kids who won the scholarship. They were so warm and they were wonderful.”

She hopes the help encourages students to make the most of their college careers, just as she tried to do.

“I was very active: had a couple of internships, was co-chair of the summer Road Show [a traveling orientation program],” she said. “I tried to take advantage of everything on campus. I think it helped me later on.”

She was also a resident assistant. That’s where she met Doug, a computer science major. He was a student on her floor in Funnelle.

She would take her Oswego degree on to a successful career in the health care industry, culminating in a position as vice president of Johnson & Johnson. She has left the corporate world and is considering going on for her doctorate and teaching in college or accepting a position on a board of directors. Doug is an entrepreneur.

— Michele Reed
Telefund Rings Up a New Record ... Again

FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR, Oswego State’s Telefund has exceeded expectations and set a new record.

Student callers brought in more than $330,000 in gifts from nearly 5,500 donors during 2007-08. The total came to $17,000 more than last year’s record-setting $313,000 total.

“The students genuinely enjoy talking with alumni and you can hear it in their voices,” Associate Director of Annual Giving Jamie Stack Leszczynski ’04 said. “The Telefund room is such a positive place because of the energy our amazing callers bring to work each day.”

For the first time, student callers who reached certain goals were awarded various prizes that helped promote the positive atmosphere all year long, Leszczynski said. The bar will be set even higher this year, the first with call center upgrades that will make the process more efficient.

“Students will be able to reach more alumni each night. They’ll have more information available to them as well,” newly appointed Telefund Manager Andrea Marsh Acone ’04 said.

With the addition of computers with Internet access, the callers will also be able to process credit cards or answer donor questions by e-mail in real time, she said.

The Telefund is part of The Fund for Oswego, which supports a number of programs on campus, including technology advancements, building renovations, library resources, Presidential Scholars, added faculty support and scholarships.

— Shane M. Liebler

Help for Interns

FOR A STUDENT WITH AN INTERNSHIP, A TANK OF gas or money for rent can go a long way. As Lou ’81 and Renee Bardell Camerlengo ’83 know, the internship can go a long way, too.

To help students make ends meet, especially in the face of rising energy costs, the Camerlengos made a $10,000 gift to establish a fund for interns from the School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

“We both just had a great experience there and (the fund) was really in recognition of all faculty and staff who had such a positive influence on us when we were students,” Lou Camerlengo said.

Lou is currently president of Five Star Development, a business consulting firm he co-founded in Pittsburgh.

“We typically have two to four interns working for us, because we know how important that experience is to them,” Lou said.

His own career essentially began with an internship he had with WTVH-TV while attending Oswego. He began making the long drive to Syracuse more and more often as that internship became a part-time job and eventually a full-time position.

“I don’t think I ever would have gotten a job if I hadn’t had that internship,” Lou said.

He and his wife would most like to see the Communication Studies Internship Fund grow and help more students.

The Camerlengos live in Pittsburgh, where Renee works in the dean of students office at Carnegie Mellon University.

— Shane M. Liebler
Memories Inspire Gift

When Hal Morse ’61 was a student at Oswego, Hewitt Union became an important hub for him.

“I have great memories of Hewitt Union in terms of the intimacy that it provided all the students, but particularly because men lived off campus. It was the only gathering place for all of the student body at that time,” he says. “It gave us the opportunity to feel a part of the campus even living a mile or two away.”

Morse lived on West Seneca Street, next to the park, a mile and a half from school. Because there were no cars allowed on campus, the students had to walk to classes.

“We built up a pretty good immunity during that walk, particularly during the blizzards,” he recalls with a laugh.

“When I was going to school, Hewitt Union provided the center to learn so much more about the other students and the Oswego experience.”

So when Hal and his wife, Sue, who together founded the Harold E. Morse ’61 Family Scholarship, wanted to make an additional donation to Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego, they chose to support the new Campus Center, so future students would have that same intimacy and opportunity to learn about their fellow students and the campus experience.

“The image of the new center really struck me as something that would draw more attention from prospective students,” Hal, a campaign co-chair and Oswego College Foundation board member, explains.

“The Campus Center will be a very important place for learning, but also a great place to promote the Oswego legacy in the future. I wanted to support that.”

The Morses’ $25,000 gift supports a Campus Center meeting room.

“Of course I dedicated it to the Oswego College Foundation Board, because I thought the board was outstanding in the way it supported the campaign,” he says.

— Michele Reed
Scholarship Honors Glick

In the wee hours of a spring morning, Keith Chamberlain '87 had an awakening. It inspired a pre-dawn e-mail to his Oswego classmates and ensuing fundraising drive to establish the Dr. I. David Glick Award for Excellence in Communication.

“Dr. G” was an influential part of the communications department and became a close friend of Chamberlain’s. What better way to honor his life, which ended in August 2005, than with a scholarship dedicated to the principles he instilled in many of his students, Chamberlain thought.

“Dave (Glick) basically wouldn’t accept mediocre work,” he said. “He pushed you to do your best.”

The award is one way to perpetuate those values and give current students an incentive to fulfill and transcend their potential, just as Glick strived to do, Chamberlain said.

“We’re trying to honor the man in what little way we can,” he said.

The scholarship will go to juniors and seniors with declared communication majors. In addition to a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, the award candidates need to demonstrate their abilities with a piece of written work.

With the help of a matching contribution from Glick’s daughter, Leanne, the endowment stands at $12,000. Anything above and beyond will be funneled into more or larger awards, said Chamberlain, who contributed $1,000 of his own money to get the scholarship fund going in March.

A number of factors led to creating the Glick award. For one, Chamberlain noticed that currently there are only three similar scholarships available to communication studies majors.

Chamberlain also noted the success of the Louis A. Borrelli Jr. ’77 Media Summit, renamed last fall for another inspirational communication studies faculty member, Dr. Lewis B. “Doc” O’Donnell.

The creation of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts provided another prompt.

A professor emeritus of communication studies as well as curriculum and instruction, Glick joined the college in 1975. While at Oswego, he held the titles of associate dean and acting dean of the professional studies division, vice president for student services, dean of students, associate professor and research associate in academic affairs.

The first award will be given in the 2009-10 academic year. Those who would like to contribute or have questions can contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 315-312-2258 or e-mail scholar@oswego.edu.

— Shane M. Liebler
Good Memories Drive Generous Gift

ASK DOUGLAS ‘75 AND SUSAN PIERCE LOHNAS ‘74 their favorite Oswego memory, and you get a variation on a romantic theme.

“My most favorite memory is meeting my wife and proposing to her on the shores of Lake Ontario during a beautiful sunset,” says Doug.

“He lived in Funnelle and I lived in Hart,” recalls Susan. “He was a cook in Cooper Dining Hall. He did the eggs to order and he was disgustingly cheerful in the morning.”

Memories like these, along with the influence of key members of the math and music departments on their future vocations and avocations, motivated the Lohnases to support Oswego with an unrestricted gift of $25,000 to Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego.

“I came from a background where no one in my family went to college and my husband’s the same way,” Susan says. The Central Square native chose Oswego because it wasn’t too far from her home, and it had a good education program.

“I’m so happy that it turned out to be so wonderful. I think it helped to get me out to a different plane in the world,” she adds. “It really did broaden my horizons.”

Math professors like Dr. Rinaldo Prisco, Dr. Robert Wernick and Dr. Jack Y. Narayan helped prepare the couple for successful careers. Douglas, now retired, has been an educator all his life. Susan moved from education to the business world, and now manages information technology projects for General Electric.

She says the discipline her Oswego professors taught her contributed to her successful transition. “They taught me how to think and that made me successful in business.”

She was also influenced by music professors, like Dr. Paul Rogers, who taught her to play the organ, an avocation she still enjoys as a substitute church organist. The Lohnases are happy to give their gift to Oswego as unrestricted funds. Unrestricted giving is the mainstay of the Fund for Oswego, because it contributes to immediate needs of the college.

“We never put strings attached when we give to an organization,” says Doug, who has been involved for many years in the Home Furnishings Program Inc., a Schenectady-based group that collects used furniture and distributes it to those in need.

“We believe that the Oswego College Foundation certainly has more knowledge as to the needs of the school than we have and we trust their judgment,” he adds.

“We want it to go somewhere where it will do the most good,” says Susan of their Oswego gift. “Our whole goal is to help other people go to Oswego and have as good an experience as we did.”

— Michele Reed

Leaving a Legacy Inspires Others

SINCE INSPIRING HORIZONS: THE CAMPAIGN FOR OSWEGO began in 2002, nearly 60 people have chosen to carry on the work of founder Edward Austin Sheldon, by joining the ranks of the Sheldon Legacy Society. Their bequests, annuities and other gifts have helped the campaign surpass its $23 million dollar goal. The campaign ended June 30.

“Donors at every level have made our success possible, and they have put us over the top. Whatever your own personal financial circumstances, you can make a real difference in the lives of Oswego’s students. Remembering Oswego in your will or setting up a charitable gift annuity will allow you to provide for your family now and help Oswego in the future,” said President Deborah F. Stanley.

“When you leave Oswego in your will, you’ve considered us family,” said KERRY DORSEY ‘81, vice president for development and alumni relations. “We are humbled and honored. There could be no greater validation of your Oswego experience.”

Dorsey called planned gifts a “significant foundation” for the campaign. From the early campaign bequests of $2.2 million from Charles L. Wiley ‘22 and $1.4 million from Professor Emeritus Girgis Ghobrial, to recent bequests from alumnus Ross Vedder ‘35 of $88,000 and $50,000 from Katherine K. Carter in memory of her husband, Professor Emeritus of History Robert Carter, the campaign has been strengthened and supported by legacies to Oswego.

“You do not have to be a millionaire to support the college through a bequest, as I did, or through a charitable remainder trust or other planned gift,” said M. Catherine Richardson ’63, former chair of the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors. “You do not have to state the exact amount of the gift in your will; you can simply bequeath a percentage of whatever is left!

“Whatever the bequest, you will benefit future generations of Oswego students,” she said.

A planned gift to Oswego is a very effective way to help the college prosper in the future, while retaining your assets for your and your family’s use now.

For more information about making a planned gift to Oswego, contact Mark R. Slayton at 315-312-5560 or e-mail slayton@oswego.edu or visit Oswego’s Web site for planned giving, www.oswego.edu/giving, and click on Gift Planning.

— Michele Reed
Jarod Miller’s Wild Ride

By Michele Reed
When Jarod Miller ’00 was 4 years old, a deer approached him as he stood stock still in the woods near his childhood home in Western New York. “It licked me, like I was a human salt lick,” Miller says, his face still showing the wonder he felt as a child. That early encounter with a wild animal helped shape the course of his life.

Miller grew up to become an animal expert known to millions through his television appearances, currently as host of the CBS reality TV show, “Greatest American Dog.”

A zoology major with a strong background in communications and business at Oswego, Miller is no stranger to the TV cameras. He has made more than 100 guest appearances on late-night and daytime talk shows, hosted two other TV series and has a regular feature on the Weather Channel.

At 25, he was the youngest zoo director in the country, overseeing the Binghamton Zoo’s rehabilitation.

His new show, “Greatest American Dog,” features 12 teams of owners and dogs who compete in weekly challenges, and are eliminated one by one, until a winning team remains to take home the $250,000 prize. The first season’s finale airs this month.

While the program has a popular reality show format, Miller says, “It’s a lot more suspenseful, because the dogs bring out the best and worst of the contestants.”

Passion for animals

But what drives Miller every day — and he is driven, putting in 20-hour days and working an average of 320 days a year — is a fascination with animals and the desire to share that passion with others.

You can see it in the way he handles a tiny baby fox as he shows it to a wondering 2-year-old.

You can hear it in his voice as he describes a more recent version of the deer-lick story:

“I was doing a segment for ‘Forecast Earth,’ which focuses on how climate change affects the world. It was about ticks killing the moose and wolf populations. As we were filming, a moose took the liberty to come and lick the side of my head.”

The encounter took place on Mt. Ranier in zero degree temperatures, but frostbite from a wet head wasn’t the only danger Miller faced. “A full-grown moose — especially a female with calves like this one — can be very dangerous.”

He seems to relish danger, though. He’s constantly in search of the next great wildlife adventure, especially for his “Animal Exploration with Jarod Miller” series, targeted to 5 to 15-year-olds.

“I’ve hand-fed a 2,000-pound crocosaurus,” says Miller. The saltwater crocodile is the world’s largest reptile.

“I threw a store-bought chicken into his mouth. He ate it like popcorn.”

Miller has handled a black mamba — the deadliest snake in the world. “There’s something about being that close to a black mamba,” he says. “It makes your heart race. You sweat. But it’s also an adrenaline rush.”

While filming a story about an electric ray, Miller wanted to experience the electric charge of the aquatic animal first hand. “I got shocked throughout my body. It was like putting a fork in a toaster,” he says. Then, two beats later, “I was scared, but I did it.”

Miller has sacrificed his body for the sake of spreading the gospel of interspecies understanding. He knows what it feels like to get bitten by fire ants. A slow loris has

Jarod Miller ’00 TV Guide

Television show host:

- CBS prime-time reality show, “Greatest American Dog,” which drew an audience of nearly 10 million for its premiere.
- “Animal Exploration with Jarod Miller,” his syndicated show featuring themed episodes like "Need for Speed" and "Creepy Critters," now in its second season
- Co-host of “PetFinder,” which debuted this winter on cable TV’s Animal Planet

More than 100 guest appearances in a decade:

- Regular guest on “The Early Show,” “Today,” “Good Morning America,” “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” “Late Night with Conan O’Brien,” “Live with Regis and Kelly,” “The Tyra Banks Show” and “Entertainment Tonight”
- Resident “wildlife buddy” on “Rachael Ray"
- Recurring segment on the Weather Channel’s “Forecast Earth”
- Star of San Francisco Aquarium of the Bay five-part video guide
Above: Miller greets a baby Florida panther — a very endangered cat — in the Florida Everglades.

Right: “Greatest American Dog” host Jarod Miller ’00 (far right) poses with judges (from left) Wendy Diamond, Allan Reznik and Victoria Stilwell.

Man with a mission

To focus on these sensational aspects of his career, however, would do an injustice to Miller and his vision. His main mission is to explain to people — especially kids — how important animals are in our world, and how to interact with them safely. It’s a lifelong goal for the young man who grew up watching Marlin Perkins on “Wild Kingdom” and can name the exact day the pioneering TV naturalist died (June 14, 1986, when Miller was 8).

He spent his childhood catching snakes, frogs and turtles. As a teen he trained dogs, handling Irish setters in the show ring. He acquired licenses to obtain and house wild animals beginning at age 14.

In 1996, Miller started his own wildlife production and education company, Wild Encounters. He has traveled to more than 13 countries in South America, Central America and equatorial Africa.

When still a student at Oswego, Miller maintained a menagerie that he took to local schools and youth groups. He called them his “animal ambassadors.” Some, it can now be told, even lived in Riggs Hall with him, although most were housed on his grandparents’ land.

“I had a ring-tailed cat I’d put in my duffel bag, and carry to class or the Sub Shop,” he says with a laugh.

“I almost got caught, when a student found a baby squirrel in the common room,” he recalls. “Luckily, it was the day of the last exam. I packed it in the car and took off.”

When he lived off campus, Miller’s little zoo grew to include ground squirrels
5 Ways to Make Animals a Part of Your Life

Animal expert Jarod Miller ’00 offers a few tips on getting closer to nature.

• When you visit the zoo, go early in the morning, when the animals will be more active — not during the heat of the day. Get there when it opens. Nocturnal specimens will still be awake. Larger animals like lions, tigers and bears will be more active and not sleeping because of higher midday temperatures.

• To help control insects during the summer, call on your friend the brown bat. You shouldn’t be afraid of encouraging them to live in your yard. A bat will eat tens of thousands of insects in one night. Just set up a bat house, which you can find in the local hardware store, and if you have shutters, don’t disturb them, as the bats will make their home there. Any mammal can carry rabies, so be careful — don’t pick up a bat with your bare hands. If a bat can’t fly or gets into your house and you can’t get it out, call a professional.

• If you want to encourage hummingbirds and butterflies in your yard or on your windowsill, set up a butterfly garden. Consult your local greenhouse or nursery to select appropriate flowers and plants for your climate to attract these beautiful creatures. It’s a fun activity for the whole family, and it not only brings you closer to nature, but also enhances your yard.

• Small species of snakes make great first pets for kids, because they are easy to care for. Snakes only require feeding about once a week, and as they grow the time between feedings increases. They are clean and relatively friendly if handled on a daily basis. A snake is a great first animal. They are hardy and help kids learn responsibility for an animal.

• Whether it’s a goldfish in a bowl or an elaborate saltwater environment, fish tanks are a great way to bring nature into your home. A fish tank can not only beautify your home but also enhance your well-being. It’s a great stress reliever, an alternative to watching TV for kids and helps calm hyperactive children. It’s great for the elderly, too, because it is easy to maintain as well as beautiful.

To learn more about how you can interact with animals in your daily life, visit jarodmiller.com or animalexploration.com.
Sumatran orangutans, mega marsupials in Australia, politics and the arts — these are all fodder for the pen of Claudia Atticot ’99.

Always passionate about reading and writing, Atticot has forged a career that allows her a hand in both. As a senior reporter with Time for Kids, she fulfills her journalistic aspirations while sharing the love of reading with the next generation.

Her work on the junior version of Time magazine is varied and interesting, says the English writing arts major, who honed her skills on the Oswegonian staff.

“Our magazine is so small, we all get to write every beat,” she says. “I write entertainment, international, national — just about everything.”

It might be small in staff — about 15 on the editorial roster — but it’s big in circulation. More than 4 million schoolchildren get Time for Kids each week during the academic year.

Many story ideas come from the kids themselves, who write letters and e-mails asking for topics they are interested in. Atticot knows this well, because she used to be letters editor before her current position in the newsroom.

Time for Kids goes to classrooms around the country, and it serves kindergarten to sixth grade.

It’s short and so are the stories. “Some teachers don’t have a lot of time to spend with it,” Atticot explains.

Challengeing schedule

It’s a hectic pace in the editorial department. Issues come out every Wednesday during the school year.

“Every week is a challenge,” says Atticot. The staff meets on Friday for the following issue, and on Monday they meet again to finalize the story list. Monday afternoon, writers set up interviews and the stories have to be written and edited by the end of the day Wednesday for the next week’s issue.

“Three days to put everything together: I get a rush out of that,” says Atticot. “Not to know what you will write about and who it will be — That’s exciting!”

While animals are a big topic for kids, the magazine covers any subject matter interesting to its young readership. Stories might feature famous leaders or movie stars, or election coverage, but they’re just as likely to focus on kids who are doing cool things in their communities.

Writing for children can be tough. “You have to assume they don’t know anything,” says Claudia, yet the writer has to engage this increasingly sophisticated audience.

Many of the stories are about kids, and this presents its own special challenges.

“It’s harder to interview kids,” says Atticot, “because you have to come up with questions that do not require a yes or no answer. Kids will just say yes and that will be it.

“You have to get them out of their shells.”

She accomplishes this by alternating interview questions with queries about their favorite sports teams or TV shows.
Career launched at Oswego

Atticot decided she wanted to be a writer while she was still in high school. At Oswego, her love of the written word was nurtured by faculty members like English Professor Donald Masterson, who impressed her with his teaching style, and Professor Emeritus Lewis Turco. “I remember a lot of information from his class. I felt he really wanted us to know those things,” says Atticot. “I appreciate poetry so much more because of his class.”

Her big breakthrough came from a fellow Oswego student. Karu F. Daniels ’97 was Arts and Entertainment editor of the Oswegonian and gave her the opportunity to write for the section. Her first story was on the opening of the Ozone, the now defunct nightspot in Hewitt Union, complete with bowling alley, pool tables, music and dancing.

After graduation, she wrote for Black Diaspora magazine and The Economist. “It was fun working there, but it’s not my kind of magazine: business and economy. I’m more interested in writing for people and kids on interesting, varied subjects.”

Atticot’s journalism career wasn’t the only thing to have a solid beginning at Oswego. She met her husband, Joe Suchta ’00, soon after arriving on campus in 1996. They dated their whole time on campus and were married in 2003. Now Claudia and her flash programmer husband are the proud parents of a 2-year-old son, Omar.

He doesn’t read Mommy’s articles yet, but he soon will. Atticot is attempting to teach him the letters of the alphabet.

Whatever the future holds for Atticot, one thing is certain. It will involve hefty doses of reading and writing.

— Michele Reed
Sometimes being green means thinking in a different shade. Biologist Dr. Frank Fish ‘75 found his inspiration in the deep blue ocean. Actually, it was a whale figurine in a gift shop.

“I was touring around in Boston and I saw a little figurine of a humpback,” Fish said. “I noticed the bumps on the flipper and thought that was incorrect.”

Not only were the bumps accurate, they may be the key to boosting the efficiency of earth-friendly wind turbines. The tubercles, as the bumps are officially known, are at the center of Fish’s wind power design.

The West Chester University professor is testing and marketing the turbines through his Whale Power venture. When he began his research in the 1980s, Fish was more interested in building a better airplane wing.

However, the focus shifted as a new millennium approached and the need for sustainable energy sources intensified.

On the Water

“I was always tied to the aquatic organism,” said Fish, who grew up near the Atlantic Ocean on Long Island.

The water was critical in his decision to attend Oswego. He remembers his first view of Lake Ontario when he came to campus.

“The lake looked like an ocean. Right then, I wanted to come there,” Fish said. “It was very important in terms of my interest in aquatics.”

Fish fine-tuned his focus to aquatic mammals while doing his graduate and doctoral work at Michigan State University after receiving his bachelor’s degree in biology from Oswego.

The gift shop figurine started a fascination that eventually resulted in an intense analysis of the whale flipper. Fish was able to dissect flippers from beached whales obtained from the non-profit Marine Mammal Stranding Center, which attempts to rescue the animals.

In the Air

“What we have is these large flippers that act like wings,” Fish said.

If you extend your hand outside of a moving car window, you can create “lift” and “stall” depending on the angle of your hand. Airplane wings operate in much the same way, but stall becomes much more of an issue on a commercial jet.

“You get to a particular angle in which you lose the lift,” Fish explained. “As a result, your hand stalls. This is more critical in an airplane because when you stall, it drops rapidly.”
Fish’s research, first published in 1995, revealed that bumps, like the tubercles on a whale fin, could regulate the air flow and reduce or eliminate stalling.

“What becomes important is where you place these tubercles,” Fish said.

Fish obtained a patent for his tubercle-inspired design in 2002 and founded Whale Power in 2005. Now being tested on Prince Edward Island in Canada, the Whale Power windmills have the potential to produce 20 percent more electricity than the 10- to 12-kilowatt models on the market today.

The two decades of work it took to reach this stage is an exercise in biology as much as it is in biomimetics, a combination of science and engineering that has gotten more buzz as people look to animals for tips on saving precious energy.

‘New’ Science

“Biomimetics has been around a long time, though it’s never officially been recognized,” Fish said. “What we’re doing is taking the best ideas from animals and then modifying them for our own uses.”

The invention of Velcro is one early example of biomimetics. Swiss engineer George de Mestral created the material after studying burrs he and his dog picked up during a nature hike in the 1940s.

A recent article in National Geographic that featured Fish suggests that scientists and engineers all over the world are studying an array of animals and other life forms that do amazing things.

For instance, termites and their mound homes may offer clues for more comfortable and efficient buildings for humans. Shark skin may help ship hulls avoid fuel-robbing barnacles and algae.

“Animals are essentially
trying to find out ways to exist, reproduce and economize energy,” Fish said. “The way we like to put it, a lot of these animals have already done the cost-benefit analysis and we’re just trying to copy that.”

He prefers the term “bio-inspiration” to “copy.” All research and discovery aside, Fish said he soaks up a great deal of his day-to-day inspiration from his students at West Chester University just outside of Philadelphia.

**Inventor, Professor**

“You just have to love what you’re doing — for me field work was going to theme parks,” Fish said, using Sea World as an example. “How many people have ever stood up on a deck and had a two-ton killer whale slide up next to them? This is all very cool stuff.”

For the past 28 years, he’s worked with students on hippo, sting ray, seal and sea lion research among others, passing on his passion of water-bound mammals at his campus Liquid Life Laboratory. Fish’s career in teaching and research was strongly influenced by Professor Emeritus Ron Engel and Professor Al Lackey at Oswego, where he learned to perform field work and scuba dive.

Fish also picked up skiing while on campus. His enrollment in a seemingly irrelevant drawing class actually played a role in his career as well.

At first, he would draw on the back of restaurant placemats to entertain his two daughters — now college students at Michigan State and Cornell — while he and his family waited for the meal to arrive. Eventually, he integrated illustrations into his classroom and even his published research.

In addition to teaching a summer course at Cornell University and traveling frequently, Fish just received a federal grant with Princeton and West Virginia universities. “I’m still just having fun,” he said.

Fish (pictured above) incorporates cartooning skills he picked up in an Oswego drawing course in his own classes and research.
On a warm afternoon in Syracuse’s Valley neighborhood, Kevin Phelps ’01 and Zach enjoy a game of hide-and-seek at a school playground.

The two trade jokes and toss a football back and forth as they take a walk back to Kevin’s house a few blocks away. The notion of ice cream is kicked around briefly.

The scene fits father and son, best friends or brothers. But Kevin and Zach have a unique link.

Zach Dahlem is Kevin’s “Little” through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. They’ve developed a tight bond in the more than 18 months they’ve spent together.

“After a year together, you grow really attached,” Phelps said. “We’ve become close enough that an ‘I love you’ isn’t out of the question.”

A zoology major at Oswego, Phelps is a senior lab animal technician at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. Dahlem, 11, is a middle schooler diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

The unlikely pair spends far more than the minimum eight to 10 hours together each month – sometimes it’s 30 or more. That’s one reason Phelps was named New York state’s “Big Brother of the Year” for 2008 by the organization.

The attention Phelps and Dahlem have received this year from local media, government and the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization itself has been surprising to both of them.

The city of Syracuse named May 15 in their honor, some university students filmed a documentary about them and the daily newspaper featured a front page story on their relationship. Kevin and Zach have been tapped for public service announcements for the United Way and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Dahlem has a simpler explanation for what make Phelps worthy.

“He does everything with me,” the energetic Dahlem says with a sudden coyness. Zach is somewhat shy about describing his friend and mentor while in his presence.

Kevin Phelps ’01 and Zach Dahlem share a quiet moment.
Slowly, the details begin to trickle out that they particularly enjoy cooking together. A bracelet with the inscription, “Thank you for being the ultimate big brother. Love, Zach” reveals more about Little’s feelings for his Big than his words do.

“Ninety-nine percent of the time, we do stuff that I would be doing anyway: playing video games, cooking dinner, grocery shopping,” Phelps said.

In nicer weather, the two make their way to area parks to play sports or match wits in a game of hide-and-seek. The pair plans to attempt woodworking in Phelps’ basement shop.

Dahlem says he enjoys learning new things from his Big.

Learning, Growing
Big Brothers Big Sisters was the first volunteer activity that Phelps became involved in.

His involvement in student organizations at Oswego was limited to the Asian Student Union. A Caucasian himself, Phelps was invited to join by an Asian roommate he had.

“I met a lot of people that really had an impact on my life” at Oswego, Phelps said, naming biology Professor Leland Marsh as one of the most influential.

“There was a huge difference in me between freshman year and senior year.”

An animal lover since grade school, Phelps knew he wanted to get into a related field and determined that Oswego offered the best, most economical zoology program.

“One of my favorite memories is wrestling with a mountain lion in a lobby in Piez Hall,” Phelps said. The lion’s caretaker had handed the leash over to him for a quick babysitting session that naturally became a bout of strength.

Kevin now works with lab animals at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He recently created an outreach program that takes him to area schools to talk about his job and the benefits of animal research.

He also dedicates his free time to clearing up misconceptions about his other passion, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

“I think that we’ve learned a lot from each other,” Kevin said of his relationship with Zach. “I thought that if a kid had muscular dystrophy, he couldn’t do much.

“(Zach) can do just about everything,” he said.

Phelps also learned that the Big Brothers Big Sisters program doesn’t cater exclusively to needy families or children with particularly serious health issues.

Most importantly, he says, he’s learned it doesn’t take a lot to make a difference in someone’s life.

“It’s people that take time out to not be selfish that really make a difference,” said Phelps. — Shane M. Liebler
Members of the Golden Anniversary Class of 1958 were honored during Reunion weekend June 6 to 8 at several events. They were the guests of President Deborah F. Stanley at a tea in Sheldon Hall, and held a memorial service for those members of the class who had passed away. On Saturday of Reunion Weekend, they were inducted into the Golden Alumni Society. Shown following the induction are, front row from left, Laurel Crocker Rehder, Elizabeth Durie Bakenhus, Annlyn Harrold Warner, Shirley Grinnell Fitzgibbons, Barbara McCoy Gibbons, Carol Helfond Silverman, Rosa Pappalardo Kemmis, Judith Lieberman Langholtz, Lynne “Bunny” Johnson Phillips, Shirley Parker and Patricia Connors Switzer; second row from left, Daniel Williams, Leon DeRoos, Fred Beers, Marjorie Mead Strother, Ginny Woodard Matthews, Ann Marsden Hollop, Nancy Trafton Waldron, Ruth Winkler Weaver, Margaret Scharf DeLapp, John C. Hamann, Gloria Buske Gilmore, Barbara Fleming Johnson, John R. Hughes, Wanda Molinelli Frappier, Sheldon Goldberg; third row from left, Richard Kemmis, James Matthews, Vernon Tryon, Frank Maraviglia, Heath Rutledge, Keith Stroud, Charles Rhind, Lee Kelly, Bob Miller, Ron Guyer, Joseph Singleton and Don Mortimer.
Teaching: No Classroom Required

Doris Besterman McManus ’63 has been teaching for decades, but it’s been years since she actually set foot in a school building to conduct classes.

That’s because Doris has spent the most recent years of her career with the Florida Virtual School. Open to all Florida sixth- to 12th-graders, the school provides an online option for filling in credit gaps, repeating a course or taking an advanced placement class.

“We’re like any other school district,” Doris said. “The main difference is we don’t have a building for students to go to.”

As an instructional designer, Doris now uploads course content to the Web site, www.flvs.net. She said retirement isn’t a consideration.

“I just don’t want to because it’s so much fun,” Doris said. “And virtual education isn’t going anywhere soon.”

The Florida Virtual School was established in the late 1990s and when Doris joined as a teacher in 2001, there were about 100 adjunct and full-time teachers on staff. Today that number is around 700.

Doris moved to Florida in 1983 after living and working as a traditional teacher in New York, South Carolina and North Carolina.

“I think a main difference that people would not necessarily think about is I felt like I had more contact in my virtual classroom than in my real classroom and that’s because there’s this constant communication,” Doris said.

The virtual classroom is free of the typical distractions a brick-and-mortar classroom might have — like the behavior of other students. It’s also far more difficult for a virtual student to blend into a big class.

“Every student gets 100 percent of my attention when they submit their work,” Doris said, adding assignments are dealt with on a one-on-one basis.

— Shane M. Liebler
When we said this year’s Reunion Weekend was going to be “Hot, hot, hot!”, we had no idea we were creating a self-fulfilling prophecy! Not only was the weather incredibly hot, we had more than 1,100 alumni and friends — more than any Oswego Reunion, we believe — converge on the campus for a weekend of reconnecting with former classmates and long-lost friends.

The excitement and energy throughout the weekend was palpable. Now our charge is to keep that incredible momentum going! Our mission for Reunion 2009 will be to engage as many reunion class volunteers as we can through personalized outreach to join us in the planning and networking to get friends and classmates back for Reunion.

The other tangible group that partnered with us for Reunion 2008 were the eight Greek alumni organizations who planned reunions of their members in conjunction with Reunion Weekend. We held a Greeks and Friends Social on Saturday night at the The Elks Club that attracted more than 500 people complete with 1960s-era alumni band Edge of Darkness. It felt like we had time-warped back to the 1970s (or thereabouts) except our feet didn’t stick to the floor!

Separately from this year’s festivities, a Reunion Task Force was commissioned in December 2007 to conduct a comprehensive review and evaluation of our entire Reunion Weekend Program. The Task Force consisted of selected alumni from the 1960s to the 2000s representing a wide variety of class years, gender, geographic area, majors, etc., as well as three faculty members from different colleges/schools on campus. Analysis included program of events, timing of Reunion Weekend, marketing/promotion, recruitment and role of Reunion Class Volunteers, class years invited, involvement of faculty, etc. The Task Force reviewed reunion programs at other institutions and surveyed Oswego alumni to inform its recommendations for future Reunion Weekends.

Some key recommendations included: personalizing our outreach to better engage more reunion class volunteers and affinity groups; personalizing our reunion mailings and communications more and using additional vehicles to promote Reunion such as Facebook and similar social networking sites; the timing of reunions for various class years, depending on life cycle, i.e. recent grads, those with young families, retirees, etc. We confirmed what we thought we already knew — that the reason people want to come back to Reunion is to see their friends! And they want to know who has signed up to attend! We got insight on the types of events alumni would like to have at Reunion.

All of this information will help us to continue to improve our Reunion Weekend program. We thank the more than 2,100 alumni who responded to our e-mail survey about Reunion Weekend. Your input will help us to shape our future planning and our outreach.

So, now all that remains is for you to come home to Oswego to visit us soon. There is much that is new for us to show you, but the same Oswego spirit remains. And, we hope, one more sunset to share with friends!

We hope to see you soon!

Betsy Obersh
MORE THAN 75 BROTHERS OF PSI PHI GAMMA fraternity gathered on the SUNY Oswego campus March 8. The fraternity was founded in 1925 by legendary coach Max Ziel. Including Ziel Gymnasium, there are eight buildings or parts of buildings named for Psi Phi brothers, including Snygg, Park and Wilber halls. Members came from as far away as California and Washington state, with the majority coming from up and down the East Coast, according to Tom Flaherty ’86, one of the organizers.

Paul Benson ’69, Joe Calistra ’69 and Jim Migonona ’77, who all served as pledge masters and officers, were among those attending the March reunion. “The brotherhood keeps me coming back,” said Benson, who recalled that the spring get-together marked 44 years since he pledged.

The fraternity experience “taught me a lot about how to run a business, how to deal with people,” said Flaherty. Those gathered also commented that the members have come together whenever one of their own is in need. For instance, they created the Bobby Ziegler ’84 Scholarship, in honor of their late brother. One of this year’s winners was Christopher Hamm ’09, the president of Psi Phi. Christopher attended the reunion and met many members who knew Bobby.

Brothers gathered at Sheldon Hall for a group photo included, front row from left, Michael George ’94, Mike Shackman ’87, Robert Krugman ’92, Anthony Stigliano ’87, Patrick Pasho ’99, Jim Walsh ’87, Jon Kovitz ’90, Michael Kassal ’98, Greg Furch ’94 M ’00, Andy Zilnik ’05, Sean McLenithan ’92, Cliff Durfee ’04, John Paul Dillon ’03 and Matthew Ness ’92; second row from left, Ned Berkowitz ’85, Brian Lynch ’84, Tom Flaherty ’86, Tom Celent ’83, Richard Brattenhauser ’83, Rob Bean ’84, Paul Sandy ’84, Kevin McCluskey ’84, Jim Migonoga ‘77, Vinny Casasanta ’83, Michael Brzozowski ’04, James Chiarello ’87, Mike DeHond ’87, Daniel Milles ’06, Scott Lasky ’94 M ’99, Brien Wadsworth ’96 and Alex Logie ’92; third row from left, Glen Brickman ’91, James Garilo ’83, Justin Pisanello ’97, Michael Grace ’97, Michael S. Gordon ’85, Jay Ahuja ’86, Kyle Wenke ’07, Joel Ralston ’06, Don Rizzo ’87, Brad Kostiwi ’81, Jeffrey Wolf ’82, Jeff White ’91, David Moorehouse ’87, Robert Bradish ’83, Michael Woodworth ’94, Peter Bullock ’96, Robert Mason ’95, Paul Benson ’69, Joe Colistra ’67, Ben Leotta ’66, and back row from left, Erik Lavenburg ’94, Matty Kelly ’82, Joe Bondarenko ’89, Rick Buckingham ’84, Patrick Godek ’04, Matt Whalen ’96, Michael Vaccarella ’99, Corey Hart ’93, John L. Sullivan ’85, James F. Alderman ’05, Dan Phillips ’91, Timothy Szlosek ’92, Aaron Proulx ’95, Steve Ricci ’91, Troy Mack ’01, Tim Bond ’01, Matthew Steiner ’95, Steve Allen ’81, Kevin Billings ’81 and Thomas Slawsky ’93.
Congress appointed Marianne Matuzic Myles '75 as U.S. ambassador to the African island nation of Cape Verde in June. “This is something I’ve been working toward my entire career,” said Myles, who has worked in the U.S. Department of State for more than 30 years.

She most recently served as director of the Office of Recruitment, Examination and Employment. For at least the next three years, Myles will be responsible for overseeing the U.S. Embassy in Cape Verde, a nation of about 500,000 people located about 300 miles off the west coast of Africa in the mid-Atlantic Ocean.

Myles’ interest in foreign service was helped by her experience as a high school exchange student and a year abroad at the University of Madrid while attending Oswego, where she maintains some close ties.

“When I received the phone call that I was being considered for that nomination, I was actually visiting Oswego” last July, said Myles, who keeps in touch with Oswego Professor Emeritus Richard Hyse.

— Shane M. Liebler
NOT MANY COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN BOAST A ROOM WITH antique furniture, maid service and a ballroom they can use for parties. But for “The Pontiac Boys” of the class of 1978, it was home sweet home. When (from left) Allen Nathan ’78, Marcus Nussbaum ’78, Dave Peck ’78 and Ron “Duffy” Bellows ’78 all drew high numbers in the residence hall lottery, they chose to live downtown in the Pontiac Hotel. It was a college man’s dream: The hotel had a bar and they could rollerskate in the halls and play Frisbee in the parking lot. “You’d get a gust of wind, and it would end up in the river,” recall the friends. For all their hijinks, the four took challenging majors like physics and meteorology, and presented scientific research alongside their professors. Peck is now a sixth-grade science teacher; Nussbaum a retired CEO of a technology company; Nathan is an international loss control manager and Bellows a vice president of a major insurance firm. They still get together regularly and count on each other’s friendship. “Even 30 years later, I can send an e-mail to any of these guys and I know he’d help me out,” says Peck.

— Michele Reed

‘Pontiac Boys’ Reunite

The “Pontiac Boys” pose at Reunion 2008 with the Pontiac Hotel in the background and a shirt bearing a likeness of their younger selves.
Dennis W. Shuler ’78 was named executive vice president and chief human resources officer for The Walt Disney Company in March.

Shuler is responsible for Disney’s overall human resources strategy that includes global talent attraction; staffing and retention; leadership development; diversity; organizational design and cultural development; employee education and development; compensation and benefits; and employee relations among other duties, according to a press release. Each of the top human resource officers in Disney’s business units will report to Shuler.

“I am absolutely delighted to join such a committed and creative organization as Disney,” said Shuler, who served in various leadership roles for more than 23 years at Proctor & Gamble. “I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to be a part of Disney’s team and drive human resource strategies that enable the further development of their exciting array of businesses.”

Shuler earned a business administration degree from Oswego and a master’s in human resources management from the University of Alabama.
CREATIVITY AND CHARITY are two things Caryl Ginsburg Fantel ’81 learned at home, nurtured at Oswego and hopes to pass on to the next generation.

As an owner and vice president of Mr. Food and Mr. Food No-Fuss Meals, which has two stores in Upstate New York, Caryl uses her creativity to help build the business started by her father, TV food guru Art Ginsburg, more than 30 years ago. Caryl also edits all the Mr. Food cookbooks, which now number 45.

She remembers going to shows with her thespian father and accompanying him on the piano as a teen. Music and theatre became critical components of her Oswego experience.

Caryl came to Oswego as a business student. But, from her first day on campus, she found herself drawn to music, her eventual major. She met music Professor Jerry Exline at registration and he chose her to accompany his ensembles, as did Jim “Doc” Soluri with the State-Singers and Joe Line with the Chamber Singers, a group she traveled to Europe with in 1978. Soluri gave her her big break — as the first student music director for a mainstage musical, “Godspell” in 1979.

After graduation, Caryl moved to New York City, where she worked until 1987 with the late Bertin Rowser ’78. Their company, Rhapsody in Youth, offered musical theatre classes to such students as Sean Lennon, son of John; and the children of Regis Philbin and Charles Strouse, the composer of “Annie.”

She left the NYC scene to work with her father, whose syndicated food spots are seen on 140 TV news programs across the country.

But she has never stopped performing and sharing her love of music and theatre.

She created a CD in honor of those lost on Sept. 11, 2001, and the proceeds go to the American Red Cross.

Caryl is passing on her love of performance and charity to her daughters. Alyssa is very involved in school theatre productions, and Caryl helps. Shayna created a library at her synagogue in honor of a 9/11 victim whose mother was a synagogue member.

For Caryl, everything comes back to Oswego. She adds that the connections seem to go on and on. “I went to see Barbra Streisand last year and who came out to introduce her but Richard-Jay Alexander ’74!”

Caryl, who shares alumni status with brother Chuck Ginsburg ’85, says, “I just have the best feelings about Oswego.”

— Michele Reed
Daniel Riordan ’81 was named president of Zurich North American Commercial’s Surety, Credit and Political Risk group in May.

The newly created group combines the international financial service’s surety and emerging markets operations. Riordan will lead an international team that develops and markets Zurich’s portfolio of surety, credit insurance and political risk insurance products to contractors, investors, international banks, multinational companies and infrastructure developers in North America and emerging markets worldwide.

“By integrating these lines into a single unit under Dan’s leadership, we are offering our customers and distributors easier access to multiple, related lines of protection,” Zurich Specialties President Seraina Maag said in a company press release. “Dan has led the development of our political risk and credit lines that his team has built into a world-class business.”


Craig Duswalt ‘83

Craig Duswalt ‘83 has a background that’s a little bit marketing and a little bit rock ‘n’ roll. He hopes to earn rock star status as “America’s Shoestring Budget Coach” in the latest phase of his career.

In less than a year since becoming a consultant to small businesses, nonprofit organizations and individual performers on a tight budget, Craig has authored four books and taken on nearly two dozen clients. A recent speaking engagement near his Santa Clarita, Calif., home drew an audience of more than 225.

He draws a lot of inspiration from nationally renowned life coach Anthony “Tony” Robbins, who changed the career path of Craig and his wife, Natasha, several years ago. It only took one Robbins seminar to change his family.

“Both of us quit our jobs and opened up businesses that week,” said Craig, who left an advertising position to form his own agency. “When I owned my ad agency, I always said I would write a manual on how to do your own marketing.”

That aspiration to be an author led to the creation of Craig Duswalt International, which makes its home on the Web at www.craigduswalt.com, as a vehicle for his book and public speaking career. He and Natasha also co-own Peak Models & Talent agency, a business they began more than a decade ago.

Tales from his early post-college days on the road with rock bands Guns N’ Roses and Air Supply are sprinkled throughout Craig’s presentations. Along with experience in the advertising and entertainment industries, he’s also dabbled in teaching and theatre ownership.

“I’ve definitely had an interesting career and it’s all basically come from this acting thing. I can’t get it out of my blood,” said Craig, a theatre and marketing major at Oswego.

He counts Theatre Department Chair Mark Cole ’73, Professor Emerita Rosemary Nesbitt, and Associate Professor Kathleen Macey as some of his biggest Oswego influences. Craig remains close with many of his theatre department classmates who have regular reunions for California alumni in the entertainment industry.

—Shane M. Liebler
Members of the Silver Anniversary Class of 1983 were guests of President Deborah F. Stanley at a reception in their honor in the Chu Atrium of the new Campus Center. Present were, front row from left, John Young, Mike Smith and Jim Van Buren; second row from left, Ellen McJury Dooley, Christine Klein, Sue Denton Pangman, Robert Sternberg, Karen Lampkin Schmidt and Bill Schmidt; third row from left, Danielle DeNicolo Verzone, Melanie Janowsky Wilson and Jim Russell; fourth row from left, Stephen Gilmartin, Cammie Baker Clancy, Hope Rosenhaus Schissel, Mark Potfora and Ellen Miles Laurenza; fifth row from left, Angela Noble-Grange, Arlene Roman Whittaker, Cathy Manzella and Judy Letvak; sixth row from left, Mary Helmer, Tracey Heimburg Costanzo, John Costanzo and Deborah Ferguson Stewart; seventh row from left, Patricia Ryan, John “Jack” Langlois, Tom Clarke and John Caffrey.
Career Developed at Oswego

Jennifer Bender ’06 deals primarily with health science public relations as an account executive at Environics Communications in Stamford, Conn. The Rockland County native recently visited campus and spoke in some marketing classes as part of the Oswego Alumni Association’s Alumni-In-Residence program. She’s also a volunteer on the Graduates Of the Last Decade, or GOLD, Leadership Council, which met for the first time in April.

Q. What do you do at Environics Communications?
A. I handle day-to-day communications with the clients. They come to me with anything that’s going on that they’re working on. I do a lot of media relations, dealing with reporters and setting up interviews with our clients. I work a lot on the health care side, medical associations and those types of clients.

Q. Did you have a background in health sciences or anything else that made you want to specialize in communications for that industry?
A. I was offered the job and I accepted it ... At first I was kind of overwhelmed because I didn’t know much about botox and anti-aging procedures ... It was not only learning the change from college to career, but also learning topics that I had never thought that I’d have to learn. I always thought I would do entertainment PR.

Q. How did your time at Oswego influence your career choice?
A. I actually switched my major a couple of times. I wanted to do graphic design and then sort of fell out of interest and then I thought I wanted to be in public relations and took a couple classes. But, I didn’t really see myself becoming a police officer or anything like that.

I spent a lot of time in Career Services with Gary Morris ’88 and Bob Casper, who were real big influences on me. I was constantly in there asking questions and talking to them about different opportunities. I came to public relations in speaking to people who were in that field, some older students that I knew. I joined the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Q. Why did you end up choosing public relations as a career?
A. Once I knew that I wanted to do public relations, I really homed in on it. I went out and did anything I could on campus that had to do with PR. I interned at the American Red Cross in town, I interned as PR director for Service Learning and Community Service ... In being in these different organizations and talking to professors, I realized that public relations is a lot about writing, so I joined the Oswegonian, where I was the assistant arts and entertainment editor. I also had journalism as a concentration for my major.

Q. What’s a typical day at work like for you?
A. When people ask me that, I’m quick to say there’s not a typical day because I might have a list of things to do and when I come in the morning and I start on media monitoring, which is monitoring all the major news sites, see what they’re writing about, see if any of our clients were featured in the articles ... and then a couple hours later a story breaks that affects one of our clients and we have to switch gears. There’s always writing to do, speaking to doctors who might be using new procedures in their offices. For example, there is a big push for skin cancer information when summer’s coming up. I have to read abstracts of presentations and sort through all the medical jargon. I have to take it apart piece by piece and understand it enough to put it into layman’s terms for reporters.

Q. What advice would you give to other recent graduates on getting started in or advancing their careers?
A. As far as the job search, I remember being very anxious and feeling like I needed to have a job right away. I learned from seeing other people that it’s important that you don’t jump at the first job offer you get before you can really see if it’s something you really want, that it’s a company or a firm you can see yourself at long-term. Is the company aligned with your personal goals?

It’s also important to be open-minded. I needed to be open-minded when I learned I was going to be working on health and medical-related clients, because I didn’t have that background.

Take every experience as a learning experience.

Q. You’ve volunteered to be a part of Oswego’s Graduates Of the Last Decade program as a member of the Leadership Council. Why did you want to get involved?
A. All through college, what I found is there are a lot of opportunities on campus, but it’s your responsibility to go out and make them work for you. I feel like I am so much better off because of the opportunities that I had and I want to do that for other people who are willing to put in the extra effort for it. I think it’s important for alumni to be involved and give back to the college, whether it’s monetary or with your time ... It’s important for students to get perspectives from outside the classroom from people who are closer to their age.

— Shane M. Liebler
“SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR” IS HOW Andrew Miller ’92 describes himself. It’s an apt moniker.

Since he left Oswego, Andy has started no fewer than four companies, ranging from a mutual fund to a search engine. “I love (going from) Zero to the point where it becomes established,” he says of the growth of a business.

In 1998, Andy attended a NASCAR race. He watched the moving billboards in the pit area and had a brainstorm. Thus began Stock Car Stocks, a mutual fund which invested in companies investing in NASCAR. Andy started the company and began attending business school for his master’s of entrepreneurial science at the same time.

After selling his first business to Conseco, Andy started RetirementSuites.com, which was an online exchange platform. “During the dot-com boom and bust, we actually made money,” Andy recalls. “We made it through.”

But a bid to acquire another business brought down the company. “We closed our doors, but a tremendous amount of lessons were learned,” he says. Ironically, venture capitalists like to see failure, Andy says, since it shows a resilience and a willingness to take a chance.

After a stint back in the corporate world, he took a chance on Quece — named after his native Syracuse — an artificial intelligence application that semantically extrapolates meaning and emotion. He calls it the “holy grail of search engines.” After three years, Andy sold that business.

Now he is involved in Lumifi, which serves the academic and research industries. “What we offer, no one else does,” says Andy. With a tagline of “enlighten your research,” Lumifi offers clients the chance to analyze information, manage their research and share, collaborate and publish. This research and collaboration portal is a knowledge exchange, says Andy, “like Wikipedia without the garbage.”

It doesn’t so much search as “ingest content,” he explains. “It’s like a virtual highlighter or virtual Cliff Notes.”

Of all his businesses, Andy says, “This one is the most exciting to me. I have been passionate about it.”

With infinite possibilities and inspiration, life is always exciting for a serial entrepreneur. ☯ —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.

Gordon Skinner ’40 recently compiled 44 letters written by his great uncle William Skinner during the Civil War. Wounded at Gettysburg chronicles the soldier’s correspondence with family from August 1862 to July 1863. AuthorHouse, 2008.

In The Dictator’s Shadow: Life Under Augusto Pinochet, Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz ’72, DHL (Hon.) ’96, Oswego’s 1994 Distinguished Alumnus Award winner, takes advantage of his unique perspective as a former revolutionary, international relations scholar and diplomat to tell the story of Dictator Augusto Pinochet’s rise and fall in Chile. Pinochet seized power following a military coup in 1973, establishing a regime notorious for torture and murder as well as economic growth. Muñoz serves as Chilean ambassador to the United Nations. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Denver and spent part of his career in high-ranking international relations positions in Chile’s modern government. Basic Books, 2008.

Peacekeeping Under Fire: Culture and Intervention explores the roles that culture plays in peacekeeping success or failure. Robert A. Rubinstein ’72, a Syracuse University professor of anthropology and international relations, and 1997 winner of the Anniversary Class Award at Oswego, analyzes how political symbolism and ritual are critical to peacekeeping and demonstrates how power, identity and political perceptions are shaped by the cultural context of peacekeeping. Paradigm Publishers, 2008.

Peter Bernhardt ’74 explores the history and mythology that underlie the origins of many scientific plant names in Gods and Goddesses in the Garden. Bernhardt is a professor of botany at St. Louis University, research associate at the Missouri Botanical Gardens and fellow of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney, Australia. Rutgers University Press, 2008.

Marc O. Ellman ’79 authors a chapter, “Approaching the Business with Candor and Forthright Dealing,” in Donald Trump’s The Best Real Estate Advice I Ever Received. Ellman, president of Ellman Realty Advisors in Manhattan, is one of 100 real estate experts who contributed. Rutledge Hill Press, 2006.

Serenade the Moon is the debut novel by Judith Sereno Zak ’79, writing as Jocelyn Saint James. In this work of romantic fiction, a gypsy fortuneteller, longing to escape her past indiscretions and flee from an arranged marriage, meets Danny O’Brien, a magazine editor torn between his career and a doomed engagement. The Wild Rose Press, 2008.


Tom Caraccioli ’89 explores the repercussions of former President Jimmy Carter’s decision to bar American athletes from competing in Boycott: Stolen Dreams of the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Along with his brother and co-author, Jerry Caraccioli, Tom reveals that despite missing the games they had trained to compete in, many U.S. athletes went on to great achievement in their sports. Former Vice President Walter Mondale contributed the book’s foreword. New Chapter Press, 2008.

Jill Waggoner Kelly ’91 recounts her most challenging and life-changing experiences in the autobiographical Messages of Hope. The book also chronicles the development of her relationship with God. Jill and her husband, former Buffalo Bills star Jim Kelly, founded the Hunter’s Hope Foundation after their son, Hunter, was diagnosed with krabbe leukodystrophy, an inherited, fatal, nervous system disease. Hunter’s Hope Foundation after their son, Hunter, was diagnosed with krabbe leukodystrophy, an inherited, fatal, nervous system disease. Hunter’s Hope Foundation, 2008.

Blogging the Political catalogs some of the estimated 63 million political bloggers, why they started and what they hope to gain. Southern Connecticut State University Professor Antoinette Pole ’92 attempts to answer the question of whether and how the Internet phenomenon has an influence on American politics. Routledge, 2009.
Alumnae Getaway

These 1990s graduates have been getting together to reminisce and share news for more than a decade now. The most recent reunion was this spring in Asheville, N.C., where this group shot was taken. “We pretty much started freshman year and it’s gone all the way through to now,” Amy Fulton Eades ’96 said. The Delta Phi Epsilon sisters have maintained their friendships through celebration and consolation over the years since college. They try to get together at least one weekend each year. “We have such a strong foundation,” Amy said. “We just always seem to be the ones that pull through for each other.” The friends are, back row, from left, are: Lisa Viscusi ’96, Suzanne Mullane Luff ’96, Melissa Mauro Hineman ’96, Jennifer Lang McKenna ’97, Elizabeth Roberts McCusker ’96 and Michelle “Quack” Quackenbush Tiesi ’96; and front row, from left, Amy Fulton Eades ’96, Stephanie Evangelista Schoennauer ’95, Jennifer LiVecchi Fabrizio ’96, Andrea Montanarella ’95 and Nicole Demarco Schalberg ’96.

Forecast Sunny for Alumnus Down Under

Chris Brandolino ’96 knows you can’t predict life like you can the weather. For instance, this January his meteorology career really went south — to Australia.

The former WSTM-TV weather personality moved his family near the western Australia city of Perth, where he now works for the country’s equivalent of the U.S. National Weather Service. “Basically, the job of the Special Services Unit is to forecast for paying clients,” Chris said, naming Chevron, BP and other natural resource-dependent corporations as examples. “I do do meteorology, but I’ve had to learn a new science: oceanography (a combination of water and weather).”

The Florida-born, Schenectady-raised Oswego alumnus had a limited history of travel before meeting his wife, Sarah.

“The proverbial fork in the road was about five and a half years ago, when we honeymooned in Australia,” Chris said. He and his wife spent a couple of weeks on the continent’s east coast, exploring Sydney, Queensland and Cairns. “It left a big impression on us.”

This time, son Dominic and daughter Sydney are along for the extended stay that will last at least two years. Though acclimation to a new country, time zone and culture has been difficult at times, Chris said the decision to leave television and radio back home in Central New York has been a rewarding one so far.

The Oswego experience has been a big part of Brandolino’s career and life.

“I love Oswego for the education and good times that I had there,” said Brandolino, who got his first taste of television working at student station WTOP-TV. “I met my best friends in my life at Oswego.”

He also drew inspiration from professors Dr. Robert Ballentine, Dr. Al Stamm and Carol Shuman. Gregory Auleta of the college Office of Learning Services was particularly influential, he said.

“Your degree at Oswego can take you anywhere,” Brandolino said.

— Shane M. Liebler

Chris Brandolino ’96; his son, Dominic; and daughter, Sydney, take in the slower pace of Australian life on this turtle statue.
Jumpstarting a Political Career

MAKING A HALF-MILLION PEOPLE happy may sound like an intimidating task for a 25-year-old. But, for the past 18 months, Timothy "TJ" Hatter '05 has embraced his job managing a municipal call center for information and complaints.

After a stint as an aide to New York State Assemblyman Marc Alessi following graduation, TJ returned home to Long Island where he worked on a successful campaign for a Brookhaven Town Board candidate.

The call center handling complaints on various quality-of-life issues in the town of nearly 500,000 was an initiative of the town’s new administration and TJ was appointed to manage it in January 2007. Since then, the center has fielded more than 80,000 calls and gained a few staff members.

"I’m a citizen advocate," TJ said. "Meaning basically if anyone has a problem, they come to me."

Those problems include negligent trash pickup, potholes, street lights in need of replacement, noisy dogs and the like. Mundane as those issues seem, the job has encouraged TJ to continue public service as a politician.

He began law school at the University of Tennessee in August.

The communications major developed his taste for politics at Oswego while working at WTOP-TV, WNYO-FM and the Oswegonian. His experience in those organizations and his fraternity, Beta Tau, helped TJ improve his public speaking and leadership skills.

“You can learn through reading and history as I’ve done, but you also learn by doing,” said TJ, who added that the work experience he gained as a student intern proved the most important in landing his first job with the New York State Assembly.

— Shane M. Liebler
A Couple of Notes about Class Notes

- Oswego alumni magazine is happy to print news of alumni weddings and birth announcements — after the events. We cannot print wedding plans or news of pregnancies in Class Notes. Please send us word when the wedding occurs or the baby is born. The editor reserves the right to select wedding and other photos for publication based on available space and the quality of the photo. Digital photos must be of the highest resolution possible, usually a file size of 1 MB or larger. When in doubt, please write us at alumni@oswego.edu.

- Spouses! If you are sending in a news note about yourself, and your spouse is an Oswego graduate, please let us know what he or she is doing as well.
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!


Margaret Miller Heagerty ’32 of Oswego died Dec. 6. She earned a bachelor’s degree at Oswego in 1932 and a master of library science degree in 1961 at Syracuse University. Margaret was a librarian at Leighton Elementary School, retiring in 1974. She is survived by six children, 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

H. Edward Oram ’35 of Ocala, Fla., passed away May 9. He received a master’s degree from New York University. He taught for several years prior to military service. Edward served on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1959 and with the Army Reserve from 1959 to 1967. After leaving the military, Edward taught at Jordan-Elbridge Central School and in the West Genesee School District. He is survived by three daughters, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Ray Sheldon ’35 of Sidney died Nov. 11, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Peg; his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Anne Dowdle Beardslee ’39 of Oswego died April 7. She is survived by a daughter and two brothers, William ’53 and James ’54.

Thelma Hollenbeck Callahan-Whitney ’39 of Staten Island died March 13. She taught for 43 years beginning in 1939 in a one-room schoolhouse in Camden. After moving to Staten Island, she taught in several elementary schools, retiring in 1982. She remained active in education, volunteering her time during the school day and in after school math and reading programs for many years. Thelma is survived by a daughter, a son, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.


Doris Place ’40 of Manhattan passed away March 5, 2007.

Edward Weston ’40 of Delray Beach, Fla., died April 21, 2007.

Katherine Kinslow Carter ’44 of Oswego died March 19. She taught elementary education in Baldwinsville, Hannibal and Clinton Fine.

Angelo Loschiavo ’46 of Escondido, Calif., passed away April 20. He served with the U.S. Army in World War II. Angelo taught industrial arts in the North Salem School District for 15 years prior to becoming a high school principal for another 16 years. He is survived by his wife, Mary; a daughter; two sons; four grandchildren; a sister; and a brother, Charles ’42.

Charles Scaglione ’48 of Oswego died April 20. He served with the U.S. Army in World War II. He operated the Castrogiovanni Supermarket for many years.

Surviving is his son, Michael.

Dudley “Bud” Lambert ’49 of Miami Springs, Fla., passed away April 27. He was co-owner of The Olive Branch Bookstore. He earned his Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

Charles Maguire ’49 of Cutchogue passed away Sept. 20, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Carol Rollwage ’52.

Carmen Pechone ’49 of Utica passed away May 15. He served with the U.S. Navy prior to attending college. Carmen earned a master’s degree at Syracuse University. He was employed by the Utica City School District prior to retiring in 1988.

Surviving are his wife, Marianne; a son; a daughter; and one grandson.

Eleanor Fox Devall ’50 of Port Byron died Feb. 8. She taught in Port Byron at A.A. Gates Elementary School for many years. She is survived by her husband, Donald Kiefer; two daughters; a son; 10 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

George Ludwig ’50 of Union Springs died Dec. 13. He served with the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. George earned a master’s degree from Syracuse University. He taught at Newark Central School until his retirement in 1980. Surviving are two daughters, two sons and three grandchildren.

Dorothy MacDonald ’50 of Marcellus died Feb. 21. She served in the WAVES program during World War II and in the Syracuse Naval Reserve until 1961. Dorothy taught industrial arts at Jordan-Elbridge Central School until retiring in 1979.

Julie FitzGibbons Sullivan ’50 of Oswego passed away May 9. She formerly taught in Hawaii, Cato-Meridian and on Long Island. Julie is survived by two daughters, two sons and five grandchildren.

Lisa Oberdoerster Funciello ’51 of Brooklyn passed away Jan. 9.

Florence Dalton Murphy ’51 of Tully passed away April 1. She received her master’s degree from SUNY Cortland. Florence taught at Tully Central School before her retirement. She is survived by her husband, Howard; a daughter; four sons; and 12 grandchildren.

June Wagener Robbins ’51 of Oswego passed away March 17. She taught in Fulton at Fairgrove Elementary and G. Ray Bodley High School before returning to Oswego State to earn her master’s degree in reading. June was a reading teacher at Oswego High School until her retirement in 1986. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.


William Sprague ’52 of Sauquoit passed away May 26. He served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. Bill started his teaching career at New Hartford Central School in 1952 before moving to Staley Junior High School in Rome, where he taught math and mechanical drawing. He retired in 1979. Surviving are his wife, Mona; two sons; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

Frances Howard Harris ’53 of Westdale died May 29. She taught in several school districts beginning in 1940. She is survived by a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Carol Reynolds Quinn ’54 of Pinehurst, N.C., died April 12. She was an elementary teacher for more than 40 years, teaching in several school districts around New York state. Surviving are her husband, Joseph ’53; two sons; a daughter; and five grandchildren.

Mary Barclay Dowd ’56 of Fulton passed away April 4. She taught kindergarten for 35 years at Leighton Elementary School in Oswego. Mary hosted many students through the American Intercultural Student Exchange and the Fresh Air Children’s Fund.


Donald Borsky ’60 of Syracuse died April 28. He earned a master’s degree at SUNY Cortland and a master’s degree in educational administration at Syracuse University. He served with the U.S. Army and Army Reserve for more than 31 years, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1985. Donald taught in the Syracuse City School District for 35 years, retiring in 1996. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; a daughter; a son; and three grandsons.

Donna McNally VanDelinder ’60, M ’67 of Seneca Falls passed away Aug. 28, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Lee ’67.

Elaine Silsbry Kohler ’66 of Missoula, Mont., died May 5. She taught at sodus Elementary School following graduation before going to the Philippines to teach kindergarten for a year at San Miguel Naval Communications Base. Upon returning to the states, Elaine moved to Montana where she taught for 39 years. She is survived by her husband, Steve.

Joseph Occhino ’67 of Fulton passed away March 21. He also earned a master’s degree in education at Oswego and an Ed.D. from the University of Rochester. Joseph worked in the Richford, Vt., School District and the University of Vermont before coming to Fulton. He was the principal at Fairley Elementary School for 27 years until his retirement in 2000. Surviving are his wife, Rosemary; three sons; and five grandchildren.

Patricia Malone Hueniuck ’68 of Southport, N.C., passed away April 2, 2005.

Linda Lasher ’71 of Pittsburgh passed away April 4.

Linda Searby Fullum ’72 of Auburn, Ala., died Feb. 9. She is survived by her husband, Paul ’72; a son; a daughter; and a grandson.

Thomas Columbus ’73 of Queens died Oct. 31.

David Rengert ’73 of Syracuse died March 18. He was employed for 25 years with Niagara Mohawk before starting his own business, Environmental Management
As Oswego State approaches its sesquicentennial in 2011, it’s fun to look back at earlier anniversaries. In anticipation of the college’s 1961 centennial, a group of faculty members and their wives dressed up as historical figures of the time of the college’s founding, 1861. From left, Pat and Campus School Director of Physical Education Dick Benjamin are Mary Todd Lincoln and President Abraham Lincoln; and Marge and Assistant Professor of Education Bob DeLancey portray Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant. At the far right, J. Sherwood Dunham and his wife, Janet, pose as college Founder Edward Austin Sheldon and his wife, Frances. At the time Dunham was professor and chair of education. He would go on to wear many hats at the college — not just the founder’s — retiring as vice president for academic services and professor of business administration.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Continued from page 47

Strategies. He was also a co-owner, with his wife and daughter, of Seven Rays Bookstore. Surviving are his wife, Betsy; a son; and a daughter.

Claudia Parsons Smart ’73 of Volney passed away Feb. 15. Claudia is survived by her husband, Charles ’74; and children, Christopher ’93; Coral ’99; and Craig.

Linda Santy Tarver ’73 of East Rochester passed away April 14, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Terry.

Jerry Mosier ’76 of Montclair, N.J., passed away Jan. 27. He had been an ad executive in New York City before becoming chair of the Historic Preservation Commission in Montclair in 1989. In 2004, he began a new career as a media consultant and independent film producer in the Middle East. Surviving are his wife, Roselee Blooston; and a son.

Robert Goldberg ’77 of North Syracuse died May 20. He received his master’s degree from Syracuse University. He was a teacher in the Syracuse City School District and did social work for the city of Syracuse. Robert is survived by a son.


Timothy Healy ’80 of Shinglehouse, Pa., passed away April 1. He was a corrections officer for the New York State Department of Corrections for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Janet; a daughter; two sons; and a granddaughter.

Melanie Johnson Soderberg ’83, M ’92, MBA ’98 of Memphis passed away March 7. She also earned a master’s degree in 1992 and an MBA in 1998 at Oswego. She is survived by her husband, David; a son; and a daughter.

Frank Gulluscì ’85 of Rye Brook passed away April 22, 1996.

Cynthia Bowman ’91 of Schenectady passed away June 6. She was a claims manager for Corporate Benefit Planning.

Lori Murdock Healy ’93 of North Syracuse passed away April 18. She had been employed as a computer technician in the radiology department at University Hospital in Syracuse. Surviving are her husband, Daniel, and a son.

Heather Ryan Pruskowski ’94 of Oxford passed away May 10. She earned a master’s degree at SUNY Oneonta. Heather taught in Franklin and Sidney. She is survived by her husband, John, and three children.


Mark Kennison ’99 of Long Beach, Calif., passed away March 29. He served with the Peace Corps. Mark was employed at the Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics. He is survived by his father, Donald; and three brothers, including Kevin ’82.
