Inspiring Stories:
The Impact of Philanthropy
Now make stronger connections with the new OsweGoConnect application on Facebook.

Use the expansive alumni directory and class notes service to reconnect with old friends in OsweGoConnect, Oswego’s online community.

Stay connected using Facebook.

Do it all in one place.

Look for the OsweGoConnect application on our Facebook page — tinyurl.com/oaafacebook.

Not a member of the OsweGoConnect online community? Get your identification number beginning with “800” from the mailing label of this magazine or call 315-312-2258 to get started.
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ON THE COVER: President Deborah F. Stanley sits with students in the Campus Center auditorium. Clockwise, from top center: Steven DiMarzo ’10, Amy Lalonde ’10, Ryan Pregent ’09, Alma Hidalgo ’10, Cameron E. Jones ’09, Ashley White ’10, Latasha Jackson ’09, Meghan Upson ’10 and Stephanie Mondella ’09.
President’s Desk

Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego has been a major force on campus for six years. I’ve written in this space about the promise of a future made brighter by your generosity, about the wonders we could accomplish — together — with your support. Now I write to invite you to see for yourself some of those promises fulfilled, and to thank you for your generous aid.

Gifts to Inspiring Horizons support scholarships, fund guest lecturers, provide state-of-the-art classroom technology and create new spaces in which to learn.

Philanthropy is a powerful thing. Right now, on the Oswego campus, it is transforming lives. Read about some of our inspiring stories, made possible through your donations, in the pages of this magazine. Or go to www.oswego.edu/giving/campaign to watch a video of your gifts in action.

Your generosity came in the midst of challenging economic times. Just as many of you review and hash out family finances around the kitchen table, we too are deliberating managing today’s challenges as we plan a solid and stable future for our college. We do know this: In tough fiscal times, one sure investment is public higher education.

At Oswego, your support helps provide the margin of excellence, so that citizens of New York State and beyond can fulfill their dreams and contribute in all aspects of life, lifting themselves and our society to great heights. Our students — with their passions nurtured in our learner-centered environment, their knowledge expanded in our classrooms, their self-confidence raised in faculty-student collaborations — graduate and go on to forge extraordinarily productive lives around the globe.

Now more than ever, the world needs citizens more capable of replenishing ideas and know-how. Now more than ever, we need the help of generous donors to fulfill the mission of higher education. On behalf of a grateful campus, I extend to you our sincere appreciation for the success of Inspiring Horizons. Your support was stunning.

Deborah F. Stanley
President

FROM

the Editor’s Pen

Ah, winter — the season that defines the Oswego experience came early to campus this year. By mid-November, we were battling lake-effect storms, plowing our way into parking spaces and bundling up against the bitter winds. But this winter is a bit different — Now we can walk from Poucher Hall to just east of Penfield Library, sheltered from winter’s gusts in the Wiley Alumni Concours of the Campus Center. During class changes it’s great to see students chatting and comparing notes, hear them laughing and talking, to feel warmth from sunlight streaming through a wall of windows and coming up from a heated floor, and to smell the aroma of freshly brewed coffee. The Wiley Concours, named for Charles L. Wiley ’22, who bequeathed $2.2 million to Oswego, is just one of the many donor-supported spaces in the Campus Center that have changed the campus culture. Add to that scholarships, lectureships, an endowed professorship and support for everyday needs of the college, and you get a feel for just how Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego has transformed our campus. As you read in this issue about the profound affect your generosity has had on Oswego, I hope it gives you as warm a feeling as the Wiley Concours gives to those of us who battle Oswego’s wind and cold each winter.

Michele A. Reed
Oswego editor
Major addition — software engineering degree

SUNY OSWEGO HAS RECEIVED APPROVAL TO BECOME the first public college in New York to offer a software engineering degree. While other SUNY schools have computer engineering programs, the bachelor’s degree in software engineering is unique to Oswego. The new major evolved from Oswego’s longstanding bachelor’s program in computer science and newer graduate program in human-computer interaction.

Students pursuing the new degree can focus on human-computer interaction, with courses tying into the master’s degree program, or development of “middleware,” the software that connects network applications and components.

SUNY Oswego will also pursue the highest educational standard in the field from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

With the software engineering major now approved, SUNY Oswego will look to establish additional programs in engineering to meet other demands in the field.

“Business and industry look to colleges and universities to educate the engineers and computer scientists who are needed for today’s workforce and the workforce of the future,” President Deborah F. Stanley said. “We have an obligation to meet their needs.”

— Tim Nekritz M ’05

Women’s Studies celebrates 30 years

It was a who’s who of Oswego’s own women’s movement as the Women’s Studies Program kicked off its 30th anniversary celebration in September, with a reception in the Campus Center’s Chu Atrium.

Founders of the program at Oswego, including Joan Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu, Barbara Gerber, Geraldine Forbes, Judith Wellman and Marilyn Smiley were on hand to mark three decades since the women’s studies minor was officially founded at Oswego.

“I hope a new vein of women’s studies will take hold by virtue of what we are witnessing now,” said President Deborah F. Stanley, who was an early women’s studies faculty member. Noting that early courses at Oswego helped establish women’s scholarship, she said that women’s studies now needs the strides made in the academic sphere to “translate into changing lives, promoting equality and moving forward social justice.”

Oswego was in the forefront of women’s studies programs in the country when it first began offering courses in the early 1970s. The minor began in 1978, and the major began in 1999. In 1998, Oswego hosted the National Women’s Studies Association conference.

The Women’s Studies Program is planning events to celebrate the anniversary. For more information, contact Director Lisa Langlois at director@oswego.edu

— Michele Reed

NCATE spells success for School of Education

SUNY OSWEGO AGAIN RECEIVED national accreditation for its School of Education through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

This stamp of excellence means that Oswego’s School of Education, which includes 65 full-time faculty members in six departments, met all six of NCATE’s rigorous standards after a weeklong site visit, a lengthy internal self-study and a comprehensive review by an outside team of seven professionals.

The reaccreditation indicates the School of Education meets state and national standards in providing a broad liberal arts education, an in-depth study of the content to be taught, a foundation of professional knowledge, well-planned clinical experiences in schools working with diverse students, an evaluation of readiness to practice through many measures of performance and the ability to use knowledge in practice to promote student achievement from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.
Moving forward
Women make ‘Connections’ at Oswego

A record crowd of professional women turned out to connect with their peers and hear from four Oswego alumni who discussed challenges and solutions that they found on the way to success.

The third annual Women’s Connections symposium attracted about 140 to Sheldon Hall for a day of networking and empowerment in October. President Deborah F. Stanley acknowledged the astounding progress of women in the workplace over the past few decades.

“This pushes the envelope a little bit further,” she said of the day’s programming. Jill Consor Beck ’93 said she had to learn to work smart, not hard, to become a senior product manager at Microsoft in Seattle. Beck and her husband also opened a hobby wine-making business in 2007.

“In order to be lucky, you have to put yourself in a position to be lucky,” Beck said. “You can’t just stay at home and wait for that to happen.”

Former pharmaceutical executive Rose Cardamone Crane ’81 promoted mentoring and creating friendships with fellow women at work.

“I always had a wonderful mentor and I became a mentor myself,” she retired Johnson & Johnson executive vice president of group strategic marketing said. “As I watch young people come in, they really need role models.”

Robert Feinberg ’78 talked about the corporate trend of creating gender equity. He’s seen plenty of positive changes at Ernst & Young, where he is now a partner, he said.

“I’m very proud to be part of an organization that has been able to adapt to the next generation of service providers,” Feinberg said.

The concept of work-life balance was a recurring theme throughout the day. Former Auburn mayor and educator Melina Dello Stritto Carnicelli ’70 offered tips for spiritual wellness during the Connections luncheon.

In addition to the speakers, the symposium included a marketplace of women-owned businesses from throughout the Central New York region.

— Shane M. Liebler

Tech ed program accredited

SUNY Oswego’s Technology Education Program, long a pioneer and leader in its field, has become the first school in the state to earn an accreditation from the Council on Technology Teacher Education.

The CTTE thought so highly of Oswego’s program report that the organization even posted it on its Web site as a model for other institutions to use.

The accreditation bolsters SUNY Oswego’s already strong name in technology education.

Oswego was among the institutions that helped create the field of what is now technology education in America during the 19th century, in its related forerunner forms such as manual training and industrial arts.

— Tim Nekritz M’05

Why they call it ‘Oz’

Does the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow reside in Sheldon Hall? That’s what it looks like in this Oct. 2 photo by Meteorology Professor Scott Steiger ’96. Note the double arc!

— Scott Steiger ’99

Technology education major Paul Rotstein ’09, left, and Professor Dan Tryon ’89 work at the three-axis computer numeric control, or CNC, milling machine.
ORI ponders environmental Catastrophe

Elizabeth Kolbert’s *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change* is this year’s Oswego Reading Initiative selection.

The critically acclaimed book explores the pressing environmental issue in terms of science and ecology, but also explores economic and political factors.

The author will visit campus March 17. Check www.oswego.edu/ori for more related programming.

Simply green

SELF-PROCLAIMED “ECO-STYLIST” Danny Seo helped give a green start to the academic year with a presentation to students, faculty and others Aug. 25 in the Campus Center.

The book author, magazine contributor, television personality and entrepreneur gave plenty of tips for green living as part of programming in support of this year’s Oswego Reading Initiative.

Some of Seo’s green tips:

- Use newspapers to absorb shoe wetness and odor.
- Freeze pillows and bedding to kill allergens and extend their useful life.
- Styrofoam packing peanuts can be used to make a beanbag chair.
- Use an ultraviolet light instead of harsh cleansers to sanitize the home and office.
- Microfiber towels pack a lot of cleaning power using only water.
- Use a surge protector to completely cut off power to appliances you aren’t using.
- A water bottle with a charcoal filter cap can save more than 200 disposable plastic bottles in a year.
- Try “bug light” compact fluorescent bulbs indoors. They have a softer hue for those who dislike the glow of standard CF bulbs.
- Use the tape from obsolete video cassettes to garnish your gifts.

— Shane M. Liebler

Students Remember 9/11 Victims

This fall, SUNY Oswego students joined millions across the country in paying their respects to those lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. They planted 2,974 flags with green and yellow ribbons to represent Oswego alumni who perished. Club vice-chairs Meghan Upson ’10, left, and James Strang ’09 were among those who helped.

In the wee hours of Sept. 11, the SUNY Oswego College Republicans planted 2,974 flags around the campus grounds to honor the American lives lost in the terrorist attacks of September 2001. They also planted 12 special flags with green and yellow ribbons to represent Oswego alumni who perished. Club vice-chairs Meghan Upson ’10, left, and James Strang ’09 were among those who helped.

— Meghan Upson ’10
Rankings good, admissions up, campus full


Oswego received a greater number of applications than last year. More students are living on campus and newcomers’ academic credentials are all on the upswing, said Joe Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

“People see the more than $250 million in facility investments we’ve made so far, and the increased curb appeal,” Grant said. “They know that we’re willing to invest, and we’re continuing with $110 million for the science facilities, $40 million for the residential village, and another $20 million for School of Education renovations. Academically, we’ve added a software engineering major and launched the School of Communication, Media and the Arts.”

Preliminary figures show 1,425 freshmen and 680 transfers enrolled this fall. Some 560 freshmen received some level of merit scholarship, including 175 Presidential Scholars with a mean high school average of 94 and 1240 SAT score. Oswego was able to award over 50 more merit scholarships than last year, part of more than $66 million in merit and need-based grants, work-study, loans and other financial aid the college provides.

The new enrollment figure, combined with a greater percentage of returning students choosing to live on campus, leads to a higher campus population of around 4,100 students. To meet demand for residence hall rooms, the college opened Sheldon Hall as a residence for around 65 upperclassmen and transfers.

— Julie Harrison Blissert and Tim Nekritz ’05

Students ‘dig’ grant

A $75,000 grant received by the department of anthropology at SUNY Oswego will allow students to gain hands-on experience in their future fields.

Thanks to the grant from the U.S. National Park Service, students will be able to improve the entire archaeology collection at the school.

Students have been re-cataloging, analyzing and restoring materials in the collection from prehistoric sites in Central New York since July. The archived items are artifacts from the first occupants of Central New York up through the Iroquois Indians and first European settlers.

Items include ceramics, animal bones, food remains and fire crack rocks, which are stones that have split from being used in or near a fire.

Each semester two students will work on the project until its close in January 2010. Anthropology majors Lenda Ryan ’09 and Nick Sottile ’10 worked on the project this fall.

“Working on the grant project will get them experience with all federal collection standards for the National Park Service, for example,” said Doug Pippin of Oswego’s anthropology faculty. “Studying collection standards for New York state and being familiar with those standards will help with getting a job.”

— Ashley White ’10

Examining samples from prehistoric sites in Central New York are anthropology majors, from left, Lenda Ryan ’09, Brian Andrukat ’09 and Ashley Barnes ’07.

Find the Founder!

IN THE FALL 2008 ISSUE, the founder could be found in the bottom right photo of Claudia Atticot ’99 on page 23. The grand prize winner of a bookstore gift certificate and Sheldon Hall print is Patrick O’Reilly ’70. Winning Sheldon Hall prints are George Reavis ’86, Scott Benjamin ’90, Susan Saunders ’66, Colleen Conaughty ’93, Judy Skillen ’61 and David Griswold ’79.

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 March 1.
Sanchez offers poetic insight into unity

“DO WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO OPPOSE FORCES?” African-American author and political activist Sonia Sanchez questioned in a campus lecture. “The courage to walk in the light that is love, the courage to stop personal assassinations of each other, the courage to speak out and the courage to see the beauty in ourselves?”

Sanchez spoke to students and faculty to promote a multicultural environment at SUNY Oswego.

The ALANA (African, Latino, Asian and Native American) Student Leadership Conference in September highlighted Sanchez as the keynote speaker for her inspiring words of change.

Most associated with the Black Arts Movement and the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and 1970s, Sanchez was also a professor at a number of universities, urging students to bring peace, unity, change and resistance into their daily lives.

Sanchez delivered a powerful speech Sept. 18 in the Hewitt Union ballroom. She promoted positive interaction on campus and in the country and world by reading some of her own poetry and quoting Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X as well as many other influential people of all races.

She stressed the importance of change in the government and change in the economy. We need “radical redistribution of economic and political power,” she said, quoting Dr. Martin Luther King.

Sanchez suggested that the first generation of the 21st century is the one that can offer change in a world that has been “wracked and wrecked” by its elders. We can be that force, she said.

— Ashley White ’10

Metro Center opens in Syracuse

THE GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION for the SUNY Oswego Metro Center in the heart of downtown Syracuse attracted more than 450 people to the Atrium building Dec. 4.

Oswego alumni, faculty and staff joined city officials and President Deborah F. Stanley for a formal housewarming at the facility.

Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll praised the center as instrumental in helping the city grow.

“[The center] is a great new venue for learning in Syracuse,” Metropolitan Development Association President Rob Simpson said, adding it “provides an opportunity for people to improve their lives.”

The Oswego satellite is focused on extended learning and development for Syracuse-area professionals. To help lure potential grad students, Oswego is offering one three-credit course free of charge to 2009 graduates from any Central New York college.

“The Course-to-Connect initiative boldly invests in Central New York by growing our knowledge-based high-technology economy and helping to meet the region’s need for affordable, reputable and conveniently delivered graduate and continuing education,” President Stanley said.

— Shane M. Liebler

The Lake Guardian, a 180-foot boat used in research projects with which SUNY Oswego is involved, made a call on the port of Oswego in mid-July. Gregory Boyer (right) of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry discusses the rosette sample collector with SUNY Oswego participants including, from left, chemistry major Colleen Alexander ’09, Jim Pagano ’74 of the college’s Environmental Research Center and Biological Sciences Professor Peter Rosenbaum on the Environmental Protection Agency research boat. SUNY Oswego is a partner in a long-standing multi-institutional Great Lakes Consortium project using the vessel and its technology to study Lake Ontario fish health and toxin levels.

Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll speaks at the grand opening of Oswego’s Metro Center in Syracuse. Onlookers include at right, Metropolitan Development Association President Rob Simpson and Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley.
'Paradise' found

Meng Tu describes living on campus as "a little like paradise."

The beautiful sunsets and scenery carry a great significance for Tu and three of his compatriots, who are experiencing Oswego — and America — for the first time under incredible circumstances. 

Tu, Jian Xu, Lili Jiang and Jian Xie are living in the Hart Hall Global Living and Learning Center for the 2008-09 academic year as part of SUNY's statewide "China 150" program. Just months ago, some of these students were living in tents after their cities in the Sichuan province of China were leveled by earthquakes. 

Since arriving on campus in August, the four have embraced Oswego and taken the opportunity to explore the community. The sunsets are a favorite focus of photos they send home to their families.

Oswego is one of the 22 campuses in the SUNY system taking part in the China 150 initiative.

The students here are continuing their studies from their home universities, including areas such as English, linguistics and business. While they see some similarities between the Chinese and American education programs, they have noted major differences.

"SUNY Oswego stands out because of the international program … they are at our schools, but they are very small," Tu said.

At their home universities, a majority of their classes have more than 200 students, whereas classes in Oswego average 19. With smaller class sizes, these transplants are given an opportunity to meet their professors one-on-one.

Oswego has also given them a chance to work in groups for projects, which in larger classes would be difficult. This allows them to interact with more of the campus community and share different ideas.

Apart from their studies, the students are also active in organizations, including ALANA, Chinese Students and Scholars Association and WTOP-TV. Jiang and Tu participated in the ALANA fashion show in September — Xu was even crowned "King of Cooking" for his Sichuan fried rice dish at an ALANA cook-off.

Xu, Jiang and Tu also work at Cooper Dining Hall. They say that earning their own money gives them a feeling of accomplishment and independence.

The students keep in constant contact with their families in China as well as their friends at other SUNY campuses through e-mail. They receive updates on the reconstruction at home and share their experiences with their fellow students in the program.

All the China 150 students will return home in 2009 to help restore the infrastructure and economy of devastated Sichuan.

"We can only do little things for our communities, but we are learning," Jiang said.

— Arlee J. Logan '09

Rocking the Preamble

EACH AUTUMN SUNY OSWEGO CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION WEEK, which encourages students to learn about the Constitution, their voting rights, the Civil Rights Movement and political involvement.

"Rock the Preamble" kicked off the week with a reading of the introduction to the Constitution led by President Deborah F. Stanley in the academic quad Sept. 17.

"We must use the Constitution as a shield, as a mantra and go forward understanding the rights as part of American ethics," Stanley said.

Following the reading of the Preamble was a roll call of state ratification and a reading of selected parts of the Constitution as well as the distribution of pocket copies.

— Ashley White '10
Celebrating Oswego

Students, alumni and staff alike sported green and gold for SUNY Oswego’s first College Colors Day Sept. 26. The Office of Business and Community Relations coordinated the event. New and returning students were welcomed to the local farmers market the day before by the Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

The staff in Cullkin Hall, with President Deborah F. Stanley, donned the school colors for a group portrait, above. At The Point in the new Campus Center students and alumna Grace Mukupa ’07 show their school support while taking a break from working for their clubs and organizations.

— Arlee J. Logan ’09

Family ties

THE OSWEGO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION awarded Alumni Legacy Scholarships to six students this year. Alumni Association Board President Bill Schreiner ’92 presented three of the winners with $500 to $1,000 scholarships in the second annual round of awards Oct. 25.

Alumni Legacy Scholarships were established for students who are children, stepchildren or parents of Oswego alumni. Candidates for the award must be current full-time students at SUNY Oswego and demonstrate a commitment to the excellence of the college and the community through academic achievements, leadership and involvement in campus clubs and organizations.

This year’s winners were Christine Clemmens ’09, daughter of Ann Marie Porter ’74; Allison Rent ’10, daughter of Tim ’78 and Susan Allman Rent ’79; Jennifer Vrooman ’09, daughter of John H. ’82 and Jane Stone O’Brien ’77; Kayla Doan ’10, daughter of James ’80 and Lisa Billings Doan ’81; Marissa Hill ’10, daughter of Sarah Gould Hill ’78; and Eric Ruiz ’09, son of Ernest Ruiz ’66.

Students can apply during their freshman, sophomore or junior years. The scholarship application and essay form are available at www.oswego.edu/giving/scholarships. The deadline is April 11.

The Alumni Relations and Development scholarship committee will select the winners.

— Shane M. Liebler
Facebook Frontier
Media Summit explores new consumer culture

By the time you read this, “new media” may already have a different meaning.

Sports, radio, music and television industry leaders talked about the radical impact of social networking Web sites and audio/visual innovations during a discussion about the “Media Revolution” Oct. 22.

The Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Summit brought together media executives, alumni and students for the fourth annual day of class visits and the panel, which focused on the whirlwind pace of changes in communications.

“Probably the thing that has changed the most is everything,” said Erica Farber, 33-year veteran of broadcast and current publisher/president of the influential Radio & Records magazine.

Modern media is shifting from a top-down distribution model to a consumer-controlled culture fueled by on-demand YouTube videos, portable mp3 audio files and the explosive growth of free online social networks like Facebook.

Panelists, including J. Scott Dinsdale of Sony BMG, Scott Stiegman of ESPN.com, media analyst Jack Myers and Steve Leblang ’81 of FX Networks, told a crowd of 300 in the Sheldon Ballroom they should expect “Web 2.0” to grow quickly.

About 45 students got some additional career advice from alumni following the panel discussion. The inaugural “table-hopper” event featured New York Yankees executive Emil Calcano ’06, film editor Jeremy Ambers ’00, Vinyl Artist Management owner Michael Gewirtzman ’05, WROC-TV and WUHF-TV account executive Natasha Johnson ’02, 9wsr.com Web producer Phil Rankin ’06 and SciFi Channel Web coordinator Matt Romano ’05.

— Shane M. Liebler

WRVO expands high-def

THE WRVO STATIONS AT SUNY OSWEGO will continue adding high-definition radio outlets thanks to a $164,280 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The National Public Radio station launched a second HD channel, WRVO 2, on Memorial Day weekend on its main signal, 89.9 FM in Oswego, aided by a previous CPB grant. The new funding will allow the station to upgrade to HD signals for WRVJ, 91.7 FM in Watertown; WRVN, 91.9 FM in Utica; and WRVD, 90.3 FM in downtown Syracuse.

The high-definition WRVO 2, which can also be heard online through wrvo.fm, is a different news and talk station than the main channel, said WRVO General Manager John Krauss ’71, thus doubling WRVO’s offerings. Stations may now carry up to three channels on their license, and this is a growing trend. Currently more than 1,200 separate HD stations exist nationwide.

HD radio may get an additional boost from the Federal Communication Commission’s settlement on the merger of XM and Sirius satellite radio, which included a requirement to explore a universal receiver for satellite, HD and regular radio, Krauss said. He compared it to when the United States required all TVs to include receivers for UHF stations in 1962.

— Tim Nekritz M ’05
Inspiring Stories:  
The Impact of Philanthropy

From the jazz venues of Central New York to the jungles of Congo, and from the very heart of Oswego’s campus to classrooms at Tsukuba University in Japan, our students, faculty and staff are seeking solutions and changing lives. And they’re doing it with the generous support of more than 22,000 donors to *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego*. Because philanthropy isn’t only about sharing the good things we have in our lives, it’s about transforming the lives of others . . . sometimes in ways the benefactor never even imagined. The stories here are just a snapshot of the good work being done thanks to donor dollars. The campaign may be over now, and its $23.9 million total a number in the history books, but like the Oswego horizon, the everyday miracles it generated continue on into infinity.
Defeating Diabetes
Student-Faculty Research Battles Global Epidemic
By Michele Reed

The refrigerator hums in the Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Center in Room 326A of Snygg Hall. Under the glare of fluorescent lights, Mike Kiley ’09 is perched on a lab stool, his hands under a Plexiglas hood. Slowly, painstakingly, he pipettes a solution from one flask to another. It is a tedious task, but one with a potentially huge payoff. Kiley is culturing pancreatic cells to use in experiments exploring how the African plant Psidium guajava fights diabetes.

Kiley is working with Chemistry Professors Kestutis Bendinskas and Webe Kadima, under a Student-Faculty Collaborative Challenge Grant, funded in part by a donation from Tim Murphy ’74.

Diabetes is an epidemic around the world, and the research Kiley, Bendinskas and Kadima are doing could have enormous consequences.

“This is serious work — work which has a potential to produce a solution for a worldwide health problem,” says Kadima. More than 20 million people in the United States and 400 million worldwide suffer from diabetes. “There is no cure as of now,” Kadima adds.

“Diabetes is a disease that is affecting 7 percent of the U.S. population,” says Kiley. “Maybe there’s a chance my work could help a lot of people.”

He notes that he has family members affected by the disease. It’s something he has in common with Kadima, whose father died of complications from diabetes.

Kadima, who graduated from the University of Kinshasa in the Republic of Congo, first brought nine plants, including Psidium guajava, from her native Africa, where traditional healers used them to treat diabetes. Before he died in 1981, her father turned to traditional remedies. “My attitude was that it was wrong, that it would kill him,” Kadima recalls. “My attitude has changed a lot since then.”

She has become convinced that herbal medicines like these plants are effective, although why they are is still a mystery — one that Kiley, Bendinskas and Kadima hope to solve. “We know it works, but we don’t know how it works,” Kiley says.

In Kinshasa, Kadima works with researchers who are testing the plants’ efficacy against diabetes in mice. They distill an extract of the plant and feed it to the mice.

Using glucose meters like those sold over the counter in American drug stores, they check the rodents’ blood and compare it to a control group.

“When we give the mice the extract, the glucose level decreases faster and reaches a lower level than for control mice,” explains Kadima.

In the lab on the Oswego campus, the researchers are culturing pancreatic cells and exposing them to the Psidium guajava, in the hope that they can figure out exactly how the plant fights diabetes.

“It could stimulate or simulate insulin, and we are trying to find out which,” says Kadima.

Insulin, the natural molecule that controls metabolism of glucose, is made in the pancreas.

When there is a high level of sugar in the bloodstream, insulin is released and acts as a key to allow sugar into cells (for example, muscle cells) where it is broken down or metabolized.
In the lab, pancreatic cells release insulin when glucose is provided. So the first thing Bendinskas advised Kiley to do was add glucose to the cells. Then plant solutions were added to see if it increased or decreased insulin production in the cells.

“If we can find something that works and how it works, we can develop preparations that can be used by diabetics at a cost people can afford,” says Kadima. “Many people in poor countries cannot afford treatment. There is still a need to develop drugs that are affordable to all.”

**Natural healing**

With research, perhaps other traditional remedies could be made available to people fighting diseases. “The flora is rich in many places around the globe,” Kadima says. “It’s worth investigating what treatments may be available.”

She believes that natural remedies are better, because they have fewer side effects than synthetic drugs since they don’t use artificial “fillers.”

Also plant extracts don’t only have the specific molecules that act, they have a lot of other substances. Although no systematic studies have been conducted as yet, Kadima believes they act in concert, which may explain why they have fewer side effects and work better.

Kadima’s research bridges schools of pharmacy, chemistry departments and medical schools. She also spends a lot of time with native healers, listening to them and learning their ways.

People don’t take traditional healers seriously because they don’t have the backing of the scientific community. “I wanted to develop a team to help provide the evidence needed to prove the plants’ effectiveness,” says Kadima.

Like so many other collaborations, this one began with a casual conversation. Kadima told Bendinskas about her work with the basic chemistry of insulin and how she was interested in moving a step further, toward real systems, working in cells. “He said, ‘I can help! I can do work on cells,’” she recalls. Kadima and Bendinskas gathered a team to collaborate between Kinshasa and Oswego.

While the technical, scientific part of the project is great, even greater is the connection between people. "We need to understand each other," Kadima says. "It goes to show how we need one another."

**Global perspective**

Each December and every summer, Kadima travels from Oswego to Kinshasa, where she works with local healers and professors at the university. Farmers in the area harvest the plants, which are dried on large racks. Some leaves are crumbled and Kadima brings leaves, powder and extracts back to Oswego in her carry-on luggage.

Kadima is excited to get students involved in a global project. “It’s a window onto a world many miles away, and also involves them in a problem that is so close to home,” she says. “I hope our students feel proud of being involved in an inter-
national project. They can impact what is happening continents away.”

Having international experience also makes students more competitive in the job market. “We are in the 21st century and our economies are so connected,” Kadima says. “Our students need to develop a global perspective.”

Bendinskas sees collaboration with the students as a key part of this grant. “It makes students an equal researcher,” he says. “It forces them to think in terms of graduate students rather than undergraduates and better prepares them for medical school.”

The researchers feel Oswego is an ideal setting for this type of collaboration. “I found a community here very interested in teaching and learning; it’s one of the reasons I came,” Kadima says. “A lot of effort is put forth to maximize the learning experience for students.”

Kiley agrees. “I had no idea how much help would come my way,” he says. “The faculty [at Oswego] is interested in making a connection with students, and helping them thrive.” He found plenty of support among his professors. “The faculty is really interested in helping you develop, to become a better student and a better person in general.”

Kadima says Kiley is a perfect student partner. “He is so independent and driven on this project,” she says. “We would find him in the department at odd hours. [The project] took a lot of persistence and hard work. He has perseverance and patience,” she says. “Without him we would not have made progress in identifying the effects of glucose on insulin production in these cells.”

Bendinskas agrees. “Mike has outstanding observational skills — the best of any student I’ve ever worked with,” he says. “He’s very patient. This type of work requires him to feed the cells every other day. It can take half of the whole weekend to do an experiment and he is committed enough to actually complete it.”

Donors provide the seed

Philanthropy was important to helping this project get off the ground.

Festa Fellowships Promote Leadership

There’s no question the Inspiring Horizons campaign has made a difference at Oswego: a campus transformation, a stronger curriculum and a renewed enthusiasm for all things green and gold.

The unprecedented investment is also making a difference in students’ lives through programs like the Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship, established by Fred ‘81 and MaryLynn Barbero Festa ’82 in 2006. The Festa Fellowship provides exceptional graduate students with a resumé-building job and provides an up-to-$10,000 stipend to help cover living expenses for the one-semester term.

Erison Rodriguez ’05 says his fellowship with the SUNY Oswego Metro Center in Syracuse has taken him places he didn’t think possible just a little over a year ago.

“It was honestly like a gift from the sky,” said Rodriguez, a master’s of business administration candidate and marketing undergraduate degree holder. “It came at a time when I wasn’t sure what I was going to do with my life.

“It really opened my eyes and showed me ‘Everything is going to be OK; I can do what I want with my life,’” he said.

After two years in marketing and advertising positions, Rodriguez decided it would take a bold move to advance his career to the next level. He quit his job, but needed help plotting his next move.

He returned to Rich Hall where a conversation with School of Business Dean Richard Skolnik would eventually lead to the change Rodriguez was looking for. With an eye toward moving to management, he was offered an administrative position in the new Metro Center as part of the fellowship.

A full-time graduate student, the New York City native still has his job as a research assistant promoting SUNY Oswego programming and meeting Syracuse business leaders for input on expanding programs at the Metro Center, which opened in summer 2008.

“It’s been great because it’s put me in a position to meet a lot of people — executives and owners of local businesses,” Rodriguez said, noting the fellowship and stipend were an invaluable part of the experience.

“I can’t place a value on the experience I had with them,” he said. “Without it, I’d probably be at another mediocre job just to pay the bills.

“It’s fortunate I had that opportu-
“To be able to do something like this without direct alumni support would be difficult,” Bendinskas says.

Kiley agrees. “I’m really grateful for the student-faculty collaboration grant, because even though the professors may have ideas, and the students, a really good work ethic and desire to put in a lot of effort, it can’t necessarily go anywhere without a little bit of financial support, kind of starting the engine,” he says. “You may have all the gas there; you need that spark to get it going.”

The Student-Faculty Collaborative Challenge Grant allows the project to show progress necessary to seek major funding.

“Seed money provided by alumni allows us to attract a larger federal grant,” says Bendinskas.

The work that Kiley is doing was earlier done with graduate students. The results of his work may be included in a National Science Foundation or National Institutes of Health proposal for further funding. Kadima says. “We need proof that we are onto something. We must show we are capable of doing significant work, with the possibility of finding a solution.”

The research grant isn’t the only donor-sponsored help to come Kiley’s way. Last summer he worked at the headquarters of W. R. Grace, thanks to a fellowship established by Fred ’81 and MaryLynn Barbero Festa ’82.

Over the summer, Kiley worked on nano-sized particles of silica in suspension and presented his research in front of Grace CEO Fred Festa. “It was a good experience,” Kiley says. “The industrial environment is very different from the academic one.”

With the aid of his Festa Fellowship, Kiley is developing critical thinking skills, which can translate into any field — business, pure research, medical school.

He can certainly go anywhere he wants, thanks in part to the wide variety of experiences he has embraced while at Oswego. Kiley is a resident assistant, holds a dean’s scholarship, and is president of the Chemistry Club.

“There’s a lot of opportunity with a major such as biochemistry,” Kiley says. “My future is wide open.”
By Michele Reed

When she came to Oswego, she had never been west of Buffalo, but now Hamlin native Ashley Rath ’07 says she won’t stop traveling until she “sets foot on every single country on the planet.”

A Presidential Scholarship was the impetus for Rath to attend Oswego. “When making the decision of which college to attend, it really took the pressure off,” Rath says. Not having to worry about student loans, thanks to the donor-funded scholarship program, made all the difference.

“And it wasn’t just the money, but the whole program,” Rath recalls. She appreciated the Presidential Scholar mentors to guide incoming students, the special activities and the whole support system in place for scholars. The scholarship was the deciding factor in her college choice.

Little did Rath know that that decision would set her on the path to an exciting adventure, thanks to the encouragement and support of the professors and friends she would meet at Oswego.

The graphic design major hadn’t thought much about traveling the globe until her sophomore year, when Art Professor Lisa Langlois convinced Rath to accompany her to Japan for a week-long research foray.

Travel is expensive, especially on a student budget, so a grant from the Provost’s Office, which receives support through The Fund for Oswego, provided help for Rath to make the trip.

“I’d never been out of the country,” Rath says. She admits to being a little nervous about the whole proposition.

But all the worries had evaporated when the one-week trip was over. “I got to interact with other people and stand on my own two feet,” Rath says. “No fear — I’d wander the big cities, taking in the graphics on the billboards and everything.”

At about the fourth or fifth day, Langlois challenged Rath to take the train on her own. She was nervous at first, but Langlois was pleased with the change in Rath when she returned.

“When she came back she was just beaming,” the professor recalls. Rath had been able to travel around the city, taking the subway and speaking with strangers in shops and on streets. “By the end of the trip she was convinced that she could speak Japanese and it was just a matter of exposure,” Langlois recalls.

The Floating Torii at Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima, Japan, have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
**BIG PLANS**

That first short trip solidified Rath’s desire to seek a longer study-abroad experience. She had already taken a Japanese class with Yoshiko Butler, modern languages instructor at Oswego, and planned to spend a year at Tsukuba University near Tokyo.

Again, funds would be an issue. But Rath was surprised at the amount of support that came her way. “At the first mention, the whole campus got behind me for it — friends, professors, the administration,” Rath recalls. “They were welcoming to me and encouraging. It was great to have that support and know they were behind me.”

The graphic design department held fundraisers and a friend put out a jar that other students filled with coins. Professor Bennet Schaber of the English department helped her edit her essays for scholarships.

Rath also earned three very competitive scholarships — Bridging Scholarship for Japan, the Freeman-Asia Scholars Program and a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship — which provided about $11,000 for her travels.

Soon the trip would be a reality.

**LIFE LESSONS**

What did Rath learn in her year abroad? Plenty, it turned out.

“I learned how to interact with a lot of different people, and how important it is to learn a second language. I got to swap stories about my hometown in Hamlin with students from around the world,” Rath recalls.

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10 Questions for Ashley Rath ’07

Q. What kind of people did you meet while traveling?
A. I met some of the most intelligent, sincere, and fun people of my life while abroad. I still keep in contact with most of them, and look forward to seeing them again someday.

Q. Favorite food?
A. Okonomiyake (Japanese pancake)

Q. Fave place to eat it?
A. Hamazushi, a restaurant where sushi came out on conveyor belts.

Q. How did Japan change you the most?
A. I can’t answer this briefly! Ha ha...

Q. Where do you want to go next?
A. EVERYWHERE.

Q. What was your favorite Japanese island?
A. I only stayed on Honshu, so I guess that would be it!

Q. Favorite city?
A. A toss up between Tokyo and Hiroshima.

Q. Favorite side trip?
A. In October, a few friends and I took a road trip to Nikko. It is a World Heritage site, and probably one of the most beautiful little nooks in all of Japan. This is especially true in the fall, where the temples and hot springs are buried in the burnt orange forests of autumn.

Q. Worst travel moment?
A. When I flew on a 13-hour non-stop fight from Detroit to Tokyo while extremely sick with a sinus infection (sinus infection + high altitudes and pressure + Northwest Airlines = not fun).

Q. When you go back, where will you visit first?
A. I will likely mill around Tokyo. Most of my Japanese friends have graduated and that is where they work.
“The thing I remember most was the smell of Tokyo. It was warm there, really humid,” Rath says.

Oswego has a long history with Tsukuba, beginning with its founding by Oswego graduate Hideo Takamine (1877) for whom Takamine Drive on campus is named. Takamine came to Oswego to learn Edward Austin Sheldon’s object method of teaching. He returned to his native country and founded a teachers college, the forerunner of Tokyo University of Education, which eventually became Tsukuba.

The Oswego students in the Tsukuba program have a tradition all their own. When one group of Oswego students finishes the program, they leave room

Shoppers bustling through the streets of Tokyo (left) are favorite subjects for Rath’s camera, as are visitors to the Heian Shrine in Kyoto (below).

### Ashley’s Itinerary

**Fall 2003:** Hamlin to Oswego  
**March 2006:** Spring break trip to Japan (first international flight)  
**August 2006:** Tsukuba, Japan  
**March 2007:** Bangkok, Thailand; KoSamui, Thailand; Penang, Malaysia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Singapore  
**April 2007:** Kyoto, Himeji and Hiroshima, Japan  
**July 2007:** Seattle, Wash.  
**Sept 2007:** Back in Oswego  
**June 2008:** Move to Los Angeles
supplies for the incoming group, who do the same for those to follow.

Being an international business minor, Rath paid a lot of attention to marketing trends. While she was in Japan the cell phone industry was having a big promotion, where people would pick their own cell phone color out of the hundreds of Pantone colors available.

“I loved meeting new people,” Rath says. She made friends from all around the world, among the other international students at Tsukuba’s program. “I can go to Poland, Egypt, and have a place to stay.” She made friends from Slovenia, England and Thailand.

Rath didn’t confine her travel to Tsukuba. Every chance she got, she’d explore a new area of Japan and make side trips to other parts of Asia, including a visit to the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the largest twin towers in the world.

SHARING THE WORLD

They say technology makes the world smaller and it certainly did for Rath. She kept in touch with friends back at Oswego through blogging and a video podcast.

Art Professor Cara Brewer Thompson ’02 bought a webcam, and scheduled times for Rath to speak to classes back at Oswego.

“I had a little camera on my computer and did Web conferencing with graphic design classes,” Rath says. Because of the time difference, sometimes she “broadcast” to her classmates in her pajamas.

The exchange didn’t end there. “When I came back I shared as much as I could, and encouraged other students to do so as well,” Rath says.

Another way she shared her experiences was by producing a video, “Unbounded: What It’s Like to Study Abroad (It’s Awesome)” as part of her scholarship requirements. Rather than just share her own experiences, Rath interviewed students from all over the world. The resulting movie gave a full and enthusiastic portrait of the study abroad experience.

Associate Dean of Oswego’s School of Business Pamela Cox coordinates the international business minor, and she concurs with Rath that study abroad is essential for today’s students. “It allows them to become more marketable,” she says of their chances in the job search.

“There’s a certain amount of bravery involved” in study abroad that increases students’ self-confidence, she says. “When they return, any kind of new challenges we might throw their way or when they go to work for a company or organization, these are some things they can feel more confident they can do.”

Rath urges all students to follow in her footsteps. “You see things from a different perspective. ‘You see things from a different perspective,’” she says of travel abroad. “It’s actually harder to come back than to go over.”

Travel abroad has changed Rath. “My future goals have changed a lot,” she says. “I want a career that will allow me to travel and explore as many countries as I can.”

Her Tsukuba experience set the stage for that. Wherever she decides to travel, she says, “I have a huge global network. I can pick up the phone and have a place to stay.”

For now, Rath is certainly on the move in her budding career in the television production industry. Based in Los Angeles, she is currently working on post-production of television’s “The Apprentice.”

Where she will go from there is anybody’s guess. One thing is certain: Ashley Rath ’07, world traveler, will be exploring the globe, thanks to encouragement and help she received at Oswego.
Most Wednesday nights during the school year, you’ll know where to find Tim Lanigan ’10.

He’ll be down at Patz on the River, pounding out a jazz riff on the piano or maybe taking a solo on the trombone. He’s part of the Oswego Jazz Project, a student-faculty collaboration that began two years ago.

Music Professors Rob Auler on piano, Trevor Jorgensen on saxophone and Eric Schmitz on drums with alumnus Max McKee ’07 on electric bass get together at the local restaurant to get the community involved in the SUNY Oswego music program and showcase student talent.

They’ve put out two CDs and produced several songs that feature student input. Their latest album, “And the Time is Now,” features one track — “Tug” — which was performed and mixed entirely by Oswego students.

Lanigan is a regular with the group, but that’s not the only place he showcases his considerable musical talent.

One Wednesday night last spring semester he was at the keyboard on “Straight, No Chaser” with the OJP and the next evening he was on stage at Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre singing in “Tin Pan Alley,” a production featuring the songs of the 1930s and ’40s.

At Oswego’s longest standing tradition, Torchlight, Lanigan can be found among the StateSingers, reprising the songs that formed the soundtrack to the senior class’s experience.

His rich baritone is as at home with popular standards as it is with a classical cantata.

The junior music major plays classical piano and studies vocal music, performing with such groups as the College Choir and College Chorus in addition to StateSingers, while also playing in the college jazz band.

The opportunity to have that flexibility is part of what drew him to Oswego. “At other schools, you are in one track. It’s not possible to have that involvement, to broaden your horizons,” he says.

Lanigan could have chosen any number of top-notch universities, according to Auler, Lanigan’s piano teacher.
“Tim had dynamite grades. He’s the kind of student people fight over. We had to compete with some prestigious places to get him,” says Auler.

Donor support helped

The music professor believes Lanigan’s Presidential Scholarship made all the difference in attracting him to Oswego.

“That Presidential Scholarship leveled the playing field so we could offer him the one-on-one support and the things that we do very well as a liberal arts school and as a very nurturing human-scale department,” Auler recalls.

Lanigan agrees that the scholarship helped lure him to Oswego.

Music — and Oswego — runs in Lanigan’s family. His grandfather is George Cuppernull, a former SUNY Oswego band director, who retired from the music department in 1987 after a 26-year association with the college.

Tim’s mother Caren Cuppernull Lanigan ’77 also attended Oswego and his great uncle James Lanigan ’66 served as chair of the College Council. Lanigan Hall is named in recognition of James’ strong support of the university.

But when he was searching for a college for his undergraduate career, the Watertown High School graduate admits that finances were a consideration.

“Some of the other universities I was looking at were a bit more costly and this scholarship takes a good chunk out of the total cost my parents and I would have to pay for all four years,” he says.

He has to keep his grades at a certain level, and participate in special Presidential Scholar programs to renew his scholarship each year. But it’s been worth it, he says.

“The opportunity to keep receiving the scholarship takes a bit of a burden off my family,” Lanigan says.

It has another positive effect as well. “It influences me to work harder, to keep doing good things around campus.”

The Presidential Scholarship isn’t the only donor-supported aspect of Lanigan’s Oswego career. Last year, he was the first recipient of the Emeriti Association scholarship, supported by the Oswego Emeriti Scholarship Fund and the Emeriti Life Membership account.
"I just happened to wander in one day," Jessica Lyons '07 said.

The day she walked into the Compass in the Campus Center ended up changing her life. After switching majors twice and taking a year off of school to have her son, Lyons had just about had it when she decided her history degree wouldn’t fit her career aspirations either — two months before graduation.

Today the Enterprise management trainee says she found Assistant Director of Career Services Gary Morris '88 just in time.

“I met with Gary and he saved my life,” Lyons said. “I felt like I was really lost in the college system and he was able to pull me out.

“He didn’t do it for me, he just lent me the tools,” she said.

The Compass unites several student services that had been spread out across campus. “We wanted to position ourselves as a comprehensive educational and career planning center,” said Kathy Smits Evans '84, assistant vice president for student affairs.

The Compass places Student Advisement, Career Services, Experience-Based Education, Service Learning and Community Service, Civic Engagement, Orientation, First-Year Programs and Transfer Services under one roof. Within the Compass are several donor-named spaces including corporate and alumni support.

One-stop shopping

“We never had anything like the Compass before,” said public relations major Lauren Layton '09, who interned with the Compass as a student navigator.
her junior year. “If you walk in, no matter what stage of school you’re in, no matter what year you are, there’s something here for you.”

The central move works geographically and philosophically for the staff as well, Morris said. “Putting this particular group of departments together in one area simply makes it easier for all of us to work with students,” he said. “For instance, I can walk a student over to the internship office myself.”

The interdepartmental collaboration is changing the professional culture. “What is evolving is a different mindset here,” Morris said. “I think that most people working here think of themselves as working for the Compass as opposed to working for their individual departments.”

Student advisement, orientation and first-year programs and transfer student services also reside at the Compass. Sarah Lewis ’11 said she appreciated the accessibility and resources available to her and other new students.

Since high school, Lewis had dreamed of becoming a meteorologist. It was a major reason she chose Oswego. However, a few weeks into the program, she realized it wasn’t for her. “It was very scary at first,” Lewis said. “I was happy to eliminate one thing, but looking at the list [of other majors], I didn’t even know where to start.”

The Compass offered her a one-semester course designed to help explore career paths and with guidance from adviser Christy Harrison Huynh ’98, M ’08, Lewis decided to pursue a public justice degree. “Christy helped a lot of us find out what we really wanted to do,” Lewis said, referring to some classmates who joined her in the program. “I couldn’t be happier with what I’ve picked.”

Focus on service

As the name suggests, the Compass can lead students in many directions. Bailey Garfinkel ’08 was heavily involved with the Center for Service Learning and Community Service at the Compass as a student.

Now she works there as the AmeriCorps VISTA coordinator. Community service became an important part of her Oswego experience as she sought to improve the image of Greek life with civic projects. “As I was getting the Greek organizations more involved, I wanted every student to have the experience,” said Garfinkel, who was president of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. With AmeriCorps VISTA, she connects students with more than 180 service opportunities, including Alternative Spring Break and Adopt-A-Grandparent.

Garfinkel said she may go to law school and someday return to the Oswego area for a career in politics. Better connecting the college and Oswego community is a big motivator, she said. “You can make a huge difference when you break down those barriers.”

Jessica Lyons ’07 works as a recruiter at the Fall Career and Internship Fair in Swetman Gym this fall. The Enterprise management trainee wouldn’t be on the corporate career path if not for the career services at the Compass, she said.
Seeds of Hope

By Michele Reed

Alice Massimi '02 sits on a bench near Glimmerglass Lagoon, a light breeze ruffling her hair as birds chirp in the spring sunshine. But her thoughts go back to a chilly autumn evening more than six years ago when the world seemed a dark and forbidding place.

It was the night of Sept. 11, 2001, and students, faculty and staff had gathered in the quad outside Hewitt Union and raised their candles high against the darkness of that hour.

“Light is a symbol of love, a symbol of knowledge, and also a symbol of truth,” President Deborah F. Stanley reminded them. “At this vigil, in solidarity, we hold our candles to drive out the darkness of the night and in our world.”

“I remember it like it was yesterday,” says Tim Barnhart ’02, then-Student Association president. “The memorial was one of my first acts as president.”

Stanley’s President’s Council and the student leadership team worked together to organize one of the first memorials in New York state. “I’ve never seen a campus come together like this,” Barnhart remembers. “Hundreds of students came out for it.”

It had a huge impact on Massimi, who at the time was senior class coordinator in the alumni office.

“When all that happened, I personally felt helpless. Many of us had close family members working there. We all saw our nation under attack,” says Massimi.

“It was a life-changing event. Something had to be done.”

Massimi found something to do that gave meaning to the event for her and the other students who were at Oswego that day. “Once we knew we lost alumni, something had to be done to memorialize those who had walked the same path at Oswego, and perished in such a horrific event.”

She and her classmates decided to raise money to establish a memorial garden for the 12 alumni lost when the Twin Towers collapsed.

“We put buckets [for donations] out at all the senior class events and in the Hewitt Union,” she recalls.

The memorial garden became the class gift of the Classes of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 — all the classes who were on campus when the World Trade Center collapsed.

Their work came to fruition Sept. 11, 2005, when the garden was dedicated.

Commitment to hope

“It was very emotional,” Massimi said. “You see the families, see the hurt. But you also saw they were grateful that the campus remembered. That was the rewarding aspect of it.”

Several family members of victims came, including 19 members of the Hannan family and 12 members of the Brattons.

“It’s a wonderful tribute to all those lost,” said Andrea Hannan, widow of Michael Hannan ’89, at the 2005 dedication.

Mary Bratton, mother of Michelle Bratton’00, said she knew her daughter was there by the purple flowers, Michelle’s favorite color. “This is like her second home,” she said at the time.

Barnhart returned to campus and Massimi flew up from Savannah, Ga., where she is an anchor on a TV news show. “It felt good to know that we had done something to maybe help with the healing,” she says.

That sunny afternoon in the autumn...
of 2005, Barnhart echoed the words he spoke four years before, calling for hope amid terror. “This memorial . . . represents the same hopes that our fallen family members had when they first came to Oswego. Hope for learning, hope for friendship, and hope for growth,” Barnhart said. “We pledge to honor those alumni we’ve lost with a commitment to hope, and a commitment to always remember them through this beautiful memorial. Let hope be SUNY Oswego’s true legacy of September 11th.”

**Communal gift**

The garden was the brainchild of the senior classes, but community members and campus staff contributed generously as well, bringing the total to more than $8,000 to construct the garden. Their contributions were not limited to funds alone.

Mary DePentu, director of facilities, maintenance and operation, designed the garden and campus grounds crews worked over the summer of 2005 to prepare the site and plant the perennials which make up the botanical sanctuary.

“I really wanted to pay respect to those who lost their lives and for their families,” DePentu remembers of her creative process in designing the garden. “But I also wanted to give a signal of hope.”

The garden overlooks Glimmerglass Lagoon, and gives visitors a quiet place to reflect.

“This beautiful, tranquil setting offers the opportunity for Oswego students, faculty, and staff not only to respect and remember those who lost their lives on that tragic day, but also to contemplate what’s going in their own lives,” says DePentu.

**Designed with love**

DePentu put much thought into the plantings for the garden. An English style bench is surrounded by deciduous and conifer trees, ground cover, perennials and bulbs. The plants are placed to surround visitors in a blanket of green until the fall season when the site springs into color, in remembrance of the 12 alumni victims. Fall blooming crocus, witch hazel, red berries of winterberry holly, and perennial plants of autumn joy sedum and blue aster brighten the autumn landscape. **Shawn Boshart ’89**, owner of Oswego County Monuments, created a memorial plaque with the names of the

Alice Massimi ’02 spearheaded the drive to revive the senior gift program and plant a memorial garden to remember those lost on Sept. 11, 2001.
12 alumni, affixed to a large boulder in the front of the garden.

Campus grounds staff worked hard to make the garden beautiful, but the reaction of the victims’ families was worth it. “While the staff was working on it, you could see their pride,” says DePentu. “They picked up materials, delivered the mulch.”

“I was there when the families came and saw what we had done and they were inspired,” says grounds crew member Kevin Dice. “It gives you that warm feeling that you did something meaningful and it will last a long time.”

DePentu was touched by the families’ reactions as well. Her voice breaking with emotion, she recalls that she drove one victim’s mother around campus, taking the same route her daughter would have taken on her way to class each day. “I stopped on the Seneca Bridge and we looked to the south and we could see the September 11 memorial,” DePentu recounts. “It really meant a lot to her. She said, ‘My daughter would have loved this.’”

The garden is a magnet for students, faculty and staff, many of whom walk around Glimmerglass for exercise. DePentu relates that community members make a special trip to see the memorial, and a group of senior citizens even came to visit and reflect.

The garden had one other lasting effect. It spurred the revival of the senior class gift, which raised nearly $21,000 during the Inspiring Horizons campaign and inspired a culture of philanthropy among Oswego’s young alumni.

“There are more and more of these recent graduates giving back than in previous years,” says Massimi. “And I think a lot of that is due to the senior gift. You learn to give back before you even leave here, so continue that once you’ve left Oswego.”

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A New Tradition

When the classes of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 pooled their donations to create the 9/11 Memorial Garden, they renewed a forgotten tradition at Oswego: the senior class gift.

Since those students successfully completed their drive, subsequent classes have shown their own generosity to Oswego. T-shirt sales, gifts in honor of a parent or professor, and donations in amounts like $20.05 and $20.06 filled the coffers.

Each year surpassed the last, according to Michelle Tackett-Spinner ’98, associate alumni director. The Class of 2008 raised about $7,500.

“The students work hard each year, with great enthusiasm, to raise the senior class gift,” said Tackett-Spinner. “They are excited about leaving a legacy on the campus for future classes.”

Recent class gifts have included:

- **2006** Row of seats in Campus Center ice arena/convocation center
- **2007** Garden in front of Campus Center
- **2008** Refurbishing the clock in the quad in front of Penfield Library, complete with garden
- **2009** To be determined by class members
Always a Teacher

SHE GREW UP PLAYING TEACHER to her dolls, so Marietta McDevitt Place ’36 was never in doubt as to what her career would be.

“As a child, all I did was read and pretend to teach,” she recalls. “I always knew I would be a teacher.”

Marietta traveled daily from Hannibal to campus at the height of the Great Depression, returning each night to care for her seriously ill mother.

Graduating in just three years from Oswego, she would distinguish herself by a successful student teaching stint, which led to a job in Canajoharie, where she taught for five years.

Marietta would go on to teach at one- and two-room schools before a 20-year career at Hannibal Central Schools. She supervised 22 student teachers. “It was my way of paying back the help I received,” Marietta says.

She learned a lot about teaching and discipline, and one lesson has always stayed with her: The key is to make learning fun. “If you like to learn, you will learn,” she says.

A field trip to the Capitol Building in Albany, making a mess with finger-paints and impromptu plays were some of the methods she used to inject fun into the learning process. After master’s study at Oswego and 32 years of teaching, Marietta retired, but stayed active tutoring in English grammar.

After retiring in 1978, Marietta and her husband drove to Alaska in a pop-up Volkswagen camper, a trip they would make a total of five times. They traveled overseas more than a dozen times, and backpacked the Grand Canyon at age 66.

Dorothy Palmer Fresch ’36 was a dear college friend with whom she still stays in touch.

Favorite Oswego influences include Dr. Guy Wagner who asked her to start a science lab, Isabelle Hart and Helen Hagger. Hagger ran a tight ship, Marietta remembers. On a day set aside for campus clean-up, Hagger assigned her to pile up stones for the fence at the president’s house. “If any part of it looks good, I did it!” she says with a laugh.

She came a long way from “teaching” her dolls, but Marietta never lost the wonder and sense of fun that would serve her so well in the classroom.

— Michele Reed
Brazil, Nepal, China, Thailand and Italy make great vacation destinations. For 15 years, Terry Waters ’67 made a living in those locales. A career that began in teaching developed into an administrative job in Portland, Ore. After nearly a decade as superintendent, Terry decided he needed a change of scenery.

“I was coaching my son’s little league team and I realized how much I missed being there to raise my children,” Terry said. A friend turned him on to a system of international schools located all over the world. The schools — there are more than 900 of them — teach children traveling with their parents, ensuring a continuous education for them, regardless of location.

“It was marvelous. In Brazil, we had children from 32 countries,” said Terry, who served as the head of the schools he worked for. “Just having contact with folks from that many cultures was phenomenal.”

He and his family went on to Nepal, China, Thailand and Italy over the course of 15 years. Terry returned to the U.S. three times each year on business.

“On each of these trips I would stop and take a few vacation days in another country,” said Terry, who has been to more than 55 different countries.

Daughters Kaylin and Kimika graduated from high school abroad. His two sons, Sean and Mark, were college aged when the family began traveling.

Members of the Waters family — Kimika, Carol, Terry ’67 and Kaylin — stand on a bridge from Nepal to Tibet. Terry was an administrator for several international schools until 2001.

Terry has stayed in touch with Lewis Turco, professor emeritus and founder of Oswego’s creative writing program. Turco taught that creativity can be employed in all facets of life and all types of writing.

“That has stayed with me the rest of my life,” Terry said, naming Theatre Professor Emeritus Sanford (Sandy) Sternlicht ’53 as another influential faculty member.

Terry was also able to hire Oswego classmates and friends, Dick ’68 and Karen Flint Duciaume ’67 while working in Brazil. The Duciaumes went on to teach in Saudi Arabia and Venezuela as well.

— Shane M. Liebler
True Blue — Bluebirds Provide Decades of Happiness for Alumnus

MEET JOHN ROGERS ’72: banker, biologist, bluebird box builder.

Known to many as "Mr. Bluebird," John has been on the forefront of protecting New York state's official bird for more than 35 years. The eastern bluebird, or Sialia sialis, has long been threatened by sprawl and development that eats up habitat, according to John.

Today he drives more than 100 miles every two weeks maintaining 250 bluebird boxes throughout Central New York. At his peak, he maintained more than 450 bluebird abodes.

John covers an even wider area — and audience — with presentations at libraries, schools, nature centers and churches several times each week.

"My dad gave me a bluebird box when I was 10 or 12 years old," John recalled. "I just became very fascinated. They're beautiful birds."

The biology major drew great inspiration from Oswego Professor Emeritus George Maxwell. John fondly recalls his time at Rice Creek Field Station as a student.

While working in his family's bait shop after graduation, he was recruited by a regular customer who owned OnBank. He spent his entire 26-year career there, eventually serving as vice president.

John spent every free moment building and maintaining bluebird habitat.

"That was my stress reliever," he said. Just as when he was a banker, John said his full-time hobby is a labor of love. He's happy to share his knowledge for little or no fee.

The satisfaction comes from inspiring anyone who'll listen, John said. His home in Brewerton has stacks of heartfelt thank-you letters and correspondence from bluebird converts.

"I focus on bluebirds, but there is a nature appreciation theme throughout," said John, who has distributed thousands of bluebird box kits he is constantly assembling in his garage.

The New York State Bluebird Society co-founder advocates for his feathered friends at every opportunity. At the Christmas tree farm he owns and operates down the road, his customers often walk away with a bluebird box of their own.

"I love connecting with people," John said. "I love that [my work] makes a difference." — Shane M. Liebler
Mission: Safety

SOLDIERS JUST BACK FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN HAVE told Tom Griest ’78 that the sweetest sound to their ears was the whirring roar of the rescue helicopter’s rotors. It means a lot to him because, as the avionics lead for Sikorsky’s Black Hawk helicopters, he works hard to make sure those aircraft get to their destination and home safely.

Tom and his wife, Laura Polla Griest ’78, who also works on avionics for Sikorsky, say the safety of U.S. troops is always at the top of their minds as they do their jobs. “I have a flag that flew over Bagram Air Force Base,” recalls Tom. The troops put the flag in a flight bag and flew with it in combat missions (see photo). “That’s why we put as much effort into our work as we do,” he says. “We are very much aware that their lives depend on the quality of our work.”

In addition to the flag, Tom’s workspace houses thank you notes from pilots and rescued soldiers. “It’s what motivates most of us,” says Tom, who previously worked on some of the first digital telephone switches for GTE and owned his own robotics and computer software business. “We know the guys in the field.”

Not only soldiers’ lives, but those rescued by Coast Guard and other forces, depend on the accuracy and durability of the Black Hawk. In 2006, between Hurricane Katrina and tsunamis, 44,000 lives were saved by Sikorsky helicopters.

Laura has worked on the S92 Search and Rescue aircraft, which help retrieve people from desperate situations and ferry workers to the oil fields in the icy waters of the Bering Sea.

Tom and Laura came to Oswego because it was one of the first schools to offer a computer science degree. They laugh as they recall sitting on the floor of the lobby in Culkin Hall, waiting for the computer center to open, so they could input stacks of punch cards around finals time. Computer science students were highly motivated to “get it right,” recall Tom and Laura. They could only access the mainframe computer three times a day and any mistake would cause the computer to reject their work, so losing a letter grade a day made accuracy vital.

Laura and Tom valued the close relationships they established with Oswego professors like Robert Sebesta, Spiros Maglaveris, Jack Narayan and Robert Carnes, as well as the opportunity to be active on campus. Tom served as president of the Computer Science Association and represented Scales Hall in Student Senate. Laura worked in Penfield Library and at the Oswego Sub Shop.

“Oswego was good to us,” says Laura. “We have fond memories and two careers from going to Oz.” — Michele Reed
Torch Light

FOR MANY PEOPLE, THE OLYMPIC GAMES are synonymous with passion, pride, athleticism and inspiration. The same could be said for the marketing campaign that Lea-Ann Woodward Berst ’84 engineered for her client during the famous Olympic torch relay that led up to the 2008 games.

Lea-Ann recently returned to Raleigh, N.C., after two years of living with her family in Beijing, China. Her husband, David, accepted an assignment there with computer manufacturer Lenovo, leaving Lea-Ann to ponder what type of work she could do thousands of miles from Sledogg, her own marketing firm at home.

It turned out Lenovo was looking for someone who could speak English, had familiarity with IBM computers and experience in international business to coordinate their torch relay sponsorship. Before she founded Sledogg, Lea-Ann was an international brand manager for IBM.

“IT was a day-and-night effort, conference calls around the clock,” she said of the relay coordination. “I went to every continent but Antarctica.

“I’m not the same person I was; it was an incredible experience,” Lea-Ann said.

Each relay sponsor was allowed to assemble a team of six runners to move the flame on the ground through 21 countries, many of which Lea-Ann visited.

She traces her own international curiosity back to her days as an editor for the Ontarian yearbook.

“When you work for the yearbook, you actually get to know the rest of the school very well,” Lea-Ann said. “You’ve got all these different cultures from around the world represented on campus.”

Berst’s experiences with everyone from students to visiting performers to professors inspired her to do more exploring after she received her degree in business administration.

“When I exited that environment, I craved being exposed internationally,” she said. ●

— Shane M. Liebler

Lea-Ann Woodward Berst ’84 holds a torch used during the international relay leading up to the Beijing Olympic Games in August. Lea-Ann was a marketing strategist for Lenovo during the company’s sponsorship of the torch relay.
World Music

Musician Christopher Maloney ’91 makes quite a fashion statement in his Oswego gear as he lands at Tokyo airport last March, after a 12-hour flight. Christopher was arriving for the first of two Japan tours with his instrumental band, Cosmosquad, last year. In March and again in September, the band played Tokyo, Nagoya, Sendai and Osaka. Christopher says the shows were very well received. “We were even recognized on the streets when we were out and about,” he says. “Good times.” Cosmosquad also released a DVD called Lights...Camera...SQUAD! in Japan on Being Records and in the rest of the world on Sunset and Marmaduke Records. (See Alumni Bookshelf, pg. 42) The rock guitarist finished up his autumn in Florida teaching at music performance clinics and performing at the Bass Bash for Fender Guitars in Mexico at the end of October.
Inspired to Serve

When Trudy Perkins ’93 was growing up, her mother always quoted the Bible verse that says, “To whom much is given, much is required.” That adage, along with her father’s example as the first African-American alderman in Albany, led Perkins to a life of service.

This year that service was honored in a special way. In May, she was selected as one of “Maryland’s Top 100 Women” by the Daily Record newspaper. She was also selected as a “Person of Influence” by Channel magazine.

“I always found ways in which I can use my talents and gifts to help others out,” Trudy says. “And it’s fun for me, too.”

Like mentoring 7-year-old Gianni.

“I have no children of my own, so this gives me an opportunity to give back, be a role model,” says Trudy, who loves taking Gianni to places like the Baltimore Aquarium and bowling, in between tutoring her in reading.

“I get a lot too. I see her being excited about the world, answer her questions,” she says. “To see her progressing throughout her schooling and her life has been a great experience for me.”

Much of Trudy’s community service is focused on education, like her involvement with the KIPP Ujima Village Academy, part of a nationwide charter school for kids from single-parent homes.

Trudy serves as communications director for Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-Md.). She is active on the board of directors for the SEED School of Maryland, Charles Street Development Corp., and the Baltimore School of the Arts. She is also a member of the University of Maryland Baltimore Community Outreach Council, the Greater Baltimore Committee Bridging the Gap Advisory Council and the East Baltimore Development Economic Inclusion Board.

Her service résumé includes involvement in her alma mater, such as being a guest speaker at an autumn alumni event in Washington, D.C. The former Student Association director of finance has served Oswego on the Reunion Committee and the Reunion of Color Committee and has been a supporter of Oswego’s Hubert B. Smith Diversity Scholarship and REACH Scholarship.

The scholarships are important to her, as she hopes to pass on the opportunities Oswego opened for her to the next wave of students. “I hope it becomes cyclical and generational,” she says. “I hope [the recipients] will want to pass it on to someone else.”

Part of her dedication to education comes from her biggest influence at Oswego, Dr. Jack Narayan. “Being in class with 200 students, he made it feel like . . . he was teaching directly to you. When I am with my mentee, I hope I can make learning exciting for her and make learning relatable to her,” says Trudy.

“I see the enormous impact it made on me, when I had someone who really cared about my progression and my future so much.”

— Michele Reed
Success on Stage

IT’S A WINNING STREAK HE COULD TAKE TO LAS VEGAS, but Jeremy Aldridge ’96 would prefer bringing his acclaimed musical to the East Coast — as in Broadway.

A recent Los Angeles run of “Louis & Keely: Live at the Sahara,” a musical biopic that Jeremy is directing about the 1950s Vegas lounge act, sold out in 12 hours. Since premiering last year, the show has moved to a larger theatre; garnered praise from Variety, the Los Angeles Times and others; and earned four nominations for Ovation awards, L.A.’s version of the Tonys. The production earned the Franklin P. Levy Memorial Award for Best Intimate Theatre Musical.

“This is the biggest success so far,” said Jeremy, a 10-year veteran of the L.A. stage scene. “We didn’t know what to expect.”

It’s been a great year for Jeremy, who almost became an earth science teacher.

“Theatre was basically just an interest of mine. I started off in secondary ed,” he said. “Every spare moment I had, I ended up in Tyler Hall.”

A difficult calculus course ended his teaching aspirations. Jeremy, now a full-time director of the Lake Street Community Center in L.A., ended up with psychology and theatre degrees.

“My experiences at Oswego were incredibly diverse,” he said. “They prepared me perfectly to be an effective leader at my community center and the same in my artistic endeavors.

“The friendships I made with students and professors continue very strongly to this day,” said Jeremy, who married Natascha Corrigan ’96 at the end of October.

Fellow alumnus J.J. Mayes ’98 is assistant director of “Louis & Keely.”

Jeremy credits theatre professors Ron Medici and Mark Cole ’73 for helping develop his acting chops. He stayed on campus an extra year to direct “Reckless,” a play he revisited when he first moved to L.A.

His early career included stints selling Kirby vacuum cleaners and cars in Syracuse, where he was also acting. One of his first professional gigs was with the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.

Jeremy said he was inspired to move out West in part by the large network of Oswego alumni in Southern California. With a little luck, he might be coming back East soon.

—Shane M. Liebler
Athletes Honored

Oswego State honored four athletes and a coach at its eighth annual Athletic Hall of Fame induction in October. Inducted were, from left, Jeannine Muoio Salamone ’92 for her achievements in cross country; Joseph Bena ’64 for his achievements in coaching wrestling; Ernest Loungo, for coaching the Oswego State SUNYAC championship 1966 men’s soccer team; Frank Lisco ’65 for baseball, basketball and soccer and for his coaching career as well; and Kimberly Pace ’97 for her achievements in women’s lacrosse.
Inspiring Horizons was so much more than just raising money for worthwhile projects here at SUNY Oswego. It created wonderful opportunities to enhance our profile and increase the engagement, spirit, energy, pride and excitement of our 72,000 alumni!

Some of the campaign highlights included more than 200 regional alumni events — from the United Nations in New York City to California to Florida and points in between.

During the campaign, we also launched many new initiatives that sparked alumni excitement and pride.

One of the most visible examples of that spirit and pride was our Oswego Family Portrait, at the public launch of the campaign in 2005 as 1,500 students, faculty and alumni spelled out “Oswego” on a picture-perfect September day.

We launched our NYC Career Connections program in 2003. Last January it connected 50 alumni with close to 200 students for career exploration and networking.

We hosted our largest Reunion Weekend ever in 2008 with more than 1,100 attendees — what excitement, pride and energy!

We engaged more than 250 alumni by bringing them back into the classroom through the Alumni-in-Residence program.

We re-established — and have since tripled — our senior class gift program as a way to build a culture of philanthropy and engagement of current students. The first gift of the re-established program was the 9/11 Memorial to honor and remember our alumni lost on that day.

We began our GOLD (Graduates Of the Last Decade) program as a way to better connect and serve our recent grads.

We launched OsweGoConnect, our online alumni community and Lake E-effect, our popular monthly e-newsletter during the campaign.

These initiatives serve as points of pride and engagement, and show the wonderful spirit of our Oswego Alumni Family. It is exciting to contemplate what lies ahead as we look for new and better ways to keep alumni connected and involved. I look forward to working with all of you as we plan to celebrate 150 years of Oswego pride at our college’s Sesquicentennial in 2011.

A special thanks to all of you from all of us as you continue to make Oswego shine — both here on campus through your philanthropy and your service, and in your own communities!

Betsy
Scott Peck ’08 teaches his students at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School that technology education is all about real-world problem solving. After attending two community colleges to earn his associate’s degree, Scott solved his own problem of what career to pursue when he remembered the lasting impact technology education classes had on him in high school. SUNY Oswego’s technology education program came highly recommended to the Canajoharie native. Now teaching four classes in the Albany area, Scott ranks his Oswego experience second to none.

“It was great, all the classes were hands-on,” he said. “I feel like all the professors there really instilled something good in me.”

1 Little-known fact: In every episode of Seinfeld, there is a Superman somewhere.
2 Favorite holiday: Christmas — I love hanging out with my family and enjoying a good meal . . . It’s also ski season.
3 Best part of your workday: The end of the day, when I have students come in for extra help; it’s my unwinding time.
4 Worst Oswego experience: Falling over from a gust of wind while trying to hold the door open for someone on my bicycle.
5 Biggest accomplishment: Graduating from Oswego, and getting a job.
6 Tiniest lie: (To a student) I can’t print that from my computer . . . It’s not hooked up to the network.
7 Highest score: A
8 Rudy’s or Sub Shop: Rudy’s in the springtime for ice cream. Sub Shop on a Friday night.
9 On-campus or off: On-campus — It was a blast. There was always at least one good memory that came out of every weekend on campus.
10 On my bookshelf: Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Cradle to Cradle, The Knowledge Web and The Da Vinci Code. Everyone should read all of them; they are quite choice.
Write home . . . to Oswego

Deadlines for Class Notes

Materials for our Class Notes section, including the Wedding Album, Alumni Bookshelf, and In Memoriam, will appear in Oswego alumni magazine, according to the following schedule:

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<td>March 1</td>
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It wasn’t too long ago that Michael Gewirtzman ’05 was booking acts for concerts at Oswego. Now he’s booking tours as an artist manager for his own company — and doing it well enough to be recognized by an industry icon.

Billboard magazine named Mike and his Vinyl Artist Management to its August list of 30 music industry executives to watch under the age of 30.

“It’s been full speed ahead since then,” the 25-year-old said. “The second that that issue hit newsstands, I started getting calls.

“I went from a small management company to a small management company that people are seeking,” Mike said. “All of a sudden I wasn’t trying to get in the door, I was the person people wanted to talk to.”

His love for music developed from a childhood backed by a classic rock soundtrack. Mike was introduced to music promotion as the concert coordinator for the Student Association Programming Board.

“I was dealing with managers and booking agents and getting a feel for the industry,” Mike said. “I definitely didn’t want to leave it.”

The Hollywood P.O.V. program coordinated by Communication Studies Professor Doug Smart grew Mike’s interest in the entertainment industry. Professors Ira Sukrungruang, Linda Morley Loomis ’90, M ’97 and James Harrigan also helped the journalism major along the way.

After graduating, he became a publicity manager in his native New York City. Soon Mike decided to strike out on his own with a commitment to working with artists passionate about their music.

“It didn’t happen because of me, it happened because of the other artists I worked with,” said Mike, who was a publicist with Josh Kelly and Joshua Radin. “All of the contacts, all of the credibility came because I worked with them.”

Today, Mike’s duties as a manager for three up-and-coming acts run the gamut from using the latest promotional techniques on the Web to making wake-up calls on the road.

His young roster includes Syracuse-bred rock band Long Since Forgotten, Maryland singer/songwriter Sam Grow and Phoenix, Ariz., native Jon Asher.

“I do anything from helping them gain exposure — publicity in magazines or on television — to getting them on tour, getting them record deals,” Mike said. “You’re everything from their manager to their babysitter.

“I’ve been both,” he added with a laugh.

—Shane M. Liebler

Michael Gewirtzman ’05 leads a discussion as part of the “How to Launch Your Media Career from Oswego” presentation at October’s Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit.
Oswego alumni magazine celebrates the significant moments in the lives of our alumni through our Class Notes, Bookshelf, Weddings and In Memoriam sections. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, gender or sexual preference. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length and to make editorial decisions about stories and photos based on space available and the quality of the image. Please send submissions to Oswego Alumni Magazine, King Alumni Hall, 300 Washington Blvd., Oswego, NY 13126 or alumni@oswego.edu, or visit www.oswego.edu/alumni/publications/magazine.
Big Thinkers: A Collection of Children’s Stories is a group of eight stories for young readers authored by Patrick Davy ’88. These stories highlight memorable characters that send messages of courage and determination to youngsters. Vantage Press, 2008.

Judy Carlson Gregerson ’74 recounts the heartbreaking and haunting story of a family torn apart by mental illness as a teenager is left to hold the pieces together. Bad Girls Club tells the story of a horrifying incident that occurred on a cliff overlooking Crater Lake. Main character Destiny must fight to keep her dysfunctional family together as she hides the secret of what her mentally ill mother did that day. Blooming Tree Press, 2007.

It’s Not about Me by Michelle Sutton Hutchinson ’88 follows Annie, a young college student, as she is caught in the middle of a war between her two brothers. Both claim to have her best interest in mind following a traumatic event in her life, but Annie must decide who to trust. Sheaf House, 2008.


Lowering the Body: The West 8th Street Sequence by Stephen Murabito ’80 is a collection of poems that brings to life the West Eighth Street neighborhood of Oswego in the 1960s, where immigrants still carried strong accents of the old countries. Seen through the eyes of a child whose Italian-American father runs a corner grocery store, the poems detail extended family, friends and colorful neighbors. Star Cloud Press, 2008.

James Patterson ’82 examines Ireland in the wake of a revolutionary period from 1791 to 1803. His academic book, In the Wake of the Great Rebellion, is based on research he performed as a Fulbright Fellow in Ireland. Manchester University Press, 2008.

Raised in Oswego, Keith Stroud ’58 is the author of Bakerman’s Dozen, a collection of 13 romantic stories centered on the need of each individual to find the ancient power of love. These short tales follow people just finding their first love, those who are looking for it again after losing it and others just trying to cope with a life without it. Morris Publishing, 2000.

Professor Emeritus Harold W. Nash writes about a trio of personal mentors in Three Good Men. The author shares experiences with his father, Harold L. Nash; childhood camp counselor Martin H. Rogers; and close friend John J. Readling, then outlines how each shaped his life. Ontarolina Publishing Co., 2008.
Alumni Board Welcomes Six

THE OSWEGO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS inducted five new members to three-year terms at its October meeting. They are Ana Rodriguez King ’94, Anchal Mohan ’05, Nancy Salisbury ’93, Maureen Flynn ’04 and Linda Morley Loomis ’90, M’97. Meghan Upson ’10, serves as the student representative to the board.

Flynn is director of engagement at Change Our World Inc. and has participated in NYC Career Connections, the Reunion Task Force, regional alumni events and GOLD Leadership Council.

King is an educator and has participated in Return to Oz reunions.

Mohan is a management associate with Citigroup. She has participated in NYC Career Connections and regional alumni events.

Salisbury is a partner with Ernst and Young in Washington, D.C. She has participated on Reunion Committee and regional alumni events.

Loomis is a professor of journalism at SUNY Oswego and former editor of Oswego alumni magazine. She previously served on the Board of Directors, serves on the Alumni Awards Committee and frequently hosts Alumni-in-Residence in her classes.

Undergraduate member Upson, a business administration major, juggles numerous clubs and a variety of interests as a member of the Future Alumni Network, a motorcycle enthusiast collective and the College Republicans.

The Oswego Alumni Association board of directors inducted five new members and a student representative. Pictured are, from left, Ana Rodriguez King ’94, Anchal Mohan ’05, Meghan Upson ’10, Nancy Salisbury ’93 and Maureen Flynn ’04. Absent from the photo is Linda Morley Loomis ’90, M’97.
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 the photo of a Psi Phi reunion on page 33 of the Fall 2008 Oswego alumni magazine, we misspelled the names of two brothers. They are James “Jim” Mignogna ’77 and Joe Colistra ‘67.
nicholas Drogo '02 and Katie Kuebler '04 were married Sept. 9, 2007. Many Oswego alumni and Sigma Tau Chi brothers attended. Pictured back row, from left: Jim Wallace '93, Richard Keppler '02, Bob Squire '04 and David '06 and Sue Clark Kramer '06. Stacy recently returned to Syracuse from Virginia, where she worked for Ferguson Enterprises doing advertising and commercial printing sales for two years. She now works for the National Employers Council Inc/PeopleSystems as an account executive. The couple lives in Syracuse.

Mary Jarosz '04 and Jonathan Donohoe were married May 17 in Big Moose. Several Oswego alumni in attendance included, from left: Cheryl Forbes '03; Dawn Stoddard '05; the bride, Sarah Quill '05; Amanda Rankins '04; Melissa Jarosz '02; and Jennifer Hollenbeck '97. Mary is a nursing student. The Donohoes live with their 1-year-old daughter, Hannah, in Utica.

Stacy Courtright '05 and Jon Mocarski were married June 9 in Oswego. Oswego alumni in attendance included, from left: Amanda Gensler '05, Brooke Gavin '04 and David '06 and Sue Clark Kramer '06. Stacy recently returned to Syracuse from Virginia, where she worked for Ferguson Enterprises doing advertising and commercial printing sales for two years. She now works for the National Employers Council Inc/PeopleSystems as an account executive. The Mocarskis live in Syracuse.

Jerry Salvage '93, CAS '04 and Jessi Countryman were married Feb. 16 in Auburn. They were joined by several Oswego alumni including, back row, from left: Joe Sherman '92; Kathleen Collins Sutton '91; David Salvage '97; Blasé Cannavale '93; Brian Sullivan '93; Marc Secchi '93, John West '93; Steve Buschman '93; John DelPiano '67; and Brian Maye '94. Pictured front row, from left are: Frank Castro '93; the bridegroom; the bride; Jim Salvage Sr. '67, CAS '77; Caryn Scherer '91; and Tom Maye '72. Jerry is a school counselor at West Middle School in Auburn.

Andy Wittman '00 and Jennifer Marabella were married Oct. 13 on Long Island. They were joined by several Oswego alumni including back row, from left: Dave Meirowitch '00; and Jay Richeda '98. Pictured front row, from left are: Allysa Kutzer Meirowitch '00; Eben Brown; Tara Irizarry; the bridegroom; the bride; Kathleen Long '03; and Erik Petersen '00. Andy is a New York City firefighter. The couple lives in Brentwood, Long Island.

Nicholas Drogo '02 and Katie Kuebler '04 were married Sept. 9, 2007. Many Oswego alumni and Sigma Tau Chi brothers attended. Pictured back row, from left, are: Jim Wallace '93, Richard Keppler '02, Bob Squire '04, Brian Christman '00, Dave Deruyter '03, Bobby Joe Williams '00, Chad Burnham '00, Matt Vaadi '06, Dave Jennings '01, Chris Snyder '89, Scott George '01, Sonja Andrews George '01, Molly Kreydt Drogo '92, and Mike Drogo. Pictured middle row, from left, are: Rob Luther '05, Josh Dziewisz '02, Kari Redmond '03, the bride, the bridegroom, Sarah Hansen '03, Becky Bush '03, Sara Newton, Jason Newton '00 and Jill Buchwald Znaczko '03. Pictured front row, from left, are: Katie Long '03, Jana Sikorski Ashworth '03, Michelle Kuraszewicz Snyder '00 and Mary Cone '04. Nick is an IT manager for Dielectric Laboratories in Cazenovia and Katie is a selection supervisor at Galson Laboratories. The couple lives in Syracuse.
Loretta Blanchette Driscoll ’32 of Cheshire, Conn., passed away July 29.

Carroll Scriber ’32 of Brooktondale died Aug. 10, 2007. He taught industrial arts in several school districts prior to working as a draftsman for Link Aviation, IBM Corp., and Cornell University. Carroll is survived by his wife, Katherine; a son; a daughter; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Kurt Blixt ’33 of Venice, Fla., passed away June 12, 2006.

Ruth Jacquette Keefe ’34 of Oswego died July 28. She taught in the New York City public schools for more than 30 years.

Mary Carrington Austin-Baehr ’35 of Liverpool passed away Aug. 16. She earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Syracuse University. Mary taught at Western Reserve, Harvard and the University of Hawaii. She is survived by her husband, Herbert.

Stanley McCann ’35 of Annapolis, Md., died July 11. He served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. Stan was employed by General Electric for 33 years. Surviving are his wife, Rosemary; a son; a daughter; a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter.

Hilda Putnam Olivo ’35 of Albany died March 23, 2000. She is survived by two daughters, a son, 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.


Mabel Snel ’36 of Hastings-on-Hudson died April 14.


William Mahaney ’38 of Whitesboro died Nov. 16, 2004. He earned a master’s degree at New York University. He was a principal in the Whitesboro Central School District before becoming assistant superintendent. He retired in 1976. Surviving are his wife, Rosemary; a son; three daughters; two granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.


Robert Kelly ’39 of Baltimore died Feb. 28.

Patricia Deady Brooks ’40 of Hilton Head Island, S.C., passed away Sept. 23. She was a reading specialist, teacher, management consultant, anti-poverty program executive director and management analyst for the Social Security Administration, retiring in 1995. Pat is survived by a son, a daughter, a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter.

Alice Marie Marsh ’40 of Rose passed away July 4, 2004.

John Pugh ’40 of Ithaca passed away Oct. 14, 2007. He served with the U.S. Navy Seabees during World War II in the Pacific islands. John was regional sales director for Rockwell International for 31 years. He is survived by a daughter, Linda Whitemore.

Cathleen Schaffer ’40 of Oswego died Aug. 4. She taught in the Oswego City School District until her retirement in 1975.


Dorothy Beavers Noble ’42 of San Jose, Calif., died March 26. She is survived by a daughter.

M. Carol McLaughlin ’45 of Oswego passed away Oct. 5. Carol taught in DeWitt, Oswego and on Long Island, retiring in 1978. She was a member of the board of directors for the Oswego Alumni Association. Surviving are her sister, Rosemary “Buddie” Murray; four nieces and four nephews.

Elizabeth Carroll Vernon ’45 of Saratoga Springs died Aug. 22. Elizabeth taught elementary school for more than 30 years. She is survived by three children and five grandchildren.

George Anderson ’47 of Herkimer passed away July 27.

Carl Palmitesso ’48 of Oswego died July 13. He served with the U.S. Army during World War II. Carl taught at Oswego High School from 1952 until 1971, when he became principal of the Oswego Middle School. He retired in 1986. Surviving are two daughters, Carleen Palmitesso ’81 and Virginia Fragale; a son, Robert; and two granddaughters.

Donald Berger ’49 of Elmiran died June 15.


Martin Lupa ’49 of Oswego passed away Feb. 10, 2008. He served with the U.S. Air Force during World War II. Martin was a product engineer at Carrier Corp. He is survived by his wife, Helen; a daughter, Regina; a son, Ronald ’81; and two grandchildren, Erin M ’02 and Michael ’05.


Robert Horowitz Klingher ’51 of Nyack died July 1, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Leon; a daughter; two sons; and seven grandchildren.

Martin Ryan ’52 of Cohoes died June 18. He served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He taught in the Cohoes City School District for over 33 years, retiring as principal of Van Schick Island School in 1981. Marty is survived by a son, a daughter, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

George Smith ’53 of Mahopac died July 11. He was an industrial arts technology teacher in Mahopac schools, retiring in 1981. George is survived by his wife, Vera; a son; a daughter; and three grandsons.

Lorenz Sutter ’53 of Montgomery died Feb. 10, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Jean; three children, including Leslie Borrelli ’86 and Randall ’85; and six grandchildren.


Elizabeth McConnnell Staple ’55 of Vernon died July 8. She was a first-grade teacher at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central for 37 years, retiring in 1995. Betty is survived by five daughters and 15 grandchildren.

Peter DeVuyst ’56 of Rochester passed away July 27. He taught industrial arts technology at Greece Central Schools for 30 years. Surviving are his wife, Marilyn Poulin DeVuyst ’53; two sons; and three grandchildren.

William Hart ’56 of Norwood died Feb. 15, 2007. He was district superintendent of schools for St. Lawrence and Lewis counties, and executive officer of the St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services after more than 30 years as an educator. William was predeceased by his wife, Maureen Powell ’55. He is survived by two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.


Leigh Andrews ’57 of Waterdown died May 12. He served with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was vice principal at Watertown High School until his retirement in 1983. Leigh is survived by his wife, Betty, and a son.

William Flack ’57 of Fair Haven died July 18. He is survived by his wife, Donna; two sons; and three grandchildren.

John Martens ’57 of Punta Gorda, Fla., passed away Aug. 15. John was manager of supervisory training and development for the Long Island Railroad, retiring in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Judy; three sons; and four grandchildren.

Gordon Mengel ’57 of Covington, La., died Aug. 19. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He retired as associate dean of education at SUNY Cortland. He was predeceased by his wife, Doris ’56. Surviving are his daughters, Jeri Bellan; Sandy Hughes ’70; his son, Gordon ’76; and eight grandchildren.

Frank Latham ’58 of Summerfield passed away May 4. He is survived by his wife, Sue.

Enrico Plastini ’58 of Palm Coast, Fla., passed away on Jan. 16. He is survived by his wife, Eileen.

Elizabeth Congdon Champney ’59 of Pulaski died June 14. She taught elementary school for many years. She is survived by her son, Richard.

Joseph Mancini ’59 of Palm Coast, Fla., died Aug. 19. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Joseph is survived by his wife, Kay; four daughters; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
Richard Miller ’60 of Glenmont passed away Aug. 19. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Prior to his retirement, Dick was district sales manager for Moore Business Forms with over 30 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Linda; a son; a daughter; two grandchildren; and three siblings, including Robert ’58.

Frank Proietti ’60 of Bedford Hills passed away Oct. 10, 2006. He taught in Yonkers and Eastchester before becoming co-owner of Mount Kisco Furniture and Brewster Interiors. Surviving are his wife, Judy; two daughters; a son and three grandchildren.

Richard Ward ’60 of Loveland, Colo., passed away Sept. 4. He served with the U.S. Army in the Korean War. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1998. Surviving are his wife, Dorothy; four sons; three daughters; 14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Arlie Cummings Gorman ’61 of Canandaigua died May 10, 2007. She taught at Speculator and Tupper Lake schools, retiring in 1972. She is survived by a son, three daughters, seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Marie Green VanScoy ’61 of Memphis died July 9. Marie retired in 1972 after teaching in the Jordan-Elbridge school district for 20 years. Surviving are a daughter, a son, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Peter Synk ’62 of Delhi passed March 4, 2005. He taught technology and driver education in the junior and senior high schools in Baldwinsville, retiring in 1995. He is survived by his wife, Eva; two sons; two daughters; a stepson; and six grandchildren.


Bernhard Pett ’63 of Belleville died March 26. He served in the U.S. Air Force for more than 33 years, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; a son; and two grandsons.

Richard Hart ’64 of Malone died May 15. Richard was a teacher and administrator in the Malone Central School District from 1964 until his retirement. He also served as the chaplain at Clinton Correctional Facility and Upstate Correctional Facility. Surviving are his wife, Linda; and four daughters.

Harry Kachele ’64 of Whitehall passed away April 6. He taught industrial arts technology for 32 years at Patchogue-Medford Senior High School. Harry is survived by his wife, Barbara; a son; three daughters; and three grandchildren.

Robert Morris ’64 of Rome died May 13. He was an industrial arts technology teacher at Vernon-Verno-na-Sherrill Junior High School for 38 years. Bob is survived by a daughter, a son and three grandchildren.

Linda Pfister ’64 of Watertown died June 30, 2007. She was a speech and hearing pathologist for the Watertown City School District for 33 years. Following her retirement, she worked as a consultant at Benchmark Family Services and for the past three years operated Stepping Stones Family Services. Linda is survived by two daughters.

Sherilyn Weigel Czerwiak ’65 of Fulton died Aug. 7. She earned a master’s degree and certificate of advanced studies at Syracuse University. Sheri was a French teacher at Cicero-North Syracuse High School for 35 years. She is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren.

Edward Novak ’65 of Churchville, Md., passed away March 15. He earned a master’s degree at Oswego in 1969. He taught industrial arts technology in several school districts, retiring in 2002. Surviving are his wife, Arlene Guzicki ’65; two sons; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

Matthew Kupic ’66 of Albany died March 19, 2004. He was an admissions counselor at Hudson Valley Community College from 1969 until his retirement in 1995. Matthew is survived by his son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Linda LaMay ’67 of Auburn died July 16. She taught in Prince George’s County, Md., for more than 33 years. She is survived by her mother, Laura.

Frances Burns MacMillen ’67 of Mexico, N.Y., died July 26, 2006. She was a teacher for the Department of Defense in Butzbach, Germany. Frances is survived by four sons, a daughter, 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Joseph Messier ’67 of Guelderland died March 23, 2003. He worked for the New York State Education Department, retiring in 1991. Surviving are his wife, Joan; three daughters; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Daniel Stone ’67 of Mora died Aug. 31, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Sheila; and two sons.

Jeanne Pearson Dumbleton ’68 of Ticonderoga died May 26, 2007, along with her husband, William, as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Jeanne was a teacher in the Essex, Vt., school district. Surviving are two sons and a daughter.

Doris Hulings Quick ’68 of Penn Yan died June 28, 2007.

Mary Lovenguth Park ’70 of Mount Dora, Fla., passed away April 24, 2005.

Dorothea Smithers ’70 of Oswego died June 19. She was employed by the Social Security Administration for 22 years, retiring in 1978.

John Richardson ’71 of Oswego died Aug. 11. He served with the U.S. Navy during WWII and with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He taught at Palmyra-Macedon High School prior to his retirement. John is survived by a son, a daughter and three grandchildren.

Thomas Dydyk ’72 of Syracuse passed away July 15. He is survived by his mother, Helen.

John Dinardo ’72 of Lenexa, Kan., passed away Dec. 11, 2007. He worked as a PC technician for Sprint Corp. John is survived by his wife, Sharon.

James Cavanaugh ’73 of West Islip passed away March 10.

Carol Forward ’73 of Elbridge died Sept. 26. She received a master’s degree from SUNY Cortland. Carol was an elementary teacher, retiring from the Jordan-Elbridge School District in 1991. Surviving are a son, a daughter and seven grandchildren.

Eric Nelson ’73 of Seneca Falls passed away Nov. 2, 2005. He was founder of Nelson Construction Co. He is survived by his wife, Roberta.


Mark LeBlanc ’74 of Cazenovia passed away April 10, 2007. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam with the U.S. Marine Corps. Mark taught industrial arts technology in the West Genesee School District prior to changing careers. He spent the last 30 years in the wine and spirits industry, most recently employed as a sales manager for the Elmira Distribution Co. He is survived by his wife, Susan; two sons; and a grandson.

Nancce Griffiths Sherman ’74 of Princeton, N.J., passed away July 8, 2007. She was employed at Princeton Public Library. Nancce is survived by her husband, Gordon; and two daughters.

Patricia Sims ’74 of Greece passed away Feb. 2, 2006. Patti was a speech and hearing pathologist for the State of New York. Surviving is her husband, Roy LaMark.

Roger Alderman ’75 of Painted Post died Dec. 19, 2007. He served with the U.S. Navy from 1945 to 1946 aboard the USS Taconic. Roger taught auto mechanics at Steuben-Allegany BOCES before his retirement. He is survived by three sons, two daughters, 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.


Alan Chapin ’78 of Stuart, Fla., passed away Sept. 11. He was a senior traffic analyst for ION Media Networks and was in radio broadcasting with Clear Channel Radio for more than 25 years. Alan is survived by his wife, Sheri.

Sheila Spano ’79 of Oswego passed away March 7, 2006. She was employed with the Oswego County Department of Social Services. She is survived by a son.

John Robinson ’80 of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., passed away Dec. 18, 2004. He was an industrial arts technology teacher at Piper High School in Florida. John is survived by a son.

David VanWormer ’82 of Manassas passed away Jan. 9, 2007. He was a civilian employee with the Army at Fort Drum until his retirement in 1992. David is survived by his wife, Geraldine; three sons, Gerald ’91, Michael ’92 and Kenneth ’96; and nine grandchildren.

Timothy Corrigan ’83 of Ellicott City, Md., passed away Aug. 16. He was employed as a senior software engineer with Praxis Engineering Technologies Inc. Tim is survived by his wife, Janice, and three sons.

Walter “Chuck” Ammann ’84 of Camden passed away March 12. He was a substitute teacher and personal tutor with the Camden Central Schools for 24 years. He was...
Living life with humor and concern for others, especially women and children, has been a hallmark of Barbara Gerber’s life and career.

She came by her love of learning early, inspired by her father and her mother, a flapper who read the *Encyclopedia Britannica.*

Gerber entered Syracuse University as a pre-med student and was promptly told by her adviser that a medical education for women was a waste of time, since as soon as she got pregnant she would leave the practice. She fell in love with sociology and anthropology, got pregnant she would leave the practice. She was “horrified” early in her career to see how some kids were treated. She was one of the founding members of Services to Aid Families, which provides shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and Farnham, drug and alcohol counseling and services.

“...as a psychologist, I really believe that what makes for sick characters in the world is violence in childhood,” she says.

After her retirement in 1998, Gerber has remained active, serving on the board of directors of a women-only community where she and spouse Nancy Seale Osborne ’70 live. They have traveled in their motor home to every state except Hawaii, hiked and kayaked in eight national parks and driven around the entire Great Lakes system.

Although she gave birth to one daughter Gerber has been mother to five children and remains active in the lives of her grandchildren. It’s a fitting pastime for a woman who has devoted her career to women and children’s issues.

— Michele Reed

IN MEMORIAM

continued from page 47

Currently completing a master’s degree at Empire College. Surviving are his wife, Diane; and two children.

Leslie Jenkins Thaxton ’84 of Tampa, Fla., died March 4. She was a territory sales manager for AZEK. She is survived by her parents and a stepson.

David Lamoree ’86 of Adams died Aug. 20. Prior to his retirement in 2001, he was a sergeant with the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department. David is survived by his wife, Kelly, and a daughter.


Gerald Matthews M ’94 of Clinton died Jan. 6, 2005. He earned his bachelor’s degree at SUNY Oneonta. Jerry was the director of Madison and Oneida County Arc, establishing the first community life residences in those counties. He also taught in the Utica School District for 15 years. He spent the last 10 years of his teaching career at BOCES as an electrical trade teacher. He is survived by four children and five grandchildren.

Patricia McKnight Baggett M ’98 of Manlius died July 17. She developed and taught courses in English as a second language at Onondaga Community College. Patricia is survived by her husband, Richard; three children and two grandchildren.

Kathleen Glaister-Gabbard M ’99 of Manlius passed away Dec. 20, 2007. She earned a bachelor’s degree at SUNY Cortland. Kathy taught fifth grade at Wellwood Middle School in Fayetteville. She is survived by her husband, Gene, and a daughter.

Richard Clay M ’00 passed away April 16.

Robert Hook M ’00 of Fulton died Aug. 28. Robert served with the U.S. Army in the Korean War and retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of major sergeant in 1990. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Geoffrey Granger ’01 of Spencerport died Nov. 21, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Donna, and two children.

Kent Roseberry, Associate Professor Emeritus of Education, died Sept. 26. Kent served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He earned a master’s degree at Penn State University. He joined the faculty at Oswego in 1964, retiring in 1995. He is survived by his wife, Arla; and a son.

Robert Salisbury, Associate Professor Emeritus of Biology, died Sept. 18. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Ottawa University and a master’s degree from Kansas State University. Bob joined the faculty at Oswego in 1963, and served as department chair. He retired in 1993. Surviving are his companion, Lorretta Beckwith; seven children, including Steven ’74; three stepchildren; 16 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.
INSPIRING HORIZONS
THE CAMPAIGN FOR OSWEGO

CAMPAIGN REPORT 2002-2008
NOW PLAYING

Inspiring Stories:
The Impact of Philanthropy


HEAR: Students explain the impact of philanthropy on their dreams.

STARRING: YOU

These stellar stories are made possible by more than 22,000 generous donors to *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego.*

Thanks to you, our campaign raised $23,857,114. The impact of this generosity will affect Oswego students for generations to come.

*Watch Inspiring Stories: The Impact of Philanthropy at www.oswego.edu/giving/campaign today!*

And thank you for your generous support!
Dear fellow supporters of Oswego,

I remember clearly the day in September 2003, when we dedicated the newly renovated Rich Hall. In the warm autumn sunshine, we marveled at this beautiful new home for the School of Business. Its donor-supported state-of-the-art technology was the first tangible evidence of the success of Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego. Students, faculty and staff would be inspired and energized by its open spaces and cutting-edge technology. The campaign had entered its quiet phase just a year before, with a goal of $17 million.

It seems a long time ago now, and we have surpassed many milestones since then. We launched our public phase of the campaign in September 2005, with a mock snowstorm and the breathtaking Oswego family portrait, as more than 1,400 students, faculty and staff gathered in celebration to spell the name of our college on the lawn of Lee Hall.

Our efforts helped support the Campus Center and library café, endowed scholarships, supported student-faculty research and funded lecture series, just to name a few accomplishments. On a historical note, we received our first million-dollar gift, exclusive of bequests, when Marcia Belmar Willock ‘50 endowed a professorship in finance.

We met our original goal in 2006 and challenged ourselves with an enhanced goal of $23 million. And we went to work to make it a reality — we called; we wrote letters; we visited people in their homes and offices.

And it was all worth it. I am proud and happy to report to you that Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego has exceeded all our expectations and raised an incredible $23.9 million.

At the very heart of this awesome feat were you, our generous and loyal donors and hardworking volunteers. Throughout six years of the campaign, your support never wavered. In fact, it increased and grew as the campaign unfolded. Thank you for your confidence in Oswego and your continued support of its educational mission.

Your gifts will make a lasting difference in the lives of many. On behalf of the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors and the faculty, staff and students whose lives you have touched — Thank You!

Mark Tryniski ’85
Chair, Oswego College Foundation
Inspiring
In the Fall 2005 issue, Oswego alumni magazine featured a question-and-answer session with President Deborah F. Stanley, to kick off the public phase of Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego. Now she joins us again, to talk about the successful conclusion of this historic campaign.

Oswego alumni magazine: What were the goals of the campaign?
President Stanley: Our major motivation for launching Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego in 2002 was to raise $17 million to benefit the college and our students: supporting current needs, growing endowment, and funding aspects of capital projects. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our loyal alumni and friends, we exceeded all our expectations by raising a total of $23,857,114 in just six short years.

It is also important to note that we had another fundamental goal for this important first-time-ever undertaking — and that was to assure SUNY Oswego a strong and resilient future by establishing avenues for productive partnerships and lasting networks with alumni and friends.

Oswego: What surprised you most about the campaign?
President Stanley: Honorary Campaign Chair Al Roker ’76 is a great forecaster, but neither he nor I could have predicted the outpouring of generosity and love for Oswego that we have witnessed among our alumni during this campaign.

In addition to their generous gifts, members of our extended SUNY Oswego family participated in campus initiatives and events in broader and deeper ways than ever before.

Oswego: When did the campaign reach its goal?
President Stanley: Just a year after we launched the public phase on Sept. 30, 2005, the campaign reached its initial $17 million goal on Oct. 20, 2006 — eight months ahead of schedule — and the Foundation board set an enhanced goal of $23 million by June 30, 2008.

Oswego: What is the significance of that?
President Stanley: The fact that we reached our goal so far ahead of schedule powerfully demonstrated what we always knew: that the alumni and friends of Oswego love the college very much. They are willing to invest their hard-earned dollars to help Oswego grow and serve the students who come to us for quality public higher education.

Oswego: Why is public higher education so important?
President Stanley: At Oswego we open the doors wide so that all the citizens of New York state can have access to a quality education. In these uncertain economic times, the very best investment is in education. That’s because we are preparing the leaders of tomorrow, who will help create solutions to some of society’s most vexing problems: global warming, diseases, and yes, even the economy.

Oswego: Any final words for our readers?
President Stanley: I just want to thank our more than 22,000 donors to the campaign. Each one of you is making a significant difference in the lives of our students, now and for generations to come. You are sharing in the vital work of this college, which is transforming lives. We are so incredibly grateful to you for the confidence you show in Oswego and the impact you are making through your philanthropy. Thank you! I can’t say it often enough: Your support was stunning.
“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. As an alumnus of SUNY Oswego, I couldn’t be prouder of my alma mater for this tremendous accomplishment.”
—Al Roker ’76, Honorary Campaign Chair
FEBRUARY
• Campaign exceeds $6 million

FEBRUARY 14
• Received first bequest of more than $2 million: Charles L. Wiley ’22, $2.2 million

The year 2003 saw the campus break ground for the new Campus Center (above) and open Penfield Library’s Lake Effect Café (right).

Campaign Cabinet

Honorary Chair
Al Roker ’76

Virginia Hafner
Lyon ’48
Timothy Murphy ’74
William O’Brien ’81
M. Catherine Richardson ’63
Carolyn Higgins Rush ’68
Barbara Palmer Shineman ’65
Jennifer Shropshire ’86
Deborah F. Stanley, President
Mark Tryniski ’85

Co-Chairs
Bernie Henderson
Harold E. Morse ’61
Mae Squier-Dow ’83

Committee
Mark Baum ’81
Tomasina Boyd Boone ’93
Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81
C. Thomas Gooding
Shirley Gooding
Joseph Grant
Theodore Jenny ’72
Lori Golden Kiewe ’84
David King

FEBRUARY 14
• Received first bequest of more than $2 million: Charles L. Wiley ’22, $2.2 million

SEPTMBER 11
• Rich Hall re-opens

OCTOBER
• Robert Feinberg ’78 endows The Ernst & Young Visiting Lectureship for the Women’s Studies Program, Oswego’s first endowed lecture series

OCTOBER 17
• Groundbreaking for Campus Center, which features donor-named spaces

OCTOBER 25
• Lake Effect Café opens in Penfield Library, funded by Lester Gosier ’37 and Dr. Jack and Marion Adam Narayan ’81

The year 2003 saw the campus break ground for the new Campus Center (above) and open Penfield Library’s Lake Effect Café (right).
"I have been chair of The Fund for Oswego, which supports immediate needs of the college, and have been in the Telefund room when student callers are dialing up alumni. 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."

— Mae Squier-Dow ’83, campaign co-chair

Alumni enjoyed a tour of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s AgeLab, led by Dr. Joseph Coughlin ’82 (not pictured).

Winter  Spring  Summer  Fall

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING
• Campaign reaches halfway mark of $8,627,163

JUNE 15
• Oswego goes to Carnegie Hall

SPRING
• Campaign event in Rumson, N.J.

AUGUST
• Public Justice Excellence Fund established by David Cutler ’74 and Catherine Lovell ’76

SEPTEMBER 28
• Washington, D.C., Tower Club alumni event

FALL
• Boston Massachusetts Institute of Technology event

FALL
• Hockey Committee convenes to begin fundraising for the Campus Center

Pianist Rob Auler and violinist Seung hee Yang of SUNY Oswego’s music faculty perform June 15 at Carnegie Hall. President Deborah F. Stanley (center) welcomes them.

The efforts of hockey alumni and friends would result in naming the men’s locker room in the new Campus Center, including individual lockers, such as this one in memory of Tony Sgro ’82, dedicated in 2006.
Since Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego began in 2002, more than 50 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 helped the campaign to surpass its $23 million goal.

From the early campaign bequests of $2.2 million from Charles L. Wiley ’22 and $1.4 million from Professor Emeritus Girgis Ghobrial to the more recent bequest from Emeriti Hsien-jen (James) Chu and Sylvia Chu of $300,000, the campaign was strengthened and supported by legacies to Oswego.

For more information about making a planned gift to Oswego, contact Mark R. Slayton at 315-312-3003, or e-mail develop@oswego.edu or visit www.oswego.edu/giving and click on the Gift Planning link.

Current Sheldon Legacy Society Members

Anonymous (7)  
Elizabeth Baker ’61  
Edward Balaban ’73  
Ruth Alton Barker ’52  
Nancy Potter Bellow ’78  
Anna Bernolak-Morgan ’75  
Constance J. Holmes Bond ’51  
Bert-Mary Brady ’55  
Lee C. Barling  
Kristine Hyovalti Bushey ’72  
Richard ’66 and Ruth Koski Callan ’66  
Rick ’73 and Julie Roberts Cobello ’75  
Albert “Ray” Connors ’46  
Raelynn Cooter ’77  
Andrea LaTemple Crews ’85  
Edward B. Dexter ’35  
Susan Fellers Dick ’72  
Eleanor Filburn  
Peter Fland ’64  
Gileen Widmer French ’65  
Edward ’82 and Joanne Gocck  
Lester Gosier ’37  
Ralph Hatch ’49  
Bernie Henderson  
Gary Hoppe ’74  
Jack C. James ’62  
William B. Kessler  
Frances C. Lapinski ’72 & ’74  
Phyllis Levine ’78  
Donald and Joan Mathieu ’85  
Fritz Messere ’71 and Nola Heidlebaugh  
Harold Morse ’61  
Stephen F. Mullady ’67  
Greta O’Brien Murabito ’43  
Timothy Murphy ’74  
Victor Oakes  
Gloria Sondra Olson ’51  
Davis ’47 and Jane Parker  
John R. Piper ’75  
Marvin S. Reed ’64  
M. Catherine Richardson ’63  
Francis T. Roy ’69  
Thomas Santay ’62  
Constance DelBourgo Schrader ’54  
Hazel Murray Siegel ’37  
Walter Snyder ’42  
President Deborah F. Stanley and Michael Stanley  
Robert Sweet ’48  
Melanie Trexler  
Oebele VanDyk  
Glendon J. Widrick ’74  
Helen and Richard Zakin  
Sharon Zondag ’76
More than 1,400 students, faculty and staff gathered to spell OSWEGO on campaign launch day, Sept. 30, 2005.

Winter

SPRING

- OsweGoConnect online community launches
- Campaign surpasses $11 million (65% of goal)
- Campaign events held in Boston, Naples, Fla.; Washington, D.C.; New Jersey; and Atlanta

- Received anonymous legacy gift to Hart Global Living and Learning Center

JUNE

- Project SMART gets Entergy grant

Hart Global Living and Learning Center was the beneficiary of an anonymous legacy gift.
“Without philanthropy we would not have the value-added elements for this institution. We have this magnificent new Campus Center, featuring donor-named spaces, the renovations of the campus and many, many scholarships. This a very positive place for people to learn and people to work.”

—Bernie Henderson, Campaign Co-Chair
“Donor gifts have 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. Inspiring Horizons will provide opportunities for more and more of our students to experience the American dream. Thanks to your generosity, this will be a place of great ideas and great promise for our students and faculty.”

Hal Morse ’61, Campaign Co-Chair

Winter  Spring  Summer  Fall

2006

Campus Highlights

Summer
- Scholarship opportunities grow to 100

August 2006
- $1 million gift from Marcia Belmar Willock ’50 creates Oswego’s first endowed professorship, in finance

OCT. 20, 2006
- Inspiring Horizons surpasses $17 million goal
- Increased goal to $23 million by June 30, 2008
- Second Annual Media Summit

OCT. 22, 2006
- Campus Center convocation center/hockey rink opens

Marcia Belmar Willock ’50 (left) was the guest of President Deborah F. Stanley on a visit to campus.

Then-State Sen. Jim Wright ’71 (third from left) and ESPN anchor Steve Levy ’87 (second from right) were among those dropping the ceremonial puck in the inaugural game in the Campus Center arena.

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Telefund students are the backbone of the Annual Fund.

Errol Taylor ’77 issued a challenge grant.

Al Roker ’76 broadcast his “Today” show segments live from the Campus Center, Oct. 18, 2007.

Campus and community officials officially opened the Campus Center Oct. 12.

JIM RUSSELL ’83
ARLEE J. LOGAN ’09
CAMPUSSCHHHH

Winter Spring Summer Fall

2007

CAMPUSS HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2007
• NCAA Division III men’s ice hockey national champions

APRIL 2007
• Record night for the Telefund ($25,000 in pledges)

SUMMER
• Fred ’81 and MaryLynn Barbero Festa ’82 established Festa Graduate Fellowship program (see related story on page 14 of Oswego alumni magazine)

SUMMER
• Campus Center Atrium named for Hsien-Jen (James) and Sylvia Chu

AUGUST 2007
• “Engaging Challenge,” Sesquicentennial Plan unveiled

SEPTEMBER 29-30
• Errol Taylor ’77 offers challenge gift as part of Return to Oz III reunion

OCTOBER 12
• Campus Center Dedication Day

OCTOBER 17
• Media Summit named in honor of Dr. Lewis B. “Doc” O’Donnell

OCTOBER 18
• “Today” show broadcasts from SUNY Oswego campus (above left)
• Al Roker ’76 names WTOP production studio
MAY
- Oswego visits ABC’s “Good Morning America”
- Senior Class gift increases from $2,000 to $8,000
  (see related story on page 26 of Oswego alumni magazine)

JUNE 6-8
- More than 1,100 attendees at “Hot, Hot, Hot” Reunion Weekend

JUNE 30
- Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego concludes with $23,857,114

Trumpeters open the Welcoming Torchlight ceremony in August at the Campus Center.
Campaign Revenue by Goal

- $4,436,884 Fund For Oswego
- $14,304,398 Endowment
- $5,115,832 Capital Projects

Campaign Revenue by Constituent

- $276,932 Parents
- $1,075,871 Matching Gift Companies
- $3,951,069 Friends
- $843,859 Foundations
- $1,032,978 Faculty, Staff & Administration
- $1,941,959 Emeriti, & Former Employees
- $1,032,978 Corporations

$11,433,471 Alumni

Campus Campaign Committee

David King, Chair
Andrea Marsh Acome ’04
Greg Auleta, Office of Learning Services
Steve Baker, College Store
Marcia Burrell-Ihlow, Curriculum & Instruction
Kris Hyovalti Bushey ’72, Student Affairs
David Buske, College Store
Robert Casper, Career Services
Mark Cole ’73, Theatre
Thomas Cushman, Counseling and Psychological Services
R. Deborah Davis, Curriculum and Instruction
Doug Deal, History
Mary DePentu, Facilities Management
Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81, Alumni Relations and Development
Mary Dorsey, Human Resources
Jo Ferazzoli Farrell ’71, Curriculum and Instruction
Mike Flaherty, Auxiliary Services
Suzanne Gilmour, Educational Administration
Margaret Gover, Registrar’s Office
Jean Grant, Walker Health Center
Joseph Grant, Admissions
David Hill, English
Rich Hughes, Campus Life
Christy Harrison Huynh ’98, M ’08, Student Advisement Center
Carrie Izzo, School of Business
Jennifer Kagan, Curriculum and Instruction
Kathy Klebeck, Curriculum and Instruction
Brad Korbesmeyer, English
John Lalande ’71, Modern Languages and Literature

Nancy Lalik, Human Resources
Chris Lalonde, English
Kevin Mahaney
Rhonda Mandel, Dean’s Office
Katie Loiacono Maxwell ’97, Admissions
Robin McAlleese ’93, M’02, Counseling Center
Kimberly Waters McGann ’95, University Development
Josh McKeown, International Education and Programs
Fritz Messere ’71, Communication Studies
Rameen Mohammadi, Computer Science
Robert Moore, English
Tim Nekritz M’05, Public Affairs
Jerry Oberst ’77, Admissions
Luther Peterson, History
Yvonne Petrella, Extended Learning
Julie Pretzat-Merchant, Music
Marta Santiago, Human Resources
Bennet Schaber, English
Roberta Schnorr, Curriculum and Instruction
Brenda Frank Seymour ’83, Facilities Design and Construction
Joanne Sivers, Campus Life
Joyce Smith, Curriculum and Instruction
Charles Spector, School of Business
Holli Coats Stone ’96, Campus Life
Don Vanouse, English
Casey Walpole, Registrar’s Office, CSEA
Suzanne Weber, School of Education
Georgina Whittingham, Modern Languages and Literature
Dale Zych, Physics
President’s Circle Giving Boosts Campaign Totals

The President’s Circle gift clubs — Oswego’s most committed supporters, who make annual donations of $250 or more — were a key component in the success of Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego.

Membership in the gift clubs and their total donations grew steadily in the 14 years leading up to the campaign’s successful conclusion. The number of gift club members in 2008 was five times that of 1995, resulting in a 10-fold growth in donations.

“The phenomenal growth in our President’s Circle gift clubs throughout the campaign tangibly demonstrates how committed our alumni and friends are to the future of Oswego,” said President Deborah F. Stanley. “Their consistent philanthropic support is the cornerstone of our annual giving program and we are incredibly grateful for their generosity.”

Thanks to the members of the Sheldon Ambassadors (gifts of $5,000 or more), the Ontarian Society ($2,500 to $4,999), the 1861 Society ($1,861 to $2,499), the Sheldon Inner Circle ($1,000 to $1,860), the Sheldon Loyalty Society ($500 to $999) and the Sheldon Associates ($250 to $499). •
Foundation Names Three to Board

The Oswego College Foundation welcomed three new members to its board of directors in 2008.

Bernie Henderson retired as vice president for finance at SUNY Oswego. He served as an Inspiring Horizons campaign co-chair and is active with the Oswego County Historical Society, Oswego City Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army and Oswego Heritage Foundation. He is a Sheldon Legacy Society member and recently supported the college with a campaign gift of unrestricted funds as well as funds to support the Campus Center complex. He currently resides in Oswego.

Colleen Enwright O’Leary ’74 is an associate professor of anesthesiology and medical director in perioperative services at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. She holds a doctor of medicine degree from SUNY Health Science Center and attended the Instituto de Cultura Hispanica in Madrid, Spain in the Summer of 1973. Prior to joining SUNY Upstate Medical University she worked as an anesthesiologist at SUNY Health Center, and was a resident and chief resident fellow at St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center. She serves on committees within SUNY Upstate Medical University and is a member of various organizations, including the Onondaga County Medical Society, American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Medical Association and the Medical Society of the State of New York. She previously served on the SUNY Oswego Reunion Committee and has supported the college with a $15,000 campaign gift to support the Augustine Silveira Jr. Fund. She and her husband, Dr. Michael O’Leary, currently reside in Manlius.

Marcia Thompson-Young ’81 is managing director/chief accounting officer of Citigroup, Inc. Prior to joining Citigroup, Inc. she had an extensive career at Smith Barney, Inc., holding positions as first vice president, credit officer and credit analyst and credit officer. She is a current member of the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors, a member of the Alumni and University Development Scholarship Selection committee, and served as reunion giving chair on the 2005 Reunion Committee. She has supported the college with a $10,000 unrestricted pledge to the campaign, as well as by taking the time to speak with high school students about Oswego during a College Fair. She and husband, Frederick “Tony” Young, currently reside in Cranbury, N.J., with their daughters, Dominee and Desiree.
Thank you!

Thanks to more than 22,000 generous donors — **Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego** surpassed its goal, raising $23,857,114 to support scholarships, important campus programs, faculty research and capital projects.

During the six year campaign, SUNY Oswego became a part of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. President Stanley has pledged the campus to reduce SUNY Oswego’s carbon footprint and enhance our efforts toward sustainability, an important goal for Oswego.

To advance the college’s sustainability efforts, we have designed an **Honor Roll of Appreciation** that will appear online at www.oswego.edu/giving/honor_roll. A significant factor in the move to an online honor roll was to protect our donors’ privacy. Please note that a Google search of any individual’s name will not link to the donor listing.

Because of the wonderful response to **Inspiring Horizons**, the Honor Roll of Appreciation for campaign donors would have totaled 72 pages in a paper version. Not only will we help reduce our carbon footprint with an online honor roll, but will also save funds that could better be used to help meet campus priorities.

Once again, thank you for your generosity in ensuring the Oswego family continues to grow for generations.