Election 2004
Saleem Cheeks ’01 and fellow alumni behind the scenes at America’s big vote

PLUS
● Art on an Olympian Scale
To plan a mini-reunion for your group, contact the Alumni Office no later than Jan. 31, 2005.

To get involved in the planning or gift committee, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.

Registration forms will be mailed next spring to members of the official Reunion classes, but everyone is welcome to attend. If you do not receive a registration form and would like one, please contact the Alumni Office.

For the most up-to-date information on Reunion 2005, check out the Web site at http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/Reunion2005/ or call the Reunion Hotline at 315-312-5559.

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Golden Alumni Society Classes

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25th • 1980
10th • 1995
5th Cluster • 1999, 2000, 2001
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There’s plenty of green and gold mixed with the red, white and blue of the election scene.

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Mark Levy ’86 sets the stage for NBC’s coverage of the Athens games.

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ON THE COVER:
Saleem Cheeks ‘01 at Republican National Convention headquarters.
Photo by Joe Lawton
President’s Desk

There’s an exciting new initiative on campus. Oswego is one of 200 campuses across the country taking part in the American Democracy Project. This innovative effort is aimed at connecting our students with the greater society, getting them involved with their communities and the civic structure. It’s just getting under way on campus, and the exact nature the activities might take is not yet known. Students might become involved in voter registration drives, volunteering in the community or other efforts. What’s really exciting is the potential for helping our students to be better citizens and more engaged community members. Our alumni have always known this, and we frequently hear stories of your participation in your communities — from holding public office to running Scout troops to coaching soccer teams. In this issue we focus on some of our alumni who are involved in the 2004 elections. However you choose to give back to your community and country, we’re proud of you. And we hope part of your involvement is to reconnect with your alma mater, by volunteering at an alumni event, supporting the college with your gifts or returning to campus to speak with students. I’m sure Edward Austin Sheldon would agree: There’s no better way to teach them than by our own example.

Deborah F. Stanley
President

FROM
the Editor’s Pen

When people ask me if I like my job, I think they’re sometimes astounded by the enthusiasm with which I answer, “Yes!!” Anyone who knows me isn’t surprised by my delight at coming to work each day to write — it’s all I’ve ever wanted to do. But the best of it is the people I meet along the way, and this issue is no exception. Take David Skolnick ’89, Jarod Miller ’00, Adrianne Beers ’03 and Saleem Cheeks ’01, all of whom I met as students and are now subjects of stories in these pages. And faculty members like Bruce Altschuler, Nina ’43 and Jim Hastings ’41, Mark Cole ’73 and Tom Gooding, who were respected colleagues long before they became magazine subjects. And the people I get to meet as I go about my duties as editor of Oswego: Stan Levenson ’54, Mark Levy ’89, Michael Lawrence ’74, Mario Mercurio ’79 and all the other interesting people I’d never get to know if I didn’t wear the editor’s hat. Not to mention awesome alumni writers and great friends like Linda Morley Loomis ’90, M’97, Patty Rycraft O’Toole ’79, Shannon Mahar ’04 and Emily King ’05, and photographer Jim Russell ’83, who help make this publication interesting and fun. My daughter and I love to watch old movies and a favorite is “White Christmas,” where Rosemary Clooney and Bing Crosby sing the beloved “Count Your Blessings.” Whenever I count them, this job and Oswego alumni are high on the list!

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Oswego editor

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FROM
Challenge Grants support student-faculty collaboration

Since Oswego’s geology program instituted its required capstone experience, “all the students are really, really fired up about doing research,” said Dr. Sharon Gabel, associate professor of earth sciences. Now the college’s new Student/Faculty Collaborative Challenge Grant program has arrived to help support such work.

Gabel and Rob Venczel ’06 make up one of four faculty-student pairs who have received the first round of Challenge Grants to work on scholarly projects beginning as early as this summer.

The campus grant program promotes collaborative scholarly and creative work by undergraduates and faculty. Dr. David King initiated the program this year while serving as interim provost, with $10,000 in funding, in part from the Oswego College Foundation.

Gabel invited Venczel, a geology major, to join her in her 2-year-old project of monitoring changes in the shoreline of eastern Lake Ontario. The project provides information for plans to preserve “this unusual and important freshwater beach-dune ecosystem,” she and Venczel wrote in their proposal.

Venczel said that he hopes to pursue a career in environmental science and that the project will help him to do that.

The other winning proposals in this first cycle, for projects to be carried out in 2004-05, are interdisciplinary:

- **Katie Miloski ’05**, a biology major and chemistry minor, will work with Dr. Kestas Bendinskas, assistant professor of chemistry, on her study of medicinal plants used by diabetics in the Republic of Congo. She hopes to identify the mechanism by which these plants activate a response to insulin in human liver cells. The project is related to a larger project that Bendinskas is working on with Dr. Webe Kadima of the chemistry department and an international team of scientists. Miloski said she plans to attend medical school after graduating from Oswego.

- Dr. Craig DeLancey, an assistant professor of philosophy and cognitive science, and John Callan ’06, majoring in computer science and cognitive science, will test a series of hypotheses about the nature of the social and economic role of anger. They will use a modeling technique called genetic algorithms to model retributive behavior. DeLancey is the author of the book *Passionate Engines: What Emotions Reveal About Mind and Artificial Intelligence*, published by Oxford University Press in 2002, and his work with genetic algorithms has been applied to financial problems on Wall Street.

- A paper by **Courtney DeLosh ’06** about the justice of the gender-structured family in Dr. Robert Card’s public affairs class was the impetus for the project they will conduct. DeLosh, a psychology major, and Card, an assistant professor of philosophy, will conduct a Central New York survey on the division of labor by gender within the family.

“The possibility for this kind of collaborative work is really valuable,” Card said, adding that involvement in undergraduate research improves a student’s prospects for graduate school.

“Katie Miloski ’05, a biology major and chemistry minor, works with Dr. Kestas Bendinskas, assistant professor of chemistry, on her study of medicinal plants used by diabetics in the Republic of Congo.”
College to take part in $3 billion challenge

The State University of New York launched a $3 billion fund-raising challenge, when Chancellor Robert L. King met with the board of trustees in March, and SUNY Oswego is planning to meet its share of the challenge. The $1 billion that the 64 campuses raised between 2000 and 2003 counts as the foundation for SUNY’s new “$3 Billion Challenge.” The second phase is projected to raise an additional $2 billion in increased support from corporations, foundations and individuals between now and 2012 based on fund-raising targets at each of the 64 campuses.

Oswego’s share of the systemwide $2 billion goal is $20.25 million. “All the money raised by the campuses will remain on the campuses to be used for scholarships, endowed faculty chairs, investments in new equipment and technologies, research and other campus-based initiatives,” King said.

Oswego is organizing its first comprehensive campaign, which will run through 2007 and raise a significant portion of Oswego’s challenge goal, said Kevin Mahaney, Oswego’s vice president for development and public affairs. The two largest gifts in college history — $2.2 million from the late Charles Wiley ’22 and $1 million from the estate of Girgis Ghobrial, emeritus professor — got Oswego’s campaign off to a promising start, Mahaney said.

King credited SUNY presidents and staff with tremendous growth in philanthropy for the campuses. Giving across SUNY increased 14 percent in 2002 and 60 percent in 2003.

“Philanthropy will provide that margin of excellence, which will propel this university to the front rank of public higher education in America,” the chancellor said.

The littlest philanthropist

IMAGINE THE SCENE IN SHELDON HALL: Development staffers are busy processing gifts from loyal donors. One particularly brightens their day. It includes a generous check, and in the envelope with it, taped to a piece of paper are two quarters, three dimes and two pennies. With her donation of 82 cents from her piggy bank to “help her Daddy’s college,” 4-year-old Emme Moosher, daughter of Sheldon Associates member Skip Moosher ’82, has become the college’s youngest donor. Her generosity earned her a personal letter from President Deborah F. Stanley. “Did you know that you are the youngest person to ever give money to Oswego State? You are a very generous little girl!” Stanley wrote. “Come visit me someday when your family makes a trip to see your Daddy’s college so I can meet you, our ‘littlest donor.’”
Students, seniors step out

This spring 55 Oswego State students proved that attending the “Senior Ball” isn’t just a once-in-a lifetime affair. In the first event of its kind sponsored by the Adopt-A-Grandparent program, volunteers spruced up and stepped out for a night of fine dining, dancing and entertainment with local seniors.

Approximately 50 residents from the Ladies Home of Oswego, Loretto Heights Nursing Home, St. Luke Residential Health-care Facility and Sunrise Nursing Home, attended with the young men and women.

“I wanted a program that would show our appreciation for the residents in the area and also the volunteers,” Erin Halligan ’04, the Adopt-A-Grandparent and “Senior Ball” coordinator, said. “They (the seniors) are really an outstanding group of people, and we wanted to do something that would remind them of their youth, and show them that we appreciate them.”

For Mary Maiurano, 86, a former Lakeside Dining Hall worker, a night back on campus was a welcome home.

“I wish I was back in school,” Maiurano told the Syracuse Post-Standard.

Throughout the evening the seniors and their student “dates” enjoyed a meal, courtesy of Auxiliary Services; dancing; and a live band that played everything from Elvis to Britney Spears. Midway through the dance, students and seniors played a “Name that Tune Game,” where guests contended for a variety of prizes and gift certificates donated by local businesses.

“Everyone was pretty happy with what happened,” said Lawrence Nadel ’06, the community service director for the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, whose members served as dates for residents of the Ladies Home. “They (the brothers) really felt they made a difference. It was a positive experience, and I think everyone would agree.”

Pete Margeson ’04 had never volunteered with senior citizens before, but said that the experience was as fun as it was rewarding.

“It was good to give back to the community, because people on college campuses don’t generally get a chance to do that,” Margeson said. “It’s good to see people from the community, and I knew that the ladies could come out and have a good time. I was glad to be a part of it.”

— Shannon Mahar ’04

Innovative small-class program to expand

OSWEGO PLANS TO EXTEND ITS innovative FirstChoice network of small classes to all new freshmen next fall and decrease class size at the same time.

Capped at 25 students in the past, the menu of freshmen-only classes will drop to a maximum enrollment of 19 students next fall.

The move results from the FirstChoice program’s record of increasing student academic success, said former Interim Provost David King. Nationally, studies show that students who make meaningful connections with experienced faculty are more likely to succeed in college, he added.

The number of FirstChoice classes will grow to nearly 80, with a total of about 1,500 seats for incoming freshmen. FirstChoice began in fall 2001 by providing 875 of 1,375 first-year students with an intensive, small-class learning environment.

All the FirstChoice courses make a point of helping students manage the transition to college, connect with faculty and fellow students, and get to know the opportunities available on campus. Nearly all are taught by experienced faculty or staff, and some have a peer educator working with the instructor.

“It’s the very essence of learner-centeredness,” said King.

The first-year initiatives are a defining element of the Oswego college experience. In addition to FirstChoice, they include a special advisement program for freshmen, the Oswego Reading Initiative and the freshman residential program in Johnson Hall.
Levenson endows scholarship

If it weren’t for a pick-up basketball game on a Brooklyn playground over half a century ago, Dr. Stanley Levenson ’54 would not have enjoyed an Oswego education and the career in educational administration and real estate that followed. And generations of Oswego students to come would not have the help of a generous alumnus as they pursue their own undergraduate degrees.

Levenson, who went on to play basketball and soccer for Oswego, celebrated his 50th Reunion in June with a donation of $26,000 to endow the Stanley Levenson ’54 Scholarship Fund. The annual award will support a student in the School of Education with an interest in intercollegiate athletics.

The first winner of the Levenson scholarship, John T. Spuhler ’05 of Fulton, got to meet his benefactor during Reunion Weekend. A wellness management major with a coaching minor, he was captain of Oswego State’s soccer team and a coach for an under-15 boys soccer club.

Street hoops
A graduate of Brooklyn Automotive High School, the young Stan Levenson at first had no interest in college. But that all changed one day when a man stopped to watch him play basketball at the 43rd Street playground. He was impressed with Levenson, who had played with his championship high school team at Madison Square Garden in 1948 and 1949. He asked if Levenson would like to play at Oswego. After cards and letters from legendary coach Max Ziel and the offer of a job to cover expenses, Stan accepted.

The moment he stepped off the train, he was met by the dean of the college, who drove Stan to his rooming house. He roomed with Al Marini ’54 and the two, both Sigma Tau brothers, remain friends and attended Reunion 2004 together.

Levenson began his career as a classroom teacher in Hannibal, and after service in the Navy, settled in California. He earned his master’s in school administration at University of California at Los Angeles and taught in area schools. With his first wife, Lee Mendelsohn ’56, he has two children. He and his current wife, Kay Pantelis, have been married 18 years.

In the early 1960s, as principal at a Department of Defense school in Germany, he created one of only two bi-lingual programs in German DOD schools. After he returned to California, he became a passionate advocate for teaching foreign languages in elementary schools. Readings in Foreign Languages in the Elementary Schools was the first of his three books.

After a career in teaching and administration, including work at the university level, Levenson left education. He became a real estate broker and made key investments in the booming Southern California market. He returned to education as a consultant, helping schools obtain grants and raise funds.

Now he is interested in helping his alma mater through his own philanthropy.

“I always remembered how I was treated so wonderfully at Oswego,” Levenson said.

That’s one reason for his giving to the college. “When you talk to people about their experiences, we all feel the same way about Oswego. We’ve had great experiences here.”

The other is what he calls the “joy of giving while you’re living.” Excited to meet Spuhler at Reunion, he talked about “receiving the joy of giving while you’re alive.”

Visitors to Oswego State’s Web site will have a whole new experience. On July 20, the college launched a newly designed site, which is more visually dynamic and up-to-date. A rotating slideshow on the homepage gives visitors many views of the college, and technological improvements will make it easier for campus departments to keep information updated and usable. The new site, which took about a year to develop and implement, “represents a cut with the past in both content and technology,” says Drew Hill, Oswego’s Web coordinator.

The college’s earlier site was launched about 5 years ago, but much progress has been made in Web applications since then. “Now Oswego is anticipating the future, laying the foundation for the future by becoming more competitive with peer institutions,” he added. Check out the new site at http://www.oswego.edu/.
Advice, festivities mark Senior Week

An Oswego State tradition was revived once again this year, as more than 50 seniors gathered for the Annual Champagne Toast and a time capsule dedication, events during this spring's Senior Week.

On the steps outside of Sheldon Hall, students posed for a class photo and a farewell toast from the executive director of the Alumni Association, Betsy Oberst. Attendees also signed a class T-shirt, which was placed in the time capsule along with the photo; a current issue of the Oswegonian; a flyer about the dedications of the Library Café, Rich Hall and Johnson Hall; and personal letters and pictures from the seniors.

“I think it was a nice thing for them to do to bring the seniors together,” Carrie Rosati ’04, a journalism major, said.

Earlier in the week, seniors also attended a “Real World Survival Seminar,” where alumni met to give advice and discuss their experiences after graduation. Steve Abbass ’03, Donnie Russert ’99, Michael Yoon ’00 and Darcy DiBiase ’01 spoke to students on topics such as job searching, resume writing and interviewing techniques.

“I thought it would be a good idea,” said Russert, now an assistant hall director at the University of Buffalo. “When I was a senior, I didn’t really know what to expect.”

Yoon, the former marketing and communications coordinator for Oswego Campus Life now at Princeton University, said he was hopeful that the panel had helped ease students’ anxieties about their futures after graduation. “I hope they’ll feel a little more confident and a little more sure of themselves, because we all felt that way,” he said.

Senior Week, which was planned by the Senior Class Planning Committee and sponsored by the Alumni Association and a grant from Auxiliary Services, aimed at strengthening ties to Oswego, assisting with the transition from student to graduate, and increasing the bond of the senior class.

The week also featured a student and faculty luncheon, a senior barbecue and an online garage sale.

— Shannon Mahar ’04

Moroney family update

AFTER PUBLISHING THE ARTICLE, “Scholarship is teaching family’s legacy,” in Oswego’s Spring 2004 edition, we learned that another member of the Moroney family graduated from Oswego. Jackie Greiner Havener ’90, who now teaches in Fulton, is the granddaughter of Regina Moroney Greiner. ●

Work continues daily on the site for the Campus Center, Oswego’s first new building in over 30 years. The first phase, begun right after the groundbreaking in October, will relocate utilities, including electricity, gas, steam and storm sewers, in preparation for the excavation for the Campus Center itself. Here, New York State Construction Fund site representatives William Mercier and Mike Conaway inspect progress on one of the main trenches to be used for utility tunnels. Associate Vice President for Facilities Management Jerry DeSantis estimates the utilities relocation will be completed by fall, and the building will be ready by September 2006. Other projects under way this summer include a new roof on Onondaga Hall, completion of the parking lot at Seneca Hall, designing the renovation of the west wing of Sheldon Hall and renovation of Poucher Hall. ●
Michael Capel ‘04 put a little bit of reality into a short story that recently took first place in the prestigious Stony Brook Short Fiction Prize.

“Divers,” a story about a narrator discovering a good friend has joined the military, was influenced by a real-life situation, Capel said. The story began as a creative fiction exercise in Leigh Wilson’s class at a time when the country prepared for the war in Iraq and one of his best friends was planning to enlist. It’s partially about dealing with knowing that a friend was “going to be gone . . . very far away, most likely to go to battle,” noted Capel, who also earned the Helen Buckley Award at Oswego this spring.

In his story, the narrator ponders a friend’s very grown-up decision to sign up for active duty, even as two other buddies continue to revel in immaturity. “I was trying to think of different types of people I know and how they could exist so close together but also so far apart — not only in personality but in terms of outlook or experience outside of their own,” Capel said.

Capel topped a competitive field that annually averages around 200 entries from across the United States and Canada.

The judges were impressed by Capel’s subtlety in developing contrasting characters through dialogue, action and the narrator’s observations, said Caroline McGrath, the contest’s coordinator.

Ira Sukrungruang of Oswego’s English writing arts department, who has served as a kind of mentor for Capel, saw promise in the story and “grabbed it out of my hand and said, ‘you’re submitting this’” to the competition, Capel recalled.

As for Capel, the English writing arts graduate from Amsterdam will continue to write and is looking into the possibility of graduate schools. He credits Oswego’s program, which is “chock full of great writing teachers” for giving him his start.

“The creative writing program here is top-of-the-line,” Capel said. “They are the people who first got me to write and are continuing to keep me writing.”

Hearing that would please Sukrungruang, who said the faculty’s goal is to try to create the top undergraduate creative writing program in the country. “Through workshops and one-on-one interaction with faculty, students are able to learn and explore numerous genres — fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, playwriting, screenwriting,” Sukrungruang noted. “Our goal is to make students the best writers they can be, and show them where their writing can take them beyond the classroom, what opportunities are out there.”

— Tim Nekritz
Two talented young faculty members performed in a special "Oswego at Carnegie Hall" recital June 15. Pianist Robert Auler and violinist Seung hee Yang of Oswego's music department faculty performed in Weill Recital Hall at the famed concert venue. It was Auler's debut at Carnegie Hall, and Yang's second performance there.

Over 200 alumni, faculty, students and friends — including President Deborah F. Stanley and the families of both performers — were on hand for the concert of 19th and 20th century works. Also in the audience was New York-based composer Derek Bermel, whose piece, "Turning for Solo Piano," Auler played.

Yang and Auler performed sonatas for violin and piano by Schumann, Janacek and Ravel, along with short pieces by Debussy and Brahms. Auler performed 20th century piano works by a French composer, Olivier Messiaen, and Bermel.

Auler maintains an active national and international performing career. He has recently returned from a series of concerts throughout Venezuela, performing modern works of American and Venezuelan composers. As a winner of the Young Keyboard Artists’ Association Piano Prize, Auler presented concerts throughout Germany, France, the Netherlands and Denmark, receiving critical acclaim for his performance of Gershwin's Concerto in F. He has also recently appeared in concert in cities such as Detroit, Dallas, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Santa Barbara, Rochester, Greensboro and Austin, and on the Dame Myra Hess series in Chicago, with a live simulcast on Chicago's WFMT-FM Radio.

He is a keen advocate of new music, having worked with William Bolcom, Steve Reich, Leslie Bassett, Martin Bresnick, Kevin Beavers and Frederic Rzewski.

A native of Seoul, Korea, Yang has been featured as a recitalist and a soloist of CIS Collegium Musicum string orchestra of Mozarteum in Austria, Germany, Spain, France and Italy. She has been a concertmaster, principal violinst and member of various orchestras in many countries including Seoul Music Academy, Collegium Musicum of Seoul National University, Salzburg Kammerphilharmonie and Princeton Pro Musica.

Yang is a graduate of the Seoul National University, Mozarteum in Salzburg, Amsterdam Conservatory and Rutgers University. She has performed in various music festivals such as Holland Music Session, Salzburg Summer Academy, Carl Flesch Academy and Bowdoin Music Festival. She was a winner of Dong-A music competition in Korea and Rutgers Concerto competition, and received a special presentation award of Artist International competition in U.S.A. In 2002, she made her New York debut at Carnegie Hall. Her teachers have included Arnold Steinhardt, Ruggiero Ricci, Victor Liberman, and Jong-sook Li.

American Democracy Project targets student engagement

SUNY OSWEGO IS ONE OF NEARLY 200 campuses throughout the country working to increase student engagement and community involvement through the American Democracy Project.

The American Democracy Project is a nationwide initiative launched and co-sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and The New York Times.

A major goal "is to bring the practice and education of civic engagement into the classrooms and to activities outside the classroom," from voter registration drives to volunteering in local nursing homes, said Dr. Douglas Deal, professor and chair of history at Oswego and convener of the steering committee for this project.

While the effort is nationwide, "there is no nationally dictated agenda for campuses who sign up," Deal said, as each campus is empowered to find the best way to encourage students to be responsible citizens and good neighbors.

Greg Lawson '04, the 2003-04 vice president of Oswego's Student Association, has been involved with the planning process for several months.

"It's very exciting," he said of the project and its potential. "It's more than just a few programs or a couple of events. It's really about integrating the concept of civic engagement and civic involvement through the culture of campus. We're really looking to involve students actively in the community."

The project will succeed if it shows "the world outside that colleges and universities play a crucial role in sustaining democratic processes," Deal said, such as engaging participants in civilized discourse or appreciating dissenting opinions.
Seeing double

For twin brothers Paul '04 and Mark Der Mesropian '04, sharing has always been a way of life. And as of this spring, little had changed. After attending all of the same classes together for the past two and a half years, the brothers, who are both math minors, were recognized at the Honors Convocation in April as Outstanding Physics Majors, each with a cumulative GPA of 3.89.

Known around campus as the “Mesropian brothers,” the twins transferred to Oswego from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, in 2002, and have since earned a reputation for their hard work and academic achievements.

“The most important thing that I see in both of them is that they do not accept mediocrity,” said Dr. Alok Kumar, professor of physics, who taught the brothers this spring. “I would love to have more students like them in my classes.”

Dr. Dale Zych, the department chair, and also a twin himself, agreed. “They are well read, well organized and very thorough,” he said. “I feel grateful that they have come our way.”

Fraternal Friction

While the two may be a pleasure to have in class, both brothers admit that spending so much time together isn’t always easy. “There are benefits and there are downfalls,” Mark said. “We can study and work on homework together, and it eases the workload. The downfall is that sometimes I just can’t stand him at all, and we fight like crazy.”

“For example, take us in chemistry lab,” Paul said. “We are so inefficient because we keep on arguing, and we are always the last group out. It can be good though, because we can help each other.”

Despite a few brotherly squabbles, the two have enjoyed great success at Oswego State, and have no plans of disbanding in the future. As recent inductees to the Phi Kappa Phi Honor society and the Sigma Pi Sigma Honorary Physics Society, the twins plan on attending medical school in the fall, Paul for general surgery, and Mark for radiology.

“We prefer to go to the same medical school together,” Mark said. “If we get accepted to different ones, it is our chance to go, so we will go anyway.”

No matter where they end up, Kumar said he is confident the two will continue to thrive. “I know whatever they will decide, they are going to work hard at it, and they will excel.”

— Shannon Mahar ’04

The same, but different

The Der Mesropians weren’t the only set of twins to cross the stage at this May’s graduation.

Earning their degrees this spring were identical twins Leanne ‘04 and Christina Burnham ‘04 and Georgette ‘04 and Anastasia Toulis ‘04.

The Toulis twins did not share a major, with Anastasia earning her degree in biology and Georgette in marketing. After graduation, Anastasia’s plans included nursing school, while Georgette said she would likely take some time off before applying for business or advertising jobs in the area. Oswego caught up with the pair to ask them about their experiences as identical twins on campus.

**Oswego:** Do people often confuse you for one another?
**Georgette:** Even people who know us can’t really tell us apart. It is only really our height that tells us apart. Anastasia is taller by three inches. Sometimes people will ask if we are sisters, and we say, ‘No. We’ve never met before and we just met up at school.’ People say ‘Oh, that’s really weird,’ and they actually believe us. It’s funny.

**Oswego:** Have you ever pretended to be one another to skip classes or fool friends?
**Anastasia:** We both were taking a lab.

I was really sick, and I couldn’t go, so she (Georgette) went as me. No one seemed to notice. Then last year I went to lab when she was sick. It worked out well I guess. We got away with it.

**Georgette:** We were running for secretary of the Oswego Crew Club…against each other. We did the same speech and dressed up the same to confuse people. Ana won by one vote. Later on we asked people who they had voted for, and they couldn’t seem to remember.

**Oswego:** Have you lived together or attended the same classes?
**Anastasia:** We lived on the same floor (freshman year), but had different roommates. We didn’t want to limit ourselves to one another. We wanted to make more friends, and have more of a social life.

— Shannon Mahar ’04
“Good times, good work and good teachers” are what Dr. James ’41 and Nina Livaccari Hastings ’43 remember most about their Oswego experience. Now they are passing on some of that goodness to future Oswego students.

Jim, a professor emeritus of technology education, and Nina, a former teacher and active volunteer for the Oswego Alumni Association and many community groups, have endowed a scholarship. It will be awarded to a School of Education sophomore or junior majoring in education or technology.

Betsie Padgett ’05 is the first recipient of the James ’41 and Nina Hastings ’43 Scholarship. A technology education major, she plans on teaching in the future.

“I worked for 14 years in the newspaper business, and off and on did carpentry work. I wanted to do something along those lines,” she said of her choice of technology education.

Jim said that he was especially pleased that the recipient was a woman. “In 1946, when I first came here teaching general shop, we were trying to recruit girls for IA (industrial arts). We didn’t have any,” he recalls with a chuckle. The recruiting was successful and a dozen women were enrolled. “I’ve always been in favor of women in the profession.”

Gratitude for their Oswego education is part of what lies behind the Hastings’ generosity to Oswego. “It afforded us a very comfortable life and a lot of pleasure, and we feel we owe something back,” explained Nina. “We have a great respect and a wonderful appreciation for Oswego.”

Jim concurs. “It seemed like the right thing to do,” he said of their gift.

The college and community have been a big part of the Hastings’ lives. They met as students on campus and have many memories of campus life back then, especially the “Big Fire,” which destroyed Sheldon Hall auditorium in 1941.

“We were part of a time that was special,” says Nina. Jim was in one of the early classes to get an industrial arts degree. The following year Oswego changed from a normal school to a college offering a bachelor of education degree. The couple also remembers that during the war years, many of their friends did not graduate with them, and Nina was on campus when there were mostly women students.

After graduation, Jim served in World War II, and was invited by President Ralph Swetman to join the faculty at Oswego in 1946.

“Shortly after being students we were faculty. It was a big change for us,” says Nina. “All our teachers were now our colleagues.”

Nina worked in the Oswego City School District, where she started a district-wide reading program and helped create programs to encourage home-school cooperation.

Jim had a distinguished 32-year career on campus, leading Oswego to the forefront of industrial arts education as director of field study. He increased its scope to include vocational rehabilitation and industrial exposure as well as student teaching.

He pioneered summer programs for teachers of the blind and attracted nearly half a million dollars in research grants to campus.

After retirement, both Hastings remained active through the Oswego Alumni Association and Jim as president of the Faculty Emeriti Association.

“We’re just very loyal to the college,” they say, adding, “We had a lot of fun, too.”

Loyal alumni fund scholarship

Mixing it up

Jennifer Novak ’04, left, Matthew Jones ’04 and Dawn Harle ’04 became the first SUNY Oswego students to graduate with a degree in biochemistry in May. The college received approval from the state this spring to make biochemistry a full undergraduate degree program. It was previously a track within the chemistry major. “It’s a very good major for people who want to go into the medical profession, the pharmaceutical industry or biotechnology,” explained Dr. Kestas Bendinskas, an assistant professor of chemistry who played a part in developing the major.
A little help from his friends

It was more than just persistence and a little bit of luck that helped Jeffrey Storch '06 land a summer internship at Richard A. Eisner and Co. in New York City.

As a student pursuing his MBA in accounting, Storch was one of 65 students and 23 alumni to attend this year’s NYC Alumni Career Connections. The event, sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association, aims at helping undergraduates connect with alumni to find internships or job placements in the New York City area.

It was there that he struck up a relationship with Steve Doran ’82, the director of Global Equity Finance for Merrill Lynch, who was impressed with Storch's academic achievements and enthusiasm for the field.

“He handed me his resume, and we spoke,” Doran said. “His focus, his activities and his accounting work at Oswego showed me that he was very focused and responsible.”

Doran exchanged Storch’s resume and credentials with several other accounting firms, and three months later, presented him with the good news.

“I was very excited,” Storch said, about hearing of his summer internship. “I am really looking forward to finally doing a real accounting internship, and seeing what it’s like to work in the city and experience the business world.”

Storch, who planned to commute from his home in North Merrick, Long Island, to New York City, said he was grateful for all of the work Doran has done.

“I honestly don't think I could have gotten this internship without Steve Doran,” he said. “He put a lot of effort into this, and I can’t thank him enough. They always say that alumni are really there to help, and it was very true in this case.”

— Shannon Mahar ’04

Women’s Center celebrates 30 years

The room falls silent as Pearl Gardner ’05, the Women’s Center “herstorian,” dims the lights and readies the projector screen for the evening’s presentation. Before her a crowd waits patiently, nibbling on crackers and hummus, and sipping freshly made iced tea. They are an eclectic mix of young and old, men and women, and gay and lesbian couples. But each has come with a common purpose — to remember and to celebrate the Women’s Center, and its 30 years of service to the Oswego campus.

“We've come so far with the help of all of the people here,” Gardner said at the party’s introduction this March. “From a hotline in a closet we've grown to an organization that is so active on campus.”

The closet Gardner speaks of is the tiny Listening Room A on the second floor of Hewitt Union, which housed the Women’s Center rape and sexual abuse hotline in the early 1970s, and received over 3,000 calls in its first year. According to former faculty adviser Barbara Gerber, the Women’s Center at first shared a house with Farnham, an organization that counseled students with drug abuse and addiction. Several members of Farnham and faculty wives withdrew to create the Women’s Center.

“Fairly quickly, within a few years, the women’s movement was just starting to bubble to the surface,” Gerber recalls.

Over the years the center has been housed in Johnson Hall, on Washington Boulevard and on Bridge Street, before returning to campus in 1977, where it has continued to provide referral and response services for victims of sexual assault and rape, and shared information about planned parenthood, domestic violence, abortion, sexism and other issues. Since the 1980s it has hosted the Take Back the Night march, a protest of violence against women.

“The Women’s Center is very important to the campus,” said Kaelyn Rich ’05, co-director along with Anny Vasquez ’05. “We create awareness about women’s issues, and we try to make the campus a safer place for everyone.”

“I think the Women’s Center is awesome for men and women, and people of all genders and sexual preferences,” said Angelique Chambers ’03, former Women's Center librarian. “I still know a lot of people in the organization, and it means a lot to me.”

The Women's Center is never far from Gerber's heart either.

“Of all the things in my 30 something years (at Oswego State), my association with the Women’s Center and the women's movement, is that which I am most proud of,” Gerber said. “I think my life would have been considerably less rich without my involvement in the Women’s Center or Women's Studies.”

— Shannon Mahar ’04
Support and advice: Mario’s gift

Mario Mercurio ’79, national vice president of sales for PepsiCo, hadn’t been back on campus since he went to make his way in the world, armed with his knowledge and an Oswego business degree 25 years ago. But in April he sat across a table in a seminar room in Rich Hall, helping School of Business students prepare for their own entry into the world of work.

“It’s a great experience, to connect with the kids,” he says of his participation in the third annual Alumni Business Symposium. “There’s a lot of ambition, a lot of heart, a lot of great leadership at the school.” He critiqued student resumes, gave career advice and made a presentation on PepsiCo to a group of students. He was also inspired to support the School of Business with a generous pledge that will continue the upgrading and outfitting of the School of Business with the latest technology. Mercurio has pledged $25,000, and Pepsi will provide a two-for-one match of $50,000, for a total of $75,000. In recognition of his generosity and that of his employer, a seminar room is named in his honor.

“It is so important to Oswego that Mario has reconnected with the campus,” said President Deborah F. Stanley. “His participation in the Alumni Business Symposium means so much to our current students, who benefit from the knowledge and experience of talented and dedicated graduates like Mario. We are extremely grateful to Mario for his generous support of the School of Business, and to PepsiCo for their match. Students who use the upgraded technology will continue to benefit from his loyalty to his alma mater for years to come.”

Part of that loyalty comes from memories of his work and co-workers at Lakeside Dining Hall, “a very warm place to be.”

Mercurio says he feels compelled to give back to the school, because of the education he received and the start it gave him in his career.

“For the cost, I got some really good basics coming out of SUNY Oswego,” he says. How he parlayed those basics into a career at the top of one of the nation’s largest companies is a story of American grit and determination.

“I left Oswego and went to New York City. I made it my daytime job, walking up and down streets, and filled out applications at every large corporation,” he says. He targeted companies with good training programs, like Procter and Gamble, IBM and Mobil. One headhunter in New York had told him to forget it — places like those were only interested in Ivy League types, not graduates of a state university.

Undeterred, Mercurio called and followed up relentlessly, and eventually Mobil granted him an interview. “I was so persistent,” he says. “They got sick of hearing from me and I got an interview and they hired me.”

After a brief stint at Mobil, he joined Pepsi. He rose through the ranks from field positions to business unit manager in California, where he turned around a sluggish operation to make it profitable. In 1999, he was promoted to national vice president for PepsiCo, which includes the brands Frito, Quaker, Tropicana and Pepsi-Cola.

So besides his generous donation, what does Mercurio want to bestow on the next generation of Oswego students? A bit of advice: “You have to understand what you want and what you want to do. If you understand what you want to do, you can find it.”
In the 35-year history of the Oswego State women's basketball program, this year's team proved to the best ever. The Lakers shattered numerous school records while advancing to the final four in a pair of postseason tournaments. The list of records is an impressive one, starting with most wins in a season as the team racked up 22 of them, breaking the old mark of 17, set back in 1982-83. The team also shined against SUNY Athletic Conference opponents as they compiled a league mark of 13-3, landing them in a tie for second place and setting a new record for conference wins. A major contributor to those numbers was a record 12-game winning set during the middle portion of the season.

Oswego State then won its first conference tournament game, holding off Brockport to advance to the final four of the SUNYAC Tournament. The Lakers came up short in their bid for a conference title, but they were rewarded with their first trip to the ECAC Upstate Tournament. Again the Lakers opened at Laker Hall and made the most of their home-court advantage, beating Geneseo 72-68 to move on to the semifinals. The team's dream season came to a close in its next contest as they capped the 2003-04 campaign with a tremendous 22-9 record. That mark set another record for best winning percentage in a season at .758.

With the success of the team came several individual honors. Kelly Mraz '07 (Johnstown) was named First Team All-SUNYAC, SUNYAC First Year Player of the Year and earned ECAC Upstate Honorable Mention. Mraz led the team in several categories, including scoring at 12.3 points per game, assists with 83 and steals with 86.

Amanda McLaughlin '05 (Groton) was named Second Team All-SUNYAC, while Kristin Sterling '05 (Oneida) received Honorable Mention.

This year's offense was the most prolific in school history as they set records for highest scoring average in a season (71.2 points per game), most points in a season (2,065), most field goals in a season (736) most free throws in a season (401), most 3-pointers in a season (192), most points in a game (107), most 3-pointers in a game (13) and best field goal percentage in a game (.550%).

The team also made an impact on the national level as the Lakers ranked in the top 25 in three different categories when the final NCAA Division III statistics were tabulated. The team ranked 16th in the nation in defensive field goal percentage (32.9%), 19th in 3-pointers made per game (6.6) and 24th in scoring margin at 16.7.

— Lyle Fulton

Men's basketball coach Kevin Broderick M '92 (second from right) celebrated his 100th win as the Lakers' coach Jan. 23. This year's co-captains and several basketball alumni presented the coach with a commemorative basketball. From left are co-captain Luke Sinkler '04, Rahel Smith '00, M '02, Jeff Robbins '03, Jeremy Greer '02, Mike O'Steen '03, Jeff Goddard '04, Co-captain Dave Ponza '05, Kevin Broderick M '92, Athletic Director Tim Hale, and in front, Patrick Broderick, son; Connor Broderick, nephew; and Brendan Broderick, son.
Ice Hockey

Under the direction of new head coach Ed Gosek ’83, MSED ’01, the Lakers again proved to be among the nation’s elite, ending the season ranked 13th. Oswego State challenged for its second straight automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Championship, only to fall to rival Plattsburgh in the SUNY Athletic Conference Finals. The Lakers lost both of the games in overtime to finish the year with a 19-9-3 record.

Oswego State had two players named Division III JOFA All-Americans as defenseman Joe Carrabs ’04 (Brampton, Ont.) and forward Don Patrick ’05 (Fulton) were selected to the East Second Team. It marked the second straight season the players were recognized, as Carrabs was named to the First Team in 2003 and Patrick to the Second Team.

Carrabs and Patrick were also First Team All-SUNYAC picks, with forward Mike Lukajic ’04 (Mississauga, Ont.) and goalie Tyson Gajda ’04 (Westfield, Mass.) being named to the Second Team. Based on their strong performances during the playoffs, Lukajic and Ryan Woodward ’07 (Picton, Ont.) represented the Lakers on the SUNYAC All-Tournament Team.

Lukajic, who led the nation in game-winning goals with eight last season, left his mark on the Oswego State program as he ranks 20th on the all-time scoring list with 144 points on 91 goals and 53 assists. His 91 goals rank him seventh in school history.

Swimming and Diving

It was another banner season in the pool for the Lakers as both the men and women’s teams placed second at the SUNYAC Championships.

The Lakers not only performed well at the SUNYAC meet, four swimmers then carried that over to the NCAA Division III Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships as all four Lakers who went to the prestigious event earned All-American honors. Anne Sarkissian ’04 (Oswego) became the most decorated female swimmer in SUNYAC history, as she was an All-American in the 100 butterfly and part of three relay teams. She is now a 12-time All-American. Sarkissian was joined by Erin Varley ’04 (Rochester), Julianne Anderson ’05 (Syracuse) and Kelly Murphy ’07 (Saratoga) on the 200 freestyle in addition to both the 200 and 400 medley relay teams that each reeled in All-American honors.

At the SUNYAC Championships, Sarkissian was named the Most Outstanding Swimmer and received the Grace Mowatt Award for the top senior. She won the 50 free (24.32), 100 fly (57.69) and the 200 fly (2:09.73), with the time in the 200 fly setting a meet record.

Varley was also a double winner as she won the 100 back (1:00.47) and the 200 back (2:11.61). Leslie Simrell ’07 (Ithaca) also claimed a SUNYAC title, winning the 200 free (1:58.11).

In addition to all of the individual titles, the Lakers also placed first in four relays. They were the 200 and 800 free relays and the 200 and 400 medley relays.

The men’s team boasted four individual champions at the conference meet with two relay teams also placing first. Dominic Mancini ’06 (Rochester) won a pair of events taking top honors in the 100-yard breaststroke (59.39) and the 200 breaststroke (2:11.32).

Dan Callinan ’07 (Rock Tavern) won the 200 backstroke (1:58.39), while Andrew McLellan ’04 (Manlius) placed first in the 100 butterfly (51.77).

Oswego State also excelled in the relay events, winning both the 200 and 400 medley relays.
Wrestling

Laker wrestler Tenkoran Agyeman ’05 (Bronx) earned All-American honors for the second consecutive season as he finished fourth at 133 pounds at the 2004 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships hosted by Loras College in DuBuque, Iowa. Agyeman improved on his seventh-place finish from a year ago. Agyeman becomes the 44th Oswego State wrestler to earn All-American honors at the national championships. He capped the year with an impressive 37-3 record and now has a career record of 94 – 18.

Joining Agyeman at the national championships was co-captain Frank Petrucci ’05 (Suffern) at 165 pounds. Petrucci earned the seventh seed in the tournament but was upended in the opening round. He then fell in sudden death in his second match, to finish the year with a 24-9 record.

The Lakers put together a strong effort to finish fourth at the 13th Annual Empire Conference Wrestling Championships. Oswego State finished with 57 points just behind ninth ranked Ithaca’s 62.5 points. Agyeman and Petrucci each finished second and received “wild card” berths into the NCAA Championships. Four other Lakers placed third at the Conference meet led by John Spinner ’06 (Malone) at 125 pounds. Clayton Walsh ’07 (Verona) and Dane LaPlante ’07 (Carthage) each compiled 2-1 records and finished third at 141 and 149 pounds respectively. Jeremy Calkins ’05 (Solvay) finished third at 285 pounds, while Jonathon Jagatnarian ’05 (Bronx) placed fourth at 184 pounds to round out the Laker scoring.

Men’s Basketball

Once again the men’s basketball team qualified for a pair of post-season tournaments, as the Lakers earned the second seed in both the SUNYAC and ECAC Upstate tournaments. It marked the first time in school history the team has qualified for the ECAC Upstate tourney three years in a row. Oswego State finished the season with a solid record of 18-9.

There were plenty of accomplishments throughout the season both on the court and the sideline. Dave Ponza ’05 (Solvay) became the ninth player in school history to surpass the 1,000-point plateau as he finished the season sixth on the all-time list with 1,344 points. Ponza also reeled in a pair of post-season honors as he was First Team All-SUNYAC and Second Team ECAC Upstate.

Point guard Nicholas Perioli ’07 (Liverpool) made an impact in his first season in the Laker program, as he led the SUNYAC in assist-to-turnover ratio at 2.13. He finished second in the conference in assists, averaging 5.3 per contest and was named SUNYAC Co-First Year Player of the Year.

Ahmad Mims ’06 (North Syracuse) added his name to the record books as he broke his own record for blocked shots in a season with 46 and in the process set the career mark in just two seasons with 88 blocks.

Also during the course of the season, coach Kevin Broderick M ’92 earned his 100th victory since taking over the Oswego State program (p. 14).

Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track and Field

The 2003-04 indoor season was one for the record books as the Lakers set many new school marks on both the men’s and women’s side.

Susan McWilliams ’04 (Central Square) and Deb Richards ’04 (Oswego) led the way on the women’s side setting three records each. McWilliams established new school records in the 1,000 meters, the one-mile run and 5,000. Richards excelled in the sprints as she set records in the 55-meter dash, 60-meter dash and the 200 meters. Her top performance of the season came at the NYSCTC Championships as she placed second in three events. Those events were the 55 meters, 200 meters and the long jump.

Jessica Adam ’06 (Dover, N.H.) also broke a school record in the shot put, with an impressive distance of 38 feet and 6 inches.

For the men, Samuel Winn ’05 (Fort Ann) etched his name into the record book in three events, including the 60-meter high hurdles, triple jump and the pentathlon.

The other record to fall for the men was in the 60-meter dash as Ramon Suarez Jr. ’07 posted a swift time of 7.34 seconds.
Letters

I read with much amusement the article on tuition increase (Fall-Winter 2003), especially since I recently came across my registration card for my final semester at Oswego — Spring 1951. From my payment of $31.75 (per semester) to the new charge of $4,350 per year is quite a jump. Even so, 53 years and lots of cost increases no doubt still make it a bargain. I had to work part time (as a waitress in an Italian restaurant in town) to make ends meet while attending college.

My happy years at Oswego led to an enjoyable educational career in which I taught for 25 years, including seven years as a teacher center specialist on Staten Island. In addition, I was director of Retiree Programs for the United Federation of Teachers for an additional seven years. Before I retired to write full time, I received a Distinguished Woman Award from the YWCA as well as Woman of the Year from the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

I am mailing you the original copy of my registration card for your archives, as well as a photo of myself in graduation dress, June 1951. For a poor Brooklyn girl, it was the highlight of my young life.

Pearl Itzkowitz Wolf ’51

You are to be commended for the fine article about Prof. Herb Van Schaack (’51), one of my heroes (Fall-Winter 2003). Since my first counseling course in Jan. 1963, Herb has served as a mentor and friend. I was fortunate enough to have Herb as an instructor for three courses in my counseling and guidance master’s program.

In the summer of 1965, Herb served as the program director for Neighborhood Youth Corps for Oswego County. He crafted a War on Poverty program that served the needs of Oswego County’s low-income adolescents. Being chosen to work as a counselor under his direction was indeed an honor. He was the best boss on the best job I ever had. Herb served as a role model for me during the 27 years that I taught psychology at SUNY Cobleskill. I visit him on a regular basis and the friendship continues.

I continue to appreciate your publication. Thank you again for honoring Herb Van Schaack.

Thomas Bowes ’60, M ’65, CAS ’76

Thank you for the reminder of the winter of ’78 as in the “Snowed In!” article found in the Oswego Spring 2004 edition.

Still living in the City of Oswego, this past winter’s snow reminded me of just the photo on page 22 and the memories that Bill Precht ’78 recalled. I remembered the place and the photo like it was yesterday!!! However I could not come up with the year!! As the by-line noted, my good friend Don Kranz was the photographer. At the time, he was working at the local newspaper — The Palladium-Times.

The other point I distinctly remember was that very photo was displayed and discussed on the “Tonight Show” starring Johnny Carson! It was quite a thrill to see a snow picture from Oswego that actually made the TV show. I also seem to remember a telephone interview during the “Tonight Show” about the amount of snow we had and why people would be so eager to gather around a “bar” in the middle of a snow pile!!!

Thanks for the memories,

Steve Poydock ’71 M ’75

A: long before the “big” ’70s snow, we knew what “big snow” was. There was no transportation — so, we walked. I lived on Bridge Street. After donning layers of clothes, we’d start up the hill to college. One day, we had a blizzard, and school closed. The senior men tied ropes from tree to tree to get us down the hill. I remember hanging on to one of them because the wind was so strong. We were a hardy group and thought it was a great adventure! We’re the survivors out here. Why I’m in California now!

Alice Little Power ’43

You are to be commended for the fine article about Prof. Herb Van Schaack (’51), one of my heroes (Fall-Winter 2003). Since my first counseling course in Jan. 1963, Herb has served as a mentor and friend. I was fortunate enough to have Herb as an instructor for three courses in my counseling and guidance master’s program.

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Thanks for the memories,

Steve Poydock ’71 M ’75

After reading the “Snowed In” article (Spring 2004), I knew I must contact the Association!

Enclosed is the Symphonic Choir Christmas 1959 record of the very first concert of Dr. Boyd’s “Oswego is Famous for Its Snow.” It’s yours now!

The cover shows Dr. Boyd and how he appeared at every concert in his tux with his children. . . .

I sang second soprano. Singing with the choir under Dr. Boyd’s direction was a highlight for me!

Most sincerely,

Victoria Alesandro Rivers ’62

Long before the “big” ’70s snow, we knew what “big snow” was. There was no transportation — so, we walked. I lived on Bridge Street. After donning layers of clothes, we’d start up the hill to college. One day, we had a blizzard, and school closed. The senior men tied ropes from tree to tree to get us down the hill. I remember hanging on to one of them because the wind was so strong. We were a hardy group and thought it was a great adventure! We’re the survivors out here. Why I’m in California now!

Alice Little Power ’43
**Club Event Notices Using E-mail**

Club events are publicized through Oswego alumni magazine, on the Oswego Alumni Web site, through mailings as well as e-mail. If your e-mail address has changed for any reason or if you haven’t given us your e-mail address yet, please update your current information at http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/alumni/where.html. You may also notify our office by completing and mailing us the “Tell Us About Yourself” form on page 47. We thank you in advance for your help.

**Atlanta**

The Atlanta club is collaborating with other SUNY alumni groups to expand networking possibilities and event offerings. Alumni volunteered to help Georgia Public Television on March 13 and attended a Thrashers hockey game March 26 to cheer on Oswego’s own Charlie Leitner as he competed in an on-ice contest. The group is planning a Sunset Cruise Aug. 28.

For the latest information about upcoming events in the Atlanta area, check out the club’s Web site at www.geocities.com/sunyalumniofatlanta or contact Jeffrey Travis ’89.

**Binghamton**

Area alumni gathered to attend a Binghamton Mets baseball game and pre-game get-together Aug. 6 as well as a picnic for alumni, new students and families Aug. 7 at Arnold Park. For more information about the chapter or if you have event ideas, please contact Margaret Clancy Darling ’82.

**Boston**

Area alumni gathered July 10 for a tour of Fenway Park, a Red Sox baseball game and pre-game get-together at PJ Kilroys. The alumni office is currently looking for volunteers in the Boston area. If you would be interested in coordinating alumni activities, please contact Associate Alumni Director Jeff Pratt ’94, M’97 at jpratt@oswego.edu or 315-312-2258.

**Buffalo**

A picnic will be held Aug. 17 at Sheridan Park for alumni, new students and families. October 17 is the annual Bills game and tailgate at Ralph Wilson Stadium. Larry Coon ’83 asks Buffalo area alumni to contact him with future event ideas.

**Capital District (Albany)**

New area club volunteers have planned a great selection of upcoming events that they invite all alumni, family and friends to attend. On Aug. 17 enjoy a day at the Saratoga horse races, including a hot and cold buffet in the Paddock Tent. On Aug. 23 come to a picnic for alumni, new students and families at

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**Alumni Club Contacts**

**NEW YORK CLUBS**

- **Binghamton** – Margaret Clancy Darling ’82, 607-748-5125 (H)
- **Buffalo** – Larry Coon ’83, 716-852-1321 (O), 716-873-2695 (H)
- **Capital District** – Tammy Second Friend ’98, 518-454-5197 (O), 518-236-0147 (H), e-mail: friendt@strose.edu or tammyfriend@hotmail.com
- **Mohawk Valley** – Liz Fowler ’68, 315-337-9895 (H), e-mail: lizfowler1@twcnyr.com
- **New York City** – Volunteers needed, please contact the alumni office.
- **Oswego** – Sylvia Gaines ’76, 315-342-2662 (H), e-mail: sgaines@oswego.org
- **Rochester** – Penny Koch ’95, 585-899-9716 (H), e-mail: kochn_pe093@yahoo.com
- **Syracuse** – Kitty Sherlock Houghtaling ’87, 315-656-2457 (H), e-mail: Kittys@ocfas.org or Paul Sosco ’70, 315-656-3180 (H)

**OTHER AREAS**

- **Atlanta** – Jeffrey Travis ’89, 770-926-7580 (H), e-mail: jefftravis@charlotte.com
- **Boston** – Volunteers needed, please contact the alumni office.
- **Buffalo** – Larry Coon ’83, 716-852-1321 (O), 716-873-2695 (H)
- **Capital District** – Tammy Secord Friend ’98, 518-454-5197 (O), 518-236-0147 (H), e-mail: friendt@strose.edu or tammyfriend@hotmail.com
- **Long Island** – Eric Setzer ’91, 919-786-2469 (H), e-mail: esetzer@ncrcc.com
- **North Carolina** – David Jones ’92, 919-245-3620 (H), e-mail: davidjones@unc.edu
- **Northern New Jersey** – Fran Lapiqueski ’72, MS ’74, 973-763-6788 (H), e-mail: cmhl3@att.net
- **Philadelphia** – Jennifer Shropshire ’86, 215-642-1748 (O), e-mail: jshropsh@adelco.com
- **South Carolina** – Sonya Nordquist Alterbach ’91, 843-881-9503 (H), e-mail: sonyan@charleston.com
- **Southern California** – Julie Joseph Greenberg ’92, 909-787-0480 (H), e-mail: socalozalumni@yahoo.com
- **Washington, D.C.** – Kim Brooke ’87, 703-845-0788 (H), e-mail: kbrooke@nvcc.edu

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Boston area alumni from the 1970s through 1999 enjoyed a tour of Fenway Park and an exciting Red Sox baseball game in July.
Saratoga Spa State Park. And on Oct. 15 join us for hors d’oeuvres while we cruise down the Hudson River. Details for all events are online at http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/albany

Long Island
A meeting to gather ideas and volunteers for Long Island club events is being organized, so if you live, or would attend events, on Long Island please fill out the survey at http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/longisland

New York City
A meeting to gather ideas and volunteers for New York City club events is being organized, so if you live, or would attend events, in New York City please fill out the survey at http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/nyc

North Carolina
A group of area alumni are interested in planning activities in North Carolina. If you live in the area or know any alumni who do, please have them fill out the online survey at http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/north carolina

Rochester
Area alumni attended a wine tasting/hors d’oeuvres cruise Aug. 4 and a picnic for alumni, new students and families Aug. 19 at Webster Park. Area alumni are invited to the Bills game and tailgate Oct. 17.

South Carolina
Sonya Nordquist Altenbach ’91 and Karen Parker ’91 are planning a SUNY outing in October to “Broadway at the Beach” in Myrtle Beach as well as the annual Oyster Festival in Charleston in January.

Syracuse/Oswego
Area alumni enjoyed touring Seneca Lake wineries in June. Upcoming events in the planning stage include Chilifest in Kingston, Ont., this fall and the annual Holiday Social at Coleman’s of Syracuse in December. If you have other event ideas for the Oswego/Syracuse area, please contact the alumni office.

Washington, D.C.
An incredibly successful SUNY President’s Day reception was held on Capitol Hill in March. Oswego alumni showed our true colors by having the largest attendance — over 100 of the 900-plus SUNY alumni in attendance. Special guests at the reception were: President Deborah Stanley, Vice President Kevin Mahaney, Director of Development Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81, Associate Alumni Director Jeff Pratt ’94, M ’97, SUNY Chancellor Robert King and NYS Congressional staff. Area alumni attended a canoe outing July 17 and the annual picnic Aug. 14. Upcoming events include the King Street Krawl Sept. 25, the annual Holiday Social Dec. 7 and a special reception hosted by Mark Baum ’81 Sept. 28 at The Tower Club with President Stanley and special guest speaker, political observer Dr. Thomas Schaller ’89. If you have any questions about future events, please contact Kim Brooke ’87.

At the SUNY President’s Day reception on Capitol Hill in March were President Deborah F. Stanley, Fred Festa ’81, SUNY Chancellor Robert King and Mark Baum ’81. Oswego alumni had the largest representation of any SUNY college in attendance.

Save the Date
An Evening with Oswego Alumni and Friends!
Join President Deborah F. Stanley

"Creating Connections for the Future"
With Special Guest Speaker
Dr. Thomas Schaller ’89
political observer & professor,
University of Maryland.
“The First Presidential Election of the Rest of Our Lives”

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2004
The Tower Club, Vienna, Va.
6:30 p.m.

Hosted by Mark Baum ’81
Look for invitation and registration information coming soon!
Advance reservations are required.
http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/dc/
Red and blue states pop up on TV screens as Democrats and Republicans battle for all-important electoral votes to land their candidate in the White House. But there’s plenty of green and gold behind the scenes as Oswego alumni put forth their best efforts to make sure the elections go off without a hitch.

*Stories by Michele Reed*
More than 2,000 delegates will meet on the floor of the Republican National Convention in New York City to nominate President George W. Bush as their party’s candidate. But to do it, they, and the 50,000 people who will be on hand as convention guests, staff, speakers, media reps and VIPs, have to get to Madison Square Garden and around the city.

So they look to Saleem Cheeks ’01 for help.

As deputy director of transportation for the convention, Cheeks makes sure “protectors” — the president, vice president, cabinet officers, congressional representatives, governors and their staffs — can get around. There is a consultant who works on the technical details. Cheeks and his team handle the more sensitive end of things.

“Our focus is to oversee that process and always keep on the front burner the political sensitivities that are always around,” he explains. “We make sure these things are taken into account and move forward.”

It can be anything from parking to the level of vehicle they get and for how long they get it.

All told, Cheeks estimates that a quarter of a million people will be in town during the convention, a huge number to move about the city.

“It definitely is exciting,” he says. “You have a wide array of people coming from various points throughout the country. Some have been in the White House, or on Capitol Hill. Some are just out of school, some veterans. Some were at the 1968 convention and are still involved to this day.

“There’s so much to experience and to learn from.”

**Young man’s game**

His classroom is a bullpen-style office, full of people his age trying to pull together a successful convention.

“There’s a lot of energy in the room, a lot of young people,” he says. “My theory is: It takes young people to make the government run. It takes a lot of long nights.”

He recalls the hours leading up to the unveiling of the convention transportation plan. The team worked from 7 in the morning one day till 5 p.m. the next day without a break and started the meeting at 6 p.m.

“The plan was released . . . to lots of positive response from the city,” he says. “Of course, New Yorkers are used to having something this large.” He recalls that the Democratic National Convention was held in the Big Apple in 1992.

“Now it’s a whole different time for security,” he adds. “That’s the biggest hurdle to jump — the security piece. Things are so different now.”

For a very young man, Cheeks is at the center of a huge operation. His job puts him in contact with some of the movers and shakers of the Republican party.

The president’s chief of staff, Andy Card, came by to visit, and the transportation staff had visits by New York Gov. George Pataki and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, among others. Cheeks has dealt with the Senate majority leader’s team and the staffs of other senators as well as White House officials.

Hanging over everything, there’s always the realization that this is a very big deal, an important national event.

“We work with the Secret Service [under the Department of Homeland Security] day in and day out,” says Cheeks. “This a national special security event.”

Cheeks is also heavily involved with New York City officials, including the Parks Department, Department of Transportation and especially the New York Police Department.

Despite the fact that he’ll be at the nerve center of the party while the convention is under way, Cheeks probably won’t get to watch the show on the MSG floor.

“I’ll probably be sitting at a little command center, trying to oversee and make sure everything runs smoothly,” he laughs. “I’ll probably watch [the convention] on TV just like you.”

**Childhood dream**

For Cheeks this role is part of the fulfillment of a childhood dream. He got interested in politics as a seventh-grader, when his social studies teacher challenged the class to get more involved.

“I saw it as an opportunity to have a large impact on different areas and issues, hopefully for the better,” he says. “It kind of piqued my interest.”

He got involved in the student council at his school as a class representative. “It was a great way to channel that energy and interest and it kind of stuck.”

When he came to Oswego, he majored in political science and immediately became involved in student governance, as
a senator for Johnson Hall, assistant vice president of Student Association, and later a senator from Seneca Hall.

“I put my hat in sophomore year for vice president, and the year after, ran for president,” he says. He was successful.

Calling Cheeks very “outgoing, intelligent and charismatic, an excellent problem solver and an excellent speaker,” Dean of Students James Scharfenberger said he brought an institution-wide view to his administration that recognized the importance of the relationship between academic affairs and student government.

“He’s just one of those very rare student leaders who has a sophistication in their interpersonal relationships that help motivate others to do good things,” he said. “A hard worker, he led by example himself.”

“Present leaders still call on him and still refer to him and his administration as the beginning of an important role for the Student Association — even the people who disagreed with him,” Scharfenberger added. “He was a person who created a foundation to move forward on.”

For his part, Cheeks found the Oswego experience very influential.

“Oswego was definitely a learning experience that has helped tremendously now. Whether it be the art of compromise with people, how things work, how to get things done, how to balance and delegate.”

Saleem Cheeks ’01 and co-worker Matthew A. Burns confer on the transportation plan to get GOP leaders around New York City.

McAleese ’93 and then-Johnson Hall director Jennifer Ayotte.

The political science department made a big impression on him, too, most notably in helping to solidify his political philosophy.

He especially remembers “discussions that caused you to think, provoked thought, encouraged debate and disagreement. They helped me identify what my ideology was.”

To work at the convention, Cheeks has taken a leave of absence from his position as assistant appointments secretary to Gov. Pataki. Following the convention, Cheeks wants to work on the campaign. After that, he aims to continue his education in graduate school and then the Syracuse native hopes to return to the Central New York area to make a difference in his own community through his involvement in politics.

“There’s so much I see that needs to be done and hopefully I can make things happen,” he says.
Being a reporter in a battleground state like Ohio is kind of like being a celebrity. David Skolnick ’89 admits to being “wooed” by the press offices of both the Bush and Kerry campaigns, practically begging him cover their local events.

The political reporter for The Vindicator, Youngstown, Ohio’s 70,000-plus circulation daily, finds he is much in demand.

"On Thursday I interviewed Teresa Heinz Kerry, on Saturday it was John Edwards. On Sunday and Monday I got to rest and Kerry came in on Tuesday."

“They treat me as someone really special, because of Ohio being one of six battleground states and the Youngstown-Warren area one of the strongest Democratic areas of the state,” he says. Republicans currently dominate Ohio politics, with a Republican governor and secretary of state, and Republican majority in both houses of the legislature and the Supreme Court. Only Mahoning County, where Youngstown is located, and Trumbull County, home to Warren, are Democratic strongholds.

So the two areas are key for both the Republican president and his Democratic challenger.

If Kerry were to win by 65 to 35 percent in those two counties with a strong voter turnout, he could carry the state and its 20 electoral votes, Skolnick explains.

That’s why both candidates have concentrated their efforts on Ohio, along with Pennsylvania, Michigan and other battleground states. And why Skolnick has had three interviews with Kerry and ridden in the President’s motorcade. As press pool reporter for visits of both politicians, he got access to the candidates and later briefed other reporters on what they had to say.

Riding in the Presidential motorcade is quite an experience, according to Skolnick. Traffic is stopped on the highway in both directions and the reporters are surrounded by Secret Service agents who frisk them and use bomb-sniffing dogs to screen for explosives.

It’s a far cry from his beginnings on the Oswegonian. A broadcasting major, influenced by Dave Nellis, Lew "Doc" O'Donnell and Tina Pieraccini, Skolnick started out working for WOCR. He was inspired to try out the 'Gonian when the woman who would become his wife, Elise McKoewn Skolnick ’89, went to work as a photographer there. "It was the fall of ’87 and I absolutely loved it. I immediately fell in love with it," he says. "Both of us became associate news editors in six months or so and I knew right away it was my calling."

Skolnick got an internship at the Oswego Palladium-Times, where he could try his hand at all aspects of the journalist’s trade, and was thrilled to see his byline on page 1. By his senior year, the Pall-Times had an opening in its Fulton bureau and he worked there after classes each day. After jobs at the Watertown Daily Times and the Troy Record, he landed in Youngstown and eventually onto the front lines in the battle for Ohio voters.

As a nine-year veteran of The Vindicator with four years of political reporting under his belt, Skolnick says he’s never seen a campaign that was waged so hot and heavy for such a long time. Even back in February during the Super Tuesday primaries, he was in demand on all fronts. "On Thursday I interviewed Teresa Heinz Kerry, on Saturday it was John Edwards. On Sunday and Monday I got to rest and Kerry came in on Tuesday."

How does Skolnick take all this wooing? "It makes me feel kind of special. "It does get to be a bit overwhelming, but I don’t really take things too seriously," he says. “You take things in stride.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VINDICATOR

David Skolnick ’89 with Air Force One. The Youngstown, Ohio, Vindicator reporter has interviewed John Kerry three times and ridden in President George W. Bush’s motorcade.
A former Oswego student political activist is now trying to interest today’s young people in politics. Daniel Shea ’84 was a leader of the Young Democrats and helped form the Political Science Club when he was at Oswego.

Now, as executive director of the Center for Political Participation at Pennsylvania’s Allegheny College, he is trying to get students interested in making a difference through political involvement.

“The issue of youth participation has become so acute, that we’ve decided to roll up our sleeves and do something about it,” says the associate professor of political science. “Rather than bemoan the problem, we’re going to take some concrete steps” to solve it.

Allegheny College’s Center for Political Participation opened in the fall of 2002 with the goal of fostering interest in political participation, particularly in young people.

“It’s different. There are a number of centers to get students civically engaged,” he says. “We argue that young adults are civically engaged. They’re involved in soup kitchens, cleaning up streams. There is a break between their interest in their communities and being interested in politics.”

The center is trying to change all that. “Rather than simply call out the dangers of a generation not interested in politics, we’re trying to make a difference.”

The cutting-edge center is working to make a difference in three ways, Shea says: It sponsors programs for the students at Allegheny to educate and engage them in the political process. It tries to get high school students involved using college students, professors and resources. And it fosters scholarship about the issue.

“Rather than simply call out the dangers of a generation not interested in politics, we’re trying to make a difference.”

Parties don’t try

Most recently the Center has been in the news with a study conducted by Shea and colleagues at the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron for CIRCLE, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. “Throwing a Better Party: Local Mobilizing Institutions and the Youth Vote” analyzes how the major parties reach out to young people.

Its conclusion, in a nutshell: They don’t. “Historically young people have been pulled to the polls by political parties. What are local political parties doing to pull young people to the polls?” Shea asks.

The researchers received a $100,000
grant to survey 800 local party leaders, 400 Democrats and 400 Republicans.

“The findings suggest they’re not really doing much,” Shea says. “Not a great deal of effort is going into getting young people into the process. It’s really discouraging.”

It’s not a new trend. “When I was out in the trenches, we did not target college students during my campaign days because they didn’t vote,” he says.

“The parties are being short-sighted,” Shea says. “Once you get people to vote it becomes habitual. Once they become partisans it sticks for life. Parties need to make the effort and be more innovative.”

This recent research by the author of eight books on the political process is catching the media eye — in a big way. News of the study has been in 80 media outlets from the San Francisco Chronicle to the Washington Post. Most recently, Shea was interviewed by Time magazine.

He sees the youth vote as a big issue in this year’s presidential election. “There’s a lot of energy being directed at young voters right now. This is going to be a very close race and both sides are turning over every stone they can.”

He points to positive non-partisan efforts, too, such as Rock the Vote and his center’s Model Campaign USA for high school students.

Start at Oswego

As Shea says, the Center for Political Participation is “making a mark on campus, in the community and in national scholarly circles.”

Those who knew Shea in his Oswego days aren’t surprised.

“Dan was a very good student who showed a great interest in the practical side of politics,” says Dr. Bruce Altschuler, chair of Oswego’s political science department. “I knew that he would be active in politics as he immediately began to get involved in campaigns and worked as a campaign consultant for a number of years before going back to school for his Ph.D.”

Shea sees his involvement in politics at Oswego as the start. “That work and that interest pushed me into practical politics.”

After Oswego he earned his degree in campaign management at the University of West Florida and spent some years putting it into practice, running campaigns for the New York State Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee.

He made the switch to teaching after earning his doctorate at SUNY Albany.

Now his work as associate professor and director of the Center for Political Participation has made it all come full circle.

“It’s a combination of my training at Oswego, real world experience at the Assembly, my writing and teaching.”

From Oswego to the Conventions

Alumni watching the Democratic and Republican National Conventions on television may have seen a familiar face or two among all the balloons and waving signs. New York State Senator James W. Wright ’71 was a delegate to the Republican convention and Kathleen “Casey” Walpole, a 20-year employee of the Registrar’s Office, was a delegate to the Democratic nominating event.

Wright has been a delegate before, in 2000. “It is an honor to represent Central and Northern New York state as a delegate for President Bush. As a delegate during the president’s first nomination, I look forward to playing a role in his re-nomination,” he said. “Having the Republican Convention in our home state makes it an exciting time to be a New Yorker.”

Wright is serving his fifth term in the New York State Senate, representing the state’s 48th Senate District, which includes SUNY Oswego’s campus. He was first elected in 1992, and has been re-elected by large margins ever since. He was honored in 2000 by the Oswego Alumni Association with the Lifetime Award of Merit.

It was the first national political convention for Walpole, who got involved in politics through the Civil Service Employees Association, the union representing about 500 college employees, of which she is vice president and former president. “The union encouraged us to get involved, because you can’t fix or help anything until you understand it,” said Walpole, a member of the union’s bi-partisan regional political action committee the past eight years.

While she admitted the convention would be “very exciting,” it wasn’t Walpole’s first brush with the Democratic candidate. In June she attended the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees convention in Anaheim, Calif., where she met John Kerry when she served on his escort committee.

Read about other Oswego alumni involved in election issues at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/magazine/
At convention time 15,000 journalists from 900 different news organizations are on hand to cover each party’s decision-making process. Helping to conduct the massive orchestration of their efforts is Oswego’s Michael Lawrence ’74.

As senior media relations coordinator for the Senate Radio and Television Gallery, he will work with a team of 10 to handle all the credentialing for journalists at New York’s Madison Square Garden and Boston’s Fleet Center for the party conventions.

Lawrence and his co-workers in the Senate and House galleries will be determining bona fides of the different news organizations, presenting them with their credentials and helping to coordinate where their workspaces will be, and how security matters will impact what the journalists do.

“The big thing for me was working at WRVO. That helped me get a real world, on-air experience in broadcasting.”

To prepare, they visited the convention sites in December and June for big media walk-throughs, where representatives from each news organization come and get ideas of where the skyboxes are, the various camera locations and what office space they will have.

It won’t be Lawrence’s first brush with the hoopla of a national party convention. He worked years ago for NBC Radio News in New York, and went to the 1984 Republican convention in Dallas as a radio engineer.

And in his current job he’s used to huge media blitzes, some with a lot less time to prepare. In June, he and his colleagues had to coordinate media coverage for the lying in state of former President Ronald Reagan at the Capitol Rotunda.

“We had essentially four days to prepare for that massive media onslaught,” he says. They worked with the Military District of Washington, the military wing that deals with state funerals, and had to organize coverage by news organizations from around the world. It’s a big job of coordination. “Even the Capitol Police and Sergeant-at-Arms, the Speakers Office, have to approve where all these cameras will go,” says Lawrence. “There are layers of jurisdiction and security.”

Another duty is to handle media planning for the presidential inauguration. “We go into that planning quickly in early September, after the Republican convention,” he says. No need to wait to see who wins the election. “Someone will be out there taking the oath one way or another.”

Lawrence’s current job, which he has held for the past three years after 15 at National Public Radio in Washington, is “exciting, because you’re very involved in current matters of interest and concern. It’s a good combination of being in a political environment while dealing with the news media and their coverage needs,” he says.

“It’s always a balancing act between Congress’s concern that coverage is orderly with the news media’s interest in getting as much access as possible.”

A communication studies major, Lawrence began at Oswego at the time when the major itself was just being formed.

“The big thing for me was working at WRVO,” he says. “That helped me get a real world, on-air experience in broadcasting.”

He remembers Bill Shigley, the late WRVO station manager, and Professor Emeritus Lewis “Doc” O’Donnell.

And while the distance between Landgian Hall and Capitol Hill may seem large, his experience at WRVO was important in landing Lawrence in the Senate Gallery.

“I had to use both the technical experience of working at a radio station and more of a broadcast journalism perspective to my advantage,” he says. “Here, they were looking for someone with a technical background and a journalism background.”
If it hadn’t been for Vietnam, Dr. Bruce Altschuler might have been a mathematician. Instead, people at Oswego and all over the world who want to understand the American political system have a source for enlightenment.

The New York City native pursued math in college “because that’s where the jobs were.” But he dropped out and went to Vietnam, serving during the Tet Offensive of 1967-68. That changed everything.

“It really raised my political consciousness,” he says. When he returned from Vietnam, Altschuler enrolled in City College to study political science and pursued his doctorate at City University Graduate Center in Manhattan.

He was a teaching assistant for Al Lowenstein, the famous student activist at University of North Carolina and professional gadfly, who started the Dump Johnson movement and talked Eugene McCarthy into running.

Lowenstein once invited the TA, who was busy correcting exam papers for him, to stop by during a dinner for then-California Gov. Jerry Brown. He really didn’t know what to expect. “There were 500 people there — all famous,” recalls Altschuler. “And I came in with exams!”

While at City University, he met Oswego Political Science Professor Bill Scheuerman, who let him know that Oswego was hiring in 1976. “I had to find Oswego on the map!” he jokes.

Since then, Altschuler, chair of the Oswego political science department, has taught thousands of Oswego students about politics in America. He’s published books ranging from an analysis of polling in elections to a campaign journal of his friend Scheuerman’s Assembly race. And he has made a name for himself as an expert commentator on the ins and outs of American politics for audiences from Canada to Singapore.

On-air expert

His commentaries started in the mid to late ’80s, when Altschuler found himself in the WRVO studio, explaining current events on “Talk of the Region.” From there he branched out to Wisconsin Public Radio and then to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

CBC’s syndication system means 10 interviews in three hours with stations from Vancouver, B.C., to St. John’s, Nova Scotia.

“Radio is more relaxing,” he confides. “I can do it from home, sit with a cup of coffee on the edge of the bed. I can look at my notes and no one knows. I’m able to concentrate on the substance.”

Altschuler has done a lot of call-in shows for public radio.

“Public radio wants me to be analytical. My job as a professor is to get people to think for themselves.”

Altschuler says his newspaper commentary is cyclical. “Around elections or a time of controversy, I get a raft of calls.”

He has been featured in newspapers as diverse as the Hartford Courant, Albany Times-Union, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, San Antonio Express-News and Gannett News Service.

His expertise is sought out on the other side of the Atlantic as well, with interviews by the London Observer, Liberation, a French newspaper; and Denmark’s Politiken.

Explaining American politics to audiences outside the country is always challenging, Altschuler says.

“They know the outlines of American government, but American politics seems so weird.”

He did an interview for a Singapore radio station when President Bill Clinton went to the United Nations.

“I had to explain what we take for granted for a non-American audience of two million listeners,” he says. “It’s difficult and a great intellectual exercise.”

FOR THE RECORD:

Altschuler on politics

On the 2004 election: “This is not going to be a campaign that informs the voters. It will be an ugly campaign — more criticism than positive alternatives. I hope I’m wrong. Time will tell.”

On talk radio: “It’s an entertainment program, not an information program. Talk radio is the opposite of thinking: The loudest person wins. And the host is the loudest, because he has the microphone . . . Talk radio has really damaged political debate in our country.”

On Oswego students and the election: “I am teaching a course on the presidential election, a seminar, and it’s already filled. “Students are enthusiastic, not jaded yet — This is the first or second presidential election they can vote in. Our students in political science really enjoy talking about it.”
Millions of Americans tuned into the Summer Olympic games from Greece will also be viewing the work of one Oswego alumnus. Mark Levy ’86 is responsible for the look and feel of NBC’s on-air coverage of the worldwide sporting event.

It’s a job that over the years has taken him from the rugged Australian Outback to the air above Greece, and has put 10 Emmy awards on his shelves. This August he’ll be in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of Control Group C in Athens, creating intros to NBC features using sports footage shot just hours before.
During the two weeks of the games he'll oversee about 45 or 50 people ranging from producers and associate producers to graphic designers. Together, they will produce graphic design elements and all the brief segments that open and close NBC's coverage throughout the day. But the creative director for NBC Olympics and senior producer takes it all in stride as he follows his philosophy of telling the athletes' stories through words, pictures and music.

Athletes train for years for the Olympics — rising at dawn to throw the discus, swim laps or lift weights in preparation for a few moments' performance and the chance at a gold medal.

Mark Levy is no different. For the minutes-long opening sequence to the NBC coverage of the Athens Olympics, he worked for two years, starting right after the Salt Lake City games, visiting sites in Greece, taking helicopter flights high above the Greek mainland and the island of Mykenos to direct filming, and studying the history of the Olympics and their traditional home.

He went to Olympia, the site of the first games in 776 B.C., 2,780 years ago. "When you walk onto the field where the first event took place, which was a foot race, you appreciate why you work on a project like this, because it does have such a grand history," he says.

In Athens he visited the stadium that was the site of the 1896 games, the first of the modern Olympiad, where, looking west he could see the Acropolis. His research led him further into the history of the games.

Once all the footage was shot and the script written, Levy sat down for a four-week marathon, viewing footage of athletes and scenic shots, listening to music and considering the stories other producers were working on to feature Olympic hopefuls.

Three ingredients

Words, pictures and music. "That's what I enjoy most about the medium," he says. "They all fit together and when it's done right, there's no better feeling."

Levy knows about the feeling of doing it right. He's been doing just that since he started with NBC Olympics in 1996 at the Atlanta games. His 5 1/2-minute opening sequence for the Sydney, Australia, games won the sports Emmy award for best opening of the year 2000. Like the Athens opening, it was a two-year-long effort, with eight trips Down Under. "We shot in every location in Australia from Sydney to Melbourne to the Great Barrier Reef to Perth to the Red Centre," he says.

The opening followed the theme of Australia as a destination of mystery, where in the early 1900s, Americans didn’t often travel. So the sequence opened up with the first trans-Pacific flight from the 'States to Australia. "Qantas Airlines gave us the use of a 747 jet to film going over the Golden Gate Bridge seven times," he describes.

A Day at the Olympics with Mark Levy ’86

- "I'll be arriving at the International Broadcast Center around 2 p.m. Athens time and I'll probably leave the Broadcast Center sometime around 6 a.m. I'll go back to the hotel and hopefully get in four to five hours of sleep, then head back. And I'll do that for 17 days."

- "It's OK, because you're there and you're more energized by the time you're awake and working on the games than you would if you worked only eight hours and spent four or five hours socializing. For myself it's more fulfilling to work while the games are going on."

- "The Broadcast Center is almost a warehouse of television studios, which range from NBC's facility — the largest — to broadcasters like CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation], Channel 7 in Australia, Chinese television, Mexican television. NBC's facilities include four studios and four control rooms. It's a labyrinth of offices and edit rooms and a commissary. People moving in what to an outsider might appear to be a chaotic path, but it's all planned out with a fine-tooth comb: where all the people and all the moving parts blend together."

- "We have a central videotape area where we take in all the feeds of all the competitions and there are young people sitting behind laptop computers logging all of this action, entering all the information on event coverage into a computer system. In case a producer needs a shot of a particular winner of a particular semi-final race, they can input that info and find out what computer it's in."

- "We have a half-hour meeting where the executive producers do a conference call with all the event producers and they basically construct the day that's already been figured out, and we determine what everyone needs to do to accomplish his or her part. It's predetermined months in advance, this is just to reiterate with all the people what's expected of them. We're delivering programs to multiple platforms: NBC, MSNBC, CNBC, Bravo, USA, Telemundo (Spanish language coverage in the U.S.) and HD coverage."

- "These games only happen once every four years and in someone's working lifetime, you could possibly work on 10 Olympic games, that's a nice way to spend your professional career. They're rare. They're ever-changing: You go from one culture to another. The characters change almost every time. The stories are always new, fresh, exciting."
“In today’s world, you wouldn’t be able to do that. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Levy’s career has been filled with such opportunities, from the chance to work with Jim McKay in Salt Lake City; and Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods, during the years he worked on the PGA tour; to legendary sportscaster Dick Enberg, “one of the pre-eminent sports on-air talents for the past 30 years,” says Levy. “That was a great opportunity for me, to be able to work with someone of the caliber of Dick Enberg, because I learned a great deal about storytelling – a combination of great words, great pictures and great music.”

**More than a game**

Prior to the Salt Lake games, Levy produced a one-hour special called “America’s Heroes: The Bravest vs. The Finest,” a show about the 30th-anniversary football game between New York City firefighters (the Bravest) and police officers (Finest).

It was a post-9/11 story, where 22 players and alumni from the fire department team had lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, and they were still able to field a team.

The police team — the Finest — did not lose any players, but continued in honor of brothers lost in the World Trade Center disaster.

“The show was basically focused more on the stories of the firemen and policemen and their special wasn’t a story about a football game, it was more about how these two special groups continued on after 9/11,” Levy says.

There were reunions at the game of people who were saved by other people. The quarterback for the Bravest had lost his life, and his wife and the son he never knew were at the game.

The hour-long show aired Memorial Day weekend of 2002 and won the sports Emmy for best-edited sports special for 2002.

**Oswego roots**

Levy has wanted to work in television since he was a teen-ager, drawn by what he calls “the immediacy of the medium.” His skills flourished at Oswego.

“My four years in Oswego were a terrific training period for me,” he says. “Everything from the production classes that I took to working on sports shows on WTOP to my internship during the last semester of my senior year at WRGB in Schenectady.

“The combination of all that was outstanding,” he adds. “It continued to propel me in the direction I knew I always wanted to go.”

He worked for a couple of semesters on “Eye on Oswego,” a cable television show produced by Vince Doody, which ran on Group W Cable in the community.

“I worked my way up from camera to field producing to studio producing,” he says.

He remembers fondly Dr. John Kares Smith, Fritz Messere ’71, Doody and Tina Pieraccini of the communication studies department.

The biggest influence on him was the music business class taught by Dr. Jerry Exline. “I remember one thing that we talked about was how to be successful. And there were four keys. One of the keys was to surround yourself with talented people,” he says.

“The way that he spoke in class and was so passionate about it — it stuck with me to this day.”

From Oswego, Levy leapt into a career in a medium that demands much, but rewards the talented.

“It hasn’t been without days without sleep and weeks away from home, but when you look back on it — the highs and the lows — it falls on the side of a great run so far.”

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**Mark Levy ’86** visits the Acropolis, scouting shots for NBC’s opening to the summer Olympic games.
Laura Galvin Vaughan ‘27 celebrated her 98th birthday Feb. 4. She was honored at a party at the home of her daughter Virginia Vaughn Saldich with her four grandchildren, one step-grandchild, and their spouses, and 10 great-grandchildren. Ginny writes that Laura “is still in good health, has a great sense of humor, and is on top of current events.”

Over 50 alumnae of Phi Lambda Phi — including founding member Beverly Hunter Welcher ‘62 — gathered at a reunion in Oswego April 11 to 13, 2003. This photo was taken on the front porch of Phi Lambda Phi, the only sorority to own its own house. Phi Lamb is celebrating 45 years in existence in 2004.
**NEWSMAKER**

**GEORGE W. WURTZ, III ’78** was honored this spring at the 35th Annual Brotherhood Award Dinner, sponsored by The National Conference for Community and Justice’s Greater New York Region. Georgia-Pacific’s executive vice president and president-pulp and paper, he was honored for his active volunteering in the Greater Atlanta community.

“Mr. Wurtz is a tireless advocate for bridging the gaps across economic divides,” said Elizabeth Williams, operations director of NCCJ’s Greater New York Region. “He and his wife, Nancy, have helped mentor young inner-city girls, built houses for low-income individuals and provided hot meals to the homeless. He embodies our vision of making America a better place for all.”

Wurtz oversees 7,000 employees working in 14 manufacturing facilities and distribution centers. The businesses he is responsible for represent approximately $2 billion in annual sales for Georgia-Pacific. A native of Long Island, he currently resides in Atlanta.

During the past 10 years, he has been a generous supporter of Habitat for Humanity and annually leads Georgia-Pacific’s Pulp and Paper volunteer team for that group.

Other organizations he and Nancy have been involved with are the Cool Girls organization, where they serve as mentors to girls in low-income communities.

George and Nancy have prepared and delivered meals to homeless shelters in Atlanta. They are also involved with the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of United Way, the Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition and First Presbyterian Women’s Shelter for the homeless.

The National Conference for Community and Justice was founded in 1927 as The National Conference of Christians and Jews. NCCJ is dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism by promoting understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

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**Mark Cole ’73**, chair of the SUNY Oswego theatre department, is used to kudos for his department’s work. But this spring he got an unexpected and heart-warming endorsement — words of praise from a famous author. Ray Bradbury, author of *The Martian Chronicles* and *Fahrenheit 451*, sent an e-mail message to Cole, praising the spring theatre department production of “The Traveler” and “The April Witch,” two Bradbury stories that Cole adapted and directed.

Bradbury, a 2000 recipient of the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, called the college show “a fascinating production by all of you.” Cole had sent him a videotape of the performance, still pictures and a poster.

“The staging and sets are quite remarkable and you have taught me something about my own stories,” Bradbury wrote. “All in all, on every level a fine job. I’m deeply appreciative. I send my love to all of you.”

The stories were originally written in the 1940s and early ’50s, but Bradbury returned to them in 2002 to craft a novel that wove the stories together. Cole first read the stories in the ’80s, and said he always thought it would be interesting to make a play out of them.

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**Erin Naughton ’04** as Ann, **Michael Climek ’05** as Tom and **Heather Berg ’06** as Cecy play a scene from Ray Bradbury’s “The April Witch.” The spring theatre department production earned high praise from Bradbury, who wrote to Mark Cole ’73, calling the show “a fascinating production by all of you.”
Hat Trick: Three Sismans Choose Oswego

When Glenn Sisman ’75 took the ice against the Lakers at Romney in 1971 as a York University Lion, he knew at that moment that the Oswego Lakers were a perfect fit for him.

Glenn, who enrolled at Oswego and became a Laker centerman later that year, has kept close connections with the team ever since. As a 1991 inductee into the Oswego Hockey Hall of Fame, he now volunteers his free time helping head coach Ed Gosek ’83, MSED ’01 scout potential Oswego players from junior leagues in the Toronto area. Glenn says he watches roughly 25 junior league games a year when Gosek is unable to attend, and reports back information about the players’ skills and abilities.

“I think he’s always tried to help out,” said Gosek. “He’s done a lot for our hockey program here. It’s really nice to have an extra set of eyes up there.”

For Glenn, volunteering is not only a way of helping out the team, but also sharing what he calls “the Oswego experience” with others.

“It’s very rewarding for me to see these kids that I have gone to look at, and know that they will go down that path,” he said.

In addition to opening up his home to Gosek when the coach is scouting in the area, Glenn often makes the 3 1/2-hour journey from Burlington, Ontario, with his wife, Nancy Quintin Sisman ’74, to catch the Laker games a few times a year. Now, a trip to Oswego is not only a chance to watch the team, but a visit with his daughter, Jaime Sisman ’05, as well.

Glenn ’75, Nancy ’74 and Jaime Sisman ’05 share a quiet moment on campus.

“It’s really nice having Jaime at Oswego,” Glenn said. “We get to live those four years over from a distance. A trip to Oswego now means visiting with my daughter, visiting with my friends, and squeezing in a few Laker games.”

When Glenn isn’t watching hockey games, he is playing at center ice in a few games of his own. He is currently a member of the Burlington Oldtimers Hockey Club, a league of over 700 players and 42 teams. Of all the places he has played, however, Glenn says Oswego will always hold a place in his heart.

“Oswego will always be home for us,” he said. “It’s a special place for us. The people here are terrific.”

— Shannon Mahar ’04
Marital Harmony

Sports fans across Central New York rise and remove their hats when singing duo Chuck and Betsy Ryther Copps ’82 take center field. For the past four years the couple has opened for more than 20 baseball and hockey games, serenading onlookers with their harmonized rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

After a successful audition for Syracuse’s AAA baseball team, the SkyChiefs, in 2001, the pair have gone on to perform in events such as the Syracuse Crunch AHL games, Oswego Speedway races and community sports, such as Little League.

“It’s nice that we can enjoy this together as a family,” Betsy said.

The two first noticed their knack for singing together during a stint as “weekend warriors,” repainting and decorating Chuck’s parents’ bathroom.

“We sang as we scraped and painted, and we played around with various harmonies,” Betsy said. “After a while, Chuck said, ‘That sounds pretty good!’”

Since then Chuck has pursued his dream of singing in every major ballpark in America. He currently acts as the couple’s manager, arranging appearances and sending demo tapes to sports teams throughout the Northeast. “We haven’t traveled outside of New York yet,” Betsy said, “but we’re still trying.”

When Betsy and Chuck aren’t singing to the stands, they are singing to the heavens, entertaining churchgoers with traditional Christian music. This spring they performed with their children, Kenneth and Amanda, at a local Catholic church. Betsy is also an active band member at her home church, Believers Chapel of Fulton, where she plays keyboard and sings.

While the couple admits they enjoy performing for thousands of spectators, not to mention complimentary tickets to many of the games, these are not the only reasons they plan to continue taking the field.

As Betsy said, “It’s just too much fun.”

— Shannon Mahar ’04
Forging Connections

As an undergraduate, Adrienne Beers ’03 had no idea that her involvement in the annual Business Symposium was not only an investment in the futures of hundreds of Oswego business students, but also in her own as well.

Now an assistant account executive for Tribal DDB Advertising Co. in New York, Beers worked for three years as a student organizer of the symposium, an event dedicated to helping students network with alumni and learn about opportunities in the world of business.

It was through this experience she made a career-defining connection of her own, with the senior marketing manager for Pepsi and one of the event’s creators, Russell Findlay ’89.

He and some fellow alumni came up with the idea for a symposium to strengthen alumni ties with Oswego business students. With help from Dr. James Molinari ’75, planning for the first symposium began in 2000.

“I thought it was a good chance for students to make connections with alumni, and to give the students a look at some real world experiences,” Findlay said.

Over three years Beers, Findlay, Tiffany Whittaker ’03 and the School of Business Student Advisory Board contacted alumni to speak in classrooms and to hold one-on-one sessions to critique students’ resumes and answer questions. Today, the symposium is co-sponsored and co-ordinated by the Oswego Alumni Association Alumni-in-Residence Program and the School of Business Student Advisory Board.

“It really gave me a chance to see how she accomplished things,” Findlay said of Beers. “I was really impressed by how she worked.”

Adrienne Beers ’03 and Russell Findlay ’89 forged a professional connection through the Alumni Business Symposium.

When it came time for Beers to enter the work field, Findlay didn’t hesitate to lend a helping hand, recommending her to people he knew in the New York advertising scene.

“I told the people that if they believed in me, then they could believe in her,” he said. “It’s really about making connections, it’s about knowing someone with a need, and someone with the skills to fulfill that need. I put the two of them together, she got the job on her own, and it was a match.”

As for Beers, her own success serves as testimony to the importance of alumni and student relationships at Oswego State.

“I learned that if you put yourself out there, and make connections, someone will notice, especially an alum who wants to help you,” Beers said. “I’ve seen how it has worked, and I think it will help other people in the future. Now I’d be willing to come back.”

— Shannon Mahar ’04
Alumni Bookshelf

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

The tenth edition of Teaching Science as Inquiry co-authored by the late Dr. Arthur A. Carin '51 was recently published. "A few years before his death, we recognized Arthur Carin as one of our most highly esteemed and successful authors, a great presence for Merrill Education for over forty years... We who worked with Art continue to be humbled by his knowledge and leadership in the field of science education and are immensely grateful to have worked with such a giant," writes senior editor Linda Montgomery. (See the Fall-Winter 2003 issue of Oswego for the previous edition of Teaching Science as Inquiry.) Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall, 2005.

Anne J. Remis ’35 presents her inspirational story, Miss Teach. Remis shares the experiences, strength and hope she found in the course of her 29-year career when education for children with disabilities was in its infancy. It is aimed at parents, teachers and students who want to remember where we came from in order to understand and appreciate the enormous progress that has been made, and the challenges that remain. The Movement for a Better America, Inc., 2004.

Vincent Rocco Saladini Sr. ’71 in his memoir, The Tailor’s Thread, An Italian-American Legacy, takes readers from the foothills of Trisungo, Italy; to the limestone mines of West Virginia; to the foothills of Trisungo, Italy; to the limestone mines of West Virginia, where his immigrant father worked, to his own career in the fashion industry and later as an educator. He includes reminiscences of the summers he spent at Oswego, earning his degree. 1st Books Library, 2003.

Two books by Dr. Gustavo Cirigliano of Buenos Aires explain the influence of Oswego on Argentinean education. The books are printed in Spanish. However, the appendix of one book, Oswego en el Normalismo Argentino, consists of translations into English of six historical dialogs by Dr. Cirigliano on the theme of the title. The translator is Librarian Emeritus Alexander Beattie ’53, M ’55, and ’81. He also contributed much of the research appearing in the second book by Dr. Cirigliano, Por que Vino Ud., Clara J. Armstrong, a la Argentina? Clara Armstrong 1868, Oswego Normal School, was the first woman to found a normal school in South America, in 1878.

Offshore Outsourcing: Business Models, ROI and Best Practices is the newest book by Marcia Robinson ’86 and Ravi Kalakota, the author team behind the international bestseller e-Business 2.0 Roadmap for Success, as well as M-Business: The Road to Mobility and Services Blueprint: Roadmap for Execution. The new book is grounded in firsthand research of real companies’ successes and failures with offshore outsourcing and arms readers with the facts behind this corporate strategy. Offshore Outsourcing illustrates how a vast majority of large corporations are systematically migrating their business processes offshore. Mivar Press, 2004.

Lewis Turco and His Work: A Celebration, edited by Steven E. Swerdfeger ’79 is a festschrift honoring Professor Emeritus Lewis Turco, founding director of Oswego’s Program in Writing Arts, which he administered from 1968 to 1995. Several Oswego alumni contributed to the book including: Paul Austin ’89, Gary A. Baker ’95, Patricia Catto ’80, Stephen J. Herman ’69, Matt Jablonowski ’94, J. D. McDonnell ’93, Dennis Morton ’71 and Stephen Murabito ’80, as well as colleagues Mary Aswell Doll, Donald Masterson and the late Gerhard Zeller. Star Cloud Press, 2004.

In Excalibur Returned by Tony Warburton ’74, King Arthur’s broadsword, Excalibur, is found in the 17th century and forged into two rapiers. Today, Christopher Parker, a mild-mannered man must deal with his unfaithful wife, rebellious daughter and tyrannical boss. All that changes when he inherits one of the rapiers, and begins his struggle to reconcile changes in his character, influenced by the powers imbued in the weapon by Excalibur. The other rapier surfaces in the hands of another, setting up a confrontation between good and evil. First Books Library, 2003.

And from our emeriti:

A Sheaf of Leaves: Literary Memoirs by Professor Emeritus of English Lewis Turco, covers the poet’s career of half a century, from 1953 when he published his first poems in a national literary periodical, to the present. Turco is the author of 44 books, monographs and chapbooks. Star Cloud Press, 2004.

Nice Girls Don't get the Corner Office: 101 Unconscious Mistakes Women Make That Sabotage Their Careers by Dr. Lois P. Frankel '73 explains how “girlish” behaviors can harm women in their careers. An internationally recognized executive coach, who has worked with Fortune 500 companies, Lois reveals why some women roar ahead in their careers and others stagnate. She explains how things like working nonstop without a break, worrying about offending others or “plogging” friends and colleagues before making a decision, mark a woman and cause her to be bypassed for promotion or ignored when she expresses her ideas. The 101 behaviors are set out in easy-to-digest format with examples followed by coaching tips, and organized by chapters ranging from “How You Play the Game” to how you act, sound, look, think, and brand and market yourself. She tells women seeking change in their lives, “You can do it. It’s your choice. All it takes is acting more like the woman you are capable of becoming than like the girl you were taught to be.” Nice Girls Don't Get the Corner Office was featured on “The Today Show” when it was published in February. Warner Business Books, 2004.
Bond in Boston Marathon

Years after sprinting across the Oswego State fields as a standout field hockey player, **Jenna Bailey Bond ’92** has kept on running, this time as one of 25,000 competitors in this spring’s Boston Marathon, the world’s oldest and most prestigious road race.

As an experienced runner, Bond completed two marathons before taking on the Boston race this April, the first in Chicago, and the other in Moline, Ill., last year. In order to participate in the 26.2-mile Beantown run, competitors of Bond’s age group were required to make a time of 3:40, one that Bond said she trained hard to maintain.

"I try to keep around 40 to 45 miles a week," Bond said. "If I’m not training for a marathon, it’s more like 30 or 35."

Bond, who is also a girls’ high school track coach and an assistant cross-country coach, said she enjoys the discipline of long-distance runs, and feels fortunate to have made it this far.

"I’ve been able to avoid injuries, and I think that’s part of it," Bond said. Last year alone, Bond said, she ran approximately 1,600 miles, some of which she accomplished with her students.

"I run with my girls here, and we challenge each other," Bond said. "It’s nice."

Despite record-high temperatures of 89 degrees the day of the marathon, Bond was able to finish a reputable 9,265th overall, with a time of 4:14.

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"I had hoped to run a little bit closer to my qualifying time," she said. "From talking to people, everyone there was at least a half hour or 45 minutes off their time. With the heat it was a very respectable time."

Bond said she is currently looking for a marathon to compete in this fall, and is ready for a new challenge.

"I like setting goals for myself and then accomplishing them," she said.

– Shannon Mahar ’04
Harold William “Billy” Murphy ’93 won an Emmy Award in the 2003-04 Daytime Emmy Award Competition. The awards recognize outstanding achievement in all fields of daytime television production and are presented to individuals and programs broadcast during the 2003 calendar year. Murphy, a senior Avid editor for the Music Television (MTV) Networks, won in the category of “Outstanding Achievement in Editing” for his work in the MTV production, “Britney In the Zone and Out All Night,” a televised special about the pop singer Britney Spears. Murphy, who has worked for MTV since 1997, said, “I am honored to have my work recognized by my peers in the industry and to be representing MTV.”
FOUR YEARS OF HARD WORK AND devotion have paid off for Newfield Central School District middle school principal Robert Ike ’94 M ’99, who was recently named Middle Level Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS).

At a ceremony in April, Ike was recognized for his educational leadership, ability to solve complex problems, commitment to professional growth, and for his dedication to the community.

It is his dedication to his students and staff, however, which have made Ike not only an award-winning principal, but also a key figure in the school’s remarkable transformation.

“Robert Ike is evidence that strong leadership and a passion for education can make dramatic differences for students and an entire community,” Richard Thomas ’68, SAANYS executive director, said.

Under Ike’s leadership, Newfield Middle School has shed its reputation as a “school in need of improvement” to become one of 20 schools recently named “Most Improved School” by the state commissioner of education.

Many of these improvements are the result of a new focus on literacy instruction, as well as an initiative toward greater faculty, student and parental involvement.

“The climate of the school was the first thing (changed),” Ike said. “Having a culture where people wanted to come to work, people wanted to come to school.”

In addition to student and faculty activities and parent-oriented events, Ike credits the school’s accomplishments to his teachers and staff, and in part to his education at Oswego State.

“The professors I had in the (education) program were unique, because they were true models of teachers,” Ike said. “They were not your typical professor lecturing all through class, but were hands on, and had activities in their classrooms.”

As an award recipient, Ike is now a candidate for the National Middle Level Principal of the Year, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. The winner will be announced this fall.

— Shannon Mahar ’04

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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Corrections

In the Spring 2004 feature story on WRVO, we incorrectly identified Maria Leaf ’00 as news director of WGY in Schenectady. Leaf is the morning drive news co-anchor/reporter for the station.

A Class Note about Robin North ’01 in the Spring 2004 issue of Oswego contained an error. The note said Robin took over ownership of a Skaneateles clothing store with her husband, Robert. In fact, Robin is not married. Robert is her father.
It's that time of year — the students have graduated or gone home for the summer, Reunion 2004 is just behind us, we're just beginning the planning for Reunion 2005 and all of our other events for the coming year, and we take the time to reflect on our challenges and accomplishments over the past year.

Some of the "good" things —

We were at full staff in the Alumni Office with the addition of Michelle Tackett-Spinner '98 as assistant director and Kate Rinaldo as alumni records manager.

We held an incredibly exciting concert at Carnegie Hall in June featuring two of our new young music department faculty.

In the course of our fiscal year (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004), more than 5,825 alumni, students and friends (approximately) attended events sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association, Inc.

More than 520 alumni volunteered with the Oswego Alumni Association during FY 2003-04.

We mailed more than 378,558 pieces of communication to alumni, parents, students and friends from the Alumni Office during FY 2003-04.

We re-opened and re-dedicated two gorgeous “new” buildings last fall — the state-of-the-art School of Business in Rich Hall and Johnson Hall, home of the First Year Residential Experience.

We also broke ground last fall on our first new building in more than 30 years — a Campus Center right in the heart of campus.

This magazine was awarded a Judge’s Citation at the annual SUNY-wide conference and was also cited with a District II CASE Accolades silver award.

Our Oswego Parents newsletter also won SUNY recognition: Judges Citation for one-to-three-color newsletters and a bronze award from CASE Accolades. These are both firsts for this publication.

We will launch a new, interactive online alumni community in the year ahead, as well as an alumni email newsletter.

And some of our "challenges":

We need to identify ways to engage and involve our most recent graduates — those "GOLD" alumni, or Graduates of the Last Decade. The research and brainstorming for this most important endeavor will take place over the next year under the direction of Michelle Tackett-Spinner. If you belong to this group of graduates and would be willing to help us, please let us know!

We want to engage and involve more of our graduates in alumni programs, in supporting the college as volunteers and financially. We need to continue to think of more and better ways to do this.

Looking Ahead

Our amazingly dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors of the Oswego Alumni Association continues to guide us along this path to achieve our goal. Lori Golden Kiewe ’84, president of the alumni association for the last four years passes the baton to Jennifer Shropshire ’86, our new incoming president. I am personally and professionally grateful to both of these incredible leaders for their expertise, their sound and wise counsel, their understanding ear (!), their professionalism and incredible leadership of an outstanding group of alumni volunteers.

To cap off our year, I’ll quote a much appreciated thank you note from Sylvia “Sunny” Nessman Milch ’54, a member of the Reunion 2004 planning committee, “While the sweet tastes of Reunion Weekend are ‘fresh’ on the palate of my mind, kudos, kudos, kudos……and then some!! I truly echo the voices of all attendees — we are still ‘the friendly college by the lake!’”

And to all of you, our cherished alumni, I say “Kudos to you” for all you do for Oswego and all you are doing in your personal and professional lives. It makes me proud and thankful every day to have the incredible opportunity to get to know you and work with you. I hope to meet many more of you in the year ahead and entice you to get involved in one of our many endeavors.

Betsy Oberst
One Degree of Separation: Juliana Hannett ’95, far left, meets celebrities in her job, like Kevin Bacon, second from right. Also shown are co-workers at Boneau/Bryan-Brown, Genevieve Miller, second from left, and Karalee Dawn, right.

Juliana Hannett ’95 is a theatrical press agent with Boneau/Bryan-Brown, the largest theatrical press agency in New York City.

Q. Juliana, what do you do?
A. Basically we are the publicists for a number of shows on Broadway. I’m responsible for writing press releases, pitching stories, scheduling interviews attending interviews — sometimes you have to step in for the actor, the show. You have to keep on message, basically when you begin a campaign for a show, you decide what the message will be for the show and you stick to that.

Q. What’s new?
A. We have “Dracula” coming up in August. A show like “Dracula” gives you the opportunity to reach out and see what new and interesting things you can do. The vampire angle gives you a lot of interesting opportunities. But it’s also not traditional. It’s more like scary love story.

Q. What’s the best part of your job?
A. One of my favorite things to get to do is to go in and watch some rehearsals especially when they move into the theater, when they start to incorporate some of the theatrical elements. You feel more a part of the process. It really puts it into context for me.

Q. Sounds like you like your job.
A. I love theater so much! A lot of people come from publicity and I came from theater. It’s what I love most in the world. When I’m having a bad day I’ll go and stand in the back of the house at “Beauty and the Beast,” and it puts everything into perspective. It is very interesting and it is very exciting. It’s a lot of hours and work, too!

Q. Bet you meet a lot of famous people.
A. A lot of people get hung up on the celebrity aspect, and ask if I get to meet a lot of famous people. And the answer is “Yes.” But that’s not the most exciting part, although I thought it would be. My greatest respect is for the word on the page. I am completely undone by playwrights. They are my celebrities. I’ve gotten to work with some exceptional ones, and that’s the big thing for me.

Q. Sounds like a busy job.
A. You can never shut your phone off, and always have to be accessible. You have to work a lot of hours and work hard, but that’s who I am and what I like to do.

Q. How many shows do you work on?
A. Right now I have seven, possibly eight, shows in the works.

Q. Any favorites?
A. One of my favorites was “Take Me Out,” the Tony-winning best play of 2003. It was one of the best plays I’ve ever seen — just a joyous theatrical experience. I had a good time doing that show, and going to the Tonys to watch it win was just fantastic. My favorite thing to do is the red carpet at the Tony Awards. I’ve been lucky and had shows there every year.

Q. Other memorable shows?
A. That same season was “La Boheme.” I’ve never worked harder in my life than on that show! “Jumpers” is another one that just closed, a play by Tom Stoppard. He’s one of my favorite playwrights, so getting to meet him and talk to him about the play and anything was a real treat for me.

Q. How did you end up in this job?
A. I didn’t see this job coming. I graduated in ’95 with a degree in theatre and a minor in business administration, I came to New York to plant my flag and make my fortune, to be a stage manager. That’s what I did at school . . . I had an accident at one of the off-Broadway shows I was stage-managing. I fell down the stairs and broke my arm rather badly, a couple of surgeries and a year of physical therapy. It was start-back-from-Square-One time, and . . . I was really discouraged. I did some other things. Not being in theatre was sucking the soul out of me . . . And I saw this ad and it looked like something I could do. It’s the job I never knew I always wanted. The fact that I get to make a contribution to a Broadway show — I couldn’t ask for more from my professional life. When I open the Playbill and see my name in it, when I go in the stage door not the front door and walk by the ghost light at the end of the show, I can’t believe it.

Q. How did Oswego influence your career?
A. Oswego cultivated my love for the theater. It taught me that this is something I can do for a living. They encouraged me, not only to do what I wanted to do, but encouraged, even forced, me to do new things. And the theater facilities at Oswego are unprecedented — Waterman Theatre is nicer than most Broadway houses. It’s a great program and the people are great and I met all my best friends there.

Q. Favorite memories?
A. “West Side Story” was my favorite. I was only a sophomore and went and very brazenly asked Ron Medici if I could be his stage manager. And he said, “yes” and that was the beginning of bigger things for me.
What a Zoo!

The youngest zoo director in the country is aiming to revive the nation's fifth-oldest zoo. Jarod Miller ’00 began in March as executive director of the Ross Park Zoo in Binghamton, founded in 1875. He hopes to overcome a budget deficit and stir up interest in the zoo, which attracts about 300,000 visitors a year. "I want to build up enthusiasm for the zoo," he told the Binghamton Sun-Bulletin Feb. 14. "People love this zoo." Miller previously worked for the Columbus Zoo and frequently appears on television shows such as "The Tonight Show," "Late Night with Conan O’Brien" and "Good Morning America," showing and talking about animals. He has done independent animal research and is a protégé of famed animal expert Jack Hanna. For the last two years, he has been invited to the White House Easter egg hunt, where he gives presentations about animal conservation for the children. The new zoo director visited campus this spring, where he helped students of zoology professor Diane-Chepko Sade (right) with a project studying primates’ use of hands. Working with a slow loris (a small primate that lives in South East Asia) from left to right are Kelly Cox ’05, Miller, Julia Preston-Fulton ’06, Josh Conway ’04 and Chepko-Sade.
**Wedding**

**Lisa-Marie Cappetta Carter ’01, M ’03 and Robert Carter** were married Aug. 17, 2003, at the Port Jefferson Country Club in Port Jefferson. Oswego alumni attending the wedding were, from left, Jeffrey Berezein ’01, Stacy Sugrue Dugan ’00, Andrew Dugan ’00, Karl Green ’03, Nanci Grossman Schlee ’85, Robert Schlee ’84, Robert Strong ’58, Evelyn Repasky Strong ’58, Melanie Amster Stuirm ’01 (Matron of Honor), Michelle VanSlyke ’99 (Maid of Honor). Lisa-Marie is a special education teacher in the Fulton City School District. Robert works in retail management. The couple resides in Syracuse.

**Kimberly Naugle ’01, M ’03 and Joshua Gaw ’00** were married in an outdoor ceremony at the Naugle residence in Orange County, NY. Other SUNY Oswego alumni in attendance were, front row from left, Nate Sokolowski ’01, Rebecca Berlin ’00, Ben Marthia ’02 (groomsman), the bride and bridegroom, Ben Jakes-Johnson ’02, Eric “Chewy” Vaughn ’00, Fred Vigeant ’02, and Matthew Schaffer; and, back row, from left, Kathy Hausknecht ’00, Andrea Ormsby ’04, Doug Haber ’00, Wendy Way ’02, Kelly Collins ’00, Tom Mangan ’99, Jennifer Skurski ’01, Julia Blake ’02, Leigh Wyshosky ’01, Joanna Colman ’00, Katie Belus ’03 and Michelle Mallette ’01. Kim and Josh are planning to move to Virginia in July 2004.

**Augustin Busschaert ’98 and Nicole Baxter** were married Aug. 16, 2003, in Rochester. Pictured are Oswego graduates, front row from left, Timothy Thomas ’99, Keith Smith ’98, Brian Williams ’82, Peter Ritter ’01, back row from left; Cara Harlon ’00, Trent Harlon ’04, Robyn Stewart ’00, John DiPasquale ’99, Peter Bisnett ’00, Megan Vankelspecht ’99, Barbara DiPasquale ’01, Sue Corsall ’01. Also at the wedding, absent from the photo, was Sarah Bisnett ’98. Augustin is a satellite dish technician and Nicole is a Chesapeake General Hospital Emergency Medical Technician. They live in Hampton, Va.
Jillian Carleton Janaczek ’95 and Greg Janaczek were married Oct. 18, 2003, in Okemo, Vt. Oswego alumni in attendance were: front row from left, Danielle Chadbourne ’96, Tracy Gliogoza ’96, Kerri Wakeman ’96, Jean Ellen Murphy ’95, the bride, the bridegroom, Patty McNeill ’95, Lisa DeMarco Long ’95; middle row from left, Alyce Spindler ’95, Julie St. Pierre Stubbe ’95, Carmen Rufa Boardman ’95, Dana Annehcino Campbell ’95, Nicole Syracuse Coyle ’95, Cathy Champlain ’95, Jeff Guarino ’94, Barb Condon MacKenzie ’95; and, back row from left, Chris Victorino ’95, Ted Federoff ’95, Allie Klieger Vogel ’96, Jeff Stubbe ’94, Bill Boardman ’94, Jill Banazowski Shin ’95, Matt Shin ’94, Kate McLaughlin Connolly ’95, John Coyle ’95. Jillian is the senior vice president and account director at Cohn & Wolfe Healthcare. Greg is a senior sales specialist for IBM. The couple lives in Manhattan.

Lynne Guadagnino Bursch ’97 married Eric Bursch Aug. 23, 2003, in Manassas, Va. Alumni attending included, kneeling, from left, Luigi Morfe ’96 and David Hufnagle ’97; and standing from left, Karen Penna Getman ’97, Amy Miller Bujanos ’97, Stacey Heim ’97, the bride, Christy DeLamater ’97, Amanda Greene Hufnagle ’97 and Elizabeth Schiener Hoppe ’97 Lynne just received her master’s degree in school administration from George Mason University. She works at the Fairfax County Public Schools. Erik is employed by USA Today. The couple resides in Reston, Va.

All about food!
An upcoming issue of Oswego will celebrate food and alumni connections with it. We want to hear about favorite dining hall foods, hangouts, dining hall workers and any Oswego food memories; as well as alumni food businesses.

Send your ideas to Oswego alumni magazine, King Alumni Hall, 300 Washington Blvd., Oswego, NY 13126, call 315-312-2258 or e-mail us at alumni@oswego.edu (put Food in the subject line.) You can also submit stories online at http://oswegomalumni.oswego.edu/magazine/.
In Memoriam Policy
Printing notices of alumni deaths is an important service of Oswego alumni magazine. In order to insure the accuracy of our reports, we require verification before we can publish a death notice—an obituary or a letter signed by a family member. Because the magazine is published only three times a year and we are working on an issue months in advance, there may be a delay of several months between the time we receive notification and the news is printed in the magazine. Thank you for your patience!

Lois Chaffee '34 of Hannibal passed away April 20. Prior to her retirement in 1976, she taught in the Red Creek Central School District. Lois was named Red Creek Teacher of the Year in 1976.

Anne Clark '34 of Liverpool died March 19. She taught in El Paso, Texas, before returning to New York state where she and her husband worked together in real estate. Anne is survived by two nephews and a niece.

Howard Hartman '34 of St. Petersburg, Fla., passed away Nov. 10. He was pre-deceased by his first wife of 58 years, Alice, and is survived by his wife, Dorothy.

Frances Langdon Goodwin '38 of Weedsport died Jan. 22. She was an English teacher in the Cato-Meridian Central School District, retiring in 1963. Frances is survived by five daughters, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Nelson Coe '39 of Alexandria, Va., passed away Nov. 27.

Mildred Meeker '39 of Volney passed away Jan. 21. She earned her bachelor's degree from Albany State University and her master's degree from Oswego State. She taught at Minetto School until her retirement in 1978. Mildred is survived by two sisters.

Marion LaBrague Copeland '47 of Penfield passed away Oct. 31. She taught special education at BOCES No. 1 in Fairport for over 20 years. Marion is survived by two daughters, two sons, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Daniel Feuer '47 of Stuart, Fla., died March 7. He is survived by his wife, Bernice.

Thomas Prittie '48 of Palmyra died March 9. Tom left Oswego to enlist in the Army during World War II. He served as a military policeman in Europe. Following the war, Tom returned to Oswego to earn his degree. Tom did graduate work at Syracuse University and the University of Rochester. He was a teacher in the Palmyra-Macedon School District prior to his retirement. Tom is survived by his wife, Dixie, and two sons.

George Jaeger '49 of Berkeley, Fla., died April 14. George retired in 1993 after spending 26 years with Connecticut General and 15 years with Mass Mutual/Summit Financial. He served with the Army during the Korean War. George earned a master's degree at American College. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice, a son, a stepson, two daughters, a step-daughter, a granddaughter, and three stepgrandchildren.

Ira Wax '49 of Hendersonville, N.C., passed away Sept. 8.

James Guido '51 of Owego passed away Dec. 5.

Bernice Malkin Stein '52 of Hampton died Feb. 7. Surviving are two daughters, two sons and seven grandchildren.

Stuart Agins '53 of Levittown passed away Dec. 9.

Barbara Fliederblum Stern '54 of Kendall Park, N.J., passed away Dec. 30. She is survived by her husband, Donald.

Richard Switzer '56 of Glenmont passed away Nov. 20. He earned his master's degree in education at Syracuse University. Richard began his teaching career in 1956 in one of the first public school programs for children with physical disabilities in Suffolk County. In 1978, the commissioner of education appointed him assistant commissioner of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and later he became the deputy commissioner responsible for obtaining training and employment for persons with disabilities in New York State. Richard was a member of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and the White House Conference on the Handicapped. Surviving are his wife, Patricia Connors '58, four sons, a daughter and eight grandchildren.

Susan Cooper Fassler-Babcock '57 of Utica passed away Dec. 10. She taught for many years at Altmar-Parish-Williamstown High School. She was predeceased by her first husband, Frank Fassler. She later married Oris Babcock '38, who passed away in 1996. Susan is survived by a daughter, a son and four grandchildren.

Joseph FitzGibbons '57 of Rochester died Jan. 16. He earned a master's degree from Canisius College and did additional graduate work at SUNY Plattsburgh and Syracuse University. Joe worked for 32 years in the Greece Central School District as a teacher, counselor and administrator. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen; four daughters and 12 grandchildren.

Warren Bakenhus '58 of Vestal passed away Feb. 25. He taught industrial arts technology in the Binghamton City School District for 30 years prior to his retirement. Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth Durie Bakenhus '58; two daughters and sons in-law, Barbara and Conrad Zlock; and Ellen Bakenhus Matuszk '82 and John Matuszk '82, and four grandchildren.

Jean O'Hara Gill '58 of East Syracuse passed away March 13. Prior to retiring in 1998, Jean taught at Immaculate Conception School in Fayetteville for 18 years. She is survived by her husband, James; three daughters and nine grandchildren.


Carol Murray Pendrifs '59 of Oswego died Feb. 23. She taught in the Oswego City School District before her retirement. Carol is survived by four sons, two grandchildren, a sister and two brothers, including John Murray '40.

Robert Ruprecht '61 of Baldwinsville died Dec. 5. He taught for 33 years in the Baldwinsville Central School District. He served with the Air Force 98th Bomber Wing. Robert is survived by his wife, Jane; a son; three daughters and eight grandchildren.

Gertrude “Judy” McDermott McFall '62 of Springfield, Mass., passed away March 4. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth; two sons; a daughter and two grandchildren.

Linda Biscotti Tucci '63 of Cicero died March 5. She is survived by her husband, George; a son; three daughters and nine grandchildren.

Paul Grulich '68 of Tupper Lake died April 2. He is survived by a brother, Robert '65.

Joanne Carey '69 of Ocala, Fla., died Jan. 24. She had taught Spanish at West Babylon High School. Joanne is survived by a sister.

Kathleen Ellsworth Sullivan '70 of Kimberly, Idaho, passed away Oct. 3.

Joanne Ferlenda Flynn '74 of Elmira died Jan. 19. She taught for over 20 years at Holy Family Primary School. Surviving are her husband, Kevin; two daughters, two granddaughters, and her brother, Anthony Ferlenda '84.

Gerold Johnson '80 of Syracuse died June 15, 2003. He earned a master's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He was employed at Arise Child and Family Services, and had previously worked in the student services area at Mohawk Valley Community College, the University of Rhode Island, and Amherst College. Jerry is survived by two daughters.

John Kuhns '82 of East Syracuse passed away Feb. 9. He was the director of operations for Upstate Administrative Services. John is survived by his wife, Susan, and two stepchildren.

Denise Toluso '83 of Roanoke, Va., passed away Dec. 22. She earned a master's degree in exercise physiology from Virginia Tech and was a certified personal trainer. She worked for Bristol Myers prior to opening her own health club, The Training Edge, in 1994.

Sandra Wojnowski Harrison M '88 of Oswego passed away Jan. 13. Sandy earned her bachelor's degree at the State University College at Cortland in 1972. She taught physical education at Leighton and Fitzugh Park Elementary Schools. She later taught fourth grade at Riley Elementary until 2000 when she became a Teacher-on-Assignment as an Elementary Writing/Mentoring Coordinator for the Oswego City School District. Sandy was named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2000. Surviving are her daughters, Wendy Sullivan and Kristyn Harrison '00, M '03.

Thomas Hester '92 of North Syracuse passed away Jan. 1. Tom joined the Syracuse Police Department in 1992 and was a highlydecorated police detective. Surviving are his wife, Suzanne, and a daughter.

Linda Conte Felice M '93 of Baldwinsville passed away March 31. She earned her bachelor's degree from LeMoyne College, and was a psychologist in the Phoenix School District. Linda is survived by her husband, Gregory, a daughter and a son.

James Pratt '93 of Hudson Falls passed away Dec. 28.

Columbus M. “Ted” Grace '95 of Syracuse died April 21 at age 52. Also known as ”Jamal,” he earned his doctorate at Syracuse University,
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Share your information in the Class Notes section of an upcoming Oswego magazine.

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The Great Big Little Election

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has also published academic articles in *Constitutional Political Economy*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Public Choice*, and *Publius*. In addition to various radio and television appearances, he has written commentaries for the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Salon.com* and *The American Prospect*, and is the political writer for *Baltimore* magazine. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of North Carolina.
The Great Big Little Election

by Thomas F. Schaller ’89

NEVER BEFORE HAVE SO MANY SPENT so much to persuade so few.

The 2004 presidential election is regarded by the two major parties, their nominees, the full panoply of interest groups and political organizations across the policy and ideological spectrum, and the media’s chattering classes as nothing short of a monumental choice for the country. Republican President George W. Bush’s re-election campaign expects to spend at least a quarter billion dollars directly, and Democratic challenger Senator John F. Kerry hopes to raise and spend another $200 million. Along with the $75 million in federal matching funds each campaign will receive and spend after this summer’s political conventions, and at least another $500 million expected to be spent by independent organizations and state parties, 2004 will be remembered as the first billion-dollar presidential election.

Yet, the increasing polarization of the country, coupled with the Electoral College method of selecting American politics, reduces the contest to just 15 or 20 “swing” states, and the subset of “swing” voters in those states — a total of anywhere from eight million to as few as three million people. Indeed, some recent national polls indicate that nine out of ten Americans say they’ve already decided for whom they are voting this November, and don’t plan to change their minds.

Such is the state of presidential politics in America today.

FOR YEARS, I had taught the mechanics of the Electoral College in my presidency courses with a nagging sense of doubt.

There were historical episodes where the College had a direct effect on the outcome, of course. But not since 1888 had the popular vote winner failed to capture the majority of electors needed to win the White House. Were students politely sitting there wondering what exactly was the point of a detailed lecture on the arcane, colonial-era method of selecting our presidents? What would I say if one of them dared to ask?

Then came 2000, a 36-day living civics lesson plan no professor could imagine devising.

Thanks to the Florida recount and the Supreme Court decisions that ultimately ended the election, all those lectures I gave suddenly took on new relevance. Americans were reminded that we do not hold national popular elections to choose our presidents, but rather a series of statewide winner-take-all contests. And because then-Texas Gov. Bush won electoral votes in the right combination, Vice President Al Gore’s national popular vote plurality was meaningless.

The Florida nailbiter was one of six states decided by 7,122 votes or fewer, and Gore’s national vote margin was thin. Yet most of the 2000 state contests were blowouts. In 28 states (plus the District of Columbia), either Bush or Gore won by 10 percent, and in 14 of those states the margin was 20 percent or more. By contrast, in the similarly-close 1960 election between Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard Nixon, only 16 states were won by a vote margin of 10 percent or more, with only six carried by 20 percent or more.

The partisan polarization of America into blue and red states has had a profound effect on how candidates and parties campaign for the White House. The most significant implication is that most of the states are conceded by one party and taken for granted by the other. The remaining “purple” states — few of which, aside from Florida, are among the most-populous states — hold the keys to the Oval Office.

WHICH BRINGS US BACK to the great, big, billion-dollar small election of 2004.

The Democrats utilized an earlier, more-condensed primary calendar to effectively nominate Kerry by the end of February. The Massachusetts senator immediately capitalized, raising $55 million for the first quarter of 2004, a three-month total that exceeds even Bush’s best quarterly fundraising effort. For his part, Bush mentioned Kerry’s name in March, believed to be the earliest mention by an incumbent president of his opponent. (Ronald Reagan didn’t mention Walter Mondale’s name for the first time until August 1984.) The presidential race had begun before the snow melted in most parts of the country.

Those few million swing voters in the swing states — sorry Oswego, New York is not one of them — will be blessed with the power to determine whether Bush or Kerry will be inaugurated this January. In exchange, they will be cursed with having to endure a deluge of direct mail, print, radio, television and personal communications that will increase steadily until November 2.

The combined billion dollars spent by campaigns and organizations to decide who will win the 2004 presidential election would seem exorbitant, profane. But then again, the multi-billion dollar implications of a preemptive war and income tax cut policies are no small matters.

In that regard, perhaps the spending of so much by so many to persuade so few will prove to be worth every penny.

THOMAS F. SCHALLER ’89 was recently promoted to associate professor of political science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Co-author of a forthcoming book from SUNY Press on black state legislators, he

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Some recent national polls indicate that nine out of ten Americans say they’ve already decided for whom they are voting this November, and don’t plan to change their minds.
Oswego State calling!

What can I do for you?

Glad you asked! Beginning in mid-September, 50 of our students will take to the phone lines to call alumni and friends of the college in the annual Telefund. It’s a great chance to catch up on the news from Oswego, update your records and show support for your alma mater. The gifts pledged during the Telefund go into The Fund for Oswego to help provide student scholarships, computers for learning, equipment, library books, award-winning programs and much, much more. So when the phone rings and it’s Oswego State calling, please visit with our student and consider a gift to The Fund for Oswego. And thank you so much!
As a third grader, Thomas Gooding had an epiphany that ultimately shaped his life and career: He discovered the power of independent reading. Having entered the world of books, he embraced academics as a means of self-fulfillment and growth and he set his sights on a college degree.

Although he would spend 35 years at SUNY Oswego as a professor of psychology, dean of graduate studies, and acting provost, he originally studied history and joined ROTC intending to become an officer in the military. Only after a University of Florida fraternity brother convinced him to sample a course in education did Gooding begin to see himself as a teacher. After he and Shirley Puckett Gooding had married and started their family, he left the military, accepted a job as a school principal, and began to study school administration.

Gooding’s graduate mentor, Dr. Arthur Combs, urged him to work toward a Ph.D. So, with three children, Gooding and his wife sold their belongings and took a leap of faith. By 1964, the couple had a fourth child, and Gooding had three solid job offers at which he could apply his new doctoral degree in educational psychology. Due largely to a connection between Dr. Combs and Oswego professor Dr. Donald Snygg, the Goodings chose Oswego, where he was one of 75 new faculty members at a time when “everything was growing.”

“I’m still overjoyed that I taught at Oswego,” says Gooding. “My scholarly activities have benefited immeasurably through opportunities I found to work with other academicians who were as excited as I about the creation and development of cooperative research programs.”

A glimpse at Gooding’s vita confirms his success as a researcher: 20 journal articles and monographs; 50 conference papers; 17 research grants. But the lasting impact of his work can be counted more accurately in the students he taught who carried his ideas and ideals on to their own students and patients and communities. Many former students continue to communicate with Dr. Gooding and to express gratitude for his influence in their lives.

In later years at Oswego, when his career moved from the classroom and seminar to the offices in Culkin Hall, Gooding implemented procedures based on collaborative methods and team planning. “I tried to build partnerships with faculty and management to help define and pursue shared goals and objectives,” he recalls.

All the leadership and teaching skills Gooding shared with Oswego students have now, in his retirement, been applied again through his hobby as a collector of Jaguar automobiles (he’s president of the Sun Coast Jaguar Auto Club) and in his extensive volunteer work.

The Goodings marked their Golden Anniversary with a yearlong celebration culminating June 7, 2004. The couple continue to express their gratitude for and their belief in the future of SUNY Oswego by serving on the Foundation Board and by sponsoring two scholarships—one in their own name and one in the name of Dr. Donald Snygg, the first chair of Oswego’s psychology department. They are also charter members of the Sheldon Legacy Society, a select group of people who have announced that they have named the Oswego College Foundation as a beneficiary in their family trust and estate plan.

To some, the snowy climate might seem hostile, but to transplanted Floridian C. Thomas Gooding, Oswego provided an ideal setting for raising a family and fulfills lifetime goals. “When I began my career, I could not have dreamed of having all the wonderful opportunities I found during my more than three decades of service at Oswego,” he says.

— Linda Morley Loomis ’90, M ’97

Dr. C. Thomas Gooding

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