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As a source of institutional memory, Sherwood Dunham is a treasure. He possesses facts and figures from half a century of progress at what was Oswego State Teachers College when he arrived as Campus School principal in 1955 to begin “the best post that existed” for a young man in public education.

Reflecting on his work as an administrator and professor, Dunham says it exceeded all his expectations.

“My why not return to Oswego in retirement?” he asked. “I love the college. I love the area. I love the people.”

Dunham’s love affair began in the dynamic mid-20th century life of the college, when he was tapped to provide leadership in several areas. After only three years as principal, he was promoted to director of extension (junior high teacher education), summer school and graduate programs; then, he was named director of elementary and secondary education. He filled in for James Perdue as acting president and was, at the time of his retirement in 1977, the acting dean, a role comparable to that of provost in today’s administration. Retirement was only a technicality, however, and Dunham continued at Oswego for seven more years as a professor in the school administration certification program. Throughout his career he was witness to unprecedented growth.

“I think of the decade from 1960 to 1970 as a time of tremendous change,” Dunham says. “That’s when the college evolved rapidly in four major areas: physical plant, student population, academic programs and faculty governance.”

Dunham explains that Baby Boomers boosted enrollment from 1,000 to nearly 10,000 and resulted in rapid hiring to provide a talented faculty. Money from the Rockefeller era supported physical expansion from four buildings to the extensive lakeside campus of today.

Most notably, Dunham says, academic offerings were expanded from three (Elementary Education, the Extension Program and Industrial Arts) to 60 as Oswego was developed into a college of arts and sciences.

“You can just imagine how the faculty hunkered down to get that work done,” Dunham says with pride.

Finally, changes were initiated to move from an instructional council to a faculty assembly form of governance. “Four of us sat down and wrote the first draft of the faculty assembly bylaws, which gave faculty power for hiring, curriculum, and promotions.” Dunham recalls that President Foster Brown retained the right of veto and facetiously threatened to exercise it at least once just to assert his authority.

Dunham’s career came full circle when he rediscovered the pleasure of teaching. “I enjoyed the professor’s role,” he says. “Students came in with their master’s degrees already in hand. They were ready to move on to school administration, and I had a lot of practical experience as well as theory to share with them.”

Leaving the college in 1982, Dunham retired briefly to North Carolina, where he and some friends launched a small newspaper. He had direct, hands-on experience as a reporter, editor, designer and publisher for several years before the group grew tired and sold the publication. The masthead still bears his name as one of the founding publishers.

Returning to Oswego nearly five years ago, Dunham joined an active senior citizen community at Springside at Seneca Hill, where he enjoys the company (comprised largely of former colleagues from Oswego State) and the amenities (“Ah, hear that lawnmower out there? I don’t have to do a thing.”). Proximity to his daughter and her family is a bonus.

Spring breezes carry the scent of new mown grass through the screen door as Dunham says this excursion into the past has been pleasant, but it’s time to make his way to King Alumni Hall for a meeting of the Emeriti Association board. He’s eager to get an update on current programs and to learn about issues affecting today’s students.

As he has been for 50 years, Sherwood Dunham is still very much connected to the college.

— Linda Morley Loomis ’90, M ’97
40 Under 40 15
Oswego’s young alumni are doing great things. Read all about the artists and entertainers, helpers and heroes, teachers and informers, and doers and dreamers in this special feature.

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ON THE COVER:
Sabrina Squillari ’01. Photo by Joseph Lawton
Students build good will

Hammering, painting and drilling are not words that people usually associate with a college spring break. Yet, 19 students decided to spend their spring break rehabilitating five houses in Baltimore, Md., in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity.

“This program, which has been around for five years, is a fun, positive, healthy option for students,” said Christy Lou Harrison Huynh ’98, coordinator of the Center for Service Learning and Community Service. Students in the past have traveled to Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Florida and Maryland to take part in the program.

Students who participate in the Alternative Spring Break typically rate the experience as a valuable one. Sara Hamme ’07 noted the connections made during the program. “I really enjoyed meeting the people who lived in the neighborhoods in which we worked. They had very little, in comparison to most of us, yet they were always smiling and saying hello, even to strangers. There was an incredible sense of community,” she said. “The neighbors really supported our projects and thanked us for our hard work. You could tell they were also proud of their friends who were going to move into the house.”

The Alternative Spring Break program also impacts students who participate on a deeper, personal level. “A lesson I took away from this experience was that community service is not just about helping others, but also about finding yourself and self-worth,” said Karen Jamack ’05.

While the hard work and dedication involved in working on a project of this size ultimately ends, the imprint it leaves on participants endures. Meagan Smith ’07 was a late addition to the program this year. “I would love to go on Alternative Spring Break again. I met some great people and had fun. I would recommend this to anyone who really wants to help people in a practical way,” she said. — Catherine DeGenaro ’05

OAA launches OsweGoConnect online community

THE OSWEGO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION now offers a new way for alumni to stay in touch with each other and their alma mater, with the launch of a new interactive online community, OsweGoConnect. This free and secure Web-based community is exclusively for Oswego alumni.

“OsweGoConnect is one of our most exciting new offerings in years and we hope all alumni will sign on and be part of this interactive community,” said Betsy Oberst, director of alumni and parent relations at Oswego.

At press time, over 700 alumni had registered for the online community.

At OsweGoConnect, alumni can now

- Check out a calendar of upcoming alumni events and register for them online;
- Post updates and pictures about their career, family and interests;
- Find products and services advertised by fellow alumni or promote their own products or services.
- Benefit from alumni-to-alumni career mentoring and networking: post a résumé, review jobs listed by Oswego alumni and access thousands of job postings from more than 300 other colleges and universities;
- Read and post notes to other Oswego alumni on the message boards; and
- Have online “discussions” in real time in the chat room.

To sign on, go to www.oswego.edu/alumni/, click on OsweGoConnect, click on “Click Here to Register Now!” Find your unique security code to enter the community on the mailing label of this magazine. The nine-digit ID number is located right above the address. After the first time you enter the site, you can change to your own personal password. Alumni couples: Call the Alumni Office at 315-312-2258 or e-mail alumni@oswego.edu for your individual ID numbers. —
His growing concern for the environment and an interest in cars was all the inspiration Dan Flanagan '06 needed to create a clever project, which he displayed during Quest Day.

Flanagan started the journey to power a car using an alternative fuel source in the fall semester. He used the Internet to collect information, and experimented to build his own conversion kit instead of shelling out the usual $800 for one. Flanagan chose vegetable oil as his alternate fuel source. “I scooped the waste vegetable oil out of the restaurant dumpster and filtered it. Filtering is a simple, but time consuming, process,” he said.

Only cars that have a diesel engine can support alternative fuel sources, and Volkswagens and Mercedes are examples. Flanagan decided to use a beverage cooler in his trunk as a fuel tank. He said it was crucial to get the vegetable oil warm, and copper lines wrapped around the inside of the trunk help this happen.

The process has not been a smooth one, and he has had to make alterations to solve problems as they have come up. “I have changed the way the vegetable fuel is delivered to the car, and am thinking of adding a secondary fuel pump,” he said.

Flanagan has to start and stop the car using diesel fuel, and then can flip a switch to convert to vegetable oil fuel after the car warms up. From there, he can drive the car as he normally would.

The alternate source of fuel is better for the environment, and produces 70 percent fewer emissions. “Using this method burns a safer, cleaner fuel,” Flanagan said. “I’m just an amateur, but this has turned out to have good results.”

— Catherine DeGenaro ‘05
MIT’s Coughlin gives Quest keynote

**QUEST, OSWEGO’S SYMPOSIUM OF**

scholarly and creative pursuits, celebrated a milestone this year: 25 years of faculty, staff and student presentations in the arts, sciences, education and business.

The anniversary was marked by tradition and innovation. For the first time since 1983, Honors Convocation and Quest were split up, with the annual bestowing of student honors taking place the Friday before the traditional Wednesday Quest April 20.

**Dr. Joseph Coughlin ’82**, director of the AgeLab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was the keynote speaker, kicking off a day that included over 125 faculty, staff and student presentations. His theme was “Inventing Yourself and Creating the Future through Undergraduate Research.”

Coughlin, who takes “a holistic approach to learning,” told the audience assembled in Hewitt Union ballroom, “Education is not about books and finals, but inventing yourself.”

After detailing the work done at MIT’s AgeLab — where scientists and policymakers work hand in hand to imagine a better future for an aging population —

Dr. Joseph Coughlin ’82, director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab, gave the keynote address at the 25th anniversary Quest. An Oswego Distinguished Alumnus, Coughlin spent two days on campus, speaking at classes and sharing his insights with students in psychology, political science, human development, computer science and business. Here, he gives advice on graduate schools to Nancy Zelinski ’06, Erica Taylor ’07 and Tara McDaniel ’08.

Coughlin outlined the principles he believes Quest stands for: undergraduate education that features research that is interdisciplinary, emphasizes learning by doing, and incorporates a team approach.

“Dare to dream and make a difference,” he told the audience.

Quest was first conceived in 1979 by the Faculty Research Committee (now the Scholarly and Creative Activities Committee). The late Dr. Helen Daly organized Quest ’80 and is recognized as the founder of Quest.

Classes were cancelled during Quest for the first time in 1982. Other traditions include the President’s Award for Scholarly and Creative Activity and Research, and the Sigma Xi lecture.

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**Admissions CD wins gold**

A mini CD-ROM aimed at attracting prospective students received a gold award in the 20th annual Admissions Advertising Awards, sponsored by Admissions Marketing Report. The competition is the largest in the country for educational advertising.

Produced in October for the college’s Admissions Office by Blackbird Media Group of Pennsylvania, the interactive CD won in the Video/CD-ROM Viewbook category for institutions enrolling between 5,000 and 10,000 students.

In less than four minutes, the production shows scenes of campus life in and outside the classroom, along with interviews of professors and students. Viewers can link to the SUNY Oswego homepage or directly to an online application.

Associate Director of Admissions **Jerry Oberst ’77**, who oversaw the project, working with admissions counselor Luke Nadzadi, sent the CD to prospective students and guidance counselors.

“The video is a very good means for helping prospective students to get a feel for the campus, the possibilities that Oswego can offer, a sense of the culture of the campus, in a much stronger way than they can obtain through print publications,” Oberst said. “It’s the next best thing to visiting.”

He added that the CD is a very cost-effective means of getting out the Oswego message, but does not replace print publications. Plans are to produce a DVD for distribution this fall.

In January, the CD picked up an Award of Distinction in the Communicator Awards, an international competition honoring excellence in communications.
When Linda Cohn ’81 and Stewart Kaufman ’80 look back at their years at Oswego, they remember it as a “wonderful time” of growing up, falling in love and learning about themselves.

Now married and successful in their careers — Cohn as anchor of ESPN’s SportsCenter and Kaufman as owner of SDK Professional Research Services, Ltd. — they want to make sure other students have the same great experience they did.

So they have made a pledge of support to the Campus Center project. With a match from Disney, which owns ESPN, their gift totals $20,000.

“When you look back at your college, the four years got you started in the incredible journey that is your life,” said Cohn. “We’re both very fortunate that we selected Oswego.”

“Oswego is a very special place for us,” said Kaufman. “We had a wonderful time in all respects. In terms of education, it was a growing-up time for both of us. We’re happy to do anything we can do to help keep that experience alive for other people.”

The couple visited campus five years ago and returned for Stew’s 25th reunion this June. They met President Deborah F. Stanley and were impressed with plans to improve the campus. “Not only is Oswego going to be as good as it was, it will be better than when we went there,” they said.

Linda recalled visiting as a prospective student. “I fell in love with Oswego. It has character, color, life,” she said. “Why wouldn’t we want to keep feeding that and creating that and sharing it with students?”

The couple chose the Campus Center for their gift because it was an area of high priority for the college. Of course, it will house a hockey rink, a place Linda spent much of her time while on campus as goalie for the women’s hockey team. She also remembers fondly time spent at the student radio and TV stations, enjoying friendships made with her co-workers. It’s that capacity of the Campus Center to foster relationships among students and faculty members that drew the couple to the project.

“Second to the education, it’s the relationships you garner, whether it’s with professors or the other students that create those moments,” Kaufman said. “And it’s those moments that we always remember decades later.”

The couple appreciates the fact the Campus Center will impact the lives of all Oswego students through the variety of activities it will house. They said, “What better way to show our gratitude than to put that contribution where it will help the general student population and help everything that Oswego State is trying to do?”

WRVO wins award

“Fort Ontario Emergency Shelter,” a 2004 documentary by WRVO’s Skye Rhode, won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for best feature reporting. The story showcased the only refugee center in the United States during World War II, located in Oswego. WRVO General Manager John Krauss ’71 said, “The sound pictures in this piece transported the listener back 60 years to relive a historic event that shaped life in Central New York.” The broadcast corresponded with the 60th anniversary of the shelter, which opened in August 1944.
Professor receives $340K federal grant

DR. LEIGH F. BACHER, AN ASSISTANT professor of psychology at SUNY Oswego, will open a door to potential new insights in health and behavior when she begins collecting data this summer in a two-year project funded by the National Eye Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health.

The institute awarded her a $339,813 exploratory grant to study spontaneous eye blinking in infants. Exploratory grants “are for projects that are new, novel,” she said, rather than for work in established research areas.

She will investigate whether this kind of blinking may correlate with some other aspect of an infant’s health or behavior.

Bacher plans to record the spontaneous blinking, body movement and heart rates of about a hundred infants at the ages of 4 and 12 months as they engage in different activities. Parents will fill out a questionnaire assessing the babies’ temperaments at each age.

Two colleagues in Oswego’s psychology department, Dr. Brooks Gump and Dr. Jacqueline Reihman, will serve as consultants on the project. Gump will lend his expertise in measuring and interpreting changes in heart rate. Reihman will advise on statistical procedures and on recruiting families from the community to participate in the study.

This summer Bacher will hire a full-time lab manager for the project, and she will be able to pay her research subjects through the grant. She will have undergraduate assistants working with her as well. “I really, really like having this team approach to research,” she said.

Bill Shine ‘85

Bill Shine ‘85, senior vice president of programming for Fox News Channel, began his first internship by vacuuming the newsroom. “I think this was a test, in order for them to see what I was willing to do,” Shine said.

He returned to Oswego in April as part of the Alumni-in-Residence program, sponsored by Oswego Alumni Association, and talked to aspiring broadcasters and journalists. Shine emphasized the importance of following through in “Introduction to Mass Media,” a class comprised of mostly freshmen. “When you get an opportunity, you have to take it,” Shine said.

He explained to students how he worked his way up the corporate ladder. “The best part of my job is that no two days are alike; this keeps it interesting,” he said.

Shine’s parting remarks to the students were some words of advice, stressing teamwork, integrity and a positive attitude. “My advice to you is to read the newspaper, know the world around you, keep your eyes open and think,” said Shine.

Shine also spoke with members of WTOP and Nick Codrey of News 10 Now. He spent time with a “Broadcasting and Cable” class taught by Fritz Messere ’71, and Ron Graeff’s “Broadcast News Reporting” students. His visit culminated with an open discussion, which all students and faculty were invited to attend.

— Catherine DeGenaro ’05

Oswego celebrated Women’s History Month with a panel discussion by three women college presidents titled, “The Changing Face of Higher Education: Challenges and Promises,” March 22. Speaking were, from left, Debbie L. Sydow, president of Onondaga Community College in Syracuse; Lisa Marsh Ryerson, president of Wells College in Aurora; and Deborah F. Stanley, president of SUNY Oswego. Susan Coultrap-McQuin, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Oswego, moderated the session. Sydow said her college takes pride in “guiding students toward a life of living well and loving what they do.” Ryerson stressed “acting humanely as we create a better quality of life” for citizens. Stanley told the assembly in Sheldon Hall ballroom, “The role of education is to be transformative for the individual, and, by that means, the world.”
Memorial to honor 9/11 victims

OSWEGO STATE WILL REMEMBER THE 12 alumni lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, with a permanent memorial on the shore of Glimmerglass Lagoon, to be dedicated this Sept. 11.

"The memorial was the idea of the four classes of students here on campus on that day that changed the world for all of us," said Betsy Oberst, executive director of the Oswego Alumni Association. The senior class gifts of the classes of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 were all earmarked for the tribute.

The alumni lost on September 11 were Scott Bart '95, Michelle Bratton '00, Richard Caproni '89, Michael Cawley '91, Michael Collins '84, Wendy Morris Faulkner '74, Michael Hannan '89, Michael O'Brien '81, James E. Potorti '72, Leo Roberts '79, Melissa R. Vincent '94 and James Woods '97.

This memorial garden for the alumni victims of September 11 on the shore of Glimmerglass Lagoon is the gift of the classes of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. It was designed by Mary K. Depentu, assistant director of operations, and the drawing was prepared by Marc Cornell.

Nestled on the south side of Glimmerglass Lagoon, the September 11 Memorial will allow visitors a quiet place to reflect. The design features an English-style garden bench surrounded by plantings that will spring into color each fall, including crocus, witch hazel, red berries of winterberry holly, and perennial plants of autumn joy sedum and blue aster.

Shawn Boshart ’89, owner of Oswego County Monuments, will create a memorial plaque with the names of the 12 alumni that will be affixed to a large boulder in the front of the garden. Campus grounds staff will install and maintain the garden.

Anyone who would like to make a donation toward the memorial can send gifts to The Oswego College Foundation, 100 Sheldon Hall, Oswego, NY 13126, with a note that the gift is for the September 11 Memorial.

Bagels on ice

Oswego State was recently featured in Sports Illustrated magazine’s On Campus edition. The issue College Sports, College Life included a brief summary of attention-grabbing traditions taking place on college campuses across the globe. SUNY Oswego was one of five campuses, including Florida and Indiana, in the edition that was published April 14. In the issue, Oswego was noted for its ice hockey tradition of bagel tossing. The tradition of bagels on ice started during the 1997–98 hockey season when Oswego first dominated SUNYAC rival Plattsburgh. Seven years later, the tradition continues.
Grants spark faculty-student collaboration

A NEW ROUND OF STUDENT/FACULTY Collaborative Challenge Grants will enable publishable scholarly activities on infant development, an economic theory and a writer’s use of landscape as character.

A total of $10,000 in grant funding was available through the Provost’s Office and the Oswego College Foundation, thanks to support from Tim Murphy ’74 and SUNY Administration employees in the SUNY Spring Campaign. The Scholarly and Creative Activities Committee judged proposals and recommended the awards.

One project, among Leigh Bacher of the psychology faculty and Leila Ertel ’05 and Lauren Richmond ’05, is a pilot study probing the development of reaching in infants. The students take part in observation, data coding and analysis, and expect to present their findings at a conference.

A collaboration between David Andrews of the economics faculty and freshman Robert Kane ’08 will delve into a 19th-century theory by Alfred Marshall, considered one of the most important economists ever, as analyzed by Piero Sraffa. Under the guidance of Andrews, Kane will research and draft a paper on Sraffa’s interpretation of Marshall’s “marginal shepherd” theory.

English faculty member Chris LaLonde and Roger Gordon ’05 will travel to New Mexico this summer to explore the role of the landscape in the work of influential 20th-century Native American writer Leslie Marmon Silko.

Oswego experience inspires scholarship gift

When Jack James ’62 looks back at his years at Oswego, he feels confident that the experiences he had on campus positioned him for success in his two careers: in military service and in education.

“Those great study and life skills that I learned at Oswego transitioned me into life — academically, professionally, personally,” he says.

He learned an important management skill, not in the classroom, but in the cafeteria. “I remember Robert Palmer, director of food service, who ran the dining hall. He practiced what I know now as management by walking around. He would come out and talk to the students, not only about the food but how they were doing.”

From Psychology Professor Emeritus Herbert Van Schaack ’51, James learned the invaluable tool of how to remember people’s names. From Coach John Gilinski he learned the value of doing the right thing and always trying.

And from librarian Helen Hagger, who organized the book shuttle that moved the library from Sheldon Hall to its new home in Rich Hall, he learned the skills of organization and command. “We moved the entire library like little ants from the old library to the new library,” he recalls. “It was the real Oswego community campus experience. The entire student body fell out that day!”

Now retired after 29 years with the Marine Corps and teaching adult education at National Louis University, James wants to make sure that others have the same benefits. He has donated $25,000 to establish a scholarship for non-traditional students at Oswego.

When he thinks of whom his gift may benefit, James envisions a working mother coming back to school, a person whose career was interrupted or a veteran returning to civilian life.

“I teach ethics and have people write an ethical will: things you’d want to tell people about your values,” he says. “That scholarship is one thing I want to leave for posterity. One of my values is education. I want to leave that and provide a means to perpetuate that.”

One decision James had to make was whether to establish his scholarship now or fund it with a bequest in his will. He decided to do both, establishing his scholarship and letting his bequest add to it.

Supporting Oswego was an easy decision, he says, because of his experiences as a student and his confidence in the current leadership of the college.

With two master’s degrees and post-graduate work with the military, he has plenty of options on where to bestow his philanthropy. “But it all comes back to experiences at the campus,” James says. “The Oswego experience was so rewarding in every aspect, I felt good about identifying Oswego.”
Reihman ‘distinguished’

DR. JACQUELINE REIHMAN OF SUNY Oswego’s psychology department was promoted by the State University board of trustees to distinguished teaching professor, a rank above full professor.

“She became a life-changing mentor for me,” said one of her students. “She is truly one of those people who touched my life and inspired a thirst for life-long learning, leading me into a career that I find fascinating and rewarding.”

Since joining Oswego’s faculty in 1981, in addition to her courses, Reihman has advised about 30 students a year, supervised 37 internships and served on 32 honors thesis committees.

She has played a central role in $7 million worth of externally funded research through the Oswego Newborn and Infant Development Project, which is “known around the world,” said Dr. Thomas Darvill, department chair.

Reihman has received several awards honoring her variety of achievements. Her outstanding teaching was recognized in 1989 with a SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Her substantial research contributions were honored with awards at both the campus and SUNY system levels.

Reihman earned her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1978 and taught at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse before coming to Oswego.

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 Oswego Fugues by Stephen Murabito ’80, an Oswego native, explores memory through poetry and uses the surroundings to give the reader a distinct sense of place. The reader hears the voices of both the living and the dead through a technique Murabito adapted from the musical form. Murabito explores experiences from his childhood, college years and present-day return to his hometown. Star Cloud Press, 2005.

In Building Character through Multicultural Literature, Rosann Histon Jweid ’54 and Margaret Rizzo bring together stories that encourage learning on many levels. Personal responsibility, moral judgement and greater global awareness are some of the areas emphasized in the book. Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2004.

The unique bond between a child and a grandparent is emphasized in A Star From Grandma written by Janet Mueller ’83. The children’s book is illustrated with Mueller’s bright oil paintings. She drew inspiration from her relationship with her own grandparents and family tradition. This is Mueller’s first book. Stella Books, 2004.

Briarcliff Lodge was destroyed in a 2003 fire, but its legacy continues to live through Briarcliff Lodge by Rob Yasinac ’99. Photographs and documents reveal the 101-year history of the resort hotel visited by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and Babe Ruth. Arcadia Publishers, 2004.

The Language of Baklava by Diana Abu-Jaber ’80 is a vibrant, joyous memoir of growing up with her gregarious Jordanian father, who loved to cook. Abu-Jaber weaves the story of her life in upstate New York and in Jordan around vividly remembered meals: from Lake Ontario cookouts to goat stew feasts under a Bedouin tent in the desert. Recipes dot the book. Abu-Jaber is the author of two critically acclaimed novels, Arabian Jazz and Crescent. Pantheon Books, 2005.
Women on ice revive tradition

For the Cobello family, ice hockey is a tradition. Now a member of the family is spearheading a move to re-establish women’s ice hockey on the Oswego campus.

The daughter of Rick Cobello ‘73, who captained and played center for the Lakers during his college years, Jenna Cobello ’06, is president and captain of the women’s ice hockey club team, which played its first games this fall in Romney Field House.

It has been two decades since an intercollegiate women’s ice hockey team has competed at Oswego State.

The team racked up its first win by beating University of Rochester by a score of 7-5, and also defeated Skidmore.

With help from Mike Paestella of the college’s Student Organization Services, Jenna began efforts to form the team. She was inspired by her Dad, who co-founded the rugby team at Oswego. “I was looking at how rugby is a huge part of the school and knowing he started it was something really cool. And I could do it too, and it would matter, in Oswego, be something important,” said the graphic design major and business minor from Saratoga Springs.

Equipment, travel and other expenses cost around $3,500, with much of the money coming from the players themselves, donations from Stewart’s and the Press Box, and various fund-raisers.

Cobello hopes this team will lead to re-establishing an official varsity program, which she believes would support the school’s hockey tradition. With the new Campus Center, which will include an ice rink, expected to open in 2006, the timing could be right, she said.

Phoenix center celebrates 10th anniversary

The Oswego State Education Center in Phoenix celebrated its 10th anniversary April 13 with a ceremony attended by members of the community, business and government leaders, college faculty and staff. The Oswego State Education Center began in 1995 with the concept of making education more accessible to the community and to recognize education’s role in the economic development of the region.

During its 10 years of operation, more than 500 undergraduate and graduate courses have been offered at the Phoenix facility. In addition, more than 12,000 people from the region have participated in professional development classes, including American Management Association certificate programs and computer training. Over the past two years, 73 businesses sponsored their employees in open enrollment classes.

In 2002, the center became home to the Institute for Professional and Organizational Development and established a motto, “Your Success Is Our Business.”
SPORTS

Swimming and Diving

It was a very successful season in the pool for both the women and men’s programs at Oswego State. The Lakers captured the SUNYAC Championships, snapping Geneseo’s long run as conference champs. Oswego State dominated the relay events at the championships, sweeping all five and winning the 200, 400 and 800-meter freestyle races along with the 200 and 400 medley relays.

The team had three individual champions as well with Leslie Simrell ’07 (Ithaca) winning the 1,650 free in 17:46.90, which was an NCAA provisional time. Blair Pecka ’08 (Binghamton) also posted a provisional qualifying time as she won the 100 backstroke in 1:00.21. The final individual champion was Allyson DaFoe ’07 (Homer). DaFoe swam her way to the title in the 200 butterfly with a swift clocking of 2:11.84.

In addition to the SUNYAC crown, Kami Gardner was selected as the Women’s Coach of the Year for the fifth straight year.

On the men’s side, the Lakers finished in second place at the conference meet. Kevin Morgan ’08 (Saratoga Springs) had an outstanding season as the diver advanced to the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships held at Hope College in Michigan. He posted a provisional qualifying time as he won the 1-meter competition with a score of 426.45 and was second on the 3-meter board. At the NCAA Championships, Morgan participated in both the 1 and 3-meter events placing in the top 20 in both.

Jason Cotter ’07 (Oswego) and Dominick Mancini ’06 (Rochester) were also crowned SUNYAC champions as Cotter won the 500 free in 4:44.22 and Mancini won the 100 breaststroke in 59.04 seconds.

Wrestling

The Oswego State wrestling team battled adversity throughout the 2004-05 season. The Lakers climbed to as high as 14th in the national rankings before a rash of injuries caused several changes to the starting lineup. Despite those changes, the Lakers still remained competitive as they dropped four close dual meets by five points or less on the way to a 6-8 record.

One of those affected by injury was Tenkoran Agyeman ’05 (Bronx). Agyeman suffered a dislocated shoulder in early January and missed five weeks on the mat. The Laker co-captain returned in time to qualify for the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships earning a “wild card” berth at the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference Championships. At the national tournament, the senior earned All-American status for the third straight year, placing sixth at 141 pounds. He became the first Laker in 16 years to become a three-time All-American and just the fourth in program history. Agyeman also capped his standout career as the program’s all-time leader in victories, racking up 118 in his tenure at Oswego State. Prior to his injury, Agyeman won the Ithaca, Springfield and RIT tournaments.

The Lakers, 11-3 in conference play, captured the SUNYAC regular season title.

Ice Hockey

The Lakers captured the SUNYAC regular season title going 11-3 in conference play. Unfortunately, Oswego State opened the playoffs against rival Plattsburgh and dropped a pair of close games, ending their season with an 18-6-3 record.

There were plenty of honors as goalie Ryan Scott ’08 (Williamsville) was named SUNYAC Rookie of the Year. He finished with an 11-5-1 record with a school record 2.23 goals-against average and a save percentage of .926 to go along with three shutouts.

Scott was named First Team All-SUNYAC along with center Andy Rozak ’05 (Mississauga, Ont.). Rozak led the team in scoring with 40 points on nine goals and 31 assists. Don Patrick ’05 (Fulton), Jocelyn Dubord ’06 (LeChenaie, Que.) and Kevin Tracey ’05 (Mississauga, Ont.) were all named Second Team All-SUNYAC. Patrick finished with 35 points on 10 goals and 25 assists, while Dubord netted 38 points with a team-high 18 goals and 20 assists. Tracey was an anchor on the blueline for the Lakers.

The final honor for the Oswego State program came from behind the bench. Second-year coach Ed Gosck ’83, MSED ’01 was voted by his peers as the SUNYAC Coach of the Year.
Frank Petrucci ’05 (Montebello) made his fourth appearance at the championship event and came up one win short of returning to the All-American platform. The co-captain, who competed at 165 pounds, led the Lakers in victories this season with 30, finishing his career tied for second on the all-time wins list with 112.

The success of those two wrestlers at the NCAA Championships gave the Lakers a top 20 finish in the team standings. It was the 13th time in program history that Oswego State has finished in the top 20 at the national tournament.

Several other Lakers stepped up this season as Walter Sosnowski ’07 (Massapequa) went 22-14 at 125 pounds and placed in every tournament the team competed in. Josh LeVea ’08 (Fulton) had a solid freshman season at 133 pounds, posting a record of 23-13.

Senior Jonathan Jagatnarain ’05 (Bronx) ended his career with his best season as a Laker. He collected 25 wins and placed fourth in both the New York State Wrestling Championships and the ECWC Championships at 184 pounds.

Joe Jewett ’08 (Watertown) and Dane LaPlante ’07 (Carthage) were both nationally ranked before seeing their season come to an end. Jewett, who was 11-0 at 133 pounds, had his season cut short by a severe car accident in November, while LaPlante compiled a record of 14-4 record at 149 pounds in the first semester.

The 2005 Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame weekend will be Friday, Nov. 4, and Saturday, Nov. 5, with the awards dinner on Saturday evening.

This year’s inductees include:

Wendy Bolton ’75 field hockey/basketball/softball
Tony Conigliaro ’64 basketball
Joanne Forbes-Murphy ’77 basketball/softball/volleyball
Mike Kohl ’96 basketball
Wayne Levi ’74 wrestling
Kurt Vander Bogart ’76 swimming
Glendon Widrick ’74 baseball
And, honored posthumously
Arwin Hamm ’22 baseball

Dave Ponza ’05 (Solvay) closed out his banner career as a Laker third on the all-time scoring list with 1,771 points. The forward led the team in scoring this season, netting 13.8 points a game and was named Second Team All-SUNYAC.

At the national event, Felder turned in a strong performance finishing 11th with a final height of 1.97 (6’5 1/4”).

On the women’s side, Jessica Adam ’06 (Dover, N.H.) further etched her name in the Laker record books, breaking both of the program’s throwing records. Adam placed first at the SUNYAC Championships in the shot put with a toss of 12.35 meters (40’6 1/4”), which established a new school record. She then set a new mark in the 20-pound weight throw at the Syracuse University Invitational. The new record now stands at 13.81 meters (45’3 3/4”).

Women’s Basketball

Coming off of its best season in school history, the current Laker squad outdid themselves as they set a new school record for most wins in a season while securing the program’s first trip to the NCAA Division III Women’s Basketball Championships.

The Lakers won the SUNYAC regular season title before falling in overtime in the championship game of the conference tournament. The team then earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. Oswego State was rewarded with a first-round bye and hosted William Smith in the second round of the tournament. The Herons, however, ended the team's run, at Laker Hall. Oswego State finished the year with an impressive 24-4 record.

The honors were plentiful for the Lakers as Kelly Mraz ’07 (Johnstown) was named the 2005 SUNYAC Player of the Year. The sophomore point guard was also First Team All-SUNYAC, First Team ECAC Upstate, d3hoops.com East Region Second Team in addition to being picked to the SUNYAC All-Tournament Team. Mraz was second on the team in scoring at 11.3 points a game and dished out a team-high 132 assists.

Sarah Lombard ’08 (Saratoga Springs) received several honors as the forward was tabbed First Team All-SUNYAC and d3hoops.com East Region First Team. Like Mraz, Lombard also earned a spot on the SUNYAC All-Tournament Team. The freshman led the Lakers in both scoring and rebounding, scoring at a clip of 12.1 points per game and grabbing 7.8 rebounds a contest.

Sally Shuster ’05 (East Amherst) left her mark on the Laker program as the sharp shooter capped her impressive career as the program’s all-time leader in 3-pointers made, with 212.

Kristin Sterling ’05 (Oneida) was named SUNYAC Honorable Mention after leading the conference in field goal percentage, making 55.9 percent of her shots, which also set a single-season record for Oswego State.
Events

July 28 – 31 The City of Oswego’s fantastic Harborfest! On-campus housing available to alumni, friends and family. *
August 1 Emeriti Luncheon, Shelley Love, 315-312-5558
August 5 – 7 Oswego Wrestling Reunion, Mike Howard ’90, 315-312-2402
August 22 Welcoming Torchlight Ceremony *
September 9 16th Annual Oswego State Fall Classic **
September 30 “Inspiring Horizons” Capital Campaign Launch **
October 1 Board of Directors Meeting, Oswego Alumni Association, Inc. *
October 8 Communication Studies Alumni Reception *
October 15 Alumni Awards Dinner *
October 19 Inaugural NYC Communication Studies Alumni Reception *
October 20 Inaugural NYC Metro Area School of Business Alumni Reception *
November 4 – 5 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Weekend *
December 16 December Graduates Dessert Reception *
January 1 Deadline for Alumni Awards Nominations *
January 1 Deadline for Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations *
June 9 – 11 Reunion 2006 *

* Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258
** Office of University Development, 315-312-3003

Join President Deborah F. Stanley for

“Oswego in Atlanta”
Tuesday, October 18

Hosted by George Wurtz ’78
Executive Vice President
Pulp and Paper, Georgia Pacific

Advance reservations are required. Look for an invitation coming soon.

Atlanta

The Atlanta Club is collaborating with other SUNY alumni groups to expand networking possibilities and event offerings. For the latest information about upcoming events in the Atlanta area, check out the club’s Web site at www.sunyalumni.org or contact Jeffrey Mazurak ’97.

Binghamton

Calling all alumni: We want to plan some great events in the Binghamton area, but we need your help in the form of ideas and attendance. Please join us this summer for a pre-game gathering and to watch a Binghamton Mets baseball game. What other ideas do you have? Please contact Margaret Clancy Darling ’82 or the alumni office. We look forward to seeing you at future alumni events in the Binghamton area.

Boston

Join area alumni the weekend of Aug. 26 to 28 for a planning meeting and Networking Social on Friday night and a tour of Fenway Park on Sunday before the group watches the Red Sox take on the Detroit Tigers. 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

Upcoming events include a picnic for alumni, incoming students and their families in August, a Buffalo Bisons baseball game, as well as the annual Bills game, plus we are looking for other event ideas from area alumni. Please contact Larry Coon ’83 or the alumni office.

Capital District (Albany)

The year 2005 started in a very charitable way in the Capital District. Over 90 area alumni gathered to help with local Habitat for Humanity projects in March and May. Upcoming events include a picnic to welcome incoming students and their families into the “Oswego family” in August, a return to the Saratoga Raceway and a Fall Social. If you have any questions or ideas for future events, contact Tammy Secord Friend ’98 and Melissa Guzman Mazurak ’97.

New York City

Alumni from the classes of 1960 through 2004 braved the nasty winter weather to attend a planning meeting and Networking Social in March. The planning group is putting together a variety of events for the rest of 2005, so watch your mailbox and the alumni Web site for details. If you have event ideas or would like to help plan future NYC alumni events, please fill out the survey at http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/nyc/.

Rochester

This spring, Rochester area alumni enjoyed a Keuka Lake winery tour as well as a night of great food and theatre at the Broadway hit “Chicago” and pre-show reception at Pomodoro Grill. Upcoming events include a Rochester Red Wings baseball game and pre-game gathering in July, a picnic for alumni and incoming Oswego State students and their families in August, a tour and reception at George Eastman House Sept. 1, and the annual outing with the Buffalo Club for a tailgate and Bills football game Oct. 9. If you have alumni event ideas for the Rochester area, please contact Penny Koch Patterson ’93.

South Carolina

Sonya Nordquist Altenbach ’91 and Karen Parker ’91 are broadening the base of the South Carolina alumni club by expanding invitations to all SUNY schools. The group is returning to “Broadway at the Beach” in Myrtle Beach the weekend of Oct. 14-16 and is looking forward to a Holiday Social in December.

Syracuse/Oswego

Event ideas for the local alumni club, include a Skaneateles dinner cruise this summer, a picnic to welcome incoming Oswego students and their families, a fall winery tour and a Holiday Social at Coleman’s of Syracuse.

Washington, D.C.

Alumni from the Classes of 1935 through 2003 enjoyed the SUNY Reception on Capitol Hill in April. D.C. area alumni also recently enjoyed the Cinco de Mayo and Flag Day Socials. Upcoming events include the annual picnic Aug. 13, the King Street Krawl Sept.24 and a Holiday Social Dec. 6. If you have any questions about future events, please contact Kim Brooke ’87.

For Club Contacts go to http://www.oswego.edu/alumni/volunteer/club_contacts.html

Albany area alumni volunteered for Habitat for Humanity twice this spring. Shown at the March building session are, from left, Justin Friend ’98, Tammy Secord Friend ’98, Jonathan Ouckama ’96, Melissa Guzman Mazurak ’97 and Jeffrey Mazurak ’98.
Mike Betette ‘99

FUNNY MAN


A former president of the campus improv comedy troupe, Betette now gives about 200 performances a year as the longest-touring member of the Chicago-based Mission Improvable troupe.

Betette admits that “one of the reasons I went to Oswego is because it has an improv troupe.” He also helped mount a sketch show, “Haptic Escapades” on WTOP, and twice participated in the annual New Voices production for student writers and directors.

“I have always wanted to write comedy, so starting with an English major and theatre minor I was exposed to a lot of new and interesting ideas immediately,” Betette said. “Getting good at anything just takes time and practice, and Oswego gave me lots of opportunities to keep writing and improvising and doing comedy.” He also credits professors like Brad Korbesmeyer and Ron Medici with helping “to make my work better, tighter and hopefully funnier.”

During summers, he concentrates on writing and performing in his sketch comedy duo, Superpunk. Superpunk has traveled extensively, was named one of the top 10 comedy duos in Chicago by the Sun-Times and wrote an animated short currently making the festival circuit.

Superpunk has had well-received showcases for HBO and Comedy Central. Well, mostly well-received.

“Unfortunately the response for those two shows were, “You guys are great. When are you moving to Los Angeles?” When they found out we had no plans to, the talks were over,” he recalled.

But now he is. Betette said he plans to move to LA with his longtime girlfriend, Amanda Ohly, at the end of the summer to become a television writer.

— TIM NEKRITZ M’05
EMPOWERING GIRLS IS A BIG theme for Julia Rozines DeVillers ’89. The author of Girlwise and How My Private, Personal Journal Became a Bestseller has carved out a successful niche writing books for teen girls.

After earning a master’s degree from Ohio State, she worked for a health publishing company. When she got her first book deal, she became a full-time author.

DeVillers always loved children’s literature and studied it at Oswego and in graduate school. “I discovered that what I wrote for preteen and teen girls seemed to really click with readers,” she says. “Over the past few years, the girl’s market has really become huge, so it’s been a great niche.”

Her best-selling “Tuned In” series for Limited Too gained national attention in 2002. It was a new concept for a retailer to produce a fiction series exclusively for its own customers.

A communication studies major, influenced by Dr. Brian Betz and Dr. John Peterson, she met her husband, Dave DeVillers ’89 at Oswego.

With one book optioned by the Disney Channel and other work with TV and movie companies, the future looks bright for DeVillers.

But she never forgets her past. Her forthcoming nonfiction book, The Dorm Survival Guide, includes anecdotes about when she lived in Funnelle and Oneida halls, like falling off the top bunk in a freshman triple and dining hall scoping techniques. She says, “A theme of this book is how you can make long-lasting memories and friends living in residence halls. And I did!”

— MICHELE REED

IT ALL STARTED WITH HIS HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK. Michael Yoon ’00 joined the yearbook staff, and since he could draw, got the job of designing the yearbook cover. “When it came back with my design on the cover, I thought, ‘This is cool!’” It was the start of a promising career in graphic design.

Yoon’s talent was nurtured in the graphics lab of Professor Emeritus Dave Faux, who, according to Yoon, “told great stories and made you excited about what you’re doing.” His other talents were nurtured at Oswego, too. He played in the orchestra and gave a cello and piano recital as his honors thesis.

He’d return to Oswego a few months after graduation, following a stint as a contract graphic designer for Praxair Technologies. This time it would be as marketing and communications coordinator for the department of campus life. His work in Hewitt Union encompassed marketing strategies, design and public relations, including coordinating Family and Friends Weekend.

An unexpected e-mail last summer caused him to leave the comfort of his alma mater. Yoon received a message soliciting him to apply for a job at Princeton University. He did, two days later he got a call and six weeks later to the day he was beginning his new job as associate director for marketing and communications for university services.

While Yoon says he does miss Oswego, he adds, “It was time for me to spread my wings and see what’s out there, and who knows where it will take me.”

— MICHELE REED
Marty Haperman ’88

ALASKAN ART

THERE’S A THEORY THAT artists are attracted to places of beauty and naturally gravitate toward places that sustain them. Marty Haperman ’88 found that place in Alaska.

Four Oswego friends left right after graduation to head out West. Haperman and her boyfriend ended up in Kasilof, Alaska. She spent 10 years as a fitter and framer at an art gallery and eventually purchased the business. She named it Art Works, because she loved answering the phone with the play on words. While the gallery had specialized in wildlife prints, Haperman turned it into a venue for local original works of art.

Haperman’s an artist as well, creating her works in mixed media. Photography, painting, drawing and constructive work of found objects all figure into her compositions, which have been shown all over Alaska and places like Minneapolis.

In addition to her artwork and the gallery, she is involved with the Peninsula Art Guild, a non-profit art co-op, and the Kenai River Council on the Arts, trying to find venues and ways to promote local artists. One of those artists is Theresa Napolitano ’88, one of the original four travelers, who had a solo show earlier this year.

Haperman remembers taking a senior art class with Professor Emeritus Paul Garland, where he told the 18 or so students that only a third of them would end up working in art their entire lives. She determined then that art would be her life.

In Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula, it is.

— MICHIE REED

Steve Peacock ’96

STAGE PRESENCE

ART IMITATED LIFE WHEN STEVEN PEACOCK ’96, point guard for the fall 1994 Lakers, played — what else? — a point guard in the basketball flick “Game Day,” premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 1999. It was just the start of a promising career for the young actor.

Trained at the prestigious Lee Strasberg Institute, Peacock, whose stage name is Steven Jacoby, has worked in Shakespearean productions, including “Macbeth” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” He played the lead in “Love Goggles,” a 2001 independent film that won first prize at the Black Hollywood Film Festival. And he’s been seen in national commercials for Wendy’s and Bud Light.

But it was an Oswego-sponsored study abroad trip to London that lit the passion for theatre in this broadcasting major and athlete. Although he had plenty of experience behind the scenes at WTOP and WNYO, that one college experience inspired him to be in front of the camera. “I had a great teacher, a working actress,” he said. “She was wonderful and enlightened me on the actor’s world. That’s something I cherish a lot.”

At press time he was heading from the Big Apple to Hollywood, to try his hand at television and film. But it is still live theatre that holds the most fascination for Peacock.

“It’s THE medium for an actor, like a painter has his canvas, and a sculptor has his clay,” he says. “Nothing can compare to theatre.”

— MICHIE REED

Jordana Hirsch Gresen ’90

KEY [CHAiNS] TO A CURE

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS DID Jordana Hirsch Gresen ’90 imagine that she would one day become a budding jewelry designer, or that her glittering accessories would bring hope to thousands of breast cancer patients.

In fact, the Oswego communications major spent several years in customer relations and earned a master’s in counseling education from Hofstra University before trying her hand at the jewelry business.

After the birth of her two children, Nicole, 7, and Jared, 4, Gresen began attending jewelry classes at the Art League of Long Island, and for the past two years has operated a small business from the home she shares with husband Dave Gresen ’87 in Commack, Long Island.

Although she creates between 250 and 300 pieces a year, it is her pieces for breast cancer awareness and research that have brought her the most pride.

“It really came out of all the people I have known with breast cancer, and the helplessness that you feel not being able to help these people,” Gresen said about her decision to become involved.

Through the sale of one of Gresen’s specially designed, charmed key chains, she has managed to donate $1,000 to the One in Nine Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition, and the Cold Spring Harbor Research facility, with no plans of stopping anytime soon.

“When I went to donate the check to the organization it was such a great feeling,” Gresen said. “It is so great that I am able to do something knowing how many people have breast cancer, and how many are fighting it right now.”

— SHANNON MAHAR ’04
ROB YASINSAC ’99 COMBINES A SENSE OF HISTORY AND an eye for beauty to pursue a noteworthy passion: photographing ruins around the Hudson Valley.

Yasinsac’s day job at the Philipsburg Manor Museum in Westchester is fulfilling, but it’s his hobby that has drawn notice of the likes of the New York Times. A book on Hudson Valley ruins, co-authored with Tom Rinaldi, will be published in the next year.

“I am very much looking forward to completing the book, and contributing to the record of the Hudson River and its history. This is one theme that has not been explored in depth yet for our region, so it is exciting to be breaking new ground,” he said.

“Just because a building has been abandoned and has some broken windows, doesn’t mean it is an ‘eyesore’ and needs to be demolished.” He challenges perceptions while offering hope that buildings can be restored to their former beauty to become historic and cultural resources to conscientious local communities.

He has worked with the Bannerman Castle Trust to help clear brush and restore walkways, and he now gives tours of the reclaimed island estate. In Briarcliff Manor, a developer decided to raze Briarcliff Lodge, a resort established in 1902. Yasinsac wrote a book on the lodge’s history, carrying on the legacy of the now-departed landmark.

“I had some really good teachers who got me interested in subjects I hadn’t necessarily been interested in before, but somehow find their way into my field of study,” like anthropology and political science, he said. “My internship at the H. Lee White Marine Museum in Oswego was also a good starting point for working in the museum field.”

— TIM NEKRITZ M’05
Christopher Maloney ’91  MAKING IT IN MUSIC

ASK ANY MUSICIAN WHAT SUCCESS IS, AND HE OR SHE WILL likely say, “To be making my living through my music.”

Whether it’s playing bass with the Lao Tizer Band, teaching at the Los Angeles Musicians Institute (where he graduated with Outstanding Student of the Year honors in 1994) or promoting his new CD, “The Terrors of Intimacy,” singer-songwriter and bassist Christopher Maloney ’91 is living the life of a professional musician.

He has traveled the world, performing on stages in Europe, Asia, and Central and South America. He’s played with the likes of Dweezil Zappa, Steve Vai and members of Earth, Wind and Fire and INXS. For now, he’s concentrating on promoting his new album and gigging with Lao Tizer. Maloney returns this summer as the band headlines at Harborfest’s jazz stage.

Maloney counts Professor Emeritus Stan Gosek and Solid State as his biggest influences, as well as his Oswego experiences with his two bands, Vitamin Q and Visual Touch. But for all that, he almost didn’t become a professional musician. Maloney was pursuing a dual major in broadcasting and music. During his senior year, a scheduling conflict caused him to have to choose between the two. “I had to make a choice and I made the music choice,” Maloney said.

So, as they say, has he “made it?”

“I’ve made it, because I’m doing the thing that I love,” Maloney said. “But there are many more things I want to do, so I don’t consider that I’ve made it yet.”

— MICHELE REED

Erik Perry ’95

OSWEGO GRADUATES WHO APPEAR ON STAGE OR IN front of the camera may be more recognizable, but few could match the experiences of Erik Perry ’95.

The theatre graduate’s résumé includes lighting work for such events as the Super Bowl, Woodstock ’99 and Garth Brooks in Central Park. While he did tech work, mainly lighting, for Oswego theatre productions, Perry says he ended up in the business by accident.

A few weeks before graduation, Perry was invited to California by a former roommate, now at a lighting company, to meet some people at the job. About 10 minutes into a discussion with the boss, “he hired me on the spot,” Perry recalled. “I left his office and went straight into the shop and went to work.” After earning his Oswego degree, Perry returned to a full-time job in the entertainment industry.

An injury to a technician on the Garth Brooks tour led to what was supposed to be a 10-day gig. But the managers were so impressed that they kept Perry around . . . and he’s spent much of his life on the road ever since.

Now married and living in Nashville, Perry has toured with the likes of Bruce Springsteen and the E. Street Band, Trisha Yearwood, Tim McGraw, Metallica and, this spring, Mötley Crüe.

He designed and operated the halftime show of the Canadian Football League’s 2003 Grey Cup championship, watched by some 30 million people. “What a rush that was,” Perry said. “And of course, when you get to meet and travel with the rock stars you idolized growing up, I can’t think of anything better.”

— TIM NEKRITZ M’05

Rhonda Rosner ’92

CHARACTER ACTRESS

SOME PEOPLE COMPLAIN about having a Mickey Mouse job. Not Rhonda Rosner ’92.

Rosner works in entertainment at Walt Disney World at Orlando, Fla., as a character performer and captain, or coordinator, for Disney Character Events — and she loves it.

Sometimes she dons a costume and greets the park’s guests or travels around the country to perform in nursing homes, schools and hospitals. Other times, as captain, she coordinates appearances for characters.

She’s performed on the castle stage and in parades at the Magic Kingdom and visited major cities with Disney’s holiday tour.

We can’t say just who she portrays, but she’s “good friends” with Chip and Dale, Winnie the Pooh, JoJo and Stanley.

Rosner has traveled all over the United States and Canada on behalf of the Disney Channel and Radio Disney. This summer she will make seven trips to Yellowstone National Park.

Her childhood dream of working at Disney World became a reality during a semester-long internship from SUNY Oswego to Disney. Immediately after graduation, she headed down to Orlando and began her career at the park.

She’s been on Rosie O’Donnell’s show, met Barbara Walters and been pictured in Oprah Winfrey’s O magazine, but Rosner most enjoys the smiles she brings to people of any age when they meet Mickey Mouse for the first time. “It’s good to see them excited and put a smile on their faces.”

— MICHELE REED
M. Ellen Barone Burggraf ’92
NUTRITION FOR TWO

"YOUR 9-MONTH BREAKFAST, Lunch, and Dinner Date!" may sound like the latest romance novel, but for M. Ellen Barone Burggraf ’92, it’s a career. This self-published 2003 guide is part of a company Burggraf co-founded with her sister Maggie McHugh called Eating for You (and baby too), Inc. The Rochester-based company provides guides, products and counseling on dietary concerns for pregnant women. Their Web site is a hit with mothers across the country who want to know how to eat before, during and after pregnancy.

Burggraf majored in psychology and minored in sociology, but said she gravitated toward mediation. She also admired her various professors’ power to bring real-life examples to the classroom.

During her first pregnancy she had difficulties finding dietary advice, and started scheming. With a registered dietitian as a sister, and Burggraf’s knack for marketing and human relations, the company soon took off. Burggraf handles public relations and customer service, while her sister carries out the dietary end of things.

The company takes referrals from OB-GYN offices, offers classes and lectures, and supports not-for-profit agencies such as the Perinatal Association and the March of Dimes with its services.

Burggraf finished her academic career at Rochester Institute of Technology, but holds fonder memories for Oswego. “It was a great, friendly, and caring environment that helped you think down the road,” she said. “They’re able to help you see a vision. It’s a great jumping-off point.”

— MELISSA A. STEFANEC ’04

Aunree Houston ’00
MULTITALented

WHEN HE WAS CONSIDERING COLLEGES, AUNREE HOUSTON ’00 decided to put the names of his top three schools in a hat and pull one out. He chose Oswego over Binghamton and North Carolina A&T, and he couldn’t be happier that he did. At Oswego, he took beginner-level acting with Theatre Professor Mark Cole ’73, and discovered a simple truth: Confidence can unlock doors.

Now, five years after he graduated from Oswego with a degree in communications, Houston has unlocked so many doors he hardly knows which direction to turn. At HBO, he supplies promotional materials (photos, artwork and the like) to international production companies, but in his spare time, he’s written his own plays and worked as a make-up artist on several independent films.

Currently, he’s the creative director for a play called “Miyorka,” running at the Culture Project in New York City this summer. And after that, Houston wants to consolidate all of his outside interests into a company he’s calling Aunree Jac, which will scout talent and work on creative services.

Hard to imagine Houston thinking of himself as a slacker, but he’s the first to admit that he’s always pushing himself. “I’ve procrastinated for so long,” said Houston, who lives in Hackensack, N.J. “Now I’m finally going to go out and make it happen.”

— MICHAEL WEINREB

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Kevin Heilbronner '89 WIZARD FROM OZ

THE VOICE OF THE NBA

Washington Wizards is none other than Kevin Heilbronner ’89 — one of only 30 NBA announcers in the country. The PA announcer for the Wizards home games, Heilbronner had a busy spring as the team made a rare appearance in the playoffs. That was quickly followed by the start of the WNBA Washington Mystics season, another team Heilbronner announces for. In fact, he’s called games for Washington’s NHL Capitals, now-defunct Major League Lacrosse Washington Power and WUSA streaming audio on the business-to-business Web site.

A broadcasting major at Oswego, Heilbronner was influenced by Professors Dave Nollis, Fritz Messere ’71, Tina Pieraccini, Marcia Moore and Mark Cole ’73. He did sports-casting on WTOP and called a few hockey games with Tom Caraccioli ’89 doing color.

A thrill for Heilbronner is announcing some of the biggest stars on the court today when Washington hosts the all-star game, as well as introducing then-President Bill Clinton at a Wizards game. And to think it all started with calling a Lakers baseball game.

Damon Gonzalez ’98

GLAMOUR- OUS JOB

WHEN HE CAME OUT OF OSWEGO with a degree in communication studies, Damon Gonzalez ’98 took a job in television advertising, but he had another notion: He wanted to work at Glamour magazine.

Seven years later, Gonzalez is the advertising production manager at Glamour, which means he works on the positioning of advertising and editorial content within the magazine, and helps shape the overall “look” of each issue. It’s the kind of job that grew out of Gonzalez’s experiences in college, when he took art and drawing classes beginning in his junior year. “Oswego provided a picturesque backdrop for a young creative mind,” he said, “I treasure the time spent and value the personal growth.

“That helped me get to know myself and where I wanted to be,” said Gonzalez, who grew up in Midwood, Brooklyn, and lives on New York’s Upper East Side. “I wanted to be able to do something that incorporated my art skills.”

Recently, the magazine asked its employees to name one of their heroes. Gonzalez said he looked up to filmmaker Michael Moore. “I admire people who have the courage to express themselves artistically.”

Gonzalez, who grew up reading his sister’s copies of Glamour, considers his job almost surreal. “I don’t know exactly what lies ahead,” he said, “but for right now, I have everything I wanted.”

Jennifer Rehn ’95

PRINCIPAL DUTIES

FROM SUN UP TO SUN DOWN, THE PRINCIPAL’S DOOR AT Robert F. Wagner Middle School in Manhattan is always open. “The day goes by so quickly,” said Jennifer Rehn ’95, a former math teacher and the school’s current principal. “I look up from my desk, and before I know it, it’s 8 p.m., and I’m still at my office.”

An applied mathematical economics major at Oswego State, Rehn discovered her interest in education shortly after graduation, and has since earned a master’s in math education from New York University, and a second master’s in school administration from Baruch University.

Following her promotion to principal of Wagner in July 2004, Rehn has maintained a busy schedule of administrative duties in addition to acting as a role model for her 1,425 middle-school children. Her dedication hasn’t gone unnoticed.

“She definitely loves the kids,” said Brian McCarthy ’03, a seventh-grade special education teacher. “My kids see her in the hall, and they just run up to her and give her a hug.”

Rehn admits that she misses teaching. As principal she has tried to maintain her connections with the kids. Whether it is purchasing a winter jacket for a needy student or sending a child to summer camp, McCarthy said she is always willing to go the extra mile.

“The support she gives filters down to the teachers, to the guidance counselors, and all the way to the kids,” McCarthy said. “It is a pleasure working for someone like her who is always upbeat and passionate about what they do.”

Jennifer Rehn ’95 and three students
TEACHING TECHNOLOGY CAN BE AN EXCITING ADVENTURE — just ask Todd Kelley ’93.

In the few short years since he left Oswego, Kelley has traveled to England and Japan on prestigious grants, devised a curriculum for elementary technology education, trained technology education teachers at a university and is now pursuing a doctorate. That journey might never have happened, he says, without the encouragement of Dr. Vernon A. Tryon ’58, then chair of Oswego’s technology education program. Kelley was an architecture major at Alfred State College and things weren’t going so well. When he visited Oswego, however, Tryon saw something in the young man. “He just believed in me,” Kelley said. “He was a very inspirational person.”

After Oswego, Kelley taught in the Avon School District. One day a state supervisor was observing him in the classroom and invited him to take part in the Goals 2000 planning process. Later, he received a Lilly Creativity Fellowship to study technology and design programs in England, and a Fulbright Memorial Fellowship to visit Japan.

Finishing up a one-year position teaching at Ball State University this spring, he was offered a fellowship at the University of Georgia, where he will pursue a doctorate and work with the National Center for Engineering and Technology Education, sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

He hopes to go on to teach teachers, but he keeps one philosophy close to his heart. “My successes aren’t measured in dollars or some of the experiences I’ve had,” Kelley says. “But in what my students are able to accomplish.”

— MICHELE REED

Jill Salisbury-Glennon ’91

INSPIRED TO TEACH

WHEN SHE ARRIVED ON THE OSWEGO campus, Jill Salisbury-Glennon ’91 had no idea she would someday be a professor. But as Dr. Rhonda Mandel taught child development topics, illustrating them with stories of her own two youngsters, it lit something in the undergraduate’s soul.

“It was so inspirational and so meaningful,” Salisbury-Glennon says. “Truly my professors at Oswego were such good role models and mentors.” She also looks to psychology professors Dr. Herb Van Schaack ’51 and Dr. Jackie Rehman as teaching models.

Now Dr. Salisbury-Glennon, an associate professor of educational psychology at Auburn University, is teaching her own crop of undergraduates. And she regales them with stories of her infant daughter, Caroline, to illustrate lessons in educational psychology.

Her current research focuses on college students, their learning and study strategies, an interest that began with her honors thesis at Oswego.

But the most satisfying thing is putting those learning theories into practice at an after-school tutoring program at a poor, rural school in Alabama.

“It is often difficult to tell who learns more through the program, the children who are being tutored or my undergraduate students,” she says. “It is truly a life-changing experience.”

— MICHELE REED
**Todd Snyder ’93**

**SPORTS SPECIALIST**

YOU WON’T SEE HIM ON YOUR TELEVISION SCREEN, BUT Todd Snyder ’93 comes as close as you can get to being a SportsCenter anchor.

Snyder has served as the personal producer to award-winning broadcaster Dan Patrick since August 2003. As co-producer of the 6 p.m. ET SportsCenter on ESPN, Snyder writes copy, and preps and produces interviews and other segments for each night’s broadcast. A researcher at ESPN since 1996, Snyder was promoted to his current position to bridge the gap for Patrick between his afternoon ESPN Radio show and the anchor desk.

Snyder racks up the frequent flyer miles to events like the World Series, Super Bowl, Monday Night Football, the MLB All-Star Game and baseball’s spring training to produce SportsCenter segments with Patrick.

He has interviewed some of the biggest names in sports, including Roger Clemens, Tiger Woods, Brett Favre, Jerry Rice and Peyton Manning, as well as coach Bob Knight. He produced a promo with millionaire Donald Trump (“If you don’t watch SportsCenter yet, you’re fired!”).

And when his show won two Sports Emmys — in 2003 and 2004 for “Best Studio Show: Daily” — Snyder was honored as one of the show’s producers.

A big sports fan while at Oswego, he remembers watching SportsCenter anchor Steve Levy ’87, knowing he and fellow anchor Linda Cohn ’81 were Oswego grads as well.

Now he, too, is living every sports fan’s dream, working on the premier sports show in the country.

**Stacie Overton ’98**

**HEALTH NEWS MAVEN**

THE CAREER OF STACIE OVERTON ’98 started with a New Year’s resolution. By Jan. 1, 1999, she promised herself that she would be in a new city, in a new state, and start a new career. Stacie got in her car and left New York for Orlando, Fla.

Stacie’s broadcasting degree soon landed her a job with Ivanhoe Broadcast News, one of the biggest health television news providers in the country.

As director of medical programming, she oversees stories and freelance work, and personally does over 70 stories a year. Her stories reach over 80 million viewers weekly on stations around the country.

In May, Stacie embarked on a freelance career, mainly within her current company. Her passion is health writing, and she wants to be where the action is.

She cites Oswego and Professor Peter Hunn as being unquestionably important to her career. She added that his unwavering respect for his students was a huge motivator. “He made you feel like you were already a professional.”

She also enjoyed her time on the soccer team and the friends that she made there.

“You met so many people in Oswego.”

— MELISSA A. STEFANEC ’04

**Maria Leaf ’00**

**ON AIR IN DC**

FIVE YEARS AFTER GRADUATION, Maria Leaf ’00 is still at WTOP. Only this time it’s the biggest AM station in the Washington, D.C., market. As a reporter for WTOP/Federal News Radio, she reports on the federal government and news of importance to its employees.

Previously she was the morning drive anchor and reporter for WGY in Albany, a post she held after stints at WIXT and WSYR in Syracuse.

Shortly after taking her new position, Leaf covered the presidential inauguration in January. “It was unbelievable,” she said. “All of the pomp and circumstance around it made it what it was.” She covered protests, including one which began peacefully on Dupont Circle and ended with a huge crush of protestors walking down Connecticut Avenue, blocking all traffic. Leaf was right in the thick of it, covering the action.

She started out wanting to be a print journalist, but ever since she started at WRVO in her freshman year and worked at WNYO and WTOP, she knew her future was in broadcasting. She credits WRVO’s Chris Ulanowski and Elizabeth Christensen ’98 as well as Professors Peter Hunn and Jerry Condra with helping and inspiring her toward her future career.

And while she’s professional in her role as journalist, Leaf admits to being a bit star-struck at the famous people she encounters daily as well as her ability to see American landmarks like the White House and Washington Monument whenever she wants. She says, “Being in this town is so magical.”

— RICH ARDEN
Some young men want to follow in their father’s footsteps, but when those footsteps trod before the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, following them takes dedication, composure and endurance. Just ask U.S. Army Sgt. Philip Fahrenholz ’01.

He is a Tomb Guard, as was his father, Donald Fahrenholz ’67. In fact, they are the only father-son team to have been awarded Tomb Guard badges. It’s an elite group: only 538 badge holders since the program’s inception in 1958. It’s the second least-awarded badge, right behind the astronaut badge.

Becoming a guard at the tomb honoring unknown soldiers from World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam is a grueling process. Guards must meet strict height and weight qualifications. A piece of lint, an award 1/32 of an inch off, scuffed shoes — three such errors can get one relieved of duty. There’s an 80 percent failure rate.

But Fahrenholz made Tomb Guard duty his goal, one that came into reach when his wife, Danielle Armstrong Fahrenholz ’99, landed a job in Washington, D.C. Phil, a chemistry and English major (with influences as varied as Dr. Patrick Murphy, Dr. Donald Masterson and Dr. Ken Hyde), signed up for the Army and was assigned to the Third Infantry, the “Old Guard,” stationed at Ft. Myers, Va., and began the training process.

And although he works 26-hour shifts that see him on his feet for 11 hours, wearing a woolen uniform even in the summer’s heat, Fahrenholz says it’s worth it.

“If I can give some type of solace to families who have lost loved ones, so they know they won’t be forgotten, their sacrifice will have some meaning to it,” he says. “What matters most to us is that we give some kind of peace and recognition to fellow soldiers and their families.”

— Michele Reed

Kahan Sablo ’90, M ’92

Kahan Sablo ’90, M ’92
Student Advocate

Kahan Sablo ’90, M ’92 originally saw being a New York City police officer as his final destination. However, his college experiences opened up new doors for him and exposed him to the diverse areas of student affairs. “I owe my career in Student Affairs to Oswego,” the soft-spoken Sablo said.

He was asked to be the interim vice president of Edinboro University this past year, and became the dean of students in 2004. There is no such thing as a typical day for Sablo. “All I know is that my day starts early and ends late,” he said.

His college days stirred his passion for music. He says he spent a lot of time in Tyler Hall, and was very involved in the Gospel Choir. Music still figures prominently in his life. Sablo is the minister of music at the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, where he oversees four choirs.

Sablo has been honored for his hard work and dedication. He received the 2004 Staff Member of the Year Award from Edinboro University.

He considers the tours taken with the Gospel Choir to be some of his fondest memories of Oswego, and still keeps in touch with friends he made there. Two people in particular from Oswego had a lasting influence on him: Harry Shock and the late Vivian Howard.

In his spare time, he is a paramedic for Edinboro’s volunteer fire department. He attributes this hobby to his days of riding with SAVAC.

Sablo does not believe he has reached his full potential yet. “I have a whole lot of world I want to shake up yet,” he chuckled.

— Catherine Degenaro ’05
Darren Rosenberg '91

TEACHING HEALING

DARREN ROSENBERG '91 USES manipulation regularly in his career. As a doctor of osteopathic medicine, he specializes in physical medicine rehabilitation. An outpatient doctor, he treats muscular and skeletal injuries using manual medicine to help about 20 patients per day with knee, hip, and shoulder injuries.

One of his career highlights is a class he teaches, sponsored by Harvard Medical School, "Intro to Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment." The continuing Medical Education class (CME) was a huge success and the first of its kind. "It was a milestone for the osteopathic profession."

Residents and students from Harvard Medical School also rotate with him at his office in the Spaulding-Framingham Rehabilitation Center in Massachusetts.

Rosenberg studied biology and chemistry at Oswego, where he met his wife Tracy Honors '91. They now live in Milford, Mass., and have two children: 5-year-old daughter, Carleigh, and 2-year-old son, Hayden.

Rosenberg feels that his coursework at Oswego prepared him for the road ahead. He called special attention to some courses he took with Dr. Larry Fuller '72, "Criminalistic Chemistry" and "Forensics." "They were extremely interesting courses and not the usual offerings that you would have at a university."

— MELISSA A. STEFANEC '04

Andrew Trentacoste '92

HELP IN THE 'HOOD

TAKING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO THE STREETS of Philadelphia is the mission of Andrew Trentacoste '92.

With advanced degrees in psychology and business, he uses his clinical and managerial skills to help people in the city’s neighborhoods. "We have to go to them," he says. "Whether it's physically going door to door or placing our programs in the community, we have to be close and accessible."

As a psychologist and associate behavioral health director at the not-for-profit behavioral health company, COMHAR, he oversees a number of programs serving low-income families or those on public assistance, and provides crisis response when there are traumatic events. Among his five outpatient programs are a clinic for Latino children and families and one for children infected and affected by HIV.

A member of the psychology honors program at Oswego, who minored in business administration, Trentacoste earned a doctorate in psychology and an MBA at Widener University, under the mentorship of fellow alumnus Marshall Swift '57.

At COMHAR, Trentacoste oversees 100 employees ranging from office support staff through therapists and professionals, and manages an annual operating budget of nearly $6 million. His units serve about 6,000 individuals per year.

Whether it's going out to provide crisis therapy after a school shooting or consulting at St. Christopher's Hospital about children who fail to thrive, Trentacoste welcomes the involvement. "I look forward to those opportunities," he says. "It's important that we, as members of the community, try to make the community we're part of better."

— MICHELE REED

Erin Trowbridge '98

CSI OSWEGO

EVERY DAY, CRIMINALS ARE getting smarter. They're wearing gloves and condoms, and covering their tracks better. That's why the world needs people like Erin Trowbridge '98, a trace evidence examiner at the Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences. Without her expertise, car crash, homicide, rape, burglary and assault victims might never get the answers that they are looking for.

In her laboratory she analyzes hairs, fibers, glass, headlight bulbs and other objects to determine what the untrained eye cannot.

She works with police departments and is an expert witness for the courts. She sifts through the evidence when there is nothing left and has hundreds of cases under her belt.

Trowbridge left LeMoyne College for Oswego so she could study forensics. After earning a degree in chemistry with a minor in forensic sciences, she attended classes at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., and the McCrone Institute in Chicago. Eventually she came back to CNY.

Erin said that the chemistry and forensic science programs at Oswego are excellent, and that she especially thanks Professor Larry Fuller '72.

"He's one of my main motivations for wanting to be a forensic scientist."

At Oswego she loved dorm life, hanging out, and attending hockey games.

Erin loves her job. "It’s one of the few professions where you’re learning every day and constantly being challenged. Plus, I get to help people."

— MELISSA A. STEFANEC '04
Lareina Restive ‘00
BREAKING THE SILENCE

As an embryologist, Lareina Restive ‘00 makes an ART out of her living. She practices Artificial Reproduction Technology (ART) at the CNY Fertility Center in Syracuse. Every day Lareina helps create life for couples that cannot conceive together naturally. Lareina injects oocytes (eggs) with a sperm and grows them in a laboratory for two weeks. The fertilized eggs are then transferred back to the woman, and a pregnancy is awaited. Her clinic also focuses on healing arts to soothe its patients’ minds and bodies. Lareina also freezes embryos for future use and provides embryos that don’t develop correctly for stem-cell research (assuming patient permission), or donates them.

“There’s a big shroud of silence when it comes to infertility,” she said. “What we do is important and what we do does much more good than harm.”

After earning a biology degree at Oswego, she received on-the-job training and eventually came into her post in Syracuse. She thanks senior-level classes that let her explore the world on her own, including one on embryology. She was also grateful for the Sheldon Leaders Program, which let her be a part of a leadership community.

Lareina loves her job, and claims to have the cutest final products of any profession. The letters of thanks pour in to her clinic every day.

“I’m still sometimes in wonderment that we can do this.”
— MELISSA A. STEFANEC ’04

Raymond Rudd ‘01
HELPING HAND

When Raymond Rudd ‘01 was just 11 years old, he dreamed about traveling to distant lands to help people. Now little more than 20 years later, he is a Christian missionary opening a school in the Dominican Republic.

The young Rudd thought joining the Peace Corps would be a great thing to do. When he was in college he explored the idea, and after a year of paperwork and medical exams, he was on his way to the Dominican Republic. What he experienced there changed his life.

“Taking ‘bucket baths’ and living by candlelight and hearing the bugs and mice that entered through the holes in the walls of my house made me realize just how much we take for granted in the U.S.”

In the Peace Corps, Rudd taught computer skills, repair and maintenance to high school students. Now over half of them are in university studying computers or working in jobs using the skills they learned.

Although his Peace Corps tour is over, the psychology major returned to the Dominican Republic this spring. He says he may just stay there.

“If you ever have the opportunity to experience another culture or even better, to live in another culture, jump at the opportunity,” is his advice. “It will teach you so much not only about the other culture, but about yourself.”
— MICHELE REED

Jennifer Amo ‘93
AGENT OF JUSTICE

A flair for languages and an Oswego degree in Russian has led Jennifer Amo ‘93 into the fight against kidnapping, extortion, prostitution, medical fraud, alien smuggling and attempted murder.

A special agent in the FBI’s Los Angeles Organized Crime Unit, Amo investigates organized crime groups, especially those with Eurasian, Russian and Armenian ties.

Her unit employs all the tools of law enforcement: from interviews, informants and wiretaps, to surveillance and undercover agents.

It’s dangerous work, but Amo finds it satisfying, especially moments like reuniting a kidnapping victim with his family.

Amo came upon her love of languages early. Her mother’s family spoke French, and Jennifer had a flair for foreign tongues. She was drawn to Oswego because of the college’s strong language program and aimed to become a translator.

After college, however, she knew she did not want to spend her days in an office. She went to work for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, first in Washington, D.C., and later in San Francisco. When a post opened up in the FBI, she applied, entering her training at Quantico in 1999.

Since then she’s been able to travel to Paris, Budapest and Moscow, and says a future posting abroad would be welcome.

Still, Oswego’s lakeside campus holds happy memories for Amo, especially the people she worked with for four years in Littlepage Dining Hall. “They were like another family. They were great to me.”
— MICHELE REED
Chris Wildenauer ’94 DR. BONES

CROSS AN ENGLISH MAJOR AND A BUSINESS MINOR AND you get a chiropractor. At least that's how it happened for Chris Wildenauer ’94, a doctor of chiropractic.

His career path began when he was diagnosed with an ulcer and was ordered to remain on medications for the rest of his life. In 1993 Wildenauer started treatments with his chiropractor. Shortly after his treatments, his ulcer faded.

It was then he thought to himself, "There were no drugs, no surgery. I've got to learn this stuff."

After Oswego, he attended a college in North Carolina and studied chiropractics. From there he worked for a doctor and eventually began his own home practice in 2000 in Seaford, Long Island. He prides himself on being able to get rid of any nerve intolerance for his patients.

He and his wife, Susan Laub Wildenauer ’96, married in 1999. Their first son, Colby, was born in April. Chris is captain of the fire police, a chamber of commerce member, and a Third Degree Knight for the Knights of Columbus.

Chris’ memories of Oswego are fond. He attended virtually every home Laker hockey game, and wishes he could still go now. He was also a member of the ROTC. He said that he thanks Oswego for giving him a well-rounded education. His full-spectrum education gave him the courage to start an unusual career path.

"I now have the skills to study anything that's out there," he said.

— MELISSA A. STEFANEC '04

Lauren Elbaum Duran ’95 DIVERSE PATHS

THE VARIED PERMUTATIONS OF HER CAREER, Lauren Elbaum Duran ’95 figures, will all make sense someday. For now, a convergence of luck and circumstances has led Duran from the production of children’s-television programs to parties with P. Diddy to a burgeoning career in the non-profit sector. "I've kind of fallen into everything I've done," she said.

Duran (who's married to Julian A. Duran Jr. ’96, and lives on Manhattan’s Upper East Side) graduated in 1995 with a degree in English Writing Arts; she'd taken a sitcom writing class at Oswego, and she left school with dreams of becoming a television writer. Her first job was with an independent television production company; from there, she moved to several other companies, producing everything from Lifetime documentaries to a Martha Stewart Christmas special.

In 2001, however, work began to dry up, and Duran fell into a job as a publicist for FUBU, an urban clothing company. After two years of endless networking at industry parties with hip-hop luminaries like P. Diddy, she found an Internet posting for a job at the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, based at Columbia University. There she met the organization's president, Joseph A. Califano, Jr., a former domestic advisor to President Lyndon Johnson and secretary of health, education and welfare under President Jimmy Carter.

"He was the smartest person I've ever met," said Duran, who's now a special assistant to Califano, working to raise awareness of the widespread societal damage caused by substance abuse. “He’s had such a rich life.”

Her own life, Duran hopes, will veer back toward television writing someday. “I don’t know how or when,” she said. “I’ll figure out why I've fallen into these things later in life.”

— MICHAEL WEINREB

Matthew Hart ’95 9/11 HERO

MATTHEW HART ’95 WAS A YOUNG OFFICER in the 13th Precinct of the NYPD on Sept. 11, 2001, and due to a convergence of geography and timing, he happened to be one of the earliest responders after the first plane hit the World Trade Center. Each time a tower collapsed, he nearly suffocated in the soot and debris; the second time, as he hid inside a movie theatre, his partner had to shoot out a pair of glass doors just so they could get more air.

Then Hart did the only thing he could think to do at that point: He went back to the scene. He stayed until almost 2 that afternoon before catching a ride back to the precinct — located on 21st Street on Manhattan’s East Side — with a civilian who stopped to pick him up. “It was a devastating day,” said Hart, who lost several friends.

The life of a cop was not one Hart had envisioned when he graduated from Oswego with a degree in business administration. But Hart, a native of Bethpage who now lives in Lindenhurst, was a powerlifter and played lacrosse his final two years of college, which helped him pass the NYPD’s physical tests.

And as a side job, he's gotten into real estate, buying and selling several properties through his company, MKKH Enterprises. He’s also used his real-estate license to help broker deals for some of his colleagues on the force out in Lindenhurst.

“I’m building my own Copland out here,” he says.

— MICHAEL WEINREB

Matthew Hart ’95

Lauren Elbaum Duran ’95

Lauren Elbaum Duran ’95

Lauren Elbaum Duran ’95
Sabrina Squillari '01
BRONX ZOOKEEPER

She'd spent much of her youth making trips from her home in Queens to the Bronx Zoo, and so, not surprisingly, Sabrina Squillari '01 had little difficulty figuring out what she wanted to do with her life. She applied to Oswego specifically because of its zoology program, and she worked internships throughout college at the Central Park Zoo, with the dream of someday coming back to the Bronx Zoo as an employee.

But to work with primates? That part came as a surprise to Squillari, who had always imagined working with larger animals like elephants and bears. When she got her job at the Bronx Zoo, in the fall of 2001, shortly after graduating from Oswego, Squillari was assigned to primates, and began working specifically with gorillas. She's been doing it ever since.

"The most rewarding part is the relationship you develop with each animal," she said. "You know they can hurt you. You know they're still a wild animal. But you can form a unique bond with them. You can get to know each one personally."

— MICHAEL WEINREB

Jim Triandiflou '88
PEOPLE-FOCUSED EXEC

It's not about the money, it's about the people, says Jim Triandiflou '88. That humanistic approach to business has led this alumnus through boom and bust economies to his position as chief operating officer of Centive.

Inspired by Dr. James Molinari '75, Triandiflou left Oswego for New York City to try his hand at advertising. At industry leader Grey Advertising, he was account executive on the $10 million Minolta campaign.

After earning his MBA at Arizona State, he joined the Alexander Group, where he worked with technology and telecom giants like IBM, Hewlett Packard and Lucent. He chose the company because of the people. As the firm grew, he rose to southeast regional VP, heading a team that traveled the world consulting for global clients.

Triandiflou has returned to campus twice for the School of Business Alumni Symposium. Noting that his experience as Student Association vice-president built his confidence and leadership skills and his year on the baseball team taught him about working with people, he urges students to get involved in something outside the classroom and to seek a career where money isn't the only object. He tells them: "It's so critical to do something that really enriches people's lives."

— MICHELE REED

Wendy McCammon-Lee '92
MEDIA MONEY MANAGER

With a professor's encouragement and SUNY on her resume, Wendy McCammon-Lee '92 obtained her accounting degree and parlayed it into a top-level job at an American media giant.

Joan Carroll of the accounting department saw the potential in McCammon-Lee and urged her to "dig in her heels" and complete the tough accounting degree program. After she spent a couple of years in private accounting and a stint at a Florida company, a supervisor at Fox News, himself a SUNY grad, would see Oswego on McCammon-Lee's résumé and hire her over a field of 1,000 applicants. That's how, 10 1/2 years ago, she came to Fox News as a financial analyst. She is now vice president of finance for Fox's syndication arm and Direct TV advertiser sales in New York City, managing half a billion dollars in annual advertising sales revenue.

A committed volunteer to causes like the Revlon Run/Walk for women's cancers and New York Cares, McCammon-Lee is also an active alumna, serving on the Oswego Alumni Association board of directors, spearheading a business alumni group in New York City and mentoring students through the ASK program. She says, "It's really important for me personally to give back to the students."

— MICHELE REED
Eric Berkey ‘93  R.I. CHESS MASTER

YOU MIGHT SAY IT WAS A GOOD OPENING MOVE for Eric Berkey ‘93, transferring to Oswego from SUNY Morrisville. Once on the lakeside campus he joined the Oswego State chess team. “It was some of the most fun I’ve had in my entire life,” he says.

Now Berkey, whose day job is as territory manager for Retail Product Services, organizes all the chess tournaments in the state of Rhode Island.

His days in Oswego got him hooked on tournament play. The Oswego team competed in the Pan American Games, a big intercollegiate tournament, and played in the New York-Penn league. “We represented Oswego very, very well,” he says.

After Oswego, he worked in the Syracuse area, where tournament play is highly organized. Moving to Rhode Island for a promotion meant he was coming to an area where competitive chess had fallen into disarray.

He started to help Frank Delbonis with scholastic tournaments to learn how to be a tournament director. “It was something I always wanted to do,” Berkey says. “I had this vision of running tournaments in Rhode Island and bringing chess back to the area.”

The two revived the Rhode Island PawnEater tournament series, drawing 35 to 50 players weekly for the past year. “It’s been so satisfying to me,” Berkey says.

In May, he helped organize a state tournament, Rhode Island’s first since 2001, and it drew over 100 players competing for $2,500 in prize money.

“If you run a good tournament, people will come,” Berkey says. “I’m leaving my stamp on the state of Rhode Island.”

— MICHIE REED

Lisa Frattare ‘89  STAR GAZER

NOT EVERYONE CAN GET AWAY WITH SPENDING HIS or her workdays gazing off into space, but Lisa Frattare ‘89 does just that.

The Oswego psychology major and astronomy minor has spent the last eight and a half years as an image processor for the Hubble Space Telescope in Baltimore.

A mother of two with husband, James Wisniewski ‘89, Frattare says she spends much of her workday transferring and filtering information from the telescope into images that have both scientific and aesthetic value. As the coordinator for the Hubble Heritage Space Project, Frattare works with her teammates to increase public awareness about space and the Hubble telescope by distributing images for use nationwide.

“Our images have shown up everywhere,” Frattare said. “They are used in textbooks, magazines, planetariums, space centers, television, advertisements, and even a Pearl Jam CD.”

Although Frattare has more than 11 years of education at three institutions, she credits Oswego State and Professor Emeritus Ron Chaldu with inspiring her lifelong fascination with astronomy. “You introduced an 18-year-old psychology major to the beauty and splendor of the heavens and what would become my passion,” Frattare wrote to Chaldu.

It is continuing to gaze at these splendors, Frattare said, that makes her job all the more worthwhile.

“I think a lot of people take astronomy for granted,” she said. “Given the chance, my colleagues and I would be the people that are up looking at stuff when everyone else is asleep. It is just thrilling.”

— SHANNON MAHAR ‘04

Dave DeVillers ‘89  PROSECUTING TERROR

THE REPUTATION OF DAVE DeVillers ‘89 as a tough, talented prosecutor took him all the way to prosecuting organized crime for the Department of Justice. But wanting to do something for his country took him all the way to Iraq last year to investigate terrorist activity.

His wife Julia Rozines DeVillers ‘89 had known fellow Oswego students Lynn Hartunian and Colleen Brunner, who perished in the Pam Am 103 bombing in December 1989. Sept. 11, 2001, further fueled his commitment to combating terrorism. When the DOJ sought volunteers to help with the effort in Iraq, the potential dangers didn’t deter him.

While mission specifics are confidential, DeVillers’ Iraq involvement mainly focused on the terrorist organization MEK.

At times, it made his stout stateside responsibilities — such as prosecuting drug, weapon and murder cases — seem almost tame. “It was very difficult and dangerous to travel,” DeVillers recalled. “We were shelled and rocketed a few times. Nothing really came close to me but it sure seemed like it at the time.”

He found the morale to be very high, and took pride in serving his country and countering terrorism. DeVillers even recounted what he termed a “surreal experience” as a guest of honor for a feast at the MEK camp.

“What I got out of Oswego was the knowledge that you get what you put into something,” DeVillers said. “Oswego was an opportunity for me to get an education and become independent. I also had a pretty good time.”

— TIM NEKRITZ M ’05
THE ONLY BUSINESS THAT MATTHEW Barkley ’01 has is helping others. As statewide systems advocate for ARISE, he fights for the rights of people with disabilities. Through letters, phone calls, rallies, demonstrations and trips to Albany, Barkley is making the world a more inviting place for people with disabilities.

Barkley suffered a spinal cord injury early on in his college years. He finished his college career at Oswego and received a degree in public relations.

What he enjoyed most about Oswego was the ability of the campus community to accept him after his injury. “The faculty and students at Oswego were very welcoming and made a smooth transition for me.”

His rehabilitation and re-entry into college taught him some tough lessons. He learned that people with disabilities need to be a part of the community as any other person does. “People with disabilities need to be served in the community and integrated.”

Barkley feels that people with disabilities are one of the groups discriminated against most in modern times. Through working with ARISE, he hopes to change the public mind.

— MELISSA A. STEFANEC ’04

Duane Smith ’90

CALL HIM BACCHUS. FOR LIKE THE Roman god of wine, Duane Smith ’90 is determined to bring the pleasures of the vine to the people of the North Country.

The fact that the northern climes are not noted for grape producing doesn’t bother him in the least. He works with experts at Cornell and the University of Minnesota to bring in cultivars that are suited to the St. Lawrence Valley climate.

As a nurseryman, he takes cuttings and propagates young vines in a greenhouse and sells them to growers, hobbyists and those who want to start a winery. He has at least 500 vines in more than 30 varieties. Some are table grapes, some are wine grapes; most are dedicated to coldhardiness.

As vice president of the non-profit Seaway Wine and Viticulture Association, he creates outreach programs and assists people in getting vineyards up and running. Smith’s goal is to create a new wine trail in an area of the state that has never had one. “The slogan I use is ‘Bridging the gap between the Finger Lakes and the Adirondacks,’” he says.

At Oswego he had no inkling he would one day be the Johnny Appleseed of a new wine trail. He started as a biology major. “And then the figure drawing classes really inspired me,” he says. He has been teaching elementary art at Carthage Central School District for the past 10 years.

Oswego had one other influence on this viticulture visionary. “To be a really global thinker — I got that from Oswego,” Smith says. “Creative people are aware of other things, too.”

— MICHELE REED
JUNE 9–11 1931 75th

JUNE 9–11 1941 65th

JUNE 9–11 1946 60th

JUNE 9–11 1951 55th

JUNE 9–11 1956 50th

JUNE 9–11 1936 70th

Class Notes

Five alumni living or wintering in Boynton Beach, Fla., held a mini reunion. Standing, from left, are Carol Roth Blieberg ’51, Marion Cohen Michaels ’50 and Barbara Pearl Goroff ’51; and sitting, from left, are Terry Orkand Carin ’51 and Annette Achenbaum Morse ’51. All of the women were teachers and are grandmothers, and four of them married Oswego classmates.

A mini Oswego reunion took place this spring in Palm Coast, Fla. Getting together were, from left, Isabel Mejewski Eddy ’51, Suzanne Sleight Fall ’50 and Cheryl Abramson Berger ’49.
A Friend, in Any Language

AFTER A CAREER OF TEACHING RUSSIAN to high schoolers, Ted Murray ’56 continues to put his expertise to good work, helping immigrants from Russia and the Ukraine get a foothold in their new country.

His newest endeavor began shortly after retirement, when the school principal called him in to help with a new family speaking a language he couldn’t understand. Ted helped Nikolai Korolchuk enroll his three children and later went on to help him find a place to live, land a job and negotiate area services. One thing led to another and soon Ted was helping other immigrants from Russia with medical appointments, income taxes, social services and other needs. “It has been, and continues to be, very rewarding,” he says. He is also the official interpreter for the Herkimer County Court and Social Services, all on an unpaid volunteer basis. “This has given me an opportunity to pay back all the rewards and opportunities which higher education has granted me,” he says.

After graduating from Oswego, Ted taught at New Hartford Central Schools before earning a master’s in American history. He taught high school social studies until the Sputnik era arrived and the race was on for outer space superiority. Ted obtained a grant to study Russian at Colgate.

He received a highly competitive grant from the National Science Foundation in Russian language study and completed his graduate studies at Dartmouth College.

As head of the foreign language department at Whitesboro High School, he developed one of the largest Russian language programs in the country and received national recognition. He also taught Russian at the local community college. He arranged and directed two student trips to Russia, in 1985 and 1987. “Speaking to ordinary Russians was the most interesting thing I have ever done,” he says.

Ted and his wife, Joanne, a former English teacher, spend their winters in Florida. They have four children and five grandchildren. Ted would love to hear from Oswego friends at tedmurray@verizon.net.

Ted Murray ’56 and wife, Joanne
Living “la belle vie”

GINNY BUMPUS BLACKWELL ’75 HAS A JOB MAKING dreams come true. A lifelong lover of France, inspired by her year abroad as an Oswego student, Blackwell helps groups of families purchase charming French properties.

“In my business, www.frenchpropertyshares.com, I research and buy wonderful, unique old stone properties in France and then do the leg work to create a home base for six to eight families who would love a home base in France but not the expense of owning a house by themselves,” Ginny says.

She still has fond memories of her year in France under Dr. Georges Markow-Totevy and keeps in close contact with her French roommate, Claire Quidet, who lives in Paris and works for the French Newschannel 2.

“That experience in spending a year abroad at the Sorbonne in 1973 was life-changing,” Ginny says.

She always dreamed of going back to live in France. So in 1997, when her husband’s friendship with a French winemaker near their 18-acre farm south of Portland, Ore., led them to hear about some French properties for sale, they took the leap.

After looking at several homes, they found La Bruyere (The Heather), a four-bedroom house in the country down a long drive filled with daffodils in the Dordogne region, east of Bordeaux.

The couple ended up with a group of nine families who decided to put their money together to buy the house and invest in 500 cases of wine, the sale of which would help finance the upkeep of the house.

Each family can spend up to six weeks a year at the house.

The Blackwells also spent a year in a rented home in France, enrolling their three children in school there.

Later they would purchase three more properties for groups of Americans wishing to enjoy the slower pace of life in France.

“For a lot of us it would be out of our budget,” she says. By pooling their resources, they are able to fulfill their dreams.

“It’s a fun way to make a living,” Ginny says. “I’m making a real difference.”
Louis A. Borrelli, Jr. ’77 has accepted the position of chief executive officer of NEP Broadcasting, LLC, the worldwide leader in television production services.

The company is headquartered in Pittsburgh, with offices in New York, Los Angeles and London supporting strategic partners and clients all over the world.

NEP’s divisions lead their respective industry segments:

- Supershooters are strategic partners to every major broadcast and cable network — Super Bowl, summer and winter Olympics, World Cup, America’s Cup, Daytona 500, The Masters, NBA All Star Weekend, NFL, NASCAR, MLB, WWE, NCAA, PGA Tours.
- Denali serves virtually every major award show and other major music and entertainment productions.
- Screenworks is the world’s largest provider of mobile and modular JumboTron and LED daylight video screens — Winter Olympics, NASCAR, Super Bowl — and also produces live televised concert events for performers like The Rolling Stones, The Dave Matthews Band and Eric Clapton.
- NEP Studio is the largest independent television production service provider in New York City, with nine studios in seven locations providing engineering, creative and technical expertise to commercial and program producers, networks and syndication.
- Visions is the United Kingdom’s premier independent mobile broadcast service provider. The English Premier League and Scottish FA Cup soccer, Wimbledon and French Open tennis are among the marquee events they produce across the UK, Europe and the Middle East.

“In a way, this represents full circle for me,” says Borrelli. “My first ‘real job’ was producing and directing local cable programming for UA-Columbia, building trucks, outfitting studios and developing creative solutions to achieve excellence — admittedly on a slightly different scale from NEP today.”

Borrelli will be joining the senior management team as an investor and member of the company’s board of directors.

**Opera Gala Set**

Oswego Opera Theatre will sponsor an Endowment Gala Event Sept. 11 honoring Dr. James Soluri, professor emeritus of music and founder of Oswego Opera Theatre. Among those performing will be baritone Philip Cokorinos ’79 and tenors Gerard Powers ’80 and Craig Schulman ’79. The gala will take place at 2:30 p.m. at the American Foundry, 246 West Seneca St. in Oswego. Ticket prices are $100, $50 or $25. For more information contact Juan La Manna, Oswego Opera Theatre artistic director, at 315-312-2978 or jlamanna@oswego.edu. Shown at a gala in 1997 are Dr. James Soluri (front) and from left Craig Schulman '79, Eleanor Kelley '83, and Philip Cokorinos '79.
Husband, father, teacher, coach and director are only five of the multitude of roles that Joe Lores ’80 plays. Recognizing all these accomplishments, the Lynbrook / East Rockaway Herald, located on Long Island, named Lores as the 2004 Person of the Year.

“Lores has coached a total of nine athletic teams, established the Rock Shop, founded the Rocks Athletic Hall of Fame and developed a method of recording the school’s athletic achievements with his Rocks Record Book,” according to the Herald.

Lores started teaching and coaching at East Rockaway High in 1982. He has left a lasting impression on players he has coached. Pamela Boccuzzi, a former player, told the Herald, “He has definitely shaped my life. In sports, he made me a truly competitive athlete. He pushed me to do things he believed I could do, and with his confidence in me, I found the confidence in myself.”

Lores’ commitment to athletics and his community does not stop when the school year ends. He started a summer basketball program with the Police Athletic League 15 years ago, and it remains very popular today. Lores also initiated a four-week summer playgroup for elementary-school children and was a driving force in establishing the goodwill games between East Rockaway and Lynbrook in basketball and softball.

All of his hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. He was named Nassau County Coach of the Year in softball in 1998, 1999 and 2002, in basketball in 2000 and in soccer in 2002.

— Catherine DeGenaro ’05
Alumnus Lost in Everest Attempt

Michael C. O’Brien ’89 headed to the top of the world with a little piece of Oswego.

With his brother Christopher, he was climbing Mount Everest this spring for a cause. They hoped to be the first American brothers to summit Everest together and raise $100,000 for the Hereditary Disease Foundation’s mission against illnesses like Huntington’s Disease, which afflicts their family.

Michael stowed a little Oswego State pennant in his gear for a picture at the summit. But he never made it to the top of the 29,035-foot mountain. He died in an accident May 1 at the Khumbu Icefall.

Michael was an experienced climber and had conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, Cho Oyu in Tibet and other peaks.

“He decided to take on this challenge of climbing Mount Everest to shout from the mountaintops that hereditary diseases like Huntington’s need more research, need to find a cure, and need to be recognized for the suffering that families endure,” said his sister, Kathryn O’Brien Caltabiano.

The O’Brien family endured their share of suffering, having lost their mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and uncle to Huntington’s, a deadly inherited neurological disease. Michael and his six siblings faced a 50 percent chance of developing the disease.

Michael’s response to the threat of Huntington’s was to “live life on the edge, to the fullest every day, challenging his physical and mental stamina,” Kathryn said.

After Oswego, he earned his master’s from Syracuse University’s Maxwell School, but instead of seeking a high-powered career, he opted for jobs that would allow him the freedom to travel and have adventures. He and soul mate Rebecca Stodola lived in Seattle, where he worked as a bartender for the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks, and was a white-water rafting instructor.

At 6’6” Michael was a real presence, say family and friends. Sean Broderick, who grew up with him and would later be assistant basketball coach when Michael played for Oswego, said, “Mike never tried to draw attention to himself, but you were just attracted to the guy because of his personality. If he felt passionate about something, he did it.”

He felt passionate about the cause that took him to the top of the world and eventually took his life. “While his death is a tragedy, Michael died pursuing a cause he believed in, helping those afflicted by Huntington’s disease,” brother-in-law Bruce Donaldson told 750 mourners in his eulogy. “There can be no more noble death than that.”

To read more about Michael C. O’Brien ’89 and his quest to summit Mount Everest, go to http://www.obrienseverest.com/index.html
Alumnus Challenges Forecasters

Tired of hearing each television station boast it has the most accurate forecast, Bruce Fixman ’86 decided to do something about it. “I thought back to my college days, and remembered forecasting contests we had. I thought if we held stations accountable, maybe they would have a more accurate forecast,” Fixman said.

He started creating WeatheRate in October 2002, and the startup process took about six months. The objective of WeatheRate.com is not to make forecasts, but to tell the public who has the most accurate forecast among the top 75 television markets in the country.

WeatheRate verifies four-day forecasts using criteria like high and low temperatures, precipitation, fog, snow accumulation and winds. WeatheRate.com describes what happens next. According to the Web site, “Using weather tracking software, mathematical calculations are used to determine which television stations have the best daily, weekly and monthly accuracy.” The station that rates the highest is given the WeatheRate seal of approval. Fixman said this gives them an advantage over other stations.

WeatheRate was named as Inc. magazine’s “Idea to Watch” in February 2004. Fixman said that so far there has been an overwhelmingly positive response to WeatheRate. “People say, ‘Wow! That’s a great idea.’ They then follow up that comment with an inquiry into which station is the most accurate in their area,” said Fixman.

Weather has been an important component of Fixman’s life. He knew he wanted to major in meteorology in college, so he decided to attend Oswego, where he was influenced by Dr. Robert Ballentine, Mark Wysocki and Dr. Eugene Chermack. “They had a tremendous love for meteorology, and they shared this with their students. They kept the excitement about learning meteorology alive,” Fixman said.

Fixman now resides in Arizona, making Oswego winters just a memory. However, he fondly recalls his time at Oswego. His favorite weather memory took place during finals week in December 1985. “It had started snowing by 8 p.m. that evening, and by 6 a.m. the next morning there was almost three feet of snow outside. My exams were delayed by two hours that day,” Fixman said.

— Catherine DeGenaro ’05
On the morning of Jan. 28, AnnMarie Scamacca Link ’91, her husband, Larry, and their children stepped out of their house to a lawn full of people, many bearing gifts.

The Links were being featured by NBC’s “Today” show as “Unsung Heroes,” recognizing the extraordinary story of the family’s battle with 5-year-old Kyle’s cancer and kidney disease.

“We were extremely surprised,” AnnMarie told Oswego.

“It has been a long ordeal with our son,” she said. “We are so pleased to see him at the level of health he is at now.”

At 1 year old, Kyle was diagnosed with chronic nephrosis — both of his kidneys were failing. Within three months they discovered that he had a very fast-growing, but manageable, cancer. Kyle underwent chemotherapy, but lost the other kidney and had to have dialysis twice weekly. “It was tough on his body, tough on his spirits,” said AnnMarie. In August 2003, Larry gave one of his kidneys to Kyle in a transplant.

“There’s always a good that comes out of everything,” AnnMarie says. For the Links it was the “incredible people” they met during Kyle’s battle with disease: the folks at the “Today” show; pilots at Angelflight, the volunteer service which flew Kyle to Boston for his transplant and follow-up visits; and the families of other sick children.

AnnMarie, who holds a master’s from Rochester Institute of Technology and an MBA from University of Rochester, left a lucrative career at Xerox to be a full-time stay-at-home mom to Kyle, Michael, 7, and Rachael, 3, and manager of Kyle’s treatment. She reflects that the skills she learned at Oswego helped. “The tools you learn in being a stronger person, the business tools I learned, I used in trying to manage my son’s illness.”

Several friends from Oswego helped AnnMarie cope over the last few years with their calls and e-mails, including Colleen Dinolfo Hammell ’90, Cathy Teehan O’Keefe ’90, Kris Chapman Wurff ’90, Karen Parker ’91, Harold Mondschein ’91, J.J. Jones ’87, Joy Westerberg Knopp ’92, Brent Hesseltine ’93 and Tony Calandra ’92. “It is comforting to know that the friends I so cherished while at Oswego have stuck by my side during these times of need,” says AnnMarie.
Dear Friends,

The Oswego Alumni Association is excited to offer a new way for alumni to stay in touch with each other and their alma mater, with the launch this spring of a new password-protected Web-based community exclusively for Oswego alumni, OsweGoConnect. I encourage you all to sign on and take advantage of the many features the community offers.

At OsweGoConnect, Oswego alumni can: search for and reconnect with classmates and friends; sign up for free, permanent e-mail forwarding; check out a calendar of alumni events and register online; submit a classnote for the magazine or post updates and pictures to your own personal page; find products and services from fellow alumni or promote your own; post a résumé and network with fellow alumni; post job openings and check out job postings; post to message boards; and join alumni chat rooms.

Here are some comments from alumni who have already joined:

“I have just been spending some time getting to know the new Web site (OsweGoConnect). Kudos! It brought back many memories. Hoping to reconnect with some old friends!”

“I registered for OsweGoConnect today. I absolutely love it! I’ve spent a good part of the day looking people up in the directory. There are so many ways to search — it is just addictive! Better than Google. It will be even better when more people start to register and start using the various features . . . Great job on your part!”

To join, simply go to www.oswego.edu/alumni/, click on OsweGoConnect and follow the simple instructions. Use your nine-digit ID number on the mailing label of this magazine to enter the community for the first time. Then you can change to your own personal password. (Alumni couples, call the Alumni Office at 315-312-2258 or e-mail alumni@oswego.edu for individual ID numbers.)

We hope to hear from you all soon at OsweGoConnect!

Betsey Oberat
Sometimes Oswego connections span not only generations, but continents. Last winter Paul ’66 and Deborah Dixson Hill ’66; their son Thomas Hill ’96 and his wife, Sandra; and Paul and Debby’s daughter Heather McArdle and her husband, Tom, all spent Christmas in Chile, visiting Sandra’s Chilean parents. Tom met Sandra eight years ago, while flying over the Andes to Brazil during his semester in Santiago, Chile, with SUNY Plattsburgh’s Southern Cone Program, arranged through Oswego’s Office of International Education. Shown at a restaurant near Santiago are, from left, Debby, Heather, Paul, Tom McArdle, Tom Hill, Claudia Sanchez (Sandra’s sister), and Sandra.
The Nightmare after Christmas

An idyllic Christmas holiday turned into a nightmare for Kristin Meredith ’95 and her fiancé, Richard Allen. The couple was visiting Phuket, Thailand, when the tsunami hit that region Dec. 26. “Our first week there was idyllic, we went scuba diving, sunbathed, and on Christmas day we spent time in Khao Lak, riding elephants and visiting a sea turtle sanctuary. It was the perfect vacation,” she writes. When the earthquake hit, they thought it was only a minor tremor and continued walking along the beach until they saw the ocean recede. As the water rushed back — about a meter per second — they hurried back to their bungalow to retrieve luggage and passports. “The water kept rising, and we tried to get to the back door to get out. All of a sudden, the water knocked through the doors facing the ocean, and within seconds, we were completely underwater. Richard swam down under water and furniture, trying to open the back door, and I was struggling, unsuccessfully, to get as high to the ceiling as I could to try and get air.

“The force of the water collapsed the wall separating the bedroom and bathroom, and the large bathroom window burst out...Fortunately, we were both shot outside, behind the bungalow, where we grabbed palm trees to wait out the current.”

Once the water subsided, they ran back into the bungalow and threw passports and valuables into a suitcase (which Richard caught outside as it floated by!), and tied it to the pipes in the bathroom. When the second wave hit, they took shelter behind what was left of the concrete wall of the bungalow until the water subsided again. They were evacuated to a municipal building a mile or two from the sea. Returning later, Richard discovered that looters had stolen everything from the suitcase: all their money, credit cards, mobile phones.

“They left our passports and plane tickets, so we felt very lucky, not to mention the fact that we were alive and together,” writes Kristin. “The Thai people were phenomenal and they couldn’t do enough to help us.”

Kristin teaches middle school at the Shanghai American School, Shanghai, China. Richard, a native of Staffordshire, England, is service and parts manager at JCB Construction Equipment in Shanghai.

Kristin Meredith ’95 and Richard Allen
Kendis Gibson ’94 is the co-host of “I Want That!” HGTV’s new show featuring cool and interesting new gadgets for home improvement and gardening.

Most recently Kendis was the entertainment anchor on CNN Headline News, where since 2002 he covered the doings of celebrities and reported from the red carpet at the Oscars and Grammy awards.

An Emmy Award winner, he has worked as a reporter and anchor in Rochester and Philadelphia, and from 2000 to 2002 was entertainment anchor for WNBC and a correspondent for NBC News, where he covered the terrorist attacks of September 11, among other major stories.

He was one of the keynote speakers at the 2002 Return to Oz reunion for alumni of color.
An Oswego Grad in the Queen’s Court

It’s not Rumpole of the Bailey. That lawyer in court with the be-wigged and robed judge is Thomas Foley ’00, lawyer to the Court of Appeal of England and Wales in Her Majesty’s Court Service.

After Oswego, Foley headed off to Hofstra Law School on Long Island. There he excelled in international law and family law.

“After writing a published student note on international custody disputes with Islamic nations, I was referred by a justice I became acquainted with from Australia to Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Thorpe here at the court,” Foley writes. “One thing led to another and they offered me an opportunity to clerk for them here. It was the first time a citizen of the United States had done so."

After a year, Foley was invited to stay on as a lawyer working for the Lord Justices and managing all 100-plus family applications and appeals before the Court of Appeal. The job is hectic and he has worked on several high-profile cases, notes Foley.

And although the cases are headline-fresh, the setting is like “going through a time warp.” Stained glass and oak adorn the court building, first opened by Queen Victoria in 1888, and the Lord Justices wear wigs and black robes.

Foley, who was influenced at Oswego by Political Science Professors Stephen Rosow and Stephen Baron, has applied to be a solicitor in England and hopes to be made a permanent part of Her Majesty’s court system.
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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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!
Shane Martindale Krobish ’98 and Christian Krobish ’99 were married Aug. 7, 2004, at Sage Chapel in Ithaca. Oswego alumni in attendance were: (back row from left) Tim Miller ’00, Derek Martindale ’95, James Roberts ’99, Ryan Smith ’98, Michael Robusto ’98, Tom Varian ’98, Tara Beyer ’00, Michael Ferraro ’00, Christine Maggio Roberts ’99, Sharon Kerner Powell ’99, Don Powell ’99; (middle row from left) Patty Tiberia Haus ’98, Jennifer Koller Galarza ’98, Eleanor Rasulo Meyers ’98, Alana Smith Trani ’98, Kathleen McKenna ’98; (Front row from left) the bridegroom and the bride. Alumni not pictured are: Chad Meyers ’98, Gina Cosh Martindale ’95 and John Cosh ’99. The couple resides in Charlotte, N.C., where Shane is a market manager for eCommerce at Bank of America. Chris is a team leader for the Private Client Group of Wachovia Securities.

Adam Okurowski ’97 and Carey Hart ’01 were married July 24, 2004, in West Islip. Alumni in attendance were, from left, Patrick Liszewski ’05, Marianne Hart ’96, Matthew Brunner ’97, J.J. Mayes ’98, Valerie Pabst, Joseph Hart ’73, the bridegroom, the bride, Jessica Hart ’97, Jeremy Rogers ’98 and Joseph (a.k.a. Ralph) Caverly ’98. Flower girls were “future graduates” Julia Rogers ’23 and Madeline Eppley ’23. The couple resides in North Babylon. Adam is a manager for Thomson Financial in Manhattan and Carey is a science teacher in Deer Park.

Kelly Ellis-Meehan ’98 and Matthew Meehan ’98 were married Aug. 7, 2004, at the Stafford Country Club. Oswego alumni in attendance were: top row from left, Bill DeCaire ’95, Michele Fultz-McManus ’01, Mike Meehan ’74, Jason Bauer ’00, Hercules (Tommy) Master, Courtney O’Connell-Zaryski ’99, Brant Loucks ’99, Michael Macchione ’96, Erin Caster-Ciappa ’01, Joe Gilson ’98 and Andy Grimeshaw ’00; and bottom row from left, Tracey Somers-Jordan ’98, Sandi Shoniker ’98, the bridegroom, the bride, Sarah Lenda ’98, Nicole Giovina-Neems ’98 and Krista Simon ’98. The couple lives in Annandale, Va. Kelly is a middle school guidance counselor in Manassas Park and Matthew is a systems engineer for SAIC in LcLean, Va.

William Paul ’96 (DKK) and Dana J. Manna were married May 29, 2004, in Purchase. Oswego alumni in attendance, front row from left, were Jason Fleury ’97, the bridegroom, the bride, Jeremy Waller; second row from left, Kristie Kujawski-Orrego ’97 (Phi Sig Sig), Ellen Paul ’94 (Phi Sig Sig), Brian Fleury ’99 (DKK), Dominic Zafonte ’97, John O’Neil ’97; back row from left, Thomas Brasse ’97, William Foster ’97, Michael Anselmo ’94 and Rene Orrego ’96. The couple currently lives in White Plains.

Theresa Ragone Haley ’98 and John Haley were married Sept. 18, 2004, on Long Island. The couple resides in East Meadow. Theresa is an accountant for Custom Computer Specialists.
An X-cellent Generation

By Tim Nekritz M'05

IF YOU PAID ATTENTION TO the popular media in the early 1990s, you could be led to believe that you would never find 40 achievers like those on the pages of this magazine.

Back then, observers wrung their hands over the prospect that Generation X could be the end of the world as we know it. Breathless reports detailed flannel-wearing slackers listening to grunge music in their parents’ basement, with our country’s future doomed to be pulled down with their shallow cynicism, ignorance and apathy.

Apparently someone failed to convince my generation that we’d never amount to anything.

It’s worth exploring how this rush to judgment took place, as nearly 80 million Americans born between 1961 and 1981 were suddenly conglomerated into whiny, befuddled masses yearning for their MTV. We can blame a convergence of pop-culture phenomena, a lousy economy and the lazy media-trend machine for what would become the Generation X stereotype.

My generation was named after a novel, and not a very good one. Young first-time author Douglas Coupland released “Generation X” in early 1991, and the world responded with a collective yawn.

The tiresome novel follows three members of Generation X, slackers and grunge into a lazy (in more ways than one) stereotype. Suddenly the image was everywhere — a negative icon let out of the bottle to haunt commercials, movies, magazines and a society’s collective unconscious. Between mid-December 1992 and early January 1993 alone, competing stories on my generation splashed across the covers of the Atlantic Monthly, BusinessWeek and the New Republic. It was as if a sudden panic had gripped the nation, an epidemic of 80 million Xers discovered loose on America’s streets.

You could fill a bookshelf with publications damning our generation. One of the most prominent, “13th Gen,” rendered its influential verdict: We were doomed to end up worse off than our parents. But that prediction was made in 1993, when the oldest members of the generation in question were entering their early 30s. The trailing edge weren’t even teen-agers. Doesn’t that seem like a rush to judgment?

The most dire predictions in books and magazines came during the early 1990s recession, but communal visions of the future are more pessimistic during economic downturns. GenX stories were the fool’s gold of the era; reporters could merely recycle all the prefabricated assumptions and stereotypes while easily finding an unemployed twentiesomething to put a face to the story.

Note how the dominant narrative changed when the Internet economy roared to life. Magazines whose glossy fronts were previously darkened by worries over slack ing youth were now grace d by grinning members of the same generation becoming instant IPO millionaires.

Duly this was, in the words of a May 1995 Forbes piece, “the most entrepreneurial generation in American history.” A month later, a Details magazine article by Coupland and a New York Times piece both said that the fascination with all things X was over. In the nanosecond nineties, the Generation X hype only managed four years — the amount of time most of us spent as an undergrad — in the spotlight.

The old Xer stereotypes dissolved, the media rushed to a younger cohort — the curiously named “Generation Y” — for a new easy way to fill news holes with baseless trend pieces. I see some reporters now already trying to make assumptions about the generation behind them, before they even start elementary school!

Apparently someone failed to convince my generation that we’d never amount to anything.

About a decade removed from the Generation X folderol, we should take an object lesson from this story. We shouldn’t make any assumptions about a generation by just grabbing what we can find. We shouldn’t use what’s happening in one generation to pigeonhole any generation before they’ve had a chance to fly.

Don’t believe me? Just ask any of the 40 achievers in this magazine, or the millions of other successful young people who never let an X mark their spot in the world.

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