Fun, friends and Lake Ontario’s famous sunsets are always the focus of an Oswego State Reunion.

Make plans now to attend.

Some highlights of the weekend include:
- “Come as You Were” BBQ at Fallbrook
- A golf outing
- Class parties
- A mini “Taste of Oswego”
- Tours and open houses including the new Campus Center!
- Reconnecting with classmates

For the most up-to-date information on Reunion 2007: Check out the Web site at www.oswego.edu/alumni/reunion/

Watch for registration materials in the mail coming soon!
Man of Steel 16
Medieval armor and Japanese swords: They’re all in a day’s work for Hermes Knauer ’71.

Frozen Dinners 10
Dedicated staffers brave snow and cold to feed our students.

Retail Rumble 20
Donna Goldsmith ’82 promotes wrestling with savvy, ‘guts.’

Raige in the Ring 22
Jeff Velocci ’94 trades teacher’s togs for spandex and tights.

Opening Face-Off 25
The Campus Center ice arena opening was a hot ticket.

PLUS
Campus Currents 3
Letters 7
Class Notes 33
Weddings 52
The Last Word 56

ON THE COVER:
Hermes Knauer ’71 is arms and armor conservator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Photo by Robert Mescavage
Wish you could have been here that exciting weekend in October when we opened our new Campus Center convocation area/ice arena. The buzz surrounding the Lakers’ first game in the new rink generated a positive energy that propels us forward to complete this complex at the heart of our campus. And as exciting and energizing as that event was, we’re looking forward to an occasion this spring that’s even more central to the mission of this institution.

Our first Commencement in the Campus Center will be held Saturday, May 19. The dictionary definition of commencement is a beginning, and I’ve always stressed to our graduates that their commencement, while their commencement, while their commencement, while


Deborah F. Stanley
President


FROM THE


tte things mean a lot,” the old saying goes. In a 56-page magazine nothing is littler — in size anyway — than a three-line Class Note. But the fact that these mini-stories mean a lot came home forcefully to me one day recently. As I was proofreading the Class Notes, line by line, looking for typos and making sure all the information was correct, I took a moment and did something we do a lot here. I e-mailed an alumna asking for more information. The note I received in return made my day, if not my whole semester. In essence, she was touched that someone here took the time to reach out to her and clarify her note. She felt taken care of, and I felt valuable and uplifted by her grateful response. Every time we do a survey, we hear that Class Notes rank near the top of your list of favorites. Knowing that, we put a lot of work into them. They take far more time than any other part of the magazine. That’s as it should be. It’s your section, and you, our alumni readers, are the most important people to us. So I’d like to take this opportunity to do two things: Thank you for sending in your Class Notes, and introduce to you Emily King ’05, our new associate editor, (see story, page 6). Emily will be in charge of that entire section of the magazine, which includes Class Notes, Alumni Bookshelf, Wedding Album, In Memoriam and all the stories interspersed among them. She’ll do a great job of covering your news. So, please keep those Class Notes coming!

Michele A. Reed
Oswego editor
Future generations of Oswegonians deserve the same great education you received. Carry on the legacy of the founder and help them obtain it with a planned gift to your alma mater. Join the Sheldon Legacy Society and include Oswego State in your estate plans. Call or write the Office of University Development today. We’ll be happy to discuss all the options.
History is no dead science for Dr. Judith Wellman, professor of history emerita. She puts her beliefs in the importance of local history and human rights into practice to change the lives of students and enhance the communities of New York state.

It was 1972 and Wellman, fresh out of a doctoral program at the University of Virginia, was looking for a job. When the North Tonawanda native saw a poster advertising a position in Oswego’s history department, she said, “That’s my job!” After an interview, it was.

Oswego appealed to Wellman on many fronts. Her dissertation was on the “burned over district,” an area of New York state “swept by the fires of religion” that included the nearby towns of Parish, Ithaca and Mexico. Her interest in the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad meant Oswego County was fertile ground for research. And Cecil Cody, the department chair, was open to her desire to teach a course in women’s history.

During the course of a 28-year career, Wellman would be one of a generation of faculty members to change the face of the college. Her women’s history course became part of the core of the Women’s Studies Program, one of the first in SUNY and the nation. She helped to found the Museum Studies Program. As the curator of Special Collections in Penfield Library, she created an oral history program that preserved Oswego’s heritage and built an archive of local newspapers that forged strong links between campus and community.

Her class “Doing History Locally” taught hundreds of students the importance of historical preservation and led to many landing jobs in area museums and historical societies. She still teaches the class online.

Wellman’s choice of specialties seems a natural for her. She laughs that she feels like she belongs in the 1840s. Her family and religious upbringing taught her that women could do anything and led her to respect the rights of all people, including women, African Americans and Native Americans. She would attend graduate school at a time of revolution in the teaching of history, when social history, the study of the lives of ordinary people, would come to dominate the discipline.

“<I>I love the intellectual challenge, the excitement. It’s a way for students to think about where they fit in American history and to think about what people in the past brought, as well as those in the present and future,”</I>” she says.

The fact that now, seven years after her last full-time teaching load, she’s still teaching online and working daily with historic preservation testifies to her dedication to the field and love of students.

Wellman says the students were by far the best part of her career. She calls teaching “a constant process of discovery,” and she values it not just for the discovery of the past, but for the process of learning and growing as a teacher.

Now that she is retired, Wellman is anything but idle. Her business, Historical New York Research Associates, focuses on historical preservation, and women’s, African-American and Underground Railroad historical projects. Wellman practices what she preaches. She and architect husband Paul Malo, the parents of 28-year-old son Mark and 21-year-old daughter Amaliya, live in an 1830s former grist mill.

She is still writing and her most recent book, published in 2004, is <I>The Road to Seneca Falls: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the First Women’s Rights Convention</I>.

Wellman is especially excited about her current big project, a Web site, “Roads from Seneca Falls,” set to launch this summer. The Web site will provide links to women’s history sites for students and K-12 teachers.

“These projects ask us to think about the legacy we inherit from the past and the challenge of what those ideals of freedom and equality mean to us in the present and how we’re going to pass them on to those who come in the future,” Wellman says.

— Michele Reed
College hour debuts

OSWEGO'S NEW COLLEGE HOUR, scheduled for 12:40 p.m. every Wednesday this semester, includes performances, lectures, dance workshops, comedy, films and more. College Hour activities are dedicated to student involvement, topical issues and personal enrichment during a time that will not conflict with classes. Events are free and open to the community.

Dr. Rhonda Mandel, interim dean of arts and sciences, said a major goal is to enhance the college’s sense of community at a time of maximum convenience. "A lot of these events are traditionally things we really want our students to attend, but they may be unable because of scheduling conflicts," said Mandel, a member of the College Hour Committee. "And having the events in the middle of the day helps commuter students who may want to attend between classes." ●

The College Hour began Jan. 31 with “College Hour Kickoff: Carnival on Ice” at the Campus Center, which featured entertainment, open skating, games, music and prizes. Skating from left: Samantha Wall ’10, elementary education; Colleen Ossman ’10, psychology; and Kara Bobbette ’10, elementary education.

New major a ‘reel’ winner

SUNY Oswego now offers a cinema and screen studies major. The major was approved in December.

Bennet Schaber and Amy Shore, of the English and creative writing department, are the new major’s co-coordinators. They say that the cinema major will teach students lessons that span beyond making films.

“Being a film major is not a bad way to get a job," said Schaber. He acknowledges that the major teaches valuable traits such as organizational skills, resource management, technological know-how, problem solving and communication.

According to Shore, the program emphasizes collaboration and creativity, which are skills increasingly in demand in the business world.

“What it’s done is given me an outlet to a really broad field of careers,” said Jill Matyjasik ’08, one of the first majors. The classes are more discussion based and stress critical thinking and communication, added Matyjasik.

The requirements for the major include courses in English, creative writing, broadcasting, anthropology and communication. The major concludes with a capstone class where the students make their own films. ●

‘Dora’ Honored

THE SUNY OSWEGO STAGING OF “DORA: A Case of Hysteria” was selected as one of six invited productions for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Region II Festival held at SUNY New Paltz in January.

“The work was acknowledged for its overall excellence and accomplished unity in production. ‘Dora’ stood apart from the work done in our region as particularly dynamic, effective and inspiring,” said Mark Cole ’73, professor and chair of theatre at SUNY Oswego.

KCACTF is a national university theatre program begun in 1969 to recognize the best and most diverse work among university and college theatre programs.

“We are indeed proud of the entire creative team who brought ‘Dora’ to such exciting life, and this affirmation of student work is something to celebrate,” said Cole.

Directed by theatre major Trevor Franklin ’07, “Dora” featured Allison Kleber ’08 as Dora, Nathaniel Angstrom ’08 as Sigmund Freud and Evan McNear ’08 as Papa. ●

Allison Kleber ’08 as Dora talks with Nathaniel Angstrom ’08 as Sigmund Freud.

Bennet Schaber, co-coordinator of SUNY Oswego’s new cinema and screen studies major, looks over some work with Jill Matyjasik ’08, who is one of the first majors in the program.
Poucher design wins awards

Since reopening in January 2006, the redesigned Poucher Hall has received rave reviews from SUNY Oswego’s campus community. Now it can claim two prestigious professional awards as well.

Poucher won “Best of Competition” in the educational category of the American Society of Interior Designers’ New York Upstate/Canada East Chapter competition and the Merit Award in the category of interiors from the American Institute of Architects, Central New York Chapter competition.

The redesign was a collaboration between SUNY Oswego’s Office of Facilities Design and Construction, and Ashley McGraw Architects PC.

“At a time when construction is strong on campus, our design team is working hard to create innovative spaces for learning and living on campus,” said Tedra Pratt, the interiors coordinator for facilities design and construction. “This award gives us a feeling of satisfaction but also encouragement for future projects.”

Pratt added that the design team knew the project succeeded when seeing students filling the common areas, faculty interacting with students and the expressions of potential students on admissions tours.

In addition to Pratt, the project design team included Tom Simmonds ’84 and Allen Bradberry from SUNY Oswego, and Diane Brandli, Bob Haley, Jun Shin and Calvin Ahn from Ashley McGraw.

Hispanic magazine recommends Oswego

Hispanic Outlook magazine has listed SUNY Oswego among its “2006 Publisher’s Picks.”

“...an investment with a measurable power to transform and expand one’s chances in life,” wrote publisher Jose Lopez-Isa. “Our list . . . represents our latest and best thinking about which colleges and universities offer Hispanic students a solid chance of academic success.”

More than 500 colleges and universities appear on the list. Lopez-Isa said the magazine bases its assessment on responses to its formal inquiries, on data from the National Center for Education Statistics and on informal input.

Of Oswego’s full-time undergraduates, 5.7 percent are identified as Hispanic, according to the college’s Office of Institutional Research.

Farewell to the dean

As director of the Honors Program in the early and mid 1980s, Varhus remembers a sense of camaraderie with students. She remembers driving all around the state “with terrified students in a 15-passenger van,” taking them to art exhibits, concerts and other intellectual activities.

As dean of arts and sciences, a position she has held since 1993, she points to her work with the Student Affairs Division to develop First Year Programs. As dean she implemented the capstone curriculum and oversaw the development of interdisciplinary clusters: the Center for Communications and Information Technology, the Molecular Biology Center, Language and International Trade, and Cinema Studies.

She will take away these memories and many others: swimming in the campus pools, walking her dog on its paths, taking part in the “Beat the Deans” race, skating on Glimmerglass Lagoon and the new ice in the Campus Center, skiing to campus on snowy days.

But with her role as emeritus faculty member, Varhus promises, she will still be a part of the campus community. “I don’t feel that I’m going all that far away,” she said.

—Michele Reed
Lakeside to offer new dining experience

AFTER MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OF planning, Lakeside Dining Hall is being upgraded and restored to serve hundreds more of Oswego’s students.

Director of Resident Dining Craig Traub is excited about the completion of the new facility, as it will offer students a whole new dining experience.

“The server will be very different in that it will be stations,” he said.

The stations will include pizza and pasta, entrées of the day and deli, salad, fresh fruit, soup and desserts. Traub is most excited about a station that will serve breakfast items in the morning, grilled items like chicken and hamburgers for lunch, and Asian cuisine for dinner.

“We think we’re going to be able to keep things a lot more replenished and in a more appealing manner,” Traub said.

The building, built in the 1960s, is in its first stages of renovation to upgrade electrical, heating and plumbing systems.

Hockey pioneers return

T

his past November, Oswego State Women’s Ice Hockey Head Coach Diane Dillon praised alumni for their dedication and perseverance in keeping women’s hockey on the Oswego State campus.

“What you women started back in the ‘70s,” Dillon said. “You players are the ones that knocked down the doors.”

Twenty alumnae, including Anne Potter Collins ’80, Linda Cohn ’81, Nancy BeGell Smith ’75, Stacey Caruso-Sharpe ’78, Alison Frisbie ’79, Teresa Podolec Ross ’84 and Denise Lepine Krohn ’83, joined Dillon and the entire Laker women’s ice hockey team at a reception held in the new Campus Center.

The event gave alumnae a chance to meet and talk with current women hockey players about how the program has evolved throughout the years.

“The ice in Romney turned our feet to stone,” Collins said. “It was so cold that sometimes when we skated it would actually chip under our feet.”

BeGell Smith rememberedsuiting up at 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. for practice each day.

“It was the last thing that we did at night and the first thing we did when we woke up, so it was really in our blood,” she said.

“We were not thinking at the time that we were blazing a trail for all women athletes,” Krohn added. “We just wanted to be able to play and be taken seriously. We tend to forget the hardships that we go through as we age. If through our endeavors we helped pave the way for future women athletes, then my time playing hockey at Oswego has an extra special meaning.”

Each alumna was presented with a token hockey puck, engraved with her name and hockey number.

—Emily King ’05
Find the Founder!

IN THE FALL/WINTER 2006 CONTEST, we received over 60 entries from alumni who found the founder on page 28 in the photo of Jim Middleton ’06 and his dog, Kilo. The grand prize winner of a College BookStore gift certificate and Sheldon Hall print is Cathy Fallacara-Bower ’77. Winning Sheldon Hall prints are Karen Rouse ’78, Albert Hoefer Jr. ’50, Bruce Johnson ’74, Ruth Karp Lamb ’51, and Margaret Scharf DeLapp ’58.

A tiny replica of the Sheldon statue pictured here is hidden somewhere in this issue. Find the founder and send us a letter with the location and page number, your class year and address. We will draw one entry at random from all of the correct answers and the winner will receive a $25 gift certificate to the Campus Store and a print of Sheldon Hall. The next five entries drawn will receive Sheldon Hall prints. Send your entry to Find the Founder, King Alumni Hall, 300 Washington Blvd, Oswego, N.Y. 13126. Entries must be postmarked by June 1 and winners will be announced in a future issue. Those who have won in previous contests are welcome to play for fun, but will not be eligible for another prize.

King joins communications staff

EMILY KING ’05 RECENTLY RETURNED to Oswego State to accept the position of alumni and development communications assistant. She will be responsible for the Lake Effect e-newsletter, Oswego Parents newsletter and portions of the Oswego alumni magazine.

“With Emily as part of our team, we are ready to take alumni and development communications to the next level,” said Michele Reed, director of alumni and development communications.

As an undergraduate, King wrote for the Oswegonian, completed a summer internship and two years as an employee with Oswego alumni magazine, received a New York Press Association internship and interned at NBC Sports with Tom Caraccioli ’89 covering the 2004 Olympics.

After graduation, King was hired as the lead reporter at the Pinedale Roundup, a small weekly newspaper in Pinedale, Wyo. After one year, she accepted her second job as lead reporter at the Teton Valley News in Driggs, Idaho.

King worked in Idaho for six months before accepting the position at her alma mater. —Meagan Smith ’07

Bombingham Next ORI Book

Ira Sukrungruang of the English department holds a copy of the novel Bombingham by Anthony Grooms, the Oswego Reading Initiative selection for campuswide reading this summer, and activities in the next academic year. Bombingham spans two pivotal historic events — the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement in Birmingham, Ala. He is also seen holding previous selections including: Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser, Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven by Sherman Alexie, Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder, The Speed of Dark by Elizabeth Moon and Haven by Ruth Gruber.

Six of Oswego State’s finest athletes and coaches were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame Saturday, Nov. 11. “You came to do what you love and you came to learn,” Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley told the 2006 Oswego State Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, (back row, from left) Emeritus Men’s Ice Hockey Coach Herbert Hammond, Emeritus Men’s Ice Hockey Coach George Crowe, Rick Pratt ’82 and Dr. Casimir “Cash” Kowalski ’65; (front row from left) Linda Cohn ’81 and Anne Potter Collins ’80.
In the Fall 2006 issue of the Oswego magazine on page 12 is a photograph of room 110 in the old Sheldon Hall. That photograph originally appeared in the 1956 *Ontarian*. The professor pictured is Paul Goodwin. Just thought someone might be interested.

Walt Ramsey '60

During my combat deployment in Baghdad, Iraq, I found myself longing for happy places and found myself always thinking about Oswego. I guess being in the middle of all that stress and danger brought me back to the beginning. A time when things weren’t as serious and were happy. Oswego was that for me. All the experiences that I got there and the friends that I made, made me the combat leader that I am today. It was the best time of my life and I wish I could go back to that every day. I miss school and my fraternity (Delta Sigma Phi) not to mention all the friends that I made along the way. Friends that I no longer talk to but want to get back in touch with to thank them.

Ty Adelman ’02

I read with fascination the article on Dr. Richard Hyse on the back cover of Oswego [Fall/Winter 2006]. *Mary Etta Schneider ’75* and I participated in the Brugge Belgium Program in the spring of 1973. The name Dr. Richard Hyse brings back many fond memories of a person who encouraged and mentored me in the field of economics. Dr. Hyse used to refer to Mary Etta and I as the “Brugge twins.” It is because of his encouragement and constant support that I have had the pleasure of a lifelong career in the field of economics. I am now the manager of gas pricing at Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. (d/b/a National Grid) in Syracuse. I owe my career in large part to Dr. Richard Hyse, who taught my very first economics class.

Marcia Guller Collier ’74

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When I entered Oswego in 1946 as a young, shy 17-year-old freshman, the pages of my book had hardly been opened. As I pursued my teaching education, Oswego gave me the opportunity of “tasting and testing” endless possibilities for my mental, social and emotional growth. I soaked it all in and

Dr. Athena Frangos Sawyer ’50

Letters

I read with deep sadness the passing of Gene Chermack. He was my department chairman in the early ’70s when I arrived at Oswego after four years in the military. All that calculus was tough after being out of school so long, and I was impatient to graduate since I was much older than most students. “Gene” spent long hours on Friday afternoons in the Student Union teaching me my advanced math on cocktail napkins. The fact that I was taking the math course that was a prerequisite of the “Dynamic Meteorology” course that I was taking at the same time (and he was teaching) did not bother him. I, and many others, learned and sharpened our skills over beers and on cocktail napkins during those early years of the meteorology major at Oswego. The fact that I am a TV meteorologist in those four years — once for the incredible 102-inch snowfall on Feb. 2, 1966, and one other time for high winds, which blew out windows in the library. I also recall a sorority sister pinned against a tree unable to walk the campus. She had to be “rescued!” Perhaps the wind event I remember was not the sole reason for the canceling of classes, but I am passing this thought on to you for further research into the event that stays in my mind.

Howard Shapiro ’74

Dreaded reading page 3 of the [Spring 2006 magazine], the headline, “Wind Cancels Classes,” captured my attention. I was surprised to read that as far as anyone could remember this event was the first time classes were canceled due to wind. I recall differently. As a student at Oswego from 1963-1967, I recall classes being canceled on two occasions in those four years — once for the incredible 102-inch snowfall on Feb. 2, 1966, and one other time for high winds, which blew out windows in the library. I also recall a sorority sister pinned against a tree unable to walk the campus. She had to be “rescued!” Perhaps the wind event I remember was not the sole reason for the canceling of classes, but I am passing this thought on to you for further research into the event that stays in my mind.

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Men’s Soccer

The Oswego State men’s soccer team continued to show vast improvement under second-year Head Coach Robert Friske. The Lakers once again qualified for the SUNYAC playoffs, and finished the season with an 11-9-1 overall record. It was the first winning season for Oswego State since the 2000 season.

Oswego State made some noise in the post-season with a 1-0 SUNYAC play-in round win at Brockport. Mike Davis ’07 scored the lone goal early in the second half. The Lakers then bowed out in the semifinals with a 1-0 loss to top-seed and eventual tournament champions Geneseo. Oswego State was also invited to participate in the ECAC Upstate Tournament.

Two Lakers earned All-SUNYAC recognition. Midfielder Jim Mertz ’08 was a second-team selection and defender Pat Hurley ’07 was named to the third team.

Volleyball

Oswego State’s volleyball team recorded its second-straight winning season and fared well in several invitational tournaments throughout the season. The Lakers were 19-15 overall, increasing their win total by two over the 2005 campaign. Oswego State missed out on the SUNYAC championships, but participated in post-season play at the New York State Women’s Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament.

Setter Shannon Hennigan ’09 set or tied two program records during the 2006 season. Her 85 aces over the course of the year were a single-season record, and she twice recorded nine aces in a match, which tied the school record in that category. Hennigan achieved those in wins over Utica Sept. 1 and Plattsburgh Oct. 13. Hennigan, a sophomore, was named to the All-SUNYAC West Division Second Team. It was the second time in as many seasons that she has been honored by the conference.

Field Hockey

The field hockey season was highlighted by an exciting 1-0 win over Rensselaer Oct. 14. In that game, the Lakers’ Beth Patterson ’07 scored with 1:07 remaining in the contest. It came on Oswego State’s first great offensive sequence of the game, as Jennifer Tordy ’07 got a shot on goal that was saved, before Patterson scored on the rebound. Goalie Kaitlin Daniels ’07 made 10 saves in the win.

Other Oswego State victories came Sept. 15 against Morrisville (1-0) and Oct. 11 against Wells (6-0). Tordy finished as the team’s leading scorer with seven points on the year, while Kaylee Voorhies ’09, Patterson and Jenna Retzer ’09 all finished with six points.

Retzer earned All-SUNYAC Second Team honors as a midfielder.

The Lakers finished the year with a 3-14 record. All three Oswego State victories came in home contests, and six of the team’s 14 losses were by one goal.
Women's Tennis

The Oswego State women's tennis team finished its season with a 4-6 record in matches and finished tied for eighth at the SUNYAC Championships. The team showed signs of improvement at every position, and played much closer matches against the top-level competition it faced during the year.

Two doubles teams finished the year with winning records. Sara Gotlib '08 and Kim Hough '07 were paired for much of the year at third doubles, and Kate Blanding '08 and Brigid McCarthy '08 were also impressive at second doubles.

Women's Soccer

Under first-year Head Coach Liz McGrail, a revamped Oswego State roster finished the year with a 1-15-0 overall record and a 1-9-0 mark in the SUNYAC. The lone victory was a 1-0 win over SUNYIT at home Sept. 16. Fallanne DeLong '07 scored the goal, with assists from Julie McCloskey '10 and Kelly Spagnoli '09. McCloskey was the team's leading scorer.

Cross Country

The Oswego State men's cross country team had an impressive season with several notable finishes among the top half of the field at prestigious competitions. The Lakers were fourth in a field of 11 teams at the SUNYAC Championships and were 15th of 34 teams at the NCAA Regionals. Tony Battista '07 was the most consistent performer throughout the year for the Lakers men, and Julius Wood '07 also had several strong finishes.

The Laker women's team was young and showed consistency and dedication throughout the year. Caitlin Wlodarski '10 was the top runner on the team.

—Joe Gladziszewski
Sports Information Director

Lakers are Champs!
Oswego wins NCAA hockey championship with OT goal

The third time was the charm. Garren Reisweber '09 scored an overtime goal to give Oswego its first-ever national team championship, a 4-3 win over Middlebury in the NCAA Division III men's ice hockey title game March 18.

It was the third try in the championship game for the Lakers, whose victory also snapped Middlebury's three-year reign as NCAA Division III champions.

The outstanding play of Ryan Scott '08 in goal (47 saves) kept the Lakers alive in overtime until Reisweber pounced on a puck at mid-ice and outskated two defenders to put the puck past Panther goalie Ross Cherry.

Peter Magagna '09 scored to give Oswego a 3-2 lead in the third before Middlebury responded with a little more than two minutes remaining in regulation to send the game into sudden-death overtime.

Reisweber and Trevor Gilligan '07 had the Oswego goals in an exciting second stanza where both teams scored twice.

"We are so proud of the Lakers!" said President Deborah E. Stanley, who traveled to Wisconsin for the title game. "A dedicated group of fans brought that Oswego spirit to rev up the excitement at Wessman Arena — and loyal alumni and hometown supporters gathered around TVs to share in the joy of our first national team championship in school history."

"I'm very proud of the team," said Head Coach Ed Gosek '83, M'01. "It all started with the excitement that was generated with the new Campus Center — thanks to all the alumni and administration that made it all possible. The guys were very pleased with all the college had given them and wanted to do their very best to represent our school."

Oswego also advanced to the championship game in 1987 and 2003, before claiming the crown at the Frozen Four in Superior, Wisc.

—Tim Nekritz M'05

The Laker men's ice hockey team celebrates its victory in the NCAA Division III national championship game.
Three join foundation board

Three new members joined the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors, two at the group’s annual business meeting in October 2006 and one at the 2005 annual meeting. Mark Baum ’81 and Louis A. Borrelli Jr. ’77 will serve three-year terms ending in 2009. Rose Cardamone Crane ’81, who joined in 2005, will serve until 2008.

Baum is a partner in DiamondCluster International, Inc., DiamondCluster’s Enterprise practice, focusing on clients in the consumer packaged goods industry.

Baum serves as chair of The Fund for Oswego. Last year, he helped raise the fund’s total with an innovative challenge, offering to match all new and increased gift club gifts up to a total of $50,000.

Borrelli is chief executive officer of NEP Broadcasting, LLC, the leading international provider of outsourced teleproduction services critical to the delivery of live sports and entertainment events. In 2005, he established the Louis A. Borrelli Jr. Media Summit, bringing top media professionals to campus for a daylong summit on an important topic.

Crane is company group chairman of Johnson & Johnson for consumer pharmaceuticals and nutritious business, with responsibility for McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, McNeil Nutritional and J & J Merck Consumer Pharmaceuticals. An active volunteer for Oswego, she serves on the advisory board of SUNY Oswego’s School of Business. She and her husband, Douglas Crane ’80, donated a faculty office in Rich Hall.

Silver class goes for the gold

If Greg Adams ’82 and Peter McCarthy ’82 have their way, the Class of 1982 will go down in Oswego State history as the most generous 25th reunion class ever.

The two are co-chairs for their class’s reunion giving effort and have set a goal of $100,000. “It is absolutely within our power to shatter the records and set the bar higher for future reunion classes,” they wrote to classmates.

It’s not all about money. The pair hope to encourage classmates to return to campus for Reunion June 8 to 10.

“We’re motivated by a desire to raise awareness of giving and a genuine interest to invite the class of 1982 to come back to campus,” said Adams.

“We want to say to our classmates, ‘Join us. This will be fun — Come back to Oswego,’” he added. “The campus is really re-energized — new buildings, renovated buildings, the Campus Center.”

Supporting Oswego helps build the value of alumni degrees, said McCarthy. “If you sell a stock and it goes up, you don’t get any gain from it,” he said. “But even at the height of our careers, if the school’s reputation is good today, it still shines on those of us who have been out for 25 years.”

The chairmen stressed that classmates can give an unrestricted gift or direct their gifts to The Fund for Oswego to whatever most interests them.

At press time, the class had raised about $42,000 in donations.

“We think we’ve clearly made an impact,” said Adams. “The question is, can we rally the class to get us all the way there?”
SUNY Oswego reached its $17 million goal for *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego* eight months ahead of schedule, in October. The Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors voted to extend the campaign by one year from the original end date, to June 30, 2008, and to increase the goal by $6 million to $23 million.

“We are absolutely thrilled to have reached this milestone so early,” said Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley. “The success of this campaign illustrates the powerful support the college inspires in our alumni, friends and community members.”

The campaign was a three-pronged effort to raise $4 million in endowment funds; $8 million for *The Fund for Oswego*; and $5 million for facilities and equipment, of which $4 million was for the Campus Center and $1 million for the renovation of Rich Hall.

“The response has been so much more than we anticipated — and we were very optimistic. People have been extremely generous,” said Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors Chair M. Catherine Richardson ’63. She added that extending the goal gives the college “the opportunity to stretch.”

The college has engaged so many alumni throughout the first four years of the campaign, extending it gives the opportunity to connect with many more, whether through events, in a volunteer capacity, or by their financial support, said Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81.

Al Roker ’76 is honorary chair of the campaign. Mae Squier-Dow ’83, Bernie Henderson and Harold Morse ’61 are co-chairs.

Squier-Dow said, “One of the best things about this campaign has been the way it brought alumni, faculty and staff, and community members together with one common goal — to help the college. It will be great to continue that outreach and include even more people into the fold of active participants in the life of the college.”

The campaign exceeded its goals for endowment and *The Fund for Oswego*, Dorsey reported. She pointed out that *The Fund for Oswego* was greatly boosted this year by the $50,000 challenge initiated by fund chair Mark Baum ’81. Baum matched new or increased gift club-level donations.

“The celebratory nature of the Campus Center opening last fall increased people’s appreciation and support of the capital portion of the campaign,” said Henderson. He added that the October opening of the convocation space/arena was only part of the picture, and that completion of the remaining part of the complex, housing student services, clubs and organizations, and a lecture hall, is anticipated for fall 2007. “With one more part of this central project to complete, it is even more important to support the campaign,” he added.

Morse noted that the campaign has created a powerful legacy for future generations of Oswegonians. “We who have had the benefit of an Oswego education are now making it possible to continue the quality of the Oswego experience for students who come after us. That is the lasting legacy of this campaign.”

Three named to development posts

SUNY OSWEGO PRESIDENT DEBORAH F. STANLEY HAS appointed Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81, who has worked in the college’s development office since 2003, as the new vice president for development and alumni relations.

The vice president is the college’s principal fundraiser and serves as executive director of the Oswego College Foundation.

First as director of development and then as Oswego’s associate vice president for development and alumni relations, Dorsey has managed *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego*, the college’s first comprehensive fund-raising campaign. The five-year campaign’s $17 million goal was surpassed in October, eight months ahead of its original endpoint next June, and the college recently raised its sights to $23 million by June 30, 2008.

Mary Gibbons Canale ’81 has been appointed associate vice president for major gifts and campaigns, a newly created position. Canale has been director of major gifts since 2002 and a member of the alumni and university development team since 1996. She seeks to garner substantial support for the college, working with lead donors and volunteers, and playing a key role in this campaign, and structuring and organizing for future campaigns.

Jamie Stack Leszczynski ’04 has joined the Office of University Development as associate director of annual giving. She will oversee Oswego’s Telefund phonathon, the Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) solicitation program and the parents fund-raising initiative.

Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81
Mary Gibbons Canale ’81
Jamie Stack Leszczynski ’04
Chu bequest to name atrium, academic commons

Education was a top priority for Professor Emeritus of Sociology Hsien-jen “James” Chu and his wife, Librarian Sylvia Chu, and SUNY Oswego was central to their lives together. So when the end of his life was near, James Chu decided to leave a legacy to the college he loved.

Chu, who passed away Oct. 22, bequeathed $300,000 to the Oswego College Foundation to name the atrium and academic commons in the new Campus Center in memory of himself and his wife. Sylvia Chu died in 1990.

“Both of them took their roles at the college very seriously. It embodied everything they did. That was their identity,” said their daughter, Joanne Chu, a professor at Spelman College. “To his dying day, my dad was very proud of the fact that he was a professor at SUNY Oswego.”

Her brother agreed. “Our family was just so SUNY-centric,” said Gerald Chu, a researcher at Dana Farber Cancer Institute affiliated with Harvard University.

“In life, James and Sylvia gave much to the college by their dedication to their disciplines and to our students,” said President Deborah F. Stanley. “Now they are leaving a legacy from which generations of Oswego students will benefit.”

The atrium and academic commons are the “heart” of the academic portion of the Campus Center, located in Swetman Hall, said Tom Simmonds ’84, director of facilities design and construction. The two-story atrium will overlook the central part of the building and the academic commons will include casual spaces where students and professors can connect outside of classes for informal discussions.

Swetman Hall is now under renovation and the final phase of the Campus Center project is expected to open in fall 2007.

Colleagues described James and Sylvia Chu as very dedicated to SUNY Oswego.

“Jim was very responsible with his students, his colleagues, with the institution,” said Norman Weiner, who taught in the sociology department with Chu for over 20 years.

Professor Emerita Barbara Gerber called Chu “very student-oriented.”

Librarian Nancy Seale Osborne ’70 remembered that Sylvia Chu was known for helping international students and foreign scholars when they came to use library resources.

James Chu was born in Nanjing, China, and earned his doctorate from the University of Florida in 1966. He began teaching at Oswego in 1969 and retired in 1994. Sylvia Chu was born in Beijing, China, and her family fled to Taiwan in 1943 before the communists took over.

In 1963 she came to America and married James, whom she had known since college. She worked at Penfield from 1979 to 1990.

A home for Zamboni

WHEN MIKE WATERS ’70 WAS A KID, HE USED TO skate at the Syracuse War Memorial, where he saw workers use a shovel and a pushcart with heated water and a brush to smooth the ice.

So when he came to the September 2005 launch of Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego, and was inspired to give to the college’s first-ever capital campaign, he knew just what naming opportunity would mean the most to him. He used his $25,000 gift to name the Zamboni room at the new Campus Center.

“When I was a student at Oswego, hockey was always a good time,” said Waters, who holds season’s tickets to the Lakers games and the Syracuse Crunch. “I was there when Pete Sears ‘71 was the goalie. They were playing quality hockey then, too.”

Waters got to check out the Lakers new Zamboni room during the opening of the Campus Center ice arena Oct. 21.

“I got through [college] in good shape thanks to New York state taxpayers and jobs,” said Waters, who is retired after a career that included working in fire safety for an insurance company, being fire coordinator of Onondaga County and serving in the Air National Guard. “So I would like to help other people if I could.”

Hsien-jen “James” Chu and Sylvia Chu

Mike Waters ’70 named the Zamboni room at the Campus Center ice arena.
Shafer continues to educate with gift

ED SHAFER ‘70 HAS SPENT HIS ENTIRE CAREER EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE. So for him, it was a logical step to donate $10,000 to endow a scholarship for education majors at Oswego.

Shafer is the executive director of Pathfinder Village, which serves 80 Down syndrome children and adults. It’s modeled after a little New England village and sits in a rural area between Utica and Cooperstown.

“I know every story,” he says. “I’ve got 80 people I’m responsible for and they’re all interesting and fun.”

Shafer joined Pathfinder after a 30-year career in education, which began at Hillside Children’s Center in Rochester, serving emotionally disturbed kids.

Along the way he served as the St. Lawrence County BOCES director of special education, was superintendent of schools at Harrisville in Lewis County, and was district superintendent for Madison-Oneida County BOCES for 19 years until 2003, when he retired to take the post at Pathfinder Village.

His role at BOCES was mostly an administrative one. “We had 23,000 kids, I didn’t know any of them,” he said. “I got into this business because I wanted to help kids. I wanted to finish my professional career getting to know very well the people I was trying to help.”

And at Pathfinder Village he does just that. This February he went on the annual ski trip with seven adults from the village. Often residents will wander into his office to chat, or he will stay late and have dinner with them.

“One of the great things about Pathfinder is that I learned more about human potential in my first 12 to 14 months here than in all my time in school administration. The challenges these guys face every day, the poise and dignity they display every day is stunning,” Shafer said.

“It’s a good place to come to work. It’s been a good life and Oswego’s been an important part of that.”

A very important part is his Certificate of Advanced Study, earned in 1977. He calls it a “very powerful” force in his life, and recalls important influences like John Readling, Bob Thompson and others involved in the program.

So when Shafer, who earned a doctoral degree in 1992 from Columbia Teacher’s College, wanted to recognize what Oswego meant in his life, he decided on a scholarship. He tied his Dr. and Mrs. Edward Shafer ‘70 Scholarship to a scholarship to which he contributes at his BOCES district to honor his predecessor, Andrew D. Rossetti.

A Rossetti scholarship winner who chooses to attend Oswego will receive an additional award.

It’s one more way Ed Shafer will contribute to the education of young people in Central New York. ●

Friends name a locker for Sgro

TONY SGRO ’82 WAS THE TYPE OF HOCKEY PLAYER his teammates and friends remember fondly — so much so that they set up a fund to name a locker in his memory in the Lakers locker room at the new Campus Center.

Sgro, who died Sept. 12 of cancer at age 49, played center for the Lakers from 1978 to 1982.

“Tony was a special guy to a lot of people,” said Rick Pratt ’82, who along with Todd Amann ’81 spearheaded the drive to name the locker for Sgro.

“Tony was one of the nicest people you’d ever come across — a real gentleman, always had a smile, always enthusiastic,” said Coach Emeritus Herb Hammond, who led the Lakers from 1968 to 1980. “He played hard for me the years he played and made the most of the ability he had.”

Tony’s son Tyler Sgro, who plans to attend Oswego next year and play hockey for the Lakers, said that Oswego was “a very special place” to his father, who talked a lot about his memories of Oswego. Before Tony passed away, father and son made some Oswego memories together. They attended the 2005 Plattsburgh game, and in February 2006, they were on hand when the Lakers played the last game in Romney Field House.

“Hockey brought us closer together,” Tyler said.

“I had always heard about Oswego. To be able to come here with him and see his face light up like when he was 20, I was glad to get to share that with him.” ●

To name a locker in honor of someone, contact Joy Westerberg Knopp ’92 in the Office of University Development, 315-312-3003 or e-mail knopp@oswego.edu.
Man of Steel

BY MICHELE REED

Walk down the corridors of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art with Hermès Knauer ’71 and you’d be forgiven for feeling like you’re spending the afternoon with a rock star. It’s not just the black Levis and graying ponytail. You get the distinct sense that here is a man at the top of his game — a man who, even in this realm full of arcane knowledge, has an expertise that is treasured. And not just by the other experts.

A young female colleague comes up to thank him for fixing her grandmother’s lamp. "It was pot metal," he explains. "I couldn’t weld it." Then, hands sketching out the procedure, he describes how he saved Grandma’s heirloom from the scrap heap.

A security guard comes down the hall and starts to unbutton his shirt. He pulls out a holy medal, gold, with an enamel image. "This was my father’s. Can you fix it?" he asks. "I don’t want to leave it at a jewelers." Knauer tells him to come back at the end of his shift. He’ll take a look at it.

This is all in the course of an hour one Tuesday afternoon. You get the feeling this is how it goes for Hermès Knauer, arms and armor conservator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It’s probably why he’s at the museum long after the visitors — and other staff — have made their way home.

For this is a man who respects the things that are important to people, whether it’s the presentation pistol Samuel Colt gave the Pasha of Turkey, a suit of armor fitted to Henry VIII’s expanding girth or the family treasure of a friend. “Reverence,” he says, his voice resonant with it. “We have to have a reverence for the objects.”

As arms and armor conservator, Knauer is responsible for fixing and preserving the museum’s vast collection of arms, including edged weapons, firearms and armor. Before this, he worked in small object conservation. He has a simple explanation of his job. “I fix things,” he says with a shrug. It sounds simple. Even ordinary. It’s anything but.

MUSEUM DREAMS

It’s the culmination of a childhood dream for Knauer, who as a youngster, would head down to the Met every chance he got. He’d peer through the basement windows, dreaming about someday becoming one of the lucky ones who get to handle the objects in the museum’s collection.

After graduating from Oswego with a major in art and a minor in German, he headed back to the museum, and took a job stacking books in the gift shop. He’s been at the Met ever since, a 35-year run. Yet, in his reverence for the objects the museum houses and his passion for the institution and its visitors, he hasn’t strayed far from that little boy.

And that’s a good thing, he’ll tell you. “You don’t give up on your dreams,” he says. “Maybe the childhood dreams are the most important ones we’ve had all along. “When you look back at your childhood and see the awe and wonder, I guess that’s why we like to see little children. We were young once.”

Knauer seems permanently young, the graying temples and laugh lines aside. Maybe it comes from the perspective gained from being in daily contact with objects hundreds, even thousands, of years old. More likely it comes from cultivating a never-ending sense of wonder, of appreciation for the beautiful things in life.

“This is a fine art museum. This is art here,” he’ll tell you with pride, as he points out textile remnants clinging to a piece of Chinese armor, or the gold engraving adorning the breastplate of Henry II when he was the Dauphin of France or maybe the ethereal curve of a Japanese Katana blade.

ART OF WAR

He approaches his craft with that knowledge that he is working on art. “The key is reverence,” he repeats, explaining that when he begins to work on an object he will walk around it 50 times and then "sneak up on it."

That sneaking up takes place in his workshop, a whitewashed abode in the bowels of the museum. You get down a marble staircase, behind the main bookstore. People look at you — is it envy? — as a young woman from the department unhooks a velvet rope barring the rest of the world from this inner sanctum.

An array of tools lines the wall. Along
the top, three pairs of humongous shears, each a good three feet long, looking like a row of predatory fish. Below them, hammers, anvils, stakes. They are the tools of the armorer's trade.

“We don’t really use a lot of these,” Knauer confides, “because we don’t build armor anymore. We preserve it.”

The tools, he tells you, are there as a link with the past, to the great armorers who came before the current inhabitants of this room. Like the forge in the corner, cold now, which used to heat sheets of metal to be formed into breastplates, greaves and sword guards. Knauer points to a portrait of Bashford Dean, the only man to hold a post as curator at both the Metropolitan Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. An ichthyologist, Dean became fascinated by armor on a trip to Japan to study sharks, and amassed a fine personal collection of armor, which he later willed to the Met.

“It’s not as much of a leap as you might assume, Knauer explains. “Think of a lobster. His shell is what? Armor.” He imitates the lobster’s tail, then reaches into a cupboard of spare parts to show how its plates are mimicked by the fingers on an armored glove.

Dean built the Met’s collection of armor into one of the best in the world, acquiring many pieces from royal collections after World War I and from business tycoons.

Down the hall hangs a photograph of the armory in 1937. Conservators are fashioning missing parts for suits of armor, using the tools that now grace the workshop.

PASSING THE TORCH

The connection with the armors of the past is not just some fancy idea of Knauer’s. It’s no conceit. Knauer passionately believes in the handing down of knowledge from one generation to the next. He is an advocate of the apprentice system, having learned his trade as a master restorer that way. “It set certain standards and allowed a passing of the torch,” he says. “If you have the ability, you could surpass your master.”

That passing of the torch began at Oswego, where he learned techniques he uses today: engraving from printmaking classes with George O’Connell and Tom Seawell, and working with metal from Dominick DiPasquale, as well as a unique view on life studying Goethe with Joseph Wiecha.

They are all part of the fabric of his life, he tells you. “Life is like a tapestry, being woven continuously, but we’re so close we don’t see what it looks like. Only later, when we can step back and get some perspective, can we see the pattern.”

Further along this tour of his world, Knauer shows you a display of horse armor from the museum’s collection. A shaffron, to protect the face of the horse, and crinet or neck armor (there’s that lobster tail again!), are mounted in a breathtaking display, light glinting off the steel. Knauer and his staff have built the mounts and armatures supporting them. This is a challenge, since they must cradle and support heavy armor, yet be aesthetically pleasing and nearly invisible.

“It’s part of the tradition we’ve inherited, how to display weapons and armor in a way that’s safe for the object,” he says. “Our concern is that these survive.”

Since his work is preserving the armor and not reconstructing it, much of it involves coating the metal with wax to protect it from the moisture which brings metal’s mortal enemy: rust. Knauer wears two pairs of gloves — cotton ones covered by surgical gloves — to keep any trace of moisture or skin oil from touching the metal. When working on fine Japanese
swords, he even must wear a surgical mask, lest his very breath condense on the steel.

That type of care was taken with an exhibit he worked on, “Warriors of the Himalayas: Rediscovering the Arms and Armor of Tibet,” on display in 2006.

The exhibit was 11 years from conception to opening, although it ran only three months. Knauer and his crew worked an intense year, readying objects from the museum’s collection, traveling to pick up armor from other museums and constructing mounts and armatures.

Working on the Tibetan exhibit was moving for Knauer, to be handling objects so rarely seen in the West. “We could smell the incense and the yak butter. It permeates the leather,” he said.

The exhibit drew 126,000 visitors, including celebrities like Richard Gere and Uma Thurman, interested in Tibet, or those enthralled with the sheer beauty of the objects.

It’s a theme he comes back to often, the art in the armor. He stresses that these are not mere protection worn by common soldiers; these are the belongings of nobility and royalty, everyone who could afford a “well-tailored suit in steel.” These are the trappings of history’s rich and famous. “The equivalent of owning a good suit of armor,” Knauer reminds you, “is owning a Lear jet today.”

He takes that approach to life at Oswego, too, getting to know the surrounding area and its history.

A prized possession is a belt buckle given to him when he volunteered at Fort Ontario. “What I like about Upstate New York is that it’s God’s country,” he says. “I can be transported back to the 19th century. Exploring around Oswego was to become aware of the history of the area, going back to the French and Indian War.”

Studying history and passing it on to the next generation are key to him. “I came to Oswego to be a teacher,” he says. “There are different ways to be a teacher.”

He also harbors a strong belief in the good that museums do for people. After September 11, he remembers, the museum, like a lot of other public places in New York, was closed.

“People were afraid to go out, they didn’t know how to continue,” he says. “Slowly it was suggested: Come to the museum. It’s a sanctuary, serene, a place where you can reflect.”

Paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln, that the objects “speak to our better angels,” he notes, “Each department here’s a treasure. It’s waiting to be discovered.”

Making sure that the contents of the museum are in good condition to be discovered by the next generation is the art and passion of Hermes Knauer.
Vehicles disappeared under a blanket of white and students armed themselves with shovels to tackle the 72 inches of snow that fell on the Oswego campus over seven days in February.

Oswego was under a state of emergency due to extreme whiteout conditions. Students were left stranded and classes were canceled for three days. Even the snowplows were finding it nearly impossible to keep up with the mountains of snow.

That didn’t stop the Auxiliary Services workforce from keeping students well fed. Some employees walked through the blizzard from as far away as the Oswego Speedway in order to provide students with food during the storm. "It was a little scary," Hewitt Union dining service worker Joe Natoli said. "My biggest fear was getting hit by a snowplow."

It took Natoli over an hour and a half to walk the three miles to work. He made several stops to get out of the weather and warm up before he caught a ride with a co-worker. A 16-year Auxiliary Services veteran, Natoli had never seen visibility as bad as during this storm.

Littlepage dining manager Maureen Pierce, a 31-year employee, was reminded of days gone by as the snow piled up outside. "This reminded me of the Blizzard of ’66," she said.

Like many, Pierce arrived on campus around 6 a.m. to start preparing food for the day and worked as late as 11 p.m. on a few occasions. She called getting to and from work Tuesday, Feb. 6, "a little hairy." She left her car in a campus parking lot overnight and carpooled with fellow employees to get home safely.

Without the luxury of food delivery services, meal counts increased by 50 to 100 servings at some facilities as students piled into the dining halls for breakfast, lunch and dinner. According to Pathfinder manager and campus nutritionist Judi Phillips, the snow-filled parking lots prevented many from leaving campus, so the dining halls were busier than normal.

"The week flew by," Phillips said. "Every day was very, very hectic."

For employees like Pathfinder salad preparer Betty Bickford and others who live outside the city in areas like Hannibal, the weather was bad enough to stop them from getting to work at all. After attempting to make the drive Monday morning, Bickford had to turn around.

Missing two days of work that week, Bickford drove home Thursday night only to hear that more snow was on the way. Worried that she may not be able to return for work the next day, Bickford drove back to campus that same evening.
slept in Sheldon Hall’s East wing over night and was ready to work Friday morning.

“It’s not the first snowstorm I’ve seen, but it’s the first time that I haven’t been able to get to work because of the snow in 25 years,” she said.

The wind whipped snow across roadways, deceiving even those most familiar with the campus.

“I got lost Thursday going to Littlepage,” said Kate Godden ’81, campus storekeeper and truck driver of 20 years.

Godden, who was making the 6 a.m. donut run from the campus bakery, could barely see out the truck’s windshield when she turned down the wrong road.

Godden, Kim Scruton and Sue Wilder made up to four trips each day, delivering fresh baked goods and produce stocks for the dining hall lunches and dinners.

The women fell behind some days, waiting in their office up to an hour and a half for the snow to subside, before they could leave.

With most of the needed ingredients on hand, dining halls made do until the delivery trucks arrived.

“We tried to maintain the menu as best we could,” Phillips said.

Not only was visibility an issue, the wind and snow made it extremely difficult to keep the loading docks clear for each delivery.

Leaving shovels and salt at each dock, the three women cleared several feet of snow before unloading the produce.

“It was an amazing week,” Director of Resident Dining Craig Traub said. “We didn’t miss a meal.”

―Emily King ’05

“The visibility was zero. That was the worst.”

Joe Natoli, Hewitt Union dining service worker

“It was stressful once I was at work. The snow kept coming and I was wondering if I was going to make it home.”

Betty Bickford
Pathfinder salad preparer

“By going through these storms you learn by past experiences. You order food early so you have it in the building.”

Maureen Pierce
Littlepage dining manager

“We were pretty prepared for the storm. Without some of the staff we couldn’t make everything on the menu, but we had plenty of food.”

Brandy Tynan ’98
Assistant manager at Pathfinder Dining Hall

Snow-covered trees and sidewalks gave students something beautiful to look at while making their way from class to Seneca, Oneida and Onondaga halls.

PHOTO BY JIM RUSSELL ’83
She may be feminine, but Donna Goldsmith ’82 flexes her marketing muscle to promote some of the toughest guys in sports entertainment today — the stars of World Wrestling Entertainment Inc.

After working 10 years for the National Basketball Association during the “dream team” era of Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson, the outspoken Goldsmith landed herself a position with one of the most popular forms of global entertainment today, WWE.

Goldsmith has worked for the $400 million company, founded by Vincent and Linda McMahon, for seven years. As executive vice president for consumer products, she is responsible for global licensing, publishing, merchandising and e-commerce.

“Donna manages this business of licensing and products with a great deal of respect,” WWE Chief Executive Officer Linda McMahon said. “She’s savvy about the market. She just has good guts.”

WWE has been involved in the sports entertainment business for almost 25 years and has created many well-known superstars such as Mankind, The Rock, Triple H, current WWE champion John Cena, Batista, Shawn Michaels, Undertaker and Kane.

It is Goldsmith’s job to meet with such talent and craft ideas for new retail products like toys, video games, apparel and books that will represent their likeness. Working with the superstars and the creative team, Goldsmith and her staff manage the product development process from the inception of ideas through design stages to in-store merchandising. They also create themes for DVDs, books and even video game scripts.

Goldsmith also travels overseas in search of business partners outside of North America in markets like the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia and South Africa, to name a few.

During her time at WWE, Goldsmith has created hundreds of products. However, the products that have surprised her time and again, in terms of success, are books. WWE and licensee Simon and Schuster have published biographies, novels, historical recaps, fitness guides and photo journals. As a matter of fact, biographies for several top WWE talent have made it to the New York Times best seller list. Goldsmith laughs that this has answered the question, “Oh my god, WWE fans read?”

Bright, accomplished talent

It’s not just the fans of shows like “Monday Night Raw” and “Friday Night SmackDown” that have enticed questions like that; many people don’t realize that the wrestlers have accomplished goals like people outside of the business.

“We have intelligent people in the ring,” Goldsmith said. Mick Foley, whose characters include Mankind and Cactus Jack, is an extremely bright SUNY Cortland graduate who has penned several novels. The young and handsome John Cena, RAW Champion, is a star in the making, since branching out into the movie and music industry. Some of the superstars have college degrees, Goldsmith said.

Many of the talent are just regular people with a dream, like Matt Striker, a former teacher who always wanted to become a wrestler.

Currently, WWE has about 190 superstars on its roster with Goldsmith working to create products for many of them. “These guys have serious opinions,” Goldsmith said. “They are very interested in creating products that well represent them.”

Providing products that will survive in the market is a challenge, as many of the superstars change their character identities so often. “You can be a good guy one second and a bad guy the next,” Goldsmith said. “Our market is a constant, fast-changing market.”

Products must also be modified by territory. According to Goldsmith, some countries don’t like the Divas (WWE women) showing a lot of cleavage, while others don’t like blood or violence.

“For every market that we’re in, we have to modify the programming as well as the products,” she said.
Worldwide success
WWE is currently aired in 130 countries in Europe, Asia, Australia, the Middle/Near East, Africa and Latin America, from Bangladesh to Kuwait, from Italy and Bulgaria to Congo, Ethiopia and El Salvador.

"To attend an event in a foreign country where hardly anyone speaks English, and see our talent come out into the ring, while people are wearing their T-shirts and yelling for them, is amazing," Goldsmith said.

With the rising product sales and a sensational DVD business, not a day goes by when Goldsmith and her staff of 35 aren’t picking their brains for one more winning idea.

"At any given time you walk in here, we are developing a new product," she said.

Getting to know the talent has been a big part of the job and even for Goldsmith meeting some of the athletes firsthand was an unbelievable experience.

"Batista, you have to look twice when you see him, he’s huge," she said. "Undertaker, the crowd goes nuts when they see him, and when I first met The Rock I was totally star-struck."

Although Goldsmith has met some of the strongest, most outrageous WWE wrestlers of our time, she has yet to come face to face with any of them inside the ring. However, after having the opportunity to climb inside the trademarked contending grounds Goldsmith said, "It’s hard. I wouldn’t want to be slammed against that ring floor. I’m scared to be out there and be thrown around."

A big "ham" who has had parts on "All My Children" and "The Guiding Light," she awaits the day that Vince McMahon will agree to put her on the programming.

"I've come a long way since I led alumni Fran Kauchner ’81, Pattie Cuomo Turk ’82 and Kathy Gleason Jordan ’81 and others in the Oneida Hall talent show where we performed 'Grease Lightning' and won first place, a pizza," she said.

The feeling looking out from the arena to the ring is "overwhelming and imposing," and without hesitation Goldsmith reiterates that the men and women who excel inside the WWE ring are true athletes.

"It’s a fast-moving, high-energy, sexy world of entertainment. I love it."

— Donna Goldsmith ’82 on WWE
Working with the McMahon family and the talent at WWE has been an amazing career experience for Goldsmith, who feels like a part of the extended family, attending Vince’s 60th birthday party, special events and even the wedding of Vince’s daughter and president of WWE creative writing, Stephanie, when she married Triple H a few years ago.

Vince McMahon commends Goldsmith for her “enthusiasm, integrity, intelligence, work ethic and sense of humor.”

Goldsmith attributes a large part of her success in the industry to Oswego as well as her business experiences at the NBA, Swatch Watch and Revlon, where she learned the interpersonal and public speaking skills necessary to complete her many daily tasks.

“It’s just plain fun working with Donna,” Linda McMahon added. “She is upbeat, always has a smile and has lots of energy.”

“I can’t ever say I’m bored. Every day is different,” said Goldsmith. “One day we are planning a business summit to licensees in Europe, the next week I’m in Bentonville, Ark., meeting with the Wal-Mart apparel buyer or in LA with the folks from Mattel talking about WWE Hot-Wheels products and then back to the office to meet with Vince about future storylines and how they may affect merchandise. It’s a fast-moving, high-energy, sexy world of entertainment. I love it.”

For more information, visit www.wwe.com.

**WWE by the numbers:**

- 47 million viewers worldwide
- 100 licensees worldwide
- More than 190 superstars under contract
- Broadcast in more than 130 countries, in 18 languages
- Programs reach more than 14 million viewers during the average week
- Second most-searched item on Yahoo in 2006
- Entertained more than 1.7 million fans at live events in 2006

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**Raige in the Ring**

**Jeff Velocci ’94** wrestles as Mason Raige.

His is a Clark Kent kind of story, a contradiction in tights.

Jeff Velocci ’94, former mild-mannered high school English and journalism teacher, who majored in communication studies and minored in philosophy at Oswego, walked away from a comfortable classroom career to become pro wrestler Mason Raige.

Velocci, who performs in Ohio Valley Wrestling, a developmental program of WWE, began his “everlasting love affair with the wrestling business” as a kid watching Hulk Hogan and other stars of the WWF.

He took a circuitous route to his dream. After Oswego, he got his teaching certification and taught at Smithtown High School for four years.

He enrolled in a pro wrestling school on Long Island and was wrestling in the New York area with some success, but keeping the two halves of his life separate. No one at school knew of his avocation.

“You don’t want high school kids to see you in spandex trunks,” he said with a laugh. “It changes the teacher-student relationship.”

When he participated in a Newsday article under a promise of anonymity, he was shocked to see a photo of himself on the front page of the Sunday supplement. While they only used his stage name, Mason Raige, he knew someone would recognize him sooner or later.

It was sooner. At 7:25 a.m. in first
period English class on Monday morning, one kid pulled out the paper and by noon the news was all over school.

"At that point I decided to jump into it with two feet," said Velocci. "I started getting my name out and making a career of it."

After a tryout with the WWE, Velocci moved to Louisville, Ky., in April 2005. As part of the WWE developmental program, he will fill whatever roles he is assigned, like serving as an on-screen security guard or being thrown into the ring to make the superstars look good. He hopes to make it into WWE as a talent.

**Strong, powerful, cerebral**

So who is Velocci’s alter ego, Mason Raige?

"The most successful wrestling personas are realistic interpretations of the performers with the volume turned up," he explained. "I wanted to establish myself as someone who is a physical presence with tremendous physical strength. I also want to do the right things, be a positive image for kids to view."

Mason Raige is “strong and powerful yet cerebral enough to complete a sentence,” said his creator.

The character was born in Oswego, said Velocci, who used to work as a bouncer at Coconuts and The ‘Shed. “Sometimes I had to summon Mason Raige,” he laughed.

"Basically he’s an extremely physical guy who has a soft side to him. He enjoys connecting with the fans and having fun,” he said. “But should his nemesis overstep his boundaries, he finds out ‘You can’t cage the Raige.’"

While he didn’t wrestle at Oswego, Velocci feels everything he did on campus feeds into his persona. He honed his physical skills lifting weights at Cooper and Glimmerglass fitness centers. His public speaking skills came from classes with Professor Tina Pieraccini of communication studies, and Philosophy Professor Robert Carnes touched an interest that led to a minor.

His education led to an understanding of the power of storytelling in wrestling, where every match has a beginning, middle and end. “The emotional rides you take the fans on, you need to be able to grasp their attention with a hook, lead them through with an organization and structure, and take them through each point you’re making through to the conclusion,” explained Velocci. “It’s a lot more cerebral than one thinks.”

If the performer can establish a really strong link with the fans he can move them, make them forget their troubles for a little while.

“There’s a lot of Shakespeare in wrestling. Conflict, resolve, treachery, backstabbing. It’s got violence, athletics, soap opera — everything rolled into one.”

—Jeff Velocci ’94

Mason Raige slams an opponent.

"There’s a lot of Shakespeare in wrestling," the former English teacher said. "Conflict, resolve, treachery, backstabbing. It’s got violence, athletics, soap opera — everything rolled into one."

It’s not all cerebral. In fact, it’s a pretty tough life. Velocci puts in a couple of hours in the gym each day, and spends hours traveling to matches, which are physically demanding. While it’s true the outcomes of pro matches are predetermined, that doesn’t mean the ring is soft or the fights don’t hurt. "We hate the ‘F word’ – fake," he said.

Outside the ring, he puts in a lot of time doing interviews, developing and marketing his merchandise via his Web site, www.masonraige.com, and writing promotional pieces for his persona.

When his wrestling career is done, Velocci hopes to write motivational books for young people.

"Should I go on to have a successful career, I’d love to get a message to young people: If you can dream it, you can achieve it. Everything’s a possibility.”

—Michele Reed
Opening Face-off

Campus Center Ice Arena Opens

PHOTO BY CHUCK WAINWRIGHT
It was an event 35 years in the making. During the week of Oct. 17, the SUNY Oswego family celebrated the grand opening of the Campus Center convocation center/ice arena, the first new building on campus in three and a half decades.

Faculty, staff and students had a preview of the Campus Center, with open houses Tuesday and Wednesday, and a pep rally to cheer the men’s and women’s ice hockey teams to victory on Thursday.

The big event was Friday, Oct. 20, when the puck dropped for the first time in intercollegiate play on the new ice, as the Lakers took on the Utica College Pioneers in the first men’s home game. The standing-room-only crowd of 2,980 cheered the Lakers on to a 4-3 victory over the visitors.

The women had their inaugural games on the new ice Saturday and Sunday, handily defeating Chatham College by scores of 3-1 on Saturday and 6-0 on Sunday.

The reaction to the new building was enthusiastic.

“The new arena is spectacular,” said Dr. Myles Brand, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, who was on campus for the second annual Louis A. Borrelli Jr. Media Summit. He especially praised the fact that the arena is physically connected to academic buildings, Swetman and Poucher halls. “That shows that the campus and president fully understand that athletics is integrally connected to academics. It makes a positive statement about the Oswego campus.”

New York State Sen. Jim Wright ’71 speaks to the crowd after receiving a Presidential Medal from President Deborah F. Stanley. Wright helped to secure state funding for $17 million of the overall $25.5 million cost to build the Campus Center.

“The new arena... shows that the campus and president fully understand that athletics is integrally connected to academics,” Brand said. “Not only is it great to have this new building, but it makes a positive statement about the Oswego campus.”

On hand for the community open house was Charles “Bud” Coward ’49, who was instrumental in much of the campus improvements of the 1960s. Coward, who worked with Golden Romney to purchase a drill hall from Seneca Naval Training Base...
that became SUNY’s first ice hockey rink (Romney Field House, closed in February 2006), called the new arena “a shining example, a knockout.”

The inaugural men’s game opened with a ceremony featuring President Deborah F. Stanley, Athletic Director Tim Hale, ESPN anchor Steve Levy ’87 and New York State Sen. Jim Wright ’71, who secured $17 million in state funding for the $25.5 million building. Stanley presented Wright with a Presidential Medal for his loyalty and support of the college.

She welcomed the fans and the TV audience watching the game live, with a reminder that the evening’s celebrations were just the beginning of Campus Center related openings. On May 19, Oswego will celebrate its first Commencement in the new building. This coming fall, the college expects to open the Swetman Hall portion of the center, featuring offices for student organizations and a student advisement complex.

Later Levy, who once called games from a wooden bench in Romney Field House, would give live interviews in the Steve Levy Press Box, which he donated so that future student broadcasters would have a professional-level facility in which to hone their skills.

Just around the corner, students and faculty took a break from the action to gather in the hearth area around the fireplace donated by ESPN anchor Linda Cohn ’81 and her husband, Stew Kaufman ’80.

For more photos of the opening week activities, visit the Web site at http://oswego alumni.oswego.edu/campuscenter/photo_gallery.html
Two hockey “superfans” — history major Michelle Small ’10 and psychology major Lessie Johnson ’10 — were among hundreds sporting gear that made the stands a blaze of gold and green.

Above: Brendan McLaughlin ’07 goes up against Utica’s Aaron Jeffery.

Below: A big hit was “Mini Zamboni,” constructed by “Team Mini,” technology students under the direction of Professor Dan Tryon ’89. The perfect one-third-scale model of the Lakers’ Zamboni (right down to the exact paint color and decals) delighted the crowd by shooting T-shirts from its exhaust pipe.

The Oswego State cheerleading squad brought plenty of school spirit to the Campus Center during the opening pep rally.
Thursday, Oct. 19, saw more than 1,000 students pour into the arena for a pep rally supporting the men's and women's hockey teams.
Oswego State women’s ice hockey Head Coach Diane Dillon gives strategy and advice to her players.

Right: Oswego State’s team captain Jessica Lister ’09, Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley, Chatham Athletic Director Amy Buxbaum, Oswego Athletic Director Tim Hale and Chatham team captain Christina Kunz take part in the opening puck drop for the first women’s varsity ice hockey game in two decades.

Below: Erin Robson ’10, goalie, poses with fellow ice hockey player Stephanie Esposito ’09 while Kendra Lemire ’10 stands in the background during the women’s puck ceremony.

Years from now, Ryan Bartlett, 3, can say he was at the opening of the Campus Center — and he’ll have the puck to prove it. The son of Daniel ’96 and Stacia Fye Bartlett ’93, Ryan caught the puck when it went over the glass into his rink-side seat.
Golden Romney’s daughter, Ruth Romney Naylor, and her family made the journey to Oswego to be on hand for the opening game. Naylor recalled skating as a child on the campus pond named for her father.

Oswego State’s Tiffany Duquette ’10 skates fast as she pushes the hockey puck up the ice in the season-opening varsity women’s ice hockey game.
Friday, Oct. 20, saw students rubbing shoulders with George Bodenheimer, president of ESPN and ABC Sports and co-chairman of Disney Media Networks, Dr. Myles Brand, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and others.

They were on campus to share their ideas on "The Impact of Media on U.S. Sports: Who’s Winning? Media, Teams, Athletes or Fans?” in a panel moderated by Linda Cohn ’81, ESPN anchor, during the Louis A. Borrelli Jr. Media Summit.

In addition to small group meetings throughout the event, Bodenheimer and Borrelli discussed televised sports and shared the stories of their own rise to the top of the competitive cable television business with students and faculty in a special “Breakfast with Bodenheimer” to kick off the day.

“Being around people of that stature will help me,” said Derrell Levy ’09, a wellness management major and Oswego State hockey player, who hosted Atlantic 10 Conference Commissioner Linda Bruno for the day. “It gave me more ideas of what I may want to do when I graduate, and the different opportunities that are out there. It gave me more confidence in myself and to strive to be the best that I can be.”

Borrelli Summit Brings Media Celebs to Campus

Moderator Linda Cohn ’81, an anchor on ESPN’s “SportsCenter,” (far left) leads discussion at the 2006 Louis A. Borrelli Jr. Media Summit, debating “The Impact of Media on U.S. Sports: Who’s Winning? Media, Teams, Athletes or Fans?” with (from left after Cohn) panelists Stuart Robinson, athletic director at SUNY New Paltz; Dr. Myles Brand, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association; George Bodenheimer, president of ESPN and ABC Sports and co-chairman of Disney Media Networks; Linda Bruno, commissioner of the Atlantic 10 Conference; and Bud Poliquin, sports columnist for the Syracuse Post-Standard and co-host of WHEN’s sports talk radio show.
Regional Recap

Oswego alumni gathered at recent events around the country, including School of Business alumni and communication studies alumni receptions in New York City and a professional development event at the Phoenix campus, all in November.

In December, Washington, D.C., alumni held a holiday social and more than 70 Central New York alumni and friends joined President Deborah F. Stanley at a special reception at the Everson Museum for the Holiday Festival of Trees, hosted by Mark Tryniski ’85. A special thanks goes out to Kim Brooke ’87, who recently stepped down as coordinator of our Washington, D.C., area alumni group for the last several years.

January brought us on a road trip to All-SUNY alumni receptions in Los Angeles and Phoenix, Ariz.

In February, Oswego alumni and friends gathered in Buffalo to cheer on the Oswego State Lakers when the men’s hockey team took on Buffalo State.

March took us on the road again with an All-SUNY alumni reception in Charlotte, N.C., and receptions for Oswego alumni and friends in Boynton Beach and Dade City, Fla. We celebrated St. Patrick’s Day Oswego-style in sunny Naples, Fla., at a luncheon with President Stanley, hosted by Bill Spinelli ’84 at The Club at Olde Cypress.

We are in the process of restructuring our regional events program, so look for an update in a future magazine!

Alumni Gather in Phoenix

By 6 p.m., the closed doors to the All-SUNY Alumni gathering in Phoenix, Ariz., looked like the opening night to the Oscars! With a swinging open of the doors, you could see our 10 SUNY alumni college staff planned and laid out a top shelf affair within a fabulous resort setting.

Each college and community college displayed their wares and even added video programs to entertain the individual college alumni. Of course refreshments and hors d’oeuvres were at your fingertips in every direction.

For Oswego alumni, our very own Director of Alumni Relations, Betsy Oberst, greeted us at the door and immediately offered us a token of Oswego hospitality. I chose a beautifully inscribed pen. Soon, other alumni joined us at our table with conversation quickly focusing on “How did you wind up in Arizona?” The best response in my opinion was by Maria Collea ’91 who teaches school in the area: “I followed my boyfriend here.” Craig Kosturik ’05 determined Arizona was the land of opportunity. Larry Scott ’58 told us that after 10 years of teaching elementary school, real-estate offered more rewards. Mary Hutchinson ’73 left Oswego to work in social services in the Phoenix area. For me, Lou De Carolis ’64, the snowbird life was the draw, with summers spent in the Colorado Mountains. We all brought guests, were joined by other SUNY alumni (who could tell we were having the most fun) and we all missed Raymond Hynick ’57, who never made it.

The typical speeches were made, gifts handed out to the raffle winners and most of all, lots of talk about days gone by.

Craig, who was a zoology major at Oswego, found a position as a park ranger with the City of Phoenix at the South Mountain Park. His park is the largest city park in the nation at 1,600-plus acres. At his invitation, we and all other Arizona Oswego alumni are invited to join Craig at his park for a personalized tour at a future Oswego alumni event.

— Lou De Carolis ’64
Poland helps on worldwide stage

MALARIA IS THE BIGGEST INFECTIOUS KILLER ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.
Worldwide, it kills about one million people each year, most under age 5 and most in sub-Saharan Africa. For every person who is sick with the disease, many more are affected: It disrupts families and communities.

As part of the PATH-Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI), Dave Poland ’73 is helping to combat the deadly disease.

Poland works in communications for the organization, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The group’s goal is to get a vaccine on the ground within five years — a very short term by scientific standards.

The MVI works as a kind of catalyst among the pharmaceutical companies, the clinical trial sites and African governments to advance the progress of malaria vaccines. Poland’s role is to help the people conducting vaccine trials to communicate with the local audiences through the media, and to spread the message about the initiative through international media outlets like BBC, Reuters and CNN.

His life is a global one. This spring he traveled to Kenya, Tanzania, Gabon and Mozambique. He’s on the road, around the world, a couple of months out of the year. He lived for years in Mexico, and his wife is from Cameroon.

Poland has been working with MVI since last July. Before that, as a communications professional with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, he often traveled to East Africa, India and Bangladesh, spreading the word about that non-profit’s efforts to improve agricultural technologies for poor farmers in developing nations.

Poland was inspired to work in helping organizations by his father, who did similar work. But another influence was definitely Oswego. “The idea of trying to contribute came from my days at Oswego,” says the former residence hall floor rep and member of the Student Association. “A lot at Oswego got me involved in the public service mentality,” he says. Professors like Herb Van Schaack ’52 in psychology and the late Paul Goodwin in political science helped mold his ideas of public service, and the student activism of the ’70s honed his ideals.

Whether it’s representing Waterbury Hall in SA or fighting killer malaria in Africa, Dave Poland has focused on making a difference.

—Michele Reed
Full Cast Audio, the audiobook publishing company Bruce Coville ’73 founded, has been nominated for eight Audie awards by the Audio Publishers Association. Audies, the only awards given exclusively for audiobooks and spoken-word recordings, are like the Academy Awards of their genre.

The association will announce the winners June 1.

In addition to the Audies, Full Cast Audio received two other notable recognitions. The American Library Association named the audiobook of Airborn to its list of Notable Children’s Recordings. Airborn and Stop the Train! also made the Young Adult Library Services Association’s Selected Audiobooks for Young Adults listing.

Also new, Harcourt will now distribute Full Cast’s complete line of unabridged recorded books.
This is the time of year for me — cold, snowy, dark and short days — when I get somewhat into the winter doldrums. So, I try to think of things to brighten my day until spring returns.

It brightens my days when things are going well with our kids. Our son, Connor, adjusted beautifully to his first semester at SUNY New Paltz — connected with a great group of friends, did well academically. So, it’s a good feeling to have him settled and happy. Oldest daughter Caitlin’s first semester at law school also went well — it’s a lot of work and very challenging, but she, too, has met a nice group of friends and did well. Daughter Megan is in her final semester at University of Delaware, so she is busy looking for overseas opportunities, including applying to the Peace Corps program, for next year. It’s exciting to think of a new world of possibilities for her!

There’s plenty here at Oswego that makes me feel good, too. Our national championship men’s ice hockey team provided us lots of pride and excitement in our new Campus Center Ice Arena. We’re looking forward to Oswego’s first Commencement in the Campus Center this spring. I was touched to be there when former teammates of Tony Sgro ’82, who passed away last fall, memorialized him as they dedicated a locker in his memory in the new Campus Center in December. We were honored to have Tony’s son, Tyler, who will join the Lakers hockey team next year, there for that special evening.

Truly, the highlight of what I do every day is to meet and talk with alumni. To hear their stories, accomplishments, and love for Oswego is always a day-brightener for me.

We recently received a letter from Dr. Athena Frangos Sawyer ’50, who has devoted her career to education. Athena wrote, "I’d like to say ‘thank you’ to my Alma Mater for all the memorable experiences that have helped to nurture and enrich me in becoming the person that I am. As I pursued my teaching education, Oswego gave me the opportunity of ‘tasting and testing’ endless possibilities for my mental, social and emotional growth. I soaked it all in and reveled in the diversity of activities and the warm friendly climate of the staff and students alike.”

Athena’s words are as true for today’s students as they were for those students in the 1940s. It’s remarkable to me with all the exciting new changes taking place on campus — both physically and programmatically — how much things remain the same. Our students are still nurtured and enriched to taste and test endless possibilities and diverse activities. And it still — despite the winter weather outside my window — is the warm and friendly college by the lake!

So you see no matter how much things change, things still remain the same! Even though Oswego may be known for its cold and snowy winters, you’ll be sure to feel the warmth and familiarity in your heart if you come back to visit us or when you get involved with your alma mater. Please do!
American sign language, a poetry café and photography are just some of the subjects students explored in Learning Bridge, a program administered by Cheryl Groce-Wright ’82. “These are things Learning Bridge kids wouldn’t have the opportunity to take in the public schools, but could open a whole world of opportunity and interest for them,” says Groce-Wright, who has worked with the program since 2004.

Learning Bridge brings rising seventh, eighth and ninth graders from Baltimore schools to the campus of Virginia’s Collegiate School during the summer to explore classes they would be taking in the year ahead. The idea is to build their confidence and help them get ahead, she says.

“The small class size really gets them engaged, gets them enthusiastic,” says Groce-Wright. “They really value learning in ways they may not have done before.”

In addition to classes and creative electives, students have gone on field trips to Washington, D.C., and the Lynchburg home of Harlem Renaissance poet Ann Spencer.

Groce-Wright was brought in to revitalize the program. When it is back at full capacity, she estimates, it will accommodate 105 children.

Groce-Wright remains close friends with her Oswego buddies, getting together yearly with Holly Hartloff Jessen ’82, Connie Linsler Valentine ’82, Patty Sweeney Dahl ’82, Kristie Hearle Simco ’82 and Liz Kudan ’82.

Groce-Wright feels her time at Oswego helped her prepare for the career she has today. Her African-American Studies minor and the courses she took with Kenneth Hall and Al Young — especially a winter break trip to Jamaica — exposed her to African-American culture and interested her in working with urban communities.

“My life is still very much launched and burst by the interests and all the things I did at Oswego,” Groce-Wright says.

—Michele Reed
Alumni Bookshelf

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

In her book, *After This*, Alice McDermott ’75 follows the life of a Catholic working class family from Long Island during the tumultuous 1960s. Through the experiences of John and Mary Keane and their four children, McDermott shows the “challenges and liberties” that encompassed the Vietnam War era. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2006.


In *Dying to Teach*, Pearle Wolf ’51 creates a murder mystery where a large inheritance after a friend’s death causes Gigi Giovanni to fear for her own life. Giovanni begins a search for her friend’s killer and realizes that she may be next on his list. Hilliard Harris, 2006.

Thomas E. Rinaldi and Robert J. Yasnac ’99 describe an elegant portrait as well as a plea for revival of the important architecture that has been neglected and ignored along the Hudson River Valley in their book *Hudson Valley Ruins: Forgotten Landmarks of an American Landscape*. University Press of New England, 2006.


*From our Emeriti:*

*Brain Views: Essays on the Brain* are a collection of columns that were written for the Oswego Palladium Times and In Good Health between June 2000 and June 2005 by Professor Emeritus of Education Harold W. Nash. Trafford Publishing, 2006.

*Imperial Valley Nisei Women: Transcending Poston* by Joan Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu, Emerita Professor of Communication Studies, tells the oral histories of five Japanese women who were among 120,000 Japanese put into camps during World War II as a result of a presidential order. Contributing were Yoshiko-Fujita Butler and former students Hiromi Kubo and Keita Matsubara. New Persephone Press, 2006.

—Jennifer Tordy ’07
Michael Buckley ’85 has been named president of True Religion Apparel, which makes and sells True Religion Brand jeans. He oversees all the company’s operations, domestic and international sales and marketing, retail expansion, e-commerce, licensing, production, manufacturing and global sourcing. From 2001 to 2005, Buckley was president and chief executive officer of Ben Sherman Group’s North American division, until it was purchased by Oxford Industries. Before that, he was vice president at Diesel USA, where he oversaw all retail and financial operations of the company. He played a critical role in taking Diesel from a wholesale denim-based brand to a complete lifestyle brand, and oversaw the rollout of company-owned retail stores, which proved to be an overwhelming success for Diesel.
STU GOULD ’86 MADE HIS NAME ON CAMPUS AS A GOALIE for the Lakers. Now he is internationally known as a trainer and outfitter for goalies — from peewee hockey to the pro level.

He had a great career with the Lakers, with the high point being the Plattsburgh game at home in his senior year. “The game was sold out; we beat them 6-3,” he remembers. “It was a great game; I had 38 saves, one of my best games ever. The place was going crazy.” Steve Levy ’87 was doing play-by-play on the radio that day and last October, 20 years later, he mentioned Gould in his opening game intro at the Campus Center.

After graduating, Gould played for the Fort Wayne Comets in the International Hockey League, and the Carolina Thunderbirds in the Atlantic Coast League. But when a career in the NHL didn’t materialize, he took his hockey skills, honed on the Romney Field House ice, and built a business.

The Gould Goalie School of Naperville, Ill., now in its 18th year, trains young goalies from all over the country. College scouts call Stu when they’re looking for talent between the pipes. His graduates number 25 or 30 young net minders who have snagged full-ride Division I hockey scholarships. NHL Buffalo Sabres goalie Ty Conklin is one of his alumni.

Along the way, Gould decided to branch out and now sells custom goalie equipment. His company sells and paints the distinctive masks goalies wear. When star goaltender Ed Belfour chose a mask from Gould, nearly a dozen other NHLers followed suit.

This summer Gould, who played for the Lakers with current Head Coach Ed Gosek ’83, M ’01, will conduct his camp at Oswego.

It’s been a few years since Gould has skated on Laker ice, but he’s looking forward to his camp this summer at the new Campus Center. “The facility looks phenomenal,” says Gould, who was on hand for the October opening of the new arena. “That’s a D-I facility.”

—Michele Reed

Stu Gould ’86 (center) with two of his students now playing in college, Mike Zacharias (left) of Minnesota State University in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association and Charlie Effinger of Miami University of Ohio in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.
A Day at the Races

WEARING MAROON AND WHITE RACING SILKS, THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE Kiss the Dice shows off the colors of Oswego's own Delta Kappa Kappa fraternity as he gallops around the Saratoga Racetrack.

Two years ago, Jay (John) Cummings '89 formed a group called Tri Kappa Thoroughbreds LLC, in memory of his DKK days on campus. The idea behind the group was to purchase and race a thoroughbred racehorse.

Growing up in Saratoga, Cummings worked summer jobs at the track, learning many tricks of the trade.

"It's been spoon fed to me since I was a little guy," he said.

After purchasing his first horse with his father-in-law, a horse trainer, Cummings was hooked and came up with the idea to get his friends together and form a group.

He sent e-mails to Oswego friends and fraternity brothers and received responses from Patrick Magin '92, Joseph Gregurich '90 and Paul Haberek Jr. '88.

The group searched for six months before buying the right horse, and in the summer of 2006, Kiss the Dice won at the Saratoga Racetrack.

"It's pretty intense when you see your horse coming down the stretch and they have the chance to win," Cummings said. "When Kiss the Dice won, it was absolutely amazing."

It was that win that planted the seed for a second group.

This time Matthew Yox '93, Paul Brennan '93, Brian Cooney '90 and Mark Salmon '93 wanted to be a part of the Tri Kappa Beta Group.

The men purchased a 3-year-old female named Money Oriented and racing began in January 2007.

Although many of the alumni can't make it to each race, they keep a close eye on their trophy thoroughbreds.

"The cell phone rings non-stop for an hour after the race," Cummings said. "They're all screaming into the phone."

Recently, a third group, made up of individuals from the first two groups, purchased a yearling, which they plan to sell at a horse sale in Saratoga this August.

"Everyone has their little toys," Cummings said. "Compare it to a boat or vacation."

—Emily King '05
Adjekum Recruits ESPN’s Future Workforce

Q. What is your favorite part about the job?
A. Recruiting. Going to colleges around the United States and attending career fairs to find individuals interested in working for ESPN. I get to go to places that I would have never gone before like Colorado, Alabama, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Missouri.

Just being able to see someone stand in line for an hour and a half to meet with me, and then get him or her an internship is great.

At the events I look at résumés and take notes while I talk to people regarding whether or not they qualify for a job at ESPN. In the last seven months I have helped hire approximately 50 people and I am in the process of hiring 70 new interns for the spring. We send our interns to some of the largest sporting events, like the SuperBowl.

Q. Do you like your job?
A. I didn’t expect to be working in human resources. As a broadcast journalism major, I wanted to report and write. Human resources seemed boring to me, but not anymore.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of your job?
A. It’s great to see the creativity. To see how badly people want the job. Looking at résumés I see who does what, and that many of the people applying all have the same goals as I did or are doing the same things that I did to get where I am today.

Q. What is your work environment like?
A. Out of 60 people in the human resources department I am the youngest and one of eight men. ESPN is already a young-minded place and young company, with the average employee age of 28. I have been able to suggest ideas and have been given the freedom to help them creatively market my age group. Their ear is to the street.

Q. What is your advice to students?
A. Be realistic with yourself. I went to school with 90 percent of the guys who applied for the same job as me at ESPN. If you’re getting to your senior year and you don’t have anything on your résumé, do something. It’s not about grades anymore. It’s about internships. It’s all about experience. If you do the work, then you’ll have good luck.

—Emily King ’05
Keep in Touch

Drop a line and let your classmates and friends know what you're up to. Send a class note to Oswego Alumni Magazine, King Alumni Hall, 300 Washington Blvd., Oswego, NY 13126, or go online to https://osweegoalumni.oswego.edu/alumni/where2.html
VISIT OSWEGO FOR Harborfest!

Come enjoy Harborfest, stay on campus and relive your favorite Oswego memories!

SUNY Oswego is offering alumni on-campus housing for Harborfest, JULY 26 TO 29.

Go to www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/harborfest/ after June 1 to make your reservation.

We are looking forward to seeing you on campus for Oswego’s event of the summer!
MATT ROMANO ’05, a BROADCASTING AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR, always knew that he wanted to work in television production. But it was taking a position with the NBC Page Program that introduced him to a whole new side of the industry, broadband.

As a page, Romano was given the chance to learn many aspects of network television by working with shows like NBC Sports and “Saturday Night Live” during the one-year program. Of all his lessons learned, broadband captured his ultimate attention.

In April 2006 Romano was hired within NBC to work as the department coordinator for SciFi.com and SciFi magazine.

“I’ve always been a huge SciFi geek and a comic book reader,” he said. “It was almost like a match made in heaven.”

Romano coordinates production efforts with over 200 freelance writers, handles the budget for both publications, and edits video content for the Web site’s video network, Pulse. He is also in charge of obtaining copies of episodes for freelance writers and Web producers.

“I’m very excited to be working in digital,” Romano said. “I love being in a digital environment, especially at NBC. To be at the forefront and have my foot in the door for what could be the next big thing in the industry.”

Romano also wears the title of assistant to SciFi.com and SciFi magazine Senior Vice President Craig Engler and in February he was chosen as SciFi’s Web site reporter at the Comic Con New York 2007 event.

“I’m in the area where no one else has gone before,” Romano said. “It’s all about getting our content in a new way.”

Romano remembers Oswego fondly, and credits his two years spent as WTOP general manager for where he is today.

—Emily King ’05

Matt Romano ’05 is the department coordinator for SciFi.com and SciFi magazine.
Lara D. Schuckman ’96 and Marc Scher ’98 were married Oct. 29, 2005. Alumni in attendance included Carl Antifonario ’00, Timothy Norton ’97, Tara Werle ’97, Andrew Berlin ’98, Pamela Nolasco ’99 and Brian DeFeo ’98. Lara is a speech pathologist and Marc is a financial adviser with Smith Barney. The couple lives in Syosset.

David Colella ’99, M ’02 and Terry Elice were married July 23, 2005 at St. Mary’s church in Auburn. Oswego alumni in attendance included from left, Kimberly Frizzen Shambaugh ’98, Terra Burlingame Levy ’99, Robert Levy ’99, M ’05, Peter Ervay ’97, Mindy Jevis Ervay ’98, Christopher Wojcik ’97, the bride and bridegroom, Kurt Pedersen ’97, Debbie Petersen, Christopher Bolik ’98, Anthony Morino ’98 and Kate Morino. A reception was held at the Oswasco Country Club. Dave is a seventh grade technology teacher for the Waterloo Central School District and Terry is a store manager. The couple resides in Auburn.

Kate Botta ’99 and Matt Raso were married July 3, 2004 at Union College in Schenectady. Oswego alumni in attendance included Jean Clancy Botta ’73 (mother of the bride), Joseph Botta ’73 (father of the bride), Naomi Carmichael Colton ’00, Amy Aucompaugh ’00 (maid of honor), Jonathan Covatta ’00 (groomsman), April Aucompaugh ’00, Suzanne Heller ’00 (bridesmaid), Ryan Culver ’02, Glenn Barker ’66, Anthony Botta ’74 and Ann Barker ’68. Kate is a social studies teacher for the South Colonie Central School District and Matt is a school psychologist. The couple lives in Malta.
Regina Evans ’99, M’01 and Timothy Geroux were married July 8 in Sherrill. Oswego alumni attending the wedding included, from left, Kelly Dixon Tullidge ’99, Robert Tullidge ’99, Bridget Brownell ’98 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Shane Krohisch ’98 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Chris Krohisch ’99 (Gamma), Mark Weniger ’98 (Sigma Epsilon), Amy Nazarian ’01 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Lauren Farrell ’01, Kyle Steinbach ’01 (Gamma), Emily Biala Aierstok ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Jen McCullough ’99, Dan Puglisa ’01 (Sigma Epsilon), Kevin Tink ’00 (Sigma Epsilon), Marueen Christopher Murphy ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Kristi Daly Pevi ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Kristen Beyer ’05 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Heather Lamkay ’01 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Marlene Sargents Schmidt ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Chirays Ragonese ’01 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Bob Nally ’99, the bridegroom and bride, Jen Valenti ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Dawn Beyer ’99, Mike Ryan ’98 (Sigma Epsilon), Tim Miller ’00 (Gamma), Ted Hartman ’99, Ryan Ewanow ’99 (Gamma), Kevin Aierstok ’99 (Gamma), Chris Williams ’05 (Sigma Epsilon), Kelly McGuinness ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon) and Liz Sarlo ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon). The couple resides in Wantagh.

Tara Beyer Ferraro ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon) and Michael Ferraro ’00 (Sigma Gamma) were married Sept. 30, 2005 on Long Island. Oswego alumni in attendance included back row, from left, Armen Nazarian ’99 (Gamma), Brian McKeon ’98 (Gamma), Shane Krohisch ’98 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Chris Krohisch ’99 (Gamma), Mark Weniger ’98 (Sigma Epsilon), Amy Nazarian ’01 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Lauren Farrell ’01, Kyle Steinbach ’01 (Gamma), Emily Biala Aierstok ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Jen McCullough ’99, Dan Puglisa ’01 (Sigma Epsilon), Kevin Tink ’00 (Sigma Epsilon), Marueen Christopher Murphy ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Kristi Daly Pevi ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Kristen Beyer ’05 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Heather Lamkay ’01 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Marlene Sargents Schmidt ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Chirays Ragonese ’01 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Bob Nally ’99, the bridegroom and bride, Jen Valenti ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon), Dawn Beyer ’99, Mike Ryan ’98 (Sigma Epsilon), Tim Miller ’00 (Gamma), Ted Hartman ’99, Ryan Ewanow ’99 (Gamma), Kevin Aierstok ’99 (Gamma), Chris Williams ’05 (Sigma Epsilon), Kelly McGuinness ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon) and Liz Sarlo ’00 (Delta Phi Epsilon). The couple resides in Wantagh.

Hope Nelson ’03 and James O’Neill ’04 were married Aug. 4. Guests included back row, from left, Scott Jones, Christopher Ghee ’06, John Beug, Jason Wallace, Brian Smith and Jason Kompes ’04; middle row, from left, Robert Martin, Sarah Hansen ’03, Mary Noonan ’02, Shauna Shekston and Alicia Pulichere ’05; front row, from left, Kari Redmond ’04, Colleen Hock ’03, Beck Bosh ’03, the bride and bridegroom, James O’Neill ’04, Chad Sitts, Kathleen Long ’03 and Jill Buchwald Zannaaki ’03. James is a media buyer and the couple resides in Mamaroneck.

OSWEGO ● Spring 2007
IN MEMORIAM

Kathleen Carmody '22 of Oswego passed away Oct. 18.


Vada Shea '29 of Salt Lake City died March 22, 2002.

Mildred Goodrich Christensen '33 of Troy passed away Jan. 21, 2005. She taught special education and third grade in Lansingburgh for more than 35 years, retiring in 1972.


Donald Graham '35 of Auburn passed away April 18, 1996. He retired from Weedsport Central High School.

Margaret Lux Graham '35 of Auburn passed away March 11, 2001. She was a retired teacher, having taught fourth grade at Weedsport Elementary School.

Elma LaRobardiere Harris '35 of Durham, N.C., died Aug. 28. She was a former director of guidance at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, retiring in 1977. Elma is survived by her children, grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Geroge Bertsch '36 of Concord, N.H., passed away in May 2006. He was a veteran of World War II. George taught industrial arts in New York City for 42 years. He is survived by his wife, Julia.

In Memoriam Policy

Printing notices of alumni deaths is an important function of Oswego alumni magazine. In order to insure the accuracy of our records, 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!

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My Life with Chloe
Continued from page 56

I gave Chloe a bath on the last Friday in August. While I sat on the bathroom floor and dried her with a big towel, she stood next to me and rested her chin on my shoulder. "What should I do, Chloe?" I asked.

A few hours later, I handed her leash to Vernal at the front door to his farmhouse. My knees were shaking. I kissed Chloe on the top of her head and waved to Vernal, who stood watching me with his hands on his hips. His CD player was going in the kitchen, Hank Williams singing, "Your Cheatin' Heart.”

After a year in Michigan, I returned for a visit. Vernal waited at the gate to his property, holding his Stetson in both hands. He looked like a man with an awful confession to make. "She wouldn’t stay indoors any- more," he admitted. "She kept trying to bust out.” Finally he let her into a pen with his other hogs, and she seemed calmer.

We walked around to the back, to a pen bustling with immense pigs, white, pink and spotted. My heart fell: I’d never be able to identify her in this crowd. I climbed into the pen, and the mud came up over my ankles. I called out, "Chloe?" feeling stupid and a little desperate. And then a huge soprano shriek went up. The hogs shuffled and parted, and a big pink pig with unusually intelligent eyes came running from the other end of the pen. She surged into me and nearly knocked me over; the wooded slats of the pen shook against our weight. She was squealing, her mouth open and her snout poised in the air. She was hot and damp and completely animal. I squatted face to face with her, stroked her chin, and she calmed down. She was well over 200 pounds, barely recognizable.

But I rested my face against hers and felt the thrum of her grunting pass through both of us. I put my arms around my girl, and she stood perfectly still. The wind blew around us, and the fields of wheat and alfalfa glowed like hammered metal. At that moment, there was nowhere else in the world I wanted to be.

Reprinted from Reader's Digest, May 2005, with permission.

Donald Michaels, an associate for instructional resources in Oswego's Campus Technology Services, died Nov. 17. He came to Oswego in 1993 as coordinator of user support and user services in the Instructional Computing Center. Don was the creator of the college’s Web site and the first campus web-master. He was also a faculty in residence at Hart Global Living and Learning Center for many years. Don earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Albright College and his doctorate in pharmacology from Upstate Medical University.

Leo Rogers, associate professor emeritus of education died Nov. 21. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and his master’s degree from Middlebury College. He also studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and at the University of Perugia in Italy. Leo came to Oswego in 1962 to teach language and teaching methods, retiring after 27 years. He is survived by his wife, Sally; four sons, John, David, Tony and Jamie ’85; and nine grandchildren.


Raymond Wedlake, associate professor emeritus of history, passed away Nov. 9. He taught at Oswego from 1962 until his retirement in 1981. Ray is survived by his wife, Doris; and his children Nancy, Ray, Rob and Wendy ’79.

Diana Abu-Jaber ’80’s memoir-with-recipes, The Language of Baklava, was a Border’s Original Voices selection and was included in Best Food Writing 2005. Her novel, Crescent (W.W. Norton), won the PEN Center Award for Literary Fiction and the Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award. It was also named a Notable Book of the Year by the Christian Science Monitor. Her first novel, Arabian Jazz, won the Oregon Book Award. She teaches at Portland State University and divides her time between Portland and Miami. Her newest novel, Origen, will be published in spring 2007 by W.W. Norton.

IN MEMORIAM

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IN MEMORIAM
My Life with Chloe

By Diana Abu-Jaber '80

I ANSWERED THE PHONE IN my apartment and heard the sloping drawl of Travis, one of my students. “Miss Diana,” he said, “could you come on down the stairs a minute?”

It was early May in the Great Plains. The University of Nebraska had just let out for the summer, and there was an aroma of pasture and cow everywhere. I didn’t want to be in Nebraska. I was 26 years old, and I wanted to be writing novels, not grading papers on detasseling corn. But I had just finished my first year of teaching, and I had no idea what to do next.

A year earlier, my boyfriend had married me fresh out of graduate school in New York, only to decide within weeks to call it quits. He announced that he was moving to Paris with another woman and why didn’t I just go to Nebraska and teach freshman composition as planned.

For months afterward, I felt like my skin had turned to dotted lines: everything — wind, rain, strangers’ glances — passed right through me. I spent a lot of time gazing out the window of my high-rise apartment in downtown Lincoln, thinking of the crystal-gray light of Paris and wishing I were anywhere else in the world other than where I was.

I took the elevator down. Travis, Tammy and Shane, from Composition 115, were sitting together on a bench in the lobby of the building, much less livestock. Deciding to keep Chloe would mean a world of problems. I couldn’t let myself think about them.

Finally I sprawled belly-down on the carpet in front of the TV, and after much grunting and rooting, Chloe paced and circled and finally settled herself squarely on my posterior. The matter was decided.

The little pig quickly became accustomed to the place. She got the hang of a litter box, and had no objection to lazing in a warm bath like a bubble. She slept tucked under my arm, and woke me by pressing her snout against my neck and face, a damp, ardent snuffling in my ear.

I didn’t like the leather collars at the pet store, so I knitted her a halter and leash from pink wool. Then I’d smuggle her down the elevator, and we’d go out for our constitutional. Office workers on their breaks knew her by name. Chloe was polite but restrained with strangers, allowed cats to nuzzle her and wasn’t above chasing dogs.

Perhaps it was just a coincidence, but after I got Chloe, my life began to change. After a few early phone calls, my husband disappeared as if he’d never existed at all. With Chloe, I forgot about him entirely. Nebraska began to work its magic on me.

Chloe and I went for rides, and watched as the city tapered away to open lots, grazing cattle and long, flat planted fields of winter wheat and alfalfa — undulating banners of greens and tans.

We went to parties; we met people; we got around. Midway through June, we struck up a friendship with Vernal, a young man who worked at the feed store. Vernal mixed a special blend just for Chloe and gave her all her shots on the counter at his store. He’d quit being a veterinarian’s assistant, he said, because he couldn’t stand putting animals down. People didn’t know anything about their animals, he said.

I laughed and told him that Chloe liked Brie and jelly on crackers, that she came when called and that she knew how to sit and shake hooves. I told him that sometimes I’d squint at Chloe, and if I didn’t blink, it seemed like I could actually see her growing.

As Chloe grew, so did our problems. When I’d return home from errands, I could hear her crying for me all the way down the corridor. The inside of the door was pocked and scarred from her hooves. By the second week of August, I was facing eviction. My “pet” had to be removed. I had received a job offer from the University of Michigan, but could I move a pig that would eventually weigh more than 200 pounds to Ann Arbor?

An animal is not the same as a child, but it’s entirely possible to love an animal as if it were. It seems that this is the way our hearts are built.

The kids had seen me admiring a pen full of piglets at the county fair a few weeks earlier. That’s where the idea must have come from. “She ain’t nothing but a runt, Miss Diana,” Shane said apologetically. But I barely heard him.

Back in my apartment, I released her, and she raced across the carpeting, her tiny legs shooting out, her ears upright: a pink spark. I named her Chloe, which means “blooming.”

That first night I kept telling myself that this was ridiculous. We weren’t allowed to have pets in the building, much less livestock. Deciding to keep Chloe would mean a world of problems. I couldn’t let myself think about them.

Continued on page 55