■ In Shadow No More
Activist, Ambassador and Author
Heraldo Muñoz ’72

PLUS
■ Le Clique Clicks with Party Crowd
■ ‘Picked by God’
■ Play Ball!
■ Sky’s the Limit
You may have spent your summer vacations away from Oswego as a student, but you’ll find there’s no better warm weather destination than Reunion Weekend. A record-busting 1,100 attendees had a “Hot, Hot, Hot” time on the sunny shores of Lake Ontario last June. Make Oswego your port of call as we cruise through a weekend of memories, friendships and fun June 4 through 7!

Everyone is welcome, but special events are planned for the following classes and groups:

- Class of 1934
- Class of 1939
- Class of 1944
- Class of 1949
- Class of 1954
- Class of 1959
- Class of 1964
- Class of 1969
- Class of 1984
- Class of 1999
- Delta Kappa Kappa
- Theta Chi Rho
- Beta Tau Epsilon
- Delta Chi
- Zeta Chi Zeta
- 40th Anniversary
- Phi Lambda Phi
- 50th Anniversary
- Alpha Delta Eta
- Alpha Epsilon Phi
- 40th Anniversary
- Alpha Sigma Chi
- Delta Phi Epsilon
- Lifestyles Center
- Sigma Tau Chi
- Psi Phi Gamma
- Arethusa

Newman Center 75th Anniversary
Mass and Brunch. Everyone’s invited!

On-campus housing and event registration will be available beginning mid-April. For the most up-to-date information on Reunion 2009: Check out the Web site at www.oswego.edu/alumni/reunion
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Activist, ambassador and author Heraldo Muñoz ’72 chronicles the rise and fall of notorious dictator Augusto Pinochet in his thought-provoking new book, *The Dictator’s Shadow*. The Chilean ambassador to the United Nations shares his unique experiences and offers his views on the world we live in.

Le Clique Clicks with Party Crowd 20
With his Le Clique party coordination service, Stu Feinstein ’63 knows how to make his adult revelers feel like kids again. His journey began as an education major at Oswego and a third-grade teacher.

Play Ball 24
As our national pastime returns this month, three Oswego alumni share their experiences behind the scenes in Tampa Bay, New York and Milwaukee front offices.

‘Picked by God’ 28
On the 20th anniversary of the terrorist bombing, Oswego remembers two students who lost their lives along with 257 others onboard Pan Am Flight 103.

Sky’s the Limit 32
Chadwick Bacon ’07 wants his students to believe they can do anything they put their mind to. That’s why he reached for the sky and experienced zero gravity.

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ON THE COVER: Heraldo Muñoz ’72 stands near the United Nations building in New York City. Muñoz, the Chilean ambassador to the U.N., recently chronicled the life and demise of notorious dictator Augusto Pinochet in *The Dictator’s Shadow*. Photo by Casey Kelbaugh
President’s Desk

The fact that SUNY Oswego graduates can make a powerful difference in the world is a source of pride for your alma mater. To continue giving our students a clear understanding of global challenges and prepare them to offer solutions for a better world is an important part of Engaging Challenge, our Sesquicentennial plan. An extraordinary example of the ability of our alumni to help shape the world is seen in our cover feature on His Excellency, Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz ’72 of Chile. His story embodies the themes of scholarship, service and passion that we applaud in our alumni. He has dedicated his life to justice, democracy and human rights; values he says were nurtured by his SUNY Oswego professors and his experience here. Ambassador Muñoz came to Oswego sponsored by an international scholarship to study at a state university system. His story is a particularly compelling example of how public higher education can make a difference in an individual’s life, and through his life, in the world. In these tough economic times, it is important for all of us to remember that public higher education is an investment and a public/private partnership. This investment in human capital will power us ahead toward a more prosperous future. Public higher education infuses communities with new members, it tests and nurtures ideas and it empowers graduates to live productive and fulfilled lives. An investment in our students’ future is also an investment in the public good, the common weal — our future as a sustainable and healthy society.

Deborah F. Stanley
President

FROM the Editor’s Pen

If the Oswego experience is defined by winter, it is enriched by spring. In this short but beautiful season, we relish the later sunsets, the opening of “The Stands,” savor the cherry blossoms around Hewitt Union and shed winter outerwear for shorts and sandals. It’s a good time to remember what drew us to Oswego, whether as students, faculty members, staff or friends.

For me, eventually, it comes down to this: As a public higher education institution, Oswego is changing lives, offering opportunities to a new generation of movers, shakers and doers — and I like being a part of that. Oswego has always been known as “the friendly college by the lake,” and it still is. But in recent decades, it has become an intellectual powerhouse renowned for stellar graduates in education, business, the arts and sciences.

It’s a place where you can become anything you want to be: a U.N. ambassador, teacher, party creator, baseball exec — some of the examples you’ll find in this issue. Here’s to Oswego, and to spring, which reminds us that the possibilities — for all of us — are endless.

Michele A. Reed, Oswego editor

CORRECTIONS

The “Legacy Gifts Support Campaign” story on page 7 of the Campaign Report in the Winter 2009 issue should have acknowledged Dr. C. Thomas Gooding and Shirley Gooding as founders and current members of the Sheldon Legacy Society.

“Sweet Sounds” beginning on page 20 in the Winter 2009 issue should have identified Tim Lanigan ’10 as an alumnus of South Jefferson Central School. Also, Lanigan Hall is named for his great-uncle James Lanigan, not his uncle James Lanigan ’66.

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New gear improves forecast for weather

SUNY Oswego students can learn to better understand and forecast extreme and everyday weather events, thanks to equipment purchased through a National Science Foundation grant. The equipment is being used this semester for the first time.

The $156,072 NSF major research instrumentation grant allowed Oswego’s meteorology program to purchase three suites of instruments students will use in classes and research, project director Scott Steiger ’99 said.

A 30-foot-tall tower on the campus lakeshore houses a surface instrumentation suite to measure temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, barometric pressure and precipitation.

Steiger called it “equivalent to the surface stations the National Weather Service runs.”

Also new is a mobile upper-air radiosonde to gather readings on temperature, humidity and wind speed and direction at different atmospheric levels. Instruments are attached to helium balloons and can be launched up to 10 miles above ground to measure lake-effect snowbands and other conditions, Steiger said.

The third and final major investment under the grant is another mobile weather tool called a tethersonde, five instruments attached to a tethered blimp-like balloon. “It can take continuous measurements at five different levels as high as 1,000 feet,” Steiger noted.

Taken together, all three instrumentation suites provide many different ways and angles to gather data on lake-effect storms, lake breezes, land breezes and other weather conditions. As lake storms come ashore, researchers can even launch the instruments into the core of the system to gain otherwise hard-to-obtain readings.

Earth sciences faculty members including Steiger, Robert Ballentine, Steve Skubis and Al Stamm will use these tools to work with students on a wide variety of lessons and research.

The outdoors is the best meteorology classroom, Steiger said, and the grant allows opportunities to take students outside and use professional instruments to measure conditions. “It’s great for them to be able to learn and conduct research at the same time,” he said.

The two mobile suites — the radiosonde and tethersonde — are expected to be part of Oswego’s “Storm Chasers” course that will track extreme weather across the nation’s heartland this summer.

— Tim Nekritz M ’05

Students videotape the Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit last October in Sheldon Ballroom. Video and filmmaking will be among the tracks in the Summer School of Media Arts.

Oswego reels in Summer School of Media Arts

SUNY Oswego expects to draw up to 60 creative, high-achieving high school students each of the next five years as the college begins hosting the annual New York State Summer School of Media Arts.

The four-week residential program coordinated by the New York State Education Department will bring approximately six figures in revenue to campus every year for use of facilities and residence halls plus work for faculty, staff and students, said Fritz Messere ’71, interim dean of Oswego’s School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

The intensive summer school, which usually begins in late June, is highly competitive. Applicants from across the state submit portfolios for video, filmmaking, graphic arts or photography tracks.

“These are talented, highly motivated students that will come to Oswego during the summer, and we hope they apply to our school later,” Messere said. “We hope that they tell their friends, too, and that this becomes an excellent way of recruiting student talent from across New York.”

Earth science professors Scott Steiger ’99, Robert Ballentine, Al Stamm and Steven Skubis follow meteorology major Jeffrey Snyder ’09. The balloon is part of instrumentation funded by a National Science Foundation grant.
A new piece of equipment that can measure concentrations in the smallest amounts could have a large impact on SUNY Oswego’s research, ability to attract top-quality students and chances of recruiting the best science faculty.

A $246,414 National Science Foundation major research instrumentation grant allowed the college to purchase an inductively coupled plasma source quadrupole mass spectrometer, or ICP-MS. The equipment will allow scientists in several disciplines to measure minute amounts of elements with great accuracy and small samples required, said Paul Tomascak, the grant’s project director.

“In one analysis, you can measure 40 elements on the periodic table in a matter of seconds,” said Tomascak of the earth sciences faculty. “You have higher sensitivity yet with higher precision for essentially every element.”

An ICP-MS measures ions of elements dissolved in acid solutions. The ICP torch is an argon plasma “as hot as the outside of the sun,” Tomascak said. The plasma instantly ionizes dissolved elements, allowing the mass spectrometer to measure them.

This is cutting-edge technology that will impress potential faculty yet is user-friendly enough that undergraduates will gain experience with it in classes or research projects, Tomascak said.

“With this equipment, studying lead concentrations in drinking water is falling-off-a-log easy,” he noted.

Tomascak believes the new mass spectrometer could help with other projects such as studying air pollution, archeological classification and the Oswego Children’s Study on the effects of toxic pollutants.

By any measure, Tomascak said Oswego’s success in landing NSF major instrument grants in the past two years is outstanding. “Each campus is only allowed two proposals per year, and it’s a very competitive process,” he explained. “We’ve gone four for four in our most recent proposals from this campus, which says a lot about our collected level of expertise and the quality of research.”

— Tim Nekritz M ’05

Engineering program off to strong start

RACHID MANSEUR OF SUNY OSWEGO’S computer science department has received a grant from the Engineering Information Foundation to ensure that the college’s new program in electrical and computer engineering prepares graduates with the communication skills they will need to be successful.

Manseur joined Oswego’s faculty last year to begin developing the new program, which is scheduled to become Oswego’s second engineering program when it is approved in the next couple of years. Software engineering was approved in the fall.

“Engineers . . . need to defend their products, their design choices, and explain why they decided to do things the way they did. They really need good communication skills,” Manseur explained.

The EIF grant of $25,000 will fund a multidisciplinary team of Oswego faculty members to work on the best way to infuse modern communication education and training into the engineering program plan.

The team includes participants in the college’s Center for Communication and Information Technology: Cara Brewer Thompson ’02 of the graphic design program, Dr. Kristen Eichhorn of the communication studies faculty and David Vampola, director of the information science program.

Manseur said he hopes to begin offering courses in electrical and computer engineering by fall and for the new degree program to receive all approvals by fall 2010.

The new program, projected to enroll about 120 students, will help meet a clear need, Manseur said.

“There is a high demand for electrical and computer engineers,” he said.

“Engineering is everywhere — agriculture, medicine . . . You can’t find an area where electrical and computer engineering does not have a significant impact.”

And engineering is important to the economy, he added. “[Engineers] are the creators of wealth. They create new products. They stimulate the economy. Many of them end up creating new companies in the high technology area.”

— Julie Harrison Blissert
Peace, conflict studies minor revamped

A new peace and conflict studies minor picks up the thread of the former conflict studies and management program and weaves in interdisciplinary and global elements for greater scope and relevance.

“I would expect students who pursue the peace and conflict studies minor to develop their own ‘analytical toolbox’ to help them make sense of things having to do with contemporary peace and conflict,” said Craig Warkentin, program director.

Designed by an interdisciplinary team of interested faculty members, the minor can include course selections from among communication studies, English, history, human resource management, management, philosophy, political science, public justice and sociology.

“Coursework for the minor should help students learn the causes and consequences of war, strategies for reducing or eliminating conflict — from the interpersonal to the global level — and ways to make the world a ‘better’ and more peaceful place to live,” Warkentin said.

The new peace and conflict studies minor dovetails with Oswego’s strategic goal to develop students with better understanding of the world and how to create solutions. Graduates would also gain the types of communication skills and knowledge that could serve them well in many career fields.

“I think the PCS minor will help students to become more informed and active citizens, whether this be at the local, national or international level,” Warkentin added. — Tim Nekritz M ’05

New ORI book chronicles culture clash

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood, Marjane Satrapi’s illustrated story about growing up during the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and her later displacement, is the Oswego Reading Initiative selection for campus-wide perusal and related events in 2009-10.

The first graphic novel ORI selection depicts the clash of cultures in a way that communicates on many levels while capturing the reader’s attention, said Associate Provost Rameen Mohammadi.

“The story speaks to a young woman living during the revolution in Iran as a 9-year-old and then going to Austria for an education at a very young age, then returning to a changed Iran before going to Europe,” Mohammadi said.

The book relates to Artsweago’s Arts Across the Curriculum theme of “Arts, Identity and Diaspora,” looking at the experience of people displaced for any number of reasons.

“I think it’s of critical importance for students to read stories that are so different from how they were brought up,” Mohammadi said. “For a while, this author returned homeless, sleeping on trains or on street corners. As difficult as it may have been at times as she went through her journey, what came out of it is a very strong woman who speaks to it authentically in a way we haven’t seen before.”

Persepolis also broaches an increasingly popular art form, he added. One of the genre’s pioneers, Art Spiegelman, appeared on campus to a great reception last year. – Tim Nekritz M ’05

Sheldon living

Sheldon Hall houses classrooms, offices and event space. As of the beginning of 2008-09, the historic hall is also home to 80 students.

Sheldon Hall’s east wing was previously remodeled to accommodate guests of the college and now it is a residence for upperclassmen. Oswego students were informed of the new living option over summer break, provided that they met the requirements. Potential residents were asked to provide the college with information regarding their scholastic background that would aid in creating a sense of community.

Rooms have been set up to accommodate double, triple and quadruple occupancy. Three suites have a common room and each room has a private bathroom. These features attracted students who add a feeling of community to the historic halls of Sheldon.

“My favorite aspect about living in Sheldon is the atmosphere,” said Amanda Eager ’09, a public relations major. Students and staff accept the characteristics of the old building — drafts, creaks and a lack of front desk — for a chance to be close to the history of the college.

“I also like the statue in front of the building, the old paintings in the lobby . . . The grandfather clock on the second floor is absolutely beautiful to look at and listen to,” Eager added. She, like many other students, has taken note of the history attached to their larger rooms.

“I’m very happy with how the residents have respected the building,” said Peter Henderson ’07, assistant hall director. A major concern for staff was the treatment of the historic setting, which added responsibility for the students living there. The atmosphere, nicer rooms, large windows and sense of community are making Sheldon Hall an appealing residence hall already. “The waiting list is growing larger, because students have heard good things,” Henderson said. – Arlee J. Logan ’09
Students, faculty go global at Hart

In 2008, its 10th year, Hart Global Living and Learning Center offered its first Global Awareness Conference, mounted with revenue from an endowment of nearly $700,000 established as a bequest from an anonymous donor. More than four times as many faculty members applied to live in the residence hall — with nearly 300 students, mind you — as could be accepted.

As one of Oswego’s early experiments in living and learning communities, Hart has proved an enduring success. Now, as it embarks on its second decade, it remains a rare entity on the nation’s university scene.

“I’d never heard of anything like it before,” said Nina Monte, Hart’s new hall director.

While Hart is home to 50 to 75 international students a year, it is not conceived on the international house model focused on those students, or even the model that houses half international students and half Americans studying their languages.

Rather, its mission is developing global awareness and social responsibility among a significant slice of the student body — all classes, all majors — by melding educational programs — and real, live professors — into its residential and social environment.

Monte, the hall director, has a staff of eight resident mentors, instead of the undergraduate resident assistants who work in other halls. They all in turn support the learning mission of the building guided by the faculty director, Greg Parsons of the history faculty, and eight faculty resident mentors.

Faculty resident mentors can call Hart home for one to four years. “The ones who really flourish are the ones who connect with students,” Parsons said.

A prime example currently is Rebecca Burch of the psychology faculty, who organized the second 2008 Global Awareness Conference, held in November.

The theme of the conference concerned doing good in the world, capturing the global and service missions of the Hart community.

Burch moved into Hart three years ago. “I thought it would be interesting to spend more time with students and now I’m completely hooked on it,” she said. “My whole life has swung into this international vein because I moved into Hart.”

Community focus

Students apply to live in Hart and commit to performing 10 hours of community service a semester and taking a one-credit international studies course that requires attendance at internationally themed campus programs plus a regular three-credit course a semester related to a global issue.

“Students are enthusiastic,” Parsons said. “We have a lot of students who come as freshmen and stay for four years.”

Students are motivated to learn about other countries both in class and in the extracurricular programs because of their close interaction with students from other countries. International students make up around a quarter of the residents.

Most international students room with American students. “It’s amazing to watch. You put people from two different countries together in a room and they find ways to connect,” Monte said. “They learn so much from each other and they want to learn about each others’ cultures.”

“You put people from two different countries together in a room and they find ways to connect... they want to learn about each others’ cultures.”

— Nina Monte

Hart makes it easy, said Fred Vigeant ’02, one of the first students to live there in 1998-99 after the hall’s renovation and reopening as the Global Living and Learning Center. “There are just so many things I learned that I would not have otherwise because it’s an involving atmosphere for (everyone) to share their culture and traditions,” he said.

The Hart experience can be lifelong, as Vigeant attested. He stays in touch with friends made there 10 years ago, he said. Now program director at the WRVO Stations, based in Penfield, he returned to Hart for the past two years as a faculty resident mentor.

“I just love being involved on campus,” he said. “Hart was another way to get involved and to mentor students.”

— Julie Harrison Blissert
Fulbright scholar shares Indian culture

AS A FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR, Suryasikha Pathak brings a global perspective to SUNY Oswego while learning more about American women's history.

"I'm quite passionate about the discipline of history," said Pathak, a lecturer in history at Assam University in India. "I really think that to be a good citizen or a good human being, you need a strong sense of history. It's essential to understand how the past and future are interconnected."

Pathak comes through a prestigious program that cultivates international connections and sharing knowledge between the United States and around 140 countries.

Her connection with SUNY Oswego is Geraldine Forbes, the distinguished teaching professor of history whose text *Women in Modern India* is a foundational work in India's academic system.

Based at Oswego through the spring semester, Pathak has begun a major project, "Gendered Encounters," on women among the American Baptist missionaries that formed Christian villages in her country's northwest region and have influenced it since the 1840s.

Pathak also is exploring the early U.S. women's movement.

She noted a positive and can-do attitude at SUNY Oswego, which she said she enjoys. "The classroom is more friendly and more open," Pathak said. "Everyone really works a lot. There's a work ethic at this college that is very good, and you all get a lot done. It encourages me that I can do it."

— Julie Harrison Blissert

'Astro-rama' explored alien contact

A free outdoor performance at SUNY Oswego fell from the sky this past fall.

The Squonk Opera performance group even staged a UFO crash landing to drum up publicity for their campus engagement in October. The centerpiece was a 40-foot radio telescope dish "tuned to the galactic frequency of B-flat."

"Music is the universal language, and this intergalactic call and response will show the indomitable human spirit," said Steve O'Hearn, co-artistic director of Squonk Opera with Jackie Dempsey.

Squonk Opera has produced eight original shows and performed in more than 200 venues across the United States. Since 2003, they have toured internationally to such places as Scotland, Belgium, Germany and South Korea.

— Tim Nekritz M '05

Find the Founder!

IN THE WINTER 2009 ISSUE, THE founder could be found in the far right of the bottom photo of Heian Shrine in Kyoto on page 18. The grand prize winner of a bookstore gift certificate and Sheldon Hall print is Gary Sutton '08. Winning Sheldon Hall prints are Susan M. Wojakowski M '07, Sheila Volk Wentworth '68, Margaret Batchelor Fitzmaurice '50, Noreen Layton Johns '94, Sue Wylie Gardner '99 and Jennifer Warner Janes '91.

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

Send your entry to Find the Founder, 219 Sheldon Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126. Entries must be postmarked by May 15.
Choral work on Charles Darwin debuts at Oswego

Crowded around a computer in the Tyler Hall offices of ARTSwego, a group of musicians, technicians and administrators peer at the strangely beautiful images. Tiny white moths flitter across the darkened screen, followed by scurrying red beetles.

Then, out of worn and grainy movie footage, an unmistakable figure emerges: Charles Darwin as an old man, examining the flowers in his greenhouse.

The video images were created by New York filmmaker Bill Morrison to complement Richard Einhorn’s score for his new opera/oratorio titled “The Origin,” which premiered in Waterman Theatre at SUNY Oswego Feb. 6 and 7.

This ambitious multimedia choral work was commissioned by the college for the worldwide Darwin Bicentennial. The great scientist was born Feb. 12, 1809, and his precedent-shattering On the Origin of Species appeared 50 years later.

Texts for “The Origin” are drawn almost entirely from Darwin’s writings — with a brief appearance by his wife, Emma. They were compiled and arranged by poet Catherine Barnett and the composer.

“I can’t remember a time I was not aware of Darwin’s theory. My father, a doctor, had probably explained evolution by natural selection to me by the time I was 7 or 8,” said Einhorn, an Emmy-winning composer. “Since then, I’ve remained interested in the science of evolution, reading both popular books like The Beak of the Finch and, occasionally, a scientific text, such as Patterns and Processes of Vertebrate Evolution.”

Revealing and often poignant passages are included in Darwin’s published works, notebooks and letters.

Interim Associate Dean for the School of Communication, Media and the Arts Julie Pretzat and ARTSwego Coordinator Mary Avrakotos secured funding from the New York State Music Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts to underwrite creation of the work and its initial performances on campus.

— John Shaffer

Business school symposium opens doors

THEY HAD THE SAME ADVISER AS STUDENTS. They both got involved with the Student Association. A SUNY Oswego School of Business degree hangs on each of their walls.

These are pretty strong links for Oswego graduates who accepted those diplomas almost 20 years apart from each other: Andy Drogo ’05 and Jim Triandiflou ’88 have something else in common: They both returned to campus for the annual School of Business Symposium.

The two-day event features class visits and informal networking opportunities with current students. More than a dozen alumni visited campus Nov. 10 and 11.

“I love the symposium. I think it’s a great event,” said Drogo, professional services manager for Centive in metropolitan Boston. “People don’t realize where an Oswego degree can take you.”

“I got the job and it changed my life,” he said. “(The symposium) opened the doors for me, so I’d like to do that for other people.”

Drogo met his future boss, Triandiflou, as a student at the Business Symposium.

“The No. 1 way people get jobs is through networking,” said Triandiflou, chief operating officer at Centive.

Events like the symposium and the Oswego Alumni Association’s New York City Career Connections in January are great ways to get to know students, said Triandiflou, who places a high value on out-of-classroom experience.

“You’re looking for something that tells that life story,” he said.

The symposium is only one way to discover those students, Judy Letvak ’83 said. The Madison Square Garden human resources manager met Shaun Clark ’09 through the Alumni Sharing Knowledge, or ASK, program.

That led to a summer-long internship for Clark at the Garden.

“Basically, I never worked in an office setting,” said Clark, whose résumé previously included a stint in a sporting goods shop and working restaurant kitchens.

“Jim Triandiflou ’88, left, and Andy Drogo ’05 visited the School of Business Symposium where they initially met before Drogo came to work with Triandiflou at Centive near Boston.

“It was just so rewarding to help Shaun with this opportunity,” said Letvak, who also participated in the symposium.

“I’m just loving being a mentor and being involved with the college.”

— Shane M. Liebler
Chinese language, culture offerings growing at college

Whether on television, in schoolbooks or making world news, Americans are paying a lot more attention to China.

Oswego, too, has been enhancing its programs as the world’s largest country becomes a larger influence.

“Certainly, China is a rising economic power and there will be more opportunities for American businesses and workers to take advantage of,” School of Business Dean Richard Skolnik said.

Professor June Dong leads a group of about 10 students on a three-week program at Zhejiang Gongshang University near Shanghai. Students take morning classes and then spend the afternoon speaking — in English — with students there.

In addition to active partnerships with Zhejiang Gongshang, Shanghai Normal and Wuhan universities in China, the School of Business has hosted three scholars in residence from China.

Oswego’s campus also hosts its share of Chinese exchange students.

Of the 150 international students on campus, 67 are from China. Compare that to Fall 1998, when only one exchange student came from China.

Chinese influence has been steadily growing in recent years, in more ways than just the impression the Asian nation left on Olympic games viewers stateside. For instance, at least seven high schools in Central New York offer Mandarin — the most common Chinese dialect — as a foreign language.

Oswego’s modern languages department has offered Chinese courses since 1997 and began offering intermediate courses in 2002. A multi-department pitch for a Chinese cultural studies minor is in the works, modern languages Professor and Chair John Lalande ’71 said.

Such a program would extend the opportunity to learn more about Chinese culture to liberal arts students less interested in learning the language exclusively. A two-year grant from the U.S. Education Department could get the program going by fall if the application is approved.

“We’ve always believed Chinese language and culture was important,” Lalande said. “Now it seems the rest of the world is starting to realize that, too.”

Josh McKeown, director of international education and programs, echoed that sentiment. “Now is an extraordinary time for our students to learn about China, and for Chinese students and faculty to learn about us,” he said. •

— Shane M. Liebler

Green is gold

The reusable grocery bag that was a favor for Reunion 2008 is more than just green: It’s gold, too. The bag, with logo design by Jennifer Broderick of the alumni and development communications team, won a Gold Award in the “Design and Print (Specialty Items)” category of the Accolades competition, sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s District II. The district represents colleges along the East Coast of North America from Canada to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

“We particularly like the slogan “Our Color, Our Future,”” said judges of the bag entry. “Everyone is going green these days, and it was a really cool and fun way to see them doing this, and promoting that to the students.”

Also winning gold honors, in the “Targeted Mail/Email” category, was the flash e-mail, “Hot! Hot! Hot!” which promoted 2008’s Reunion to alumni. •

SEFA meets charitable goal

From left, Shelly VanSlyke Sloan ’00 of the Lifestyles Center talks with Madeline Phillips ’09 and Christina Estes ’09 at the annual Baskets of Caring event that raised $3,120 toward the college’s State Employees Federated Appeal campaign. This year SEFA surpassed its $30,000 goal. The money is distributed to hundreds of charitable organizations, including the United Way.
Senior attends historic Obama inauguration

Name: Abby Jenkins ’09
Age: 20
Hometown: Canastota, New York
School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Major: Political Science

What was the most significant idea or moment in President Obama’s speech?
Whatever the reason people attended, President Obama was able to reach each and every one of them in his speech. He touched on the various topics that brought all these people together for one amazing event … Few people at the inauguration can say they walked away without once nodding their head in agreement, having a tear well in their eye or finding themselves with a broad smile across their face.

What other places did you visit while in D.C.?
Through the Washington Center program, I was able to visit the C-SPAN studio, the Newseum, the Washington Monument, the Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, Roosevelt Memorial, the National Archives and many other places.

What’s next for you after graduation this May?
I’m currently on the job search. I plan on taking a few years off to work in the field before I head to graduate school for my PhD.

What will you miss the most about Oswego?
I really have grown accustomed to the lake and sunsets. Those two things have been a source of comfort for me the past four years during my more stressful college career moments.

Events

April 29 School of Business Alumni Networking Reception in NYC.
April 30 School of Communication, Media and the Arts Alumni Networking Reception in NYC
May 15 Commencement Eve Dinner and Torchlight Ceremony*
May 16 Commencement
June 4-7 Reunion 2009*
June 6 Annual Business Meeting, Oswego Alumni Association Inc.*
June 16 Discussion and book signing with Chilean Ambassador to the U.N. Heraldo Muñoz ’72 in NYC
July 23-26 The City of Oswego’s fantastic Harborfest! On-campus housing available to alumni, friends and family.*
August 3 Emeriti Luncheon**
October Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit**
October TBA Board of Directors Meeting, Oswego Alumni Association, Inc.*
October TBA Athletic Hall of Fame Induction*
December 18 Commencement Eve Dessert Reception*
December 19 December Graduation

* Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258
** Office of University Development, 315-312-5558
Volleyball

Fourth-year head coach Pat Hanlon ’03 and her women’s volleyball team experienced plenty of growing pains in 2008. Sporting only three seniors on a 13-player roster that included seven freshmen and a pair of sophomores, the Lakers finished 13-20 overall and missed the SUNY Athletic Conference playoffs for the second straight year.

Co-captains Amanda Cipriano ’09 and Beth Widzinski ’09 both concluded stellar four-year careers wearing the green and gold. Cipriano finished her career as the school’s record holder for digs with 1,628. For the season, she compiled 426 digs to go with 202 kills, 10 blocks and a team-high 60 service aces. Widzinski, the team’s libero or defensive specialist, led the squad with 468 digs and was second in aces with 53.

Among the new talent, Jessica Isgro ’12 was the top offensive player for the Lakers with 227 kills, averaging 2.39 per game. She also served for 52 aces and registered 245 digs. Classmate Katie Van Kessel ’12 dished out 679 assists (7.19 per game), handled 213 digs, and tallied 23 blocks (seven solo), while rookie Margaret Thorpe ’12 added 153 kills and a team-leading 28 blocks (10 solo).

Field Hockey

The 4-12 record of the 2008 Lakers’ field hockey team is best put in perspective by last season. A year ago, the squad finished 2-14, with eight of the losses coming by shutout. The team scored only 14 goals.

This year, under new field hockey and women’s lacrosse coach Brandi Ostrander...
and former Laker standout-turned-assistant coach Kaitlin Daniels ’07, Oswego tallied 30 goals and was competitive in just about every game during the season.

A key part of the offensive resurgence was Kelly Collins ’12, who led the squad with nine goals and nine assists for 27 points. In SUNY Athletic Conference play, she finished with seven goals and three assists in six contests en route to garnering “Rookie of the Year” and first-team conference honors. Midfielder Sara Budde ’11 received second team All-SUNYAC accolades, finishing the year with two goals and three assists while serving as the last line of defense outside of the goalkeeper with nine defensive saves. Jamie Scharfe ’11 played her first full season as goalkeeper after playing 2007 in the field and made a team-leading 154 saves.

Golf

Head coach Mike Howard ’90 and his golf team saw significant success on the links during the fall portion of the 2008-09 schedule. In six invitational meets during the month of September and early October, the Lakers finished among the top five in four events, including a second-place finish in their own Oswego State Fall Invitational Sept. 15 at the Oswego Country Club.

Robert Fantone ’09 and David Joseph ’09 were the team’s top individuals for the fall campaign. Joseph averaged 79.3 strokes per 18 rounds, with his best finish coming at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Upstate/Metro Championships in Macedon finishing in a tie for sixth place. Fantone registered an 80.8 stroke average for six events, garnering runner-up honors at the Oswego State invitational and posting third-place finishes at Elmira College and the ECAC Championships.

Men’s Soccer

There was no place like home for head coach Bob Friske and his men’s soccer team, who posted a 7-1 record on their home turf en route to finishing the year with an 8-9-1 mark and a berth to the SUNYAC playoffs for the third time in four years.

After opening the year with a 3-5 record, the Lakers found a spark in the first two weeks of October and posted four consecutive home victories, defeating SUNY Potsdam (4-0), Plattsburgh State (2-1), defending conference champion Fredonia State (2-0) and regionally-ranked Buffalo State (3-0).

Oswego played to a 1-1 tie in the play-in game of the conference championships, but was eliminated after dropping a heartbreaking 3-2 decision on penalty kicks.

Felipe Cavalcanti ’11 finished as the team’s top goal scorer for the second straight year, tallying eight goals. Seven of those goals came in conference play, earning him third team All-SUNYAC accolades along with teammate Mike Roorda ’09. Roorda, who registered a goal and an assist in 17 of 18 games, contributed to a Laker defensive unit that held opponents to 1.60 goals per game in conference play and 1.31 goals for the season.

Matt Wopperer ’11, who took over full-time goalkeeping duties in the seventh game of the year, finished with a 6-5-1 mark and three shutouts, registering a 1.13 goals against average and an .823 save percentage on 65 saves.

Basketball coach posts 200th win

OSWEGO STATE MEN’S BASKETBALL COACH KEVIN BRODERICK M ’92 HAS seen his share of milestone moments during his 13 seasons at Laker Hall. During the first 14 games of the 2008-09 season, he witnessed two of his players — co-captains Kyle Reuter ’09 and Tommy Downing ’09 — surpass the 1,000-point career scoring mark.

Broderick achieved a milestone of his own Jan. 13, earning his 200th career coaching victory when the Lakers posted a 91-83 home win over SUNY Plattsburgh. Broderick, already the winningest coach in the program’s history, has amassed a 209-150 career mark.

This season, the Lakers went 16-11 including the ECAC tournament. Only two others registered 150 wins or more in the 84-year history of men’s basketball at Oswego: the program’s first-ever coach Max Ziel (168-242 over 27 seasons beginning in 1921) and John Glinksi (153-81 over 11 seasons beginning in 1958).

Broderick’s 13 seasons is also the second-longest coaching tenure behind Ziel, for whom the gymnasium at Laker Hall is named.

— Mark Coley

Oswego State men’s basketball coach Kevin Broderick M ’92, center, earned his 200th career coaching victory in January. He is pictured at center, with his team, sons and nephew.
Women's Soccer

Youth was the key word this season for coach Brian McGrane and his women’s soccer team, which also felt the growing pains this season after finishing with a 5-9-1 overall mark and a 1-8-1 SUNYAC record. Ten freshmen and eight sophomores were on the 26-player roster.

The Lakers went 5-3-1 in their first nine games, outscoring their opponents by a 29-14 margin, before a tough mix of conference and non-conference opponents down the stretch got the best of them, dropping the final nine games of the season, six coming by a one-goal margin.

Tricia Sullivan ’10 was the top offensive threat for the Lakers for the second straight year, tallying seven goals and two assists for 16 points on her way to earning third team All-SUNYAC honors. Five of her goals came as part of a three-game win streak in the final week of September, which included a three-goal hat trick in a 6-1 win at SUNY Institute of Technology. Classmate Brooke Sherman ’10 collected All-SUNYAC accolades for the second time.

Tennis

The Lakers women’s tennis team had experience on their side with four seniors and two juniors, but the sheer lack of numbers did not play to their advantage as a roster of seven diminished to six, meaning everyone played both singles and doubles. The squad, under interim head coach Erin Skaradek, finished with a 2-8 record, losing a pair of SUNYAC matches by only a match.

Tiarra Garrow ’10, a transfer from Plattsburgh State, was the top player in singles play, finishing with an 8-1 mark at first singles, reaching the championship match of the SUNYAC Championship tournament and garnering All-SUNYAC second team honors for the second straight season. Sarahjean Marhorne ’09 finished 7-2 in singles play.

Cross Country

Andrew Hunsinger, an assistant with the Lakers cross country and track and field program in 2007-08, took over as interim head coach for both teams this season. Along with new assistant coach Phillip Goodwin, he inherited a relatively young squad that showed promise for the future.

Four seniors led the 12-runner women’s squad, who produced top-10 finishes in eight invitational meets, including runner-up efforts at Houghton College and Nazareth College and a sixth-place effort at the SUNYAC Championships. In meets at Houghton and Nazareth, Oswego had its top five runners finish in the top 20, with career best performances posted by the senior quartet of Rose Foran ’09, Renee Coe ’09, Kristen Roosa ’09 and Caitlin Wlodarski ’09 at the Houghton meet, posting times among the top 15 in school history for a 5,000-meter race.

The men’s team featured seven freshmen on its 12-runner unit, which delivered a top-10 performance in six meets, including a third-place showing in the season opening meet at Oneonta State and a fourth-place showing at Nazareth. —Mark Coley
Sports Information Director
Reunion Giving Successful

Class of 1983 Giving Chair Steve Gilmartin ’83 presents a check for $50,000 to President Deborah F. Stanley during Reunion 2008. This year’s Reunion Weekend is June 4 through 7.

Reunion is a special time for remembering and also for giving back to your alma mater, and for the 2009 Reunion classes, it has been a banner year.

The Class of 1959’s five active Reunion giving volunteers personally reached out to 88 of their 229 classmates. As of March 1, they had raised $9,685, which is 65 percent of their $15,000 goal.

“Most of my emphasis is just on reconnecting, and getting people to come back,” said Tess Poliotti Burke ’59. Burke’s personal outreach to one alumna, who had not given in more than 20 years, resulted in her making a gift of $250.

Volunteering can be rewarding, says Burke, who shared a lot of memories through her phone calls.

She is motivated to give back because of what Oswego means to her. “I had a fabulous career in education and that was the beginning of that for me, going to Oswego. It opened a lot of doors for me after that,” she said.

She has a more personal reason to celebrate her Oswego memories, too. “I met husband, Ron Burke ’57, at Rudy’s; Brennan’s is where we got engaged. Last year we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary.”

The 1959 committee is chaired by Carol Barbatsuly Efthimiou ’59 and Bill Bacon ’59. It includes Burke, Jerry “Jeep” Passer ’59 and Shirley Uplinger ’59.

The goal is in sight for the Class of 1984’s eight active volunteers, who raised a total of $25,656 or 26 percent of their $100,000 goal by March 1 by personally reaching out to 93 of their 1,233 fellow classmates.

Under the leadership of Lori Golden Kiewe ’84, Suzanne Castrigno-Sack ’84 and Bill Spinelli ’84, the 1984 committee includes Tony ’84 and Brenda Corlis Ferlenda ’84, Beth Gura ’84, Roberta Grode Berkowitz ’84 and Deb Belli Ormins ’84.

The 10-year class Reunion gift is a new phenomenon, pioneered by the class of 1998. With Reunion giving chairs Scott Wiley ’99 and Dan Hilton ’99 at the helm, and committee members Dana Segall Murphy ’99 and Jason Wertheimer ’99 hard at work, the 1999 class is well on their way to a $10,000 goal, with 57 percent, or $5,700, collected as of March 1, thanks to the efforts of a dedicated band of volunteers. The 1999 giving volunteers reached out to 113 of their 1,394 classmates.

Recently joining the Reunion giving effort, the Class of 1954 raised $2,300 during the month of February toward its goal of $25,000 to endow a scholarship. The class that set a record for attendance with 40 percent participation and raised $35,000 at their 50th in 2004, is once again stepping up to the challenge, under the leadership of Stan Levenson ’54.

For more information about Reunion giving, visit www.oswego.edu/giving/reunion/ or contact Jamie Stack Leszczynski ’04, associate director of annual giving, at 315-312-3003 or by e-mail at leszczyn@oswego.edu.

— Michele Reed
Salisbury Supports Scholarship

As a business student enrolled in the demanding accounting major and a field hockey player for four years at Oswego, Nancy Smith Salisbury '93 knows how difficult it can be for a student involved in athletics to find time to make ends meet through a part-time job.

So she has established the Salisbury Scholarship Fund. It will offer annual scholarships to a student in need, with a preference to a female student involved in sports.

"Two or three times a week, I would be gone from campus, from 10 in the morning to 8 or 10 o'clock at night," the partner at Ernst & Young in Baltimore remembers. "A lot of students need those jobs to pay for books or for spending money."

A regular donor to The Fund for Oswego, Salisbury had the intention to help a student through a scholarship for some time, but finally got to the point in her life where it was financially possible.

She will endow the scholarship with a personal gift of $25,000 plus an equal match from her employer, Ernst & Young.

"The match significantly increases the impact my scholarship can have," Salisbury says.

As the endowment grows, Salisbury says, she hopes to be able to help additional students.

She shared her positive Oswego experience with her twin sister, Margo Smith Martin '93, who was a political science major.

"I loved Oswego — other than the winter," Salisbury says with a laugh. "The School of Business was great."

Salisbury calls the professors in the School of Business "perfect."

"They really prepared me for my job," she says.

Among her influences were Professors Bill Lundy and Joan Carroll, who encouraged her to go into public accounting. Carroll also encouraged Salisbury to take internships with the American Red Cross during her junior and senior years.

Salisbury was also a resident assistant in Oneida and Onondaga Halls. More than just a practical way to help pay for school, the experience provided Salisbury with some of the best friends she made at Oswego, both in her fellow RAs and in her students.

Salisbury worked in Ernst & Young's Syracuse office for three years and then moved to the Maryland branch. She now lives in Maryland with her husband, Kurt, and sons, Jackson, 7; Joshua, 5; and Maxwell, 2.

In 2004, Salisbury took a fellowship with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. When she returned to Ernst & Young, she became a partner.

One of the newest members on the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors, Salisbury is looking forward to reconnecting with fellow alumni in a meaningful way. ●

— Michele Reed

Students Raise 'Green' for Green Endowment

The Class of 2009 has an ambitious — and timely — goal for its senior class gift. Class members will strive to raise $10,000 to endow an Eco-Fund. They would be the first senior class to create an endowment.

Proceeds from the endowed fund will be used to support students’ innovative “green” initiatives and environmental projects on campus. Projects may include initiating campus use of renewable resources, improving recycling efforts, funding conferences on sustainability for students, and supporting student and faculty research, according to Michelle Tackett-Spinner '98, associate director of alumni relations and senior class adviser.

More than 250 students voted on the options for the senior gift.

The fact that there is a lot of interest in preserving the environment was a big reason behind the success of the Eco-Fund idea, said Latasha Jackson ’09, senior gift coordinator.

“You can see how by altering one part of your life you are saving the planet, saving energy and saving money, too,” said Jackson.

Before putting the ideas up for a vote, Jackson and Jamie Burgess ’09, senior class coordinator, sought feedback from classmates, as well as faculty and staff.

The goal is a nearly 50 percent increase over the $7,000 raised by the Class of 2008. “This will be a stretch goal for them,” Tackett-Spinner said of the class.

But Jackson said the class is confident they will succeed. Their innovative methods include having the Telefund callers reach out to students and parents, and using Facebook to get students excited about the fund. The sale of class T-shirts and a booth in the Campus Center will raise awareness and funds, Jackson added.

Anyone interested in contributing to the fund can do so at www.oswego.edu/alumni/seniors/gift. ●

— Michele Reed
In Shadow
No More

By Michele Reed

From his office on the 40th floor of 1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, Heraldo Muñoz ’72 looks out over the United Nations building and the sun glinting on New York’s East River.

As the Ambassador of Chile to the United Nations, Muñoz has vision and influence that reach even farther. He presided over the U.N. Security Council in early 2004 and chaired the Security Council’s Al Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee in 2003, touring danger zones in Iran and Afghanistan. In 2007, he accompanied U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to the Antarctic polar ice caps to see global warming firsthand. This February, Ban appointed him to head the U.N.’s special investigation into the assassination of Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto.

In November 2008 the New York Times dedicated its half-page Saturday profile to Muñoz’s life and work.

Muñoz is the first to tell you that as an Oswego student, he never imagined he would be such a prominent player on the world stage. Like his classmates, he was busy going to lectures and concerts (like The Doors), driving a delivery truck for a local business and meeting (at Buckland’s, of course) the beautiful girl who would become his bride.

But even as an undergraduate, his commitment to social justice was evident. The Chilean native helped found the Latino Student Union to promote the rights and culture of his fellow Hispanics. He marched in Vietnam War protests, putting his student visa at risk. And he helped organize migrant farm workers on Oswego County’s lettuce fields.

A man of culture, today Muñoz is a scholar with more than 20 books and dozens of academic essays to his credit. He earned a master’s degree and doctorate from the University of Denver Josef Korbel School of International Studies, where he was a classmate of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

But Muñoz is also a man of action, who is not afraid to put his life on the line for what is important to him. And what is important to Muñoz is justice, democracy and human rights.

Activist, author: Heraldo Muñoz ’72 fought for democracy in Chile. Now, as U.N. ambassador, he is dedicated to justice and human rights on a worldwide scale.

A sea change

While still an Oswego student, Muñoz first heard the call to action that would change his life. Salvador Allende came to power as head of Chile’s Popular Unity government in 1970. “And that was to me, being a young man of progressive ideas, a sea change . . . All I wanted to do was go back,” Muñoz says.

After graduation he would return to Chile, along with his Oswego sweetheart, Pamela Quick. They would be married in the middle of the social and political upheaval of Muñoz’s homeland. On their wedding day, they would attend an Allende rally. Muñoz was chosen to head the People’s Stores, a government-run program to supply food at cost to poor neighborhoods.

Shortly after that, Muñoz began his journey through one of the darkest periods in late-20th century history, an odyssey he details in his critically acclaimed new book, The Dictator’s Shadow. One of the Washington Post’s “Best Books of 2008,” it is the oft-harrowing account of his struggle and that of his beloved Chile against notorious dictator Augusto Pinochet.

“Repression, torture, exile, people being assassinated, arrested — horrors we could never have imagined” is how Muñoz describes life under Pinochet’s rule. He personally knew people who were murdered or “made to disappear,” and says, “I dedicated myself to survive and reorganize with the resistance.”

The book opens with Muñoz running down the streets of Santiago, with a .32-caliber revolver in his pocket and several
Critical Acclaim for The Dictator’s Shadow

“The Dictator’s Shadow is one of those unexpected delights, an authoritative history that is also extremely well told. Writing with a novelist’s eye for detail, Heraldo Muñoz has given us a compelling insider’s account . . . I can’t recommend this book highly enough.”
— Jon Lee Anderson, staff writer, The New Yorker

“An insightful and poignant new personal memoir.”
— Jorge Castañeda, Newsweek.

“Chilean to the core — sober, self-critical, smart — the diplomat and scholar Muñoz writes with remarkable moral clarity.”
— Richard Feinberg, Foreign Affairs

“Meticulous and vivid . . . Muñoz delivers a compelling, personal account of life in a police state and a strong reminder of how far Chile has come.”
— Joshua Partlow, Washington Post

“This thoughtful retrospective . . . Muñoz’s first-hand account . . . is both shrewd and inspiring.”
— Publishers Weekly

“The narrative seethes with palpable tension . . . The author’s shrewd insights into international relations, national politics and human nature make this a valuable text even for readers who have rarely thought about Chile.”
— Kirkus Reviews

Named one of the “Best Books of 2008” by the Washington Post

Join President Deborah F. Stanley and fellow alumni for a discussion and book signing with Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz ’72
JUNE 16 IN NEW YORK CITY.

There are moments in life when you have to make a decision that involves your own personal well-being and my choice was one I thought was ethically and morally correct, which was fight for democracy, fight for human rights,” he says. “In the end it is a privilege to have been part of a moment of history where you put a little mark, a little brand on the present and future.”

One day, Pinochet’s secret police would come looking for Muñoz, only to go to the house next door. As Muñoz put on a jacket and sat down to wait for the inevitable knock on the door that could mean disappearance or death, his neighbor refused to betray him. The soldiers milled around in the street for a few minutes, then drove away.

Decades later, Muñoz would share the story at a 2005 dinner party in his honor hosted by Barbara Walters, who challenged her guests to tell of an instance when a stroke of luck created a turning point in their lives. The assembled journalists, business leaders and diplomats, including then-U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, all agreed that Muñoz had the best life-altering tale.

A new democracy

A plebiscite was called in 1988, to determine whether Pinochet should continue as head of Chile, and Muñoz, who helped found the Party for Democracy, was a member of the executive committee of the “No” campaign to end the dictator’s rule. The proponents of democracy were victorious, with a majority voting to oust Pinochet.

With the defeat of the military leader, the victors opened the way to build a new, democratic government. Muñoz was again at the forefront.

He served as ambassador to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and later ambassador of Chile to Brazil, and was the chief negotiator in the “Santiago Commitment to Democracy,” a hemispheric agreement to defend democracy by peaceful means. He was deputy foreign minister and then minister secretary-general of government under Chilean President Ricardo Lagos; and in 2003, Lagos named him ambassador and permanent representative of Chile to the United Nations.

His efforts with the United Nations, like his present chairmanship of the Peace Building Commission, are a continuation of his life’s work, promoting justice, democracy and human rights.

“Always when there is war or crisis, the U.N. is on the front line, providing humanitarian help,” he says. “The areas I have chosen [to be active in] are a continuation of what I am, with a much higher responsibility.”

Conservative values, progressive ideas

Much of who Muñoz is was shaped or strengthened at Oswego, he says.

His core values come from his childhood and were reinforced by his Oswego professors.

Muñoz grew up in a working class neighborhood of Santiago. His father died young, and his mother, a devout Catholic, and a “woman of very conservative values, but very progressive ideas,”
passed on her values: “Fight for the weak. Denounce injustices. A country should be developed but just: fair to all its citizens.”

Working hard, studying diligently and respecting human rights were instilled at home. “That led me to fight for these ideals,” he says.

Those same principles would be reinforced by his Oswego professors. Muñoz applied for and won a scholarship to study in America, at a state university. He pictured himself in Manhattan and so he chose SUNY. Instead of the Big Apple, he ended up in Oswego. “When you look at a map of New York state, it looks very small,” he says with a chuckle. “When you look at a world map, it seems even smaller. I thought Oswego was a suburb of New York City.”

When he got to Oswego, Muñoz was in for an even greater surprise. “I’d never been so cold,” he says with a laugh. “I’d never seen so much snow.” He relates that in the long winters he would take a shower and as soon as he stepped outside, his hair would freeze. “Some of these Oswego anecdotes are in my book,” he says.

**Oswego influences**

While he readily admits that meeting Pamela was the most important thing that happened to him at Oswego, he can rattle off a long list of professors who made a mark on him: the late Frederick Allen of history, and Richard Funk and the late Faiz Abu-Jaber of political science. Professor William Weinstein discussed the U.N. in a class about international organizations. “I never suspected how things would turn out,” Muñoz says, gesturing around his U.N. office.

Art Gittlen of the English department shared Muñoz’s intellectual curiosity and the two would exchange books. Reynold (Ron) Bloom became an inspiration and a lifelong friend. A former professor of geography at Oswego, Bloom is also a former vice chancellor of SUNY for foreign studies as well as a past president of the American University in Bulgaria, who now spends part of the year in Valparaiso, Chile.

Another lifelong friend is **Monico Soto Granado ’72**, a fellow international student, who also was a founding member of the Latino Student Union. Soto, now the diversity admission and retention counselor at Oswego, remembers Muñoz as “brilliant.” He also remembers when he and some friends taught Muñoz — who even now, at 60, plays soccer most Saturdays with U.N. colleagues — the game of American football.

Despite the demands of a high-profile international career, Muñoz finds the time to remain connected with his alma mater. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1994 and awarded an honorary SUNY doctorate in 1996. He returned to campus again to participate in the launch of the **Inspiring Horizons** campaign in 2005, and spoke with students in political science classes. In 2007, he hosted President Deborah F. Stanley and more than 200 Oswego alumni, including some of his Phi Sigma Sigma brothers, for a tour of the United Nations.

The breathtaking profile of New York City framed by his office window reminds Muñoz he has finally landed in the Big Apple, as he dreamed when he came to Oswego 40 years ago. And while the struggle for human rights and democracy may not end in his lifetime, this man of ideas and of action will continue to strive for the ideals that have guided his life ever since.
There’s a little kid inside everyone. Former teacher Stu Feinstein ’63 has made it his life’s work to bring some of the magic and wonder of childhood to audiences all over the world.

A self-styled Peter Pan, the founder and chief fantasy-maker at Le Clique has been helping people let go and experience wonder at everything from family weddings and bar mitzvahs to gala charity balls replete with celebrities since 1979.

Ironically, it was a little child who inadvertently inspired Feinstein’s business. During his 20-year career as a teacher, Feinstein was known for his avant-garde teaching style: a classroom decorated like a living room with desks only for those who didn’t live up to academic contracts, and plenty of time spent sitting on the floor sharing thoughts and ideas.

At one of those floor sessions, the young teacher, looking for ways to help support his family, asked his class for ideas to make money.

One little boy, Lionel, would inspire his teacher to a whole new career. “With a ’La Giaconda’ smile, Lionel looked at me and looked away again, and then he said, ’You know what you could do? Make a circus, invite the people and keep the money,’” relates Feinstein with a chuckle.

“That was the birth-seed of Le Clique,” says Feinstein. “My mind full of fantasy, I started to create parties in New York City.”
On the other hand, those elements never dominated — they never stopped the action. It was a lesson learned in the discotheques of the ’70s: Never stop the party.

“Our mantra was, ’Let’s make a seamless explosion of fun,’” says Feinstein. “We temper it so that people can eat and talk, but all of a sudden the merriment begins again.”

It perfectly matched his classroom philosophy: Always look for a surprise. Never be predictable.

In fact, Feinstein says it’s easy for him to bounce back between classroom and business: It’s one and the same.

“It’s hard for me to make the delineation,” he says. “As a teacher I felt that I was in some sort of wonderful laboratory — a place with wonderful, beautiful young minds and young children with vivid imaginations and unbridled passion, once you allowed them to express it.”

Fantasy — the key to his successful party business — is also key to the world of childhood, he points out. “Fantasy comes naturally for children — it’s easy for them to believe in Santa and Donald Duck . . . because they live in the now, in the moment.”

But in the grown-up world, fantasy is serious business, says Feinstein. He points out comedians, who might spend months perfecting a 30-second routine to achieve one laugh.

“You are playing with people’s imagination, playing with their spirit,” Feinstein acknowledges. “You have a great responsibility.”

As it is spontaneous for children to let go and experience fantasy, Feinstein’s challenge is to create an atmosphere in which his party-going adults feel comfortable enough to do just that. “Where is the child in that grey-haired man or in that woman? Find that child and let them come out and play.”

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‘Once upon a time . . .’

It’s a fairy tale story of a teacher, setting out on a new life, knowing no rules, with no fear.

Stu and his wife, Marlene, started making and promoting parties in New York’s big discotheques during the last three years of the ’70s.

For Le Clique, Feinstein gathered street performers. “They were my people; I wanted my circus to be fun,” he says.

Those attending the parties were intrigued. They started asking who was behind the fun and seeking Feinstein out to create parties for them.

“People started calling and asking, ‘Can you make my party colorful and fun?’ ‘Bring Le Clique to my party,’” he recalls. “And that’s when we started staging parties for other people.”

Le Clique was one of the only companies of its kind at the time, according to Feinstein.

This party pioneer literally changed the face of the industry.

“We took a look at the format of a party and broke down the walls,” Feinstein recalls. “There was no longer a proscenium between the stage and the audience. The world is theatre and the ballroom is our theatre.”

As the company matured, they used more production, choreography, costumes and lighting. Feinstein spent his time harnessing the power of theatrics, understanding costumes and production to create magical, themed events.

“It was never a show but all the elements that would make a great show were there,” Feinstein says.
beauty in mayhem

His tools: Mayhem and color. Once they get loose, the imagination and spirit of the people follow suit.

His challenge: How to work fantasy to trigger their release, their abandon to it. “I always thought it very beautiful,” says Feinstein. “Fantasy allows magical things to take place: It allows people who might not laugh to laugh, to get up on the dance floor and dance, and to give their wife extra hugs.”

He concedes that a lot of elements create fantasy. “It’s a big, wide universe. If you are not careful, it becomes contrived,” says Feinstein. “It’s like walking a fine gossamer thread: How do you make it fun and not predictable? Not contrived? Keep fooling them.”

Since a lot of what he works with is visual, Feinstein says, the reaction to it is universal. “All races, all religions, people from all over the world find the mischief to be fun, the mayhem to be fun,” he says.

Often, he feels like an orchestra conductor, keeping all the parts and instruments in sync to create a beautiful whole.

It’s not a bad analogy — while doing a party, Feinstein is literally running the show. Most of the time, he doesn’t even need to look at a watch. He just instinctively knows where they are in the party flow.

He builds flexibility into the game plan, but make no mistake: It is a game plan. Feinstein feels too much responsibility to let things just run amok, any more than he would in the classroom.

As a teacher, he knew he held a very powerful position. “Anything I say could shape them for a lifetime,” he says.

career takes shape at oswego

The classroom was certainly a training ground for the party planner. “A lot of being onstage in a classroom has enabled me to be on stage in a ballroom,” he concedes.

And the training ground for the teacher was SUNY Oswego.

Ironically, his biggest influence at Oswego was a teacher whose methods were diametrically opposed to his. Dr. Constance Holmes Bond ’51 was his mentor in the Campus School. But while she ran a tight ship, with desks in rows and traditional pedagogy, Feinstein adhered to the more open style of a 1960s classroom.

He used a Skinnerian system of rewards and consequences. Students had contracts to fulfill each week, and on Friday they opened their businesses to trade with the rewards they earned for good work and behavior.

For all the difference in their styles, he took away a great life lesson from Bond. “Her ability to look a kid in the eye and create a bond between her and the kids: That’s what really inspired me,” he says.

“It had nothing to do with the books, the chairs, the walls. It was something to do with the person.”

“Once that bond is made, all good things can happen. It’s when the magic starts to happen.”

The thread continues, as Feinstein, the father of four, passes on his classroom philosophy to his daughter Jodi, who is a teacher. “Who I stood for — emotionally, intellectually, etc. — in the classroom is being carried on by my daughter,” he says. “We will talk about a certain child, how to discover how to let that child become free.”

Feinstein taught for about 20 years, and started his company while he was still teaching.

He admits that it was nothing for him to be up until 3 a.m. working a party, and then return to the classroom later that morning.
“[Teaching] was not work to me — it was play, my passion, who I was,” he says. “If you do what you love, you don’t really work, you play and live out your passion.”

Not only was Oswego his training ground for the classroom and later business career, it was the place where he met some of the greatest friends of his life: Danny Davis ’63, Arthur Raphael ’62 and Ken Auletta ’63.

“Those guys are so special and meaningful. We stay in contact and rendezvous every so often,” Feinstein says. “Within a minute, it seems the years disappear and we are right back to where we were to each other at that moment in time at Oswego.”

art of the family

Feinstein cherishes the relationships made in his business as well, citing as a great perk the joy he brings to generations of families.

He relates a recent call from a young woman. He had planned her bat mitzvah and her wedding. Now she wanted him to plan her son’s upcoming bar mitzvah.

Feinstein also relishes the good he is able to do through his work, such as the annual charity gala he plans for the National Jewish Hospital, raising enormous sums to support research. “It’s a very serious side to what I do that enabled me to leave the classroom,” he says.

Acknowledging that the current economy makes party planners rethink what is appropriate or tasteful, he still finds a need for the magic he can create.

“People will want to go to a party and for three or four hours we will give them some relief, create a world in that ballroom or tent, and let them have a great time,” he says.

“The world is a special place for Feinstein. “Anything is possible in this great world,” he says. “You just have to dare to dream.”

For this dreamer and magician, whose biggest heroes are Willy Wonka and Ferdinand the Bull who learned to stop and smell the flowers, the best is yet to come. “I’ve got more to do,” Feinstein assures. “As long as Cinderella wants to dance, I’ll keep the music playing.”

By Stu Feinstein ’63

The great party is not an accident, but rather the product of passion and vision. The artistic process demands creativity, insight, discipline, patience and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

No matter the size or purpose of the party, the process is the same. The goal is to create an event with its own imprint of individuality and originality that must always attempt to exceed the expectations of the guests.

Establish a Realistic Budget

The first and most important step to take in planning a party is to establish your budget. It will ultimately control much of your decision-making and remove frustration from the creative process.

Establish Your Guest List

The success of any party rests in the hands of your guests. The actual number may eventually vary a bit, but get a handle on this count from the start as it impacts several other aspects of decision-making.

It is your guests who bring their love and energy to the party. It is your job to ignite their participation, for they are the heartbeat of the experience.

Find a Place

Now it’s time to find a place to have the party. Depending upon the purpose of the party and its size, go out and see what suits your fancy.

Don’t be afraid to think out of the box because the environment you select is a hidden weapon of great strength. For example, when I made several personal parties for my children, I wanted a club atmosphere. Rather than transforming a ballroom, I simply utilized an existing “club” where all the lighting and DJ were part of the package. There was no need to spend money on décor as I wanted to stimulate an interactive experience where children and adults could share a common adventure.

This approach may not work for a wedding or charity gala, but always seek a facility which offers some inherent perks.

Music . . . The Soul of the Party

The most important ingredient is your music, so don’t compromise.

This is a very personal choice. Don’t rely on a Web site or referral. Meet your bandleader or DJ. Better yet, try to see them in action.

The quality of music will make or break the success of your party. No one ever left a party and said it was great because of a centerpiece or an elaborate dessert. It’s always about a special connection that music stimulates in the imagination of each guest. It’s the ritual that ignites spirit.

Selecting Vendors — Tricky Business

The selection of other vendors such as décor, photography, video and related specialists should be approached with care and always fit within your budget.

Every specialist has many different options and in a difficult economy, vendors will be more flexible than ever. But “quality is quality,” so the integrity of each element must always be in your thinking.

Cheaper is not better. It’s just cheaper. However, a smart shopper and a clever vendor usually can find a comfortable middle ground to forge a meaningful relationship.

The Party Planner . . .

The Icing on The Cake

Have Fun . . . It’s a Party!

Remember to have fun as you plan your party. A party is a celebration of life . . . It’s about dreams and making them come true!
Yankees field and broadcast legend Phil Rizzuto was making his rounds, chatting with the stadium elevator operator before a game in 1995. On this particular day, he had some sour words for an assistant who just wasn’t working out. If only he could find someone competent, Rizzuto said in no uncertain terms.

“I’ll do it,” chimed Mike Vassallo ’97, who happened to overhear Rizzuto while waiting for the former shortstop to sign a baseball.

The rest of that summer, Vassallo was Rizzuto’s personal assistant. From there, he would carve out a career in the sport he loves.

A little more than a decade after his fateful meeting with Rizzuto, Vassallo is director of media relations for the Milwaukee Brewers. However, he keeps some great memories from his “gofer” days with Rizzuto, who died in 2007.

Mike Vassallo’s job as media relations director for the Milwaukee Brewers has afforded him the opportunity to get up close and personal with baseball icons like Mr. Met. The 1997 graduate was a Mets fan growing up on Long Island.
Above: **Steve Dapcic ’05** in one of his favorite viewing spots at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla., home to the Tampa Bay Rays.

Left: Dapcic, coordinator of new media and external marketing for the Rays, poses with the team’s 2008 American League championship trophy.

Bottom: Vassallo takes in a game at the Nationals’ new ballpark in Washington, D.C. Also enjoying the view of the field is a pint-size version of Teddy, one of four presidential mascots for the Nationals.

“I used to keep score for him during the innings he wasn’t calling,” said Vassallo, who still has “Personal Assistant to Phil Rizzuto” on his resume and an autographed scorecard on his office wall.

**For the love of the game**

For lifelong baseball fans, working behind the scenes in a major league front office is a dream fulfilled.

“I was a huge baseball fan. My mom grew up in the Bronx just a few blocks away from The Stadium, so I credit her for that,” said **Steve Dapcic ’05**, referring to Yankee Stadium. Now the coordinator of new media and external marketing for the Tampa Bay Rays, Dapcic added, “I always thought that baseball was the most beautiful game on earth. Coming from a baseball family, it just consumed us growing up.”

**Emil Calcano ’06** played ball in high school and for two seasons at Oswego, where he also developed a love for communications and broadcasting.

“I always wanted to be a Yankees player. I always wanted to wear the pinstripes,” said Calcano, who grew up on New York’s Upper West Side.

These days, his pinstripes appear on business suits, not a uniform. But, Calcano is one of very few who can say...
he was on the team when the Yankees opened their first new ballpark since 1923. Though the time he spends at the stadium as a manager of corporate sales and partnerships is work instead of leisure, being an executive hasn’t changed his fan status.

“I just get to watch a lot more baseball games,” the former WNYO-FM sports director said. “I still live and breathe baseball. It’s the greatest sport there is.”

Batter up

Front office executives are part of the team that takes the field. They promote and support their organizations.

“Growing up I always said I was going to be in the major leagues—not this way, of course—but I am now,” said Vassallo, a New York Mets and Minnesota Twins fan growing up on Long Island.

“My favorite memories really don’t happen on the field,” he said. “I like the camaraderie with the players, coaches, announcers and the rest of the travelling party.”

As a former WTOP-TV sports director, Vassallo was thrilled to call a spring training game and a couple of innings on the Reds radio network during the season while working in Cincinnati.

While the unique perspective of the game is a pleasure for lifelong baseball fans, it’s not without some pain.

“You don’t realize how much work goes on behind the scenes,” said Dapcic, who fondly reflects on the days when watching the game meant turning on the TV and putting his feet up for the evening. “Baseball knows no weekends; it knows no holidays.”

Play ball!

Like the fans, a baseball executive shares the team’s highs and lows. Dapcic is still coming down from the Tampa Bay Rays’ appearance in the 2008 World Series.

When he arrived three years ago, he was charged with the difficult task of cultivating Rays fans in a town notorious for apathy. Baseball fans have been lukewarm on the team since the franchise’s beginnings as an expansion club in 1998.

But last season the team made one of the greatest turnarounds in sports history. The turnaround in attendance gave Dapcic a lot of pride as well.

He helped organize more than 400 promotional events in 2008. His “street team” of two dozen part-timers targets youngsters with Rays mini-festivals at Little League games and community events.

California Dream
Loneys Cheer Son in LA

Some of the best positions behind the scenes of baseball aren’t paid.

Marion ’80 and Ann Palbelchek Loney ’80 have summer jobs watching and cheering for their son, James, first baseman for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

“It’s still sinking in that he’s a major league player,” said Ann, who had a lot to do with growing her son’s love of the game.

“He was the only kid in our neighborhood, so I would take him over (to the park) and pitch to him,” she said.

A Yonkers native, Ann grew up in a house full of Yankee fans. However, she and her future husband, Marion, met as basketball players at Oswego, where she majored in physical education and Spanish.

Marion moved to Central New York from South Carolina at the age of 18 while still in high school. When his living arrangements fell through during his senior year, his coach, James Tool, and his wife, Terry, took Marion in. Eventually Marion would earn a computer science degree from Oswego.

The Loneys moved to a suburb of Houston, Texas, shortly after graduation and when their first son arrived, they named him for Marion’s high school basketball coach.

James had a great rookie campaign in 2008, a rewarding culmination of years in the minors. Marion says that being a Major League dad is pretty much the same as, well, being a dad.

“I still throw to him; I just throw to him yesterday,” Marion said.

About 12 years ago, he built James a batting cage in his backyard. He also coached some of his son’s high school teams.

Ann and Marion try to catch as many games as possible during the season, traveling most frequently from their Houston-area home to Los Angeles.

“At least once a month we try to catch a series,” Marion said.

—Shane M. Liebler

Above, top: Ann Palbelchek Loney ’80 hangs out with legendary Los Angeles Dodgers Manager Tommy Lasorda. Ann’s son, James, is the team’s first baseman. Above, bottom: Marion Loney ’80 (right) poses with his sons, James (left), and Anthony in this 2002 photo.
Emil Calciano ‘06 poses with the New York Yankees 2000 World Championship trophy. “I always wanted to wear the pinstripes,” the manager of corporate sales and partnerships says.

“You still love the game,” Dapcic said. “Now it’s your job to make sure that everyone else has that experience.”

Calciano has played a considerable role in finding and selling corporate partnership opportunities in the new Yankee Stadium, which is in its inaugural season. But, in addition to reaching out to sponsors and advertisers, Calciano helps with outreach to the Latino community.

“I feel extremely blessed to be able to utilize all my skills and abilities and my heritage as well on a day-to-day basis,” said Calciano, a Dominican Republic native.

The initiative launched about a year ago aims to cultivate Yankees fans by giving the team a presence in Hispanic communities. Calciano has helped pioneer the program with visits to Latino organizations and schools.

“It has made me a better all-around businessman and a better person,” he said. “It’s truly a special place to work.”

By Jay Ahuja ‘86

1) Wrigley Field, Chicago
As a lifelong Red Sox fan, it pains me to admit that Wrigley beats Fenway as my favorite ballpark in the bigs. I’ve been back for games at each stadium several times in the past 18 years. While Wrigley has pretty much stayed the same, Fenway has changed for both better and worse.

Wrigley matches Fenway for overall atmosphere, intimacy and unique, old-school scoreboards, but the ivy-covered walls, relative lack of advertising billboards and the quirky, independently owned sections of bleacher seats atop buildings across the street give Wrigley the edge.

2) Fenway Park, Boston
The “Green Monster” dominates the outfield and creates a setting unlike anything else in baseball. There’s almost no place I’d rather be than a seat along the first base line with a close-up view of batter and pitcher with nothing but the Monster in the background.

I’ve also had the good fortune of checking out the view from the new seats atop the Monster. It’s yet another “only in Fenway” experience. Like Wrigley, if you are a fan of all the fancy, modern amenities you may not quite get it, but if you’re there for the baseball, this is a must-see ballpark.

3) Camden Yards, Baltimore
Orioles Park presents the best of both worlds: a nostalgic-feeling park with all the convenient amenities a fan could ask for. The view beyond the outfield wall is as good as there is east of the Rockies and the concessions are among the best in baseball. Boog’s Barbecue and soft shell crab sandwiches chased with a Smithwick’s Ale: It doesn’t get much better than that!

4) AT&T Park, San Francisco
This is another great food ballpark, but so much more than that. There’s a nice blend of throwback atmosphere with all the modern touches situated in a great part of town. The long, twisty slides intertwined within the giant, three-fingered fielder’s glove and the miniature wiffle ball park behind the left field stands are great places to take the kids.

5) TBD
By all accounts, the new ballparks in Queens and the Bronx look to become instant classics. Having made at least one trip to a major league game every year since 1991, I expect to visit both New York City ballparks soon. Early reports favor the Mets’ new digs, but it’s hard to fathom a Yankee Stadium that won’t be among the very best yards in baseball.

‘Picked by God’  
by Michele Reed

Curious... funny... beautiful... charismatic. Colleen Brunner ’90 and Lynne Hartunian ’89 and their personalities are impossible to forget, even 20 years after their lives were cut tragically short.

Hartunian and Brunner were among 270 lost — 11 people on the ground and 259 passengers and crew — when the Boeing 747 Clipper Maid of the Seas went down over Lockerbie, Scotland, Dec. 21, 1988, en route from London to New York. The young women were traveling home from a SUNY Oswego study-abroad trip to England.

“They were the sweetest people of the whole trip,” said Joanna Shelmidine ’89, who took part in the London study-abroad program with Brunner and Hartunian. “Looking back, you knew why they were picked by God: Because they were the most prepared for heaven, both very good people.”

Both were communication majors and Brunner was a member of Alpha Sigma Chi sorority. Brunner worked in the Admissions Office and Hartunian was a teaching assistant for the late Professor Emeritus I. David Glick.

Shelmidine and Hartunian lived in the same residence hall, and were both into theatre, sharing every theatre class together from freshman year on.

Shelmidine remembered how excited Hartunian was for the trip, recalling the day the girls found out they had been accepted for the program. “I met her between Fenfield Library and the Union and she was so excited to go,” Shelmidine recalled.

When the class traveled to Paris on a side trip, Shelmidine spent the entire day there with Brunner and Hartunian. She recalled the three of them sitting at an outdoor café, sipping Coca Cola, a little link with home. “They were both so enthusiastic — had so much life,” she said.

ASA sister Janette Hausler ’89 remembered the close-knit group of girls who traveled to London together.

“Lynne and I were roommates and had planned on going on the trip since freshman year,” she said. “As we talked about it over the years, more and more people became interested in going.” Brunner and several other ASA sisters would join the group.

“We had a wonderful time while there. We studied the humanities, were exposed to many different plays — drama and musicals — [we were] exposed to different cultures.”

Kristin Usaitis ’89 was Brunner’s roommate in London and they were slated to room together after the trip. “Colleen was very consistent, always a smile on her face. She was such a good person and a good friend,” she remembered. “You could not help but feel happy when you were around Colleen.”

Lynne Hartunian ’89 (left) and Colleen Brunner ’90 were killed in the Dec. 21, 1988, terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

‘Beautiful people’

Hausler and Usaitis both described Brunner and Hartunian as “beautiful people, inside and out.”

Family meant a lot to them. “They were the apples of their families’ eyes,” Hausler remembered. Hartunian was the youngest of three; Brunner the baby of a large family.

“They lived for their family and friends,” Hausler said. They were so devoted to their families, they were determined to fly home in time for Christmas, taking the fatal flight Dec. 21.

Hausler, Usaitis, Brunner and Hartunian traveled to Ireland and Scotland, and all over England. After the semester ended, the foursome traveled around Europe by train, backpacking through Spain, France, Switzerland, Germany and Austria.
One incident on that side trip would give Hausler and Usaitis a permanent remembrance of their friends. One day, a dime showed up in Hartunian’s luggage; later it turned up in Hausler’s, Usaitis’ and Brunner’s bags as the trip wore on. The girls laughed about it and it became a running joke.

After the crash, Hausler and Usaitis attended a memorial service for Hartunian in Niskayuna, her hometown. At the reception following, they met Hartunian’s best friend, Nancy. They visited for a while, and as Nancy walked away, Hausler and Usaitis glanced down. There was a dime on the floor.

“It was a sign that Lynne and Colleen were with us,” said Usaitis. “Janette is still finding dimes in weird places and they make us think of Lynne and Colleen.”

**A campus shaken**

Word of the叼 down jetliner arrived just after students had left the Oswego campus for the winter break.

At first, the crash was thought to be just a tragic accident. Later investigation would reveal that the plane was brought down by a bomb, as part of an attack by Libyan terrorists.

“Terrorism is something that is so much more on our minds now,” said Marc Heller ’90, then editor-in-chief of the Oswegonian and now Washington bureau chief for the Watertown Daily Times. “It wasn’t in our consciousness so much then.”

Heller recalled the moment he heard the news. “I was driving home to White Plains, bringing Karen Norris ’89 home for the break, and heard it in the car,” Heller said. “I had no idea there was anybody from Oswego; I heard Syracuse mentioned.”

Later that evening, Heller was watching the nightly news with his parents, when he saw the image of a newspaper headline flash across the screen, including the word Oswego.

He immediately called campus and Public Affairs Director Julie Harrison Blissert confirmed the bad news.

As students returned to campus in January 1989, they shared their grief. “For a couple of days, people were walking around in a state of shock,” said Bill Schreiner ’92, WTOP-TV news director and now an attorney and president of the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors. “It was all that anyone was talking about.”

Students, faculty and family members gathered to remember the victims and console each other at a memorial service and Mass at the Newman Center Jan. 30, 1989.

“It is never easy to find one’s self at peace over such a loss. Young people are not supposed to die. Yet it was clear from the emotion at the service that Lynne and Colleen had already accomplished a great deal in their lives,” read the Oswegonian editorial of Feb. 2, 1989, written collectively by Heller and members of the editorial team. “They were both exceptionally talented, active women who touched people’s lives; what more can we ask for in a lifetime?”

“In that sense the sorrow over the loss of loved ones is mixed with the celebration over what they did for us. That is how we remember them. Lynne Hartunian and Colleen Brunner will always be remembered at Oswego as symbols of what we can do,” concluded the editorial.

Continued on p. 30

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**‘Forever grateful’**

By Kelly Ellis-Meehan ’98

**EDITOR’S NOTE: Kelly Ellis-Meehan ’98** (pictured above with her husband, Matthew Meehan ’98 in Venice) received the Colleen Brunner Memorial Scholarship in 1997, making her study-abroad trip to London in that year possible. Now the Robinson Secondary School eighth-grade school counselor in Fairfax, Va., Ellis-Meehan contributed the following remembrance in gratitude for the experience the scholarship made possible.

My trip provided me with an education that went above and beyond the classroom. My life was forever changed with the chance to study abroad and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity.

There are not enough words to describe this fantastic trip and life-changing experience. I met and lived with wonderful students and we banded together as we took advantage of all that London had to offer. We went to theaters, museums, and cathedrals; we rode the “Tube,” walked the streets and had the best time of our lives.

For some of us, it was the first time we had traveled abroad and we took advantage of our location to visit other countries such as France, Belgium, Scotland and Ireland. We met other students traveling along the way, and we shared our stories during train rides through Europe.

As my last night approached, I remembered that [Colleen’s mother] Mrs. Brunner had told me that Colleen had particularly enjoyed the Hard Rock Café in London and asked if I might be willing to go there and keep Colleen in mind. So my friends and I went; we toasted a brave girl I had never met; and we reminisced about our time spent together and the experiences we were lucky enough to have.

Today I am a school counselor and an avid traveler. Any time I have a vacation or a chance, I hit the road (or hop a plane) and find a new place to discover. I have also had the chance to take students on some of their first trips abroad and watch their eyes light up as they see something for the first time. It is always a touching moment to be there to see their faces and watch them have new experiences.

I couldn’t have done it without the Colleen Brunner Memorial Scholarship and for that I am forever grateful to her family. I know that her memory continues on through the future trips Oswego students will embark upon.

One of my professors in London had a quote that I try to live my life by: “Be bold and courageous. In life you will regret the things you didn’t do more than the ones you did.”
WTOP honored them with a special broadcast, “A Time to Remember,” produced by Schreiner along with Steve Messina ’91, who was WTOP general manager and now also an attorney and OAA director along with Schreiner.

The centerpiece of the film was the Newman Center memorial service.

Schreiner recalled how the Rev. James Lang, Newman Center chaplain, was protective of the campus community. “It was very important to him that the service be primarily for the local Oswego community; no Syracuse media could be there,” Schreiner recalled. “We were not going to put our grief on display for the world.”

To that end, Lang would only allow WTOP to film the service; no other film crews were granted access. “Afterward, we got calls from all the major networks, asking for footage,” recalled Messina.

“It was a very moving service — the sort of thing that shook the whole campus to its knees for several days,” Schreiner said.

A crowd of 700 filled the tiny chapel on New Street. It was so crowded, recalled Schreiner, that many members of the campus, including part of his film crew, were forced to stand outside in the frigid January air, watching through the windows. His fellow WTOP staffers passed blank tapes through the window for his camera.

“There was a general feeling of shock and sadness,” recalled Messina. “Being there when they had the eulogy, it was an incredibly, profoundly sad moment.”

The service became the core of the half-hour show. Messina and Schreiner interviewed friends of Brunner and Hartunian and pieced the segments together with clips from local news coverage of the tragedy, along with narration by Schreiner in the station’s Hewitt Union studios.

The resulting documentary was good enough to be picked up by NCTV, a network of college TV stations, and shown throughout the Northeast.

A Laker legacy

Other tributes would follow throughout the years.

The Class of 1989 senior gift was dedicated to Hartunian and Brunner’s memory.

In 1993, Oswego marked the fifth anniversary of the tragedy by installing a memorial dedicated to the two women in the lobby of Penfield Library. Theatre Professor Emeritus William Stark ’68 designed the display, which includes a copper-and-brass sculpture by Professor Emeritus Vincent D’Ambrosio symbolizing the earth, and a photo of Brunner and Hartunian sightseeing in Oxford.

In February 1999, the 10th anniversary of the tragedy was marked by a memorial service at the Hall Newman Center. Lang would once again preside as friends and family members of the fallen girls gathered to share their memories.

The Colleen Brunner Memorial Scholarship was established in 1989 by her family and friends to assist students with financial need to participate in the college’s Study Abroad program. Since then, 27 Brunner scholars have traveled to other countries.
Lasting effects

As if to prove the Oswegonian’s words right, the Pan Am 103 tragedy would go on to inspire Oswego students.

Shelmidine, a budding actress with a flair for musical comedy, would abandon the stage for the role of a stuntwoman. She was scheduled on Pan Am 103 and postponed her flight to surprise her family by arriving home on Christmas Eve.

“It completely changed my life; made me a completely different woman,” she said. “I jump in front of cars now and set myself on fire, because I cheated death.”

For Schreiner, covering Pan Am 103 along with a blackout earlier during the fall 1988 semester, reaffirmed his decision to attend Oswego. He wanted to be a serious journalist, with hands-on experience early in his college career. For a freshman to cover those two events, getting the facts right and yet showing sensitivity to the people involved, was challenging but valuable. “At age 18, it was sort of tough, but a great experience,” he said.

Hausler thinks about what would have become of her lost classmates. “We often wonder, ‘What would they be doing now?’ Lynne would be living abroad or in a major city somewhere and being very successful, but with a family,” she said. “Colleen would be close geographically and in heart to her family in the Hamburg area.”

Hausler has traveled the world for personal and professional reasons. She says she will encourage her children, 5-year-old Maya Lynne (whose middle name honors Hartunian) and 3-year-old Gregory, to study and travel abroad.

And she is determined to keep Brunner and Hartunian’s story alive, making people aware of the history surrounding the Pan Am 103 bombing. She and Usaitis traveled to Washington for the 20th anniversary in December, and they have stayed in touch with the families of the fallen girls. “We feel responsible for the oral history of this,” Hausler says of herself and her fellow travelers. “We are a part of this.”

Danny’ Remembered

Daniel Emmet McCarthy’s “kind, gentle, fun-loving, generous spirit” will be remembered by generations of Oswego students, whether they receive a scholarship in his name or use a special room in the Campus Center.

The memorials were established by Peter McCarthy ’82 to honor the older brother he lost in the Pan Am 103 tragedy.

Peter McCarthy established the Daniel McCarthy Scholarship to support current Oswego students in their efforts to study abroad.

In addition, Peter named the Student Association’s Resource Area “Danny’s Room,” in his brother’s memory.

Dan McCarthy, who was not an Oswego alumnus, was only 31 years of age when he perished Dec. 21, 1988.

“Dan did not cure cancer and could not bend steel in his bare hands; he was not Mother Theresa, nor was he a noted delegate for world peace, but he was a kind, gentle, fun-loving, generous spirit and a friendly presence has been taken from our midst,” Peter said at his brother’s memorial service.

At the time of his death, Dan McCarthy was a vice president in international operations for Credit Suisse First Boston, living in London. He was returning home from London for the holidays at the time of the crash.
Some teachers will do anything to inspire their students. For Chadwick Bacon ’07, the sky’s the limit — literally.

When his technology students at the Samuel Gaines Academy in Fort Pierce, Fla., were getting ready to build and launch rockets as part of a class module, Bacon’s own experience became a living example.

In October, Bacon took part in a zero gravity program for teachers, sponsored by Northrup Grumman. It was an extremely competitive application grant process, and the odds were stacked against him, since the program was designed for science and math teachers, not technology teachers.

Out of 900 teachers who apply, only 50 are chosen.

But Bacon wanted to show his students — many of them from inner city homes and struggling with behavioral or learning problems — that with confidence and persistence, they could do anything. So he persisted in applying and was chosen. He would go into zero gravity Oct. 1. The day after the flight, he showed his students a video of their teacher floating weightless.

“They looks on their faces were amazing. Their jaws dropped down to the floor and their eyes were all big,” he remembers.

“It was probably the only time I’ve heard my class silent watching a video.

“It was very exciting for them to see that. It felt kind of good on my part, too.”

“To know that Mr. Bacon had been able to experience the flight was amazing. He encourages us to set our sights high and that good things will happen,” says Jazmine Flores, an eighth-grade student.

“He is a teacher who inspires all of his students on a daily basis to challenge themselves and to never settle. His accomplishment is a great example of what can happen if you just try.”

Sky’s the Limit

Florida Teacher Loses ‘Gs,’ Gets ‘Geees!’

By Michele Reed

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“It was very exciting for them to see
When the plane was going up, the teachers experienced 2 Gs — double the gravity of earth.

During various maneuvers the teachers could feel lunar gravity, Mars gravity and zero gravity.

“You feel like you’re in a snow globe all shaken up, with no idea what’s going on,” Bacon describes the zero gravity experience.

In weightlessness, “it’s pressureless, no more pressure on your chest. Your lungs feel light and your whole body gets very tingly,” he says. “You lift up off the ground; couldn’t even stay on the ground if you wanted to. You start levitating in the air. I’d do it again in a heartbeat; it’s an adrenaline rush.”

But the flight proved to be more than just a cool experience. It was directly related to one of the modules his students would be studying: rocketry.

“[The weightless flight] enabled me to bring in Newton’s laws and relate it to something I experienced,” he says.

“It also helped me to get the kids excited about setting goals, to know what you want to do in life and then achieve it.”

Choosing goals and achieving them is something this young teacher is familiar with. He wanted to take on the challenge of teaching inner city youth, and wanted a job where he could really make a difference in the lives of young people. He got all that and more in his very first position.

Starting from scratch

He’d landed the job at Samuel Gaines before the school was even built, at the Central New York Teacher Recruitment Days. After working a construction job to make the money to move, he packed up his entire life in a U-haul and hit the road for Florida.

Even an Oswego education couldn’t prepare him for the surprises he was to encounter. Although Bacon had been hired to teach grades 6 to 8, the school had not been able to hire a K-5 teacher, and he ended up building a technology education program for the entire K-8 school, and teaching nine different grade levels in two buildings.

“It was like the proving ground for me, whether I was going to make it as a teacher,” Bacon says.

When Bacon arrived at his new school, everything for both the science and technology classrooms was in boxes.

He walked into a 40-by-40 foot classroom, stacked floor to ceiling with half a million dollars of equipment.

Bacon tore the boxes open, inventoried the contents and put together the classrooms every evening during the first two weeks of school, after classes were over.

“All the computers were still in their original boxes: 16 computers, 16 monitors, 16 keyboards,” he remembers.

He took them out and programmed them, networked them and installed software.

Continued on p. 34
Chadwick Bacon ’07 works with seventh-grade student Jonathon Peavy, cutting balsa wood to make a CO₂-powered dragster.

The classroom is set up in a modular system, with 16 separate workstations, each devoted to a different topic with 16 different things going on in the classroom at any given time.

At one station, the kids could be working on electricity and ask Bacon about Ohm’s law, while at another, they’re working on robotics, with an entirely different set of questions.

“It’s challenging for me and just as challenging for them, too,” Bacon says.

But he feels it’s one more way for him to grow as a teacher — and his students to grow as people. “They come into the classroom as students and leave as young adults who are self-sufficient, productive and solve problems on their own.”

Helping these students — many of whom qualify for reduced lunches and are on Independent Educational Programs for behavioral or learning problems — is challenging but rewarding for Bacon.

“They’ve lived the life of a 30- to 40-year-old and seen things that no child should see,” he says.

“But they’re very deserving and very grateful for what you do for them.”

The kids inspire Bacon to extra effort. “Every day you have to come in and do 150 percent. The kids see what you’re putting in,” he says.

“When I went into the teaching program, I wanted to make the most impact that I could in teaching. These kids, of any kids, needed it the most.”

He observes that kids are raised by the media and have as their goals to be famous sports or music stars.

“I was the same way — I wanted to be a professional football player,” he recalls. “I’ve seen teachers squash those dreams, but I say, ‘That’s great — you have to pursue that 110 percent,’ but then I try to give them as much exposure in my classroom to light that spark [of learning].”

“They come into the classroom as students and leave as young adults who are self-sufficient, productive and solve problems on their own.”

— Chadwick Bacon ’07

Bacon exposes the children to fields like electricity, flight technology and oceanography in the hopes that they can envision a career in science or technology.

It will all be worth it, he says, “if it lights a spark that guides them down a path to a career they are passionate about.”

For Bacon that spark was lit at Oswego and by the technology education professors who inspired him, including design teacher John Belt. The entire program impressed and influenced him, from manufacturing class with Dan Tryon ’89 to methods class with Mark Springston. “All the technology teachers at Oswego State collectively, I saw them as one big puzzle: All their pieces fit together perfectly to make the big picture possible,” he says.

With lofty goals, but a down-to-earth work ethic, whether he’s experiencing space or unpacking computers, Bacon is willing to do whatever it takes to make a direct connection with his students.
Alumna is ‘Canada’s Secret Weapon’ Against Crime

MARY ROSE WATERMAN BALDWIN ’45 is nicknamed “Rose Bomb” by her good friend and colleague, Constable Tibor Baldauf of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

“He says I’m Canada’s secret weapon,” Mary Rose said with a laugh.

Mary Rose works with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Vernon, British Columbia, as a civilian volunteer in their community policing office. Mary Rose became friends with Baldauf, and he encouraged her to apply as a volunteer. Following a background check, first aid course and self-defense class, Mary Rose was accepted.

A volunteer of nine years, Mary Rose acts as a liaison between the police and the public. She does office work, shares information about programs in the community and goes on ride-alongs with the officers.

At 85, Mary Rose said she is the oldest volunteer. In December, she was honored with the 2008 Volunteer of the Year award.

“I was thrilled to death,” Mary Rose said. “I had no idea it was coming.”

Because the age limit for volunteers is 85, she will soon be retiring from her position. Prior to moving to Vernon, Mary Rose was a teacher for more than 40 years. She taught all over the United States, in New York, Washington state, Arizona, California and Idaho, before moving to Canada in 1966. She now lives in Vernon with her son.

While Mary Rose said she is disappointed that she will soon stop working with the police, she plans to stay busy with a one-on-one reading program through the local school.

She also plans to spend time with Baldauf’s 8-year-old daughter, Avril, who calls Mary Rose “Grandma.”

“We kind of adopted one another,” Mary Rose said of Avril.

Baldwin, who was a member of Alpha Delta sorority and captain of the rifle team at Oswego, has never returned for a reunion. However, she said she still keeps in touch with classmates and thinks fondly of her alma mater.

“My years there at Oswego have given me many, many memories,” Mary Rose said. ●

— Kristin Quinn ’08
Charles ebetino ’54 believes in helping others to help themselves. Since retiring in 1987 from a career in education as a teacher and superintendent, Chuck has reached out to others through mission work.

In 2002, Chuck, who has visited nearly 50 countries, was invited on a mission trip to Haiti with his brother, Frank, who is in charge of the outreach program at a Venice, Fla., Presbyterian church.

The brothers began distributing eyeglasses in third world countries. When they met Dr. Erick Estrada, a physician practicing in the rural community of El Cortijo in Guatemala, their mission became much broader.

Chuck and his brother set to work raising money to build the Dr. Erick Estrada Clinic in El Cortijo. They strive to raise money, then work with the community to construct the clinic.

“We are involved with the community. And they have touched us and we have touched them in a way that is different from sending money,” Chuck said.

His Italian immigrant family and his time at Oswego instilled in Chuck his philosophy of helping others. While attending Oswego, Chuck was an officer in both his junior and senior class, played baseball and basketball, and worked in the cafeteria and at Rudy’s.

“My time at Oswego helped me continue to shape an attitude that really valued a warmth and communication with the people that you are dealing with,” Chuck said.

The construction of the clinic is coming along well, and their efforts have raised more money than expected, allowing the plans to expand, such as adding an operating room and eye care, he said.

Once the clinic is complete, Chuck and his brother will continue with the project, helping to bring in health professionals to keep the clinic running year-round.

“The reward is tremendous,” Chuck said.

“If we walk into the community, the children will just run to us. Anybody that wants to be involved, get involved, whether it be with this project or something else. Just give a little.”

— Kristin Quinn ’08
Reunited

Six members of the Class of 1974 got together as a group for the first time in three decades when they met in New York City last June. “Did we have a lot of fun? Let’s just say that security showed up at our door the first night!” Peg Schutt Abbott ’74 wrote. Pictured, from left, are: Deb Epting Lynch ’74, Peg, Chris Endres Cox ’74, Laurie Clapper Jejune ’74, Sue Raimont Giannini ’74 and Meg Ryan Reeves ’74 ●

Alumnus Advances Aussie Airwaves

Bill McGinnis ’75 has come a long way from listening to shortwave radio. So long, in fact, he ended up in Australia, where he works with indigenous broadcasters ensuring they have the resources to stay on air.

The Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts funds more than 100 independently licensed radio stations, a majority of which serve native tribes.

As director of indigenous broadcasting, Bill sees that aboriginal communities across the country — even those in the most remote areas — are able to provide their own distinctive radio services. He is also responsible for funding Australia’s first National Indigenous Television Service.

These stations create jobs, offer entertainment and broadcast emergency information. They also provide an outlet for sharing aboriginal role models such as tribal people who become athletes, professors or celebrities.

In many cases, the community radio stations go beyond those purposes, though. They help preserve languages that have existed for 200 centuries or more.

“Some of them don’t even have alphabets, so oral tradition has kept the language alive all this time,” Bill said. “In many of the remote areas, indigenous radio is the only service they receive.”

Although he was a political science major as a student at Oswego, Bill found time for his other interests while on campus.

“I had always been a big shortwave listener,” he said. “So when I went to university, I was very interested in the fact they had radio broadcasting there.”

Bill met his wife Liz, an Australian, during his graduate studies at the University of Toronto. After graduation, the couple moved to Perth, Australia, where they remained until 2006, when Bill took up his current position with the federal government.

Bill McGinnis ’75 shares a poster for Australian community radio with Fritz Messere ’71, interim dean of Oswego’s School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

Bill was a founding chair of Australia’s first permanently licensed community television station. He also served as a radio station manager and a board member at five radio stations.

“(Oswego) certainly had an influence,” said Bill, who spent some of his early career working on policy for the government. He was also a senior executive with the Australian Institute of Management, where he built and managed his own telecommunications company.

Eventually, he was able to combine his government experience with his love for broadcasting.

“It is a rare privilege to have a role where you can harness advanced technology to ensure that some of the oldest cultures on earth have a future,” Bill said. ●

— Shane M. Liebler
To Build a Better Snack Cake

IT TAKES MORE THAN MOTHER NATURE TO MAKE A GOOD SNACK. If you want chewy raisins in your cereal, crunchy peanuts in your chocolate or good granola in your bar, you need some culinary chemistry.

Cheryl Smith Harris ’79 has been revising cake rolls and preserving mini creme pies as a food scientist for nearly 30 years. Today she is a problem solver for a Tennessee subsidiary of the company that produces Little Debbie treats.

"The way problems are usually brought to our attention is the consumer hotline," Cheryl said.

During her career, the Canton native has used chemistry to tweak the appearance and taste of everything from cereal to chocolate. Food scientists also help determine the most efficient ways to produce snacks.

"It makes chemistry very interesting, hands-on and relatable," she said. "When you realize how much chemistry goes on when you cook something, it’s very interesting.”

Cheryl used her biology degree from Oswego to get her first job with an environmental laboratory in East Syracuse. She was happy to trade the dirt for delicious chocolate in Fulton.

"Over at the environmental company it was quite nasty dealing with things like pollution and sludge," Cheryl said. "When I got to Nestlé, I was working with candy and all sorts of wonderful things.”

She has been a food scientist ever since, earning a graduate degree in the field from North Carolina State University.

At Oswego, biology Professor Emeritus Sherret Chase was very influential, Cheryl said. One of her favorite campus memories may have been a little fortuitous.

A few times a year, the wind would hit just the right direction and the smell of cocoa would permeate the campus. The source: The same Nestlé plant in Fulton where Cheryl would start her food science career.

"The whole campus would smell like brownies, hot chocolate or cookies," she said. “It was wonderful.”

— Shane M. Liebler

Write home . . . to Oswego

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

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It’s certainly been an historic time of late. Here at Oswego, we celebrated the successful conclusion of our first-ever capital campaign last June, as well as our largest Reunion Weekend attendance in history. It seemed almost immediately thereafter, we have all across the country been in the throes of the worst economic crisis since the Depression. We also elected the first African-American president in the history of our country.

Many of our own alumni have found themselves affected by job cuts or company closures. Budget cuts in New York state have certainly impacted our campus. Somehow the Oswego spirit remains strong. We have been hard at work all winter with class and affinity group volunteers on the planning of Reunion 2009 and it appears we will meet or exceed last year’s record attendance. Maybe coming back together at a place where life was good — and an opportunity to network with other Oswego alumni — is a comforting thing during difficult times.

We continue our frequent communication and interaction with our alumni, and have held successful events and offer opportunities for you to connect with each other. Our online alumni community, OsweGoConnect offers a means to network for jobs or just to find long-lost friends. Facebook also offers an interface with OsweGoConnect, so those registered on both sites are now connected. Check it out and register for OsweGoConnect today! (Log in with the 800 number located just above your name on the mailing label of this magazine.)

Come home June 4 to 7 for Reunion 2009 — 12 classes and 15 organizations are having reunions during the weekend. The Hall Newman Center will celebrate a 75th anniversary Mass and brunch to close out the weekend. The Newman Center has touched thousands of alumni over those 75 years and you’re all invited back!

We’ll also remember the 20th anniversary of the Pan Am 103 crash at what would have been the 20th reunion of students Colleen Brunner ’90 and Lynne Hartunian ’89, who perished that day.

Most importantly, know that despite these difficult times and the march of time itself, the beauty of the lake and the sunsets still greet you when you return. There’s something comforting to that, too. Despite all of the campus changes and what happens in the world, those commonalities connect all generations of Oswego alumni! We’ll all get through these times and our connections to Oswego will continue to be a part of all that we do and are.

We hope to see you soon!

Betsy
WHAT A DIFFERENCE A VOWEL MAKES. A spider is considered an unwanted household pest. A SPDR is proving a marketable commodity for two alumni.

Dan Dolan ’84 started working with Standard & Poor’s Depositary Receipts during his 18-year career at Merrill Lynch. He retired in 2003 and took the concept, select sector SPDRs, with him. Today the firm boasts more than $25 billion in assets.

The SPDRs are essentially nine sector-specific S&P 500 mutual funds that trade like stocks. They appeal to investors looking for greater diversity in their portfolios, Dan said.

He attributes his company’s success to an Oswego connection. Bill Burns ’83 was a mutual friend that brought Dan and Mark DiPippa ’83 together for the first time on a golf course.

Mark’s DNA Creative has been Select Sector’s advertising agency ever since. “When [Select Sector] first started, we were pretty much print only,” Dan said. “Of course, advertising budget grows with the business.”

With a client list that includes such household names as the Fox News Channel, American Movie Classics (AMC) and the History Channel, DNA Creative helped move Select Sector beyond the print boundaries.

Television spots run on CNBC, Bloomberg, Fox Business Network, CBS-TV’s “Sunday Morning,” ESPN, Yankees Entertainment and Sports (YES) and SportsNet New York (SNY). And it’s hard to miss the company’s spider logo at a Mets baseball game — it’s branded on the tarp that protects the field from rain.

But, one of the best advertising ideas was cooked up at Oswego, according to Dan. While taking in a Laker hockey game in November 2007, Dan decided the Zamboni would look better in SPDR garb.

“The new Campus Center is absolutely spectacular,” Dan said. “When I talked to Mark the following week, we decided SPDRs had to be a part of the action.”

DNA Creative wrapped the Zamboni in a branded vinyl sheet. Now, the New York Rangers Zamboni also recommends Select Sector SPDRs each time it hits the ice at Madison Square Garden.

“Working with Dan has been the best client/agency experience that I’ve had in 25 years,” said Mark, who married JoAnn Nocella DiPippa ’83. “It’s Dan and I make the decisions together, which is extremely efficient.”

The Oswego link certainly hasn’t hurt their business relationship, either. “It all started with four guys from Oswego on a golf course,” Dan said. Classmate Kevin McCvoy ’83 was the fourth player. “It all started with Oswego connections.”

— Shane M. Liebler
Young Oswegonians Shine

THEY MAY BE 10 YEARS OLD AND SITTING in a classroom in Brooklyn, but don’t try telling these kids they’re not true Oswegonians.

Matt Jungblut ’88 teaches a class called “Oswego” in Achievement First Endeavor Charter School, which has as its goal closing the achievement gap for students of color and imparting the skills and desire to attend college. So each classroom is named after the college its teacher attended.

In Matt’s class, the kids wear Oswego T-shirts and have a picture of the women’s hockey team hanging in their classroom.

“So many kids are convinced that Oswego is the best college,” Matt says.

Founder Edward Austin Sheldon would be proud of these kids. Inspired by a letter from Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley and some bookmarks she sent, they have pursued reading with a passion.

They are committed to each completing 5,000 pages of independent reading this year. By January, five scholars had hit 5,000-plus pages and the class had more than 70,000 pages read — well on track to hit their goal.

They’re not reading little-kid books, either. A big hit in the classroom is Life of Pi, Lord of the Rings, Roots and the Twilight series of novels are all coveted volumes in the classroom library. The scholars are reading biographies of Gandhi, DaVinci and Jackie Robinson, and topics from ancient history, such as the kingdoms of Egypt, Ancient China and India. They enjoy lessons where Matt speaks to them only in Japanese, while they learn to write some basic Japanese characters.

It’s paying off. Endeavor was named No. 3 of all middle schools and No. 4 out of more than 1,100 K-8 schools in the New York City Department of Education’s Progress Report.

Matt came to education in a roundabout way. A history and communications major at Oswego, he got bit by the teaching bug after a stint at CNN Tokyo. He wound up teaching in that country’s Jet Program and working for the Japanese Ministry of Education for several years.

He taught in inner city New York, piloted a submarine and wound up in the corporate offices of Virgin Atlantic. He was at the Twin Towers on 9/11 and lost 150 people he knew. When he was searching for meaning after the event, a former student traveled from Japan to New York to convince him to teach again.

The Delta Kappa Kappa member and WOCR-AM broadcaster fondly remembers the late Dean of Students Barry Atkinson, who gave him a second chance when he was in trouble academically. Jungblut was inspired by two Oswego history professors: “Dr. Judy Wellman, because she taught me that I could do anything in the world with a history degree, and Dr. Tom Judd, who convinced me that I should be a history major because otherwise I wasn’t going to be a graduate — It was the only class I was doing well in.”

Matt and his own class are doing well now, although he admits that Endeavor is extremely demanding on both teachers and students, some of whom put in nearly 12-hour days. “It’s something you have to really want to do,” Matt says. “It’s incredibly hard compared to some schools I’ve taught at, but it’s incredibly rewarding.”

— Michele Reed
Corinne Heller ’03 is a Reuters reporter turned Hollywood sleuth. Corinne began her career in Israel, a region rich in stories with international implications. However, five years in that oft-tumultuous environment led her to the sunnier skies of California.

Today Corinne digs up dirt to get her scoops . . . on celebrities. E! Entertainment’s editorial research department acts as the network’s spy agency. “I might be asked to locate long-lost friends and family of celebrities profiled on ‘E! True Hollywood Story’ or look up a famous person’s criminal record,” said Corinne, who also occasionally tracks a star’s flight. “It’s different every time.”

1 First sign of spring: I live in LA. There are two seasons: summer and fire.

2 Last book you read: How to Lose Friends and Alienate People by Toby Young

3 Worst movie ever: “Titanic” . . . except for Billy Zane.

4 Best television show: “Lost.” As a friend told me, it should be called “How to keep an idiot in suspense.”

5 Coolest interview: The Rock. He’s really smart. I talked to him on the Red Carpet at the Oscars last year. It was like the Alice Cooper scene in “Wayne’s World.”

6 Hottest topic: Celebrity screw-ups. People love it when famous people fail. It makes them feel better about themselves.

7 Favorite Oswego memory: Late nights at the Oswegonian

8 On-campus or off: Depends. Are we talking during the day or at night?

9 Biggest grammatical pet peeve: Internet-speak. Whoever invented the “LOL Cats” trend should be smacked.

10 Smallest obsession: My Blackberry
New Chapter for Suitemates

WHEN SUSAN LINDSLEY ’89, WENDY POULSEN CANNON ’89 and Tina L. Christiansen needed a name for their newly founded company, they chose Suitemates Publishing as a nod to how the three met as undergraduates at SUNY Oswego. In November, Suitemates Publishing released its first book, Maya’s Journey Home, authored by Susan and Tina and illustrated by Wendy.

Maya’s Journey Home is illustrated in vibrant watercolors and tells the story of a baby panda living in a Chinese orphanage who dreams of finding a family to adopt her. Later, when Maya is adopted by a polar bear who looks far different from herself, she discovers that a parent’s love is the same in all colors. The story was inspired by Christiansen’s own experience adopting her daughter, also named Maya, from China in 2006.

"The three of us have kept in touch since our days at SUNY Oswego," said Susan of her friends. "Even though we live in separate parts of the country now, we work so well together and had a wonderful time collaborating on this book."

The Oswego suitemates chose to self-publish the book as a means to keep complete control over the project and expedite its production, which took 15 months from concept to publication. Lindsley, who is a reading specialist at the Bishop’s Academy at Holy Family in Syracuse, has been visiting schools as a guest author.

The book has been a popular choice among members of Families with Children from China, of which Christiansen is an active member on Long Island. Cannon, a teacher and artist in Maine, shares the book with school children in her area.


— Caroline Reff
20/20: Winery Focused on Success

VINTNER FUMIE KAMOSHITA THORPE ’91

Was never one for competitions until she spotted a contest exclusively for women.

"I was always too busy growing and making wine," to enter competitions, Fumie said.

She was intrigued by the National Women’s Wine Competition in California, though. It is open only to female winery proprietors and judged by women.

"I thought, 'I have to do this,’” recalled Fumie, who ended up taking a gold medal home.

"That was really the reason I started entering the competitions.”

In 2008, her 20th year doing business as Thorpe Vineyard, she appropriately earned 20 medals with her entries in international, national and regional competitions. Not bad for a meteorologist who learned the trade from scratch.

"Meteorology is an applied science . . . it’s based on a lot of physics and math," Fumie said.

"It taught me how to observe things.”

Fumie came from Tokyo, Japan, to Oswego for its meteorology program in 1983. She fondly remembers classes with the late Professor Emeritus Eugene Chermack as well as Professors Al Stamm and Robert Ballentine.

While she was studying, her father came to visit with an interest in finding some investment property.

He found it on Lake Ontario in Wolcott, about 30 miles west of Oswego. Fumie has been making wine ever since.

Today she produces about 1,000 total cases of 14 varieties sold locally in liquor stores and restaurants. From her Web site, www.thorpevineyard.com, Fumie also ships spirits to nine states.

— Shane M. Liebler
ONE CITY’S SLUDGE CAN BE ANOTHER company’s pay dirt . . . At least that’s the case for WeCare Organics.

The Central New York-based business transforms biosolids into an enriching soil additive through composting.

"Any athletic field in Upstate New York created over the last 10 years probably has some WeCare compost in it," said Brian Fleury ’00, who has been with the company since its early days.

The Organics division has several markets for its products, from farmers in need of high-nutrient soil amendments to large corporations constructing buildings equipped with "green roofs."

Biosolids — including human waste — arrive in dewatered sludge form from municipalities and other disposal authorities. The material is dried, combined with woodchips and "cooked" by the composting process for about a month, eliminating potential pathogens.

Brian’s older brother, Jason ’97, started at WeCare’s transportation division in 2002. He recalled that a SUNY Oswego paper on importing and exporting maple syrup helped lead him to a first job working with international freight in Florida.

Eventually, the business administration major would return to Central New York and work for the same company as his brother, with whom he already shares his Oswego experience. In fact, Brian, Jason and sister Nicole ’94 each lived in Funnelle Hall during their Oswego tenures.

Jason said his decision to join WeCare has been a rewarding one. "I like the fact that we’re a company that specializes in recycling and makes a profit doing it," he said.

One of Jason’s favorite projects was transforming 14,000 acres of Pennsylvania land completely depleted by the mining industry into crop-producing fields for farmers.

In Syracuse and Onondaga County alone, the company saves some 45,000 tons of sludge from going into a landfill each year. As project and compliance manager, Jason is responsible for reporting to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which heavily regulates the conversion of municipal sludge.

"This is 100 percent recycling," said Brian, a marketing major while at Oswego. "We’re putting it back in the ground where it belongs, instead of a landfill."

As a senior project and sales manager, Brian is focusing his sales pitch on green roofs. The concept makes building more environmentally friendly and provides better insulation to big buildings.

WeCare has installed the roofs on the Royal Bank of Scotland building in Stanford, Conn., the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford and the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.

— Shane M. Liebler
Caroline Myers '97 married Derek Kilmer July 25 in Geneva. Alumni in attendance included Elizabeth Myers '03, Julie St. Pierre Stubbe '95, Jeff Stubbe '97, Monica Merritt '96, Rebecca Gaylord Bookman '96 and Colleen Carroll Buxton '00. Caroline is the executive director for the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District in Rochester.

Julie Tarbell '95 married Chris Bianchi July 28, 2007, in Rochester. Pictured from left are the bride’s parents, Marianne Miers Tarbell ‘69 and Ed Tarbell ‘68; the bridegroom; the bride; Amy Bobbette ‘95; Buffy McDonagh Bennett ‘95, Chris Ewart Sherbyn ‘94; Kristi Zappie Ferradino ‘95; Kathy Chesbrough Foster ‘94; and Gina Privitera Ward ‘96. Kristin Rowe ‘95 also attended. Julie is a reading specialist for the Spencerport Central School District. The couple resides in Webster.

Mary Appleton Bird ‘29 of Poughkeepsie passed away Dec. 25 at the age of 100. She taught in Poughkeepsie for 20 years, retiring in 1972. Mary is survived by a son, A. David ‘62; a daughter, Priscilla; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Frances Mattison Hoenow ‘37 of Pulaski passed away Jan. 9. She earned a bachelor’s degree at SUNY Oswego in 1965. Frances was a first-grade teacher in Pulaski for 20 years. She and her husband operated a poultry farm for 30 years. They established the Frances Mattison Hoenow ‘37 and Otto Hoenow Scholarship at SUNY Oswego for incoming freshmen from Oswego County high schools. Frances was survived by her husband, Otto, who passed away Feb. 7; a son; a daughter; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Vincent Coe ‘39 of Canandaigua died Oct. 24. He had been a teacher in the Dix Hills School District. Surviving are his wife, M. Dorothy LeBlanc Warner ‘45; his three sons, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Greta O’Brien Murabito ‘43 of Oswego passed away Jan. 13. She earned a master’s degree at Oswego State. Greta taught in Bridgehampton, Westchester, Ithaca and Oneida, and at Fitzhugh Park School in Oswego. The Greta O’Brien Murabito ‘43 Scholarship was established by her husband, Anthony, in recognition and appreciation for Oswego State and its dedicated and caring faculty. This scholarship is awarded annually to assist a childhood education major. Greta was survived by her husband, Anthony, who passed away Feb. 15; a stepdaughter; and three step-grandchildren. Contributions may be made to the Greta O’Brien Murabito ‘43 Scholarship, c/o the Oswego College Foundation.


M. Dorothy LeBlanc Warner ‘45 of Ringhampton passed away Dec. 15. She was predeceased by her husband, John ‘47. Surviving are three sons, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

James Brayden ‘47 of Cooperstown passed away Dec. 6. He taught industrial arts technology in Lyons before becoming a guidance counselor at
BOCES. He retired in 1979. James is survived by his wife, Jane.


William Izzo ‘49 of St. Augustine, Fla., died July 17.

Elizabeth MacMillan Chapman ‘50 of Fulton passed away Oct. 25. She taught at Fulton Junior High School prior to her retirement. Surviving are her husband, William; two sons; and five grandchildren.

Robert Jubenville ‘50 of Brockport passed away Oct. 26. He served in the National Guard and was part of the 209th Coast Artillery from 1940 to 1945. Bob was employed at Bausch & Lomb before accepting a job in the Placement Office at SUNY Brockport. He also earned his master’s degree at Brockport. He is survived by two children and three grandchildren.

Richard Doney ‘51 of Lewes, Del., died Oct. 15. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. Richard did post-graduate work at the University of Delaware, the University of Wyoming and the University of Tennessee. He was a teacher and guidance counselor at Lewes High School and Cape Henlopen High School, retiring in 1989. Surviving are his wife, Marilyn “Sue”; three children; and seven grandchildren.

Bruce Forness ‘52 of Pineville, N.C., died Oct. 21. He taught industrial arts and mechanical drawing prior to becoming an administrator. Bruce was superintendent of Cattaraugus Central Schools from 1975 to 1979. He went on to serve first as principal and later as superintendent in the Lyme Central School District from 1979 to 1987. Surviving are his wife, Lois Shepardson ‘53; eight sons; three daughters; 18 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Josephine Cataldo Goodman ‘53 of Oswego passed away Nov. 1. She received her master’s degree in education from the University of Indiana. She taught in Indiana, New Mexico and Missouri before moving to Oswego, where she was a substitute teacher. Surviving are her husband, Sheldon ‘53; two daughters; a son; and six grandchildren.

Robert Wood ‘55 of Oswego passed away Oct. 30. He taught science at Oswego High School for 31 years. Bob is survived by his wife, Joan Esseltine ‘57; two sons, Robert ‘80 and Jeffrey ‘85; a daughter, Colleen; and two grandchildren.

James Mitchell ‘54 of Canyon Lake, Texas, passed away Feb. 27, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Catherine Higgins ‘53.

Shirley Ball Teppo ‘56 of Ballston Spa died Nov. 28. She taught in the Ballston Spa Central School District from 1956 until her retirement in 1998. Surviving are her husband, Mitchell; and two children.

Salvatore Rando ‘58 of Herkimer passed away Dec. 9. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He earned a master’s degree at SUNY Albany. Salvatore was a guidance counselor in the Mechanicville Central School District for over 26 years. He is survived by two brothers and two sisters.

David Villeneuve ‘58 of New Meadows, Idaho, passed away Dec. 1. He received his master’s degree from Chapman University. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps for 20 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Dave was a teacher and high school guidance counselor in California prior to his retirement. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Gillard ‘58, four children and eight grandchildren.

John Harris ‘59 of Sodus passed away Nov. 4. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Korea and Puerto Rico. He taught for more than 30 years in the Sodus and Newark Central School Districts. John is survived by his wife, Annette; three sons; two daughters; and nine grandchildren.

Carole Adams Nelson ‘59 of Sayville passed away June 6, 2007. She is survived by her husband, James. Carol generously left a bequest to Oswego in her will.


Ellen McCarthy Monaghan ‘61 of Lake ette, Calif., died Oct. 21. She taught in Fairport, N.Y. before moving to California where she later accepted a position as college and career counselor at Carondelet High School. Ellen is survived by her husband, Emmet, and two children.

Kenneth Powell ‘61 of Horse Shoe, N.C., died Dec. 12. He taught at several high schools on Long Island. He and his late wife, Loretta, founded Dialysis at Sea Cruises, enabling kidney dialysis patients to travel via luxury cruise liner. Ken is survived by three daughters, a stepson, a stepdaughter, eight grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

John Shank ‘61 of St. Augustine, Fla., died Sept. 25. He taught for 30 years at South Grove Elementary School in Syosset. John is survived by his wife, Frances, and three children.


Robert Greene ‘64 of Minoa passed away Dec. 5. He was a teacher in the Liverpool School District for more than 30 years. Robert is survived by his wife, Bonnie; and two daughters.

John Prave ‘64 of Union Springs died Dec. 30. He served with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He earned an associate’s degree from Auburn Community College and a master’s degree from SUNY Cortland. John taught English at Seneca Falls Central Schools from 1964 until his retirement in 1993. Surviving are his wife, Karen Fairchild ‘63; a son; two daughters; and six grandchildren.

John Kiminki ‘73 of Tierra Verde, Fla., died April 27, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth MacMillan Chapman ‘50 of St. Augustine, Fla., died

Mary Anunziatta ‘94 of Rochester passed away Nov. 17. She is survived by three brothers.

Scott Bartucca ‘95 of Wayneville, N.C., passed away Nov. 6. He was a member of the 1990 USA Junior National Baseball Team and played a year of minor league baseball after being drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays. Scott is survived by his son and his parents, Paul and Nancy.

Pamela Phetterplace DeCarr ‘95 of German Flatts passed away Dec. 6. She earned a master’s degree at Syracuse University. Pam taught science at Mount Markham High School. She is survived by her husband, Frank; a son; and a daughter.

J. Richard Pfund, Professor Emeritus of Technology passed away Dec. 4. He served with the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps during the Korean War. Dick earned graduate degrees from Kent State University and the University of Illinois and his doctorate from the University of Connecticut. He joined the Oswego faculty in 1957 and served as director of learning resources and professor of technology, retiring in 1985. Dick is survived by his wife, Beverly, three children, and Laurel Byron ‘80. David and William. Contributions may be made to the Department of Technology Endowment Fund, c/o Office of University Development, SUNY, Oswego, NY 13126.
In my middle school days, I stayed up late every Friday night to watch “Second City Television,” or “SCTV.” The show starred such comedy masters as Eugene Levy, John Candy, Catherine O’Hara and Rick Moranis. I worshipped them for their rich original characters, pitch-perfect impersonations and razor-sharp satire. Along with many of the stars of “Saturday Night Live,” they had earned their comedy wings at the Second City Theatre in Chicago or Toronto. Second City is the birthplace of improvisational comedy, which is an unscripted humorous performance based on suggestions from the audience. For years it has been my goal to move to Chicago after college and study with Second City’s Improv Conservatory.

But as I began my senior year at SUNY Oswego last fall, I realized I hadn’t done any improv outside of dramatic exercises in acting classes. I needed to get onstage and try improv before I started making major life decisions based on the abstract idea of it. So I set about forming a “band” of comedians. With a solid troupe of seven in place, we needed a name. I was looking for something bold; something that would make people say, “What in God’s name is THAT?!” Inspiration struck when my roommates and I threw a “70s Flashback” party in our dorm suite. Jennifer Arnold, my friend and a member of the troupe, brought some vinyl Shaun Cassidy records to the party. She relayed how she and a friend had fought over Shaun as children. They resolved the issue by agreeing that one of them would grow up to marry Shaun, while the other married Joe Hardy, Shaun’s character on TV’s “The Hardy Boys.” Jennifer’s unabashed affection for this washed-up teen idol struck me first as pathetic, then as genius. If there was a name with guaranteed kitsch and pure “what the?” value, this was it. That night we became “The Shaun Cassidy Fan Club.”

Since then, we have been performing on campus every Saturday night. Each performance begins with “A Reading from the Book of Shaun,” in which I read a short excerpt from the 1978 publishing bonanza *The Shaun Cassidy Scrapbook*, by Connie Berman. My favorite section includes this public relations gem: “Little more than a year ago, few people had ever heard of Shaun Cassidy . . . Today, the name Shaun is as much a household word as Fonzie or Barbarino.” We spend the rest of the show trying to make up something funnier than that.

Last Saturday was a good night. We did a spoof of “The Arsenio Hall Show,” and skewered Vice President Quayle. For our final skit, my friend Russ Finley asked the audience, “Why am I not wearing glasses?” They replied that he did not have ears. The ensuing scene was somewhat muddled, but was apparently coherent enough to earn the praise of a reviewer in today’s edition of The Syracuse Post-Standard. He wrote, “[They] weaved the response into a light-hearted look at the limitations of sight and sound that eventually led to a profound look at the nature of control.”

Yeah, man, we totally meant to do that.

Tim Mollen ’91 is a comedian, who graduated summa cum laude with a double major in communication studies and theatre. He is also a syndicated humor columnist, and his column, “Lost Journal” appears weekly in The Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin, The Ithaca Journal and The Cortland Standard. Each week, he chooses a day from his past and writes about it as though it were today. “A fair number of my humorous reminiscences are about my undergrad days at Oswego, and there will be more in the future,” writes Tim.
It’s really no puzzle. When you give to SUNY Oswego, you are helping to transform lives, one student at a time. Whether you give to The Fund for Oswego annually, endow a scholarship, name a space in an academic building or remember Oswego in your will, every dollar you donate makes a difference.

The current economic situation is putting a strain on the finances of individual Oswego students and the college itself. But private philanthropy can make an immediate and positive impact on our students’ education.

Public higher education is more important now than ever before, because it is educating the future leaders, problem solvers and visionaries, who will help make our world a better place for all of us.

Gifts from $25 to $25,000, when taken together, can do big things! Please consider making a gift today, by visiting www.oswego.edu/giving or phoning 315-312-3003.

Thank you for your generosity!
If not for a twist of fate, Sanford Sternlicht ’53 might have been a star of stage and screen. Instead, thanks to the military draft, generations of students and readers have been enriched by his wisdom and insight.

Sternlicht was active in theatre as an undergraduate, winning the title role in Oswego’s “Abe Lincoln in Illinois” and leading roles in professional summer stock. He earned his master’s at Colgate University and returned to his native New York City, landing roles off-Broadway and studying with legendary actress and teacher Uta Hagen. The avant-garde Living Theatre cast him in a lead role, but before he could begin rehearsals, Sternlicht was drafted and wound up in the Navy. It was the end of his acting career.

The young officer spent hours in his state-room typing poetry and short stories. Soon he published Gull’s Way, a book of poems written at sea. Sternlicht became an instructor in the English, speech and theatre department at Oswego, rising quickly through the ranks, culminating in a 12-year role as the first chair of the theatre department. He received Oswego’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 1973 and the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1974. He earned his doctorate at Syracuse University and after early retirement from Oswego in 1986, he began teaching full-time at SU, where he would be honored as University College’s 1986 Teacher of the Year.

Sternlicht would go on to write, edit or anthologize 32 volumes, mostly about British or Irish writers. Two of his books have been “Kindled” and two published in China.

Another twist of fate would lead to critical acclaim for his writing. At a Poetry Society of America awards banquet for Gull’s Way, Sternlicht met venerable playwright and poet Padraic Colum, who knew Yeats and Joyce, two of Sternlicht’s heroes. Years later, he would collect Colum’s short stories for an SU Press volume that won him positive reviews in the New York Times Book Review and Times of London.

“What I write informs my teaching, and what I teach informs my writing,” Sternlicht says. So after leading a tour for SU’s Judaic Studies program to New York’s Lower East Side, where he grew up, he started teaching in the program and published 2004’s The Tenement Saga and 2008’s Masterpieces of Jewish American Literature.

Teaching comes naturally to this ex-actor, who enjoys reading aloud and acting out parts. “I like to be around young people,” he says. “I feel energized by the students.”

What’s next for Sternlicht? The New York Council for the Humanities recently named him “Speaker in the Humanities.” Through 2012, he will present a series of statewide lectures about the Lower East Side and the writings of Yorkshire vet James Herriot, the subjects of two of his bestsellers. He will retire from SU in 2010 after 50 consecutive years of college-level teaching. “Who knows?” he says of the future. “Things come to me out of the blue.”

He is a self-described “yes man,” who embraces opportunities that come his way. It’s a philosophy that has worked well for him: from his days as a counter man at Sully’s in Oswego to teaching summer seminars in Ireland, to a Fulbright visiting lectureship at University of Pécs, Hungary. This vibrant scholar looks forward to saying “yes” to many more academic adventures to come.

— Michele Reed