"The World is our Alumni's field; The world shall to their teachings yield."

Oswego Alumni in Education: The Continuing Legacy

Knowledge

Reflection

Collaboration and Leadership

Practice
Twice the space, twice the number of computers, and twice the comfort equals quick, convenient access in the renovated and refurbished Penfield Computer Lab. The E-mail Express station, with several computers designated for e-mail only, is popular with students, faculty, and staff members, and a mix of PCs and Macs at 58 stations means ready availability whenever the library is open.
Oswego State: A Vision for the Future

It is fitting that the first Oswego alumni magazine of the century celebrates Education graduates. Our institutional legacy stems from the vision, planning, and commitment of Edward Austin Sheldon, who, in 1861, founded a school to train teachers in this beautiful setting near Lake Ontario. In fact, we remain committed to building on the teacher-scholar model that has been a hallmark of that College throughout our history.

Today Oswego is a comprehensive institution of higher education, granting students a wide range of degrees in 109 programs within our College of Arts and Sciences and two professional schools: the School of Business and the School of Education. Additionally, in order to meet the demands and needs of an evolving economy and workforce, Oswego offers challenging learning and training opportunities to members of the local and regional community. Confidently, then, we are well positioned in the 21st Century, to honor our heritage while, at the same time, we shape our future.

We continue a bold and rigorous strategic planning initiative that began last fall, an inclusive process that will produce a comprehensive plan for the future of the State by the end of this academic year. As we proceed with strategic goals that address six areas: Academic Quality, Faculty Roles, Student Life, Technology, Physical Environment, and Resources, I share with you the Vision Statement which has helped guide our thoughts and decisions:

At the opening of the 21st Century, Oswego State recommit itself to fulfilling traditions of academic excellence and serving the needs of society by fostering liberal and professional learning in a dynamic, interactive, and nurturing environment. Oswego students will be the focus of an educational community enlivened by a passion for learning, where the habit of intellectual inquiry is inspired through teaching, scholarship, and mentoring; where integration and application of knowledge are valued; and, where the ideals of high moral character, global understanding, respect for human diversity, and awareness of social responsibility are rooted in our academic culture.

Oswego State will be recognized for vibrant, multifaceted degrees programs, identified among them, centers of excellence that will be positioned for national prominence. An able, diverse and motivated student body will engage in challenging coursework offered by gifted professors who maintain vital engagement in their academic disciplines and who dedicate themselves with vigor to our students’ intellectual growth. Faculty will join with students in the search for knowledge and insight, offering many opportunities for collaborative undergraduate research. They will guide students understanding leadership as a lifelong process, linking with them in discovering the rewards of internship, international and service experiences.

A restored, technologically advanced, well maintained campus will foster opportunities for exchange and alliance among students, faculty, and staff. The campus culture will be characterized by an ethic of responsiveness and courtesy and will support a strong complement to academic pursuits by providing an abundant mix of intellectual, artistic, athletic, recreational, and social activities. Financial resources realized from diversified funding bases will allow Oswego State to set and meet goals and objectives in an environment where imagination and creativity can flourish and where good stewardship is encouraged by careful assessment of campus endeavors.

Oswego State will endeavor to fulfill the role of ongoing reference and resource in the lives of its graduates. In the greater Central New York area, Oswego State will emerge as a pervasive presence, enhancing ties to professional programs in our Schools of Business and Education and building on connections to traditional disciplines and applied fields in our College of Arts and Sciences. The region will look to our institution to establish enduring partnerships that will help foster conditions for a better society, allow Oswego State to participate at the forefront of efforts to improve public schools, and support the leadership that works to fuse business success with sustainable economic growth.

As we move forward through strategic planning on many significant initiatives, I focus on and applaud our School of Education and its graduates as a powerful force in this century.

Please join me in celebrating the alumni whose stories are part of this magazine and in recognizing all Oswego alumni educators for their commitment to education—the vehicle that I believe can change humanity, enlarge our sense of social justice, and lead to greater opportunity for all people.
Oswego Alumni in Education: Upholding A
‘Spirit of Inquiry’

Oswego State-educated teachers have been about the business of awakening a “Spirit of Inquiry” in their pupils since 1861 when, having recognized the need to train teachers in the methods that he espoused—based on the Pestalozzian Method, Edward Austin Sheldon founded a training school for teachers.

Today, our School of Education comprises six progressive departments employing the best traditional and technological methodology and preparing future teachers to “…instruct, involve, challenge and care for all learners, children and adults, in the legacy of Edward Austin Sheldon,” and within all the complexities of modern society.

Linda Rae Markert ’76, Ed. D., will soon complete her first year as dean, having previously served as interim dean since 1997. She looks to 2004, the year when new licensing titles will be implemented by the State Education Department, and envisions: “A premier School of Education and Allied Professions that has attained national accreditation through the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. An institution within SUNY that others emulate....”

Further, the dean’s vision incorporates “an effective and pervasive professional development school PDS network that supports and undergirds numerous authentic learning/scholarship opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and members of our professional communities.” She sees, “A mutually supportive Professional Education Council that promotes an esprit d’corps among the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and professional community constituents.”

Oswego’s School of Education is already at the forefront in shaping the delivery of education in the early decades of the new century. Consider these few highlights from a long list of accomplishments:

- Provost John Woodrow Presley serves on SUNY’s new Advisory Council on Teacher Education. He joins other leaders from across the State University system on the council, which assists SUNY in enhancing the existing strength of its teacher education programs.
- New York State awards a $90,000 Targeted Instructional Staff Development Grant to the Fulton City School District in collaboration with Oswego State. The goal is to make Ful-
“The world is our alumni’s field; the world shall to their teachings yield.”

Oswego’s School of Education has successfully prepared thousands of outstanding professionals in teaching, school administration, counseling and school psychology. Recognized worldwide for the progressive methods pioneered by founder Edward Austin Sheldon, the School of Education maintains that same spirit of innovation as an integral part of today’s teaching programs.

The faculty of the School of Education at Oswego believes that the role of our schools is to promote authentic learning by all students. In fulfilling that role, educators continually assess and reflect upon their professional practice, seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, and forge partnerships.

Embracing the potential of our changing world while maintaining the values of social justice and our multicultural heritage that have made us who and what we are, the School of Education is committed to providing an exemplary learning environment that nurtures and promotes the development of professional educators.

Fundamental to achieving this goal is our ability to assure the vitality and richness of the learning environment amidst the challenges of an ever changing global society. Achieving this goal requires an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, a shared sense of community, and you.

We need your ongoing assistance as we prepare our students to be educators who really make a difference. Dean Linda Rae Market invites you to join the School of Education faculty in “Building on the wisdom of the past, the realities of the present and the promise of the future.”

### Five ways to support the School of Education

1. **Technology/Equipment Upgrade Fund** - today’s and tomorrow’s teachers must be technologically savvy. Dedicate funds to upgrade our current instructional facilities, but also help to underwrite the purchase of new computers, software, audio-visual presentation equipment, computer-aided design and drafting equipment. Equip classrooms with state of the art instructor stations.

2. **Undergraduate/Graduate Scholarships** - enable Oswego to broaden its appeal to potential applicants and continue to attract students of greatest promise. Gift opportunities exist for annual presidential scholars’ scholarships, Project Smart student teacher scholarships, and for endowed scholarships devoted to enhancing the diversity of our student population.

3. **New Program Initiatives Fund** - support faculty development, the development of new courses and innovative ways of teaching and learning in advanced technology classrooms.

4. **Dean’s General Fund** - help provide and expand the financial flexibility and stability to meet unforeseeable financial needs as they occur and the pursuit of new ideas and directions which deserve support. We must respond to external expectations of our numerous stakeholders who value high quality preparation of school personnel who will ultimately educate the next generation of young persons.

5. **Facility Renovations** - provide optimal learning environments by supporting renovation of important academic space including lecture halls, reception areas, conference rooms, instructional technology laboratories, classrooms, and community partnerships.

There are many ways to support the School of Education: outright gifts, deferred gifts, life income plans, bequests. For further information on contributing to the School of Education, contact the Office of University Development, King Alumni Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126, 315-341-3003, www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/development.
Born to Teach,“ Astrid Jacobo Says

Astrid Jacobo ’91 believes it is her destiny to teach. Following several years as a staff developer for the New York City Board of Education, she now teaches language arts to gifted and talented students at Yonkers Museum Middle School.

“I’m back in the classroom. That’s where the action is,” says this native of the Dominican Republic, whose mother is also a teacher. Middle school is a new experience for Astrid, but she says Oswego prepared her for any classroom level.

“The most important and valuable thing about the Oswego State program was the student teaching experience. I took over all the duties of a regular classroom teacher. “Now, we just don’t have the technology, so we work in other ways.”

Asked if there are faculty members who made a lasting impression, they respond with one voice: “Dr. Jo! Josephine Farrell!”

Paula continues, “We got a double dose of her. First, she taught us Methods. Then, she was our student teaching supervisor.” They also mention Dr. Jay Button, who shared valuable information for teaching reading, and they add that all Oswego faculty members were “great.”

As new North Carolina teachers, Melanie and Paula participate in a mentoring program, which entails gathering lesson plans and activities to document classroom success. Since they had similar requirements at Oswego, this is less daunting for them than it is for some novices.

Paula’s biggest challenge will be the end-of-year testing for her third graders. “It’s the first time they will participate in major testing. Just getting them to sit for three hours is something!”

For Melanie (who grew up in Williamsville) and Paula (a native of Clarence), the first year of teaching ends May 31. If their principal, Linda Hopper, has her way, they will be back for the opening of school in mid August and return for years to come.

“We are thrilled with their enthusiasm, new ideas, and dedication. Their preparation is excellent,” says the principal. “Melanie and Paula know about the real life of the classroom. I’ll definitely look for other Oswego graduates when I have positions open in the future.”

Oswego Alumni in Education: The Continuing Legacy

First-Year Teachers Learn Together

Daughters of school teachers; roommates in Funnelle Hall; practice teachers in Liverpool Central Schools, and now, first-year teachers: Melanie Brewer and Paula Thompson, both Class of 1999, have much in common. And, when they go home at the close of school each day to the apartment they share in Shelby, NC, they inevitably talk shop.

Ninety percent of the pupil population at Graham Elementary School, where Melanie teaches first grade and Paula teaches third, is comprised of African-Americans. “Our pupils are just great,” says Melanie. “They’re eager to learn, and they love coming to class.”

Like many teachers across America, Melanie and Paula wish for greater resources and better equipment to enrich their pupils’ learning.

“Oswego State prepared us very well in terms of classroom management, goal setting, planning—all of that,” says Melanie. “But we were trained for New York State. We had been incorporating technology into our lesson plans. Our classroom experiences in Liverpool supported that practice.”

Both teachers exhibit a can-do attitude, however, saying that Oswego State gave them what they need to be effective teachers in any environment. “Now, we just don’t have the technology, so we work in other ways.”

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“We are thrilled with their enthusiasm, new ideas, and dedication. Their preparation is excellent,” says the principal. “Melanie and Paula know about the real life of the classroom. I’ll definitely look for other Oswego graduates when I have positions open in the future.”

The most important and valuable thing about the Oswego State program was the student teaching experience. I took over all the duties of a regular classroom teacher. “As teachers, our relationship with the students is good. You show them respect, and even the tough kids respond to you in the same way. New York teachers are so committed to their students.”
Astrid is interested in all facets of teaching and learning. She helped write the book for the city’s customized English/Language Arts portion of compliance with the national standards. She also teaches graduate courses at Lehman College. Add the fact that she is the mother of a two-year-old daughter, and the question of how she manages to find enough time arises!

“I always find time,” she says. “Teaching is my passion. I was born to teach.”

Back Home Again: John Paxton Teaches Where He Grew Up

When John Paxton ’65 attended Mount Vernon High School, he was in the racial minority. Now, the population has shifted, and the school reflects the area’s mostly African-American population. But, as a male sixth grade teacher, Paxton still feels outnumbered—this time by his female colleagues.

“Men in the elementary school are still not the norm,” he says, “but the students of this age group respect us.”

Paxton went into teaching because he “loved kids.” As the youngest of seven children, he relied on older siblings and the encouragement of his mother to help meet the cost of a college education.

“My mother was a religious woman. Even though we had no money for college, she believed that faith would provide. One of my older sisters was especially generous to me during my college years.”

Although he majored in elementary education with an English minor, Paxton spent a good deal of his time in the music department with Dr. James Soluri, who became his mentor and lifelong friend. “I came to Oswego with a limited repertoire; I only knew sacred songs. Dr. Soluri exposed me to a wide range of music,” says Paxton, who appeared with Oswego Symphonic Choir, Men’s Glee Club and the Statesmen.

Paxton continues to sing in public—including a performance at the inauguration of Oswego State’s 10th president, Deborah F. Stanley. He directs the local Baptist church choir, and he counts as a pinnacle of his teaching career the 10 years during which he directed the high school choruses in Mount Vernon.

“I didn’t only teach them vocal music,” says Paxton. “I instilled in them the importance of a good education.”

Teaching Children Who Learn Differently

Marilyn Mason Bell ’75, believes that everyone can learn and that for some children, it is just a matter of teachers finding a way to get around the obstacles that appear to be in the way. She is a special education resource room teacher and transitional linkage coordinator in Far Rockaway.

“I work one-on-one in academics with ‘at risk’ students in the high school population. I also find jobs for students, monitor their performance, and provide assistance when needed.”

As a student at Oswego, Bell did her student teaching in Sodus, with the same population of students she now serves. “The trials and tribulations of teaching in an unconventional setting provided the best experience I could have asked for, and they helped shape my career,” says Bell.

National Teacher Accreditation

Sharon Doerr G’84 honors chemistry teacher at Barron Collier High School is one of five Collier County, Florida, educators to earn National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certification in 1999.

Fewer than 5,000 are certified nationwide. The process involves 200 to 300 hours of intense self-study and evaluative processes that result in portfolios and tapes submitted by each candidate.

Doerr says she rose before dawn each morning in order to prepare her material and still have energy to devote to her teaching and family.

Passing the NBPTS is validation and celebration of a lifetime of commitment to education, says Doerr. “The analysis and reflection of more than 25 years allows me to see ways in which my teaching practice has evolved. I have always been passionate about teaching, and I look forward to going to school each day! I constantly strive to improve my teaching and the National Boards provide an avenue to help me do this.”

Crediting Oswego State’s quality classes and wonderful professors, Doerr adds, “My passing the National Boards celebrates all the teachers who have influenced me through the years. No one works in isolation. I have been blessed with hundreds of interesting and exceptional students, and without them, I am not a teacher. Lastly, certification celebrates education. Our public schools are accomplishing great things.”
Two Oswego State alumnae are living testament to the Rodgers and Hammerstein lyrics that proclaim: When you become a teacher, by your pupils you are taught.

Working with high school students in Limanowa, Poland, Susan Sikorski Klocek ’88 ’99 and Jadzia Pieniazek ’88 have learned volumes about determination, appreciation and pride.

Klocek, a fifth grade teacher for the past 11 years, shares the principalship of the four-week language school with a Polish administrator. Pieniazek has participated in Teaching English in Poland for the past two summers.

The program is sponsored by the Kosciuszko Foundation in conjunction with UNESCO of Poland and the Polish National Ministry of Education. American teachers and teacher aides (high school and college students) live in dormitories with their students, immersing them in English through classes, social events, and mealtime conversation.

Klocek heard about the program at a reading conference in 1995. She returned to announce to her husband, John, their 16-year-old son, and 18-year-old daughter, “I’m going to Poland this summer.” The family took the announcement in stride. They were already closely aligned with the Polish community in Central New York through John’s Polish polka band, and this seemed a natural extension of their interest in the homeland of their ancestors.

After her first summer in Poland, Klocek became an assistant principal and then principal, putting into practice the educational theory and technique she acquiring through Oswego’s CAS program. Now, with her husband also participating, she “runs the show,” recruiting, training and acclimating American teachers.

“The most important quality is flexibility,” she says. “We take a lot for granted in American schools. Things don’t always run as smoothly as they do here.”

Pieniazek adds, “It’s just a coincidence that Susan and I are Polish-American. People of all backgrounds come and learn. It’s a wonderful opportunity to break down stereotypes, participate in another culture, and see another country. Most of all, though, it’s a chance to be with students who are totally committed to learning.”

Pieniazek says she had taught for nine years and was seeking revitalization in her career when she joined the program. “I wanted to experience that life-long learning we talk about. If, as a teacher, I am to share that true love for learning, I have to live it.”

Apparently, it worked. Upon returning after her first summer, Pieniazek was named Teacher of the Year at Willowfield Elementary School in Liverpool, where she teaches third grade.
“I was the first in my family to go home since World War II. I felt embraced by the people,” she whispers. “I saw my face everywhere.”

“My colleagues apparently saw some new spark in me and saw how my pupils were enriched by my experience,” she says. “I am often reminded of Oswego’s Dr. Tullio Garzone, who told students again and again that those of us who really understand the profession will believe that teaching is a craft, an art, that must be constantly improved upon and renewed.”

For Pieniazek—whose mother escaped the Nazi horrors by being taken out of Poland as a child, and whose father recalls growing up in his homeland—teaching in Limanowa was a deep emotional awakening.

“I was the first in my family to go home since World War II. I felt embraced by the people,” she whispers. “I saw my face everywhere.”

Pieniazek also expanded her use of Polish, taking more language risks in the second summer. Klocek points out that participants always discover knowledge to bring back to their American classrooms. She showed her students snapshots of the laboratory where Madam Marie Sklodowska Curie did her research. “It’s only that she married a Frenchman that we don’t realize she was Polish,” she jokes.

Both alumnae say they saw traits in their Polish students that are not as apparent in American teens.

Klocek recalls, “They are highly competitive in the classroom. They understand that their futures depend upon education. They are focused on learning, hungry for learning. And they are so grateful for such simple things: a lesson, a shared meal, a little gift—such as a pencil.”

She says students have a deep appreciation of Democracy and of the opportunities that may have been denied their parents under the Communist regime.

“In America, our students say the Pledge of Allegiance in a half-hearted way each morning. Maybe they’ve not realized what it really means...” Here, Klocek’s and Pieniazek’s eyes fill with tears. “When those students in Poland sing their national anthem, the music comes from their souls, and their hearts are in every word.”

Pieniazek adds, “You see, we go as teachers, but we are the ones who learn.”

For Information on The Teaching English in Poland program, contact Susan Sikorski-Klocek at 315-689-7427.

Susan Tornatore visited Holocaust death camps in the summer of 1999.

Lest We Forget... Susan Tornatore ’96, a Global Studies teacher at John Jay High School, Hopewell Junction, visited the sites of Nazi concentration camps in Poland last summer. She also traveled to Israel, where she heard first-hand accounts of the Holocaust from people who lived through Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, and Majdanek. She won a fellowship for the summer program from the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and the Jewish Labor Committee.

Tornatore says she participated to expand her personal knowledge of the Holocaust in order to have answers when her students begin to ask about this particular horror in the history of the world.

A summa cum laude graduate with a BS in secondary education and minors in history and political science, Tornatore says, “The secondary education program at Oswego State prepared me exceptionally well for classroom teaching.”

Teaching in Italy Deirdre Riordan ’96 worked as a high school biology teacher for three years while she earned a master’s degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Seeking adventure through travel, she took a one-year leave of absence to teach math and science to seventh graders at the American School of Milan.

Now, adventure and romance have changed the direction of her life.

“I have resigned from Yorktown Heights and will stay in Italy for another year. Then, my future husband, David, and I intend to move to another post on the international school scene,” she says. They plan eventually to settle on one of the outer islands of Hawaii.

“At Oswego State, I was given opportunities to experiment with teaching before my awesome student teaching experience. I had approachable, helpful, and kind professors who helped me hit the ground running,” she says. “Drs. Conklin, Chepko-Sade, Brunson, Dussere, Kibbey, Mahajan, Hinrichs, and Oaks especially.”

Riordan also has high praise for The Career Services Office. “I secured my first job at Valley Stream Central High School, my job at Yorktown High School, and my job here at ASM all with materials I gathered at the SUNY job fair that I attended in April of ’96.”
Gail Becker Nelli: Working at State Level for Arts in School

In 2004, New York State will begin to certify teachers in theater education. Much of the credit for development of that certification category will go to the NYS Theater Education Association and the leadership of Gail Becker Nelli ’72, who chaired the certification and curriculum committees and is a past president and trustee.

In January, Nelli met with Oswego State’s Theater Department Chair Mark Cole ’73 and other representatives of state colleges and universities to discuss certification.

“It would be very exciting if my alma mater decides to reinstate a theater education program,” she says.

A secondary education graduate with a degree in speech and theater, Nelli teaches English and theater at Alexander Central High School, where her program offers three full-year courses in a theater sequence.

An advocate for students and their right to instruction in the arts, Nelli says, “Children actively engaged in K-12 sequential arts programs are being nourished spiritually and intellectually in invigorating ways that involve all the intelligences.” She explains that in New York state, Arts Learning Standards mandate that students will:

- create, perform and participate in the arts,
- know and use arts, materials, and resources,
- respond and analyze works of art, and
- understand the cultural dimensions and contributions of the arts.

“The state education department showed its commitment to the arts as an academic discipline when it brought together representatives from the four state arts education associations to write the standards document, which has now been accepted by the Board of Regents,” says Nelli. That document calls for all students to have access to arts instruction as part of their overall program: four disciplines in the elementary grades, a choice of two of the four in the intermediate grades, and a choice of one of the four in high school.

Nelli is the theater task force chair for the Assessments, Standards, Staff Education and Technology Systems in the Arts project. It is funded by a Goals 2000 grant, which is in its second year of a three-year development plan for state assessments in the arts. She oversees a team of theater educators and coordinates material and programs with the chairs of the other disciplines.

“The work being done by the four associations through the ASSETS project is making it possible for the arts to have the same academic validity as the other disciplines have by creating assessments in dance, music, theater, and the visual arts for high school students completing the one-unit graduation requirement in the arts,” Nelli explains.

Oswego State helped Nelli “build a base of knowledge in theater and speech.”

She says she is especially indebted to the inspiration provided by Oswego professors Rosemary Nesbitt, Kathleen Pendergast, and Vernon Rank. “They encouraged me to do my best and they modeled good teaching practices, which I have incorporated into my classroom and theater arts activities.”

Terry Wichter Hess: Creating Harmony Through Music

There are no barriers in music, as Terry Wichter Hess ’79 has demonstrated through her Travel Chorus, an inner city-suburban magnet chorus of more than 75 racially diverse Connecticut students, who write music and perform publicly.

Concerned about the lack of diversity in the Westport public school where she teaches, Hess, a general music education/music
therapy teacher, contacted a music teacher from a nearby, inner-city Bridgeport school and suggested they blend their choruses. Although the schools are less than five miles apart, they seemed inextricably divided by cultural, racial, and socio-economic forces.

But the visionary leadership of the teachers and the magic of music brought the children together, and Hess says that by concentrating on their songs, the children soon forget whatever awkwardness they initially feel in meeting each other.

Hess’s forte is teaching through the active involvement of children in the song-writing process. With input from chorus members in 1992, she wrote “Isn’t It Time?” a song that uses Main Street as a metaphor for the line that divides people and suggests that it is time for the children to breach the divide.

Isn’t it time the children stop to meet?
Isn’t it time the children stop to greet?
Hey, we’re just living on the same old street;
Isn’t it time the children stop to meet?

Hess’s talent in fostering diversity through music and in helping students create songs about contemporary culture has been widely recognized and supported through grants, including several that fund her Connecticut radio show, which is based on diversity and creativity. She has composed songs for documentaries and corporate videos, Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Camp, and the Armed Forces Radio/Television Network. Among her awards is the Local Hero award from Parenting magazine for her work in promoting diversity.

Hess works with adults, as well as children, in community song-writing workshops. One group recorded an original song in 1990 that was broadcast to the troops in Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield. She brings music into pre-schools, hospitals, and shopping malls.

“I owe my success in the field of education to Oswego and to an outstanding professor: Dr. Jerry Exline,” says Hess. “I enrolled in his course, Music for the Elementary Grades, and I marvelling at the energy he exhibited for his students and at his commitment to the community. He was innovative, and he showed us that nothing is impossible.”

If you would like to hear a portion of Terry Wichter Hess’s song about diversity, visit the Oswego Alumni Association website at: www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu.
Students’ Educational Needs are Superintendent’s Primary Concern

Steven Kalies, Ph.D. ’67, superintendent of Oneida, Herkimer, Madison BOCES, believes that the ability to work with people is as important as the knowledge you bring to a job. That is why he values his Oswego education.

“Oswego provided me with a strong academic foundation. It also gave me the experience of dealing with other people by introducing me to classmates from across the state and the country,” says Kalies.

When the BOCES Cooperative Board appointed Dr. Kalies to his current position in December 1999, the president praised him as an administrator who “always speaks of the future in terms of the needs of the student.”

Functioning as a link between local schools and the State Education Department, BOCES has been part of New York State’s public education system since 1948. The Oneida, Herkimer, Madison BOCES supports 12 component districts with 25,301 students over a 549-square mile area. Approximately 1,300 students attend BOCES programs.

Dr. Kalies started his career as a ninth grade earth science teacher in Cicero, then taught seventh grade math in California. He earned advanced degrees at SUNY Albany, then served in administration, including his position as assistant superintendent at the OHM BOCES.

“I’m excited to be in this role,” says Kalies. “There are critical issues facing education today. The goal of public education in the future will be to provide higher academic standards and, at the same time, meet the diverse needs of all students as necessitated by social changes.”

Noting that American society has become increasingly customer driven and results oriented, he adds, “We will see public education adapt to meet a public demand for accountability and alternatives to the traditional structures of the past.”

Class of ’60 Alumnus Helped Design Career Center

In 1972 Thomas Smolinski ’60 accepted the invitation of Arlington County educators to help design and manage a career center based on New York State’s BOCES model.

“I left my BOCES position in Buffalo with the idea that I would stay five years,” says Smolinski. “Today, he is director of the Arlington Career Center, a complex comprised of a library, department of human resources, health clinic, and elementary school, that is open six days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. all year. The center provides high school students and adults with credit programs in vocational, technical, gifted, and special education. “We’re the school for those who learn differently,” explains the director.

In 1974, Smolinski designed a curriculum for at-risk students that combined basic math and social studies with workplace experience. He developed the county’s first television production class that same year, and has seen the station thrive to become cable TV for the entire county.

Last year, Smolinski’s innovation and dedication were recognized and rewarded: he was one of the Washington Post’s Distinguished Educational Leadership award winners.

“It is a wonderful program that recognizes principals and teachers of public and private schools in the area for a certain level of excellence,” explains Smolinski. “The Post really treats us like royalty, with recognition dinners, a Waterford Crystal bell, and a week in St. Thomas. Imagine how good that kind of recognition feels to a bunch of educators!”

Smolinski says he genuinely loves working as an educator. Even in administration, he has never lost his excitement for teaching and for encouraging students to do their best.

He attributes his career’s success to an ability to work with others, a trait he learned at Oswego, when he was co-editor of the yearbook. “In many ways, that experience taught me the value of teamwork. The lesson has stayed with me over the years.”
Class of ’74 Alumnus Heads Rikers Island School

Dean, who was in and out of jail a few times, got his GED at Rikers Island Educational Facility and has now been out for at least three years. He since worked as an exit counselor at a homeless shelter, assisting with the clients’ transitions back to the community.

Kevin spent eight months on Rikers, was released and had to go to work to support himself. At Rikers his counselor told him about a CUNY program for the previously incarcerated. Kevin held onto the information for five years, has now enrolled in the GED program at LaGuardia Community College, and intends to enroll in college.

Paul, a poet, was a model student at Rikers. He actually won a city-wide poetry contest while incarcerated. Upon release he had family obligations and was unable to return to school, but he is now enrolled in a GED program. He has maintained contact with one of the teachers and continues to stay out of trouble.

These are the life stories that energize Frank Dody ’74, principal of Rikers Island Educational Facility, the largest school in America dedicated to the education of incarcerated young people. Each year, more than 5,000 male detainees between 16- and 19-years old work toward their high school diplomas while serving time.

Dody has worked for the New York City Board of Education since 1979 in various capacities in special education. He started at Rikers in 1994 as assistant principal of special education.

“It’s stories like these that keep me going,” says Dody, speaking of Dean, Kevin, Paul and other young men who have taken advantage of the opportunity to turn their lives around through education.

Dody earned a BA in elementary education at Oswego, then went on for a master’s in special education at Adelphi. His interest in the subject was piqued and nourished at Oswego, where he taught children of migrant workers in nearby Sodus and did his student teaching in inner-city Syracuse.

“Correctional education came late in my career,” says Dody. “Here we deal with students who are mostly in the process of attending court proceedings. Some have their cases dismissed and some will go to trial, but most will take a plea bargain and serve some time in a state facility.”

The time these young men are in school varies from two months to just a matter of days.

Dody, who lives with his wife and their two children in Jericho, says of Rikers Island students, “I see them under some pretty difficult circumstances. But we try to help each student believe that the school’s motto, ‘Education is the Key to Rehabilitation,’ can work for them.”

Teaching At-Risk Students

Mark Warford ’87, an eighth grade language arts/social studies teacher runs Guilderland Central School District’s New Start program for students who are at risk of dropping out. Fourteen academically capable middle school students participate in special activities that stress organizational skills, responsibility and work ethic.

“These programs benefit the students in the New Start program, but they also have a positive impact on the community,” says Warford. Activities include a recycling program in all school district buildings. In the middle school, where the program is housed, the students compost cafeteria scraps from the kitchen and pick up all glass, plastic, metal and cardboard. Each month, six tons are recycled district wide.

New Start students work in teams to collect, weigh, and graph the amount of paper they recycle. They evaluate their work, and each year they create a video to help raise awareness about environmental issues in the community.

Warford’s students also tend a half-acre organic garden in front of the middle school. They do all the work in the garden, from planting to harvesting to marketing. Farmers’ market proceeds help fund the garden for the next year. Fresh vegetables are donated to soup kitchens and food pantries in the Capital District.

Teaching in Non-traditional Settings

The career of Jackie Endres Nenchin ’73 defies classification: world traveler, multilingual expert, translator, and teacher.

At Oswego, Nenchin carried a double major in German and Russian. She earned a master’s degree in Russian with a German minor at Vanderbilt University.

“At Vanderbilt, I saw a poster with the invitation: travel through Russia and get paid for it. I asked Dr. Edward Nordby for advice, and he encouraged me. That’s how I came to work for the United States Information Agency as an exhibition guide for Technology in the American Home.” One city we traveled to was Zaporozhe, Ukraine, where I met my husband, Victor, when I went to buy a cake!”

During her career, Nenchin has taught in non-traditional settings, including the Russian Orthodox Church in New York City, and the Federal Correctional Institution in Fairton, NJ. Students were inmates from many countries, who had violated federal drug and racketeering statutes. After three years, the Community Services Division honored her as the Employee of the Year for graduating more than 100 students from the ESL program.

She is currently a part-time teacher in the Freeport Public Schools, working in an adult rehabilitation center with recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. She also teaches English as a Second Language and is working toward state certification in that area.

Nenchin credits her Oswego experience with providing the impetus for everything she has done in her career. “Without Dr. George Koenig, Dr. Joseph Wiecha, and Dr. Edward and Mrs. Gisela Nordby, I would not have gone into the world with such fine preparation. They taught me more about life through literature than I would have thought possible, and they taught me everything about being a good, caring teacher.”
Oswego State graduates have been inspired to fill the ranks of those scholars who, devoted to their disciplines and to the future, have developed distinguished careers in higher education as professors, researchers and administrators.

At the community college level, Ricardo Rosero ’97 is an assistant professor in the Engineering Technologies and the Trades at Mohawk Valley Community College. He earned a master’s degree at Oswego in vocational technical education and has taught at MVCC since 1991. “I appreciate the mentorship of Dr. Eugenio Basualdo and the opportunity that Oswego provided me to attain the credentials I needed to teach,” he says. “I try to impart to my students not only the knowledge of the subject, but also the values of hard work, honesty, punctuality and quality. I ask them to take a good, hard look at their lives. And, if they’re not having a positive effect on society, I ask them to consider some changes.”

Among the many Oswego State alumni who are teaching or doing research at baccalaureate and graduate degree granting colleges and universities are several who have earned national reputations for their work. Dr. Richard E. Taylor ’87, University of Notre Dame professor and a principal investigator at its Walther Cancer Research Center, completed research projects under the tutelage of Dr. Augustine Silviera and Dr. Joseph LeFever while at Oswego. He earned a doctorate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Merck, where he did pioneering work in the synthesis of the anti-cancer agent taxol. Last fall, he spoke at Oswego with the sponsorship of the Chemistry Department and the Syracuse section of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Steven Selden ’63, whose book, Inheriting Shame, was reviewed in the Fall/Winter ’99 issue of Oswego, teaches courses on race, class and social justice at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he is director of the Center of Curriculum Theory and Development. His book was published by the Teachers College Press, Columbia University, as part of its “Advances in Contemporary Educational Thought Series.” Selden explains that the book grew out of his research on ways that the pseudo-scientific theories of eugenics were popularized in the early years of the last century to legitimatize ideas of racism and selective human breeding programs. When his students read the book, he says, they are most appalled at learning that many political and educational leaders in the early decades of the 1900s believed in and supported the idea of racially based, inherent traits.

Richard Cobello ’73 is director of the National Lighting Product Information Program at the Lighting Research Center, the world’s largest research center devoted to lighting and an academic unit of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Cobello says, “The product information project could be called the ‘Consumer Reports of Lighting.’” He also directs information technology efforts for the project and interacts with the federal government on issues of environmental impact, speaking at conferences on topics related to energy efficiency and information technology.

For Dr. Joseph Armstrong ’70, the twin academic activities of research and teaching are equally important. He is professor of botany and associate chair of Biological Sciences at Illinois State University, where he was named Distinguished Teacher in the College of Arts and Sciences in 1998. That award recognized him for “...strong, student-centered approaches to teaching, active involvement of students in field work, and creation of important teaching materials.” In 1997, he received the Charles E. Bessey Teaching Award from the Botanical Society of America “for excellence in the teaching of botany and leadership in botanical education.” Last fall, he was named a visiting scholar at Srinahkinwirot University, Bangkok.

Armstrong says he holds up as models for his own career the teaching styles of his science professors at Oswego: Dr. James Seago, Dr. Leland Marsh, and Dr.
Henry Spang. “I’ve tried to provide the same type of experiences and guidance for my students that I received from them. They were way ahead of their time in using investigation as a means of teaching. Now, I find myself a leading proponent of investigative teaching, and I get more invitations to lead workshops across the country than I can possibly accept.”

Armstrong says he believes that alumni have a responsibility to develop and maintain state-of-the art facilities for current and future Oswego State students. “Undergraduate work at the field station on Rice Creek and the projects I did in Snake Swamp were so influential. That tiny greenhouse that stood behind the science building played a big role in my education.”

As a teacher, Armstrong keeps trying new ideas and techniques and giving students the educational facilities—like those he had at Oswego—to excite them and interest them.

“This can mean figuring out a way to take my students to Costa Rica each year to study rain forest ecology. It can mean writing a textbook when no other suitable text is available. I wrote an introductory biology book because in all the others, students were buried in terminology to the point where the concepts were hidden. Now, on sabbatical, I’m writing a history of green organisms to support a plant diversity class.”

Last fall, during the first semester of his sabbatical, Armstrong conducted research on beetle pollination of rain forest trees.

For photo essays on Armstrong’s tropical excursion with students, including the most recent on the mangroves, check his website at www.bio.ilstu.edu/armstrong/armstr.htm.

Dr. Casimir J. Kowalski ’65 has had a varied career in higher education that has taken him around the world, most recently—for the U.S. State Department—to Africa, where he directed a $100 million project for 15 disadvantaged African universities. He returned to become dean of the South Carolina State University School of Education, which has just had its NCATE accreditation renewed. Dr. Kowalski is leading an “aggressive development program,” which has resulted in a $1.84 million technology development grant and a new state grant that will provide scholarships for 100 incoming freshmen.

“This nation is in the midst of a teacher shortage,” says Dr. Kowalski. “I believe that it takes a whole university to prepare teachers for American classrooms today.”

Our records reveal three former college presidents among members of the Oswego Alumni Society. Dr. George Budd ’39 was president of St. Cloud State University (Minnesota) and then Pittsburgh State University (Kansas) before his retirement. At the time of his Golden Anniversary Reunion, he said, “I credit Oswego with providing a sound basic education that made it possible for me to be successful in graduate school and later in a professional career that spanned 42 years.”

Dr. Thomas Richardson ’46, whose active academic and volunteer pursuits in Key Largo defy the label “retired,” is past president of Montclair State University (NJ). His undergraduate work was interrupted by World War II, and he returned to complete his degree after the war. “I thoroughly enjoyed college studies and I loved Oswego. The faculty, my fellow students, and Dr. Ralph Swetman, then president, all linger in my mind with the greatest possible respect and affection.”

Dr. Clive Veri ’61, who began his career in higher education as a custodian at Oswego State, completed it as president of Shawnee State University in Ohio. “My personal best accomplishment was to do for others what Oswego did for me—make it possible for students from educationally and economically disadvantaged families to attend college and then, to be successful in the academy,” he says.
Oswego Alumna Directs CNY Teaching Center

Lifelong learning is a priority for me,” says Patricia Bolognone Galimi ’81, “and because I believe in it, I have chosen to dedicate my career to professional development.”

As director of the Central New York Teacher Resource and Computer Center since 1997, Galimi designed and implemented a program for a 16-district consortium that offers an array of courses and opportunities for teachers, administrators, and teaching assistants.

The center is one of 121 teacher resource centers and computer training centers created since 1984 by the New York State Legislature and funded through the state education department. These centers provide educators with resources for systematic, ongoing professional development.

The CNY Teaching Center maintains a site at Rockwell Elementary School in Nedrow, where educators can access materials, a professional library, training, specialized equipment, and a computer lab. The center offers workshops and training on site and off site as well as drop-in hours.

“This is a truly collaborative venture,” says Galimi. “We are the avenue through which all educators can increase their knowledge, exchange ideas, and develop strategies to refine classroom instructional skills.”

Galimi earned a BS in education and a MS in early childhood education at Oswego; she also has a CAS in Educational Administration from SUNY Cortland. She taught in the Liverpool Central School District from 1983 to 1997 before accepting her present position. While teaching in Liverpool, she was named district-wide teacher of the year.

“Oswego State gave me the opportunity to earn the degrees that set my career path. I couldn’t be where I am today without that base,” says Galimi. “Lifelong learning is a commitment I make to myself and others. Whether it is taking graduate courses, participating in professional development activities—such as grant writing or workshops—or teaching children and adults, I want to keep learning and moving forward and expanding my capabilities. Through the teacher center, I can help other dedicated educators do the same.”

Galimi is also an adjunct professor at two Central New York colleges, teaching a graduate course on integrating technology into classroom instruction.

Two on Staff of Learner-Centered Initiatives

Learner-Centered Initiatives, an educational consulting company that provides staff development for school districts in New York State, employs two Oswego State alumnae: Diane Vacchiano Cunningham ’84 and Angela DiMichele Lalor ’87.

Cunningham is associate director, designing and leading multi-year staff development programs for teachers K-12. “Over two or three years, I get to know the teachers I work with, coach them, visit their classroom, design and implement lessons with them, and give them feedback,” explains Cunningham. “They teach me so much, which in turn helps me go on to teach others.”

Programs are “very hands-on and grounded in teachers’ practice,” things like portfolio assessment, writing workshops, curriculum and assessment design and action research.

After graduating from Oswego with a BS in elementary education and a minor in reading education, Cunningham earned a master’s degree in writing from Northwestern. “My Oswego State writing arts courses were invaluable,” she says. “Those were the professors that were the models for me as I later designed and taught writing at Adelphi University.”

Cunningham is also involved in the Center for the Study of Expertise in Teaching and Learning, a non-profit organization that she says “aims to package the expertise of teachers, which is currently so inaccessible, so that others can learn from master teachers. As co-director, my job is to coach the fellows and support the work they do.”

Lalor—one of the fellows in CSETL—is also an educational consultant for Learner-Centered Initiatives. She previously taught seventh grade social studies in the William Floyd School District. There, she put all her Oswego State learning into practice.

“I came to Oswego as a computer science major,” says Lalor. “As a sophomore, I decided to change my major and took two courses to help me find a new direction. The course I took in education convinced me that I was best suited for a career as a teacher.”

Lalor says she added a reading minor to her program and that her “best courses” were in that discipline. “Professor Grace Maxon constantly worked with me to show me how reading in the content area was important to secondary education students.”

Like Cunningham, Lalor works with teachers over a period of time to help them grow professionally. She has been involved in projects...
across the state that include: exploration of alternative assessment in the classroom, curriculum mapping and writing projects, aligning curriculum to the New York State Standards and designing appropriate classroom assessments. She is also an adjunct professor at Adelphi University, where this summer she will lead a standards-based assessment institute in social studies.

### Social Studies Teacher of the Year Helps Students Know the World

A veteran teacher, who never really yearned for a career in the classroom, was named the 1999 New York State Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

“I come from a background that gave academically oriented girls the choice of either nursing or teaching,” says Deborah Berlt-Schraven ’73. “Although I never sought it, I was lucky enough, once I got into teaching, to discover that I could stick it out.”

Over the 26 years of her career, Berlt-Schraven has far exceeded simple endurance; she has, in fact, become that consummate ideal: a good teacher.

“I have stayed in teaching—even when other opportunities arose and when my colleagues left for jobs in business or industry—because of the intrinsic rewards,” she says. “As a teacher, you’re doing something every day that leaves a mark on a person’s life.”

At C.W. Baker High School, Berlt-Schraven’s mark on the lives of students includes appreciation for cultures other than their own. After traveling to Japan in 1988 on a Keizai Koho Fellowship, she worked with the Baldwinsville Central School District to establish an exchange program that is now in its 11th season.

Each March, 10 to 12 Japanese students with their teachers visit Baker High School, and each summer Baker High school study in Japan. In each country, students live with families and take part in cultural and social activities as well as classes.

“Understanding the world means understanding the people in it. We try to abolish ethnocentrism and stereotypes.”

Berlt-Schraven, who grew up in a small town in Columbia County, credits her Oswego State experience with providing an awareness of what some of the possibilities for her life might be. She recalls mentors in her education classes who taught valuable methods and techniques that are still valid in teaching today.

“I especially credit Dr. Geraldine Forbes with being a role model and a great influence. In the early ‘70s, she represented to us the techniques that are still valid in teaching today. We have to help our students become lifelong learners by developing their love for the learning process itself.”

Berlt-Schraven says she gives her all to students each day of the year. “Whatever I do, I want to do in a way that makes me proud to put my name on it,” she says.

### New Jersey Teacher of the Year Says Every Day at School is Reunion

Teaching at a small elementary school in Pennington, N. J., Connie Cloonan ’74 says she feels privileged to work with two other Oswego graduates: Cheryl Kurtz Burd ’68 and Margaret Chun Yi ’95.

“Although we were at Oswego at very different times, it is great fun to have been trained at the same school,” says Cloonan. “We come from different parts of New York State, now we share our common backgrounds as we teach together at the Toll Gate School.”

A third grade teacher, who was Teacher of the Year for the state of New Jersey in 1990-91, Cloonan says that hers is one of the most important and one of the most challenging professions. “What attracted me to education is the same thing that sustains so many of us through the challenges—our love of children. There is simply no joy like that which comes from watching students learn, whether they are understanding a new concept, writing a beautiful story or poem, or becoming aware of some special wonder in their world.”

Cloonan is convinced that the role of teachers will be even more essential over the next decades than it is now as we move into a “knowledge economy” in which information will be the currency.

“We’ve already seen an amazing acceleration in the pace of change in technology and the demands of globalization. In this new era, the ability to be a lifelong learner will be what separates those who are successful from those who are not.”

Cloonan believes that her role is to teach higher level thinking in addition to content (math, reading, etc.). “Most importantly, we have to help our students become lifelong learners by developing their love for the learning process itself.”

Cloonan says her Oswego experience provided two special things: professors who shared their passion for teaching and their skills so that she could become a good teacher and a diverse group of classmates with whom she could share, learn and grow.

For the essentials of what a teacher should be, Cloonan turns to her eighth grade math teacher, Sister Brigid Michael, as her inspiration. “She set very high standards, expected a great deal from each student, and motivated us to work harder. She believed in us, and she understood that she could make a difference in our lives. Every good teacher must have that understanding and that belief.”

### Colleagues Name ’62 Alumnus “Teacher of Year”

William Wemple ’62 was recognized last March in the Teacher of the Year program run by The Daytona Beach News-Journal. He has spent his entire career in the classroom, first at Oneonta Middle School, then in Fairport, where he worked at BOCES with children with handicapping conditions. He has taught applied technology in New Smyrna Beach High School in Florida for the past 15 years, earning the respect of his colleagues, who nominated him for the award.

### Honored for Graphic Arts Teaching

Ronald Hindmarch ’71 directs the Hilton School District program that has produced a host of prize-winning graphic artists. Hindmarch received the 1999 Kagy Award of the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation’s Society of Fellows for his instructional leadership, professionalism, innovation and promotion of the graphic arts industry. He was recognized for having built the Hilton High graphic arts technology programs, which annually enroll more than 200 students.
Class of 1959 Alumna Honors Her Past With a Gift for the Future

A teacher never knows what fruit will blossom from the seeds she plants. Carol Adams Nelson ’59 says one of her greatest delights in her recent retirement is to meet with or read about her former third grade pupils, to learn of their successes and of their contributions to their communities.

Carol dedicated 35 years of her life to children in the Blue Point Elementary School on Long Island and, looking back on her career, she says she wouldn’t have chosen any other path.

“Time and again, I turned down other opportunities because I never wanted to leave that classroom. I felt that what I was doing was significant, that I was making a difference every day.”

It is her great love for teaching and for the future of Oswego State that has prompted Carol to include an undesignated gift to the university in her will. She wants her gift to be used to help meet university priorities in whatever is deemed most helpful to enriching the educational experiences of current and future students.

“After talking with Peg Lowery, I met with my attorney and made it clear that I would like my legacy to include a gift to Oswego,” she explains. “I want to continue to have an interest in and influence upon the future of my alma mater.”

Lowery, associate vice president of Alumni and University Development, says, “Carol follows Edward Austin Sheldon’s example with her foresight, planning and generosity. Including Oswego as part of her legacy is extraordinarily thoughtful and forward looking. The university is most grateful to Carol and her husband for their display of loyalty and personal commitment to advance Oswego’s future.”

Crediting her many “wonderful Oswego professors,” Carol says that she and other graduates have repeatedly acknowledged the impact that an Oswego State education had on their careers. “We were taught professionalism. Right along with our subject matter, we learned a certain set of standards and values and behaviors that were appropriate to a teacher.”

The Class of 1959 was a “close class,” according to Carol. She recalls the fun of student council, Symphonic Choir, Swing Sixteen, and her sorority, Alpha Sigma Chi.

Faculty members—and even then President Foster Brown—participated fully in campus life.

“My experiences at Oswego remain a very special part of my memories,” says Carol. “My husband, James, and I believe in the philosophy of giving something back. I’d like to encourage others to do the same. If we think about how far we’ve come and the good lives we’ve had because we earned our degrees at Oswego, we should want to do everything possible to help continue the excellent programming there.”

Carol uses a metaphor involving a favorite garnet bracelet to illustrate her point.

“My 11-year-old niece is a Capricorn, as I am. Since we share the same birthstone, I decided to give her my garnet bracelet. To see the joy on her face when she received that gift brought me great satisfaction. That’s the kind of giving I want to be part of; I want the satisfaction of knowing where my life’s treasures are going. And, I’d like to encourage alumni from my class and others to make giving to Oswego State part of their plans, too.”

The generosity and forward thinking of Carol Adams Nelson—and other loyal and committed alumni—help ensure that Oswego State continues as one of America’s premier institutions of higher education. The seeds they plant now will bear fruit far into the future.

Have you included Oswego State in your will?

Bequests to Oswego are the main source of endowment support. For a confidential information packet, contact the Office of University Development, King Alumni Hall, State University of New York at Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126; 315-341-3003.
Retired Professor and Alumni Couple Endow Scholarships

Dean Linda Rae Markert ’76 has announced that two newly endowed scholarships have been established for Oswego State students pursuing degrees in elementary education.

A couple, who both earned undergraduate degrees at Oswego and have had prestigious careers in education, make their gift in appreciation of “Oswego State and its dedicated and caring faculty.”

The scholarship, to be awarded for the first time in the 2000-2001 year, is intended to “inspire, encourage and stimulate active participation in the life of the university.” It will be awarded annually to a junior or senior elementary education major.

The couple chose to make the gift anonymously to honor the wife, a retired public school teacher, who was active on campus as a student and who remained loyal to Oswego State. Her husband had a prestigious career in public school administration. Both have served Oswego State as leadership volunteers in a variety of capacities.

Together, they have taken an active role in community affairs, augmenting their professional responsibilities with volunteer work in several service clubs and philanthropic organizations.

Retired Professor’s Gift

A retired associate professor from the former Campus School has also endowed a scholarship to encourage Oswego State students who are pursuing degrees in education. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a junior or senior elementary education major.

Choosing to remain anonymous, the donor has established the scholarship in recognition of and appreciation for the preparation and education of future teachers. Before retirement, the donor helped shape the careers of hundreds of teachers, who have used their Oswego educations to influence the futures of students all over the world.

A graduate of and a former professor at Oswego State, the donor has made a lifetime commitment to the university through gifts of time and resources.

For each of these endowed scholarships, the donors met with Associate Vice President of Alumni and University Development Peg Lowery to discuss institutional priorities before making their gifts.

“These generous gifts to establish endowed scholarships in the School of Education will help Oswego State attract and retain the most qualified students to its elementary education program,” says Lowery. “Such commitments on the part of our loyal alumni, emeriti and friends ultimately contribute to making Oswego State the best public university possible.”

Dean Markert, a graduate of Oswego State’s Class of 1976, adds, “I am especially encouraged that many of our alumni and emeriti are stepping forward to make gifts to the School of Education. By endowing a scholarship or making a gift to enrich our six departments in other ways, former alumni, professors and staff members—who have already given so much and made such important contributions—can continue to extend their influence into the future.”

For information, or to learn about ways of giving to Oswego’s School of Education, contact the Office of University Development, 315-341-3003.

Alumni Establish Scholarship to Honor Father Hall

Father Robert Hall kept strict office hours during his years as Roman Catholic chaplain at Oswego State’s Newman Center. Twenty-four hours a day!

“You could go to Father Hall any hour of any day, and he would give you what you needed. He wasn’t just chaplain to the Catholics, he was minister and friend to all students,” says California attorney Elizabeth Baker ’61.

This man, who cared so faithfully for the spiritual lives of students, will have his memory honored through a scholarship in his name. Oswego alumni, led by members of the classes of 1961 and ’62, are working to establish a minimum endowment of $10,000. Betty Baker ’61 and Midge McDiyre Launsbach ’62 initiated the campaign with a letter to their classmates calling for leadership gifts.

When Midge and her husband, Charles Launsbach ’61, think of Father Hall, they think of a true friend and a father figure.

“When a priest dies, he has no children to carry his memory forward into time. So, all of us who were so close to him—like his children, really—decided to create a tribute to him that would be ongoing, that would extend his influence into the future. Since we were all education majors, we decided to endow a scholarship for future teachers,” explains Midge. “We remember him with such deep love.”

Peggy Huntoon Podstupka ’61 and John Podstupka ’62, of Roslyn Heights, agree.

“Religion was a big part of college life,” explains Peggy. “Father Hall brought us all together. He made Newman Club one of the prestigious campus activities.”

Peggy says that she and John, who retired after 35 years of teaching, feel that alumni will want to honor Father Hall’s memory because “he was a great person, the person that we could talk to and trust.”

The Rev. Robert Hall was ordained in 1942, called to St. Mary’s Church in Oswego in 1949, and appointed as pastor there in 1965. During his years in Oswego, he was chaplain of the Newman Center at Oswego State, and now the center bears his name. He served his Oswego charge until 1991, when he moved to Syracuse, assisting in area parishes and serving on staff at the Iroquois Nursing Home. He died Oct. 23, 1999 at Community General Hospital in Syracuse. He was 82.

Baker recalls an incident during Reunion ’91 that illustrates the love alumni feel for their former chaplain and friend.

“Father Hall agreed to say Mass for us, and it wasn’t in the printed program. Phillip Messer ’61 and I were invited to serve. News spread, and when I returned to my room Saturday night, I saw my door was covered with Post-It Notes all bearing the same message: ‘Wake me in time for church tomorrow.’

“Mass with Father Hall was the high point of Reunion that year. And his influence and spiritual guidance was the high point of the lives of a whole generation of Oswego State students.”

NOTE: If Father Hall had an impact on your life and you’d like to honor his memory through a gift to the scholarship that bears his name, please contact the Office of University Development, 315-341-3003. Checks may be made to the Oswego College Foundation, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State, Oswego, NY 13126. We accept major credit cards by phone, mail, and on our secure website at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu.
Couple from Class of ’74 Endows Business Scholarship

Sharon Wilcox Yacura and Joseph Yacura have announced their intention to endow a scholarship fund that will provide an annual scholarship to an outstanding Oswego State student enrolled in the School of Business.

“Both my wife and I graduated with the class of 1974, and our experience tells us that Oswego provided a great learning environment,” says Joseph, a vice president at American Express Worldwide.

“I believe that the Oswego State School of Business is really making a significant impact,” he adds.

“It is important, at this point, to have the support of alumni who are in leadership positions in the corporate world. It’s also important to give something back in recognition of the educational foundation Sharon and I received at Oswego. We want to help students, who may or may not be as fortunate as we were in getting our degrees.”

Dean Lanny Karns said the support of alumni is vital to the continuing growth and prestige of the School of Business.

“I am grateful to the Yacuras,” he said. “Joseph has achieved success in an executive role, and he is demonstrating his commitment to help Oswego students succeed as well. This generous gift will not only help deserving students earn their degrees, it will also help advance the mission of the School of Business as we move into the future.”

In addition to providing a scholarship, Yacura plans to give Oswego State students a head start in the corporate world by inviting them to apply for a summer internship at American Express Worldwide, in New York City, beginning in 2000. Such internships, he says, are beneficial for businesses, because they bring fresh thinking and energy into the environment. They are also good for students, because they augment classroom learning and help students gain a sense of the corporate culture.

“With the right faculty guidance, we can foresee this internship as being an excellent opportunity for a student,” Yacura says. “We have taken several interns from SUNY Binghamton, where I earned an MBA and an MS, and every one we’ve worked with, we’ve hired.”

Dr. Paul Roodin, director of experience based education, said, “What a wonderful opportunity! Joe has set aside an internship specifically for an Oswego School of Business student. Most of the interns he selects come from the Ivy League schools, including Wharton School of Business (University of Pennsylvania), Tuck School of Business (Dartmouth) and Columbia School of Business. It is a chance for SUNY Oswego School of Business students to shine... and I know they will. Our student interns will prove that our faculty and our programs prepare students for corporate success, just as they helped Joe to realize his own professional goals years ago.”

Sharon Wilcox Yacura majored in elementary education at Oswego. She went on to earn a degree in physical therapy, and she worked in that field for the first few years of marriage. Now, she says she is “helping the couple’s three daughters grow up and working as a community volunteer.”

She and Joseph agree that there is a good feeling about being in a position to make a positive difference in the future of their alma mater.

For information on ways of giving to the School of Business, including endowed scholarship funds, please contact the Department of University Development, 315-341-3003.
Debbie Adams-Kaden ’78 and James Kaden ’78 believe that a strong Oswego State, now and in the future, makes their degrees increasingly more valuable.

Debbie explains: “By helping Oswego State maintain academic excellence and a solid reputation, we realize that the public, especially employers, respect the credentials of all alumni.”

Strong advocates of the need for an “educated populace to sustain the democracy,” the Kadens direct their volunteer efforts toward public education at all levels. Their two sons have attended school in the Huntington, Long Island, district, where Jim is president of the Board of Education, which is now in the challenging process of hiring a new superintendent and planning a budget for the next fiscal year. Debbie is a member of the Oswego Alumni Association Legislative Committee and a new volunteer for the association’s Alumni Admissions program.

The Kadens say they give to their alma mater in order to help provide state-of-the-art technology and programs of enrichment for current and future students. That’s why they have designated their most recent gift to the physics department and asked that their employers’ matching gifts be designated to the College of Arts and Sciences to be used—within certain guidelines—at the discretion of the dean.

Debbie’s employer, First Data Corporation, and Jim’s, Lockheed Martin, are both corporate matching gift companies, so the Kadens’ gift has three times its original value.

Jim, a physics major, and Debbie say they “adopt” that department because “a strong physics department helps strengthen the entire science program.” Last year, their gift provided computers and software that made it possible for every student in the freshman physics lab to acquire and analyze data in much the same way that they will after graduation.

Physics Department Chair Roger Hinrichs says the most recent gift will be used to update the technology used in the classroom with the purchase of a multimedia projector coupled to a computer. This will enable the teacher to show computer simulations as well as display data that was acquired in the classroom. “We are thankful that the Kadens are helping to bring our teaching practices to the forefront with new technology. A new course in our applied physics program, computational physics, will immediately make use of this equipment to allow the teacher to display computer work to the entire class.”

Both the Kadens are grateful for the foundation of knowledge they received at Oswego. That’s why they designated the corporate matches for their gifts to the College of Arts and Sciences, requesting that the funds be used, within certain parameters, at the discretion of the dean.

Dean Sara Varhus says, “We are proud that the Kadens value the background that they received in the College of Arts and Sciences. We are also grateful that they are making this contribution, which will enrich the experience of our students in mathematics and the sciences.”

Like many couples, the Kadens recall that resources were limited in the early years of their marriage. That they are now in a position to make increased gifts to their alma mater pleases them.

“I like what I see going on at Oswego State right now,” explains Debbie. “If I hand over all my money to the government, somebody else decides what to do with it. If I make a gift to Oswego, I decide. It’s a good honest place for us to put our support.”

Jim adds, “We believe strongly in an educated citizenry. We believe that everyone deserves a chance to pursue higher education. We believe in Oswego State.”

First Cyber Gift to Fund for Oswego

Using the campus’s first secure website, that of the Office of Alumni and University Development, Anna Bellantoni Napolitano ’60 became the first person to make a gift to The Fund for Oswego through the internet. She says she wanted to honor her alma mater on the 40th anniversary year of her class. After graduation, Napolitano taught in Port Chester, then took leave to raise two sons and a daughter with her husband, who is a retired elementary school principal. After earning a master’s degree, she returned to teaching in the Greenwich, Conn. school system, earned a doctorate and ended her career as a school administrator. “I retired after 22 years and, using the pen name Anne Alcott, created Math Crossword Puzzles, a book that I sell online. Since I spend so much time online, I decided to make my gift that way. I have fond memories of my years at Oswego State.”
Goals 2000 Grant Supports Innovative Teacher Education

Technology rich" is the term Dr. Suzanne Weber and Ann Keen use to describe the lessons they provide for pre-service teachers at Oswego State. They work in partnership with teachers and pupils at Kenney Elementary School in Hannibal, where Oswego students will "sit in" on real-time lessons through a live two-way video connection between the classroom and the campus.

During the early weeks of the spring '00 semester, Weber and Keen immersed their college students in the techniques of inquiry-based learning. Rather than presenting lectures on ways to teach science in the elementary grades, the instructors asked questions to stimulate curiosity on the part of the students and introduced the options for satisfying that curiosity: hands-on experiments, computer programs, the World Wide Web, a variety of story books, and textbooks.

"What we're doing here is modeling," explained Weber. "Most of these students are used to direct instruction, when the teacher gives conclusions first, then provides students with activities to confirm the conclusions."

Inquiry-based teaching puts students first, challenging them to formulate questions, articulate problems, then solve the problems through resources available in the classroom—and beyond the classroom using the computer.

Keen points out to the future teachers that they are responsible for fulfilling expectations of the New York state syllabus in three specific areas: skills, attitudes, and content. "It's not enough just to have fun in the classroom," she says.

After future teachers learn first to allow elementary pupils to think and solve problems before helping pupils consolidate what they have learned, Keen's and Weber's students will be ready to observe classrooms at Kenney Elementary School. Rather than hiding and whispering behind one-way glass (as future teachers once did) these observers will be asking and responding to questions, watching and being watched, and actually taking part in the lesson with the children through a live hookup.

Weber explains that what she and Keen are doing is in keeping with the approach advocated in the School of Education Conceptual Framework. "We are preparing teachers to promote authentic learning and social justice in their classrooms by using techniques and approaches that are inclusive and that allow all students to learn."

She notes that the development of technology-rich classrooms and inquiry-based learning has taken "lots of time and money."

The project is supported by a Goals 2000 grant to Oswego State. Barbara Beyerbach '74 and Josephine Farrell are the co-directors of the grant that paid for Weber, Keen, and teachers at Kenney Elementary School to work for two summers to plan and develop the technology-rich lessons for children and pre-service teachers. The grant also paid for laptop computers and software for classroom preparation, all the computers, the LC projectors, and web site development.

For more information on this project, visit the site at www.oswego.edu/~sueweber; and, to read more about the approach that drives teacher education at Oswego State today, click onto www.oswego.edu/~sueweber/conceptualframework.
“O” Is For Oswego Opportunities

During Black History Month, Aunree Houston ’00 staged his original play, Through It All, on campus. He formed AJH Productions in 1996 and has seen it grow to a multiracial group of approximately 40 creative students. The motto of the company is “Cultural Education Through Entertainment,” a philosophy that embodies Houston’s feelings about life in general and his Oswego State experience in particular.

“Oswego opened the doors for me. Whatever my mind could conceive—positive, creative things—Oswego allowed me to do it.”

Part of Houston’s pleasure in Oswego has been the opportunities he has had to share his life view with others. “I love my college,” he says. “I spend a lot of time talking to freshmen and to friends back home, getting the message out that this is a place where you can be whatever you want to be.”

A broadcast communications major with a minor in theater, Houston looks to a future that somehow involves creative pursuits. He has already interviewed with HBO in New York City, and he is also considering graduate school—either at Oswego State or another university.

Wherever life leads him, one thing he knows for certain: “I’ll always want to be involved with Oswego. When I’m no longer a student, I’ll be a loyal alumnus.”

Bangladesh Meeting

It’s a small world for Oswego State. While Charles Spector, professor in the School of Business, was teaching at North South University in the capital city of Dhaka in Bangladesh last summer, he became a tennis buddy of alumnus James Ford ’73, a former Oswego hockey star. They were introduced by a mutual friend, the personal assistant to the U.S. ambassador.

Ford has been in Dhaka since July 1996, working on the Rural Electrification Program. He was also there from 1988 to 1992 as a training advisor. Now that their three children are in college, his wife, Debbie Barker Ford ’73, is with him.

A bonus that came out of Specter’s and Ford’s summer friendship is Ford’s help with recruitment, passing out Oswego State literature to local students.

Headlines and Highlights

Alumni Authors Recognized

Robert O’Connor ’82 and Alice McDermott ’75 had novels on the Esquire magazine’s January list of best fiction of the 1990s. O’Connor’s Buffalo Soldiers and McDermott’s Charming Billy, which also won the 1998 National Book Award, were named among the best fiction of the decade. O’Connor teaches fiction writing in the Oswego State Writing Arts Program.

College Council Appointee

John Piper of Farmington received Gov. George Pataki’s appointment to the Oswego College Council. He graduated from Oswego State in 1975 and is chief executive officer of the Greater Rochester Association of Realtors.

Web Registration

Students can now select their courses on the Web in real time. This visual option adds to the already student-friendly NICE system for telephone registration, which has been an option for about three years.

Advertisement for Oswego

365 engaging professors, 109 thought-provoking programs, and 1 Great Lake! That’s the way Oswego State was portrayed in Time magazine in three fall 1999 issues. We’re working to spread the good news about your alma mater, and you can help by telling talented students and their parents about your “Oswego Experience.”

Oswego Education Opens Doors

Career Services’s Graduate Survey for the class of 1998 shows 93 percent attending graduate school or employed, with average beginning salaries of nearly $30,000. More than 350 companies came to campus in 1999 to recruit our students. For more facts and figures, visit the Oswego State website at www.oswego.edu and link onto the Career Services page.

Environmental Research Grant

Regenisis, a California company, granted $15,000 to the Environmental Research Center at Oswego to explore the use of hydrogen release compounds, which can be used to enhance degradation of polychlorinated biphenyls in contaminated sediments.

Academic Standards Rising

Since 1996, the mean grade point average of incoming freshmen has increased one percentage point, to 86.6 percent, and the average SAT score has risen 25 points, to 1,084. Oswego State is working toward a goal of admitting first-year students with mean high school averages of at least 87 and mean SAT scores of at least 1,100 says Dr. Joseph Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

New Majors

Six new major programs have been approved by the state. We now offer undergraduate students opportunities to major in women’s studies, public relations, cognitive science, graphic design, and wellness management. A new graduate degree is available in teaching chemistry.

Telephone Numbers Changing

The 3-digit prefixes to all campus phone numbers are scheduled to change this spring. The existing prefix of 341 will co-exist with the new number for about one year before being retired. Extension numbers (the four digit numbers) will remain the same; the new prefix is 312.

NOTE: From the pages of Campus Update, a publication of the Oswego State Office of Public Affairs. To keep up with the latest news about the research and creative activities of Oswego State’s faculty and other campus news, visit the website at www.oswego.edu and link onto the Office of Public Affairs pages.
Dr. Forbes Retells Life of Indian ‘Lady Doctor’

When Geraldine Forbes, of the Oswego State history department and director of the Women’s Studies major, first saw the photo of Haimabati Sen in 1985, she was intrigued. The woman had devised an ingenious new costume—half-sari, half-Western—for her role as a 19th century lady doctor. Forbes was intrigued. The woman had the photo of Haimabati Sen in 1985, Women’s Studies major, first saw the photo, she was intrigued. The woman had devised an ingenious new costume—half-sari, half-Western—for her role as a 19th century lady doctor.

In an age when people didn’t talk much about female body parts, she was photographed holding a speculum in her formal portrait. Little did Forbes know that her intellectual interest in the photo would lead to a book. The Memoirs of Dr. Haimabati Sen: From Child Widow to Lady Doctor is published by Roli Books of New Delhi. The book is translated by Dr. Tapan Raychaudhuri of Oxford University and edited by Forbes and Raychaudhuri. Forbes also wrote the book’s introduction.

When Forbes saw the photo, she began to ask Sen’s granddaughter about the doctor, and she learned that Sen had written her life story in a series of notebooks. The manuscript is the longest and most detailed memoir discovered to date by a woman born in India in the 19th century, Forbes says. Sen wrote it entirely in longhand on lined school notebooks, which her family kept until turning them over to Forbes in 1989.

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Laker Sports Update

The Oswego State track and field program has made great strides since the program was re-established in the 1996-97 season.

In 1999, Laker track and field came under the guidance of full-time head coach Tim Boyce, who returned to the area after five years of track and cross country coaching in the greater Eugene, Ore., area.

Boyce, a native of Marcellus, has made good on his homecoming. The three-time former Section III champion for the Marcellus Mustangs already has the Laker track and field program in great shape, tying or breaking 23 Laker records since the indoor season began in December 1999.

Leading the list of top performers for Laker track and field is Bridget Wiedl ’01 (Fort Edward/Hudson Falls). Wiedl has already made her mark, setting a Laker record in the 800 meters with a time of 2:17.84. That time places her second in the 1999-2000 New York State Collegiate Track Conference field and provisionally qualifies her for the 2000 NCAA Championships. Wiedl, a transfer from the Mustangs already has the Laker record in the 800 meters. Her presence will give the Lakers a strong one-two punch in the 800 as she teams up with SUNYAC runner-up Amy Crain ’00 (Cooperstown/Cherry Valley-Springfield).

Outstanding individual performances highlighted the Oswego State men’s soccer team’s 1999 season. The junior class stepped up to lead the Lakers in nearly every category and earned significant honors for their efforts. Junior Matt Freeman ’01 (Randolph/Randolph) collected All-SUNYAC and NSCAA third team All-American honors for his consistently excellent play all season. Joining him in the Laker midfield and on the All-SUNYAC team were two-time selection Corey Albertina ’01 (Lake Ronkonkoma/Sachem) and third team selection Carey Trappenburg ’01 (Stamford/Stamford).

On Jan. 21, women’s basketball senior co-captain Jamie Clough ’00 (Schenectady/Schalmont) broke the Laker career scoring record set by Linda DeRyke Eakin ’86 14 years ago. Before a jubilant home crowd that included DeRyke and Oswego State President Deborah F. Stanley, Clough scored her 1489th point on a free throw just before halftime to break the old mark of 1488. As the Lakers close in on their second consecutive berth to the SUNYAC Championship tournament, Clough holds several other Laker career records, including most 3-point field goals made (175), most free throws made (492), and career free throw percentage (.773).

Shaun Manning ’02 of Manlius and Beth Chmielowiec ’02 of Byron each posted upset victories in the 1650 freestyle competition at the SUNYAC swimming and diving championships Feb. 11 to 13. Manning, seeded sixth in the mile event, dropped 25 seconds off his previous personal best time, out-distancing the field by over 10 seconds in a time of 16:55.81.

Manning also anchored the Lakers’ school record-setting 400 meter relay.

Chmielowiec swam away from the field, winning the event by over 20 seconds in a time of 18:18.60. Her time was 30 seconds faster than her previous personal best. Chmielowiec was a member of the school record-setting 200 and 800 freestyle relay teams.

Note: For the latest in Lakers’ sports news, you can link onto the athletic department website from the Oswego State home page: www.oswego.edu
Trustees Approve $10.2 Million to Renovate Johnson, Riggs

The State University board of trustees approved $10.2 million for the first phase of major renovation of Oswego’s lakeside residence halls. It was part of a $49 million bond issue trustees approved to modernize residence halls across the state.

Johnson Hall will close for renovation at the end of this academic year; Riggs Hall will come next. The two-building project will take three years.

“These are the second and third buildings renovated as part of a 15-year renovation plan to upgrade most of our residential facilities,” said Chuck Weeks, associate dean of students.

Hart Hall reopened as the Hart Global Living and Learning Center in 1998 after extensive renovations.

Johnson Hall will close for renovation at the end of this academic year; Riggs Hall will come next. The two-building project will take three years.

Johnson and Riggs are both three-story residence halls and now house 200 students each. Riggs opened in 1961 and Johnson in 1959.

Nearly $7 million will be spent on each building. In addition to the bond issue, Oswego will use revolving loan fund money and campus cash. Weeks said, “The buildings will be made technologically current with enhanced security, fire safety, voice and data.”

Weeks said planners are committed to trying to connect Johnson and Riggs to Lakeside Dining Hall, which sits between the two.

“Although the design is still on the drawing boards, it will probably include an enclosed walkway.”

The renovations will include adding an elevator to each building. That, along with other changes, will make the buildings mobility accessible.

“Upgrading residence halls is one of the most important things we can do to enhance the quality of the college experience for students at all of our campuses,” said State University Chancellor Robert L. King. “These projects embody a spirit of renewal and resurgence that can be found throughout the State University.”

$2.2 Million Grant Biggest in Oswego State History

Oswego State researchers looking into the effects of pre-natal exposure to Lake Ontario contaminants will continue their study with a new five-year $2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

A study of “Pre-Natal PCB Exposure and Cognitive Development,” conducted by Oswego’s Center for Neurobehavioral Effects of Environmental Toxics, received the funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

It is the biggest grant the Oswego researchers have received and the largest in Oswego State history, according to Dr. Jack Narayan, Oswego’s director of sponsored research.

The grant will enable Dr. Paul Stewart, Dr. Thomas Darvill, Dr. Edward Lonky and Dr. Jacqueline Reihman of the Oswego psychology department to continue their longitudinal study of children whose mothers ate Lake Ontario fish during pregnancy.

The children, who have been tested and evaluated since birth, are now between 5- and 7-years old. The new study will track their development until age 11.

The study has tracked the development of 275 children whose mothers had eaten Lake Ontario fish during pregnancy. They performed less well than control babies on tests involving mild stressors and environmental sensory input. However, it was not known at the time which specific contaminant, or contaminants, were responsible for the differences observed between fish-eaters and controls.

The researchers tested cord blood and now feel they have “reasonable evidence that PCBs are involved, based on the analytical data,” Reihman says.

Early pre-school behavior of the children suggests the PCBs are associated with “small but statistically significant” declines in cognitive behavior.

“Now we will have data on the children going into school and meeting more academic and social demands,” Darvill explains. “Now we can see if these subtle differences will have long-term, real-world effects.”

Other projects under way on campus include:

Tyler and Mahar Halls — replacement of the plaza deck over underground space. Concrete and earth will be removed above the underground spaces in the areas between Tyler and Mahar Halls, extending west to the pedestrian bridge, and including the loading dock area. A new waterproofing system will be installed, and new surface treatments and landscaping will be installed for the plaza area. Construction is from May through May 2001, with substantial completion expected by November.

Advanced Technology Classrooms — Technology and architectural upgrades for three classrooms in Lanigan and Mahar, with completion by August.

Culkin and Mahar Halls — exterior concrete and, at Culkin only, window replacement. High pressure wash of both building exterior concrete surfaces, chip and repair concrete and apply exterior concrete coating system. Replace windows in Culkin Hall and renovate vestibule and lobby. Most work completed by end of summer with a November date on the exterior coating.

Student Center in Planning Stages

A $20.4 million new Student Center is in the planning stages, with the design phase beginning this spring and an anticipated groundbreaking in 2001. The fall edition of Oswego alumni magazine will bring you more news on this exciting, multifunctional center, which will be funded at 85 percent from the State Construction Fund and 15 percent from private gifts.
Club News

Atlanta
During the past year, the Atlanta club held a variety of monthly gatherings. The club’s next event is a Commencement Day celebration on May 13 at Park Tavern (formerly The Mill) at 7 p.m. For information about upcoming events or to volunteer to help, check out the club’s website (http://www.geocities.com/oswegoalumni/) or contact Jeffrey Travis ‘89.

Binghamton
Area alumni plan to attend a Binghamton Mets baseball game this summer. If you would like to help plan future events, contact Margaret Clancy-Darling ‘82.

Boston
In the past year, Boston area alumni have gathered for two socials, watched a Red Sox game, and attended a performance of the Nutcracker. Upcoming events include a spring social, a Boston Red Sox game in July, and a fall social. For details on upcoming events, or if you would be willing to help plan activities, contact Rebecca Luber ‘93 or Cheryl Webster ‘98.

Buffalo
Future event plans include a Buffalo Bisons baseball game on Aug. 18 versus the Ottawa Lynx (with a pregame party, the famous “Chick-fil-A” mascot and post game fireworks) and a Bills football game this fall. Order your tickets early. Last year we had over 100 alumni and friends at the Bills game and tailgate party. If you have other event ideas, or for more information, contact Larry Coon ‘83.

Capital District (Albany)
An evening at the Saratoga Raceway is being planned for fall. Alumni volunteers are needed in the Capital District to help plan future events. If interested in helping, please contact the alumni office.

Florida
In March, alumni gathered for a dinner in Deerfield Beach and a luncheon in Naples. Also in March, Craig Schulman ’79 performed in “Broadway Nights” in Clearwater. If you have event ideas, or would like to volunteer to help, please contact the alumni volunteer in your area, or contact the alumni office.

New York City
A June event is in the planning stages for Graduates of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.). Contact the alumni office for more details.

Oswego
On March 11, alumni gathered at Hewitt Union for a St. Patrick’s Day celebration including Irish music, dance and food. If you have event ideas for Oswego area alumni please contact the alumni office.

Rochester
The seventh annual “Alive at the MAG” celebration will take place at the Memorial Art Gallery on June 9. Also in the planning stages are a Red Wings baseball game, a picnic, and a community service event. The Rochester club will also be working with the Buffalo club to be included in the Buffalo Bills game and tailgate party. For further information, or if you are interested in helping plan future events, contact Henry Seymour ’87.

San Francisco Bay Area
The club is looking for area alumni to help plan events. Jay Rubin ’93 is looking forward to following up on the very nice dinner the club held over a year ago. Jay wants to hold a planning meeting with interested volunteers in early summer. E-mail Jay at jososweogo@yahoo.com or jay@yahoo-inc.com, or call 650-961-1699.

Syracuse
Recent events include attending Riverdance on April 22 and Coville Returns (Class of 1973 Bruce Coville’s newest collaboration with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra) on May 13. Alumni interested in helping to plan future events, contact Paul Susco ’70 or Kitty Sheflock Houghtaling ’87.

Alumni Club Contacts

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Washington, DC
In the past year, the club has held a Cinco de Mayo social, a SUNY picnic, the annual King Street Krawl, the annual holiday party at Buffalo Billiards, ice skating and an April Fools Day Party. Upcoming events include: a Cinco de Mayo social on May 5, a Family Skip Work Day at Kings Dominion on July 21, an Oswego picnic at Fort Hunt Park on Aug. 19, the King Street Krawl on Sept. 23, Buffalo Bills football game TBD, seventh annual Adopt-A-Highway clean-up on Nov. 18, and the annual holiday party on Dec. 15. For information on upcoming events, contact Rick Chandler ’94.

Athletic Hall of Fame

The Oswego Alumni Association, Inc. is pleased to announce the establishment of the Oswego Athletic Alumni Association. Charter members will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in Spring 2001. All alumni athletes will be sent a letter outlining the criteria for charter membership and inviting them to join the Athletic Alumni Association to further our goals of maintaining a quality athletic program at Oswego State and establishing an Athletic Hall of Fame.
The Magic Ring

Once upon a time, not so long ago, on the Oswego State campus, Robert Wiener bought a 1965 class ring specifically so that he could ask Sue Kagan to wear it. They both graduated that year, were married, and pursued careers in teaching. Now, living in Hilton Head, SC, they are savoring the fullness of a long life together.

Last year Robert received a mysterious telephone call. Here’s how he tells the story:

I graduated SUNY Oswego in 1965. I would earn two more degrees after that, but the only school ring that I would purchase—since it marked my meeting and falling head over heels in love with Sue—was from Oswego.

I taught industrial arts for five years, never wearing the class ring because, as we taught our students, it is not safe to wear jewelry while working on machinery.

Recently, 39 years after graduation, I returned home from leading a successful Eco-Tour of the Sea Pines Forest Preserve. The phone was ringing.

A deep and distinguished voice asked, “Bob Wiener?”

“Yes.”

“Did you lose a college ring?”

“What do you mean?”

“About 20 years ago, I found a ring on a Sea Pines golf course. I put it away, and just recently took it out to look at it. I have a magnifying glass now, and I saw that it has your name on it. I found you listed in the phone book. Did you go to college in the sixties?”

This was sounding preposterous. Even my doctor cannot always be guaranteed to match my lab results correctly, sometimes confusing me a with another patient whose name is similar.

“That’s right,” he told me, as if I’d passed some test, when I said I’d graduated from Oswego. “Where IS that?”

“Upstate New York, on Lake Ontario.”

“Okay,” he said. “I will put the ring in the mail. Let me check your address.”

“Why don’t I drive over and pick it up?” I offered, as we lived only three or four miles apart. Besides, I wanted to thank him — and to further unravel the mystery.

The next day, Sue and I went to meet the man on the phone.

I was amazed to see that, indeed, he had my old graduation ring. Surprisingly, that ring means even more to me now than it did in 1965.

How heartwarming to befriend an honest man, who just happened to decide to get a magnifying glass and check the tiny inscription inside a ring he’d found long ago.

I am amazed how fortunate I am that he waited all these years to try to find me. We have only lived in Hilton Head for three years. Had he tried to locate me earlier, it would have been a fruitless search.

How the ring made its way from Long Island, where we lived and worked, to Hilton Head, which we’d never even heard of at the time, is another mystery. The fact that we ultimately settled in this very place is coincidental, if not providential. And the reason Chuck Leutwiler waited until this time to inspect it so carefully and search for me so diligently is surely ponderable.

I ponder it with a smile. This ring has quite a story locked up in it!

(This story is adapted from the Voice of the Community, a monthly Hilton Head magazine.)
Ellie Filburn, who taught at the campus school for 20 years beginning in 1961, refers to it as “a unique experience; a wonderful educational opportunity.”

Originally called a “Practice School,” it was an integral part of teacher training from the time Edward Austin Sheldon founded Oswego State in 1861 until its closing in 1981. Student teachers, overseen by professors at the Oswego Normal School, taught the grade school children until the 1930s, when certified professionals were first hired. The first principal, Anthony Marinaccio ’34, was named in 1946; the last, Willard Schum, served from 1977 to 1981. Earlier, the chair of the education department—and before that, the college president—headed the school.

When, in October of 1997, former pupils, teachers and administrators gathered for the first Campus School reunion, they celebrated their common history, reflected upon the benefits of their experience, and shared memories of Connie Bond’s ‘51 famous skits.

Some of those memories—of small classes, band, children’s theater, sports, yearbook and much more—were compiled by the executive planning committee. Highlights, undated and anonymous, of that “Favorite Campus School Memories” list follow:

- My first “blind-folded” kiss
- Fifth grade trip to Racquette Lake (or Letchworth Park or Canada, etc.)
- Having a book I wrote on display in the library
- Rooms with one-way mirrors, and always knowing when the college students were observing, plays in the cafeteria, walking to get ice-cream at the Loop on the last day of school
- Receiving amateur radio license in sixth grade
- Being part of second grade French study program
- Ninth grade class trip to Boston; Joe Shoenfelt broke out with measles, which spread to many classmates by graduation
- Listening, in 1936, to the live radio broadcast of the coronation of King Edward VI; Halloween walk through Sheldon Hall at night; a field trip to Syracuse China
- The move from Sheldon Hall to Swetman/Poucher; being in one of the few elementary industrial arts programs in the country
- John Mazuika’s exploding gunpowder incident in science lab
- Dancing to “Mission Impossible” in modern dance class
- Miss Parkhurst’s marrying Mr. George; Mr. Schaeffer’s silly camp songs
- Losing my King Jupiter toga during the fifth grade play
- Theater production of “Harvey” by the class ahead of me
- Turning Mr. Stein’s Henry J. car sideways in his parking spot
- Exploring the bomb shelter in Swetman
- Camping trips with Mr. McQuade in fifth grade
- Winning an essay contest to attend Nixon’s 1969 inauguration

A “unique experience,” Campus School also provided unique memories for generations of Oswego children, student teachers, faculty, and staff, and it remains an important element of Oswego State’s history.

To purchase a videotape of former faculty and student reflections about the Campus School, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-341-2258.

Manhattan Reunion
Sisters of Alpha Sigma Chi sorority from 1966 and ’67 met in the Manhattan home of Pam McGinley Scurvy in June. From left are, standing—Pamela McGinley Scurvy, Nan Decker Kuntz, Shelly Bouchard Pulver, Kathy Hughes Cardone, and Mama Stoughton Plank; seated—Mary Johnstone Tall, Susan Tuttle Martin, Ann Graziosa Przybutiewicz, Joann Walker Staffa, Judy Hall Kopfler, and Linda Reid Tyran. Also present was Carol Munson Krais. Plans are being made for a mini-reunion at Reunion 2000, July 21 - 23 on campus, and another in 2001, perhaps in New Orleans, and the group welcomes others to participate.
Reunion Reminder

Join classmates and friends for three days of celebration as you relive your Oswego experience at Reunion 2000. Every member of the Oswego family is welcomed home for reunion July 21, 22, 23. Attention classes of ’54, ’56, ’79 and ’81: This is your reunion. Because of the Cluster Reunion system, the classes of ’54 and ’79 did not celebrate a reunion last year, and the classes of ’56 and ’81 will not officially celebrate a reunion in 2001. As always, all class years are welcome to attend any reunion.

Mini-reunions

The following mini-reunions will be held during Reunion 2000: Alpha Delta Eta, Alpha Sigma Chi, Psi Phi Gamma, Sigma Chi, Sigma Gamma and WRVO. If you were a member and would like to be on the mailing list, please contact the Oswego Alumni Association, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State University, Oswego, NY 13126. Phone: 315-341-2258. Fax: 315-341-5570. e-mail: alumni@oswego.edu

WRVO is planning a mini-reunion of all former student members. If you worked at WRVO while you were a student and would like to be included on the mailing list, please contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-341-2258.

For the most up-to-date information on Reunion, or to check out who has indicated they’ll attend, visit our website — www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu
Alumni Bookshelf

This column celebrates the publishing success of Oswego alumni authors and illustrators. Congratulations to those whose books are mentioned. Please keep us informed about new books by requesting that your publisher send a copy for the Oswego Alumni Association bookshelf at King Alumni Hall.

You Can Make it Big Writing Books, by Julia Rozines DeVillers '89 (with Jeff and Deborah Herman)—tells, in their own words, the success stories of 60 writers. Here are trade secrets that the authors claim would-be authors need to make their way through the publishing maze to the best-seller list. DeVillers has contributed to several books on writing and publishing. She is editor-at-large for Prima Communications, Rocklin, Calif., on the web at www.primapublishing.com.

Legal Alchemy: The Use and Misuse of Science in the Law, by David L. Faigman '79—examines the complex relationship between science and law. With descriptions of high visibility cases (O. J. Simpson trial, reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park), he provides evidence that many judges, juries and members of congress do not understand the science behind their decisions; and he offers suggestions that would enable the science and law communities to work more effectively together. Faigman, a professor of law at the University of California, Hastings College of Law, has dedicated his book to three former professors at Oswego State: Richard Izzett, Virginia Pratt, and Thomas Judd.

Professor Emerita Virginia Pratt calls it "an indescribable thrill and honor" to be acknowledged. "A teacher never really knows what impact he or she has had on students. I am proud to have played a small part in David's very successful career."

Dr. Izzett says he is honored that Faigman dedicated his first book to three of his undergraduate faculty mentors. "David's accomplishments are not surprising to those of us who know him. In the year he graduated, David was the recipient of the psychology department's McGarvey Award."

Dr. Judd adds, "David is one of the finest students I have taught in 30 years at Oswego. In a recent communication to me, David wrote, 'I consider my Oswego education to be truly first-rate.' This is high praise for our college and its many fine instructors."


1001 Things Everyone Over 55 Should Know, by Constance Del Bourgo Schrader '54—reminds readers that one year from now, the first of the post-World War II Baby Boomers will turn 55. According to the author, they will change the face of aging in America, much as they impacted our society throughout the earlier years of their lives. This guide to making the most of prime time features information on health, insurance, taxes, pensions, travel, life long learning, grandparenting, estate planning and contact information for hundreds of helpful organizations. Doubleday, 1999.


Children and the HIV/AIDS Crisis: Youth Who Are Infected & Affected, by Carrie McVicker '89—examines the factors that put children at risk, as well as the effect of millions of children being orphaned and abandoned because their parents and other family members have died of AIDS related diseases. Fifth in a series of booklets published by Youth Advocate Program International, 1999.

And from Our Emeriti—

The Book of Literary Terms, by Lewis Turco—a companion volume to The Book of Forms, Turco's popular handbook of poetics, now in its third edition, is a comprehensive guide to understanding the discipline of literature. More than an alphabetical listing of terms, the handbook contains essays, an index and a glossary at the end of each chapter. Turco is professor emeritus of English and past director of the Program in Writing Arts at Oswego State. University Press of New England, 2000.
Oswego Years Remembered

Friends reminisced last summer about their Oswego years, sharing with their spouses and children tours of the campus, dinner at Canale’s and ice-cream at Bev’s, and evening sunsets over Lake Ontario. From left, are, bottom—Rob Warshal ’89, Matthew Orlovsky in stroller, Ryan Klein, Mitch Klein ’90, Barb Bork Klein ’90, and Jaclyn Anglin; row two—Hali Weisman ’91, Sue Orlovsky, Dave Orlovsky ’89, Peter Orlovsky, Jackie Wilklow ’90, Lorri Kestecher Anglin ’91, and Jamie Anglin ’90; back row—Mike Poteshman, Carl Wheat, Sharon Wheat, and Ed Gnau ’91.

Gift Funds Development of Exciting New Website

Connie Holmes Bond ’51, right, generously provided funding for website creation through an assistantship in the Office of Alumni and University Development. Her gift provided a one-year position for Dan Smith ’00, a communications major, to produce an exciting, new, comprehensive site for the office. Smith helped make Alumni and University Development the first campus office to have a secure website, thus making it possible for members of the Oswego family to register for events and make gifts to the university over the internet. Please visit at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu.
Traveling to Kodiak, Alaska, or Miami, Florida—to Orono, Maine or Phoenix, Arizona or points in between? If so, you’re likely to hear The Environment Show, the nationally-syndicated radio program produced by Oswego graduate Stevin Westcott ’92.

An English literature major at Oswego, Stevin worked at WRVO-FM as a student and continued for a year after graduation. “It was there that I gained experience, and it is because of what I learned there that I am where I am today,” he says. “I have tremendous gratitude for John Hurlbutt ’71, program director, and Chris Ulanowski, news director.”

WRVO is one of the 100 NPR affiliates that carries the show, which originates at station WAMC, Albany; the other 100 stations are ABC commercial radio affiliates. It also reaches armed forces enlisted personnel in 140 countries.

Stevin’s father, Alvin Westcott, professor emeritus, taught in the elementary education program for 37 years and continues to teach an occasional course at Oswego State.
Meet New OAA Board Members

Four new members were sworn in last fall for three-year terms on the Oswego Alumni Association Executive Board. Executive Director Betsy Oberst said she welcomed their enthusiasm, expertise and energy as they join already seated members on the national, diverse board of directors. New members are:

**Francis Acevedo, Esq. ’87 (The Bronx)**—law clerk, New York City Criminal Court. He was an active volunteer with the Alumni of Color Reunion in 1996, and he has served as a volunteer on the Alumni of Color Admissions Network.

**Molly Casey ’99 (Cortland)**—accountant, PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Casey served as director of finance of the Student Association while an undergraduate. She was Commencement ’99 speaker and Torchlight Dinner mistress of ceremonies.

**Jim DiBlasi ’87 (Syracuse)**—stock and bond trader, Tucker Anthony. He served on Reunion ’97 Executive Committee and was chairperson of the Reunion ’97 golf tournament.

**James Holland ’83 (Oswego)**—compensation manager, Syracuse Research Corporation. He is a long-time participant in the Oswego State Fall Classic.
My position as executive director of the Oswego Alumni Association, Inc. affords me the good fortune and genuine pleasure of working with Oswego State alumni who have a strong attachment to and continued interest in the University. The loyalty and devotion of our graduates who share that unique Oswego experience was brought home to me in a very personal way this winter. A close personal friend and long-time alumni volunteer, Tom (Jake) Jacobsen '77, was killed in an accident while vacationing in Grenada. In speaking with many of his friends, classmates and Psi Phi brothers in the days following his death, I realized how important the Oswego connection is that holds so many alumni together.

His good friend Art Bartholomew '77 said, “What a wonderful testament to Oswego, a place that provides such a special environment where strong lifelong friendships can develop. I know that Jake’s years at Oswego were probably the defining moments of his life...whenever we spoke and wherever we traveled in the last 23 years, Oswego was usually a part of our conversation. I know that he loved his time there and felt that it provided him with a wonderful foundation for the success that he enjoyed later in business and in life.” This is a message we hear over and over again as we meet and talk to so many of you, and I see the nurturing of our Oswego family as an important component of my position.

In order to continue to foster and support strong alumni programming which meets the changing needs of our graduates, The Oswego Alumni Association, Inc. is developing a strategic plan for the new millennium. Spearheaded by a committee of the Board of Directors of the Association, all aspects of our alumni, student and friends outreach, programs and services are being assessed and reviewed. Some areas which have already been identified as key components of a new plan include:

• Technology - How the World Wide Web, e-mail and other new forms of technology will allow us to involve and communicate with alumni in different ways.

• Constituent programming - As alumni identify more closely with specific experiences while at Oswego State, such as their academic department, their extracurricular organizations, etc., we will continue to move more and more in the direction of targeted, constituent-based programs and communications.

• Support for Oswego State - Alumni programs will continue to play a key role in helping to encourage support for the college—both volunteer and financial—and to communicate Oswego’s priorities and needs to our alumni and friends.

• Recent graduates - There will be a focus on communicating with and offering programs for our G.O.L.D. alumni (Graduates of the Last Decade) who constitute more than one-third of our graduates.

As we refine our plan, we will continue to look to you, our loyal and valued alumni, for your feedback and your involvement in the alumni programs of the 21st century. So, thanks for your ongoing interest, involvement, and support. We will keep you posted with updates on our strategic plan through this publication and on our website—www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu.

Betsy Oberst
Mike Vassallo '97 is a Big Leaguer

Mike Ameigh, assistant provost for distance learning, was checking the official Major League Baseball web site in November, when the name of a former student caught his eye. There was the news he'd been looking for: "Cincinnati Reds named Michael Vassallo assistant director of media relations." Vassallo, a 1997 graduate of Oswego State, loves working in the world of Big League Baseball. In a phone interview Feb. 18, this is what he said:

Oswego: You graduated only three years ago, and already you’ve worked for two major teams. How did you go so far so fast?
Mike: I’ve always taken advantage of every opportunity that has come my way. I have my grandmother to thank for teaching me that I could be anything I set my mind to.
Oswego: You were a public relations assistant with the Yankees before your present position. How did you get in with that team?
Mike: Summer of 1995, I’m working for Pfizer Drug Company in New York, and I’m looking forward to going to a game one evening. The elevator operator at Pfizer also works in security for the Yankees, and he offers to ride out to the stadium with me. On the way, I ask him to help me get Phil Rizzuto’s autograph. Rizzuto’s signing his autograph and telling this guy how he can’t keep a personal assistant, has to do everything himself. I speak right up and tell him I’ll be his personal assistant for the rest of the summer for free.
Oswego: What did you do for him?
Mike: I got his coffee, got his cannoli! I lined up the fans who waited for his autograph at every game. I helped in whatever way he needed help.
Oswego: No pay?
Mike: As soon as I got back to Oswego that fall, I applied for a Yankee internship the next summer. It was beneficial for me to put on my resume: ‘personal assistant to Phil Rizzuto.’
Oswego: So you interned with the Yankees in 1997?
Mike: Yes. Then, in 1998, I had a paid internship, and that led to a full-time job.
Oswego: Best thing about it?
Mike: I was with the Yankees for two World Series wins. They named me Employee of the Month. I made a lot of good friends. Great guys!
Oswego: Why did you leave?
Mike: Look at the title. assistant director. I had to take that opportunity.
Oswego: You’re young...
Mike: I’m 24. Yesterday, I was quoted in USA Today! It’s amazing.
Oswego: What’s next?
Mike: Tomorrow I’m going to Sarasota. I was scheduled for spring training March 1, but with this Ken Griffey excitement, the boss is going to need some help down there.
Oswego: What will you do?
Mike: We just wrapped up our media guide, bios on all the players. I help handle media, schedule interview requests, take game notes. I’ll travel with part of the team on split squad games in Florida. We’ll be playing the Yankees. I look forward to that.
Oswego: That prompts the inevitable question: what’s your favorite team?
Mike: I grew up a Minnesota Twins fan. And I like the Yankees. Now I cheer for Cincinnati.
Oswego: What happened at Oswego State that helped you prepare for your career?
Mike: Oswego offered me small classes. I had opportunities to be involved early in the things that interested me. I worked for the television station as a freshman and, as a sophomore, I was sports director. I wouldn’t have had that chance at a bigger college.
Oswego: Anything else?
Mike: Sure. One time Steve Levy ’87, as part of the OAA’s Alumni-in-Residence program, the ESPN sportscaster, visited our classes and talked about broadcasting. He reviewed a tape for me, and he offered encouragement and suggestions. And, I had very supportive professors: Mike Ameigh, John Kares Smith. a lot of them.

Reunion Reminder:
The Class of 1990 celebrates its 10th anniversary reunion July 21-23. Alpha Delta Eta will celebrate its 75th anniversary reunion during Reunion Weekend. Alpha Sigma Chi, Sigma Gamma, Sigma Chi and WRVO will also celebrate mini-reunions.
We now have a secure website (www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu) so registering is easier than ever.
Oswego: Advice for students and other recent graduates?

Mike: Watch for opportunities, and be ready when they appear. Take chances. Be willing to do anything you’re asked to do, and do the best job you can do at everything you try.

What Do You Know?

★ Six new majors have gained state approval within the last year: bachelor’s degrees are now awarded in public relations, cognitive science, wellness management, graphic design, and women’s studies; a new master’s is awarded in teaching chemistry.

★ The mean starting salary for members of the Class of ’98 is $27,500, and 92 percent of the class found jobs or continued their educations within a year of graduation.

★ 60 percent of regularly accepted 1999 freshmen graduated in the top third of their high school classes.

★ Oswego State has “365 engaging professors, 109 thought-provoking programs, and one great lake.”

How Can We Serve You?

Oswego Alumni Association Increasing Programs for G.O.L.D.

If you graduated in the past decade, you are part of our largest single group of alumni, one-third of the total number in our data base. Please tell us what programs and services you want by contacting us in any of the ways listed at the bottom of page 16.

New Benefit for Alumni

Discounts on Auto and Homeowner Insurance

To learn more about the Group Savings plan offered by one of the top 10 insurance companies in the property/casualty insurance field, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at 315-341-2258 or check out the details on our homepage at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu under Alumni Services.
Nominate An Accomplished Alumnus/a

We're seeking your nominations! Recipients for the 2000 Oswego Alumni Awards will be announced soon, but it is not too early to think ahead to 2001. We want to honor and recognize those among us who have made significant contributions in their careers and to society.

Nominations are accepted any time (but must reach us by Dec. 15 for consideration for next year). As you talk to your friends and classmates from Oswego State, think about those who are leaders today. You can request a nomination form by e-mail, alumni@oswego.edu, by telephone, 315-341-2258, or complete an online nomination form at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu.

• The Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated national and/or international prominence and exceptional achievements and service.

• Other awards include: Anniversary Class Award (presented at Reunion to an exceptional member of an anniversary class), Alumni Service Award, Lifetime Award of Merit, Sheldon Award for Excellence in Education, and the G.O.L.D. Award for outstanding graduates of the last decade.

Where in the World are Oswego Alumni?

In a future issue of Oswego alumni magazine, we're going to celebrate our international flair! Please help us locate graduates who are at work in the world. We'll celebrate our study abroad opportunities, look at the contributions of alumni around the globe, and ponder the reach of Oswego State faculty, students, and graduates at the turn of the century.

We're also looking for alumni who are engaged in e-commerce and internet business.

Reunion for Alumni of Color

Return to the Oswego State campus Oct. 4-7, 2001 for the second Alumni of Color Reunion. If you want to help with the planning, contact friends, be involved as a speaker, or contribute in any way, contact us at alumni@oswego.edu or 315-341-2258.
CABLExpress Loves Oswego State

CABLExpress, Syracuse, employs 17 Oswego State alumni. They are, from left, front row—Ross Maniaci ’85, Cathy Leahy Gaynor ’90, Jamie Spindler ’90, and Janet Trageser Gordon ’71; row two—Danny Krauss ’93, Bob Tomatore ’91, and Dave Beach ’93; row three—Ana Gil ’95, Lisa Spadter Ross ’80, Diane Collins Seaman ’71, and Joanne Dawley Giuliani ’93; row four—Keith Snyder ’99 and Peter Laudin ’73. Also employed at CABLExpress, a national marketer of computer networking and mainframe connectivity solutions, are Susan Geiner Darby ’82 and Guy Bergamo ’80.
Every day is a reunion day for five members of the Class of ’95 who work for Next Jump, Inc., an aggressive internet start-up based outside Boston. Jean Ellen Murphy, center, is vice president of sales and marketing for the e-commerce company, where four other of the 21 full-time employees are classmates.

Murphy left her position with New York City investment bankers, Morgan Stanley, to join Next Jump in 1998, when the company had only two employees and was based in the founder’s living room. Since then, the company has tripled sales and received significant investment capital from Wall Street.

To build the right team for growth, Murphy turned to classmates Kerri Wakeman, left; Tracy Glogoza; Penny Koch, right of Murphy; and Kate McLaughlin, right. They all joined the firm in September, 1998.

“In the demanding and competitive internet industry, a company needs energetic, intelligent and committed people to keep it moving toward the next level,” says Murphy. “At Next Jump, we encourage individual growth and the continuous exchange of ideas. I knew I would find the qualities we value in my Oswego classmates.” The company was founded with one product, but it has now progressed to becoming the premier provider of e-commerce solutions, with innovative packages of marketing tools, for the small business community.
Wedding Album

Rebecca Bennett-Smith '98 was wed in August to Michael Smith. Oswego State friends attending the wedding are, from left—Shannon Powers '99, Rob Cesterino '01, Rosemarie Grasso '99, the bride and groom, Elaine Levine '98, Samantha Dorfner '00, and Erin Watkins '00. The women are all sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma.

Darlene Pitkanene Bass '90 married Ron Bass in May in Orlando, Fla. The couple traveled to the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island, Bahamas. Oswego alumni in attendance included, from left, Derrick Salisbury '90, Christine Voit '89, Heather Salisbury Schwab '88 and Ed Schwab. Darlene is an insurance adjuster, and Ron is a CPA and financial planner. They make their home in Orlando.

Celebrating the wedding of Christine Marie Ahrens '96 and Justin Thomas Contursi '96 in May in Warwick are, from left, top row—Dave Winkler '96, Jim Shiley '98, Chris Strong '98, Jason Fitzgerald '97, Dennis Treubig '96, and Meaghan Vincz '94; kneeling, Jen Niefer '96, Macenzie Muir '97, Mark Hemans '95, Danielle Weden, Katie Monroe '98, and Todd Zahrak '96.

Michelle Andrello Stech '88 was married to Michael Stech in December in Rome, N.Y. Three of Michelle's Phi Lambda Phi sisters and other Oswego State friends attended. From left are Kathy Zimopolous Walsh '87, James Walsh '87, the bride and groom, Elaine Levine '98, Samantha Dorfner '00, and Erin Watkins '00. The women are all sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma.

In Memoriam

Marian Lawrence VanTassel ’29 of Easton, Md., died Oct. 24. She was a substitute teacher for many years in Suffern. Marian was pre-deceased by her husband, Ray ‘29. She is survived by two sons, Jonkheer ’61 and Garton.

Mary Hasto Tracey ’32 of Oswego died Oct. 24. She is survived by two stepdaughters, two stepsons, and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter.

Edwin Draper ’37 of Eagle Bay died Nov. 3. He served with the United States Amphibious Force in the Pacific during World War II. Ed’s career in education spanned 40 years. He taught in Oswego, Westernville, Sterling, Lyons, Canandaigua, Painted Post and Rome. He retired from the Rome City School District where he was an elementary principal, after 27 years of service. Ed was a very active member of the Oswego Alumni Association and a long time member of its Mohawk Valley chapter. Surviving are his wife, Betty, four sons, six grandchildren, three stepchildren and eight step grandchildren.

Charlotte Turner ’37 of Pulaski died Oct. 20. She retired in 1973, after teaching 27 years at Monticello School. She formerly taught at Pulaski and Minetto Union Schools. Charlotte is survived by two sisters and a brother.

Henry Duhrels ’38 of Sanford, Maine, died Oct. 28.

Edward Cooper ’38 of Ellicott City, Md., died July 4, 1999. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

Rita Murphy Wells ’40 of Manlius died Oct. 20. She retired in 1983, after teaching for 20 years in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District. Rita is survived by three daughters, two sons, and nine grandchildren.

Warren LaBahn ’41 of Amsterdam died Nov. 28, 1998.

Zelma Ruthazer Macy ’51 of Adams Center died Sept. 21. She is survived by her husband, Frank.


Lynne Robinson Alvut ’58 of Penfield died May 22, 1999. She is survived by her husband, William ’57.

Wayne Kenner ’65 of Painted Post died Aug. 3.

Susan Bean Lockwood ’68 of Oswego died Nov. 13. She was a medical technician at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fulton for 27 years. Sue is survived by her husband, Jim; a daughter, Sarah, and a son, Mike.

Joseph Schramm ’69 of Syracuse died Oct. 14. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Stemer ’70.

Linda Swift ’72 of Elming died Oct. 3.

Charles Moore ’73 of Lisbon died Oct. 6. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Charles retired in 1987, after teaching machine trades at BOCES in Norwood and Ogdensburg. He is survived by his wife, Bernice, five sons, two daughters, 17 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

Edward “Ted” Haskell ’74 of Oneida died Nov. 4. He was a partner with Haskell-James Real Estate Appraisal Co., a judge with the New York State Racing and Wagering Board for 20 years and a certified general appraiser at the state and federal levels. Ted is survived by his wife, Mary Hilary Shaw ’74; two daughters, and two sons.

Joseph Ruscio ’75 of Farmington died Nov. 17. He was director of software development at RIT Research and Development. Joseph is survived by his wife, Nancy, three daughters, and a son.

Stephen Farrell ’77 of Dallas, Texas, died Nov. 11.

Thomas Jacobsen ’77 of Princeton, NJ, died in a drowning accident on Jan. 20. He was senior director of development for CARE. Tom is survived by two sisters.

Regina Thompson ’77 of the Bronx died Jan. 5 after a long illness.

Lawrence Becker ’79 of Dayton, NJ, died May 1. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, and two children.

Richard Joseph ’79 of East Beme recently died. He was the executive director of the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York. Richard is survived by his companion, his mother, a brother, and two sisters.

Kip Kelsey ’94 of Minetto died Feb. 20, in a snowmobile accident on the Oswego River. He was a technology teacher at Fulton Junior High School for five years. Kip is survived by his fiancee, Alis Hyland; a daughter, Katelynn; a son, Jordan; his parents, Kathy and David, associate professor emeritus of technology at Oswego; and a brother, Donald.

Edwin Draper ’37

Tell Us About Yourself

Share your information in the Classnotes section of the next Oswego Magazine.

Full Legal Name

Class year

Social Security Number

Preferred Name

Last Name as a Student

Major

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Business Phone

E-mail

Employer and Position

Employer’s Address

Spouse/Life Partner’s Full Name

OSU Class Year

Employer and Position

Here’s My News

Please Send Admissions Information to:

Clip and mail to The Office of Alumni Relations, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State University, Oswego, NY 13126 or respond electronically on our website at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu

Policy on Release of Names

The policy of the Oswego Alumni Association is not to release names and addresses except to Oswego State University offices and departments for specific activities which support the mission of the university, or to alumni volunteers with whom we are working on a specific alumni activity. Please understand that we cannot provide any information about a former classmate or friend by telephone. We are happy to forward requests on to the person being sought, thus protecting the privacy of our alumni and allowing that person to decide whether to contact the inquiring friend.

The easiest way to attempt to contact an alumnus or alumna is to send to our office a letter in a sealed, stamped envelope with the name of the person you are attempting to locate. We will add the address and drop the letter in the mail.

We suggest that you contact us, either via telephone or e-mail, to confirm that we do have an address on file before sending the letter.

Send your request to: Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, King Alumni Hall, Oswego State University, Oswego, NY 13126.
A MESSAGE FROM
Mae Squier-Dow ’83, Senior Vice President, Choice One Communications

Dear Oswego Alumni & Friends,
Oswego State’s 1999-2000 fiscal year and fund raising season will officially close on June 30. As the National Chair of The Fund for Oswego, I am inviting you to make your gift of support to Oswego students today.

Your support will make a difference! Last year over 11,000 gifts were made to Oswego totaling nearly 1.5 million dollars!

Ensuring Access
Oswego has always provided quality, affordable higher education. Total expenses for a year at Oswego, including books, tuition, room & board is still a great buy at $11,400. To help our students meet expenses and to provide them with enrichment opportunities and programs not covered by tuition and fees, the Oswego College Foundation was able to provide support in the amount of $186,419 for a total of 266 scholarships this past year. Additionally, the Foundation distributed $672,329 to academic departments, athletics, Penfield Library and other campus entities.

Creating Opportunity
At Oswego State, we believe that you and other loyal alumni are our greatest assets. Our graduates are some of the most successful and caring people in the world—and most credit Oswego State with helping them prepare for their roles as contributing members of society. Oswego State offered the academic and enrichment programs necessary to help you and your classmates prepare for your future. Now, we are serving a whole new generation of students. You can help ensure the continuation of Oswego State as a premier learning-centered community for current and future students.

June 30 is just around the corner. If you are already among Oswego’s loyal supporters, thank you for helping us to make Oswego one of the best public universities in the Northeast. If you haven’t yet made your gift there’s still time. Please consider joining me in making a gift to The Fund for Oswego. Your participation will help make a stronger Oswego for all current and future students.

On their behalf, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Mae Squier-Dow ’83
1999-2000 National Chair
The Fund for Oswego

P.S. I encourage you to visit our new Alumni and University Development web site at www.oswegoalumni.oswego.edu. This site features a secure on-line gift page. Our site also brings you the latest alumni news, and the ability to sign up for alumni events on-line!
The educational career of Hazel Hewitt—first as a pupil, later as a teacher—began and ended in a place that remains close to her heart: the kindergarten room in Sheldon Hall.

“I loved that first year of school, everything about it,” says the engaging, white-haired woman, who still lives in her childhood home. “To get to campus, I caught a ride in a horse-drawn wagon or, in winter, a sleigh.”

Following high school graduation, Miss Hewitt took a long summer train trip out West with her mother—a former rural school teacher, who had inculcated in her daughter a love of learning. Upon returning, Miss Hewitt enrolled in Oswego Normal School.

“I was just born with the idea that Oswego was something special,” she recalls. “I think I always wanted to teach, to be with little children.”

In 1929, steeped in the educational philosophies of Edward Austin Sheldon, Miss Hewitt carried the techniques of object learning into her first classroom in Lyons Falls. When she decided she wanted a reading center, she simply marched the pupils off to town and gathered up orange crates to build one.

“I took the children into the community to see for themselves how things worked and what people did,” she explains. “I made sure they had easels to encourage their artistic activity, and I was always hunting up good songs for them to sing.”

Like many two-year Normal School graduates, Miss Hewitt later earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education. She taught in the Oswego City School District before returning to the place she always loved best: the kindergarten room in Sheldon Hall, where she taught from 1947 until retirement in 1973. There, she was a loving teacher to the children, who sang with her at the piano, learned their A-B-C’s at her knee, and discovered the wonders of the world through her stories and field trips. She tended every aspect of their education—from the teaching of reading to the mundane task of scrubbing the little chairs on Fridays, before leaving for the weekend. “I always wanted everything to be nice for the children.”

Miss Hewitt, as an associate professor as well as a kindergarten teacher, was an inspiring mentor, who led practicums and supervised student teachers, sending hundreds of Oswego graduates into classrooms to emulate her techniques.

Now, at 91, Hazel Hewitt sees that her life has come full circle. She is the little girl eagerly awaiting a carriage to carry her to Sheldon Hall; the respected Campus School teacher, who nurtured hundreds of children; the professor emerita, speaking with pride of her former students, who continue to say, through notes and phone calls, how much she influenced their careers.

EDITOR’S NOTE: It is in honor of Miss Hewitt’s brother, Jesse Merle Hewitt, a former Oswego State student, who lost his life in battle in World War I, that the student union is named.