Industrial Arts Alum on a Roll
George Wurtz III ’78 Manufactures Success with Energy, Education and Excellence

PLUS
- Reunion ’13 Reflections
- Sheldon Hall Restored in Time for Centennial
- Journalist Writes of Newtown Recovery

Scan this to see a video interview with George Wurtz III ’78.
More than 900 alumni returned this year for Oswego’s Reunion. They celebrated their alma mater with good friends, great memories and some of the best sunsets in the world.

Let’s make next summer’s party even bigger! Join your friends and classmates at Reunion 2014!

Everyone is welcome, but special events are planned for these milestone classes and groups:

- 70th – 1944
- 65th – 1949
- 60th – 1954
- 55th – 1959
- 50th – 1964
- 45th – 1969
- 40th – 1974
- 25th – 1989
- 10th – 2004
- Alpha Sigma Chi
- Alpha Delta Eta
- Beta Tau Epsilon
- Delta Chi Omega/TKE
- Delta Kappa Kappa
- Omega Delta Phi
- Phi Lambda Phi
- 55th Anniversary
- Phi Sigma Phi
- Pi Delta Chi
- Psi Phi Gamma
- Sigma Gamma
- Theta Chi Rho
- Zeta Chi Zeta
- 45th Anniversary

To plan a mini-reunion for your group or organization, please let us know by Oct. 15.

Sign up to be a Reunion Class or Group Volunteer!

It’s a great opportunity to
- Network with classmates
- Plan the weekend’s activities
- Have fun!

Please contact the Alumni Office or sign up online by Oct. 1, 2013, to join our volunteer team.

Reunion Hotline: 315-312-5559

E-mail: reunion@oswego.edu

Watch for registration materials in the mail this spring!

Check the website for more groups and for the most up-to-date information: alumni.oswego.edu/reunion

If you are interested in being part of the Reunion 2014 planning committee, please contact us at (315) 312-2258 or email us at reunion@oswego.edu.
Towel and Tissue Titan

George Wurtz III ’78 has rescued floundering businesses and rebuilt them into thriving industries that produce quality products, boost regional employment and enhance community life.

Sheldon Hall Restoration

On the National Historic Registry, Sheldon Hall has been restored to its original splendor in time for its 100th anniversary. The first classes were held in Sheldon in 1913.

Oswego’s Endowment

The Art and Science of Success

How Newtown Heals

Journalist Matthew Sturdevant ’97 chronicles stories of Newtown, Conn., showing how a community moves toward healing after unprecedented grief.

National Book Award

Winning Author

Alice McDermott ’75, who was inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame in June, shares an excerpt from her new work, Someone: A Novel.
President’s Desk

OUR COLLEGE and the accomplished and diverse members of our SUNY Oswego family build on the past in intriguing ways, even as we move boldly into the future.

A case in point is George Wurtz ’78, who has used his degree in what we used to call industrial arts to develop a career in paper manufacturing that places him among the leading CEOs in that industry.

When I visited his Soundview Paper Company, George led me on a tour of the Elmwood Park, N.J., plant and explained the paper production process. Learning about his business plans, watching the giant machines in the factory, hearing how he applied the skills and concepts he learned as an undergraduate, I realized that for him, as for thousands of our alumni, the foundation for success was forged at SUNY Oswego. His remarkable career, his commitment to the increasingly urgent demand for environmental sustainability, and his loyalty to Oswego stem from his experiences on campus in the 1970s, studying in a program founded in 1902.

George and his wife, Nancy, were among the nearly 1,000 alumni who came “home” to Reunion 2013 to connect with friends, classmates, professors and events from their past. As always, I was privileged to hear our graduates’ memories of their alma mater and their visions of what the college might become as new challenges and opportunities arise.

Reunion guests spoke of their pride in the campus: the beauty of the grounds, upkeep of buildings, and stunning new structures, including the Richard S. Shineman Center for Science, Engineering and Innovation. Many cited the importance of melding past, present and future as we develop and renew our campus.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the renovation of the original campus building, Sheldon Hall. We completed the exterior renovation just in time for the building’s centennial. Sheldon Hall represents the heart of everything we hold dear about SUNY Oswego. Its magic stirs me, as I know it does so many others. I remember myself as a young faculty member teaching there at the start of my Oswego journey. When we walk its halls, we feel the pulse of academic endeavors, hear the voices of professors and students in classes and see, in our mind’s eye, the performances of choruses, Blackfriars, and various ensembles through the years. Here, the legacy of our founder, Edward Austin Sheldon, has taken root and flourished, growing to become the comprehensive community of learning that is revered today.

We — members of a community with a rich heritage and a certain future — have ample cause to celebrate.

Deborah F. Stanley
President

A Trio of Editors

Three former editors of OSWEGO contribute to this issue. Their aggregate experience is 34 years, starting in 1979, when Denise Owen Harrigan began her 17-year run. Linda Loomis ’90 M ’97 started in 1995, with Michele Reed following in 2001. They are writer-editors who share a love for the written word and deep feelings for the people of SUNY Oswego—students, staff, faculty, administrators and, especially, alumni and friends.

Their thoughts on collaborating on this issue follow on page 11: continued on page 11
SUNY Oswego Achieves National Distinction for Community Service

SUNY Oswego has been named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, one of only two SUNY campuses to achieve the national designation this year.

It is the third consecutive year the Corporation for National and Community Service has accorded the “with Distinction” title to Oswego, though the college has been on the honor roll for community service since its inception in 2006.

“It’s a prestigious honor,” said Alyssa Amyotte, the college’s coordinator for service learning and community service.

Colleges chosen for the list “reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities,” wrote the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Amyotte said SUNY Oswego—which has received the Carnegie Foundation’s Community Engagement Classification for embedding community service throughout the institution—totaled 44,000 hours of service among at least 1,500 students in 2011-12.

Colleges may highlight three major projects in their applications. For the year 2011-2012, SUNY Oswego submitted its Mentor-Scholar program; a Binghamton flood relief project, and the college’s Alternative Break program for volunteerism around the country and abroad.

Personal growth
Ben Truesdail ’13 volunteered six to nine hours a week as site coordinator for Mentor-Scholar, which pairs SUNY Oswego students with middle-school students in the Oswego City School District, providing twice-weekly homework support, companionship and a willing ear with the goal of reducing the high school dropout rate.

Truesdail is a vocational teacher preparation major who plans to student teach in the fall. “Community service has involved me with the Oswego community. It has helped my personal growth. I’ve been able to work with students, some with disabilities, and it has really taught me a lot.” In fall 2011, in the wake of Hurricane Irene, Tucker Sholtes ’15 began a series of trips to his hometown of Binghamton with friends and colleagues in the School of Business to rip out insulation, carpet and floorboards soaked by the flooded Susquehanna River.

“Alyssa helped me get everything going,” Sholtes said. The then-freshman made presentations across campus and applied for grants that eventually totaled about $3,000 by last spring to purchase swing sets for flood-ravaged families. He made four trips to Binghamton with groups ranging from 15 to 100 SUNY Oswego students and staff, Habitat for Humanity volunteers and high school friends.

Sholtes said he has gone from directionless high school student to officer in two School of Business organizations, a seat on his residence hall’s advisory board and a job in the service learning office.

The 2013 President’s Honor Roll for Higher Education Community Service names 690 colleges and universities nationwide; in New York, Syracuse University, SUNY Binghamton and SUNY Albany are among those on the list. Of the total, 113 received the “with Distinction” designation, with Cortland joining Oswego as the only campuses so honored in SUNY.

— Jeff Rea ’71
SUNY Oswego Repeats on List of ‘Best Value Colleges’

THE PRINCETON REVIEW AND USA TODAY have named SUNY Oswego to their 2013 list of 150 “best value” colleges and universities in the nation.


“Providing a high-quality education, as well as preparing undergraduates for the job market and a life of continued learning, are paramount at Oswego,” Princeton Review states in the book’s profile of SUNY Oswego.

It cites the Oswego Guarantee, which promises undergraduates their on-campus room and board costs will not increase during their four years of study. The profile praises the college for its “picturesque natural setting” along with its “strong honors program,” “excellent study-abroad options,” and “wonderful connection to alumni” who help students find their way into careers.

“We are delighted once again to be recognized as a ‘Best Value’ means a lot to our students and their families.”

According to the Princeton Review, it selected “Best Value Colleges” based on institutional data and student opinion surveys collected from 650 colleges and universities that it regards as the nation’s academically best undergraduate institutions. Criteria included the quality of academics, cost of attendance, financial aid, percentage of graduating seniors who borrowed from any loan program and the average dollar amount of debt those students had at graduation.

Oswego is one of 18 New York colleges on the list, including seven SUNY institutions: four of the public university system’s doctoral-granting campuses and two other master’s-level colleges like Oswego—Geneseo and Purchase.

“The Princeton Review is a Massachusetts-based education services company known for its college rankings. SUNY Oswego has appeared in every edition of the company’s “The Best Northeastern Colleges,” and Oswego’s School of Business appears each year in its “Best Business Schools.”

— Julie Blissett

SUNY Oswego-ESF Pact Encourages Teacher Training in Sciences

SUNY OSWEGO PRESIDENT DEBORAH F. STANLEY and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry President Cornelius B. Murphy Jr. have signed an agreement that enables ESF graduates who fulfill a prescribed curriculum to enter a graduate-level initial teacher certification master’s degree program at Oswego.

Barbara Garii, associate dean of SUNY Oswego’s School of Education, called it a “win-win situation. Both colleges are part of the SUNY system and both are excellent schools.”

Garii said discussions started when Oswego faculty recognized that SUNY ESF has a pool of undergraduates suited to participate in the Oswego Residency Initiative for Teacher Excellence program, a program that will immerse teacher trainees in nine high-need school districts in Oswego County, Syracuse and New York City. SUNY Oswego is in the midst of the pilot program, which is funded by a $1.73 million Race to the Top grant through the state Education Department.

“While the impetus was the collaboration with O-RITE, it now extends to existing adolescence education biology and chemistry and the childhood education science concentration MST programs in curriculum and instruction,” Garii said.

— Office of Public Affairs

SUNY Oswego Ranks High on U.S. News List of Online MBA Programs

SUNY Oswego’s online MBA ranks 26th best among comparable degree programs at more than 200 colleges and universities nationwide, according to U.S. News’ 2014 “Best Online Graduate Business Programs” rankings.

The U.S. News survey weighed faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, student engagement, admissions selectivity and peer reputation. Oswego’s ranking puts it in the top 12 percent nationally of the 213 schools with online master’s of business administration programs responding to the U.S. News questionnaire.

U.S. News published numerical rankings for the top 148 institutions on the list. Washington State University’s program ranked No. 1. New York has five institutions in the top 50. In addition to Oswego, the first comprehensive college in the SUNY system to offer an MBA, starting in 1997, they are Clarkson University, Marist College, Syracuse University and Rochester Institute of Technology.
SUNY Oswego Expands Relationship With Zhejiang University

SUNY OSWEGO PRESIDENT DEBORAH F. STANLEY AND ZHEJIANG SCI-TECH UNIVERSITY CHAIRMAN FEI JUNQING sign an agreement to jointly deliver bachelor’s degrees to Chinese students in three business-related majors: business administration, human resource management and marketing. The two institutions’ relationship began in 2007, and more than 60 students from the Chinese university have since studied at Oswego. The degree articulation agreement outlines degree programs in which students study for two years at ZSTU then transfer to Oswego for the final two years of study said Richard Skolnik, dean of the School of Business.

Find the Founder!

IN THE SPRING 2013 ISSUE, the Sheldon statue can be found in the upper-left corner of the image with the car on page 23. Grand prize winner of a College Store gift certificate and Sheldon Hall print is Cynthia Pieklik Fryer ’75. Winning Sheldon Hall prints are Barbara Brown McCormack ’44, Esther Barber ’57, William Weaver ’57, Sheila Lee ’66 and Rebecca Leary ’04.

A tiny replica of the Sheldon statue pictured here is hidden somewhere in this issue. Find the Founder and send us a letter with the location and page number, your name, class year and address. We will draw one entry at random from all the correct answers and the winner will receive a $25 gift certificate to the College Store and a print of Sheldon Hall. The next five entries drawn will receive Sheldon Hall prints. Send your entry to Find the Founder, King Alumni Hall, 300 Washington Blvd., Oswego, NY 13126. Entries must be postmarked by Oct. 1.

Events

Visit alumni.oswego.edu for complete listing.

- August 30: Green and Gold Day*
- September 15: Alumni Buffalo Bills Game and Tailgate*
- September 19: GOLD Welcome to the City Party NYC*
- September 20-22: Baseball Alumni Reunion Weekend*
- September 27-28: Soccer Alumni Reunion Weekend*
- September 27-29: Return to Oz IV Alumni of Color Reunion*
- October 3: Ribbon Cutting of Rice Creek Field Station
- October 4: Dedication of the Richard S. Shineman Center for Science, Engineering and Innovation
- October 4: Oswego Alumni Board of Directors Meeting*
- October 4: Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors Meeting**
- October 5: Communication Studies Alumni Dinner*
- October 10-11: School of Business Alumni Symposium*
- November 2: Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions*
- November 6: Dr. Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:

- June 5-8, 2014: Reunion 2014
- * Alumni and Parent Relations, 315-312-2258
- ** University Development, 315-312-3003

Check Out Our New Website!

Bookmark Our New Homepage!

alumni.oswego.edu
New Career-oriented Software to Aid Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff

Career Services recently launched Optimal Resume, an online suite with features that allow users to quickly create cover letters, tailor resumes to different jobs, practice interviewing and organize and conduct searches.

Gary Morris ’88, director of the Compass student success center as well as its Career Services unit, said the new software will help SUNY Oswego students and alumni prepare for searching via a multifaceted interface used by more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide. Optimal Resume has a range of job-search tools, from skills assessment to mock interviews.

“Optimal Resume helps users realize their value and what they have to offer,” including credentials they may not have even realized they had, Morris said.

Christina Carnavale ’13, a SUNY Oswego senior majoring in human resource management, agreed.

“The skills assessment portion can help you take any experience, say a job working at Freshens in the Campus Center, and make it highlight the skills you got from that job,” Carnavale said.

Users can tailor resumes to fit the target industry. “The software comes with a range of different resume and cover letter templates that are designed for a certain job,” Carnavale said. “If you are trying to get into a graduate business school, there’s a template for that type of resume.”

Carnavale said she uses the software to prepare resumes for her own job search, as well as to help other students as a Compass Navigator.

“There are so many features to it,” Carnavale said. “Students can really do a lot on their own using this software.”

Feedback available
Other Optimal Resume features include the option of quick feedback anywhere at any time. Online availability makes it easy for students to work on their resumes and submit them for critique.

“Once they’re done with the resume, they can hit the review button and have it sent to Compass staff for feedback,” Morris said.

The mock-interview toolset enables students and alumni to create a video where they respond to interview questions, as many as 20 per interview. Once the mock interview is complete, students can upload and send the video to Compass staff for feedback.

“With this software, students can do a mock interview anytime, anywhere, and have feedback in a few days,” Morris said. Users also have the option of spoken-only or written interviews.

Alumni benefit from free use
Optimal Resume can help alumni tailor resumes to different jobs, provide interviewing practice, organize and conduct searches and develop a personal brand online.

Morris said the new software will help alumni job-searching via a multifaceted interface used by employers seeking to better screen candidates. Optimal Resume has a range of other job-search tools, among them profile creation, skills assessment and mock interviews.

“It can be accessed for free from anywhere,” Morris said. “SUNY Oswego students and alumni all can have access to our services. If someone had a job interview in Switzerland and wanted some practice with interview questions, they could just upload a video and we could send feedback in 24 to 48 hours.”

Alumni can use the suite to examine the skills they have acquired and identify “what specific skills different jobs require and how they can tailor their resumes to reflect those skills,” Morris said.

Career Services will critique alumni resumes on a time-available basis, he said.

Optimal Resume also offers users the opportunity to create a website with resumes and portfolios of their work.

— Office of Public Affairs
Alumna Placed Oswego on Leading Edge of LinkedIn Networking

IN ADDITION TO THE ARRAY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES THE SUNY OSWEGO OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES OFFERS, ALUMNI CAN FIND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES IN A 4,500-MEMBER LINKEDIN GROUP.

THE DISCUSSION FORUM HAS FOSTERED CONNECTIONS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WITH ALUMNI WAXING NOSTALGIC ABOUT FAVORITE MEMORIES OR PURSUING JOB AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES. EXCLUSIVE TO OSWEGO ALUMNI, THE GROUP ESTABLISHES A GREAT BASE FOR NETWORKING, FOUNDER AND MODERATOR MAUREEN O’DONNELL SANCHEZ ’87 SAID.

“[WE TALK] ABOUT EVERYTHING FROM SUNSETS AND THE OPENING OF THE STANDS TO JOBS … MEMBERS TRY TO HELP EACH OTHER ORGANICALLY,” SANCHEZ SAID. “I HAVE POSTED MANY JOBS OVER THE YEARS, AND I HOPE THAT HAS OPENED THE DOOR FOR OTHERS TO FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING THE SAME.”

THE GROUP INCLUDES A BOARD OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES, A VALUABLE RESOURCE THAT INCLUDES MEMBER POSTINGS FROM ACROSS THEIR NETWORKS.

“WHENEVER FRIENDS AT VARIOUS COMPANIES ARE LOOKING, I POST THE POSITIONS IN THE JOBS DISCUSSIONS SECTION,” SANCHEZ SAID. “I’D ENCOURAGE ANY MEMBER TO DO THE SAME — HELPING OUT OSWEGO ALUMS, LETTING THEM SEE THROUGH THEIR EYES WHAT YOU SEE THROUGH YOURS.”

INTERNSHIP- AND JOB-SEEKING OSWEGO STUDENTS OFTEN INTERACT TOO, GIVING MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD A HAND AND MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH THE NEWEST OR SOON-TO-BE GRADUATES. IT’S NOT UNCOMMON TO SEE IMPROMPTU LOCAL ALUMNI GATHERINGS ORGANIZED THERE AS WELL.

“IT’S AS STRONG AS THE MEMBERS MAKE IT,” SANCHEZ SAID. “THE MORE YOU INTERACT AND ENGAGE, THE MORE YOU STAND TO GET OUT OF THE GROUP. I WOULD ABSOLUTELY ENCOURAGE ANY OF OWSEGO’S 77,000 ALUMS TO JOIN.”

DROP IN AT www.linkedin.com/oswegoalumni AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION, SEARCH FOR OR POST JOBS OR SIMPLY RECONNECT WITH OTHER ALUMNI.

—SHANE M. LIEBLER

Program Eases Transition from ‘Backpack to Briefcase’

A program sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association and Career Services Office helps students make the sometimes intimidating transition from college to career. Recruiters, local experts, and Oswego alumni presented workshops to help more than 100 students forge a pathway to success.

Keynote speaker KEVIN SUTHERLAND ’05, a member of the Graduates Of The Last Decade Leadership Council, suggested students take every opportunity to network and get their résumé out to as many people as possible, including alumni.

“We are family, this is it, Oswego!” Sutherland said. Sutherland is the budget coordinator for Tompkins County, where he has worked for three years.

Interviewing is nothing to sweat about as long as you’re prepared, explained personnel coordinator for Maxim Healthcare Services, REESE ABSTENDER MARCHAR ’94. Marchak said she has an array of experiences with the interview process and applies the knowledge she gained at Oswego when interviewing future employees.

“Oswego did so much for me,” Marchak said.

Students stood wall-to-wall to hear TIM BARNHART ‘02, a member of the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors, explain with honesty and realism about saving money and understanding financial planning following graduation. “As far as the education that you get, and the work ethic I was taught, I wouldn’t take another school over this school,” Barnhart said of Oswego.

Barnhart explained to students how to begin saving money, manage student loans, and still have a comfortable lifestyle after graduation. While attending Oswego, Barnhart interned with Northwestern Mutual, the company where he is now a managing director. He said that without taking the internship with Northwestern Mutual and exploring his career options in college, he would have never found his dream job.

—BRITTANY HOFFMANN ’14

Tim Barnhart ’02 of Northwestern Mutual shared advice about “Financial Management and Surviving after Graduation” during the Backpack to Briefcase conference.
These friends from AEX sorority marveled at the changes on campus since they were students. From left, Jennifer Sammarco ’92, Lori Purmer-Bleibtrey ’94, Paula Licata Hickey ’92 and Chrissy Hines McGlauffin ’93.

Class of 1977 members Janet Krause, Zoology major, Felicia Telsey, Art and Psychology, and Bruce Jordan, Business Administration, recalled the decade of the ’70s in their fashion choices and dance style at the Saturday night dinner.
Lebanon-Oswego Class Partnership Springs COIL Forward

STUDENTS IN SUSAN COULTRAP-MCQUIN’S “Women, the Workplace and the Law” class interacted online with students in Lebanon in the fall ’12 semester as part of the SUNY-wide Collaborative Online International Learning experience.

Ina Pfeifer Issa, the teacher of a Lebanese course in international management, visited SUNY Oswego this spring to help Coultrap-McQuin share lessons they learned in the college’s first COIL experience. They planned improvements for the next stage of the partnership and worked on shared research projects. Issa also presented at the Ernst & Young Lecture Series.

“The international perspective is the real growth in the COIL experience,” Coultrap-McQuin told faculty and staff at a session in the college’s Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. “It’s important to learn content, but the other kind of learning is figuring out how to communicate with other people from another culture who are second-language speakers.”

COIL, a SUNY-wide initiative headquartered in the system’s Global Center in New York City, advocates cross-cultural learning through classroom partnerships. Oswego has approximately 11 other COIL courses launching or in development across disciplines ranging from human-computer interaction to broadcasting, from education to physics.

— Jeff Rea ’71

College’s New X-ray Device to Probe Archeological Samples

Analyzing sharp-force trauma, studying ceramic artifacts disinterred after centuries, disclosing the trace elements in soils—SUNY Oswego forensic anthropologist Kathleen Blake can think of many uses for portable X-ray equipment purchased with a National Park Service grant.

The new instrument will enable faculty and student researchers to study samples in detail without liquefying, pulverizing or otherwise destroying them. “This device is widely used in archeological and museum studies,” Blake said.

Douglas Pippin, an assistant professor of anthropology and an archeologist, received the $49,500 grant with colleagues Paul Tomascak of the earth sciences faculty and Blake.

The device came with a pump to create a vacuum, a small on-board computer for work in the field, a tripod and other attachments. It uses X-ray fluorescence to analyze the elements and their proportions in a sample.

The researchers won the grant in conjunction with work the anthropology department is doing cataloging 160,000 Native American and other artifacts from archeological sites around the state. SUNY Oswego earlier received two grants totaling $1.5 million for work under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Blake, a visiting assistant professor, is on the research team for the NAGPRA project.

“This will be so helpful to student projects, too,” she said. “For example, what happens after burial of a deer’s leg? What can it tell us about the amount of copper laid down by the blade that cut the bone? What kind of blade was it?”

— Jeff Rea ’71

Education Professor to Assist in Brazilian State’s School Development

Dr. Alfred Frederick, distinguished service professor in SUNY Oswego’s School of Education, is a visiting professor and scholar in residence at the State University of Piaui in Brazil at the invitation of the State Secretariat of Education of Piaui and the State University of Piaui. Frederick said he would continue his cross-cultural work on culturally relevant teaching there over the next several summers.

As creator and coordinator of the African and Brazilian Academic and Cultural Exchange Initiative at Oswego, he has coordinated and conducted research and training in Benin and Brazil aimed at improving academic achievement of students in primary and secondary schools. He taught at the Federal University of Santa Maria for seven years before he joined SUNY Oswego in 1985.

Kathleen Blake of SUNY Oswego’s anthropology department displays a new low-dose device that uses X-ray fluorescence technology to analyze the elements in archeological samples. The instrument, obtained via a $49,500 National Park Service grant, can analyze the elements and their proportions in a sample without destroying it.

— Jeff Rea ’71
Oswego College Foundation New Board Members

Rose Cardamone Crane ’81 rejoined the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors on July 1 for a three-year term. Crane has more than 30 years of experience in commercialization and business operations, primarily in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. She is a venture partner at Apple Tree Partners and head of commercialization for Apple Tree Pharmaceuticals. She previously served on the board from 2005 to 2012, is a former member of the School of Business Advisory Board and has participated in the Alumni-in-Residence program.

While studying communication at Oswego, Crane worked for The Oswegonian and was a Resident Assistant. She enjoys being involved at her alma mater and most recently returned to campus in April 2013 as the keynote speaker for the Honors Convocation. Crane is a staunch advocate for STEM education and has supported STEM career development through the Possibility Scholarship program together with her late husband Doug Crane ’81.

Senior Vice President of Institutional Sales at ABN AMRO Clearing Chicago LLC, Stephen Doran ’82 began a three-year term on the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors on July 1. Doran has been actively involved at Oswego for many years, serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors as an officer and as the Alumni Association representative to the Oswego College Foundation Investment Committee and the Reunion Task Force in 2007-08.

He is also involved in the AIR and ASK programs and is an active participant with the School of Business Symposium.

As a student at Oswego, Doran studied business administration, was the men’s lacrosse captain in 1982, and participated in the alumni/mentor program.

Doran frequently hosts Oswego alumni events in New York City, where he has been professionally located throughout his career.

Global Head of Investor Relations and Marketing at Perry Capital in New York City Doreen Mochrie ’85 began a three-year term on the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors on July 1.

With more than 25 years experience in investment relations, she is also a member of several professional organizations, including the Association of Investment Management Sales Executives and 100 Women in Hedge Funds. Most recently, Mochrie was the 2013 chapter inductee of Beta Gamma Sigma, the premier international honor society of AACSB accredited business programs.

Mochrie studied applied mathematics and economics as a student at Oswego and worked in the Continuing Education office. Through the New York City Career Connections program, she recently hosted SUNY Oswego business students.

Together with her husband, Chris Tuohy ’81, she maintains close ties with many Oswego alumni friends.

—Kaitlin Provost ’12

A Trio of Editors continued from page 2

Denise Owen Harrigan: (Editor 1979 – 1995)
Oswego cast a powerful spell over me when I was hired as alumni editor in 1979. I attributed my infatuation to lake effect: the magical impact of sparkling Lake Ontario on the horizon. I realized, however, that the college’s true magic lies in its close-knit, yet far-flung community.

In my privileged role as family historian to a fascinating, fun-loving, intensely loyal clan, I travelled from coast to coast to chronicle the accomplishments of high-profile Oswego alumni. I covered campus icons who helped generations of students take flight. I took part in treasured traditions — Torchlight ceremonies and reunions — and came to feel like one of the family.

It’s been 17 years since my career led me away from Oswego. But whenever I reconnect with the college or cross paths with Oswego alumni, I am enveloped by memories as warm and vibrant as an Oswego sunset.

Linda Loomis ’90 M ’97: (Editor 1995 – 2000)
Serving as editor never felt like a job; arriving at beautiful King Alumni Hall never felt like going to work. I was just doing what I enjoy: listening to and telling stories of those whose lives authenticate our mission as a learning community, validate the integrity of our degrees, and substantiate the effectiveness of our programs. I treasure the people I have been privileged to know and write about. For it is through stories that we are connected as one accomplished, multi-faceted Oswego family.

Michele Reed: (Editor 2001-2013)
In nearly three decades on campus — 16 years at the Public Affairs Office and a dozen more in King and Sheldon Halls as alumni editor — I’ve been blessed to share the secret of what makes Oswego so special: its incredible people.

I’ve been touched by your Oswego generosity, sharing your successes and sorrows, your heartbeat and happiness, your passions and your Oswego pride. You are our living history. Your memories burn bright, and those of us entrusted with sharing them delight in passing on that torch to future generations.

I don’t know where retirement will take me. But I will carry a little bit of Oswego with me forever in my heart.
Alumni Share Insights at Leadership Conference

Students gained insight from Oswego alumni during the third annual Future Oswego Leaders Conference March 8 and 9.

This event, organized by Omicron Delta Kappa and co-sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association, provided students the opportunity to network with alumni professionals.

Matt Weiller ’84 delivered the keynote address in the Campus Center. Weiller, a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State, has served as a U.S. diplomat since 1991, working both in Washington and embassies around the world.

A German major and Russian minor at SUNY Oswego, Weiller served as a resident assistant in Funnelle Hall. “Being a resident assistant is surprisingly similar to working in an embassy,” Weiller said. “You work in close quarters with the same people night and day.”

Jackie Maguire ’13, a dual major in adolescent education and mathematics, said of the conference, “I liked how diverse the speakers were — each one came from different backgrounds.”

Following the luncheon, breakout sessions were hosted by Weiller, Saleem Cheeks ’01, management supervisor of public affairs for Eric Mower & Associates, and Sara Wallace M ’10, executive team member for DestinyUSA.

A political science graduate, Cheeks credits his role as president of the Student Association as a factor that landed him his first job with the New York State Governor’s office.

Wallace spoke of hard work and success at a young age. “It’s not just about getting the job,” Wallace said. “It’s about hitting the ground at 100 percent once you have landed it.”

Wallace studied history and political development as a graduate student at Oswego.

Wallace emphasized setting challenging personal goals. “Don’t settle for anything less; tell yourself, ‘Yes I can, and I will do this.’”

—Tyler J. Edic ’13

‘Game of Thrones’ Co-creator Speaks on Campus

DAVID BENIOFF, author of the 2012-13 Oswego Reading Initiative selection “City of Thieves” and co-creator of “Game of Thrones,” made a public appearance April 24 in SUNY Oswego’s Campus Center arena. He also met in the afternoon for a Q & A with students in the Creative Writing and English majors. Benioff wrote “City of Thieves,” a coming-of-age story that was mentioned in the New York Times as having “an ingenious plot,” based on events in St. Petersburg during World War II.

Voices of Diversity

SUNY Oswego graduate and Emmy award-winning news anchor Kendis Gibson ’94 shared his insight on life after Oswego for the “Voices of Diversity” program April 19. His visit was part of the Alumni-In-Residence, or A.I.R., program sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association and supported by The Fund for Oswego.

Voices of Diversity promotes awareness of minorities in the media industry and encourages diversity in all aspects of the media.
Golden Romney Field House reopened to limited spring practices as work wrapped up on a $2 million project to breathe new athletic life into the college's former ice hockey home.

“It’s a transformation,” said Nicholas Lyons, vice president for administration and finance.

Men’s and women’s spring sports teams—from lacrosse to track and field, from baseball to softball—worked out on the state-of-the-art, dual-surface flooring, illuminated by new energy-efficient lighting.

“Providing a top-notch practice facility for many different sports has been the central goal for the project.”

— Nicholas Lyons, Vice President for Administration and Finance

The field house opened in 1963 as the first ice rink in the SUNY system, serving as the college’s ice hockey home for more than 40 years until the 2006-07 season.

Now, the Athletic Department points with pride to the Rekortan M99 synthetic track surface: four lanes of new 200-meter track over an elastic layer, plus outer-corner installations for the long-jump pit, the pole vault and more.

There is a smooth transition from the track to the FieldTurf infield, a surface designed for safety and endurance. The infield is marked off for four tennis courts and, with the addition of temporary lines, can be available for field events and lacrosse and soccer practices. From the ceiling hangs netting that can bisect the infield so that side-by-side practices can take place.

Then there’s the ceiling-mounted, electrically lowered baseball “cage,” a netted, tunnel-like structure, subdivided to accommodate batting practice and pitcher-catcher workouts at the same time.

It’s an amazing building. It’s really designed to be a state-of-the-art, multipurpose practice facility.

“Providing a top-notch practice facility for many different sports has been the central goal for the project,” Lyons said, in part because the track and the turf field are not regulation size and the field house is no longer intended for NCAA competition.

The impact of the Romney revitalization on Oswego’s ability to recruit Division III student-athletes for outdoor sports is significant. It’s all about curb appeal and feeling good about where you are spending your time.

Bob Lloyd ’81 M’89 of the college’s Facilities Design and Construction department is the Romney renovation project coordinator with general contractor Diamond & Thiel Construction Inc., working from the Clough Harbor Associates design. The campus has, for the money, unveiled a gem, he said.

“I think we got a lot of bang for our buck,” Lloyd said. “The place was really transformed into a nice, usable facility.”

—Jeff Rea ’71
Men's Basketball

The Laker men's basketball team registered wins over NCAA Sweet 16 participants, Morrisville and Ithaca, en route to posting an overall record of 19-8 and a conference record of 11-7 under second-year head coach Jason Leone. Oswego State earned the fourth seed in the SUNYAC Championship, where it defeated Brockport on its home court in the quarterfinals before falling to NCAA qualifier Cortland in the semifinal round.

Hayden Ward '13 averaged 18.2 points and 9.6 rebounds to finish his career ranked ninth with 1,393 points and second with 892 rebounds. He was the only league player to average a double-double, becoming the third player in program history to be named the SUNYAC Player of the Year. It marked the first of several accolades Ward earned on the season, as he was later named ECAC Division III Upstate First Team, D3hoops.com East Region First Team, NABC First Team All-East.

Hayden Ward '13 posts up a defender.

Women's Basketball

The Oswego State women's basketball team and head coach Tracy Bruno opened the season by winning its first eight games, including the program's first win over Rochester, before wrapping up the year at 18-9 overall. The Lakers posted an 11-7 conference record to qualify as the third seed, and hosted their first playoff game since 2006-07. In the SUNYAC quarterfinal, Oswego State defeated Cortland for the third time in the season after having handed the Red Dragons three losses in the previous 47 meetings.

Meagan Stover '13 and Kari Kipper '13 both received All-SUNYAC recognition, as Stover was named First Team and Kipper was named Third Team. Stover, who was also the Max Ziel Tournament MVP, paced Oswego State with 12.2 points per game and 68 total steals. The ECAC Division III Upstate Second Team selection became the first Laker to receive First Team all-conference honors since 2004-05. Kipper ranked second on the squad scoring 10.6 points per game, while shooting 86.4 percent from the free-throw line. Newcomer Evie Josbena '13 started the season strong, as she was named to the Max Ziel All-Tournament Team.
Former coach returns as director of athletics

SUSAN VISCOMI IS OSWEGO STATE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS EFFECTIVE June 1. She comes with more than 30 years of intercollegiate athletics experience as a coach, associate athletic director and, most recently, as athletic director at Hilbert College in Hamburg, New York.

“I share Oswego’s vision for excellence and believe it’s important to develop student-athletes who strive for exemplary academic achievement, competitive success, and a commitment to serve the communities in which they live,” stated Viscomi.

Viscomi became Hilbert’s first female athletic director in July 2010. She served as the associate athletic director and senior woman administrator at Hamilton College for 13 years.

Before joining Hamilton’s staff, Viscomi was the Oswego State head women’s soccer coach for seven years, during which she was twice named State University of New York Athletic Conference Coach of the Year (1991, 1996). Her other collegiate experiences include a stint at Plattsburgh as an assistant professor of physical education, head women’s soccer coach and assistant coach of men’s and women’s track and field.

Viscomi has served in numerous capacities with the NCAA at the national, conference and institutional level since 1995. She has served as a member of the NCAA Championships and as chairperson and member of the NCAA Women’s Soccer Committee. She has also completed the NACWAA/HERs Institute for administrative advancement.

Viscomi earned her Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Colgate University and Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Physical Education from SUNY Cortland.

Men’s Ice Hockey

The Lakers men’s ice hockey team and head coach Ed Gosek ’83 M ’01 posted one of the most memorable seasons in its storied history. Oswego State finished league play at 14-2-0 to earn the No. 1 seed before capturing its ninth SUNYAC Championship after blanking Plattsburgh, 4-0, to claim its fourth-straight NCAA bid.

The Lakers extended their season following a 3-2 overtime win over Adrian in the NCAA quarterfinal round to punch a ticket to the Frozen Four for an unprecedented fourth straight year. Oswego State knocked off Norwich, 6-3, in the NCAA semifinal before falling to Wisconsin-Eau Claire in the championship game to finish the season at 25-5-0 and cap off one of the most successful four-year stretches with a record of 98-17-2.

The season’s success brought accolades for members of the squad. Paul Rodrigues ’13 became the ninth Oswego State player to be named SUNYAC Herb Hammond Most Valuable Player after pacing the league in points and surpassing 100 career points. He was joined on the First Team by Luke Moodie ’13, who led the conference in goals and reached 100 career points, and continued on page 16
defenseman Zach Josepher ’13, who was second in scoring among SUNYAC blue-liners. Assistant captain Chris Brown ’13 received Second Team All-SUNYAC recognition after finishing second in assists and third in points, while goalie Andrew Hare ’13 ranked second in goals against average and save percentage and Jesse McConney ’13 ranked third in defensemen scoring to garner Third Team honors. Rodrigues was named American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) Sid Watson Memorial Award winner, which is symbolic of the nation’s best Division III men’s ice hockey player, the USCHO.com Division III National Player of the Year and the D3hockey.com National Player of the Year. He is not only the first player in SUNYAC history to receive the award, but also the first Oswego State athlete to be named National Player of the Year in any sport. Moodie and Josepher were also named Division III CCM Men’s Hockey East Second Team All-Americans in Lake Placid.

Women’s Ice Hockey

The Oswego State women’s ice hockey team under head coach Diane Dillon produced the most successful conference season in program history, as the Lakers earned the No. 3 seed in the ECAC West tournament after recording a program-best 10 wins despite having just 17 players on the roster. Oswego State came up short in the ECAC West Playoffs, finishing the season at 12-12-1 overall.

Melissa Seamont ’14 became the second player in program history to be named Second Team All-ECAC West. She paced Oswego State with 24 points on nine goals and single-season record 15 assists, while finishing tied for second in assists in the league. Seamont enters next season five points away from setting the program record in career points and three assists away from the career assist mark.

The Lakers return their top ten scorers next season, including juniors Olivia Boersen ’14, Megan Hagg ’14 and Emma Smetaniuk ’14. Boersen recorded 16 points, while Hagg and Smetaniuk notched 11 points each. Bridget Smith ’15 logged over 1,000 minutes in goal en route to a 10-8-1 record, while Tori Trovato ’16 went 2-3-0 with a 1.79 goals against average.

Indoor Track and Field

The Oswego State men’s and women’s indoor track and field teams each finished eighth at the SUNYAC Championships in February under second-year head coach David Thompson.

Brittany DalCais ’15 took second place in the pole vault at the SUNYAC Championships en route to earning Second Team All-SUNYAC recognition. Earlier in the season, she broke her own record in the event after clearing a height of 11 feet, 7 3/4 inches (3.55m). DalCais was also a member of the women’s 4x400 meter relay that placed second with a school-record time of 4:05.24. Other members of the relay
included Kristen Harrigan ’15, Marissa Pariseau ’15 and Katie Bott ’14. Bott also established a new benchmark in the 400-meter dash with a time of 59.66 seconds earlier in the course of the season.

At the SUNYAC Championships, Joshuwa Maiolo ’15 bettered the previous school mark in the long jump with a leap of 22 feet, 2 1/2 inches (6.77m) for a fourth-place finish. Ben Sweet ’13, Matt Wagenhauser ’15, Nick Reinsdorf ’15 and Noah Carroll ’14 also set a new school record in the distance medley relay during the season with a time of 10:21.51.

Wrestling

The Oswego State wrestling team and head coach Mike Howard ’90 had several individual successes during a season that saw the Lakers finish 3-11 in dual meets, seventh at the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference (ECWC) Championships and 13th at the New York Intercollegiate State (NYIS) Championships.

Blake Fisher ’13 became the first Oswego State wrestler to qualify for the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships since 2009 after placing second at 157 pounds at the NCAC Northeast Regionals and tallying a 23-10 record. He put together a 15-match winning streak near the end of the season that included winning a conference title at 165 pounds to become first grappler to earn the championship since 2006.

Omar Santiago ’13 posted a team-high 24 wins at 133 pounds, and fell one position short of qualifying for nationals by finishing fourth at the NCAA Northeast Regional Championships. In addition, he placed fourth at the NYIS Championships and second at the RIT Invitational. Michael Gentilcore ’14 also won an individual title at 141 pounds at the RIT Invitational.

Swimming and Diving

Head coach Mike Holman ’96 led the Oswego State men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams to eighth- and ninth-place finishes, respectively, at the SUNYAC Championships in February with the Laker men recording 176 points and the Laker women posting 131 points.

Both Andrew Minnick ’14 and Sabia Filiaci ’15 placed sixth in their strongest event, the 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly, respectively. Minnick touched the wall in 1:45.74, while Filiaci broke the one-minute barrier with a time of 59.87. Minnick went on to two more top-16 finishes. Justin Berrios ’15 impressed on both boards, finishing seventh in the 3-meter dive with a score of 370.55, and ninth in the 1-meter with a score of 376.05.

Tom Schmid ’14 completed a successful season in distance races with a pair of 14th-place finishes in the 400 individual medley and the 1,650 freestyle. Katie Flood ’14 also capped her junior season on a strong note at the championships with top-30 finishes in the 100 and 200 breaststrokes and the 200 individual medley.

—Adele Burk
GEORGE WURTZ III ’78: TOWEL AND TISSUE
How an Oswego Degree in Industrial Arts Launched a Business Giant

BY DENISE OWEN HARRIGAN
A shrewd investment in his industrial arts education has paid hefty dividends in his manufacturing career.

Just to be clear: George Wurtz III ’78, president and CEO of Soundview Paper Co. LLC, fully intended to teach industrial arts after graduating from Oswego. Hard-wired with his grandfather’s love of woodworking and machinery, Wurtz had graduated from a premier high-school industrial arts program. He had turned down offers to play football for Penn State and Army in order to enroll at Oswego. He had worked grueling summer construction jobs to pay his tuition in cash.

In 1978, industrial arts education degree in hand, Wurtz was ready to roll. He was weighing job offers from two school districts when Miller Brewing in Fulton offered him an inventory control job at twice the salary. Wurtz made a decisive course correction and followed the money—and a hunch that manufacturing might be an even better fit.

A Home Run?

While student teaching in Valley Stream, Wurtz sensed a red flag. His trailblazing lesson plan required students to design a product, then form a company to build and sell it. “The students loved it. They asked for extra lab time,” Wurtz remembers. “It looked like a home run.”

The school’s administrators made a different call: “You’re not a business teacher,” they scolded Wurtz. “You’re an industrial arts teacher.”

Fortunately, the manufacturing industry embraced such ingenuity. Wurtz shakes his head when he remembers his first meeting with Miller Brewing. “The interview date changed at the last minute. I had planned to get a haircut and wear a suit. Instead I had to go straight from the Industrial Arts lab, looking like Jeremiah Johnson with my long hair and overalls.”

“This was after the Vietnam War, and there was a shortage of engineers,” explains Wurtz. “Industry was recruiting from tech programs, and Oswego had one of the best in the country.

“An industrial arts degree looked a lot like a degree in mechanical engineering, with hands-on math, chemistry and physics labs,” he reports. “A number of my classmates went into industry instead of the classroom.”

The Scenic Route

Thirty-five years—and 17 address changes—later, it’s tough to imagine the larger-than-life Wurtz on any other trajectory. He spent almost a decade with Phillip Morris, the parent company of Miller Brewing. “It was like earning a Ph.D. in executive management,” he says. “I worked under industry icons. My ears were as big as Dumbo’s, taking it all in.”

In 1987, Wurtz was recruited into towel and tissue manufacturing, a subset of forest products, the nation’s third largest industry. He spent the next 15 years helping to build Fort James, home to such household brands as Brawny and Dixie Cups. When Georgia Pacific bought Fort James for $7.5 billion, Wurtz helped guide the merger then joined the new company in Atlanta, Ga.

Within a few years, Wurtz was second in command at Georgia Pacific. As executive vice president of pulp and paper, he was responsible for seven companies, 10,000 employees, and $6 billion in annual sales.

“I learned a lot working at the decision-making level of giant companies,” he says. “I discovered I loved mergers and acquisitions. But I always dreamed of walking away and creating smaller, leaner, more nimble companies, managed by hands-on investors who were also seasoned practitioners.”

Object Lesson

The opportunity to lead his dream company came last year, when Wurtz, with equity investment firm Atlas Holdings, purchased Marcal Paper Co., a storied New Jersey towel and tissue company on the brink of closure.

In 2006, Wurtz—by then an industry icon—stepped away from corporate life when Koch Industries acquired Georgia Pacific. After decades in the fast lane, he hoped to spend more time with his wife, Nancy. “‘Miss Nancy,’ as they say in Atlanta, is my true love,” Wurtz says,
“along with my daughter, Jacqueline, who has three wonderful boys under 4, and my son, George IV, who carries on the towel-and-tissue tradition.”

Wurtz also looked forward to stretches of time in his woodworking shop and aboard his 60-foot fishing boat. “My ideal day involves hooking a 1,000-pound tuna,” he explains. “But when that didn’t happen every day, I grew restless.”

High-energy Wurtz went back to work as CEO of WinCup in Stone Mountain, Ga., a massive but troubled supplier of foam cups, straws and other food service disposables. “I’d never been associated with a company in bankruptcy,” he reports, “and I discovered I love fixing broken stuff.”

Wurtz was trolling for other stressed companies when Marcal Paper in Elmwood, N.J., caught his eye. “A product like toilet tissue isn’t going away,” he believes. “You can’t (digitalize or) cloud it. And China can’t compete in our market, because it’s not profitable to ship.”

**The Lure of Marcal**

When Wurtz and Atlas Holdings purchased Marcal in 2012, the floundering company had nearly lost sight of its proud history. Marcal was founded in 1928 by a resourceful Sicilian immigrant, Nicolas Marcalus, whose 17 patents include the jagged metal edge used to cut waxed paper and the first automatic toilet tissue winder.
Marcal, which pioneered the use of recycled paper to make towels and tissue, flourished for 70 years. In 2001, the family-run business borrowed $125 million for a new paper machine—a wise investment, it seemed, until 9-11 and Hurricane Katrina knocked the wind out of the economy. A few years later, the bank called in the Marcal loan.

In 2007, on the brink of bankruptcy, the family sold to venture capitalists, who planned to take the regional company national. “Going national wasn’t the answer,” according to Wurtz. “Thirty-eight percent of the domestic towel and tissue market lies within 500 miles of the Marcal plant.”

“The company had a lot of pride but lost its way,” Wurtz believes. “By the time we took over, its workforce was emotionally decimated. We had to let 100 people go, but we saved 500 jobs,” he reports. “Those workers are this company’s greatest asset. Many are immigrants from Eastern Europe. The typical employee has been here for 18 years and most likely has a father, brother or sister who works here.”

First-Name Basis
The outgoing, straight-shooting Wurtz now spends much of his time mingling with Marcal employees. On his daily walkabouts, he covers an average of 3.5 miles and greets almost every employee by name. “These workers have done nothing but work hard for Marcal, even as many lost their pensions,” says Wurtz. “I love ’em to death.”

From the Nest
Part of this allegiance dates back to Wurtz’s down-to-earth Long Island childhood. He and four siblings (including Kevin ’79 and Thomas ’92) were instilled with a strong work ethic. Each child was allowed to play one sport and expected to hold a job during its off-seasons. (Wurtz worked on a commercial fishing boat).

“My father was a union worker for the public utility company,” Wurtz says. “He’s always reminded me that ‘Joe Hourly’ will make or break you. Success doesn’t happen in the executive suite.

“Football also taught me that you’re only as good as the guys behind you,” he adds. “From my corporate years, I learned that, if you’re not making it or selling it, you are overhead.”

On a recent tour of the one-square-mile Marcal campus, Wurtz was walking the talk. At one point, the strolling CEO and a recycling truck approached the same intersection. Wurtz gave the driver a friendly salute. The driver stopped, smiled, and gestured for his boss to go ahead.

“No, you go ahead,” Wurtz chuckled. “I’m paying you.”

On a Roll
Since Soundview took charge, the Marcal plant has operated three shifts a day, seven days a week. Volume has increased by 22 percent. Equity investors have earned 44 percent dividends. Employees recently received their first gain-sharing checks. In December, Soundview purchased a second paper plant, Pultney Paper in Vermont.

The Soundview company carries no debt. Fifty percent of profits are invested in operations. “We pay it forward,”

A degree in industrial arts—today you’d call it technology—required hands-on math, chemistry and physics labs. It looked a lot like a degree in mechanical engineering. A number of my classmates went into industry instead of the classroom.

—George Wurtz III, ’78
Wurtz explains, “When we buy a stressed company, our goal is not to buy, fix, and sell. Our goal is to buy, get it going, and keep it going.

“We came into Marcal making huge promises,” Wurtz reflects. “Now we’re delivering on these promises—and regaining a lot of trust.

“Saving jobs is at the heart of our work,” he says. “For decades, our country’s manufacturing base and its middle class have been eroding. But the American spirit is still alive. You see it when we pull together after events like 9-11, Hurricane Sandy, and the Boston Marathon bombing.

“Americans are very productive people,” says Wurtz. “I believe we have a strong shot at reviving manufacturing.”

A strong shot indeed, if that revival is fueled by towel-and-tissue titan George Wurtz ’78, with his boots-on-the-ground leadership style, wide-angle view, and ever-versatile Oswego degree in industrial arts education.

Long-Range Lesson Plan:

UNBEKNOWNST TO GEORGE WURTZ III ’78, OSWEGO WAS PREPARING him to embrace the unexpected.

George Wurtz never used his Oswego degree in the classroom, but it’s been a priceless asset in his corporate career. “Industrial arts is the perfect training ground for manufacturing,” he says. “Everything I learned in industrial arts education applies to running a company. They taught us to be good managers without calling it management.

“We learned to create lesson plans, which are essentially business plans. We learned to establish objectives, to control costs, and to measure progress. We learned that good leadership is about good teaching—emphasizing what’s going well and teaching what could be even better.”

To acknowledge Oswego, George serves on its Engineering Advisory Board, shares executive suite insights on sharpening Oswego’s competitive edge and has established an Engineering Excellence Fund. And as a featured guest in the Alumni-in-Residence Program, he likes to underscore the enduring importance of Oswego relationships. “In college, you grow socially as well as academically. My best friends are still my college friends,” he reports.

Those college friendships may evolve into professional relationships.

Wurtz and Ron Schulman ’77, who crossed paths early in their manufacturing careers, recently reconnected through LinkedIn. “One thing led to another,” says Wurtz, “and Ron is now our comptroller at Soundview.”

Speaking of the unexpected: rugby represents another surprise turn in Wurtz’s life. In 1974, the 6-foot-3-inch middle linebacker arrived at Oswego ready to play football, only to learn the program had been cut. The skeptical freshman, who had been recruited by Penn State and Army, reluctantly joined Oswego’s rugby team. Almost 40 years later, Wurtz—a master of corporate mergers —still considers this his favorite.

“The rugby players taught us how to laugh, and we taught them how to tackle. After the game, you sing songs and drink beer with your opponents,” he says. “My rugby friends remain my closest friends. Many still play every summer in the CanAm Rugby Tournament.”

When Kevin Gilman ’74, the coach/catalyst of this spirited group, passed away in 2009, the rugby bond grew even stronger. Wurtz spearheaded the establishment of an endowed memorial scholarship and rugby fund to honor his friend.

“There is such cool camaraderie in rugby: part fraternity, part family,” says Wurtz. “I’ve learned it’s the greatest game ever played.”

Students in the Department of Technology learn about the career path of George Wurtz III ’78, center, who spoke with them in the new Manufacturing Systems Laboratory this spring.

Charles Edic ’14, a technology management major, shows a prototype of his class project, a steady-grip device for a camera, to George Wurtz ’78 during Wurtz’s recent visit to campus.
Approached at dusk, it’s a breathtaking sight— SUNY Oswego’s landmark building bathed in a splendid luster. The cupola is suffused with a stunning glow, taking its place among the stars far above the campus and city.

The Normal Building. Old Main. Sheldon Hall. Whatever name alumni remember it by, Oswego’s signature structure marks a 100-year milestone in 2013 with a return to its former glory.

The college’s historic home has been repaired and renewed in a $10 million exterior renovation. A capital project paid for by New York State and overseen by the State University Construction Fund, the restoration demanded historical authenticity.

Architects and SUNY Oswego staff members pored over vintage photos of the neo-classical building; they drilled holes in bricks to determine details of its construction, and they wielded modern tools like lasers to replicate its unique appearance.

The new copper roof, already achieving a slight patina, is illuminated by lights trained on the cupola, which, for the first time in decades, displays four working clocks. A period-appropriate weather vane tracks Oswego’s legendary gusts from atop Old Main’s tower.

Fourteen crumbling cement front steps have been replaced with granite, and the six Corinthian columns have fresh shells of terracotta. Five original re-paned windows top white oak replicas of the doors that invited the first occupants to classes.

“It is wonderful to have Sheldon Hall, which is so inter-twined with the college’s identity, finally and fully restored,” said President Deborah F. Stanley, who spearheaded the restoration of Oswego’s landmark.

“The grand old building now greets our prospective undergraduates and their families as they visit the Admissions Office there. We’re putting our best foot forward. Sheldon Hall is a beautiful manifestation of our proud history while, next door on Washington Boulevard, the new and equally impressive Shineman Center embodies our emphasis on innovation.”

It’s history worth preserving, according to Bob Lloyd ’81 M ’89 of Oswego’s Facilities Design and Construction department, who worked on the historical project from 2010 to its 2013 completion.

‘Temple of Learning’ Restoration Commemorates Sheldon Hall Centennial

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“The State of New York has assented to a most liberal appropriation for the erection upon this spot of a temple of learning worthy of the fame which the Oswego Normal and Training School justly enjoys and which, in a sense, is a memorial of that great educator who consecrated his life to the cause of education, and whose name is inseparably identified with the Oswego School.”

The Hon. P. W. Cullinan
- at the laying of the Sheldon Hall cornerstone, 1911

Photo by Jim Russell ’83
Lloyd said workers replacing the “cheek walls”—limestone demi-walls flanking the front steps—discovered wires and conduit meant for light poles. Reviewing historic photos, they replicated vintage lamps that formerly graced the entryway.

The east pergola, which sheltered Normalites all the way to Washington Boulevard and the trolley stop, is updated with white, cedar-topped fiberglass posts.

The exterior was pressure-washed with solvents safe for antique materials, and broken bricks were replaced with exact replicas. Mortar was mixed in small batches to achieve a perfect match. Energy-efficient reproductions replaced 430 windows.

Hallowed History
Alumni learned of plans for the building at the college’s semi-centennial celebration and alumni gathering of 1911. Principal Isaac B. Poucher told them, “There is no such thing as stand still in our vocabulary; there is no such thing as inertia of mind.”

Poucher had raised the need for a new building a half-dozen years earlier, according to Tim Nekritz M’05 of SUNY Oswego’s Public Affairs Office, who detailed the story in his unpublished history of the college’s first 150 years. It is a story of delays and red tape, bringing the work on the $300,000 building right down to the wire for its September 1913 opening.

With $25,000 appropriated by the state legislature, college officials purchased land along the lakeshore, including founder Edward Austin Sheldon’s home at Shady Shore.

Faculty helped draft plans, with the blueprints drawn up by Franklin B. Ware, the state architect: an H-shaped edifice with the west wing for the Normal School classes, the east wing for the Practice School, and a grand auditorium and gymnasium in the center.

The structure was seen as a monument to Poucher. In his article on the principal in History of the First Half Century of Oswego State Normal and Training School, Amos W. Farnham 1875 wrote, “The new Normal School building, which is now ready for equipment on Ontario Heights, is Dr. Poucher’s visible monument, which, like a city set on a hill, cannot be hid.”

The Hon. Patrick W. Cullinan, an Oswego attorney and former state assemblyman, speaking at the laying of the cornerstone, may have foreshadowed the future naming when he said, “The State of New York has assented to a most liberal appropriation for the erection upon this spot a temple of learning worthy of the fame which the Oswego Normal and Training School justly enjoys…a memorial of that great educator who consecrated his life to the cause of education and whose name is inseparably identified with the Oswego School.”

At the college’s centennial celebration in 1961, Old Main was renamed Sheldon Hall in honor of the Founder.

Less than a decade after opening, during World War I, the Normal Building was home to a Student Army Training Corps, graduating 400 auto mechanics, blacksmiths, pipemakers and telephone linemen, according to evidence uncovered by Nekritz.

A 1918 pamphlet, To The Boys Overseas and Half the Seas Over, reads: “Every morning at 6:30 the bugle blows ‘Reveille’; and 200 men form in front of the building for the raising of the flag. At seven o’clock they are in their classrooms.”

Fire!
The auditorium fire of Jan. 18, 1941, is burned into the memory of many alumni.

Al Johns ’42 and his future wife, Ruth, emerged from the movies that night to empty streets. “We went up there and saw the fire in action. After that the building was pretty well filled with smoke, and the student body was asked to help clean up and wash the woodwork and furniture during that week following,” Johns said.

Barbara Brown McCormack ’44 said, “The night that Sheldon Hall burned, I was home in bed. My father came up
the stairs and said, ‘Where is your violin?’ I said, ‘At school.’ He said, ‘It is gone’.” Ruined were a Steinway grand piano, a $1600 Hammond organ, and students’ instruments. “What was rescued?” asked McCormack. “My violin. Apparently the case was fireproof.” With the help of Dr. Lloyd Sunderland, chair of the music department, she had the violin repaired and at graduation in 1944 she played it, accompanied by her mother, Helen Picken Brown ’18. Nekriz also writes of a suspected arson in the library in 1950. Amid burned matches and furniture cushions, investigators found an empty frame that had held an oil portrait, valued at $2,400, of former president Ralph W. Swetman.

**On stage**

The restored auditorium remained a focus of college life until the building was temporarily closed. “Every day we had to go there first,” recalled Betty Reid Gallik ’45, speaking of chapel. “We would have a little ceremony before classes and say a prayer. They checked to make sure we were there.”

Davis Parker ’47, Beta Tau Epsilon dance chair, remembers sharing the stage with President Swetman to announce the first intrafraternity dance. “It was a big deal to get the frats together.”

Parker recalls wartime gas rationing was in effect. “There was a big confusion as to whether people would drive. It was decided that if you couldn’t walk there, it was OK to drive to the dance.”

Alumni remember the iconic front steps, depending on their generation, as a place for graduation, class photos, watching homecoming parades, or senior toasts.

Betty Gallik has vivid memories of meeting Eleanor Roosevelt there. As president of the Women’s Athletic Association, she was invited, along with the late Betty Burden ’45 and M. Carol McLaughlin ’45, to greet the First Lady.

Parker recalls having geography with Isabel Kingsbury Hart 1907 and psychology with Donald Snygg in Room 100, known now as the historic classroom, with its tiered rows seating 77. For Betty and Bill Gallik ’47 Snygg’s lecture was their only shared class and the scene of an embarrassing incident. “I was feeling my beads around my neck and didn’t the pearls break!” Betty said, describing falling pearls. “And Dr. Snygg said, ‘I’m sure Betty would appreciate it if someone would help pick them up’.” Bill came to her rescue.

**The modern era**

The 100,000-square-foot building, placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1980, exceeded the state formula for funding, according to a history compiled by Robert Schell, emeritus associate dean of students. The Office of General Services issued a call for proposals, and the Sarkisian Brothers firm soon began to turn Old Main into a conference center and hotel.

Sheldon’s historic status required interior doorways, windows and moldings be maintained in original style. The auditorium was converted into a ballroom and banquet facility, and the gymnasium became a hotel lobby, with a porte cochere added to the north side for arriving guests.

In the late 1990s, legal issues caused the developers to discontinue the project, and the state turned the building back to the college. It was rededicated to Oswego’s use in September 1998 on the eve of President Deborah F. Stanley’s inauguration. “It was clear at the outset of this administration that bringing Sheldon Hall back to the college was a priority for members of our campus and alumni community,” President Stanley said. “It had been vacant or in the hands of others since 1983—it seemed our heritage was no longer our own. So, we worked to find means to restore the building’s iconic look and made plans for it to have purposes that fulfilled its original central role in new ways.”

President Stanley said Sheldon Hall is now brimming with life around the clock as a multi-use building. It has classrooms for the School of Education, residential rooms for students, daycare and playground for children, a chamber music series and other special events in the auditorium, and administrative offices for offices of Admissions, International Education, and University Development.

“What makes it so wonderful,” President Stanley said, “is that when you walk through Sheldon Hall today, you absorb the history of our institution in every corridor and doorway, while you also encounter its future around every corner.”

With the renovation complete, tradition and vision are united in the “Temple of Learning” we know as Sheldon Hall.

—Michele Reed
On one hand, the story of SUNY Oswego’s endowment is one of numbers—how the gifts made from generous donors to the Oswego College Foundation have been wisely managed to support the institution. On the other hand, it is a story of people—how alumni, faculty and friends give generously; how the Foundation Board members, stewards of the fund, manage those gifts, and how Oswego students and faculty members ultimately benefit.

Wise Investing, Good Stewardship

Oswego’s endowment stands at more than $15 million dollars, a powerful force for good that benefits the college’s students, faculty and staff in myriad ways every day.

It has grown from $4 million in 2004 — a more than threefold increase — thanks to Oswego’s generous supporters and the wise stewardship of the Oswego College Foundation and its Investment Committee, headed for many years by the late Tom Lenihan ’76.

“State budgets have been plummeting, so for education it is vital that the Oswego College Foundation step up to raise money for those empty spots in the budget every year to maintain a quality institution,” said Dr. Harold Morse ’61 of the foundation board’s investment committee.

Morse added that the endowment provides “additional basic support to everybody at the college through more scholarships, improved facilities, quality faculty and research.”

The foundation’s investment committee members monitor the performance of investment fund managers, manage the asset allocation of the Foundation’s investments, make an annual recommendation of the spending rate, and recommend all changes in investment relations and procedures.

The committee looks at each fund and its long-term spending goal. They consider the need to generate sufficient returns to make the desired annual awards and to keep pace with inflation.

The goal, according to the Oswego College Foundation’s Director of Finance Mark Slayton, is to generate long-term annual returns in the 8 to 9 percent range, since an endowment typically spends 5 percent each year.

“We have been able to do that over a 10-year window,” Slayton says.

Oswego’s 10-year return rate is 8.2 percent—even given the 2008 crash of the financial markets.

Oswego’s endowment has consistently shown earnings ranking in the top 10 percent of nearly 500 participants in a study conducted by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). Of the 493 institutions that reported their 10-year rate of return from the years 2003 to 2012, Oswego ranked 51st, higher than universities with multi-billion dollar endowments such as Princeton and Stanford.

In fact, in eight of the last 10 years Oswego has outperformed the industry average, including the six straight years ended June 30, 2012.

When broken down into smaller time periods, Oswego’s performance is even more impressive. For the last five years, Oswego earned 4.2 percent, ranking 23rd of 666 institutions completing the report, or in the top 3 percent. Three-year data shows Oswego’s increase at 13.5 percent, placing the college 25th of 705 institutions, or the top 4 percent.

“The Investment Committee and Board of Directors took decisive action in the summer and fall of 2008 when the world economy was in a free fall. That’s really the year that set us apart from the rest of the endowment world,” explained Slayton.

Oswego’s loss that year was only 10.9 percent versus an industry average of 18.7 percent, according to the NACUBO report.

But as any successful investor knows, preserving principal isn’t enough. You also need to increase it.

So, as early as November 2008, the Investment Committee began to strategically re-engage the equity markets to take advantage of the recovery. As a result, Oswego’s endowed funds have each now fully recovered and exceed their pre-crash levels.
The other outcome of the Investment Committee’s successful work was in the area of underwater funds. That’s when a fund is underperforming to the point where it is worth less than its original principal.

Half a decade after the stock market crash, many not-for-profits are still struggling with underwater funds. The Oswego College Foundation’s experience with underwater funds was brief and insignificant. The fund has carried no underwater funds at all since 2010.

“The success of Oswego’s endowment is not only due to the prudent oversight of our investments over the years but to our board taking decisive action and doing something unconventional,” said Slayton.

In summer of 2008, Oswego was just coming out of the successful Inspiring Horizons campaign, which raised nearly $24 million to support the college. “We wanted to do everything we could to protect those investments our alumni and friends had made in Oswego’s future,” said Slayton. The board carefully watched the markets and began to reduce our allocation in equities even before the crash of September 2008.

“After much conversation, the board adopted a very conservative approach and it paid off very well for us,” Slayton said.

Much of that success was due to the masterful leadership of Tom Lenihan ’76, who chaired the Investment Committee for nearly seven years until his untimely death in March.

Lenihan graduated from Oswego with a degree in economics and computer science. While at Oswego, he met the love of his life, Lynn Van Order Lenihan ’76. They were married in 1976 and have two children, Brian and Colleen.

Tom Lenihan retired from MetLife after 30 years with the organization, having risen to the position of managing director for investment management and capital markets. It was that expertise he put to the service of Oswego’s endowment.

Tom and Lynn Lenihan were steadfast supporters of their alma mater for more than a quarter century. They were lead donors for the Inspiring Horizons campaign, and supported the Campus Center and the Possibility Scholarship program. Tom and Lynn served as Reunion Giving Chair for their 25th anniversary class reunion and spearheaded the revitalization of the college’s reunion giving program, in addition to Tom’s membership on the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors.

Foundation Board Chairman Bill Spinelli ’84 concurred. “Tom kept a vigilant watch on market conditions, opportunities and challenges to extract the most beneficial position for the Foundation’s investments and assets,” he said.

During his tenure, Lenihan always humbly deferred to his colleagues’ contributions, calling the work of the entire committee a “labor of love.”

“Tom, in his humble way, never accepted personal recognition but would say it was the work of the entire committee,” said Kerry Casey Dorsey ’81, vice president for development and alumni relations and president of the Oswego College Foundation. “But in his sailing vernacular, he was the captain of that ship.”

“Every time the markets dipped or moneys got short, Tom would also give us a great talk at board meetings — how we have this huge responsibility to Oswego to rise to the occasion,” recalled Morse. “Particularly when we had the recession, he led the effort to help prevent any of the scholarship funds from going underwater at that time. He

continued on page 30
made us feel that we had a responsibility not only to watch everything but also to fix it.”

“The vigilance that he provided in overseeing that everything was all right was outstanding,” added Morse. “I’ve been on several boards and have never seen anyone who was so responsible.”

Lenihan’s “labor of love” stemmed from a genuine affection for his alma mater and its students.

“Tom would say, ‘These are our brothers and sisters and we have to take care of them,’” said Morse. “It’s how we all felt on the board.”

That empathy comes from personal experience. The vast majority of the board members are alumni, and some faced obstacles to fulfill their own educational dreams. They may have worked to earn money for tuition or books, and some benefited from the generosity of donors.

The empathy and commitment the committee has for Oswego’s students, coupled with their knowledge of financial markets and their dedication to their fiduciary responsibility to the college are all part of the winning combination the Investment Committee brings to their stewardship of Oswego’s endowment – the art and science of investing success.

—Michele Reed

Endowment 101

By definition, an endowment is when a donor makes a gift with the understanding that the college will never spend the original gift, just a portion of the investment earnings. The gift exists in perpetuity — that is, forever — and benefits all generations of SUNY Oswego students and the college’s programs.

Most often, we think of an endowment as the pot of money behind a scholarship. When a generous alumnus gives a $25,000 gift to Oswego (often with a multi-year pledge) with the intention to endow a scholarship, the funds are invested. Once they generate sufficient income (usually after a year), a potential $1,000 scholarship can be awarded each year to a student meeting the donor’s criteria. The donor can designate whether the scholarship goes to a student with a certain major, from a specific hometown or military background, or one who has overcome hardship or faces financial need.

An endowment could also create an excellence fund for an academic department, sports team or extracurricular program. The dean or director can use a portion of the accumulated earnings to bring speakers to campus, help students attend conferences and career-exploration field trips, or buy needed equipment.

One donor’s gift has allowed the establishment of a student-run Investment Club, which invests a portion of the endowed fund established by Gordon A. Lenz ’58 so students can learn about financial markets and gain real world investment management experience. The Public Justice Excellence Fund, established by David Cutler ’74, helps students attend an annual scholarly conference and travel to corrections facilities to explore career opportunities in the public justice field. An endowed chair, like the Marcia Belmar Willcock ’50 Chair in Finance, provides funds to assist with paying the salary of a professor — usually a scholar of some renown — to teach in a particular area or department. These are but a few examples of the power of philanthropy.

The Oswego College Foundation has nearly 175 endowed funds providing more than $500,000 in scholarship and program support back to Oswego’s students. Annually, more than 200 students benefit from just the direct awards provided by donor-endowed scholarship funds. These are in addition to the scholarship benefits provided by the campus.

The Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors and its Investment Committee are charged with managing these endowment dollars to ensure that desired payouts are available each year and that they grow to match inflation.

Their diligent stewardship means the funds will always fulfill the donors’ wishes, benefiting generations of Oswego students and giving future donors the confidence to invest in Oswego’s mission.

—Michele Reed
Four “W’s” and an “H”:
Journalist Helps Reveal the “How” as Newtown Strives for Healing

We’ll always wonder why. But, for Matthew Sturdevant '97 the story of Newtown, Conn., is about how. How will the community repair itself?

Sturdevant, a journalist who has essentially been embedded since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, is telling that story.

“My task has always been to follow the people,” says Sturdevant who, along with other members of the staff of the Hartford Courant, is a runner up for the Pulitzer Prize.

By following and by listening, Sturdevant has uncovered touching stories behind tattoos, a very special animal sanctuary and other tributes to people lost in the infamous shooting Dec. 14. They are now a part of Sturdevant’s own story, the unlikely tale of a psychology and business major who almost became a potato farmer.

Sturdevant struggled academically and financially at Oswego, working toward two degrees while pulling endless shifts in the dining hall. A roommate—a communication studies major—planted the seed of journalism, and Matthew discovered his gift for storytelling post-grad as he sampled various jobs and traveled the east coast.

A lover of the outdoors, Sturdevant spent five summers as a guide at a Boy Scouts of America High Adventure base in Maine during and after college. He returned to the city of Oswego for a time as a therapy aide in the mental health wing of Oswego Hospital.

“No question, working with people at such an acutely sensitive time in their lives helped me in journalism,” he says, a fact born out when the Pulitzer committee commended the Hartford Courant staff for its sensitivity in handling coverage in Newtown.

While living in northern Maine, Sturdevant applied for a job at a weekly in rural Caribou, where he, with help from textbooks provided by his editor, essentially taught himself the skills of journalism.

“If it hadn’t worked out being a reporter those few days, I would have been harvesting potatoes,” Sturdevant recalls.

But, it did work out. And Sturdevant developed a talent for digging deep for stories. He initiated a “Not Forgotten” series at the Glens Falls Post Star that became almost a tutorial in how to handle sensitive topics. Each week, he would choose sparse obituaries, call the relatives for information, and craft proper tributes to the deceased.

Since arriving nearly four years ago at the Hartford Courant after stints at the Caller-Times in Corpus Christi, Texas, and the Daily Press in Newport News, Va., Sturdevant has again employed his Oswego experience as a business reporter and blogger.

But, when not covering health care, insurance and business, he’s often called to journalism’s front line of breaking news, the Boston Marathon bombing and Superstorm Sandy among them.

His most difficult assignment to date, though, he’s still working on: the stories of all the survivors, those children with lifetimes left to live.

“Once the basics of the story have been told, it’s really the story of how this town is coping,” he says. “The rest of the world may have moved on, but in Connecticut, especially in Newtown, they’ll be talking about this for decades.”

—Shane M. Liebler
Linda Panarites Sweeting ’75 Makes Giving a Priority

Focusing on students and their needs as a way of paying tribute to her family perfectly fits Linda Panarites Sweeting’s sensibilities regarding philanthropy. A 1975 graduate, she has been making gifts to SUNY Oswego’s annual fund and volunteering as a reunion gift organizer over the years, but always “hoped to do more.”

When she consulted with her husband and her brother about honoring departed family members through an endowed scholarship, they were of one mind in creating a fund that would provide financial assistance to one entering student each year. That student would come to SUNY Oswego from Spencerport or Hilton, alternately, and would personify the values of the Panarites and Sweeting families.

Sweeting spent her career in the alumni and development office at SUNY Brockport, where she saw the “difference a gift could make in the lives of the student and the donor.” She says she always wanted to make a gift to Oswego that went beyond supporting the annual fund, and she was inspired in philanthropy by coworkers, especially Brockport faculty member emeritus Frances Moroney Whited ’44.

“I valued my time at Oswego and the education I received as a student,” Sweeting says. “Now, I completely admire and trust the people in the Office of Development, and I really like the direction Oswego is going in terms of academics.”

Sweeting says her father’s people came to America from Greece, and even though they all valued education, only one of the siblings had the resources to complete a college degree. The Panarites-Sweeting Family Scholarship will ensure that the selected student will have access to higher education without incurring crippling debt.

“When we talked to professionals at Oswego, we said we didn’t want to put a lot of restrictions on the choice of the recipient,” Sweeting says. “But when we met Bianca, the first recipient, and her family, we felt as if she had been hand picked for us.”

—Linda Loomis ’90 M ’97

Linda Panarites Sweeting ’75, scholarship recipient Bianca Camillaci ’15, and Rick Sweeting

Lou Borrelli ’77 Makes $25,000 Gift to Student Media Excellence Fund

LOU BORRELLI ’77 IS A CABLE TELEVISION PIONEER, media executive and steadfast supporter of SUNY Oswego. He continued his support this year with a gift of $25,000 to the Student Media Excellence Fund.

Giving to student organizations is important to Oswego, as it provides funding that cannot always be provided by the Student Association.

“I have been directing my annual giving the past several years to ‘Excellence Funds’ to provide support for WNYO and WTOP to supplement their SA budget,” Borrelli says. “My gifts over the years have provided equipment, travel expenses and fees for conferences and award competitions.”

These organizations, although mostly funded by SA, benefit greatly from philanthropic support by alumni. Excellence funds can be supported by anyone who wishes to designate their annual gifts to student organizations, and new excellence funds can always be established.

“Excellence Funds are a good way to get involved,” Borrelli says.

Borrelli supports student organizations as the founder of the Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit, which provides networking opportunities for students in media fields and attracts communication professionals from all over the country.

After the launch of the Summit, he established the Student Media Excellence Fund, as he saw the need to further provide for WNYO and WTOP. The majority of his most recent gift funded “a multichannel digital replay system used during Laker Hockey games,” which put WTOP on par with sports networks like ESPN and NESN.

Borrelli is also a member of the Oswego College Foundation Board and the School of Communication, Media and the Arts Advisory Board, and he was Reunion Giving Chair for his 35th Reunion cluster this year. He encourages other alumni to give back to Oswego and show their support for students.

“A little support goes a long way to help current students and student organizations,” he says.

—Kaitlin Provost ’12
Charter member of SCMA Advisory Board makes gift of $50,000 to Oswego

HOWARD OLINSKY ’81, a disability attorney and managing partner of Olinsky Disability, has given a gift of $50,000 to SUNY Oswego. Two-thirds of his gift will go to the School of Communication, Media and the Arts Dean’s Fund, and one-third to where the need is greatest.

Olinsky serves on the first SCMA Advisory Board, and is a loyal supporter of SUNY Oswego. He says supporting his alma mater is an important part of his philanthropy plan, to give back to “the schools and universities that have helped me become successful.”

“Successful” is no exaggeration – Olinsky manages 16 full-time attorneys and 22 contracted attorneys at his firm, which is the largest filer of Social Security Disability federal court cases in the nation. He has offices in Syracuse and Orlando.

Olinsky got his start in Oswego, opening up his law firm on West First Street. The firm’s name still adorns the front of the Old Marine Midland Bank Building, where his office was for more than 15 years. He says the firm moved to Syracuse in order to expand, but Olinsky never lost his love for Oswego or the desire to give back to the college.

“I plan on being an active participant,” he says. Giving back is “a way of bringing additional money into the individual schools without having to raise tuition,” and he believes this is crucial to Oswego’s success.

His goal for this gift is to help students who graduate with a communications degree become more marketable. He and Dean Fritz Messere ’71 M ’76 are working on a plan to create a PR program that can help students get experience with all aspects of advertising and media.

“It’s a big goal,” he says, “but you’ve got to start somewhere.”

—Kaitlin Provost ’12

Company Matches Couple’s Gift for Possibility Scholarships

T. SCOTT KING ’74 AND DEBORAH COPPOLA KING ’75 of Delray Beach, Florida, are staunch supporters of SUNY Oswego. They recently gave a gift of $25,000 to the Possibility Scholarship program, with another $25,000 matched from Sun Capital Partners Inc., of which Scott King is Senior Managing Director.

The Possibility Scholarship program provides tuition assistance to students pursuing degrees in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. Students must qualify academically and demonstrate financial need.

This is the Kings’ second contribution to the Possibility Scholarship program, and Scott says they support it because, “It’s a great program. It’s as simple as that. It’s given us an opportunity to help somebody that would otherwise struggle financially to go to college.”

Students awarded this scholarship are also given the chance to participate in the Global Laboratory program. This is an international research opportunity that is completed in the summer following each student’s sophomore year. This year, students have been placed in India, France, Brazil, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Taiwan.

The Kings’ generous gift will have a significant and positive impact on this program. “Both my wife and I graduated from Oswego,” Scott adds, “and we love to give back.”

—Kaitlin Provost ’12

New Giving Levels Designated (effective July 1, 2013)

OSWEGO’S LEADERSHIP GIVING society, The President's Circle, has been reconfigured to reflect new giving levels as of July 1. The revision is in response to changing economic times and inflation. A $500 gift would be the equivalent of $1,070 today to make the same impact it did when these giving levels were established nearly 30 years ago.

We continue to recognize members of The President’s Circle as those who are among the most dedicated supporters of Oswego; therefore, the starting level in that designation will be $1,000. A newly established Green and Gold Club will acknowledge donors who make gifts of $250 through $999.

Donors wishing to continue to give at their previous designated levels can arrange for installment giving.

For information on joining Oswego’s philanthropic leaders, call 315-312-3003 or visit alumni.oswego.edu/presidentscircle

New levels of giving in The President’s Circle are:

THE PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE

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Philanthropy in Action

“The future depends on what you do today.”
—Mahatma Gandhi

Sheldon Legacy Society Taps Faithful Donor as Chair

P lanned giving makes it possible for SUNY Oswego alumni and friends to reach beyond the present and touch the future. Jack James ’62 sees it as a means of ensuring that his alma mater remains an effective institution of higher education for many generations to come.

James has agreed to chair the Sheldon Legacy Society Steering Committee and to work with other members to revitalize that group, which honors those who include Oswego in their estate plans. He says he accepted the leadership position because he has faith in the students of today and in those of the future. The Legacy Society affirms some of the values founder Edward Austin Sheldon held dear: careful planning, generous giving, and faithful stewardship.

The Society is comprised of people who are committed to spreading the message about the benefits of planned giving. James says Oswego’s students will benefit as more people understand that a legacy gift enables them to give beyond what they might be able to give at the present and as more people are aware of the variety of plans and the benefits of each plan.

A retired Marine Corps Colonel and former faculty member at National—Louis University, James has long supported Oswego through giving and volunteering. Leading by example, he has bequeathed a significant portion of his estate to Oswego, and he established a charitable gift annuity in honor of the 50th reunion of his class.

With ongoing gifts, James supports a scholarship for non-traditional learners, provides a fund dedicated to equipment and facilities improvement, and maintains a student program fund for the School of Education.

James invites those interested in information about the Sheldon Legacy Society and planned giving to call the Office of University Development at 315-312-3003.

“Planned giving is the ultimate commitment to Oswego and its students,” James says. “It’s a way to ensure that the legacy of learning extends into the future by enabling current students to complete their educations for the benefit of future generations. In this way, the Sheldon legacy, personal philanthropy and a donor’s family legacy are linked.”

—Linda Loomis ’90, M ’97

A member of the Oswego College Foundation Board, Jack James ’62 has added the role of Legacy Society chair to the many ways he supports Oswego and its students.
'A Christmas Carol' Evokes Memories of 1973 Campus Performance

AS PLANS SOLIDIFIED TO BRING REPERTORY ACTOR CARL WHIDDEN '75 TO CAMPUSS Dec. 6 to perform his one-actor version of Charles Dickens's beloved classic, "A Christmas Carol," 40-year-old memories began to surface and circulate among Oswego alumni and the ARTSwego staff. People remembered a cast of 158, including 130 local children, who had staged an original version of the story in 1973, when Whidden starred in the exacting role of Ebenezer Scrooge.

"Almost daily, we were finding connections with alumni and local residents who were involved in that memorable production," John Shaffer, director of arts programming for ARTSwego, says. "Legendary Professor Rosemary Nesbitt wrote and directed. It was a presentation of the Children's Theatre of Oswego and Blackfriars, and it had a lasting impact."

Whidden's two-act adaptation calls for him to portray 32 discrete characters, each of which has a unique personality and different accent. "I've had to do a lot of homework. It's challenging to switch characters quickly, get the accents accurate, and always—above all—be faithful to Dickens in my portrayal. There is one particular character that Whidden finds challenging to portray, but he refuses to name it. If I disclose it, then I'll be self-conscious when I am in front of an audience," he explains. Rather, the veteran of stage, television and screen says, "I value the great privilege of working in 'A Christmas Carol,' where every character is a delight to know."

Returning to Oswego, Whidden will refresh his memories of what he calls "Rosemary's most wonderful adaptation and execution;" he will conduct master classes in the theatre department, and he will connect with long-time friends, like Professor Mark Cole '73, with whom he has maintained a 42-year friendship.

This national tour, with an Oswego performance brings Whidden full circle and puts him once again in touch with a story he loves. "Imagine my excitement every time I perform. Every character in this story remains vital in our imaginations. The story, and the personalities are timeless, and it makes me feel ageless. After all, I'm 60, and I get to play Tiny Tim." —Linda Loomis '90 M ’97

Carl Whidden '75, in costume as himself, will portray 32 characters in the one-actor adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" in Hewitt Union ballroom Dec. 6.

Ellen Stengel Wahl '73, Oswego, displays a design board of a London street scene from an earlier campus/community production of the late Rosemary Nesbitt's adaptation of "A Christmas Carol." Ellen's husband, Mark '74, was lighting designer, and Ellen was student director; they both worked on sets and scenery for the original production.
Alumni Bookshelf

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


**John W. Parsons ’54** most recent novel, *ETB*, follows the heroine from his previous novel, *Stone and Mortar*, as she takes on another worldly cause. John has also written two other novels, *Unselfish* and *A Journey Through Life*. He is working on his fifth novel. Wasteland Press. 2012.

**Craig W. Fisher, PhD. ’65** shares his knowledge of fundamentals and information quality in the textbook, *Introduction to Information Quality* that he co-wrote with Eitel Lauria, Shobha Chengalur-Smith, and Richard Wang. The purpose of the textbook is to alert business professionals to the pervasiveness and criticality of data problems. The Author House. 2011.

**Edward Albert Maruggi ’72** tells mirthful tales of travelling through Italy in his most recent novel, *Humorous Happenings While Traveling in Italy*. Edward is the author of three other books pertaining to being an Italian-American, *Mushrooms, Sausage and Wine: Life with an Immigrant Father; Italian Heart, American Soul*, and *Remembrances*. Winston Publishing. 2011.

**Lois Hamill ’79** provides practical, step-by-step guidance for managing all facets of archival collections, from acquisition, arrangement and description to storage and security. *Archives for the Lay Person* is a guidebook for people who care for historical records, photographs, and collections but do not have professional training. AltaMira Press. 2013.

**Jodi Weinstein Mullen ’92 and Michael Mullen ’94**, both professors and staff members at SUNY Oswego, along with their children, Andrew and Leah, have written *Naughty No More*, a workbook for children who want to make good decisions. This book offers simple, kid-friendly activities that provide opportunities for growth. Balboa Press. 2013.
‘Return to Oz’ Returns

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR RETURN TO OZ IV, Oswego’s reunion for alumni of color, coming Sept. 27 to 29.

A special dinner and ball, a concert by the Gospel Choir, and a picnic at Fallbrook await you at the end of the “Yellow Brick Road” to Oswego.

Advance registrations are required. Visit alumni.oswego.edu/returntooz for more information and to register. Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/sunyoswegoreturntooz to post photos, give shout-outs or share songs you would like to hear throughout the weekend.

Don’t miss out! “Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Oz” this September.
State Champ Conquers the Hills in Tour de Syracuse

IN HIS CAREER AS A GUIDANCE COUNSELOR at Newburgh Free Academy, Thomas Hill ’96 helps students identify their interests, set reasonable goals, and plan actions to reach those goals. The 2013 first-place winner of Tour de Syracuse and the New York State Bicycle Racing Association Championship (both category 4) uses the same strategies in his pursuit of victory in cycle racing.

Four years ago, Hill was content to enjoy cycling as a way to socialize with friends. “When I bought my first road bike, I thought I’d never race it. Then the competitive side of me took over, and I decided to train for an event,” he said. Now, he’s on the road for approximately 150 miles a week. On a recent outing, he completed 6,000 feet of climbing over a 45-mile stretch.

“Basically, we just climbed four mountains that day,” Hill said. “I go out with the goal of torturing myself.” By pushing beyond the limits of the previous training session, Hill builds strength and endurance. As a positive side benefit, he has lost 50 to 60 pounds and gained stamina.

“Racing is a great motivation to get in shape,” Hill said. “Every pound on your body, you carry with you on every cycling session. Having that race goal in my mind, reaching for the win, helps me focus on my health and fitness.”

As NYSBRA champion, category 4, Hill could have been content to maintain the status quo. But, instead, he has continued to train hard and compete aggressively. By conquering his own best times and adding wins, he has moved to category 3. The upgrade to a more competitive category has made a big change in Hill’s goals and expectations, and he focuses now on improving his time rather than on winning each race he enters.

Hill and his wife, Sandra, a school nurse teacher, live in Walden with their six-year-old son, Thomas, who spends a lot of time riding his BMX bike.

Hill says he is proud to be part of an “Oswego Family.” His mother, Deborah Dixon Hill ’66 and father, Paul Hill ’66, met in Symphonic Choir when Dr. Maurice Boyd was the director. Before retirement, Paul taught chemistry at Newburgh Free Academy, and Deborah was a reading specialist at the elementary level. Both work part-time in college-level education programs.

“My parents were careful not to influence me in my college decision,” Hill said. “I had a few choices in mind, but when I visited the campus, that clinched it for me.” He majored in Zoology and Spanish at Oswego, and earned a master’s of science degree at Fordham University.

Hill’s mother is not surprised that he has excelled at road racing. “Tom was always a good athlete,” she said, “and he loves moving fast.” Still, it is the slower, more serene moments at his alma mater that stay with him today.

“I’ll always be grateful for the years I spent at Oswego,” Hill said. “Some of my fondest memories are those of just relaxing at the shore with friends.”

―Linda Loomis ’90 M’97
Commentary Editor stands ‘on the front line of history’

LANDING A JOB IN LOS ANGELES AFTER graduation, Michelle Rene Garcia ’06 continues to work for a cause she values. At The Advocate, a gay rights magazine, she began as a temporary hire and advanced to commentary editor.

“We’re on the front line of history,” she says. “In the seven years I’ve been here, I’ve witnessed a massive sea change in the way Americans view gay rights.” She notes the milestones of justice: a president who supports the freedom to marry and still gets re-elected; positive representations in the media, a dozen states legalizing marriage equality, and LGBT people, including celebrities and athletes, coming out to their families, friends and coworkers.

“Equality isn’t just an issue of the gay agenda or some lobbying group, a faceless ‘they.’ Now, it’s about someone’s son, or sister or best friend. It’s personal, and people are remembering that personal is political again.”

After graduation, Garcia, who was active on the Oswegonian and worked as a resident assistant, and her husband, Adam Campbell-Schmitt ’06, headed to L.A., where Adam, a broadcast major, works as a stage director and comedy writer.

“We met at Oswego, doing improv. ‘Cause that’s what the cool kids do.”

Garcia, who majored in Journalism with minors in Political Science and Women’s Studies, says all her interests, education and experience have come together in her career and in the screenwriting she’s doing on the side.

“Thirty years from now, I can look back at this time and say: I was there. I was part of history.”

—Linda Loomis ’90 M ’97
Journalism Degree Leads Alumna to Dream Job as Cook

WE CALL IT “SERENDIPITY” WHEN DREAMS come true. Nicole Castro Pursel ’09 says she’s had a brush with that unexplainable good fortune in her career. After completing an internship at Time Warner Sports and earning her degree in journalism, she accepted an administrative assistant position at Wegmans in her hometown of Rochester.

One lucky day, she was asked to help out with the monthly “Wegmans Cooks” segment on Bridge Street, a Syracuse-based morning television show, where Chris Brandolino ’96 is one of the hosts. Pursel says all her experiences and education kicked in once she was suited up and on the set.

“My Oswego experience as an on-air talent for WTOP and my journalism background in gathering and presenting information clearly and accurately really helped.”

Inspired by her experience on Bridge Street, Pursel applied for a transfer from desk to kitchen, and she’s now an administrative cook for the Rochester-based retail grocer, working in the Liverpool store. With the head chef, she oversees food preparation, organizes ordering and helps train food workers.

“I love my job,” she says. “It’s a dream come true.” As for that cooking show of her own. Well, someday, perhaps. But for now,
1) One good marketing tip anyone can use:
   Life is like an apple. When you're green you're growing. When you're ripe, you rot. You have to stay fresh all the time!

2) One bad idea everyone should avoid:
   Trying to eat Ramen noodles while driving.

3) One good reason to see a roller derby bout:
   Women of all shapes and sizes, from all walks of life, confronting each other on the rink and having a smile on their faces afterward!

4) One good reason to give back to Oswego:
   Many people don't know this, but when they were students, alumni were donating to the college, and they personally benefited from their donation—whether in the form of lowered tuition, improvements to dorms and classrooms, or updated technology. We all need to pay it forward!

5) Proudest achievement:
   I have a ton—my kids, my husband and probably one of my biggest would be my work as co-chair for the Oswego County SAVE chapter (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education). I co-chair a walk on campus every year that draws in more than 500 students and community members. Another thing I was able to cross off my bucket list was establishing a scholarship in my brother's name.

6) Greatest Oswego moment:
   I would have to say the first week of classes and meeting my husband.

7) Toughest Oswego class:
   OMG. Psychology 101.

8) Easiest decision:
   Staying in Oswego and helping my husband with his business (Dynamic Sound & Security) and raising a family. We just fell in love with the community.

9) Coolest car accessory:
   Sirius radio! Especially with my commute in the morning—oh and a cup holder for my morning Joe!

10) Nicest on-campus place to visit:
    Definitely the Campus Center and going to a hockey game!
Oswego Service Projects Sparked Fire for Volunteering in Peace Corps Worker

SHANNON LINEHAN ’10 HAS RETURNED FROM A 27-month long journey to Zambia, where she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer under the Rural Education Development Program.

While in the Peace Corps, Linehan taught eighth and ninth-grade English, established a secure and functioning community preschool and created a Parent-Teacher Association. She also coordinated a pen-pal exchange project with an eighth-grade classroom in Zambia and a school in northern California where students were encouraged to practice their writing skills and exchange cultural perspectives.

She planned and held weekly sessions of Girls Leading Our World (G.L.O.W.) club, an empowerment organization focusing on leadership, confidence and decision making. Linehan wrote and received a grant to fund a weeklong session of Camp G.L.O.W.

Linehan says she found inspiration at Oswego after involving herself with the alternative spring and winter break program through the Office of Service Learning and Community Service.

“I feel like I owe so much of my starting point to these programs at Oswego,” Linehan said.

—Brittany Hoffmann ’14

OsweGo Matters
By Executive Director
Betsy Oberst

R elationships. Connections. These two ideas came to life for me in very meaningful ways starting with Reunion 2013. This was my husband Jerry’s ’77 35th cluster reunion, so many of our long-time Oswego friends returned to campus, and we shared memories and laughter galore, the joys that really only happen with those people with whom you have long-time relationships and experiences.

During Reunion Weekend, the Board of Directors of the Oswego Alumni Association holds its annual meeting. Board member Judy Letvak ’83, one of Oswego’s most loyal cheerleaders, ambassadors and advocates, was with us for the last time. She was unable to attend most of the Reunion Weekend activities, but she did attend the Board meeting.

Unexpectedly, Judy passed away just two weeks later. The outpouring from alumni—fellow Board members, her wide circle of close friends from the ‘80s who still gather annually, and recent alumni friends she had mentored in their post-Oswego job searches—was testament both to Judy and to the power of relationships and connections we make at Oswego.

The relationship Jerry and I have with magazine cover feature George Wurtz ’78 and his wife, Nancy, goes back more than 30 years—when we were all young, newly married and starting families and careers. George and Nancy lived in Fulton, where George started what was the beginning of a successful career in industry at Miller Brewing. Nancy was my Lamaze teacher and the nurse who helped deliver our first two children.

George and Nancy moved away in the mid-1980s, but we have reconnected as George has engaged with Oswego and our students in many meaningful ways.

And then there is this issue of the magazine. When Michele Reed, our most recent editor, retired last spring, we had to move quickly to ensure we continued to get OSWEGO in the hands of our readers without interruption! We reached out to our two previous editors, Denise Owen Harrigan—“Denny” to those of us in the Alumni Office—and Linda Morley Loomis ’90 M ’97. They enthusiastically agreed to sign on, along with Michele, to produce this, “the alumni editors reunion” issue.

It’s been a joy to reconnect with Denny and remember when we worked together in the Alumni Office in the ’80s and ’90s—and to see Linda again almost daily as she shepherded this issue to print.

So, my message? Cherish your friendships, relationships and connections. Don’t wait to reconnect. Come back to your next Oswego reunion, reach out and encourage those you knew when you were here to come back too. In the meantime, reconnect with friends and classmates through our new and improved OsweGoConnect online alumni community!

Betsy
Brenda Grossi ‘06 and Adam Tabolt ‘05 M ‘06 were married October 13, 2012 at The Radisson Hotel in Utica, NY. Alumni in attendance included front row from left: Mary Schiraldi Lee ‘06, Johannah Harp Brown ‘06, Scott Brown ‘06, Henre Hamblin ‘05, bridegroom, Andrew Barton ‘05, Russel Korn ‘05, Jason Rockwell ‘05, Jason Barton ‘05, Dan Steere ‘07, and Christina Donlan Raineri ‘08. The couple resides in Liverpool.

Kara Hopkins Pederson ‘07, M ‘09 and Jason Pederson ‘07 were married October 13, 2012 at Bay Shore Grove in Oswego. Pictured in the front row from the left are alumni Don Neels ‘70, Bethany Zehr ‘07 M’09, Erin Frederick ‘07 M’09, Keely Duffany ‘08, Katherine Ralston ’07, Diana Major ‘08, Chris Hill ‘09, and Keri Kissane ‘09. Pictured in the back row are Joel Ralston ‘06, Eric Romano ‘07 M’09, and Mike Hagadorn ‘08 M’09. Kara and Jason live in Albany.

Jessica Miller ‘05 and Greg Brewster ‘05 were married on Sept. 8, 2012 in Boston, Mass. Pictured from the left, Patrick Tobiasson ‘07, Kathleen Dolan Tobiasson ‘06, Fred Vigeant ‘02, Michelle Joyner Vigeant ‘04, Chris VerSchneider ’10, Chris Cherkis ‘05, Matthew Lystad ’06, Matthew Gabriel ‘04, Whitney Lash Marshall ’06, Jenny Hawley ‘06, and Nancy Zielenksi ‘06. Jessica is a commercial property manager, and Greg is the electronics specialist for SUNY Oswego’s theatre department.

Joseph Miner ‘09 and Heather Elizabeth Berkley of Watertown were married on Oct. 13 at the Watertown Elks Lodge. Joseph graduated from Oswego with a bachelor’s degree in childhood education. He is an applied behavior analyst therapist for Three Tier Consulting in Watertown.

Josephine Miller ‘05 and Greg Brewster ‘05 were married on Sept. 8, 2012 in Boston, Mass. Pictured from the left, Patrick Tobiasson ‘07, Kathleen Dolan Tobiasson ‘06, Fred Vigeant ‘02, Michelle Joyner Vigeant ‘04, Chris VerSchneider ’10, Chris Cherkis ‘05, Matthew Lystad ’06, Matthew Gabriel ‘04, Whitney Lash Marshall ’06, Jenny Hawley ‘06, and Nancy Zielenksi ‘06. Jessica is a commercial property manager, and Greg is the electronics specialist for SUNY Oswego’s theatre department.
Carl teaches Chemistry at Pulaski High School. They have both been back-to-back cruises. Justine and Carl began dating in high school and the couple honeymooned on 15, 2011 at First United Methodist Church in Liverpool. A reception was held in the grand ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel in Syracuse and the couple honeymooned on back-to-back cruises. Justine and Carl began dating in high school and both lived in Funnelle Hall throughout their undergradu-

Margaret Mullen Madey ’36 of Phoenix died Feb. 18, 2013. She taught in the Mexico Central School District. Together with her husband, Mitchell, they ran Madey Grocery in Oswego. Upon her return to Phoenix, she was a substitute teacher in the Phoenix School District.

Dorothy Laurentine Blanchard ’37 of Martville passed away Dec. 28, 2012. She taught for more than 20 years, first in one-room schoolhouses, then at Cato-Meridian Central School. Dorothy is survived by two daughters, one son, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

John Corso ’42 of Mexico passed away April 25, 2013. He served with the U.S. Army during WWII. John taught at Pennsylvania State University for 10 years, and was chair of the psychology department at SUNY Cortland for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Linda; three children; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Donald Henry ’43 of Bradenton, Fla. passed away July 16, 2011. He taught industrial arts in the Ithaca School District for 34 years. Surviving are his wife, Genevieve Walker ’42; four sons; a daughter; 14 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren.

Betty Slade Buchanan Lowe ’43 of Phoenix passed away May 4, 2013. She was an art teacher in the Phoenix Central School District for many years. Betty is survived by her son; James Buchanan; three grandchildren; a great-grandson; and a great-great-granddaughter.

Marian Hudson Fanning ’44 of Volney passed away April 29, 2013. Marian taught for 34 years, first in Port Byron, then at the Moses DeWitt Elementary School in Dewitt. She is survived by her husband, Fay; children, Fred ’93, and Mary Ellen Guyette; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson.


Helen Longway Kaiser ’47 of Gulf Breeze, Fla. died Feb. 4, 2013. She taught in Mexico and at Kingsford Park Elementary School in Oswego. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert ’48. Helen is survived by four daughters; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Annamae Donovan ’42.

Arlene Fix Stenuf ’47 of Skaneateles passed away Jan. 17, 2013. She earned her master’s degree at Syracuse University. Arlene taught in Fairmount and in Virginia. She is survived by a daughter, a son; and four grandchildren.


John Day ’49 of Green Valley, Ariz. died Jan. 28, 2013. He served with the U.S. Army Air Corp during WWII. John taught industrial arts in Fairfield and Westport for 34 years. Surviving are his wife, Evelyn; four children; and eight grandchildren.

Elaine Doyle Stratton ’49 of Los Alamos, N.M. died March 5, 2013. She earned a master’s degree at New York University. Elaine is survived by her husband, Thomas; and two daughters.

Edward Vanca ’49 of Binghamton passed away Jan. 25, 2009. He served with the Army Air Corps during WWII. Edward earned a master’s degree from Columbia University in 1953. He retired after teaching cabinet making for 32 years at Binghamton North High School. He is survived by his wife, Amy ’49; a son, two daughters; and four grandchildren.

Harold Cloud ’50 of Claremont, N.H. passed away Jan. 22, 2013. “Dusty” served with the U.S. Army during WWII. He earned master’s degrees in secondary education and guidance. He worked for many years at West Babylon Junior High School. Dusty is survived by his wife, Donna; a daughter; six grandchildren; one great-grandson; two stepsons; and two step-grandchildren.

Lucile Smith Easterbrook ’50 of Oxford, Miss. passed away Feb. 13, 2013. She taught in the Elmira-Corning area. Lucile was predeceased by her husband, Charles ’49, and is survived by two sons and four granddaughters.

Rita Gunshor Wax ’50 of Miami passed away Dec. 22, 2012. She had been a teacher and administrator in the Miami-Dade County public school system. Rita is survived by her husband, Ira ’49; two children; and two grandchildren.

Thomas Carpenter, M ’51 of Bend, Oregon died Feb. 24, 2013. He earned his bach-
elors degree at Hamilton College in 1942. He served with the U.S. Navy during WWII. Tom taught English in Overbrook, Pa., Port Leyden, and Boonville, retiring in 1980. Surviving are two sons, a stepson, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Katherine Farnsworth Loope ’51 of Manlius died April 30, 2013. She earned her master’s degree at Syracuse University. Katherine taught kindergarten for 25 years in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.


William Rosenberg ’51 of Miami passed away April 11, 2013. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He earned his master’s degree in 1960 at Hofstra University. William had a long career in teaching with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a teacher and administrator. He served as principal at James L. Bright Elementary School in Hialeah until his retirement in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Floraine Unger ’53; a son; a daughter; and five grandchildren.

Adrian Meister ’52 of State College, Penn. died Jan. 27, 2013. He served with the U.S. Navy during WWII. Adrian taught industrial arts at Baldwinsville High School, then was an artisan for General Electric for 30 years. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jeanne Marie Powell O’Brien ’52 of Constableville, N.Y. passed away Jan. 2, 2013. She began her teaching career at Boonville Central School, and taught for 30 years at Constableville Central School, retiring in 1991. She was predeceased by her husband, Stuart and her daughter.


Maureen Doyle Baer ’54 of Redlands, Calif. passed away Jan. 4, 2013. She is survived by her son, Robert.

Donald Jones ’54 of Mohawk, died Feb. 22, 2013. He taught industrial arts at Little Falls Central School. Don is survived by his wife, Ann; five sons; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mary Etman Rucci ’54 of Suffern, N.Y. passed away Nov. 28, 2012. Mary retired from the Ramapo Central School District after teaching for 27 years. She is survived by her husband, Alphonso; two sons; a daughter; five grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

David Star ’55 of Maale Adumim, Israel, formerly of Schenectady died Jan. 19, 2012. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. David was a teacher in the Schenectady City School District for almost 30 years. Surviving are his wife, Rita; three daughters; a son; 23 adoring grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Barbara Gour Gauding ’56 of Spring Hill, Fla. died Feb. 14, 2011. She was a retired real estate agent with Beck Builders in Spring Hill, and taught second grade in Kenmore and Baldwinsville, N.Y. She is survived by her husband, Donald ’58; a daughter; three sons; and nine grandchildren.

Thomas Schrader ’56 of Latham, N.Y. died Nov. 26, 2009. He retired in 1986 after a 30-year career teaching industrial arts in Laurens Central School District and East Greenbush Central School District. Surviving are his wife, Barbara; three children; and four grandchildren.

Ann Westover Johnson ’57 of North Syracuse died March 1, 2013. Prior to her retirement, she was a teacher in the Liverpool School District for 28 years. Ann is survived by her husband, Bruce; three children; two step-children; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Frank Galletti ’58 of North Babylon, N.Y. passed away Nov. 12, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Jacobs ’58, and two children.

Audrey Naughton VanBroeklin ’58 of Bristol, Conn. died June 28, 2012. She earned her master’s degree at Columbia University Teachers College. Prior to retirement in 1997, she taught mathematics in Levittown, N.Y. and West Hartford, Conn. She is survived by her husband, Owen ’57, two sons; and four grandchildren.

Lee Carey ’59 of Centerville, Mass. died June 14, 2012. He was a professor at Bergen Community College prior to his retirement.

Raymond Reisinger ’59 of Schenectady died Dec. 13, 2012. He served in the U.S. Air Forces in the Pacific Theater during WWII. Raymond earned his master’s degree at SUNY Albany and his doctorate at Ohio State. He taught in Binghamton, Amsterdam and Schenectady. During the mid-1960s he was an associate professor at SUNY Oswego, serving as the Albany regional director of 24 counties for the teacher training programs. He then served as the NYS research associate at the new Ohio State Center for Vocational Technical Education in Columbus, Ohio. Upon his return to New York, he worked for the NYS Department of Education, then as director of education for the NYS Department of Corrections until his retirement in 1975. In retirement, he worked as a consultant and taught at community colleges and universities. Raymond is survived by his wife, Betty; two sons; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Judy Fry Maiohofer ’61 of Baldwinsville passed away Dec. 24, 2012. She was also a graduate of Columbia University Teachers College. Judy taught in the Peekskill and Ossining school districts and for the Southern Westchester BOCES. She is survived by her husband, Walter ’60; a son; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

Jane Garono Domon ’64 of Mayville, passed away Jan. 23, 2013. Surviving are her husband, Robert; three sons; and seven grandchildren.

Patricia Russell Seccret ’64 of Silver Lake, Ohio passed away Dec. 21, 2012. She taught in Syracuse and later in Washington, D.C. Patty is survived by her husband, Don; her children, Jennifer and Ryan; and two grandchildren. Contributions for a memorial bench on the SUNY Oswego campus may be made to the Oswego College Foundation, 215 Sheldon Hall, Oswego, NY 13126.

Carolyn Zumbrun ’64 of New Hartford passed away Dec. 28, 2012. She was also a graduate of Syracuse University. Carolyn taught in the Suffern and Oriskany School Districts, at the Crane Hill School in Marcy, and at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center in Pinefield for over 30 years. She is survived by a brother, a sister, and many nieces and nephews.


Timothy Morell ’69 of Leesburg, Fla. passed away Jan. 21, 2013. He is survived by his parents, Eugene and Angelina; his wife, Marguerite; two children and four grandchildren.

Thomas Jackson ’70 of Syracuse passed away May 20, 2013. He taught sixth grade in the Chittenango School District for 32 years. Tom is survived by his wife, Linda Calver ’69; two children; his mother; and four brothers, including Daniel ’75.

Barbara Hoebeler Diffendale ’73 of Malverne, N.Y. passed away Aug. 19, 2012. Prior to retiring, she taught math at Long Beach Middle School. Surviving are her husband, William; three children; and six grandchildren.
Steven Forman ’73 of Camillus passed away Nov. 15, 2012. He was a graduate of the University of Milan, Italy, Medical School and the LeMoyne College Physician Assistant Program. Steven was most recently employed at Syracuse Community Health Center. He was an Eagle Scout. Steven is survived by his wife, Donna Coloton ’73, and a daughter.

Denise Palumbo ’73 of Ballston Spa passed away Feb. 13, 2013. She worked for General Electric Power Turbine Division as a technical instructor prior to retiring. Denise is survived by her life partner, Bernadine Peterson; her mother; and a son.

Paul Stockmyer ’73 of Scio Center, died June 18, 2011. He was a pastor at Scott Methodist Church. Paul is survived by his wife, Kathleen; two sons; and five grandchildren.

Peter Hartin ’75 of Virginia Beach passed away May 14, 2013. He worked in telecommunications sales for 34 years, first with Motorola, then with Nextel and Sprint. He was recently hired at Gately Communications. Peter is survived by his wife, Bobbi Collins ’74, and three sons.

Larry Fleischer ’76 of Bennington, N.H. died July 6, 2012. He had worked as a social worker for 30 years. Larry is survived by his wife, Christine; and a daughter.

Gary Ingersoll ’76 of Camillus passed away May 26, 2013. He retired recently as vice president of Edward Joy Electric Company. Surviving are his wife, Susan Higgins ’69; a son, Gary; a daughter, Megan Walters ’04; a stepson, Ryan Meehan; and three grandchildren.

Thomas Lenihan ’76 of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Skaneateles passed away on March 20, 2013. He earned his MBA at the Mason School of Business at the College of William and Mary. Tom worked for MetLife for 30 years, retiring in 2009. He was the chair of the Oswego College Foundation’s Investment Committee. Tom is survived by his wife, Lynn Van Order ’76, a son, Brian; and a daughter, Colleen. Contributions in Tom’s memory can be made to the Oswego College Foundation, 215 Sheldon Hall, Oswego, NY 13126.

Joyce Cambarerì Trogdon ’76 of Darlington, S.C. died Feb. 10, 2013. She is survived by her husband, John; four children; and two grandchildren.

Gary Illingworth ’79 of Oswego died March 26, 2013. He was a 20-year veteran of the New York Air National Guard. Surviving are his wife, Janet Hampton ’63; and two daughters, Heather ’05 and Sarah.

Howard Seigel ’79 of Clearwater, Fla. died Feb. 2, 2013. He earned his DPM from New York College of Podiatric Medicine. Howard is survived by two sons.


Dale Davis ’81 of Oswego passed away Jan. 28, 2013. He was a self-employed contractor. “Chip” is survived by his father, Dale; a daughter, Sarah; a son, Kyle ’07; three sisters, Deborah Sprague ’90; Laurie Yule ’85; and Kimberlee Buskey; and two step-siblings.

Judy Letvák ’83, of New York City, passed away June 23, 2013. She was a member of the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2009 and was active as a mentor to Oswego students and graduates. Judy was previously the manager of Madison Square Gardens Human Management Systems. She is a volunteer for and supporter of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Network and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She is survived by her parents, two brothers, a sister, nieces and nephews and a large circle of Oswego friends. Gifts in Judy’s memory may be sent to the Oswego College Foundation, 215 Sheldon Hall, State University of New York, Oswego, N.Y. 13126.


Lisa Sweazey Topoleski ’89 of Freeville, passed away Feb. 12, 2013. She received her master’s degree from San Diego State. She taught in the South Seneca School District and the Lansing Central School District. Surviving are her husband, Daniel; and three daughters.

Lori Bresnahin ’91 of Liverpool died March 14, 2013. She earned her master’s degree from Syracuse University. Lori was a school librarian in the Liverpool School District and had previously worked in the Oswego and Syracuse City School Districts. She is survived by her daughter and her mother.

Margaret Reilly Harrigan ’91 M ’96 of Syracuse passed away April 22, 2013. She was a grad of Central City Business Institute and Ondondaga Community College. She began her teaching career at Bellevue Heights Nursery School. After completing her bachelor’s degree, Peggy taught at John T. Roberts Elementary School until her retirement in 2012. Surviving are two sons; a daughter; and eight grandchildren.

Sue Fulkerson ’92, M ’97 of Adams, passed away Feb. 8, 2013. She earned an associate’s degree from Jefferson Community College. Sue was the proprietor of Business Help Accounting & Tax Preparations until her retirement in 2005. Surviving are her husband, Roy; two children; and four grandchildren.

Joseph Cahill ’94 of Boulder, Colo. died April 28, 2013. He was a lighting designer in the music industry. Surviving are his mother, Regina; a daughter, Cassidy; three brothers; and two sisters.

Angela Bellardini ’95 of Washington, D.C. died May 18, 2013. She earned her master’s degree at Catholic University and was a librarian at the College of Nursing and Science at Catholic University. Surviving are her parents, Ernest and Mary; and four brothers, including Christopher ’85.

Patrick McGarry ’97 of Glenville, passed away Oct. 20, 2011. He received his master’s degree from the College of St. Rose. Pat taught at Zoller Elementary School in Schenectady. He previously taught at Woodlawn Elementary School and at the International Charter School of Schenectady. Surviving are his parents, Greg and June; two brothers and a sister.

Lisa Teifke Domicolo ’00 M ’06 of Mexico passed away March 14, 2013. She was a first grade teacher at New Haven Elementary School. Surviving are her husband, Michael; a daughter; and a son.

Matthew Leonardo ’05 of Penfield passed away March 17, 2013. He is survived by his parents, Joseph and Marcelline; a brother; and three sisters.

Joseph Kendrick ’10 of Liverpool passed away April 30, 2013. He was the owner and operator of Custom Cleanout Champs in Auburn. Surviving are a sister and four brothers.

Ian Cuthill, former Visiting Professor in the School of Business passed away April 21, 2013. He was a graduate of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in London, earned an MBA at the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from Syracuse University. Surviving are his wife, Jean; four children; and nine grandchildren.

John Schluep, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics passed away Feb. 2, 2013. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Hartwick College and a master’s degree at Columbia University. John served with the U.S. Navy in WWII. He co-authored several books, including a series of math textbooks for elementary schools. Surviving are his wife, Betty; three children; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.
All of Equal Value

(This excerpt from Someone, a work of fiction, is set in the aftermath of World War II. In this chapter, author Alice McDermott ’75 writes about a returned airman telling his near-death story and explaining his miraculous reprieve. McDermott’s lyrical novel examines an ordinary woman’s life as it is lived day by day in an Irish-American Brooklyn neighborhood.)

His parachute training, Tom said, had been short and perfunctory, and after a few easy missions, he’d stopped even imagining himself jumping out of a plane. When the order came, the plane shuddering—like a subway car going over cobblestones, he said—he gripped the door. He seriously considered just hanging on. Going down with the ship. But then he felt a push from behind and then he dropped into the worst nightmare anybody ever had: cloud, smoke, the thick smell of the fuel. A dream’s endless falling.

He laughed telling it, as if it were a joke and the joke was on him.

He said he only remembered after he had pulled the parachute cord—touching his forehead in a comic gesture of despair—that he was supposed to count to ten before he pulled it, not after. And then he counted anyway, a second too late.

And then out of the noise of the worst and loudest sound he had ever heard and hoped never to hear again he fell into dead silence. Nothing at all, he said—and held out his hands and made his eyes wide to replicate his astonishment.

So suddenly quiet that he thought his ears were blown out for good. He saw the air was now blue and there was a serene patchwork world beneath him. Even children running across a churchyard, into a field, and he thought—“I kid you not,” he said in his the-joke’s-on-me way—“now, this isn’t so bad. I could get used to this.”

The children were the first to reach him when he fell, tumbling back to the hard earth, busting up his shoulder, breaking his wrist.

“But those kids,” he said, “That was the luck of the Irish, it turned out.”

Because, he said, the next thing he knew a mad old Kraut was pointing a Luger at his head, so close that he could smell the hot metal. “He was in a tizzy,” Tom said. “Mad as hell,” and he apologized to my mother for his language. “I couldn’t understand anything he said but ‘kinder,’ waving the goddamn gun”—he apologized again—and telling me, I guess, that he’d like to blow my brains out except for the kids who were there, all around us. He even tried to chase them away, but they were having too much fun, throwing little handfuls of mud in my direction, yelling their heads off. So much excitement. You know how kids are.” He laughed and touched his fingers to the teacup. “The crazy old Kraut had enough decency not to want to shoot me in front of them.”

My mother put her hands to her lips and said, “Glory be.” Tom gave a self-deprecating wave of his hand. “Well,” he said, “To make a long story short, a German officer showed up—officer hell, he looked all of eighteen—and gave the old man Hail Columbia in German, and then told me in English to get out of the harness and follow him—macht schnell—if I wanted to live. It took me a few minutes to get it. I thought I was already dead.”

He laughed again. He was enjoying our attention. He was a man who loved to talk.

“This fellow grabbed me under the arm. I was still wobbly-kneed, shaking like a leaf. He told me the old man was crazy, crazy with grief. He’d learned just the day before that his son, his only child, a German airman, had been killed by the Allies. So he was out for revenge. He would have put a bullet in my head if those kids hadn’t been there.”

“An eye for an eye,” my brother said.

Tom sat forward. He shook his head. “But here’s the thing.” He was smiling oddly, with less mirth than before. “Here’s the way I looked at it. If the old guy had shot me, then and there, it wouldn’t have been the same. It wouldn’t have been equal.”

He turned to my mother, as if she alone needed an explanation. “I was an orphan, you see,” he told her. “A Foundling Home kid. I had no father to grieve me. So it wouldn’t have evened out, if he’d shot me right then and there. There would have been no counterpart, no American counterpart, so to speak, to match that poor old Kraut and his grief. There still would have been more pain on his side of it. The pain of a father losing a child. There wouldn’t have been any pain like that on my side, since I had no father. So it wouldn’t have been equal.”

There was an awkward silence. And then my brother said softly, “We’re all of equal value in the eyes of God.”

Tom turned to him with some admiration. “Well, that’s a nicer way to think of it,” he said. He said, “That’s a good point,” and smiled again before he added, “But that don’t mean some of us won’t leave this world without anyone taking notice.”

Alice McDermott ’75 is the author of seven novels, including Someone; After This; Child of My Heart; Charming Billy, winner of the 1998 National Book Award; and At Weddings and Wakes, all published by FSG. That Night, At Weddings and Wakes, and After This were all finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. In June, she was inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame 2013. McDermott lives with her family outside Washington, D.C.
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Luciano Iorizzo

In the cozy dining room of his home on the west side of Oswego, Professor Emeritus of History Luciano Iorizzo positions his beloved stand-up bass next to a grandfather clock. It’s a favorite of his wife of 60 years, Marilee, and it stands near a print by Professor Emeritus of Art Tom Seawell, “American Album—Missouri.” The memories come flooding back.

“Tom and I started at Oswego together, around 1962,” Iorizzo recalls. And he vividly remembers his first office—in the barracks of Splinter Village, shared with the late Raymond Wedlake, History department, and Music Professors Dr. Anthony Crain, Dr. Mailynn Smiley and the late Dr. James Soluri, who got Iorizzo to play bass for ‘The Fantastiks’ and “Once Upon a Mattress” in Oswego’s summer theatre.

But for the founder and first chair of Oswego’s public justice department, the sweetest memories are those of his students. Iorizzo reminisces about Celia Sgroi ’70, who would follow in his footsteps as chair of public justice; Kathy McHale Mantaro ’65 M ’70, who retired as a successful librarian, and Robert Bruce McBride ’69 M ’72, who made a name for himself in the criminal justice field, as well as a host of other students who inspire his pride.

“It’s so nice to see them develop from green freshman to confident senior. That’s what makes it worthwhile—to see young people develop,” he says.

He and Marilee both served as advisers to Greek groups—Alpha Delta Eta and Alpha Sigma Chi, and former sisters still get in touch.

The World War II veteran earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School. When he joined the Oswego faculty in 1962, history was part of the social sciences department, and Iorizzo taught alongside scholars in economics, sociology, and other disciplines, before history became its own department in 1966. He taught courses in the history of the U.S., New York state and the labor movement. He developed a popular course in immigration history, which led to one on organized crime, and the two topics became the lifelong focus of his scholarly research. One of Iorizzo’s seven books—most focused on immigration, especially that of Italian-Americans—was a life of Al Capone, later published in China and Korea.

Several of his writing credits came during retirement, and his latest, a chapter in the book Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts, was published earlier this year.

But retirement is not all work and no play for this Renaissance man. An avid golfer, he also enjoys playing his bass in an impromptu jazz band of fellow emeritus faculty members and the New Horizons Band of retirees.

Family is a big focus for the Iorizzos. The walls of their home are adorned with photos of their five children, 12 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, and the doorjamb into the kitchen bears pencil marks noting their growth.

Besides the books, music and family, Iorizzo’s legacy includes a scholarship in his name founded by a grateful former student. Although he does not choose the recipients, Iorizzo is thrilled to meet them each year, and he is thankful that the fund in his name can help them, just as he was helped as a student. “It’s recognition of their productivity, their excellent performance,” he said. “I hope it is an inspiration to them, and keeps them going.” He also hopes when they graduate and become successful they will be similarly inspired to pass on the help to generations to come, creating their own Oswego legacy.