Meet the Village People

PLUS

- Oswego Goes to War
- Need for Feeds
- Nanotechnology: Bringing things down to size
- Fishing for Hope
There have never been more ways to connect with the Oswego Alumni Association and more than 75,000 of your fellow graduates.

Join our exclusive online community, OsweGoConnect; network on the LinkedIn group; become a fan on Facebook; or follow our tweets on Twitter.

Find all the links at oswego.edu/alumni and stay current with upcoming events, the latest news and much more.

Send us your e-mail address to receive our newly redesigned Lake E-effect e-newsletter each month and other important event invitations and campus news. Update or add your e-mail address today at alumni@oswego.edu.
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Oswego's new townhouse complex, the Village, opened to much excitement this autumn. See what the new home of 348 juniors, seniors and graduate students looks like.

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When their country needed them, they answered the call. They are the World War II generation of Oswego students. Read about their experiences in this issue’s installment of our "150 Years: Views and Voices" series.

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WEB EXTRAS
Check out Oswego alumni magazine online for enhanced content including photos, video and story extras at oswego.edu/alumni/magazine.

ON THE COVER: Students at the new Village apartment complex by Glimmerglass Lagoon get ready for another busy day. Photo by Robert Mescavage.
President’s Desk

Oswego Alumni Magazine

On a college campus, we are learning every day, and one of the things I’ve learned as president is that this college is a dynamic, living organism. Like any organism in nature, it is constantly growing, changing and adapting to its environment.

When I became president in 1995, e-mail was just beginning to be a popular form of communicating, and social networking was just a concept. Now, the college has a Facebook page, we tweet and we stream live lectures and sports games online, so you can participate in the life of the college no matter where you live. In October, we launched a new look to oswego.edu. I invite you to visit online and learn more about our campus.

This organism that is our college can never stand still. It is always looking to the future, whether it is growing new leaders, implementing new technological tools to better serve our students, or improving our physical campus.

This autumn we welcomed our students back to a campus that is undergoing a physical renewal — as we embark on a $118 million renovation project to create our Science, Engineering and Innovation Corridor. This state-of-the-art facility will kindle the kind of innovation and mastery that will benefit our community, New York state and the world and fuel the flame of scientific inquiry in our students’ lives.

We also officially opened the Village, our new townhouse complex to house 348 juniors, seniors and graduate students in an environmentally sustainable community overlooking our scenic Glimmerglass Lagoon.

I invite you to read about these two exciting capital projects and all our other innovations — in academic programs, student services and technological advances — in the pages of this magazine. Oswego is living, growing and adapting every day, and we think you’ll find plenty here to stoke your pride in your alma mater.

Deborah F. Stanley, President

FROM the Editor’s Pen

Next year, 2011, kicks off the college’s Sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of our founding by Edward Austin Sheldon in 1861. At Oswego alumni magazine we’ve been preparing for it with our “150 Years: Views and Voices” series, featuring the people, places and memories that make our college unique.

Next summer, we are planning a whole issue dedicated to our Sesquicentennial and we need your help. We’d like to focus on “150 Things We Love about Oswego.” Sure there’s the lake, the Loop and the lighthouse, the sunsets and the snow. But beyond the obvious, there are hundreds of wonderful memories attached to this place and a myriad of things that make your alma mater so special. Please share them with us.

Send us your stories and photos. Write to us at alumni@oswego.edu and put “150 Love” in the subject line or drop a letter in the mailbox to King Alumni Hall, 300 Washington Blvd., Oswego, NY 13126.

We can’t promise to use every story, but we’d love to hear your voices. This is your magazine and your story. We look forward to hearing from you!

Michele A. Reed, Oswego editor

CORRECTION

The Faculty Hall of Fame article about Dr. John Cooper in the Summer 2010 magazine failed to mention his beloved wife, June Cooper. “We have been married for over 63 years and I owe her my life,” writes Cooper, giving her full credit in their joint affairs, including travel and family relations.
No matter how you look at it, philanthropic support for Oswego is impressive. During the 2009-10 fiscal year, 7,533 loyal donors — alumni, faculty, staff, emeriti, parents and friends — donated $3,053,171 to The Fund for Oswego. Despite the continuing challenges of the economy, gifts to Oswego grew and the number of our most generous supporters increased, as we recognized nearly 1,000 members of the President’s Circle gift clubs.

What does this all signify for Oswego and our more than 8,000 students? It means our $9-million-plus endowment enhances the fiscal strength and security of our campus. It means we can offer more than 200 scholarships to help our students fulfill their dreams. It means thousands of dollars in research grants to students and faculty members to work on their scientific and creative projects. And it enhances our ability to bring dozens of alumni back to campus — to speak with more than 2,500 students in classrooms and panel discussions each year.

Alumni gifts figure into another important number: Support by alumni is one of the criteria considered by U.S. News and other polls as they determine college rankings. So your gifts directly impact the value of your Oswego degree as our college rises in the rankings based on your generosity.

Won’t you join us this year, as we raise the funds needed to carry on the work of founder Edward Austin Sheldon, as we approach the 150th anniversary of our college’s birth?

Thank you for your generosity!
“He’s 5 and his golfing future’s rosy,” read the headline in 1940 when the Syracuse Herald ran a photo of young Tom Brennan, at the edge of the green at Syracuse’s Sunnycrest Golf Course, pencil in hand. Now Golf Coach Emeritus Brennan, having retired from leading successful golf programs at three schools, can still be seen on the greens most days. But despite the fact that he’s officially retired, nothing much slows down this dynamo who keeps up a busy schedule of golfing, painting, speaking and writing.

Even as a child, Brennan was no stranger to the golf course. His uncles were PGA professionals and held various positions around Central New York. “It was always around me as a young lad,” says Brennan. When other kids were playing soccer and football, Brennan was on the golf course. He lived next door and calls Sunnycrest “my little playground.”

The Syracuse native earned his bachelor’s, master’s and CAS degrees from Syracuse University, after serving in the U.S. Navy. He joined the Oswego faculty in 1962 and coached the golf team until his retirement in 1989, racking up an impressive 11 consecutive SUNY Athletic Conference Golf Team Championships and 15 straight NCAA Division III Golf Championship appearances. He coached nine NCAA Golf All-Americans, including 1978 NCAA Division III Individual Champion Jim Quinn ’79 and PGA pro golfer Wayne Levi ’74.

His three straight undefeated seasons (60-0)—1969, 1970 and 1971—culminated in Oswego taking second place in the 1971 Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Golf Championships. His illustrious career would see him elected to the Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame in 1997, one of only 55 in the nation at that time.

“Coaching depends on the expertise of the coach and an athlete’s skill and respect,” Brennan says. “Equally important is the support of the athletic department, college faculty, administration, student body and community. When I was at Oswego State from ’62 to ’89, Oswego State had all those facets in line and that’s why we were so successful and so was the whole athletic program,” he says.

After his retirement from Oswego in 1989, Coach Brennan and his wife, Phyllis, moved to Myrtle Beach, S.C., known to many as “the Golf Capital of the World.” He would go on to teach and coach at Coastal Carolina University for 10 years and another eight at the Carolina Golf Academy, which trains PGA golf professionals. In the ’90s, he directed the summer Myrtle Beach Junior Golf Program.

The coach still shares his golf expertise through articles in the local newspapers and talks at area civic groups. He devotes himself to watercolor painting with the same passion he brought to the game of golf. And whenever they can, he and Phyllis visit sons Scott and Terry in the Syracuse area.

Sometimes at the beach or a golf course he will run into a former player. They remember the coach and the lessons they learned from him. It’s no wonder. He has a very positive personal teaching philosophy: “It’s teaching these young people, men and women, the personal values they can use in their lives,” he says. “Too many coaches are more interested in winning or losing than teaching these young people life’s values.”

— Michele Reed
With sharpened focus on the cutting edge of science, technology, engineering and math, SUNY Oswego leaders broke ground on a campus-transforming, $118 million build Sept. 17.

President Deborah F. Stanley called the massive makeover of Piez Hall into the Science, Engineering and Innovation Corridor the college’s “boldest and most ambitious project yet.”

In roughly three years, an innovative four-story structure will wrap around part of Piez Hall — more than a quarter-million square feet in all.

“This will kindle the kind of innovation and discovery that will impact this community, this state and the world,” Stanley told a crowd of staff, students and officials gathered on the worksite at the corner of Centennial Drive and Takamine Street. “Our region will see the economic stimulus.”

Former state Sen. James Wright ’71 praised the project for its potential to create jobs and improve the quality of life in the region both during the construction phase and afterward as a world-class producer of science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, graduates. The facility will give students the state-of-the-art instruments and environment they need to succeed, J. Mitchell Fields of the SUNY Construction Fund said.

“We work really hard to provide these opportunities for students,” he said, calling the Fund and SUNY Oswego partners in building future New Yorkers.

Dozens of those aspiring science professionals were on hand before the groundbreaking ceremony to show off research they performed with faculty during the Summer Scholars Program.

Fengrong Wong ’11 of China said she was able to share her research at the American Chemical Society’s national meeting in Boston this summer.

“The sciences field in America is the best in the world and a lot of the articles that are published are written in English,” said Wong, who spoke very little English when she arrived. “I wanted to immerse myself in it.”

She came to Oswego on an exchange program and stayed because of faculty members like Kestas Bendinskas, who worked with her on scientific research as well as learning the language.

“This is the only school where the professors are so accessible,” said psychology major Kiri Jarvis ’11, who was also presenting her research at the groundbreaking ceremony. The new science complex will only add to an already great program, she said.

“When I heard about it, I thought it was just incredible,” Jarvis said. “I’m jealous I won’t get to take classes there.”

Distinguished Teaching Professor Kenneth Hyde, who will retire at the close of the fall semester, expressed a similar sentiment in his remarks. He described the building project as a final leap forward in developing the math and science program that he has been a part of since Piez Hall opened four decades ago.

“Our founders had an idea and that idea came from energy and that energy was positive,” college Engineering Advisory Board Chair David E. Smith ’87 said. “If you leave one positive thought here today, things will manifest as time goes on.”

— Shane M. Liebler

See the conceptual design at oswego.edu/alumni/magazine
Happy 150th, SUNY Oswego!

SUNY Oswego’s Sesquicentennial celebration is about to begin. The anniversary of the college’s founding in 1861 will be marked with a number of events to begin in spring 2011. Watch future issues of Oswego alumni magazine, Lake Effect alumni e-newsletter and the oswego.edu website for more details.

And don’t forget to share your stories and memories with Oswego alumni magazine. Send an e-mail to alumni@oswego.edu and put “150 Love” in the subject line.

Some refining still needs to be done, he said, including a proposal to build an observatory at Rice Creek to replace the aging structure adjacent to the Romney Field House parking lot. The proposed observatory would expand program offerings at Rice Creek as a complement to the station’s primary biological and environmental focus, he added.

When the work on the field station begins, the building would need to be offline for about a year, Simmonds said. Community and campus programs utilizing Rice Creek’s trail system and other land among its approximately 400 acres would go on as construction permits. The trails are in for some new, information-rich signage as part of the project, he said.

In addition to serving as a living laboratory for the college’s science programs, Rice Creek Field Station regularly conducts nature education workshops and activities for the community. Each year, hundreds of schoolchildren, senior citizens and other members of the general public participate in such programs, while thousands more use the trails. Under a grant from the Natural Heritage Trust, the station is open free to the public on Saturdays as well as weekdays.

— Jeff Rea ’71

Lee leads green power initiative

This summer, Oswego began a project that will provide wind power for the electrical system of a building regularly exposed to Lake Ontario’s blustery weather.

The project aims to use a wind turbine with a small footprint to provide an estimated 40,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a year from atop the campus heating plant in Lee Hall.

John Moore, the college’s director of engineering and sustainability, pointed out that most wind turbines need a wind speed of 7 mph to generate electricity. This unit, though, can produce power in wind of less than 3 mph, and start turning at 1 mph.

Moore estimated the turbine, which was installed in July, will produce enough energy in less than 12 years to pay back the estimated $50,000 initial investment. The college will look for federal and state funding for small wind projects to help fund the purchase.

As with the geothermal project that will help heat and cool the college’s future sciences complex, Moore emphasized the educational benefits of monitoring and studying this alternative energy project.

“I’m looking forward to it,” Moore said. “Our earth sciences faculty are excited.”

— Jeff Rea ’71

Rice Creek to get makeover

SUNY Oswego’s biological field station at Rice Creek, south of the main campus, will undergo a $1.75 million to $2 million redevelopment as part of the rebirth of science facilities at the college.

“Rice Creek is a gem for this whole region,” said Tom Simmonds ’84, M ’88, associate vice president for facilities. “We want to enhance it, sensitively and with respect for the environment.”

The college broke ground Sept. 17 for the $118 million reconstruction and expansion of Piez Hall, the 48-year-old science building on the east end of the main campus (see story, p. 3). Rice Creek, Simmonds said, is included in the overall science renovation plans.

He said plans for the 44-year-old wood-frame building that houses the laboratory, classrooms and offices of the field station on Thompson Road near Fallbrook Recreation Center, are about halfway complete. He emphasized that drawings, at this stage, are conceptual. As it stands, little of the current structure would remain, and reconstruction and an addition would provide about one-third more space, he said.

Some refining still needs to be done, he said, including a proposal to build an observatory at Rice Creek to replace the aging structure adjacent to the Romney Field House parking lot. The proposed observatory would expand program offerings at Rice Creek as a complement to the station’s primary biological and environmental focus, he added.

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— Jeff Rea ’71
Thinking outside the box helped David Troilo ’80 create an interdisciplinary major that combined his interest in psychology with animal behavior and neuroscience. The freedom Oswego gave him to create his own course of study allowed him to go on to graduate study and a successful career in developmental visual neuroscience.

He hopes to return the favor. On a recent visit to campus, Troilo expressed the desire to work with SUNY Oswego and current students with an interest in healthcare careers to revitalize a “pre-health” course of study that would lead to a degree in optometry.

Now the vice president and dean of academic affairs at SUNY College of Optometry, Troilo returned to his alma mater to give a Science Today lecture in September on the experimental control of eye growth. It was fitting, because as an undergraduate, he had made a connection at a similar type of guest lecture that helped propel his career in academe.

Oswego professors also helped pave the way for his lifelong interest in research, among them Leland Marsh and Peter Weber of biology. Marsh taught the young Troilo that the essence of research is creating new knowledge, while working alongside Weber in the lab gave Troilo the hands-on experience that helped him grow.

Troilo’s love of neuroscience was cemented during his years at Oswego. “It stems from the work I did here,” he says. Two post-doctoral studies — at Oxford and Cornell universities — would help his scholarship mature.

He has become one of the premier researchers in the country on the development of the eye from birth to maturity and the development of refractive state. His work can help the tens of millions of patients with refractive errors like myopia.

Now he has come full circle, with a key academic position at a SUNY school. His goal is to make SUNY Optometry one of the top research institutions in optometry in the world.

He also sees a big potential at Oswego for cross-disciplinary studies. “Smaller schools like Oswego can do that more easily,” he says. “Take the strengths of different departments and combine them in creative ways.”

— Michele Reed

Troilo has vision for SUNY and Oswego

$200K funds study on women in sciences

RHONDA MANDEL, LEFT, DEAN OF THE College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Webe Kadima, associate professor of chemistry, look over SUNY Oswego’s successful application for a $200,000 grant to study the status of women faculty in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, disciplines at the college. Kadima is principal investigator for the two-year National Science Foundation catalyst grant. Researchers aim to learn whether anything — from policies to practices — holds back women in STEM in terms of recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion. The award will help determine whether SUNY Oswego may be a candidate for a much larger “institutional transformation” grant.

— Jeff Rea ’71

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— Jeff Rea ’71
To the Maximus

STUDENTS FLOCK AROUND POET/MUSICIAN OVEOUS MAXIMUS, right, for pictures and autographs in Hewitt Union Ballroom during the 2010 ALANA (African, Latino, Asian, Native American) Conference.

Maximus, a rapid-fire spoken-word poet, was the keynote speaker for the weeklong conference. “This was amazing,” Quindell Williams ’11 said. “The spoken word, it’s something different, something close to home and close to our age. I thought it was great.”

ALANA, now in its 24th year, has become a staple in promoting a multicultural environment at SUNY Oswego and is a consistent hit among students, faculty and administrators. —Kyle Gargan ’11

Sounds good: CMA adds audio production minor

SUNY OSWEGO’S NEW interdisciplinary minor in audio design and production aims to meet student and industry demand while broadening opportunities for students.

The minor will create a production-centered learning environment to provide hands-on experience that accompanies audio theory.

The program, based in SUNY Oswego’s School of Communication, Media and the Arts, includes courses in broadcasting, music and theatre in its core, plus a large sampling of electives — such as multimedia courses through the art department.

The minor connects radio production courses, theatre sound classes and recording courses in music.

Audio moving into digital and software-driven formats, with greater dissemination via the web, has increased demand for graduates and even current students with the requisite skills, noted Daniel Wood, a former professional recording engineer who now teaches students the tricks of the trade in the music department.

The formation of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts last year — bringing together art, communication studies, music and theatre — provided the final impetus in creating the minor.

“When we formed the new school, we really created avenues for people to work with each other across disciplines,” said Fritz Messere ’71, M ’76, dean of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts. “The minor strengthens all of the existing programs while creating new opportunities for our students.”

— Tim Nekritz M ’05
Applications up, selectivity stays steady

Applications to attend SUNY Oswego set a 21st century high again this year, but the college held to its quality standards and largely kept the numbers of undergraduate admissions in line with those of recent years.

At the same time, students in underrepresented racial and ethnic groups increased significantly.

Joseph Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment, said the college welcomed about 1,400 freshmen and 785 transfers this fall.

Freshman applications for fall totaled about 10,650, a small increase from last fall’s 10,463, and 40 percent more than the 7,565 just five years ago.

The preliminary 2010-11 admissions numbers showed applications totaled more than 13,000 from prospective freshmen and transfers. Grant said he believes that a key reason for the heavy flow lies in value, not just in price, compared with private colleges and other educational alternatives.

The college accepted 47 percent of applicants, the same percentage it has accepted for the last two academic years.

Of the approximately 1,400 entering freshmen, 277, or 19.4 percent, are from underrepresented groups. That’s up from 217, which was 15.6 percent of last year’s entering class.

— Jeff Rea ’71

NSF fuels snow hunt

An $86,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will provide SUNY Oswego meteorology faculty member Scott Steiger ’99 and his students the tools to chase the most intense snowstorms and collect first-of-its-kind data.

The grant will provide a radar-carrying truck from the NSF called Doppler-on-Wheels for the snowstorm-chasing season, and experts from Boulder, Colo., will train the students in its use in the month before startup. Jeffrey Frame of the University of Illinois, a colleague of Steiger’s with a lot of experience with the vehicle and instruments, is a co-principal investigator on the grant.

Steiger, who spends his summers chasing tornadoes in the Midwest, forecasts little chance that this winter will be as quiet as last. He, distinguished service professor Al Stamm and up to 14 meteorology majors staffing the project should have plenty to study.

“It’s better than a tornado project, because the chance of catching a significant tornado on the ground is quite small,” said Steiger.

Data gathering will run from late December to early February this season, Steiger said. Lake-effect conditions set up early in the winter, when Lake Ontario’s waters still hold summer warmth and icy cold winds blow out of the west and northwest.

Data analysis and writing for the project will take place next spring and summer, followed by publication and conference presentations in the second year of the grant.

If the data-collection effort and results warrant, Steiger said he plans in time to apply for a larger grant, which would fund the use of aircraft and other instruments as well as the Doppler-on-Wheels.

— Jeff Rea ’71

Meteorology Professor Scott Steiger ’99 shows images of the Doppler-on-Wheels truck and the data it will collect.

BY THE NUMBERS

New student applications . . . diversity . . . faculty scholarship . . . international experience. The numbers say it all. Oswego has made great progress in the last decade — and we’ve only just begun! Click on this slideshow to see “SUNY Oswego by the Numbers” as presented by President Deborah F. Stanley at her opening breakfast this August. Oswego.edu/by_the_numbers

— Jeff Rea ’71
International internship

An alumni connection meant the world to an Oswego senior looking for experience in the fast-paced field of executive recruiting. Fabian Loeprick ’10 interned this summer at Korn/Ferry International’s Washington, D.C., offices, thanks to Nels Olson ’89, managing director of the Eastern Region and a member of the board and CEO and corporate affairs practices at KFI.

A native of Kassel in Germany, Loeprick is a member of the School of Business Dean’s Student Advisory Board. He leapt at the chance to expand his skills in business management with an internship at the world’s largest executive recruiting firm, with nearly 80 offices in 40 countries.

Olson said he was happy to help an Oswego student, because he knows how important hands-on experience can be. “I am in the field of human capital talent, and having practical experience is vitally important,” he said.

At Oswego, Olson honed his leadership skills in Student Association and Sigma Gamma fraternity, two experiences he feels led to his successful career.

“Oswego was a big part of my life growing up and it’s a terrific institution,” said Olson, whose oldest brother, Lars Olson ’83, also attended. After joining Korn Ferry, Nels Olson participated in the search that resulted in Deborah F. Stanley becoming the college’s 10th president.

“It’s a school on the move because of her leadership and I believe in investing in it,” said Olson. In addition to giving back by arranging student internships, he made a leadership gift to the recent Inspiring Horizons campaign.

Olson joined Korn/Ferry International in 1993 and has conducted many executive searches throughout the world. Prior to joining the firm, he worked in public relations and served in the White House, screening and recommending Presidential appointees and cabinet candidates.

Loeprick’s summer work in research about potential candidates gave him insight into the types of degrees and experiences top firms are looking for, and working in a busy office helped him hone his real-world assets like professionalism, self-confidence, motivation and communication skills.

After further internships in Europe, Loeprick hopes to attend graduate school there. “The people make a place. I cannot say enough good about the amazing team of Korn/Ferry International . . . They really made the experience superb for me,” said Loeprick.

“Certainly everyone needs academic basics, but the on-the-job training is a much more intense learning experience.”

Experiential learning benefits students

By Lorrie Clemo, Interim Provost

Q. Why is experiential learning important, especially in the current economy?
A. It provides learners with valuable opportunities to apply knowledge to real solutions. In the current economy, students want tangible experiences to differentiate themselves in decreasing job markets and increasing competition. Most employers seek individuals with broad and field specific knowledge, experiential learning offers students the added opportunity to demonstrate higher-level competencies such as critical thinking and problem solving.

Q. Oswego has a history of hands-on learning. How have we evolved?
A. Founder Edward Austin Sheldon’s learning philosophy continues to serve as an inspiration to the college based on the philosophy and practice that students learn best by doing. Experiential education has been a formal part of the academic curricula dating back to Sheldon; today it extends across a broad range of subject areas and disciplines. As our understanding of learning theories and cognitive development increases, more faculty recognize the benefit of offering students opportunities to learn through direct experiences. Since 2000 we have observed a more than 200 percent increase in service learning by our students.

Q. What are some new initiatives?
A. Our new software engineering program provides hands-on experiences designed to combine the principles of inquiry with group process. Students interface with business on real-world, industry-relevant projects and work as part of a team under the supervision of a faculty member and a practicing engineer. The Global Laboratory, a distinctive research abroad program, offers students an opportunity to conduct scientific research on cutting-edge subjects. Mentored by skilled scholars in leading universities across the globe, students can positively affect the people and local communities where the research is conducted.

Q. What’s in the future?
A. I see an increasing demand from students and a thoughtfully engaged faculty wanting to bring learning alive through internships, service learning, field work, and cooperative education where students alternate classroom study with practical work experience. We plan to expand contextual learning as an instructional strategy to more students by making connections to alumni, businesses and community organizations interested in challenging students with problem solving in real-world settings.
Green and Gold Day gets a little more golden

THE COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT and Support of Education recognized the Oswego Alumni Association in its 2010 "Outstanding External Program" category for the day college unity is most prominently on display.

Green and Gold Day has come a long way in the short time it’s been around, said Associate Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Laura Pavlus ’09, and the additions and improvements made to last year’s event made the day worthy of the recognition.

“Last year we added an ice cream social, as well as a roller skating party held by SAPB [Student Association Planning Board],” Pavlus said. “We also added a Flickr account for alumni to upload photos. These additions really set it apart from previous years.”

Oswego is one of only three schools nationwide to earn recognition by CASE Affiliated Student Advancement Programs. Associate Director for Stewardship Michelle Tackett-Spinner ’98 said the honor “helps put Oswego on the map.”

“Oswego is competing against schools across the country that have bigger sizes and budgets, and more members,” Tackett-Spinner said. “It’s pretty exciting to know Oswego won a national award.”

The 2010 Green and Gold Day saw an even more impressive showing among the Oswego community, with almost 650 showing up for the ice cream social, more than twice the 300 who participated in 2009, and an enthusiastic group participating in the Oswego family photo, above.

CASE is the professional organization for advancement professionals at all levels who work in alumni relations, communications, fundraising, marketing and other areas. Membership includes more than 3,400 colleges, universities, independent elementary and secondary schools, and educational associates in 68 countries around the world. ● — Kyle C. Gargan ’11

Two summer institutes energize teachers

A TWO-WEEK ENERGY INSTITUTE IN July helped secondary school teachers educate youth “for a better future.”

Themed “Energizing Education for a Better Future,” the on-campus institute provided math, science and technology teachers with activities they can implement in their current curriculum or use to develop new curricular units on energy and sustainability.

The teachers took field trips to a variety of energy facilities in the Oswego area. Topics included the nature of energy, energy conservation, alternative energy sources such as sun and wind, nuclear and radiation safety, future energy resources and energy’s connection to politics and social cultures.

In August, a four-day institute at Rice Creek Field Station helped elementary school teachers learn to deliver lessons of energy stewardship to younger children. ●

Sandra Nadelon McCann ’93, first-grade teacher at Leighton Elementary School, installs a battery in her electric motor.
Frankel shares career advice on campus

Differentiate yourself, take more risks, and remember that hard work is only the baseline for success. These were some of the nuggets of advice Lois Frankel ’73 imparted to a packed Campus Center auditorium in an Oct. 6 talk.

The presentation by the internationally acclaimed author of Nice Girls Don’t Get the Corner Office: 101 Unconscious Mistakes Women Make That Sabotage Their Careers was part of the Ernst and Young Lecture Series, funded by Robert Feinberg ’78.

Audience members filled the seats and lined the steps of the auditorium to hear Frankel, whose Corporate Coaching International has prepared hundreds of Fortune 500 company executives for success.

In a first for the Oswego Alumni Association, the talk was streamed live to alumni all over the nation and world via the Internet.

During her October visit, Frankel spoke in a Women’s Studies class through the Alumni-in-Residence program and participated in her first meeting as the newest member of the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors. — Michele Reed

Lois Frankel ’73 signed books for students, alumni and community members during an October talk on campus as part of the Ernst and Young Lecture Series, which is supported by a gift from Robert Feinberg ’78.

Find the Founder!

IN THE SUMMER 2010 ISSUE, the founder could be found in the left hand corner of the picture on page 23. The grand prize winner of a bookstore gift certificate and Sheldon Hall print is Todd Murrock ’87. Winning Sheldon Hall prints are Matthew Rossiter ’04, Michelle VanSlyke Sloan ’00, Charlotte Murray ’52, Matthew Wryk ’13 and Amy Maroney Campisi ’85.

A tiny replica of the Sheldon statue pictured here is hidden somewhere in this issue. Find the Founder and send us a letter with the location and page number, your name, class year and address. We will draw one entry at random from all the correct answers and the winner will receive a $25 gift certificate to the Campus Store and a print of Sheldon Hall. The next five entries drawn will receive Sheldon Hall prints. Send your entry to Find the Founder, 219 Sheldon Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126. Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2011.
Recent grad makes towering achievement

Wallace "Wally" Reardon ’10 recently received a national award for a tower climber safety project he began in college and continued this summer with Upstate Medical University’s Occupational Health Clinical Center.

Climbing communications towers is grueling, dangerous work in all kinds of wind and weather, said Reardon, who climbed towers hundreds of feet high for 13 years.

"Some of the equipment we hauled up the towers was big, bulky lighting units that often weighed 50 to 60 pounds," Reardon said. "We would climb up the tower, (with that) hanging beneath us hooked to our belts."

After witnessing a colleague’s catastrophic injury, Reardon set out gathering stories and data from climbers and managers, working with grieving families and, as a SUNY Oswego senior in 2009-10, completing a tower climbers safety project under Lisa Glidden, assistant professor of political science.

Now he has received a national award for that project, which has become the Workers at Heights Health and Safety Initiative. Reardon accepted the 2010 Tony Mazzocchi Award for grassroots health and safety activism in November at the annual conference of the American Public Health Association in Denver.

He and Patricia Rector, director of outreach and education for Upstate’s OHCC, also co-presented a paper on the worker-focused approach Reardon has applied to climber safety.

Rector said her organization has applied to the federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration for long-term funding to employ their talented intern, with the vision of taking his program national.

Reardon appeared this July in Washington, D.C., as an invited safety and victim advocate at a national conference of the United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities, an activist group for families of workers who have died in industrial accidents.

Fish commission funds sculpin study

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission has awarded a SUNY Oswego conservation geneticist a $62,822 grant to study small, bottom-dwelling Lake Ontario fish called deepwater sculpin — once thought extinct there.

The grant for Amy Welsh, assistant professor in Oswego’s biological sciences department, is in cooperation with researchers from Michigan State University and federal and state agencies.

Deepwater sculpin, a species with a flattened head, side-mounted eyes and distinctive fanlike dorsal fins, once thrived in Lake Ontario, but disappeared from scientists’ sampling sites from the 1960s through 1996.

Welsh will conduct DNA analysis to determine whether today’s deepwater sculpin are back from supposed extinction or drifted here from the upper Great Lakes.

Maureen Walsh, a research fishery biologist with the USGS Great Lakes Science Center’s Lake Ontario Biological Station in Oswego, said her agency, the state Department of Environmental Conservation and Canadian partners sample the lake annually for many species of animal life. Deepwater sculpin had been plentiful from at least the 1920s through the 1950s, then disappeared.

Welsh and Walsh said the goals of the genetic study are to determine how today’s deepwater sculpin are related to the historic Lake Ontario population, and whether these finger-length fish could become plentiful enough to make part of a healthy, native diet for a depleted population of lake trout currently feeding on non-native alewives.

Whether the return of deepwater sculpin benefits lake trout or not, Welsh finds it an exciting development for Lake Ontario.

"The goal in the Great Lakes is to restore more of a native ecosystem,” she said. “There is impetus to revive native species.”

— Jeff Rea ’71
Fulbright scholar explores higher ed

Mark Harris was a mid-career educator at Southbank Institute of Technology in Australia when he decided to “have a go” that put him on track to retrain faculty instructors in new techniques for vocational teaching.

He’s now a visiting Fulbright Scholar at SUNY Oswego, having another go: taking his research and his ideas international.

“As a Fulbright Scholar, you’re in a group of individuals where you are completely humbled,” said Harris. “But really the tradition of the Fulbright is so rich in American history, there’s a responsibility that comes with that.”

His challenge is tackling an issue that has emerged in both nations: How do you deal with the loss of people and knowledge in an era of aging workforces, when public colleges and universities have less money yet more need to prepare teachers and students for new jobs in a new economy?

It sounds daunting, but Harris exudes enthusiasm as he talks about his Fulbright research here and his work at home.

“We’re moving away from the traditional four walls, the didactic model,” Harris said. “It’s more problem-based, work-based learning in an open-style room, with a world of technological resources at hand.”

— Jeff Rea ’71

Acting instructor Shannon Penrod-Miller ’84 and director Kevin Kennison ’82 share some performance movement tips with Heather Ungerer, 14, during Summerfame on the Oswego campus. High school students from around the country came to campus July 18 to 30 for the two-week institute in musical theatre. “I got so much out of [the theatre] program that of course I want to give back to it,” said Kennison, an independent casting director based in New York City and interim head of the BFA program in acting at Brooklyn College.

“It’s not a camp, but a pre-college training program,” he said, since the program gives students a very realistic view of the foundation of skills and learning they will need to succeed in musical theatre. Calling the program “important for Oswego and the next generation of artists,” he said that Summerfame gives Oswego the opportunity to attract strong students who will come to campus to see what the college has to offer. Planning is already under way for a summer 2011 version of the program, he added.

Honor Roll of Appreciation posted

Thanks to 7,533 alumni, faculty and staff, parents and friends of SUNY Oswego, The Fund for Oswego raised $3,053,171 from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010. These donors to The Fund for Oswego, who are making an immediate and positive impact on the lives of students, are recognized in YOUR Impact: 2009-2010 Honor Roll of Appreciation, which now appears online.

“We are grateful for your support. We appreciate your financial assistance and also your continuing advocacy on behalf of Oswego and the State University of New York,” said President Deborah F. Stanley. “Every day I witness the immediate and profound impact your philanthropy has on the lives of our students.”

In a continuing effort to carefully steward donations to the college and the planet’s natural resources, the Oswego College Foundation has moved from a printed honor roll of donors to an online listing. This switch saves more than $7,132 in printing and design costs and $2,128 in postage — resources which can be put to better use enhancing the SUNY Oswego educational experience for students and faculty.

These savings mean more books for the library, more computer equipment in labs and more support for cutting-edge academic programs that will better position Oswego’s students to compete in the current tough job market.

In addition, by not printing 7,500 copies of the 40-page honor roll, the college is saving precious trees, water and fuel, not to mention additional carbon savings from not transporting and mailing the copies to donors’ homes.

A significant factor in the move to an online honor roll was to protect our donors’ privacy. A Google search of any individual’s name will not link to the donor listing.
Outdoor Track and Field

The outdoor track and field squads consistently established new personal bests over the course of the year, while also rewriting some school records and collecting additional honors. Kyle Dudzinski ’12 established a new school mark in the javelin with a distance of 163 feet, 11 inches (49.96 meters) after breaking the record in back-to-back weeks. AJ Carapella ’10 also had a strong outdoor season when he won the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the Hamilton Invitational followed by a first-place result in the 200 at the University of Rochester Invite.

The Laker men’s 4x100 meter relay, consisting of Carapella, Dudzinski, Geoff Kobuszewski ’10 and Kevin Leonard ’12, posted a time of 43.82 to place 12th at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships after qualifying at the SUNY Athletic Conference Championships with a seventh-place finish.

Men’s Tennis

Despite being outmatched in most of their contests, the 12-member men’s tennis team demonstrated a true passion for the game through hard work and perseverance over the season’s obstacles. Their opponents included the likes of Oneonta, Elmira, Rochester Institute of Technology, Onondaga Community College, Roberts Wesleyan and St. John Fisher. Jeff McGovern ’11 posted the best singles record on the team with a mark of 2-3 with victories against Elmira and OCC.

Softball

The Laker softball team battled through the spring season, posting a 5-29 overall record with non-conference wins over Lasell during spring break, Nazareth in dramatic walk-off fashion, and Utica after being shut out of the first game in the doubleheader. Oswego closed out the 2010 season by sweeping Potsdam in a doubleheader, including a five-inning, 10-2 victory, in the final weekend of the semester.

The young squad that featured 13 sophomores and freshmen including Marie Steding ’13, who batted .429, and Sue Schoff ’13, who recorded a .319 batting average. Steding also led the pitching staff, which consisted entirely of freshmen, in wins (4), ERA (5.33), and strikeouts (45).

Women’s Lacrosse

The SUNY Oswego women’s lacrosse team found that South Athletic Field was a welcome place for the Lakers to compete as they had a mark of 5-3 at home en route to an overall record of 7-10. One of the season’s highlights came during a three-game stretch when the Lakers scored 20 or more goals in each contest. In the final game of the streak, Oswego State established a new single-game scoring record with 28 goals and 45 points in a 28-3 victory over Cazenovia as Marisa Audley ’10, Kristen Darcy ’12, Amanda Hecox ’12 and Maria Martusewicz ’11.

Defender Liz Conrad ’12 was voted Second Team All-SUNYAC by the league coaches, as she paced the squad with 21 caused turnovers and 37 groundballs.
Men’s Lacrosse

The Laker lacrosse team remained in the thick of the SUNYAC playoff race until the very end of the spring season, but came up just short as parity was exhibited among all of the conference squads before posting an overall mark of 6-10. One of the many highlights from the year came when Oswego battled from behind to defeat Utica 10-9 in a thriller under the lights, marking the first time since 2003 that the Lakers knocked off the Pioneers. A second come-from-behind victory came at home with the Lakers fighting back to defeat Brockport 11-9.

Goalie Judd Robinson ’10 finished the season with 183 saves to close out his career with 697 saves, ranking second in program history just behind Scott Moody ’95, who amassed 728 career stops. Transfer student Andy Lever ’12 fueled the Laker offense with 43 points on 23 goals and 20 assists.

The season also marked the end of an era as head coach Dan Witmer ’82 stepped down from his position following the college’s decision to elevate the position to full-time status. During Witmer’s 28-year career as a part-time head coach, the Lakers appeared in six ECAC tournaments, winning the championship in 1996 and finishing second in 1994 and 1997. His teams also won three Empire Lacrosse League titles (1994, 1995, 1996), and were ranked among the nation’s top 20 teams in both 1994 and 1996.

Baseball

After getting off to a slow start, the Oswego baseball team closed out its spring break trip with a six-game winning streak to jumpstart another 20-win season. The Lakers put together a second run midway through the season, winning five out of seven games in April, as Oswego went on to record seven doubleheader sweeps en route to an overall record of 20-16. The offense scored 10 or more runs in 11 games during the season.

Leading the way at the plate for the Lakers was Rafael Cordero ’11, who tallied a .355 batting average with a team-leading 29 RBI. Andy Salvatore ’10 paced the pitching staff with a 3.28 ERA, five complete games, and 32 strikeouts.

— Adele Burk, Sports Information Director

Events

Jan. 1 Nominations due for alumni awards*
Jan. 1 Nominations due for Athletic Hall of Fame*
April 2 Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting
April 29 Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors meeting**
May 2-6 Senior Week activities
May 13 Torchlight Ceremony
May 14 Commencement
June 10-12 Oswego’s Sesquicentennial Reunion, kicking off a yearlong celebration of the college’s founding

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

WATCH THE GAME ... in your pajamas

SUNY Oswego and the Oswego Alumni Association are offering free, streaming coverage of major events online as a service to our alumni — wherever they may be. Watch men’s and women’s ice hockey and basketball this winter, from the comfort of your home or office. Go to athletics.oswego.edu/video and cheer for your Lakers!
Meet the Village people

UNY Oswego officially has its own band of Village people on campus.

The Village, Oswego's highly anticipated townhouse-style complex for students, opened this semester to the immense excitement of its first 348 residents.

The Village houses students in four- and six-person townhouses in a complex just south of Glimmerglass Lagoon. Featuring a full kitchen, furnished living room and laundry unit in each house and a large commons building for leisure and studying, the Village townhouse complex boasts a plethora of luxuries not available in typical residence halls.

"Having a dishwasher and all the amenities of a fully furnished house really makes living here great," Colleen Cesna '12 said. "We have our own rooms and a commons area that is practically private to just us in the Village."

"The brand new facilities are really the best part," Katherine Grzesik '11 said. "The houses are so nice and so different than living in the residence halls."

"You have the flagship student building project in the state of New York, if not the Northeast."

Edward McGraw
Ashley McGraw Architects

The close proximity to other students has also been a hit among Village residents. When asked about the best part of living in the complex, Leslie Look '12 said "the neighbors. They are all so great and fun."

Kimberly Allen '10 agreed. "It's just nice to have the company around," she said.

Many students have also come to love the off-campus feel that the Village provides, while still being within walking distance to classes and other campus activities.

"It's nice that we are still so close to campus and yet the Village still has a regular house feeling to it," Jason Johnson '12 said.

"I felt that living off campus would be like living at home," Chris McPherson '12 said. "Living in the Village is a mixture. I have the freedom of living on my own without having to worry about things like rent and utilities."

Calling the Village another component in the college's focus on learner centeredness, Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley said, "The Village provides an environment that allows students to take learning deep within them, build a family around their learning experience, and gain more from the experience."

Residence Life and Housing Director Rick Kolenda said the completion of the Village is a reflection of the collective efforts from a variety of different groups, including architects, construction crews, administrative planning and student focus groups. The final product is something of which the entire college should be proud, he said.

"You have the flagship student building project in the state of New York, if not the Northeast," Edward McGraw of

By Kyle C. Gargan '11
Ashley McGraw Architects said during the Village dedication Sept. 17.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Joseph Grant said the decade-long journey included visiting other colleges and "reviewing architectural designs from all over the country," but what separates the Village from the rest of the pack is not just its modern feel and state-of-the-art amenities, but the unparalleled passion and commitment brought to the project by students and administrators alike.

"The Village is more than the sum of all those parts," he said. "This special place we call the Village is a residential community without equal anywhere in higher education."

The $42 million complex was funded through the SUNY Capital Plan, mostly through bonds issued by the State Dormitory Authority, said Tom Simmonds '84, M '88, associate vice president for facilities.

Simmonds echoed Kolenda’s praise for the diverse groups that helped make the Village a reality. "I’m proud of the end result," he said. "But I’m also equally as proud of all of the people who helped make this happen."

Although blue-and-white siding adorns each Tudor-style townhouse, the Village’s biggest achievement could be in how green it is. The complex was designed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, gold standards, meaning it was built using strategies aimed at saving energy, conserving water and limiting carbon emissions.

"There are various elements of design that will make this a sustainable building well into the future," Facilities and Design Project Coordinator Allen Bradberry said. "Being very energy efficient, the design is such that it will have minimal impact to the environment and [have] longevity to the materials chosen for construction." With SUNY Oswego continuing a campus-wide trend toward becoming a more sustainable campus, making the complex an environmentally friendly area was quite the accomplishment, said Bradberry.

The implementation of LEED standards will help students make a more positive impact on not only the Oswego campus, but the entire environment, Stanley said.

"It will help students understand how they will live in and interact with the world and make the world a better place, one person at a time," Stanley said.

With the renovation of Piez, Wilber and Park halls now under way, and planning for a facelift of the Hewitt Quad set to unfold after that, Student Association President Steven DiMarzo ‘11 said the Village is the latest in a long line of projects to modernize facilities across campus. "The completion of the Village is proof of how Oswego can, undoubtedly, expand and adapt to the future."

For those students who call the Village home, that ability to transcend helped turn what was merely a bold idea 10 years ago into a modern, dynamic reality.
Joel Danko ’11, a biology major, pours a cup of coffee in his kitchen prior to a study session.

The Glimmerglass Bistro in the Village Commons is a busy place. Here biology major Regine Michel ’11 purchases a snack from Tiffany Chiu ’11, an accounting major.
Oswego Goes to War

By Michele Reed

Servicemen from the Class of 1945, top to bottom: Bell, Moran, Rose
They’ve been called “The Greatest Generation.” When duty called, they put their lives on hold to defend freedom across the world. They are the wartime classes and they are a very special part of Oswego’s history.

When they entered in the fall of 1941, the Class of 1945 numbered 100 strong — the largest freshman class in the history of the Normal School. They spent a carefree autumn settling into local rooming houses, working hard in class, enjoying dances and flirting with members of the opposite sex.

Then came Dec. 7, 1941, and their world turned upside down.

“Everything changed when we came out of the movie theatre Dec. 7,” said Denham Griffin ’47. The Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

“First thing we asked was, ‘Where is Pearl Harbor?’” Denham said with a chuckle. “We didn’t have Mrs. [Isabel Kingsbury 1907] Hart’s geography course yet.”

They would learn where Pearl Harbor was all too quickly, and over the course of the next four years many more names as well: Omaha Beach, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima.

By the time 1945 rolled around most of the men were still in uniform. The graduating class was less than half of its original number, and mostly female. Only 41 would march across the stage in Sheldon Hall, rebuilt from a devastating fire in January 1941. The men would return as veterans, however, and go on to graduate in 1947, 1948 and 1949. Even today, reunions include members of classes from 1940 to 1949, many married to each other.

CALM BEFORE THE STORM

All that turmoil was just a blip on the horizon as the Class of 1945 got off the train or bus to begin their undergraduate adventure.

“The railroad came into Oswego at that point and it was a nice day,” said Denham Griffin. “The nice taxi cab driver said he had a good room for us, so my buddy and I said, ‘We'll look at it.’”

At that time most students lived in private homes, three or four to a room. Thanks to that cabbie's advice, Denham and his friend the late Tom Richardson ’46 (who would become president of New Jersey’s Montclair State University) landed the jackpot — single rooms for $3 a week. “We were very pleased,” he added. Even after $3 a week for a supper meal at Herbie’s Diner, that left them plenty of money for books . . . and courting the girls.

Sylvia Norton Griffin ’47 lived during freshman year in Dubuque’s house, along with seven other girls, and worked to pay for her room and board. Later she would live in the Chetney house. “They had 20 girls, but only one bathroom. The tub was in a separate room,” she recalled.

Liz Grieve Leal ’45 lived in Shady Shore with President Ralph and Mrs. Alice Swetman. She did odd chores around the house for her room and board. “I was a ‘handy helper’ . . . I got Dr. Swetman’s
Class of 1945 officers were from left: the late Dorothy LeBlanc Warner ‘45, president; the late Elizabeth Carroll Vernon ‘45, former secretary; Dorothy Emmanuel Paul ‘45, secretary; the late Rosalie Carroccio Brezina ‘45, vice president; and Margaret Kambas ‘45, treasurer.

breakfast and made Mrs. Swetman’s coffee and took it up to her. She liked to stay in bed and practice bridge hands.”

After finding a place to live, the frosh had to go through orientation. “One of the upperclassmen would write you a letter before school opened and he was your big brother and he explained what to expect,” said Ernie Leal ‘47.

At that time freshmen orientation was a little different than today’s version. “They used to hit you with paddles,” said Ernie, referring to the playful tradition. “And you had to wear an Oswego beanie and you had to sing all four stanzas of ‘O Blue are Ontario’s Waters.’”

**IN UNIFORM**

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Oswego students began enlisting in the armed forces. Throughout the war, they would leave, some never to return.

“A number from our class were killed, and there was no one to help us with that,” remembered Norma Sutherland Church ‘45. “Three men I dated were part of that.”

Others spent years in the service, returning to Oswego when discharged. Bill Gallik ‘47 was in the original class of 1945 when discharged. Returning to Oswego when discharged, ‘45 remembered and there was no one to help us with that.”

Throughout the war, they would leave, and many never to return. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Oswego students began enlisting in the armed forces. Dave Parker signed up in 1943 and was trained as a weatherman. He spent two years in New Guinea before finishing his schooling. After he returned he would move to the Rochester area, where he met and married his wife of nearly 61 years, Jane.

President Ralph W. Swetman and other professors wrote frequent letters to student-servicemen abroad. Dave Parker remembers that times were tough economically. “Everybody was in the same boat,” he said. “Nobody had much money, but we made out OK.”

“We were content to go to the Oswego Theatre,” said Denham Griffin. “Thirty-three cents in the balcony and 44 cents in the orchestra. “We always sat in the balcony — 10 cents was a lot, at a nickel for a cup of coffee,” he said. “You had one suitcase; one or two people had a radio — that was rich.”

“Every dorm had one phone — because the boys called for dates,” added Sylvia. “There were only three or four cars on campus, and they mostly belonged to handicapped guys. The girls didn’t drive generally.”

The Class of 1945 would make Oswego State history as well, as the college changed from a normal school to a state teacher’s college in their freshman year. They had a special way to express their joy.

“When we started there was a big sign in front of the two buildings — it read State Normal School,” said Denham. “In the spring, when the State Legislature gave a degree to the elementary education girls, we ripped down the sign, carried it through town and threw it in the river.” Parker added, “Wish we had it back!”

Norma Church remembered the sign-tossing incident as well. “We made a circle and sang the alma mater,” she

Those boys who were lucky enough to survive the war did come back. Many would live in Splinter Village, where “the wind really whistled through the buildings, but we hunkered down and persevered as we had learned to do in WWII,” writes former professor William S. Reynolds ’49, a student-veteran who worked as a carpenter to help maintain the complex. Many of the vets would wed their college sweethearts and are still married more than six decades later.
Friday Night Fun

In a more innocent time, Oswego students had simple fun.

“We used to have a dance in the gym every Friday night and once in a while there was a formal,” said Denham Griffin ’47. “And we would put up drapes all around the gym and it would hide all the ugly walls.”

Ernie ’47 and Liz Grieve Leal ’45 courted at those dances. “We did a lot of dancing. We had great music back then: Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey records,” said Liz.

Bill ’47 and Betty Reid Gallik ’45 share a similar story. They loved to attend the dances and other activities set up by the SRA, the Student Recreation Association.

“He was in a fraternity; I was in a sorority,” recalled Betty. “We were sort of privileged. We went to six formals.”

They didn’t meet at a dance, however. Their courtship had a bit more bounce to it. “Pingpong tables were set up in the hallway and that’s how Bill and I met,” Betty recalled. They would play the game during their breaks and something happened that made her realize he cared. “We had lockers on that side and Bill said, ‘Why don’t you keep our pingpong paddles in your locker so we don’t lose them?’” Betty recalled. The romance that began over a game of pingpong would be kept alive by letters overseas during Bill’s service and the couple were married when he returned home. They celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in July.

Norma Sutherland Church ’45 recalls the dances well. One cold, snowy night she went to an Arethusa formal at a hotel on the eastside of Oswego. “All the girls were dressed in beautiful gowns, silver slippers and velvet evening coats,” she said. When the dance ended, the plows had not been out and they would have to walk across the town and up the hill in their finery. Art Professor Aulus Saunders came to pick up his wife, who was the house mother, and gave the girls a lift in his car, so they didn’t have to walk all the way back.

“The best thing I got out of Oswego is right here,” said Denham Griffin, gesturing to his wife of 62 years, Sylvia Norton Griffin ’47. “We met on Halloween night 1942; our favorite joke is: I’ll take my mask off if you take your mask off.”

— Michele Reed

Friday night meant dance night at Oswego. Each sorority and fraternity hosted a yearly formal, too.
Oswego Fall 2010

BY SHANE M. LIEBLER
Rommel Wood ‘07 managed to graduate from high school without owning a mobile phone. She was one of the last of her friends to get one in college.

Today she’s on the cutting edge of technology in a field best described as social media marketing.

Wood spends a good portion of her work days logged on to Facebook and Twitter, but you can be sure she’s not tending a virtual farm or sounding off on the day’s “trending topics.”

Wood is a social media planner and what she does online — working with various companies on their digital image — is strictly business. Her employer, GyroHSR, is a primarily business-to-business marketing agency specializing in Web 2.0 strategies.

“I’m looking for something that is a predictor: ‘OK, I see a lot of people are updating from their phones, maybe I should get that app and see what it’s all about,’” explains Wood, who got her start as the social media eyes and ears of the Showtime cable network. “People are using this for a reason. How can I connect that app to a brand that is trying to get its message out in a unique way?”

Social media has changed the way people — lots of people — live, learn and work in a relatively small period of time, says Dr. Ulises Mejias, assistant professor of communication studies.

“Before, perhaps, it used to be thought of as the domain of young people,” he says. “It’s really become a much more general social phenomenon.”

“It’s a revolution that’s here to stay,” says Mejias, whose “Introduction to New Media” course debuted this semester.

Touting millions of users and making just as many headlines, Facebook and Twitter have emerged as the most visible social networking services. But, there are many others out there, says Wood.

Essentially, they are all platforms that allow people to share cool stuff — either content or thoughts — with other people, like friends, family, fellow fans of said stuff and even professional peers. It’s also becoming a great marketing tool.

“Social media’s kind of a question mark right now and people are still skeptical,” Wood says. “I think it’s really important that brands start using this space with more purpose.

“Clients are curious and they want to know what best practices are,” she adds.

The Oswego communication studies major broke into the social media niche with Showtime, where she used blogs and other digital spaces to collect fan feedback about the premium cable channel’s shows. She also maintained more than a dozen Facebook pages and Twitter feeds for the network.

It sparked a personal obsession of sorts with being connected, she said. Today the girl who was a “late adopter” of mobile technology now monitors her iPhone constantly.

“It’s that weird kind of tribal need to know what’s going on,” Wood explains. “I think it’s become an occupational hazard.”

But maintaining her own online presence and embracing new technology has helped further her young career.

“It’s all about knowing how to use it,” says Wood. For example, she uses Twitter — a micro-blogging service that allows you to share links and thoughts in 140 characters or less — and sites like Tumblr — an emerging site that allows users to share various pages they find interesting with others — as listening tools.

“I’m passionate about a lot of things, this lets me [connect with them],” says Wood. “I love to absorb information, I love researching things and understanding why and how. I always have to know a little bit more.”

For consumers, that means staying closer to and knowing more about their favorite brands. With Facebook fan pages becoming a given in any marketing strategy, Wood finds ways to make the most effective use of them and the numerous other tools constantly coming on line.

“Mobile and iPad technology are huge points of interest for marketers right now,” says Wood. It’s the ubiquity of such technology that is blurring the line between digital and traditional marketing.

“I’m proud of my field,” she says. “I want to make a name for myself in this field. I want to be a pioneer.”

Rommel Wood ‘07 works in social media marketing.
Rommel Wood ’07: Three things I love about the web right now.

1. Using blogs as living, breathing resources for the stuff you love.

**shuffler.fm**

People are calling it a combination of StumbleUpon and Pandora for music nerds.

Shuffler FM is a fun way to navigate through thousands of music blogs. The web is your player and bloggers are your DJs. Double bonus: You can share any song that you like on Facebook and Twitter.

2. Bloggers becoming gurus.

**bajillionhits.biz**

Comedian, seasoned blogger and Internet enthusiast Alex Blagg has founded a new digital agency and he is making quite the splash. By poking fun at the thing he loves/hates the most (the web and the people who work on it), his company, Bajillion Hits, might be the future of digital marketing, in my opinion.

3. Google is going to take over the world and I love them for it.

**goo.gl**

**google.com/reader/play**

They just made their own URL shortener public. Much like bit.ly, but with the ability to sync up with any Google Analytics accounts you may have. Viva la Google!

And if you are obsessed with your Google Reader, but have little to no time every day to sift through choices, this is an amazing solution courtesy of Google, Google Play. It’s like Google Reader Express!
Noah Clay ’97 is a guy who likes to put things into simple terms. You might say he likes to cut things down to size—both in terms of his work and his nature.

Ask him how big a nanometer is and he sets a pencil on the table. Then he asks you to picture the entire continental U.S. and imagine that pencil sitting in it. It’s less than a speck … and about as big as the units Clay works with as a technical staff member at the Cornell University Nanoscale Science and Technology Facility.

Clay has been using atoms as building blocks for the last decade, first with a Silicon Valley startup, then as nanofabrication manager at Harvard University’s Center for Nanoscale Systems and now at Cornell.

Essentially, by dissecting the proverbial mouse trap down to its smallest units—atoms are one billionth of a meter in size—it can be built better.

Clay and his colleagues act as advisors, designers and facilitators for more than 700 clients who use the facility for research and development. That’s a lot of different mousetraps.

“I love the variety of work that I have here,” Clay says.

His personal interest is in biomarkers, or tiny signals our bodies emit that might help doctors better monitor or predict someone’s health.

Nanotechnology can help create a device that reads biomarkers in real time, says Clay, whose father passed away from lung cancer.

It was his experience in the hospital waiting for test results that inspired him. He sits on the scientific advisory board of Vista Therapeutics, a spinoff of the Harvard nanotech lab that focuses on better real-time health monitoring.

Biomarkers can, for example, help predict heart attacks, but they have other applications as well. Again, to make a complicated concept simple, Clay picks up a whiteboard eraser in his hand.

“Something that big in the field running on a cell phone battery could diagnose various diseases in a remote village” using biomarkers, Clay says, likening it to...
fitting an entire laboratory on a computer chip. Nanotechnology makes it possible for something the size of a Blackberry to make the world better.

“My take on technology and efficiency is you’re really just making things better,” Clay simplifies. For example, the first computers used enough electricity to power a small town. “You definitely have more computing power than that in your iPod.

“All these little gains are in the interest of efficiency,” says Clay. These tiny developments also attract big business interested in the biological, electronic and other applications of nanotechnology.

Nanotech research has exploded in recent years. To give it some perspective, Clay remembers Harvard’s facility had 300 users when he started there. After three years, that number had climbed to more than 1,100.

Obviously, there is a seemingly endless bounty of discoveries to be made. Less obvious is the use for things that have already been created.

Some may take a while to come to fruition, says Clay. As an example, light-emitting diodes or LEDs have numerous applications today — particularly in cell phone and other video displays — but no one knew what to do with them in the 1960s when they were developed.

A lot of users are looking for the next LED, the next thing that changes our lives, Clay says. Many are venture capitalists or representatives of major corporations. For instance, Xerox and Corning have created prototypes at Cornell.

Their projects can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few years, depending on results. The costs can easily range in the millions of dollars.

A look at the intricate machinery in the clean room in the basement of Duffield Hall at Cornell hints that the processes going on here aren’t cheap.

There are ultra-powerful microscopes that take up entire rooms. They reveal atoms and their electrons on computer screens that constantly flicker and spit out digital numbers that are perpetually spinning.

There are vacuum chambers that reach from floor to ceiling with seemingly countless plugs and pipes sticking out of them.

Cornell University students, staff and “users” or clients mill about in white Tyvek suits, giving the area a deep-space vibe. And it’s loud in here.

Some of these chambers are kept at temperatures close to absolute zero. It slows the atoms down so they can be more easily observed and manipulated.

The result is a steady whirring that quiets to a sterile hum the more time you spend here.

Clay has worked in this type of environment since the late 1990s. After earning his physics degree at Oswego, Clay went on to study electrical engineering at Tufts University.

His first two employers, Goodrich Corp. in New Jersey and Infinera in California, used nanotechnology to produce computer chips. From there he went to Harvard, where he managed a facility similar to Cornell’s.

“There are certain times over the course of your education you think, ‘I’m never going to use this,’” Clay says. “All those calculus and physics courses I took [at Oswego], I use every day in my job.”

Every day he is on the brink of a breakthrough and it’s a thrill he can look forward to each morning.

After all, his next tiny discovery could be the next big thing.
Standing waist-deep in rushing waters, Capt. Robert Burke ’05 patiently threads his tackle.

His rod tightly tucked under his arm, he pinches the line to tie the fly.

Amid the shimmering waters, he clutches the reel and casts. The metronome motion scrapes the fly gently on the water. The line moves in gentle loops and waves.

Here in this natural sanctuary, Burke’s head runs as clear as the water. For him and his fellow soldiers, it’s a place to heal, hope and think.

Standing on the cold, dark streets of a village near Hawijah, Iraq, then-1st Lt. Robert Burke carefully leads his platoon.

His rifle tightly tucked under his arm, he clutches the trigger as he steps closer to inspect a residence. The weapon protects him from enemy insurgents who might be waiting inside.

As he approaches the house, there’s a bright flash of gunfire followed by darkness and the distinct sound of a Black Hawk helicopter rotor beating the wind.

Burke had been shot in the arm, leg and torso. Another bullet had blown the chinstrap of his helmet off his face. He was immediately flown to Germany and then to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

“Am I going to be able to pick up a bat again?” the Laker infielder remembers thinking on that medevac flight in February 2008. “Would I be able to pick up a glove and play catch with my [kid] in the future?”

“Am I going to be able to do my job again?”

‘OK, I’m alive. What do I do next?’

It would take two and a half weeks for Burke to start walking again and some six months before he was released from the Warrior Clinic at Walter Reed.

Those were pretty dark times for Burke, who had always been an athlete and was anxious to return to the military.

The first thing I realize is “OK, I’m alive. What do I do next?” says Burke. He knew he wanted to marry his fiancée and continue his Army career, but beyond that, he felt limited in what he could do.
His mood changed when he met a fellow soldier at Walter Reed. A survivor of a roadside bomb explosion, he had died and been revived several times on the operating table.

“What are you doing this weekend?” the soldier posed to Burke. That was his introduction to Project Healing Waters, a national organization that promotes fly fishing as therapy for wounded servicemen and women. It was also a new beginning for Burke.

“This was something that gave me a little hope that if I can do this, I can do anything,” he says. “[Fishing is] quiet. You get a lot of time to think, a lot of time to wonder. It can help you connect to the thought process of the way you were.”

**A call to service**

Oswego sophomore Rob Burke was getting ready to head to class — a 100-level meteorology course, he remembers — when the World Trade Center was attacked by terrorists Sept. 11, 2001. It made an immediate impact.

“I was considering quitting school and enlisting,” says Burke. “I think I had the overall goal of doing some type of service, military or civil. That kind of service molds somebody. It makes somebody a better person.”

His father, who had dropped out of college to enlist in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, convinced him otherwise. So, Burke earned his public justice degree and played out his collegiate career in baseball.

But Burke wasn’t interested in going pro as a ballplayer or a police officer. His passion was in service. Volunteering in soup kitchens, in high school mentoring programs and abroad “spurred a feeling of doing service, doing something for the greater good,” says Burke, who was commissioned second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in May 2008.
It’s pretty hard If you think about It — you’re sitting in a vehicle in Iraq and a roadside bomb goes off. the next thing you remember is being in Germany a few days later and flying 12 hours overnight to get to Walter reed,” Lt. Cl. Mary King ’76, M.D. says. “It’s difficult for me to see young men and women who were very productive have their lives changed.”

but, she adds, her work is very rewarding.

A soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve, King is serving a three-year tour at Walter Reed Army Medical Center’s Wounded Warrior Clinic. The facility, which opened in 2008, is dedicated to rehabilitating soldiers from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

“this is a first stop,” for wounded soldiers, King says. Most often the troops arriving directly from the battlefield suffer from concussions or post-traumatic stress disorder, or need a limb amputated.

King, who earned a degree in biology at Oswego before attending medical school, has had a practice on Long Island since the early 1990s. She was inspired to join the reserves after 9/11.

“Sept. 11 had a big impact on Long Island,” says King. “Several of my patients lost husbands and a lot of people in town were firefighters.”

King did a tour of duty in Ramadi, Iraq, for four months in 2006. Today she and three other doctors handle a caseload of about 200 soldiers apiece at Walter Reed.

In addition to the personal solace, there was plenty of social interaction – Vietnam veterans conversing with Iraq vets, Gulf War soldiers casting with those returning from Afghanistan.

The chapter’s first Salmon River outing in September 2009 drew four soldiers. There are about 15 active members of the Fort Drum chapter. Burke plans to do more outings with multiple New York chapters this spring.

Last call

Burke is proud of his role in creating the Fort Drum Healing Waters chapter and while the program has been essential to his own recovery, he still heard one more calling.

“For me, I felt like I didn’t complete my military service,” says Burke, who has been stationed in the Kunduz Province of Afghanistan since March. “This deployment was an opportunity to complete my healing.”

He wants to settle down in Cicero, where he lives with his wife, Catherine Maloney Burke ’05. Of course, he wants to do more fishing.

And someday, thanks to those healing waters, he will be able to play that game of catch with his future son or daughter.

Alumna Cares for Wounded Warriors

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Dugout Pals Dig into Diamond Days

THE GOLF COURSE AND NOT THE PITCHING mound was the site for a recent meeting of three figures from Oswego State baseball history. From left, Ted Grinnell ’60, Coach Emeritus Walter Nitardy and Fred Parrow ’60 reunited at Battle Island Golf Course in July, some 50 years after Ted and Fred played for Coach Nitardy at Oswego State in the late 1950s.

“Coach Nitardy racked up 503 career wins at Oswego State and he was our mentor, leader and role model,” Ted said.

“Ted was an outstanding right-handed pitcher and I was one of those notoriously wild and wacky lefthanders,” said Fred. “We had a talented team in the late ’50s.

“Coach Nitardy always placed an emphasis on playing to win, playing fair and maintaining a focus on our studies,” Fred reflected. Nitardy was a strong influence on the two men, who went on to take his winning advice and create successful careers.

The work ethic he practiced under Coach Nitardy stood Fred in good stead at Shell Oil as he beat out Ivy Leaguers on his way up the career ladder to a top position in the oil company. His 36 years at Shell, which began with a letter he wrote as an Oswego senior, would take him from Albany to Worcester, Mass., and from Seattle to Houston.

“Coach Nitardy was one great person. We all looked up to him and he always was there to help,” said Ted, who went on to a 33-year career in teaching technology education. During six years in the Sodus district, the Oswego Baseball Hall of Famer coached baseball, and while at Horseheads for 27 years, he spent some time coaching soccer.

The years melted away when the three finally reunited this past summer. “We came together as old friends with a common Oswego State bond that allowed us to make a new memory that will always remain fresh in our minds,” concluded Fred. ●
Rita Irwin ’77 is president and CEO of the Dolphin Research Center in Florida.

Oswego Fostered Love of Dolphins, Theatre

RITA IRWIN ’77 CALLS HER COWORKERS HER FAMILY. Never mind that some of them have flippers.

Irwin, president and CEO of Dolphin Research Center in Grassy Key, Fla, has made a living out of researching and teaching the public about dolphins. Featuring 20 bottlenose dolphins as well as California sea lions, the center hosts narrated behavior sessions, educational presentations and interactive programs for the public.

It is also the southern-most manatee rescue operation in the country. As president, Irwin is responsible for taking care of the marine mammals, as well as maintaining the direction and mission of the entire center and its 83 employees.

Despite the stark differences, Irwin still finds a way to see parallels between the paradise-like city she resides in now and the notoriously chilly Port City, especially when looking out into the water.

“We used to look out onto the lake and see the snowstorms coming,” Irwin said. “Now I’m in the Florida Keys looking at the Gulf of Mexico. It’s very similar to being on campus and looking at the lake, but instead of snowstorms, it’s rain storms.”

Born and raised in New York City, Irwin’s first taste of small-town living came when she arrived at Oswego for college. It was an experience she says she still cherishes, and one that helped her make the decision to move to Florida, where she met her husband, Dan Gallagher.

“When I came to the Keys, I was so attracted to the research center and Oswego helped me realize I could move out of a big city. I like the small town experience and Oswego was the only small town I lived in before I came to the Keys.”

Outside of the job, Irwin has also found time to be active in the community, especially in the theatre scene. She recently co-wrote a musical and it is set to debut in March. Titled “Act Now,” the production is about an audition at a community theatre and the lives and decisions of the people at the theatre. A theatre major while at Oswego, she credits her time working on productions at college for her latest accomplishment.

 “[Writing and directing a musical was] a lifelong dream of mine. All of the hours I spent in the Oswego theatre have paid off.”

— Kyle C. Gargan ’11

Peter Bernhardt ’74, left, visited campus last autumn to give a lecture that was the centerpiece and conclusion of SUNY Oswego’s celebrations of both Charles Darwin’s 200th anniversary and the 150th anniversary of the publication of On the Origin of Species. Bernhardt, a professor of biology at St. Louis University, is the author of Wily Violets and Underground Orchids: Revelations of a Botanist and Gods and Goddesses in the Garden. During his visit he spoke with classes taught by his mentor, Professor of Biology James Seago, as part of the Oswego Alumni Association’s Alumni-in-Residence program.

1980s

‘80, ‘81, ‘82

30th Reunion

Reunion 2011

JUNE 10-12

OSWEGO • Fall 2010
IN HONOR OF HER ACHIEVEMENTS in sports broadcasting, Linda Cohn ’81 recently was inducted into the CableFAX Programming Hall of Fame.

Cohn was inducted during an awards luncheon for the third annual CableFAX Program Awards, Oct. 4 in New York City. Cohn was one of eight members inducted this year’s class. Fellow inductees included actress Glenn Close, NBC Universal Cable President Bonnie Hammer, Oxygen Channel founder Geraldine Laybourne and Black Entertainment Television founder Bob Johnson.

CableFAX, a multimedia organization designed to keep viewers in the know about cable dynamics and news, publishes a bimonthly magazine and conducts webinars on how to provide training opportunities for cable professionals.

A longtime personality on ESPN, Cohn earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from Oswego. She is a member of the Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame, for her achievements in women’s ice hockey, and has served as moderator of the Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit. She is also the author of a book, Cohn-Head: A No-Holds-Barred Account of Breaking into the Boys’ Club.

Alumnus Enjoys ‘Great’ Experience atop Kilimanjaro

“YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING GREAT.” The advice of his late father really resonated with Richard Clarke ’82 as he approached age 50 in April. A few months and 19,350 feet later, Clarke reached great heights atop one of the world’s tallest mountains.

“Of all the things I’ve done, this was a killer,” said Clarke of scaling Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest peak. “It was just so satisfying to get to the top.

“It was just breathtaking — you’re on top of the clouds,” he said.

The altitude and air made the four-day trek particularly difficult, even for the avid cyclist, runner and general adventurer.

To build his endurance in the months leading up to his climb, Clarke played tennis — for four to five hours a day, most days of the week. The strategy proved effective in training for his 15-hour days walking up Kilimanjaro and developing a mean backhand.

Clarke nurtured his adventurous spirit at Oswego, where he loved cycling all over Upstate New York. Bicycle trips to Syracuse, Watertown and Canada are fond memories, he said.

Late Professor Emeritus Dr. Girgis Ghobrial had a huge influence on Clarke, who initially came to Oswego for meteorology and graduated with a degree in geography. On his trip that included a safari and a stop in Egypt, Clarke recalled many of the stories Ghobrial, a native of the country, would tell about his homeland.

— Shane M. Liebler

Guide Babuu, Richard Clarke ’82, friend Kent Hanson and assistant guide Sira stand atop Kilimanjaro, roughly 19,350 feet above sea level.
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.

Modern Irish Drama: W.B. Yeats to Marina Carr, by Professor Emeritus Sanford Sternlicht ’53, helps readers understand the background to the modern Irish drama and the scope of artistic, cultural and intellectual achievements in Irish history. The book, an updated version of the 1988 original, features extensive new material and discusses the lives and careers of more than 50 Irish playwrights. Syracuse University Press, 2010.


Perry Zirkel ’66 and Zorka Karanxha elaborate on the legal rights and obligations of student teachers in their educational law book Student Teaching and the Law. The book helps provide the framework for the student teaching experience and explain the issues that schools and student teachers should anticipate. Rowman & Littlefield Education, 2009.

Nancy Fichtman Dana ’86, M ’88 and Diane Yendol-Hoppey explain the secrets of maximizing talent among educational staff in Powerful Professional Development. The book offers a variety of tips and tools to help promote job-embedded professional learning among teachers and administrators. Corwin, 2010.

Kellyann Gayer ’93 and Susan Ehmann team up to help educators find mentor texts for teaching young writers in I Can Write Like That. The two help provide examples of 27 authors’ craft while also providing activities and workshops on how to reinforce what students have learned. International Reading Association, 2009.


Ghana Goal Grips Groce-Wright

CHERYL GROCE-WRIGHT ’82 HOPES HER LONG RUN IN Ghana goes a long way in helping the country get healthy.

“I’ve been on a mission,” Groce-Wright said. In 2009, then-49-year-old Groce-Wright began mixing running into her walking routine around Richmond, Va., where she lives and works as an education consultant.

“A minute became two and then five and I thought, ‘Well, maybe I can train for a race,’” she recalled. With a 10K and half marathon under her belt, Groce-Wright turned her attention to another goal — traveling to Africa.

The former Black Student Union member and African-American studies minor built a lifelong base for activism while a student studying communications at Oswego.

“I think that was the beginning and sort of awakening for me,” Groce-Wright said of her time at Oswego with professors emeriti like Kenneth Hall and Alfred Young.

In 2000, Groce-Wright met Ghana activist Nana Kweku Egyir Gyepi III while he was on a speaking tour. His vision for creating a Mecca in Ghana for African natives and descendants all over the world has intrigued Groce-Wright ever since.

She used her newfound love of running to finally make the trip to the African nation, running in the Accra International Marathon Sept. 26 and raising $1,660 for the Longevity Project, funding health initiatives and education in Ghana.

The race took on added meaning when, shortly after she arrived for the marathon, Groce-Wright learned her father had passed away.

“The race did end up being in honor of my father who ran with me the whole way,” she said. “And the rainbow at the start of the race told me he was right there with me, and that I was right where I was supposed to be.”

While her newly launched consulting service, Kaleidoscope Collaborative, focuses on interweaving diversity into education, Groce-Wright said she would like to someday work as a personal trainer. “I really have been so empowered by running and I feel that I can empower other people,” she said.

— Shane M. Liebler
Meistersinger had Roots in Oswego

THEY SAY MUSIC IS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE. From Oswego venues like the DK house or The Patch to a ’70s revue tour of Germany to special events on the U.S. East Coast, Matthew Cutillo ’95 has been making beautiful music in more than one language.

The lead guitarist for the band Morning Wood and a German major at Oswego, Matthew followed his love of the language to a semester abroad in Goettingen, inspired by German Professors Emeriti George Koenig and Peter Hertz-Ohmes. It became a decade-long adventure.

While he went abroad to hone his language skills, Matthew ended up developing his musical talent as well. "I had been in bands all my youth," says Matthew, who picked up a guitar at age 2 to imitate his brother and has kept playing ever since. He brought his guitar to Germany and played at local venues. "It was great," he says. "I could go out, drink and eat all I wanted and come home with a pocket full of cash."

Singing for his supper got Matthew picked up by the Rex Richter Quintet. He would spend the next four years touring Germany, playing schlage — hit parade songs — and German versions of American and British pop hits of the ’60s and ’70s. He was on the road most days, playing at least 200 shows a year with the band and eventually became the lead singer, before the group broke up in the post-9/11 world economic downturn.

He taught business executives English in Hamburg before returning home in 2004, to build houses with his father’s business before once again earning his income with his guitar and voice.

He is now one of the most popular events entertainers on the East Coast, playing “hits from the 1500s to the present.” He is currently ranked No. 1 among the 7,000 acts represented by the booking company Gigmasters.

Now Matthew plays three or four evenings a week, performing at weddings, parties and birthdays as a solo acoustic guitarist and vocalist. He is up at 3 a.m. practicing his classical guitar finger work before spending time with his wife and their 3-year-old daughter.

What’s in the future for Matthew? More music, and this time, more original work. "I am thinking of bigger, better things," he says. ♦

— Michele Reed

Hear Matthew’s songs “White Boat” and “Open Road” at oswego.edu/magazine.
Matthew Urtz ‘02, M ’05

From football to genealogy, history is all about people. So is Matthew Urtz ‘02, M ’05, who was recently appointed historian for Madison County in Central New York.

The Oneida native’s time in Oswego included internships at Fort Ontario and the Football Hall of Fame in Ohio.

“Anything in sports — a lot of people focus on the numbers. But baseball, football, all of them have amazing social aspects,” Urtz said.

Today he assists historians in each of Madison County’s 16 municipalities, fields questions for a “Stump the Historian” newspaper segment and handles numerous requests from genealogists near and far.

1) Greatest moment in football history: Most historians point to the Giants-Colts NFL championship. But for me personally it was probably “The Drive” by John Elway. That was when football started to overtake baseball as America’s pastime, in my opinion.

2) Greatest moment in your history: The day I married my wife.

3) Best History Channel program: MonsterQuest, Modern Marvels and Cities of the Underworld

4) Little-known Madison County fact: It is home to Gerrit Smith, one of six men who helped fund John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry. It is also home to Colonel William Smith, who was one of George Washington’s top aides.

5) Something we didn’t know about SUNY Oswego: SUNY Oswego’s original name was Oswego Primary Teachers’ Training School.

6) Favorite Oswego myth: If you are under 100 pounds and it’s windy, you get excused from class.

7) Tough Oswego class: Econ 200: Principles of Macroeconomics

8) Most interesting query since becoming historian: Anytime you get into criminal requests prior to 1900, the stories can be quite humorous.

9) Most interesting thing about being a historian: I love the people, anyone researching their personal history has a great energy and excitement that makes the process very fun, and if you find information they were looking for, it’s very rewarding.

10) What makes Oswego home to you? Good friends, great experiences and a cheeseburger sub from Oswego Sub Shop.
Social networking seems like such a new concept for someone of my vintage — and so incredibly prevalent in today’s world.

The Oswego Alumni Association has begun offering more of our programs via social networks and through webcasts to reach more of our alumni who cannot attend an event on campus in person.

We have tweeted about Reunion Weekend — and other topics of interest to our alumni — on Twitter; we have networked with graduates on our Oswego Alumni LinkedIn group and we have connected with you on our Oswego Alumni Facebook page.

But, as is the case with so many things, there is the expression, “Everything old is new again”! This past summer, my husband, Jerry ’77, and I had the opportunity, while on a visit to Washington DC, to visit the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History with The Fund for Oswego National Chair Jack James ’62.

As we toured the exhibit, I was struck by the descriptions in the Human Origins exhibit:

“...Building social networks helped our ancestors meet the daily challenges of their environments ... Expanding social networks led, eventually, to the complex social lives of modern humans.”

“By 130,000 years ago, groups who lived [186 miles] apart were exchanging resources. Social networks continued to expand and become more complex.”

So ... everything old is new again — even 130,000 years ago humans were establishing social networks. And now our networks extend to Oswego alumni and friends across the globe, not just 186 miles away!

Beginning in 2011, look for information about our upcoming Sesquicentennial in 2011 as we begin the celebration of our college’s rich 150-year history. There will be special communications and events on and off campus as well as on the Web. And, I’m guessing as we celebrate the legacy of our founder, Edward Austin Sheldon, we will find once again that everything old is new again!

Even though you can stay connected to Oswego through all of our social networks and on the Web, please come back and see us soon in person. You can check out all of the amazing new improvements on campus.

Betsy
Ryan Cady ’05 and Ashley Babbitt ’06 were married Aug. 14 at Fox Valley Country Club in Lancaster. Pictured, from left to right, are: Katie Ostrowski Hammann ’06, Jenine Tulledge ’07, Stephanie Jablonski ’05, Jamie D’Amore ’05, the bride, the bride-groom, Derek Goodroe ’05, Danielle Richie ’06, Gina Desrosiers ’06, Corey Gamble ’06, and Kyle Gorman ’07. The couple has a home outside of Buffalo, where Ashley teaches ninth grade special education and Ryan is a market development specialist for Microsoft.

Stephanie Foreman ’06 and Nicholas Lotito ’06 were married Aug. 16, 2008, at Jericho’s Terrace on Long Island. Stephanie, an elementary education major, and Nicholas, a business major, dated throughout all four years at Oswego. Alumni in attendance included Shane Hogan ’06, Ryan Braden ’06, Jennifer Calabrese ’06, Jan Cella ’06, Elizabeth Ferrel ’06, Christopher Dunnigan ’06, Jon Rhoades, Nicholas Lattanzio, Greg Crandell ’06, Jamie Messineo ’07, the bridegroom, Valerie Kahn Meltz ’06, the bride, Pamela Lubowsky ’06, Kevin Pytel ’06, Larry Clever ’06, Jessica Leo Kenny ’06, Cassandra Beal ’06, Erin Brennan ’06, Michael Crowley ’06, CJ Theiss ’06, Bill Gannon ’06. Stephanie is a teacher and Nicholas is a medical devices sales rep. The couple resides in Massapequa.

Eileen Conlon ’09 married Nicholas Anderson ’09 July 31 at the American Foundry in Oswego. Eileen and Nick met through mutual friends during their freshman year in Scales Hall. Both were members of SAVAC and celebrated the occasion by taking pictures in front of one of its ambulances at Breitbeck Park. Pictured, from left: Jeremie DellaPenta, Rachel DellaPenta, the bridegroom, the bride, Connie Inzinna ’08, and Bryan Easton ’09. Other alumni in attendance included Sara Bender ’06, Jessica Skiff ’07, Erika Burkhardt ’08, Emily Rose ’09, Sarah Fedigan ’09, Katie Henry ’09, Katie Whitaker ’09, Chris Dyer ’10, Tom Potrikus ’10, James Anderson ’62 and Beth Feary Ginovsky ’75. Eileen is currently attending the University of Buffalo for her master’s in library science while Nicholas is attending Geneseo Community College for his associate’s in nursing.

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Ryan Cady ’05 and Ashley Babbitt ’06 were married Aug. 14 at Fox Valley Country Club in Lancaster. Pictured, from left to right, are: Katie Ostrowski Hammann ’06, Jenine Tulledge ’07, Stephanie Jablonski ’05, Jamie D’Amore ’05, the bride, the bride-groom, Derek Goodroe ’05, Danielle Richie ’06, Gina Desrosiers ’06, Corey Gamble ’06, and Kyle Gorman ’07. The couple has a home outside of Buffalo, where Ashley teaches ninth grade special education and Ryan is a market development specialist for Microsoft.

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Jessica Finch ’03 married Daniel O’Neil May 29 in Buffalo. Their guests included, from left to right: Julie Scaringe Wassell ’03, Hillary Rowswell Piedmont, Sarah Tarquinio Youngman ’03, Lucie Bishop ’05, Mike Marion ’03, Amanda Lappin ’05, the bride, the bridegroom, Jim Hartmann ’03, Kathryn Sippel, Jennifer Weinberg ’03, Sara Warner Bambino ’03, Sadie Vimslik Nowak and Jaime Coburn Brown ’03.

Lauren Sadowsky ’06 married Joseph Slowik in Westbury. Pictured, from left: Eric Stone ’05, Ashley Pierce Stone ’06, the bride, the bridegroom, Katherine Cummings ’06 and Zachary Southwick ’05. The couple resides on Long Island, where Lauren is a teacher.

Paul Hoff ’02 and Becky Woodard ’02 were married July 21, 2007, in Lodi. Their guests included, sitting from left: Amy Miles Manacari ’03, the bride, the bridegroom, Anne Marie Duttiger Boardman ’01 and Ryan Boardman ’01. Pictured standing are: Matt Manacari ’02, Ann Rodak ’03, Melissa Gardner ’02, Nikki Bontomase, Charlene DiStefano Lochner, Perry Noun ’02, Chris Coulter, Paul Melton ’03 and James McGrail ’04. Becky is a librarian and Paul is a teacher. The couple lives in Valatie.
Ella Taylor Dale ’36 of Rindge, N.H., died July 11. She taught third grade for 21 years in Uniondale. Ella is survived by a son, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Hazel Dean Zbytniewski ’36 of West Branch passed away June 24. She taught for more than 30 years, including at West Leyden Central School and the Rome City School District. Hazel is survived by a son, a daughter, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Thomas Morrison ’42 of New­ark died May 24. He served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war, Tom opened a radio business, eventually adding video games and appliances to the business. He retired in 1983. Surviving are his wife, Mary; two sons; and three grandchildren.

Lillian Tucker Davids ’46 of Morehead City, N.C., died Aug. 2. She is survived by her husband, Raymond “Buck” ’46; three sons; four daughters; 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Joseph Mondello ’49 of Kitty Hawk, N.C., passed away June 3. He served with the U.S. Marines during World War II. Joe earned a master’s degree at St. John’s College. He taught in Hauppauge Public Schools for many years, retiring as principal of Pines Elementary School in 1979. Surviving are a daughter, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Catherine Kovac Muller ’49 of Fort Wayne, Ind., died Aug. 2. She had been a teacher in New York and Pennsylvania. Kay is survived by her husband, Richard; a son; and four grandchildren.

Coolidge Braley ’52 of Chestertown, N.Y., and Bradenton, Fla., passed away May 30. Prior to college, he served with the U.S. Army at the end of World War II. Coolidge earned a master’s degree at St. Lawrence University. He taught industrial arts and driver’s education at North Warren Central School from 1952 until his retirement in 1985. Surviving are his wife, Lois; two sons; two daughters; six grandchildren; and five great-grandsons.

Joseph Lomonico ’53 of Fair Lawn, N.J., passed away June 2, 2010. Joe served with the U.S. Army Signal Corps after graduation. He earned a master’s degree from Columbia University. He taught at Fair Lawn High School for 32 years. Joe also established the Fair Lawn Driving School in 1959 and it is still family-owned. He is survived by his wife, Inge Adler ’53; two daughters; a son; and seven grandchildren.

Mary Hilda Judge M ’54 of Florence, S.C., died May 15 at the age of 103. She received her bachelor’s degree from the College of St. Rose. Hilda taught in the Ondonda School District and was a remedial reading consultant before retiring. She is survived by a son, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a great-great-granddaughter.

Harry King ’54 of Canton died July 26. He earned an associate’s degree at Canton A.T.I. and a master’s degree at St. Lawrence University. Prior to retiring, Harry taught at SUNY Canton. Surviving are three daughters and four grandchildren, including Samantha MacArthur ’08.

Anthony Romano ’54 of Camillus passed away Aug. 7. He served with the U.S. Army in the Korean War. Anthony earned an engineering degree from Syracuse University in 1968. He was employed at General Electric for more than 25 years. Surviving are his wife, Antoinette Solazzo ’55; three sons; a daughter; and 16 grandchildren.

Maureen Hartigan Cohn ’56 of Hammondsport died Aug. 8. She taught in Hammondsport Central School and was a guidance counselor in the Oswego area. Maureen is survived by two daughters, a grandson, two stepdaughters and two stepsons.

Janis Dexter Taylor M ’56 of Los Alamos, N.M., died April 16. She earned a bachelor’s degree at Oberlin College. She taught in Evanston, Ill., and Los Alamos, N.M. Jan is survived by her husband, Dean; a daughter; a son; and three grandchildren.

Arthur Cardinali ’57 of Falls Church, Va., passed away March 4, 2008. Among his survivors is his daughter, Lisa Cardinali Levine ’86.

Ronald Guyer ’58 of Denton, Texas, passed away July 2. He is survived by his wife, Annelise.

Arlene Zecher Clough ’59 of Ava died Aug. 23. She taught for many years in Rome City Schools. Arlene is survived by a daughter, three sons, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

George Gilmore ’59 of Hudson Falls passed away Sept. 14, 2009. He served with the U.S. Army Air Corps. George earned a bachelor’s degree from Purdue University in 1950. In 1949, he co-founded B&G Equipment Co., a manufacturer of pest control. He went on to work in his family’s pest control business before deciding on a career in teaching. George taught industrial arts for 21 years at Hudson Falls Junior High School, retiring in 1980. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; two sons; and three grandsons, including Venance Akissi ’08.

Michael Rinko ’60 of New Hartford passed away May 13. He served with the U.S. Navy Reserves. Michael taught in Herkimer, Saratoga, Greenwich and Utica. He is survived by three brothers.

Richard Haug ’61 of Center Moriches died March 8, 2008. He is survived by four children and 10 grandchildren.

Alphonse Salerno ’62 of White Plains died Feb. 3. He served with the U.S. Army. Al taught in California and New Rochelle before opening Salerno’s Coach House Restaurant. He retired in 2005. Surviving is his wife, Jennie DiMatteo ’58; and a son.

Daniel Whitehead ’66 of Os­wego passed away Aug. 19. He served with the U.S. Army. Dan taught at Emerson J. Dillon Middle School in Phoenix for 33 years. He is survived by his wife, Susan Dorgan ’65; two sons; and six grandchildren.

Mary Wiecha ’67, who taught English at Oswego, passed away May 4. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Wiecha; Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus; and three sons, Joseph ’77, Charles and John.

Joan Cserne Knapton ’68 of East Nassau died Aug. 28. She received her master’s degree from the University at Albany. Joan is survived by her husband, Dean ’68; two daughters, Amy Cornell ’91 and Cathy Sweeney; and four grandchildren.

Roy Potucek ’70 of Cato passed away May 31. Roy served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He taught industrial arts technology at Liverpool High School for 30 years, retiring in 2000. Surviving are his wife, Diane; a son and a grandson.

Robert Gresham ’71 of Warners passed away Aug. 15. He taught technology at Mexico High School, retiring in 2004. Surviving are his wife, Kathy; two daughters and one grandchild.

Curtis Toepp ’74 of Baldwins­ville died July 29. He was employed by Anheuser-Busch for 28 years, retiring in 2008. He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

Daniel Tetro ’77 of Fulton died July 14. He owned Cavone’s Pizza Supply for 18 years. Dan is survived by three brothers.


Karen Kaplan ’79 of Gainesville, Fla., passed away Nov. 7, 2009. She is survived by her parents and two brothers.

Peter Mahon ’79 of Waldorf, Md., died July 22. He was a social studies teacher at LaPlata High School. Peter is survived by two sisters and a brother.

David “Agram” Crisafulli ’81 of Oswego passed away Sept. 23. He received his MBA from Syracuse University. Dave was an employee concerns manager with Constella­tion Energy. He recently published his own autobiography, Good Enough. He was a professional scout for Paramount Major League Base­ball and a member of SUNY Os­wego’s Baseball Hall of Fame. Dave is survived by two sons. Donations to the David “Agram” Crisafulli ’81 Fund may be made to the Oswego College Foundation, 219 Sheldon Hall.

Raymond Leggiiero ’81 of North Syracuse died July 24, 2010. He was a software engineer for Sensis Corp. Ray is survived by his wife, Patricia Wakefield ’81, and three sons.

Thomas “Cody” Salsberg ’81 of Bay Shore died June 29. He retired after 20 years as a Nassau County police officer. He is survived by his longtime companion, Karen Clark.

Curt Van Cott ’88 of Com­mack passed away Sept. 4. He was a dentist in Middle Island. Curt is survived by his wife, Marianne; two daughters; and his father, Roy.

Joan Gibson, Associate Pro­fessor Emerita of Counseling and Psychological Services passed away May 31, 2010. She earned a bachelor’s degree at D’Youville College, master’s degrees at Canisius Col­lege and Buffalo State, and a Ph.D. at SUNY Buffalo. Joan is survived by her partner, Diane Johnson; her stepdaughter and her grandson.
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, located in the central Brooks Range of northern Alaska, is one of the last places in North America that is still untrammeled by modern civilization. It features countless jagged mountains that soar anywhere from 4,000 to 8,000 feet high, numerous wild and scenic rivers, and more than seven million acres of federally designated wilderness.

In the brief period of summer weather from around mid-June through late July, the sun never sets. It allows the Brooks Range to transition from a grim winter wasteland to a vibrant landscape, teeming with vegetation, wildlife … and, of course, mosquitoes.

From May through September of this year, I worked as a backcountry ranger in this park. While the ranger station and my housing were located in Bettles, a bush town located about 30 miles south of the park, I spent about 60 days backpacking across the tundra and floating down the rivers within the park.

My patrols were far from aimless, so there was a bit of real work involved, but the experience was so astounding.

After nine backcountry patrols and hundreds of photos taken in a place of such inordinate grandeur, the finest memory of the season was a patrol in the Arrigetch Peaks. As a National Natural Landmark, the Arrigetch receives a considerable percentage of the park's visitors each year.

Look at the photographs and it's easy to see why.

In the Inupiaq language, the word “Arrigetch” is translated as
“fingers of the outstretched hand,” and every year a few climbers from around the world try to ascend these fingers. After spending several days among these spires of rock, hiking deep into their glacially eroded valleys, I determined that no words of the English language can accurately describe the utterly horrifying beauty of this place. You must see for yourself to gain a genuine understanding.

The summer also included an array of wildlife: grizzly bears just 100 yards away, black bears stumbling into camp in the morning and more than 100 Dall sheep grazing in the mountains.

While seeing a grizzly in the wild helps define a wilderness experience, perhaps even greater is the sight and sound of a wolf.

In late June, just after the solstice, I was fortunate to see a lone gray wolf roaming across the tundra, and on my final patrol, further south on the John River, I heard the howling of a dispersed pack late one evening: a perfect end to my season.

Since leaving New York not long after graduating from Oswego State, I have called Alaska my home. Working for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve has allowed me to see a part of this vast state that few people ever visit. I hope to see more as my time here continues.

Former Oswego magazine intern Steven Duby ’09 is a graduate student at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, Alaska.

Steven Duby ’09 stands atop Allen Mountain in Gates of the Arctic National Park.

Left: Some of the prominent peaks of the Arrigetch. Steven Duby ’09 was consistently faced with “utterly horrifying beauty” throughout his summer as a park ranger.