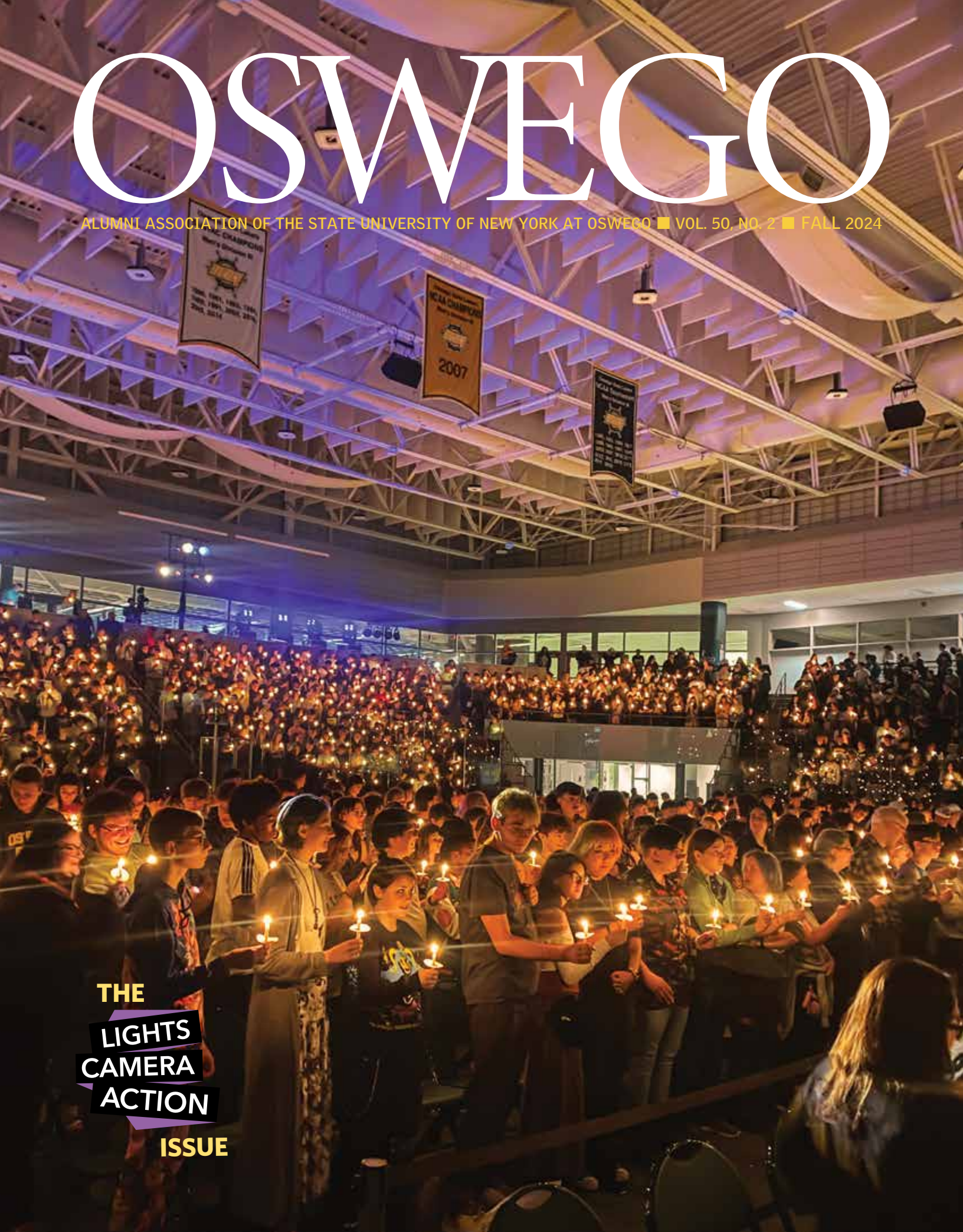


OSWEGO

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT OSWEGO ■ VOL. 50, NO. 2 ■ FALL 2024



**THE
LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION
ISSUE**



Photo by Jim Kearns
Submit your own campus photo to: alumni@oswego.edu.



ON OUR CAMPUS

Every August, new students, transfers, faculty and staff participate in a colorful tradition to paint the Marano Campus Center Bus Loop green. Campus members showcase their Oswego pride during this annual event, a highlight of the Laker Launch program for new students and opening week activities.

Members of the Oswego family are also welcome to show their school spirit every Friday throughout the academic year — by wearing their university colors for Green and Gold Fridays.

OSWEGO Alumni Magazine

FALL 2024: Vol. 50, No. 2

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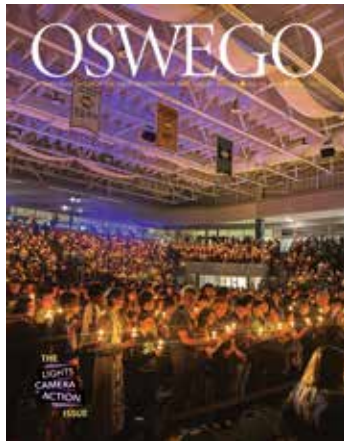
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On the cover:

With the candles lit, the cameras officially started rolling to capture the action in the Oswego story for these new students during the 35th Annual Welcoming Torchlight Ceremony on Aug. 21 in the Deborah F. Stanley Arena and Convocation Hall.

— Photo by Melissa Manwaring '01



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Have news to share?

Send us your news! We want to hear about your new job, promotion, marriage, babies, visits with Oswego alumni or even just a change in your address.

Submissions received between Jan. 1-June 30 will run in our fall/winter issue, and between July 1-Dec. 31 in our spring/summer issue.

To submit your class note, email alumni@oswego.edu, call 315-312-3003 or complete the class note form online at alumni.oswego.edu. You can also mail submissions to the OSWEGO Alumni Magazine, King Alumni Hall, Oswego, N.Y. 13126.

Please note: Class notes included in the magazine come from a variety of sources, such as alumni submissions, news releases, social media posts and news media reports.

Check out OSWEGO Alumni Magazine online:
alumni.oswego.edu/magazine



SCAN ME



You'll find exclusive online extras like additional photos, extended versions and multimedia pieces, as well as a digital flipbook, shareable links to stories and printable PDF pages.

From the President

Dear Members of the Laker Community,

Lights, Camera, Action! The theme of this issue of OSWEGO Alumni Magazine seems a fitting way to describe the action-packed first year I have had at this marvelous university. There have been so many noteworthy moments with this dedicated and highly engaged campus community and many picture-perfect days in my new home at Shady Shore. Some of those activities are captured within the pages of this magazine — including the once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse (page 18), the renovation of Hewitt Hall into a state-of-the-art collaborative instructional facility (page 16) and the first-ever all-female sports broadcast of the men's ice hockey program's 1,000th victory (page 31).



By the time you receive this issue, I will have been officially inaugurated as the 11th president of this storied institution. You will have an opportunity to learn more about that event and the many events leading up to and following the inauguration in our next issue of the magazine.

Additionally, I am thrilled to share that our loyal alumni and supporters helped us have a stellar 2023-24 fiscal year, with nearly 5,000 donors raising more than \$11 million in gifts, pledges and bequests, and more than 1,100 alumni volunteered their time and expertise to serve on boards and committees, host virtual and in-person events, speak in classes and on panels, recruit new students and donate their service in many other ways.

On a related note, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Vice President for University Advancement **Mary Gibbons Canale '81** whose leadership helped us achieve such success last year and indeed throughout her entire 28-year tenure with the university. When I was first named president, Mary came to visit me in New York City, before I started, to let me know her plans to retire. At the time, I was moved by her grace and candor, and my respect and admiration for her have only grown stronger over the past year.

I know you will join me in celebrating Mary's remarkable tenure, expressing our appreciation for her exceptional service to SUNY Oswego and wishing her well on her next adventure. Though she may be retiring from her official role, her impact on our campus will resonate for decades to come.

In the coming months, you will hear much more about Vision 4040 and our new strategic plan to grow, connect and thrive as both documents will guide our future actions. We will seek your partnership to help us achieve the goals laid out in them, as we will need all members of our Laker community to advance our story. Let's begin — **Lights, Camera, Action.**

Remain well,

Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.
President

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT OSWEGO

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* At large ** Ex officio

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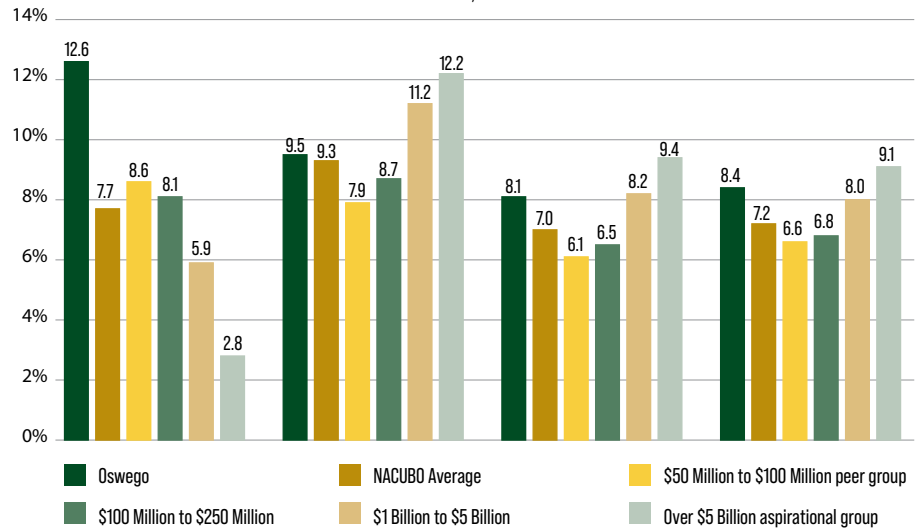
Endowment Outperforms Peer, National Average

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Oswego University Foundation's investments returned 12.6 percent, or 4.9 percentage points greater than the 7.7 percent average of the other 688 participating U.S. colleges and universities and affiliated foundations. The results were reported in the 2023 NACUBO-Commonfund Study of Endowments® (NCSE), released in mid-February.

The university's endowment grew from \$53.9 million at the end of fiscal year 2022 to \$62 million at the end of fiscal year 2023. That translates into the foundation being able to return more money to campus over the long term.

"These data trends show that the Oswego University Foundation consistently outperforms not only our peers, but our aspirational peers as well — or those whose endowments are larger than ours," said **Mary Gibbons Canale '81**, president of the foundation and vice president for university advancement. "Our Investment Committee, made up of a dedicated group of volunteers, did a tremendous job stewarding the gifts of our donors so we can maximize the impact of their philanthropy on the education of current and future Lakers. We are incredibly grateful to have their expertise and guidance on ensuring these consistently strong returns."

NACUBO Survey Results
Comparison of Rates of Return by Time and Endowment Size
June 30, 2023



More significant than the one-year returns, Oswego's 10-year rate of return was 8.4 percent, which was 1.2 percentage points higher than the NACUBO average and exceeding the average of each size endowment except the "over \$5 billion" group.

This rate of return figure is significant because it is a key factor in determining how much money the foundation will pay out for its privately endowed scholarships and its dozens of other endowed funds.

The foundation manages a total of nearly 800 endowed and unendowed funds from which the university was able to award a total of 851 student scholarships during fiscal year 2023.

Last year, through both endowed and unendowed funds, the foundation provided campus a total of \$4.8 million in support. For perspective, this amount exceeds the total assets of the foundation in 2000, prior to the university hiring its first vice president for development and alumni engagement.

Athletics Giving Week



Thank you to all of the donors who participated in the Laker Athletics Giving Week, April 1-7. Because of your generosity, SUNY Oswego student-athletes are able to compete with the equipment, training and support they need.

Participating Teams: 22

Total Donors: 352

Total Dollars: \$44,081

Teams who had the most donors: Men's and women's swimming and diving

Teams who raised the most money: Men's ice hockey and women's field hockey



March Matchness Stat Sheet

The annual Graduates Of the Last Decade (GOLD) Giving Challenge seeks to inspire philanthropic gifts to *The Fund for Oswego* from most recent graduates through a month-long challenge. This year's March Matchness surpassed the goal of 200 donors by 50 percent and raised more than \$48,500 for SUNY Oswego.

MVPs: Challengers **Liz and Brad Bernstein '89** who donated \$40K

Total Raised: \$48,641.24

Goal: 200 GOLD donors

Actual Score: 305 GOLD donors

Sarimsakov Wins 2024 Outstanding Senior Award



Few students throughout the history of SUNY Oswego could say they took advantage of as many opportunities afforded them as the Oswego Alumni Association 2024 Outstanding Senior Award recipient, **Azizbek "Aziz" Sarimsakov '24**. He was recognized May 10 during the Commencement Eve Torchlight Reception.

He is the son of Luiza Sarimsakov of Rego Park, N.Y. The Earth Science and adolescent education major graduated with a 3.8 grade point average, impressive in its own right, but even more so as he earned that while serving in so many leadership positions on campus.

Sarimsakov served the campus as a resident assistant, a new student orientation Laker Leader captain, writing and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) tutor, Oswego Admissions intern and ambassador, presidential student ambassador to the Oswego University Foundation's Development Committee, student representative to the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors and a cohort leader for the Teacher Opportunity Corps at SUNY Oswego.

He committed himself to reinvigorating many clubs and organizations that were waning after the COVID-19 pandemic. Among those he resurrected or re-energized were the Geology Club and the College Republicans, where he served as president and vice president, respectively. He also was a founding member of SUNY Oswego's chapter of Turning Point USA. He made meaningful contributions to each of these organizations and helped strengthen their membership, funding, programming and inclusivity, and his peers recognized his contributions with the Student Association Award.

Additionally, he sought out opportunities to improve his interpersonal and communication skills, and earned certifications and completed trainings in such areas as sexual harassment prevention, suicide prevention, emergency preparedness, international peer education, family engagement and children supervision.

"Aziz received glowing reviews and accolades from the many faculty, staff, administrators and alumni who submitted letters of support for this award," said **Laura Pavlus Kelly '09**, executive director of the Oswego Alumni Association. "Each pointed out that in addition to his exceptional leadership and academic success, he embodies the finest qualities as a caring member of this campus community."

Sarimsakov, who was also selected as a recipient of a 2024 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence — the highest honor awarded by the SUNY system — works for New York City Public Schools.

The Outstanding Senior Award was established by the 2005 Senior Class Planning Committee and is funded by **Alice Massigni Crouch '02**. The Outstanding Senior Award recognizes a graduating senior or seniors highly involved on campus while maintaining academic excellence.



Members of the Commencement Eve Torchlight Platform party (from left): Torchbearer **Matthew Bernstein '24**, President Peter Nwosu, Executive Director of the Oswego Alumni Association **Laura Pavlus Kelly '09**, Student Speaker **Aziz Sarimsakov '24** (at the podium), Alumni Emcee **Brad Bernstein '89** and Student Emcee **Jasmitha Pilli M'24**.

Class of 2024 Officially Welcomed into Oswego Alumni Family

Brad Bernstein '89, co-managing partner and owner of the certified public accounting firm of Farber, Blicht, Eyerman & Herzog, served as the alumni emcee of the 2024 Commencement Eve Torchlight Reception and Ceremony on May 10. He delivered remarks during one of Oswego's long-standing traditions and assisted his son, Torchbearer and finance major, **Matthew '24**, and President Peter O. Nwosu in passing the flame from the Torch of Learning to members of the Class of 2024 — the newest members of the Oswego Alumni Association. Bernstein's daughter, **Sara '18 M'19**, represented her class years in the Alumni Inner Circle during the Torchlight Ceremony.



Six Accomplished Lakers Selected for 2024 Alumni Awards



Three of the award winners were recognized at the University Update during Reunion Weekend 2024: Pictured from left are Vice President for University Advancement **Mary Gibbons Canale '81**; award winners **Martha Ellen Searles Sturtz '79**, **Shanna Fuld '16** and **Brian J. Fogarty '82**; Oswego Alumni Association President **Phil Grome '89**. **Thaina Gonzalez '92** and **Aunrée Jacques-Laurent Houston '00** received their award during the Return to Oz VI Reunion on Sept. 28, 2024. **Indie Lee '93 (Lisa Swengros Agona '93)** will receive her award at a later date.

The Oswego Alumni Association (OAA) proudly announced the 2024 Alumni Awards recipients, several of whom were recognized during Reunion Weekend, June 6-9 in Oswego.

"SUNY Oswego's vision, as shared by President Nwosu, is to ignite possibilities and transform our students' lives, and this year's recipients are a testament to the outstanding quality of the alumni who graduate from this university," said **Laura Pavlus Kelly '09**, OAA executive director and director of alumni engagement. "They have intertwined their personal and professional success with advancing their alma mater, their communities and society more generally. The Oswego Alumni Association is proud to be able to honor their accomplishments, which reflect so positively on the university and our impact through the contributions of our 95,000 alumni worldwide."

The six winners this year were selected from a strong pool of nominees, representing a range of class years, majors, careers and contributions. Those being recognized this year are: **Brian J. Fogarty '82**, Lifetime Award of Merit; **Shanna Fuld '16**, Graduates Of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award; **Thaina Gonzalez '92**, Alumni Impact Award; **Aunrée Jacques-Laurent Houston '00**, Alumni Impact Award; **Indie Lee '93 (aka Lisa Swengros Agona) '93**, Distinguished Alumna Award; and **Martha Ellen Searles Sturtz '79**, Community Service Award.



Founder of a clean skincare and cosmetics company **Indie Lee '93 (Lisa Swengros Agona '93)** was selected to receive the Distinguished Alumna Award, the highest award presented by the OAA and given

to individuals who have achieved national or international recognition in their field. After being diagnosed with a brain tumor and given six months to live in 2008, Agona, an accountant by trade, decided to create a legacy of change through clean skincare products. She successfully launched the new venture under a shortened form of "Independent Lisa," which became her new identity — Indie Lee. Both she and her product line continue to thrive today.

For demonstrating a lifetime of both professional and civic leadership, general manager of Convergent Technologies **Brian J. Fogarty '82**, a public justice major, received the Lifetime Award of Merit for his impactful contributions to such community organizations as United Cerebral Palsy of Long Island, New York Police Department, AHRC Nassau and Eden II Programs.

Founder, chief executive officer and host of *Israel Daily News* **Shanna Fuld '16**, a Spanish and broadcasting and mass communication double major, received the GOLD Award for her commitment to journalism, objectively reporting her experiences, and for her tireless efforts to continuously improve her craft for her global audiences.

Retired real estate agent and school teacher **Martha Ellen Searles Sturtz '79**, a childhood education major, was selected to receive the Community Service Award for outstanding achievement in service to the Mexico, N.Y., and the Central New York community, especially through her work with the Mexico Food Pantry, PAWS Across CNY and Oswego County Opportunities Inc.



The Alumni Impact Award was presented to Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors member and director of the executive office and board relations at Sponsors for Educational Opportunity **Thaina Gonzalez '92**, a Spanish major, and Oswego University Foundation Board of Directors member and marketing operations executive at Netflix **Aunrée Jacques-Laurent Houston '00**, a broadcasting and mass communication major. Both Gonzalez and Houston are highly engaged individuals who volunteer their time, treasure and talents for the betterment of SUNY Oswego and our students.

Read longer bios of each award recipient online at alumni.oswego.edu/winners24.

Alumnae Featured in Inaugural Women's Empowerment Summit



Before a standing-room-only crowd of more than 150 students, a panel of distinguished women discussed their professional paths as well as how they overcame obstacles on their way to success.

The Women of Impact panel kicked off the inaugural Women's Empowerment Summit on March 26 in the Marano Campus Center. The event also included three break-out sessions and a catered networking reception. Conceived and organized by Career Services, the summit celebrated Women's History Month and provided useful advice and strategies on forging a professional path for women entering the workforce or advancing in their careers.



Panel moderator **Robin Curtis '78**, who gained fame as an actor in *Star Trek*, asked the five Women of Impact panelists how they stayed inspired in their current positions.

"If you're not going to advocate for yourself, who will?" asked panelist **Adriana Loh '21**, a multimedia journalist at Spectrum News. "I am trying to break the chain for my family. I was a first-generation college graduate. I stay focused on what I can do to inspire myself."

Panelist **Chelsea Giovo '13**, an inspector with the Oswego City Police Department,

said she felt fortunate to have had female officers lay the path before her, including a former female city police chief.

"I want to inspire others," said Giovo, who explained how she helped write the department's policy for maternity leave that included equipment and uniform regulations during and after pregnancy. "I want to set the example for the next person in line."

Following the panel, students could select to attend two of the three, 25-minute sessions, which featured the following:

- **Women in Entertainment Panel**, moderated by SUNY Oswego's Women In Entertainment Club's co-founder and president **Madison Gordon '25**
 - **Robin Curtis '78** (Professional Actor; *Star Trek*)
 - Juliet Giglio (Creative Writing Instructor, Screenwriter and Novelist)
 - **Kayla Skipper '14** (Writer; PBS & Moonbug Entertainment)
- **Know Your Worth: Salary Negotiation Workshop**
 - **Jackie Campbell Wallace '02 M'04** (Associate Director for Career Education; Career Services)
- **Becoming a PowHERhouse Networking Workshop**
 - Kristine Whiting (Group Rental Manager; Enterprise Mobility)

The evening concluded with a catered networking hour that welcomed the 13 panelists, 25 campus partners and 160 student attendees. Career Services career coach **Megan McGarvey Mazzoccone '07** developed the idea for the event and organized the evening's activities.



"I am very happy with how our first summit went," said Mazzoccone. "Our attendance exceeded my expectations. We have been getting fantastic feedback from our students and panelists, who are already looking forward to the next one. I am already brainstorming on ways to make this event bigger and better for next year."



The event was held in celebration of Women's History Month, with funding provided by the Feinberg Family Fund. Created in 2003 by **Robert Feinberg '78** and his wife, Robbi, the fund has grown to support SUNY Oswego students seeking professional and academic experiences to further their co-curricular career goals including internships, co-ops and various professional development opportunities, such as the Women's Empowerment Summit.



Women of Impact panelists (from left) Jennifer Neuner, Arika Fritz, Moderator **Robin Curtis '78**, **Chelsea Giovo '13**, Kristine Whiting and **Adriana Loh '21**.

Spring Career Fair Has Record Attendance by Students, Employers

Human development major **Kaylee Knapp '24** has been attending the university's career and internship fairs since she was a sophomore, so this year, as a senior, she walked into the Swetman Gymnasium on March 6 for the annual Spring Career and Internship Fair without hesitation and with a plan to be open to opportunities.

"I have become more confident in my ability to ask questions and showcase my strengths, aligning them with company needs," Knapp said. "This growth has not only made the Career Fair less daunting but has also opened doors to more promising prospects and connections."

That is exactly what Career Services Director **Gary Morris '88** wants to hear.

"The true value of the event is students going through the process and realizing that they can successfully speak with an employer about career paths and opportunities," Morris said.

This year's fair featured a new "Student Lounge" in the nearby Compass, which was organized and sponsored by EXCEL. It was so well-received by students that Morris said this will become a permanent feature in future years.

During the fair, students could also have a free professional portrait taken to use on their LinkedIn profiles.

This year, the event had a record number of organizations (119), employer representatives (245) and student attendees (740). The students represented a diverse range of class years, majors and cultural backgrounds.

These numbers reflect decades of award-winning work by the Career Services team members, who have implemented a number of forward-thinking initiatives over the past few decades.

Many years ago, the office broke away from the SUNY-wide norm of a generalist approach, opting instead for a more customized structure with career coaches who have specialized expertise in various professional paths. The staff also very deliberately collaborate with internal partners such as faculty, student clubs and organizations, or such programs as CSTEP and EOP on all of their career development programs. The office has also been very successful in strategically collaborating with faculty to embed career readiness and competencies into the curriculum.

Morris said the effectiveness of this work can be seen in the "first destination" data of our students after graduation. The most recent data had 97 percent of students reporting that they were employed or continuing their education. 93 percent said they were employed full-time in their career of choice.

For students like Knapp, the office's efforts appear to have worked.

"My interaction with Career Services has been invaluable," she said. "I've received tailored support that has promoted my confidence and prepared me to showcase my skills and experiences effectively to potential employers. Overall, Oswego has not only provided me with a solid academic foundation but has also instilled in me the confidence and determination to pursue my career goals with clarity and purpose."



4,542 students participated in internships, co-ops, student teaching, research, civic engagement and other applied learning experiences last year.

Our 2023 graduates are in demand!

97% Working or Continuing Education

93% Working in Field of Choice

To start recruiting, contact us at: oswego.edu/careerservices, or scan the QR codes below to connect directly with the respective staff member:

School of Business



School of Communication, Media and the Arts



School of Education



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Alumni Achievers Keynote SUNY Oswego's Commencement Ceremonies

Accomplished individuals from the fields of public service, education and entrepreneurship presented their words of wisdom at SUNY Oswego's three Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 11, in the Deborah F. Stanley Arena and Convocation Hall.

Trudy Perkins '93, who most recently served as the acting chief of staff and communications director for U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), received an honorary doctorate of humane letters before speaking at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences ceremony.



Perkins was recognized for having forged a path as a successful woman of color in her career as a news producer and then as communications director and acting chief of staff for U.S. Congressmen. More significantly, Perkins has lifted others on her professional ascent through her community service and mentorship and has shared a message of empowerment with those who follow in her footsteps.



Ed Alberts M'92 M'97, a serial entrepreneur who launched many businesses especially in Central New York, addressed graduates during the School of Business ceremony.



Syracuse City School District Superintendent Anthony Q. Davis, a graduate of SUNY Oswego's New York State Superintendent Development Program, delivered the keynote during the ceremony for the School of Communication, Media and the Arts and the School of Education.

TOP-RANKED

Online MBA Program

SUNY Oswego continues as the top-ranked online master of business administration (MBA) offering in the state among public universities, according to the 2024 Princeton Review Online MBA rankings released in spring 2024.

Rising to 44th overall from ranking 58th the previous year, the program's strengths include creating a personalized approach for students, according to Irene Scruton, assistant dean of the School of Business and director of SUNY Oswego's MBA programs.

Oswego — the first comprehensive college in the SUNY system to offer an MBA degree, starting in 1997 — has increased the options students have for specializing within their graduate business studies, offering MBA programs in health services administration, management and public accounting. The university also offers a variety of graduate programs and five-year options that combine an MBA with such bachelor's degrees as in broadcasting, public accounting or psychology.

MBA delivery options include classroom-based in Oswego and/or blended classroom-online programs, as well as the online MBA. For more information, visit oswego.edu/mba or email mba@oswego.edu.

Find the Founder!



In the Winter 2024 issue, the Sheldon statue can be found in the middle left section of the men's lacrosse alumni reunion photo on the top of page 17. Grand prize winner of a College Store gift certificate and a Sheldon Hall print is **David Williams '71**. Winning Sheldon Hall prints are **Cameron Ott '20**, **Carol Dickson McKee '77**, **Glendon Widrick '74**, **Joe White '79** and **Jean Brandon '73**.

A tiny replica of the Sheldon statue, pictured here, is hidden somewhere in this issue. Find the Founder and send us a letter or email 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 some SUNY Oswego swag and a print of Sheldon Hall. The next five entries drawn will receive Sheldon Hall prints. Send your entry by Dec. 1, 2024, to Find the Founder, Sheldon Hall, 301 Washington Blvd., Oswego, N.Y. 13126, or email findthefounder@oswego.edu.

University's New Great Lakes Institute Looks at Challenges, Solutions



SUNY Oswego recently launched the Great Lakes Institute to foster a greater awareness and understanding of the Great Lakes through continued research efforts, academic programming and coursework for students at all levels, and public outreach.

"This will serve as a resource and place to discuss critical issues associated with the Great Lakes," said Lisa Glidden, the institute's founding director and a political science faculty member.

The institute's charter notes it will support faculty and student research opportunities including collaborative and interdisciplinary research; seek external grant and philanthropic support; facilitate course development related to the Great Lakes; and partner and collaborate with relevant entities in the promotion, research, education and stewardship of the Great Lakes.

Scott Furlong, the university's provost and vice president for academic affairs, said SUNY Oswego hosting such an endeavor makes sense in academic, logistical and environmental contexts.

"It's an excellent fit due to our geography, our expertise in the space, the importance of fresh water and our ongoing focus on the environment," Furlong said. "The Great Lakes is the largest freshwater system in the world, and it's important that we help serve as stewards."

A cross-campus advisory board has worked to set up the institute and will continue to help guide its activities with so much potential across disciplines for the only New York campus bordering a Great Lake.

SUNY Oswego, Three Community Colleges Partner on Central New York Transfer Collaboration

SUNY Oswego is leading the way on better connecting community colleges with the transfer experience through the recent kickoff of the Central New York Transfer Collaboration (CNYTC), which includes partners at Cayuga, Jefferson and Onondaga community colleges.

The effort received support with \$85,000 in SUNY funding for yield activities to further strengthen relationships and the transfer pipeline between these schools. An additional \$12,000 in SUNY Transformational Funds over the next two years will go beyond just these transfer activities to develop a more enduring partnership among the institutions.

Every year, between a quarter and a third of incoming SUNY Oswego students are transfers, with many coming from CCC, JCC and OCC. CNYTC will work to make the process smoother to find the best pathways, reducing credit duplication, identifying which credits will count and eliminating the red tape that can get in the way of students looking to transfer.



Finance major **Paul Lomanto '25**, who transferred from Onondaga Community College, is one of many transfer success stories at SUNY Oswego.

NIH-Supported Project Seeks Better Ways to Maintain Vaccines



In an effort led by Arsalan Mirjafari, the SUNY Oswego's Dr. Richard S. Shineman Professor of Chemistry, a faculty-student team are trying to unlock a better way to maintain vaccines (including COVID-19 vaccines) against other current or future viruses. Their research focuses on using sugars with ionic liquids that they synthesize to be able to preserve the vaccine at room temperature to eliminate the cold chain, as vaccines currently need to be preserved in cold temperatures. Their goal is to produce thermostable vaccines that will enable more equitable access to these vaccines, especially in low- to middle-income areas. Here researchers (from left) **Clinton Adu M'24**, **Blake Britton '24** and **Muhammad Musozoda '23 M'25** examine data.

Technology Education Students Win Awards at International Conference



Students from the SUNY Oswego Technology Student Association continued their run of success in conference competitions, earning three second-place finishes and one fourth-place nod at the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) conference in Memphis in March.

Professor Earns Patent on Ionic Propulsion Technology Breakthrough



Electrical and computer engineering professor Adrian Ieta (left) and student researcher **Jack Gallagher '26** look at the revolutionary ionic wind rotational propulsion system, which recently received a patent.

A propulsion technology breakthrough has resulted in a new patent for SUNY Oswego's electrical and computer engineering professor Adrian Ieta's ionic wind research.

In 2018, Ieta and a team of students achieved a first-of-its-kind flight with this new type of rotational propulsion system. Ionic wind uses electricity to power movement, as high voltage between asymmetrical electrodes generates an intense electric field near the sharp electrode and over a certain voltage leads to local ionization of the air.

"When using propellers equipped with ionic wind emitters, I was able to make them lift off and fly," Ieta said. "The result was the first of its kind and would raise the question if ionic drones powered like this would be possible."

Continuing experiments to enhance and control the induced rotational motion could lead to such offerings as ionic fans or ionic hoods that could use ions to destroy airborne microbes in a particular space.

"The ionic wind is sensitive to the composition of the air, and potentially ionic rotary sensors can be developed and be commercialized," Ieta said. "There are all sorts of demo units that could be developed for academic use, or for hobbyists."

Ion wind has been a known phenomenon for a while — first reported in 1709 and with the first ionic wind rotational device

in 1760 — but nobody had succeeded in making an ionic wind-activated device spin and lift off in air until the breakthrough in a Shineman Center lab. Although some may say that the effect is expected, it was unknown whether it was possible at all, Ieta said.

Research and Development

"In essence, the patent ensures priority for creating rotational devices using ionic wind," Ieta explained. "The ionic wind emitters I produced include metal pins, metal tape and other conductive materials. Moreover, in order to intensify the electric field, and with it the ionic wind, I used an additional ground electrode around the emitters."

While Ieta holds the patent, it has inspired other research and advancements, most notably with colleague Marius Chirita of Romania's National Institute for Research and Development in Electrochemistry and Condensed Matter.

Chirita "was fascinated by it and continued the research and enhanced the testing even in gasses other than air," Ieta said. They worked together during Ieta's recent sabbatical and learned that atmospheres with higher oxygen concentrations enhanced the ability to produce ionic wind.

Most of the subsequent research involved small propeller models, but Ieta noted that larger propellers can bring enhanced

efficiency and significantly more thrust. The next step is to get an ionic wind device with enough power to lift its own self-contained power supply.

Ieta first researched the topic around 25 years ago as an undergraduate before returning to the subject around 2011.

"The students liked it so I really wanted to go in that direction," Ieta said. That led to the 2018 breakthrough and all the avenues it opened for research and development.

The work at Oswego continues to provide students with opportunities to investigate different configurations and create structures that ionic wind might be able to lift. Students presented some of their research at Quest last year, but experiments are ongoing.

Four Oswego Students Win SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence

Four SUNY Oswego students were among the 193 system-wide honored recently with the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, the highest such honor for students in SUNY.

Earning the awards were:



Hugh Riley Randall '24 of Oswego, a double major in physics and applied mathematics with a minor in astronomy



Infiniti Robinson '24 of Bronx, N.Y., a double major in sociology and art (history emphasis) with a minor in arts management



Aziz Sarimsakov '24 of Rego Park, N.Y., a double major in adolescence education — grades 7-12/earth science and geology



Amanda Streeter '24 of Shirley, N.Y., a double major in biology and chemistry

Transforming Lives Scholarships Support Students, Celebrate New President



President Peter O. Nwosu (middle) with SUNY Oswego students during the Scholars Brunch last fall.

SUNY Oswego President Peter O. Nwosu knows firsthand the power of education to transform lives. A new scholarship will celebrate his leadership and provide opportunities to others.

A native of Nigeria, he survived a civil war and attended an elementary school whose bullet-ridden exterior was a vivid reminder of the damage caused by violence and by the inability to communicate effectively with other people.

Throughout his life, he channeled his energy toward attending school, doing

classwork, learning and expanding his understanding of the world. His education opened doors to a life that would have otherwise been unavailable to him. Simply stated — education transformed his life.

On Aug. 15, 2023, Nwosu became SUNY Oswego's first president of color, and he was officially inaugurated as the 11th president of SUNY Oswego on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

In honor of this momentous occasion in the university's history and in support of his Vision 4040 to provide access and op-

portunity to more SUNY Oswego students, the university has created the Transforming Lives Scholarship Fund. The university seeks to raise support for one of his top priorities — student scholarships.

"What better way to welcome our new president than helping to support his vision of making a SUNY Oswego education accessible to more students," said Vice President for University Advancement **Mary Gibbons Canale '81**. "Our Laker community understands the life-changing significance of higher education and the impact that our caring university community makes in our students' lives. To this day, many alumni can trace their own success back to the relationships, learning and experiences that they had at SUNY Oswego. We invite you to help create these opportunities for others while honoring our new president."

You can make a gift to the scholarship fund online at alumni.oswego.edu/transforminglives. Supporting the Transforming Lives Scholarship Fund can provide an immediate impact on Oswego students and celebrate this milestone in the university's history. If you are interested in establishing a named endowed scholarship, please contact the Office of University Advancement at **315-312-3003**.

Maraviglia Atrium Officially Dedicated in SUNY Oswego's School of Education

SUNY Oswego's Wilber Hall recently had its atrium rededicated in honor of a generous donation by **Frank Maraviglia '58**. In the front row, Frank (seated, second from left) receives thanks from SUNY Oswego President Peter O. Nwosu (third from left), joined by his brother, **Raymond Maraviglia '61** (right) and Maraviglia's niece-in-law, Krista Hockey (left). In the back row from left are Frank and Raymond's nephew, **Mark Procopio '95**, Lee Doucette (family friend), technology education major and student speaker **Bryan Diaz-Ximello '25**, Provost Scott Furlong, Dean of the School of Education Laura Spenceley and Vice President for University Advancement **Mary Gibbons Canale '81**.



Vice President Canale Announces Plans to Retire Dec. 31



Vice President for University Advancement **Mary Gibbons Canale '81** has announced her plans to retire on Dec. 31, 2024, after 28 years of service to the university and its 95,000 alumni.

SUNY Oswego President Peter O. Nwosu said in the short time he has known Canale, she has become one of his most trusted advisors.

"Mary's warmth, enthusiasm and boundless energy enabled her to connect with our 95,000 alumni and helped her garner their support to advance the university's strategic priorities," Nwosu said. "She has been an instrumental member of the university's leadership team. In my time as your president, I have relied on Mary's exceptional skills, insight and judgment, so much so that I asked her to serve as co-chair of the Presidential Inauguration Committee."

Canale first came to SUNY Oswego from Cortland N.Y., as a student who graduated with a degree in psychology in 1981. She joined the university's staff in 1996 as the coordinator of the Oswego State Fall Classic, which, at the time, served as the major fundraiser for the Presidential Scholars program. The following year, she became assistant director of development, and worked to expand the fundraising efforts of the university.



In 2002, she instituted the major gifts program at the university as director of major gifts, expanding the development unit from an annual fund operation of modest returns to regularly raising \$5 million annually with an endowment to sustain the university into the future. From 2007 to 2016, she served as associate vice president for development, and brought in several major gifts during two comprehensive campaigns and several bridge campaigns. In 2016, she was named vice president for university advancement and president of the Oswego University Foundation, and began to build on the strong foundation laid by her predecessors.

Canale's leadership was integral to the success of the university's comprehensive fundraising campaigns as well as the Path Forward, Possibility, Marano and the current Transforming Lives

scholarship programs and the naming of the Marano Campus Center in 2014, Deborah F. Stanley Arena and Convocation Hall in 2021, James A. Triandiflou Institute for Equity, Diversity and Transformative Practice in 2022 and the School of Education's Frank and Gloria Maraviglia Atrium in 2024. She oversaw the expansion of the Alumni and Development areas to include Career Services in 2021 and to be rebranded as University Advancement in 2023, reflecting the broader, more expansive vision for the division.

As the leader of University Advancement, she empowered her staff to create a more integrated, collaborative unit by establishing shared values, mission and vision. Canale led an intensive strategic planning session with her staff to create a 3- to 5-year plan that she emphasized was meant to be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the university's highest priorities and to address emerging trends. She coordinated team-building virtual gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic to help her staff members remain connected and supported, and instilled in her team the confidence to be strategic risk-takers, explore new ideas, revise and revamp programs, and work to be better every day.

As the university's principal fundraiser and president of the foundation, she has helped to achieve unprecedented growth in the school's endowment, which consistently shows stronger returns than peers. Under her leadership, the endowment has more than doubled from \$29.5 million in 2016 to more than \$71 million today. For the past 17 years, the Oswego University Foundation's investments have had stronger returns than the average rate of the approximately 700 participating U.S. colleges and universities and affiliated foundations in the NACUBO-Commonfund Study of Endowments. She has maintained strong alumni leaders on the foundation board and recruited a diversified slate of new members. She helped oversee the infusion of current student perspective by adding student representatives into the board's committees and welcomed a student director to the board on July 1.

Oswego University Foundation Board of Directors Chair **Rosemary Cardamone Crane '81** said it is going to be incredibly difficult to find someone to replace Canale and all that she brings to the university.

"She has done such a wonderful job in this role as vice president," said Crane, who has been friends with Canale since they were sophomores at SUNY Oswego 45 years ago. She said Canale leads with an iron hand in a velvet glove.

"She has a lot of charm, and she cannot hide her love for Oswego," Crane said. "It's so hard to say no to Mary, and she was a very successful fundraiser because she is sincere in her desire to support Oswego. She is able to draw people to her through her warmth, and her happy-but-intense personality."

Crane said Canale's success has never been more evident than it is this year — with University Advancement bringing in more than \$11 million in gifts and pledges.

"Her enthusiasm for both the school and its stakeholders — students, alum, faculty, team — is evident in each and every interaction you have with her," said Oswego University Foundation Board of Directors Member **Bob Moritz '85**, who has known Mary for more than two decades. "She is always looking to learn, apply that learning elsewhere and for the benefit of others. She has delivered tremendous value to the SUNY Oswego system that will have an impact for generations to come."



Her enthusiasm for both the school and its stakeholders — students, alum, faculty, team — is evident in each and every interaction you have with her. She is always looking to learn, apply that learning elsewhere and for the benefit of others. She has delivered tremendous value to the SUNY Oswego system that will have an impact for generations to come.

— Bob Moritz '85



OUF board member **Jeff Knauss '07** first got to know Canale as a young alumnus who was then recruited to serve on the foundation board.

"As I got to know Mary, I felt like she was always available for anything I needed and was always checking in with me," Knauss said. "My respect for her as a development officer deepened after I joined the Oswego University Foundation Board of Directors, as I watched her build meaningful, authentic relationships in a way few can do. She brings energy, dedication and a personal touch to everything she does. Her contributions to the Oswego University Foundation Board are profound; she is a strategic thinker who also never loses sight of the importance of personal connections. Mary's efforts have significantly strengthened the board and the university's community."

The board members credited Canale with not only bringing in more financial resources to the university, but also cultivating a strong community with an enduring sense of loyalty and pride in the institution.

"She also brings a degree of caring and empathy that is needed in today's world and valued by all those who interact with her," Moritz said. "We will truly miss not only her many contributions but her as well!"

In recognition of her leadership, the board members announced at their meeting in May their intention to establish a scholarship in her honor.

"I was trying to think what I could do in recognition of Mary's retirement, and then it hit me — a scholarship," Crane said. "That's what she is all about, and I know this is what she would like the most."

So the group established the **Mary Gibbons Canale '81 Endowed Scholarship** and is encouraging her Laker fans to show their gratitude and well-wishes to her by making a gift to the fund.

The admiration flows both ways, as Canale praised her team and the cadre of alumni volunteers who have donated their expertise, time and resources to supporting SUNY Oswego and its students.

"Perhaps my favorite part of this job was getting to know some of our truly wonderful, caring and talented alumni who are so devoted to their alma mater," she said. "I am grateful for their friendship and their partnership, which has helped us advance this institution to provide the margin of excellence that makes a SUNY Oswego education exceptional and life-changing."

"I can retire knowing that this university has a solid foundation from which it will continue to build," Canale said. "I am proud of what we have accomplished together,



and look forward to watching the next generation take up the reins and lead the university into new horizons."

Canale said she looks forward to spending more time with her husband, **Steven '76**, their four daughters and their families.

The university is working with RPA, Inc., a national firm with expertise in higher education to help recruit candidates for this pivotal vice presidential role. President Nwosu has also convened a search committee, which is co-chaired by Vice President for Administration and Finance **Victoria Cafalone Furlong '08 M'10** and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dr. Kristin Croyle. The committee is composed of members of the campus community as well as a member from both the Alumni Association and University Foundation board of directors. The university hopes to seat a new Vice President for University Advancement by Jan. 1, 2025.

Share Your Well Wishes With Mary
alumni.oswego.edu/marycanale





Illuminating Inspiration and Collaboration

Renovations are underway within Hewitt to turn the former student union into a state-of-the-art learning facility for communication and design students

It's late afternoon in late April, and natural light floods the vast, open space that will soon be the "collaborative core" of the renovated 135,000 square-foot Hewitt Hall. The light comes in from above and from the sides. The tiered seating areas, although not yet finished in the light-colored wood stacked in their packaging boxes nearby, already look like an inviting place to catch up with classmates or check email between classes.



Two open stairwells flank the collaborative core, and signature learning spaces, including the newsroom, news broadcasting studio and its control room, are showcased next to the main entrances of Hewitt Hall and along the building's primary circulation pathway.

Large open spaces on the second floor await windows that will offer a glimpse into and out of the classrooms and graphic design, film and newsroom laboratories. One of the most significant changes to this building has been to add more windows and natural light by replacing some of the concrete curtain walls with windows, adding skylights and even making some of the interior walls of glass.

This space, undergoing nearly \$80 million in renovations, will be the new home for the School of Communication, Media and the Arts programs in broadcasting and mass communication, graphic design, cinema and screen studies, and other art and communication programs. The building will open for instructional use in fall 2025.

"The reputations of the programs going into that building are well-established, and in the case of Broadcasting and Mass Communication, a cornerstone program for the university," said Jennifer Knapp, dean of the school. "Every inch of that building has been designed and built with the needs of students in mind. When they walk in, they will feel the full support of the university behind them, and they will be inspired to become the next generation of Laker legends."

Brutalism Transformed

Since the groundbreaking ceremony that officially launched the complete overhaul for the former Hewitt Union in October 2021, the building has been stripped down to its concrete bones.

Formerly known as Hewitt Union, Hewitt Hall is located to the north of Culkan Hall and south of the Academic Quad. Hewitt housed most of the student organizations until the campus center opened in 2006. Hewitt Hall was opened in 1967 and was named in honor of Jesse Merle Hewitt, Oswego's first student to die in World War I.

CannonDesign, the architectural firm on the project, is adding warmth to the 57-year-old concrete building, constructed during the Brutalism design period of architecture, which was known for its minimalist, angular and monochromatic features.

The architect's design creates a bright and open center for the building, which permeates down through all levels. The color palette compliments SUNY Oswego's green, and light-colored wood floors, furniture and trim throughout also will add natural warmth to the interior.

Ninety geothermal wells dug beneath the adjacent parking lot assist in the heating and cooling of the three floors in the 132,285-square-foot structure, making it a more environmentally friendly structure as well.

Some of the key features of this re-imagined building include:

- State-of-the-art teaching studios and laboratories including two broadcasting studios, a virtual reality suite, an animation lab, and audio and video production and editing labs.
- Collaborative core with center atrium skylights, staircase and lounge areas for informal interactions.
- Ballroom with redesigned exterior patio and garden courtyard.
- Screening room for watching films.
- Whitebox gallery for multi-media design display.
- Café with interior and exterior seating.

The Hewitt Hall project follows a recent two-phase \$46 million renovation of Tyler Hall, home to SCMA's visual and performing arts programs, including music, theatre and fine arts.

"That's \$126M in facility, equipment and technology upgrades for SCMA," Knapp noted. "Our equipment and technology have always been industry standard or better, but when you add in a modernized building created to spark inspiration and collaboration, we expect exciting things from our students, faculty and staff."

With the dedication and renovation of Tyler and Hewitt halls to meet the specific needs of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, the next chapter begins. For the first time in school history, all of the programs within SCMA will be housed together in Tyler and Hewitt halls.

"The School of Communication, Media and the Arts was created to capitalize on collaborations and interdisciplinary programs developed by its faculty and students, and Hewitt is the physical manifestation of that mission," Knapp said.

The renovations of both buildings were strategically designed to visually and functionally connect the spaces with outdoor areas and main entrances leading to the other building. The design and function of the spaces essentially create an arts corridor on campus — a place for SCMA students who oftentimes spend long days in studio, rehearsals or computer labs perfecting their craft — to call their campus home.

"This is a once-in-a-professional-lifetime renovation, so we are totally stoked," Knapp said. "The next hurdle is maintaining it, which is why the support of our alumni and friends is so critical to our future successes."

Knapp said the school is currently looking to create robust endowed funds to ensure that the school can keep pace with rapidly evolving technologies and ensure SCMA students learn on the equipment that they will need to use in their professional careers.

"The most direct way to help is by supporting the School of Communication, Media and the Arts Technology Fund, which is for technology in both Tyler and Hewitt Halls," she said. "There are also opportunities to have your gift recognized with a named space, either through personal gifts or corporate partnerships, so if you work for a company that is looking for this type of philanthropic opportunity, please reach out."



She also expressed gratitude for the alumni who graduated from SCMA and its predecessor degree programs.

"If it weren't for your successes and your commitment to your alma mater, none of this would have been possible," she said. "You have paved the way for our future Laker legends."

"I'm so excited for our alumni to see Hewitt's transformation, the whole vibe of the building is different," she said. "I fully recognize the attachment alumni have to the building, and there certainly have been historic moments in there, but I promise you will be proud."

Then she added with a laugh: "Just don't ask me if there's a bar downstairs."

For more information about the Hewitt Hall project, visit: oswego.edu/hewitt.

Support the School of Communication, Media and the Arts

SUNY Oswego seeks to create a robust endowed fund to ensure that the School of Communication, Media and the Arts is able to provide leading-edge equipment, software, tools and resources to our students so that they graduate equipped to meet or surpass current industry standards for their disciplines.

Gifts of all sizes can support this effort. Please consider making a contribution online at alumni.oswego.edu/give, click the "Make a Gift" button and select "School of Communication, Media & the Arts Technology Fund" on the form.

In addition, a wide selection of naming opportunities, including scholarships, programs and spaces within Hewitt and Tyler halls, is available to donors for their consideration. All gifts are charitable contributions that will help to further the mission of SUNY Oswego and the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, specifically. Naming opportunity gifts may be made in the following ways:

- Cash
- Through the transfer of stocks or bonds
- Pledges payable over time, up to 5 years
- Through future bequest intentions

For more information about naming opportunities and supporting the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, contact **Melissa Manwaring '01**, assistant vice president for development and strategic initiatives, at 315-312-5564 or melissa.manwaring@oswego.edu.

Lights OUT!

Total solar eclipse provides once-in-a-lifetime experience

LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION

"It's happening. It's really happening," a young woman squeals aloud.

Darkness descends, exterior building lights pop on, the music stops and temperatures dip. Members of the gathered crowd gasp in awe, cheer excitedly or sit in meditative silence.

The moon covers the sun, and for 3 minutes and 27 seconds on April 8, 2024, Oswego, N.Y., experiences a total solar eclipse.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many onlookers, and for many, the momentary daytime darkness casts a new light on the significance of this astronomical phenomenon and on the context of these events within human history.

"For people who have not experienced it, it may seem like a silly little thing or something of not that much importance," said journalism major **Kiley Wren '24**.

"Truthfully, I was one of those people who thought that at first ...[but then] I finally understood what all the fuss was about. All the people's reactions and seeing it go from night to day was honestly indescribable for me."

Wren was part of a 3-credit course, *Covering the Eclipse*, co-taught by Communication Studies professors Catherine Loper and Michael Riecke. The students in the course completed research and outlined coverage leading up to the April 8 eclipse. On the day, students spread out to document the many activities on campus, capture footage, conduct on-camera interviews and broadcast live from multiple locations. They produced special coverage as they would at a professional news outlet. See related story on page 21.

As an educational institution, SUNY Oswego made the most of this unique opportunity for learning. In addition to the Communication Studies course, a couple of students — **Stephen Miskovsky '24** and **Jason Ruiz '24** — presented sold-out planetarium shows that focused on what a solar eclipse is, how it works and what happens in space during an eclipse.

Miskovsky, a physics major with double minors in astronomy and mathematics, said he enjoyed the challenge of putting together a planetarium show that was engaging and informative.

"To be a good presenter you need to grab the people's attention, especially in a planetarium because it's a big dark room with comfy chairs, they may fall asleep," he joked. He said he tried to infuse the presentation with strong storytelling and humor, and received positive feedback from the attendees.

His passion and excitement provided the adrenaline that got him through the day, which started at 1 a.m. when he was launching weather balloons behind the Marano Campus Center. From 1 to 7 a.m. on eclipse day, Miskovsky helped launch the weather balloons to collect variable data in the atmosphere as a member of NASA's National Eclipse Ballooning Project. (See related story on page 19.)

"That day was exhausting but I love being a part of the science, so I was in my element," he said.

On the lawn between Rich and Sheldon halls sat graphic design major and photography minor **Katherine Shorey '24**. In front of her was her camera on a tripod that was snapping photographs of the changing light every 35 seconds. Photographing the eclipse was part of a project for her Art 443 Advanced Photography course.



"My concept was to show time in a two-dimensional format by creating slices of time and combining them into one image," Shorey said. "I chose to photograph the changing of the light, instead of the sun as I knew the clouds would make it impossible to photograph...I did not expect how fast it would go dark, and it was hard paying attention to my camera, as all I wanted to do was look around. It was amazing to experience an eclipse, and I am already planning a trip to photograph another one."

As the total solar eclipse happened outside, artistic interpretations of the phenomenon hung inside the Tyler Art Gallery as part of the *Looking Up* exhibition.



Among the pieces on display was a colorful poster created by **Ella Smith '24**, a BFA major in illustration with a minor in art history. She made the poster to advertise the 2024 total solar eclipse for an assignment in Prof. Elizabeth Hunt's Traditional Illustration II class.

"I tried to make something eye-catching that would appeal to college students, taking inspiration from [Swedish artist] Hilma af Klint, while still including all the necessary information," Smith said.

She developed four concepts, each using different color palettes and iconography. She ended up using gouache paint to create a human figure with the sun as a head lounging on a colorful rainbow against a black background. Her poster, pictured above, received the presidential award.

When the actual eclipse occurred, Smith said she watched it with some of her best friends at nearby Sterling (N.Y.) Nature Center.

"Watching the world go dark was awe-inspiring," she said. "I was excited but quite contemplative, thinking about the great significance of the event I was witnessing."

She said she made the poster before experiencing a total solar eclipse, so if she were to do the assignment again, she might make some changes. *(continued on page 20)*

SUNY Oswego Research Team Part of Nationwide Eclipse Project



A SUNY Oswego faculty-student team was among the select institutions who took part in the National Eclipse Ballooning Project on April 8.

"The Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project is a NASA-funded field campaign that stems from 2017 when we had the last Great American total eclipse," said Katelyn Barber, an assistant professor of atmospheric and geological sciences and one of the project's faculty leads.

"During that time, a small select number of teams launched weather balloons at this hourly interval along the path of totality," Barber explained. "You applied to become a team based on your resources and what you expect to do with the students, things like that. We were one of the selected teams."

On April 8, students launched their balloons to take readings hourly from the field between Marano Campus Center and Lake Ontario. Members of the public watched and participated in a number of family-friendly outreach activities.

Other faculty involved in the project, which also has National Science Foundation support, include Yonggang Wang of atmospheric and geological sciences and Natalia Lewandowska and Shashi Kanbur of physics. Some students and faculty traveled to New Mexico last fall to study an annular eclipse, but being in the path of totality on April 8 presented an incredible learning experience.

"We're basically launching the weather balloons up into the atmosphere, collecting scientific data to really see how eclipses affect the atmosphere," said **Aurora Fitzgerald '26**, a broadcasting and mass communications major. "We are particularly looking for gravity waves in the atmosphere, which is like a disturbance in the atmosphere."

Fitzgerald's participation in the project shows just how far-reaching the impact of the eclipse is to many majors beyond meteorology and physics. The eclipse provides many learning opportunities for students as well as the public.

"It's very unique in a sense that it promotes your experiential learning experience," said physics major **Shaheen Chowdhury '26**. "We got to do field work where we got to play with different instruments (and learn) how you measure the weather conditions."

"Weather is not just the people that you see on TV showing you the weather," meteorology major **Bradley Jacobs '25** said.

"It's not just the weather on your phone," Jacobs noted. "There's so much to weather. I mean, with this project it opened my eyes more to the atmospheric dynamic side of meteorology. More like climatology, just a lot more in depth, as well as how astronomy and other physics affect our everyday weather."

As the project's outreach coordinator, meteorology major **Kaitlin Farrell '26** has been part of the effort to bring knowledge to school classrooms around the region. An average class is around 30 schoolchildren, although they have also presented to larger groups.

"I've been in touch with about 25 plus schools all across Central New York," Farrell said. "Basically, we've been going to different schools across New York State. ... We show them the equipment, talk about what we do, kind of go over how this works, talk about the eclipses."

"It's been a real honor to be working with them and working with this amazing team," Fitzgerald said.



Dr. Earl Bellinger '12, who double majored in computer science and applied mathematics at Oswego and is now an assistant professor of astronomy at Yale University, spoke with visitors before his April 8 presentation on black hole suns.



Dr. Sarbani Basu, the William K. Lanman Jr. Professor of Astronomy at Yale University, delivered the opening lecture, "How Well Do We Know Our Star," April 8 at SUNY Oswego.



Dr. Martin Hendry, professor of gravitational astrophysics and cosmology at University of Glasgow, Scotland, related Issac Newton and Albert Einstein's views on gravity to an eclipse.

"I think I would try to focus it more on nature rather than having a person be at the center of the piece," she said.

That was the approach Rochester-based photographer **John Kucko '87** took to documenting the eclipse. He headed out to an isolated barn to set up his camera and record the moments before, during and after totality to capture how the natural world responded.

"I purposely was far removed from humanity — tucked away by the pine trees at an 1850s farm not too far from Naples, N.Y.," said Kucko (see related story on page 28).

"Many reasons I selected to go here: solitude, I love barns, nice water reflection and most important — I could listen to how the wildlife would respond to what was about to happen," he shared on his Facebook page. "From the carp that was treading water at the start, to the birds coming and going in the pines behind me, to the geese that did a landing in the pond at dark—it was all amazing. When birds went in 'sleep' mode, crickets began chirping."

The eclipse reminded many of their place within the natural world and within the context of human existence that extends before and beyond their singular lifespan. It provided an opportunity to consider life in a much larger framework.

The role of humans within the solar system and beyond was explored during five academic presentations the morning of April 8:

- Dr. Sarbani Basu, the William K. Lanman Jr. Professor of Astronomy at Yale University, spoke about "How Well Do We Know Our Star." She shared her knowledge of the general properties and the details of the structure and dynamics of the Sun, focusing on solar-cycle dependencies.
- Dr. Martin Hendry, professor of gravitational astrophysics and cosmology and the clerk of Senate and vice principal at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, delivered an engaging talk about eclipses in relation to testing Einstein's gravity. He was part of the global team of more than 1500 scientists who, with their colleagues in the Virgo Collaboration, made the first ever detection of gravitational waves — a discovery awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize for Physics.
- **Dr. Earl Bellinger '12**, who double majored in computer science and applied mathematics at Oswego and is now an assistant professor of astronomy at Yale University, explored whether there could be a black hole inside the Sun. His research focuses on stellar evolution and pulsations, and how measurements of pulsating stars can lend precision constraints to various fields throughout astrophysics.
- Dr. Anil Pradhan, professor in the Department of Astronomy, Chemical Physics Program, Interdisciplinary Biophysics Graduate Program at Ohio State University, asked questions about life in the universe and discussed how scientists might be able to confirm life in the habitable exoplanets.
- Dr. Lyn Blanchfield, a professor of history at SUNY Oswego, presented on "Eclipses in the Medieval World: Signs and Interpretations," and discussed art, religious rituals and historical records related to eclipses from the past.

The eclipse offered physics graduate **Kevin Amberger '23** a good opportunity to return to Oswego to catch up with friends and to hear Bellinger speak again. He remembered (*continued on page 23*)

Journalism Student Shares Personal Views on Covering Eclipse

A total solar eclipse is a rare phenomenon not many people get to experience in their lifetime.

For people who have not experienced it, it may seem like a silly little thing or something of not that much importance. Truthfully, I was one of those people who thought that at first. Others who have seen it or who really love science, April 8, 2024, was a huge day for them.

Although the Oswego sky was filled with clouds and there wasn't a whole lot to see from our standpoint, I finally understood what all the fuss was about. All the people's reactions and seeing it go from night to day was honestly indescribable for me and caused an unusual but pleasant bodily reaction.

On this day, I not only got to experience this once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, but I also got to be a part of something super special and something that has never really been done before at Oswego.

I have to give all my thanks to my advisor, Eileen Gilligan, who told me about this class called "Covering the Eclipse," where we would be hosting a live broadcast during the eclipse. I needed a couple of upper division credits to finish my degree and she recommended that class, as I also wanted to explore more of broadcast news / journalism before my time was up at Oswego.

I decided to meet with one of the professors teaching the class, Catherine Loper, to discuss more on what the class would entail. I knew I wanted to be a part of this class and find out what truly made this total eclipse so special.



Leading up to the eclipse, our class periods consisted of a lot of researching, planning and producing early content preparing us for our live broadcast. In print journalism, of course, you still have to research and plan things, but it is nothing like planning for a live broadcast. With my lack of expertise on that side of things, it was interesting to learn and see how to go about that process.

In what felt like a blink of an eye, eclipse day was finally here. Everyone was scattered across Oswego, filled with nerves and excitement for our show and for the eclipse, of course. My assignment for eclipse day was reporting and writing a web story about various guest lectures that were happening that morning.

We may have been feeling all sorts of emotions and not in the same location, but no matter what, we had the support of Loper and the other professor of this course, Michael Riecke.

During both the course of the semester and on eclipse day, Loper and Riecke gave us their undivided support throughout everything, but they also tested us and our knowledge. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way and I couldn't imagine any other professors teaching this course.

I know another total solar eclipse will not be happening in Central New York for a while, but I hope future students will get the opportunity to be a part of something like this both for the learning experience and for the memories to be made.

-Kiley Wren '24

Editor's Note: To view the students' coverage of the eclipse, visit oswegonow.net/category/the-eclipse



ECLIPSE FAST FACTS

On April 8, 2024, Oswego, N.Y., experienced a total solar eclipse. It began at 2:08 p.m. with maximum totality at 3:23 p.m. and ended at 4:34 p.m.



Visitors capture the moment at the Rice Creek Field Station where they came to watch the total solar eclipse on April 8.



Groups including the Syracuse Astronomical Society, Kopernik Observation Science Center, Pompey Observatory and others set up telescopes with video at Rice Creek Field Station leading into and during the eclipse.



Thomas Brown, a faculty member in the Chemistry Department, helps demonstrate to young visitors thermochromic color-changing coatings on various objects, which change color based on temperature.



SUNY Oswego's Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Electrical and Computer Engineering departments delivered a variety of outreach programs and demonstrations for visitors of all ages.



Members of the Laker women's softball team were among the hundreds of campus community members gathered at the Eclipse Viewing Party on Swetman Field.



Linda Iannone '73 (far right) traveled from the Utica, N.Y., area with her family and friends in matching total solar eclipse T-shirts to commemorate the day.

Two Oswego Students Taking Part in Eclipse-Related NASA Internships

when the fellow Laker came back to campus to speak in his class about asteroeismology and he enjoyed hearing Bellinger's eclipse presentation, which included a discussion of "Hawking stars" – a name Bellinger coined in honor of physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking and assigned to a theoretical type of star with a primordial black hole in its center.

Amberger is putting his Oswego degree to use as a staff scientist with Epsilon Associates, an environmental consultant, where he helps assess the impact of solar and wind energy installations.

Physics major and retired teacher **Kathleen Green Doxtader '79** traveled from her home in Hurley, N.Y., to attend these presentations and to watch the total solar eclipse at her alma mater and that of her late husband, **John Doxtader '75**, and her sister, **Nancy Green Shambo '74**. She enjoyed seeing the strong turnout for the academic presentations and the interest in and discussion of science from those in the audience and around campus.

As one of two women physics majors in her graduating class, Doxtader said she tried to instill the love of science in all of her students, even when she was teaching preschoolers.

"That's where you start the love of science — when they're little," she said, noting that she made sure her students' names were inscribed on the silicon chip that NASA landed on Mars.

The university also nurtured an interest in science for visitors of all ages through hands-on activities and demonstrations in the Shineman Center for Science, Engineering and Innovation and at Rice Creek Field Station, which offered nature trails, children's activities, wildlife observation, use of telescopes and a relaxed setting for eclipse viewing.

"This type of opportunity is so important to the student experience," said Professor Michael Riecke, who taught the Covering the Eclipse course. "Our students were able to apply what they're learning in classes across disciplines. They also learned more about what it means to work with a team to coordinate and accomplish a long-range goal. Most importantly, several students described the course as a moment in their college career they'll never forget. The once-in-a-lifetime event may have something to do with that, but I'd like to think part of it was the chance to experience the course itself."



Selim Kalici '24 (left) and **Hugh Riley Randall '24** (right) recently wrapped up a globe-trotting Oswego experience with an astronomical opportunity with NASA related to eclipse data.

Both double majors in physics and mathematics, with astronomy minors, they were connected with NASA research scientist Jie Gong by their mentor, Distinguished Professor Shashi Kanbur of SUNY Oswego's Physics and Astronomy Department.

The opportunity stems from SUNY Oswego earning a National Eclipse Ballooning Project (NEBP) grant from NASA, which led to teaching a related course in fall 2023.

"One of the topics in this course was 'Gravity Waves,' or waves generated in the atmosphere due to sudden changes in thermodynamic conditions at a particular level," Kanbur said.

The NASA NEBP gravity waves expert was Gong, who was helpful, but Kanbur and meteorology faculty member Katelyn Barber wanted to learn more, so they set up a Zoom meeting.

"After we understood a bit more about the topic, I immediately thought our students could do some aspects of this," Kanbur said. "Dr. Gong said she would be happy to have two part-time interns. So, in order to develop a pipeline, I suggested Hugh and Selim as the two students because I knew they would do a great job and that would increase our chances of maintaining the connection to NASA. Hugh did a full-time internship with Dr. Gong over the summer."

Both students have published one paper in the *Monthly Notes* of the Royal

Astronomical Society and expect to have another accepted soon into this prestigious peer-reviewed journal. They also have done multiple independent study projects with Kanbur on general relativity and advanced quantum mechanics.

But the NASA internship involves many skills they have put together during their time with SUNY Oswego.

"My part is focused on analyzing the data from last year's annular eclipse aggregated from about 10 different schools," Randall said. "There is a lot of organization and cleansing of data required to make them more helpful."

"I am using a ray-tracing model to determine how the eclipse induces gravity mode waves in the atmosphere," Kalici said. "It's helping lay groundwork for research related to the 2023 annular eclipse and the 2024 total solar eclipse."

While they are part of a much larger team, the students' connection with each other is still important, as some of the data Kalici is using will come from Randall's analysis.

In addition to the NEBP work and NASA internship, SUNY Oswego was able to expand its eclipse-related research thanks to a Shineman Endowed Fund grant.

Four students worked on aspects of the solar eclipse and developed the planetarium shows. Two student teams worked with faculty member Bastian Tenbergen's software engineering course to develop better computer interfaces with Dr. Gong's programs to study gravity waves. A total of 18 SUNY Oswego students worked in some way or other with eclipse physics.

LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION



Magical Transformations

Alumnus transports audiences through lighting design

Greg Brewster '05 didn't exactly run away with the circus. It was *Disney on Ice*.

Brewster had originally attended the "Wizard of Oz On Ice" event for a college class assignment, but ended up talking with a member of the sound crew during intermission and was offered a job on the spot.

Before the tour left his area a few days later — and much to his parents' dismay at the time — the 18-year-old had dropped out of Finger Lakes Community College, packed a few bags and left home to join the technical crew for the national touring company.

"Sometimes you're just in the right place at the right time," said Brewster, who became a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) through the tour.

But the seed of love for theatrical productions had started many years before when his parents took him to see his first Broadway show, *Cats*, at the Winter Garden Theater in New York City.

"They had strung Christmas lights throughout the theater and made it look like a junkyard," Brewster recalled. "I was 7 and I was in awe. It's crazy to me to think about, but that's probably where it started. I remember that whole trip so vividly."

His parents also nurtured his passion for theatrical staging by decorating their yard for Halloween and Christmas every year.

"We'd make a mannequin and use a mayonnaise jar for a head, and my dad used to work at a hotel and he'd bring home the sheets they were throwing out and we'd make mummies out of them," Brewster said. "My parents were creative like that. They knew how to make something from nothing."

That led to Brewster working on the technical crew for shows at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (N.Y.) High School. He remembered working on the show, *Guys and Dolls*, and was committed to transforming the stage into a nighttime street alley for "The Crapshooters Dance."

"I brought in my own fog machine and I was so excited to help create that atmosphere," said Brewster, who today is a lighting designer and electronics specialist for SUNY Oswego's theater department. "That really sparked my interest in lighting. Lighting can set the mood and can make the set and costumes come to life. Is it day or night? Are we in the woods or on a street? Is it cool and creepy or sunny and warm? Lighting can tell an audience where to look and what to feel."

His stint with *Disney on Ice* kept him on the road for a few years. When he completed touring, he returned to the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill area and accompanied the high school theater students on their trip to participate in the High School Drama Festival (now known as "DramaFest") at SUNY Oswego.

That planted the seed in his mind to return to college to complete a degree in technical theater.

"When I arrived at Oswego, I had a very clear idea of what I wanted to do and thought I knew a lot — I mean I had already worked professionally," he said. "But what I knew really was just the nuts and bolts. I knew how the equipment worked, but I didn't have a grasp on design."

Brewster credits Professor Johan Godwaldt with helping him evolve as a technical theater professional.

"He realized that my passion was in lighting and he found opportunities and ways for me to do that," said Brewster, who worked on many ARTSwego events as a student. "Sometimes the ARTSwego events came in with a designer, sometimes they didn't. Sometimes they sent a plot and we had to facilitate. Johan was very gracious in letting me do those sorts of things."

Brewster also went above and beyond in helping with lighting for student performances, such as *Del Sarte*, which he admits also served to advance his relationship with his now wife, **Jessica Miller Brewster '05**, who was vice president of the dance group.

After graduation, Brewster joined the 25th anniversary touring production of *Les Miserables*, which took him to major cities all over the country. Although he worked as a stagehand, he would create holiday decorations and lighting backstage for the cast and crew to enjoy during their long stays in one city over the holidays.

It was during this time that Jessica bought her husband his first controller that he used to set up his first Christmas light show to music at his parents' house.

His passion for lighting grew over the years and led to his and Jessica's home being one of four featured on the season 7 premiere of ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight" in 2019.

The wild popularity of his Christmas lights show at his home on Jacob Lane in Brewerton, N.Y., became too much traffic for his neighborhood to handle, so he and his family decided to take down their lights display.

But he has found a new outlet for his lighting passion and holiday spirit through his company, Frosted Light Productions. His lighting designs are featured at such Central New York attractions as Demon Acres Haunted House and Hayride and its Deck the Halls Christmas light show in Hannibal, N.Y., as well as The Wild Animal Park in Chittenango, N.Y., and its Flashlight Safari nights and holiday specials.

Brewster said he often recruits SUNY Oswego theater students to work on these projects, similar to his hands-on experiences as a student with ARTSwego events.



Among those students who worked with Brewster on and off campus was **Quentin Mariano '15**, who is currently working as a stagehand for Broadway productions. See related story on page 47.

"What I really liked about working with Greg was that he wanted us to learn by doing and trying to figure things out by ourselves," Mariano said. "He would help us if we asked, but he wanted us to troubleshoot on our own first. I liked that."

Today, Mariano makes a point of meeting up with Brewster whenever his former teacher comes to the Big Apple. They'll catch up and sometimes swap information about lighting consoles or new lighting designs they've seen.

Brewster makes a point of getting to Broadway shows as often as he can. He recently took his son to see *Water for Elephants*, and was very impressed with the lighting design.

"Everything about it is stunning," said Brewster, who has shared his passion and continuous learning with students at SUNY Oswego since 2012. "It's hard for me not to go to shows and see how things are happening, but, of course, I do. The train scenic was stationary but the lighting was making the train move. That was all through lighting. It was phenomenal."



The Brewster family share a moment with ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight" host Taniya Nayak (center) during filming for an appearance on the Dec. 2, 2019, episode of the show. The family did such a great job decorating their home on Jacob Lane in Brewerton, N.Y., that they landed on national television. Unfortunately, the popularity of their home drew too much traffic into the neighborhood, so the family decided to take down the light show. In its place, **Greg Brewster '05** launched Frosted Light Productions.



Savannah Bananas

Candid Camera

Alumna focuses on capturing the authentic emotion

Nicole Moriarity '22 can't remember the exact birthday — “maybe 10th” — when she received her first camera. But she does remember how it changed her.

“From then on, I was always the person who was taking the photos and funny videos,” she said. “I just was always shooting — when I hung out with my friends, or with my family. You know, just people in my circle. I really enjoyed it.”

Those images have come in handy as she has aged. She is able to resurrect old footage to make a special reel for a friend's birthday, or share a never-before-seen photo of her grandmother with her mother.

“They're so happy and say, ‘Oh, my God, that's great!’” said Moriarity, who graduated from SUNY Oswego with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design after transferring from Stevenson University, where she played women's ice hockey until a head injury ended her career.

Today, as a professional photographer, she still finds the same joy in sharing her photos with her subjects, and more and more with the fans of her often famous subjects.

Moriarity, who lives in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., with her girlfriend, Lillie Holmes, has photographed such celebrities as Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson during Wrestlemania, the Tampa Bay Rays major league baseball team, Savannah Bananas barnstorming exhibition baseball team, Tampa Bay Rowdies soccer and professional boxing matches as well as such musical headliners as Jason Aldean, Jelly Roll, Luke Bryan, the All-American Rejects and Shinedown.

Moriarity pays the bills as a real estate photographer for Zillow.com, but said she enjoys shooting a variety of styles and subjects. Each photoshoot requires a unique approach and often special lenses and equipment.

For example, she dusts off an old Nikon camera her mother gave her a few years after that first one when she wants to photograph the moon.

“That camera has like a super zoom to it,” she said. “Nowadays, you have to buy lenses that are like \$4,000 to get that kind of zoom. But that old camera has a lens that's like a telescope! I don't use that one for much else though.”

She learned when photographing concerts to avoid straight-on shots because the microphone often blocks the most expressive parts of the performer's face.

“I also try to wait for their emotions, too,” she said. “Like when they put the microphone down or scream or when they're really in the moment.”

Moriarity said she tries to stay up-to-date on all the tools available to modern photographers, including online networking sites and discussion forums.

Most of her concerts and sporting gigs have come from networking and jumping at every opportunity that comes her way. Her positivity, strong work ethic, bubbly personality and kindness have opened doors that often are closed to others.

She reached out via Instagram to a photographer who works with the Marlins to connect and express interest in his work. When he wasn't available to shoot a game, he remembered her outreach and asked her to sub for him.

"I got lucky with that," she said.

At that game, she connected with a trainer for the Rays and offered her services if he ever needed a photographer.

"And he was like, 'Cool. For sure. I'll definitely keep you in mind,'" Moriarity said. "Usually, when people say that, I don't really hear back from them. But he actually did. So, I ended up doing some work for him, and I got some more work from another guy who did similar work."

Or there's the time she was shooting a Tarpens game when another photographer asked if she'd fill in for him ringside at a professional boxing match.

"Sometimes you just get lucky," she said.

Moriarity moves through the world looking for those connections and hopes that the outreach and personal relationships will be remembered down the road.

That's why when she snaps photos of tailgaters before a concert or fans waiting for their favorite WWE wrestler to emerge in the ring, she does her best to honor their requests for her to share the image with them.

"There's no rules when I work for myself," she said. "If they want the photo and I can share it, I do. If I take the time to do that for them, then I hope that they'll remember me and that I will stand out in their memory."

Because more difficult than focusing, framing, cropping or editing photos is getting access to events or landing on people's radars.

"There are a handful of photographers who are gatekeeping and who won't share how they got certain photos," she said. "But I am part of many groups of photographers who help each other or offer free critiques of your work. I even had someone give me



Selfie of Nicole Moriarity '22

a suggestion for my online portfolio — just a small change but it made a big difference."

Moriarity said she has had some lucky breaks, especially as a woman in sports photography, which is still very male-dominated.

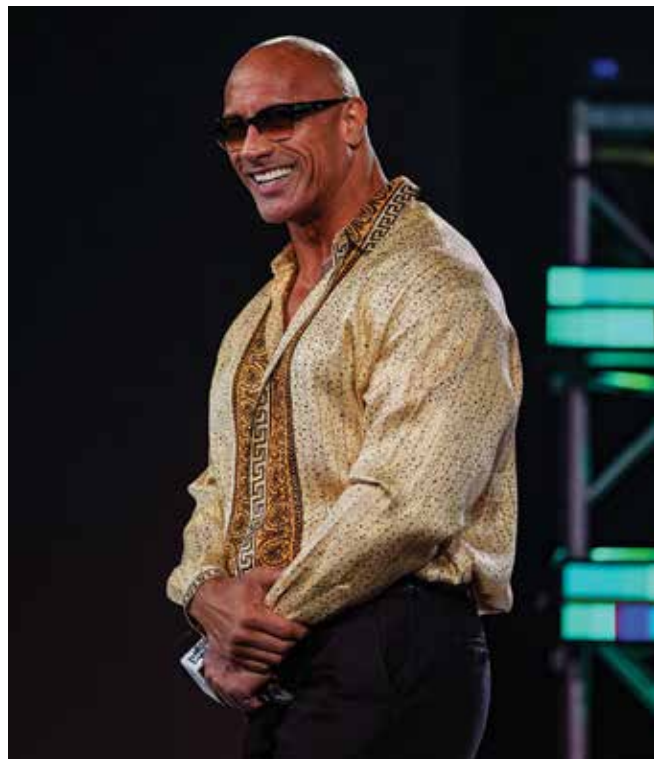
Perhaps it is her humility that prevents her from seeing: The harder she works and the more time she invests in her relationships, the luckier she gets.

"I just reach out and ask, 'Hey, can I attend this event? Can I get media credentials? Here's a link to my portfolio,'" she said. "Who knows how these things happen? I emailed at the right time. Someone was in a good mood when they read my message. I am just happy to be out doing my thing and taking photos."

To view Moriarity's portfolio, visit her website at mophotosdesigns.myportfolio.com.



Dylan Scott



Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson



Picture Perfect

Alumnus transitions from sports broadcasting to natural beauty photographer

John Kucko '87 came from his hometown of Binghamton, N.Y., to SUNY Oswego with a very clear idea of what he wanted to do — sports broadcasting. He wasted no time getting involved with WRVO and WOCR on-campus radio stations, *The Oswegonian* and WTOP-10 student-run television station.

"The campus afforded me the opportunity to get hands-on broadcast experience as a freshman," he recalled. "There's no place where you can get that kind of experience as an 18 or 19 year old. It was critical to my development as a broadcaster because I was quite shy. That school allowed me the opportunity to work off the rust."

From 1989 to 2016, Kucko lived out his dream working as a sportscaster in the Rochester, N.Y., market, and covered the Buffalo Bills four Super Bowl teams, the 1989 U.S. Open and the 1995 Ryder Cup matches and the 85th PGA Championship at Oak Hill, where he anchored WROC-TV's coverage of golf's final major. Along the way, he earned many professional accolades, including the 1999 Lowell MacMillan Award for Local Sports-casting Excellence, and he has been recognized five times by the Associated Press for Best Sports Coverage.

In 2016, he launched a page on Facebook, John Kucko Digital, as a passion project to develop his photography skills and to provide a public forum to "showcase the beauty around us." Today, he travels all over New York state and beyond, taking photographs and short videos of scenic spots such as Oswego, Salmon River Falls and Pulaski as well as covered bridges, waterfalls and lighthouses.

"I give people an idea of where to take their Sunday drive," he said. "Like Oswego. The sunsets there along the lakeshore cannot be beat."

In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down work for some people, he was still able to get outside and capture moving and still images of nature.

"During the first week of COVID, I started this little nightly video called '60 Seconds of Serenity,' and it's literally 60 seconds of nature," he said. "I post it at 6 p.m. every night. I haven't missed a single night since. Today, I have people from close to 500 countries on that page and I think they follow me because of the serenity series."



In 2022, his daughter, Natalie who studied broadcasting at St. Bonaventure, teamed up with him as the co-anchor of “First at 4” weekdays on WROC News 8. Then a year and a half later, on Sept. 29, 2023, after 32 years on the air, Kucko announced that he was stepping away from the role to focus his efforts entirely on his digital work, although he continues to send in video pieces to WROC for his popular “Kucko Camera” segment twice a week.

As of Sept. 18, 2024, more than 586,000 people follow his page ([facebook.com/JohnKuckoDigital](https://www.facebook.com/JohnKuckoDigital)) and have reached out to him to express how his photos and videos lift their spirits or helped them through depression or a down moment. Some who are no longer mobile or cannot travel to these places have expressed gratitude for bringing the beauty of the outside inside to them.

“It opened my eyes to the fact that maybe I was meant to do something other than sports,” he said. “I do believe this [John Kucko Digital] is the reason. I was meant to do this. It wasn’t covering millionaire athletes. It was trying to use my skills and impact people’s lives in a positive way through my page.”

He also hopes to show the positive impact that social media can have.



“One thing that was important to me when I launched the page was that I wanted to use social media for good — beyond the content and the postings,” he said. “For five years now, I’ve done a yearly calendar, and I give about 20 percent of the proceeds to charity.”

In the past five years, Kucko (pictured above) has donated \$165,000 to such organizations as the Autism Nature Trail at Letchworth, the United Way of Rochester and the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) in Syracuse and the Finger Lakes.

Comfortable Behind the Camera

Alumni were side-by-side in Oswego classes, now together in TV sports production

From their classes as Oswego Broadcasting and Mass Communication majors, to producing national programs for CBS Sports, **Adekunle "Ade" Ellis '04** and **Brian Irizarry '03** have been side-by-side friends. They worked the entire 2022 NFL Season together, were coworkers this year for two weeks of the NCAA tournament and regularly cross paths at such high-profile events as the PGA Tour, Preseason NFL and the Final Four.

Long before becoming multiple Emmy Award winners, Ellis (as a freshman) and Irizarry (as a transfer) each landed at Oswego almost by chance. Ellis had been accepted at several private colleges, but he chose Oswego because it had the major he wanted and the sports he wanted: cross country with Coach Don Masterson in the fall and track and field with Tim Boyce in the spring. Originally intending to become a sportscaster, Ellis soon changed his career goal.

"The more I understood about the business, the more I realized my creativity and talents were better suited to contribute behind the camera," Ellis said. While working at WTOP he developed his own show, "Laker Nation," which demanded he manage production and provide content.

"I learned I was comfortable behind the camera," Ellis said. "For 'Laker Nation,' we gathered highlights from all the Oswego teams, played recaps and did one-on-one interviews. It prepared me for the work I do now."

That work takes Ellis from one time zone to another as he joins the "cast of hundreds" that backs up those one or two broadcasters seen on screen. In the on-site TV truck, Ellis manages details such as carefully monitoring the field or court and moving the broadcast from commercial to commercial. He stays in constant contact with staff in New York City to coordinate broadcast details.



Ellis is also creator and producer of "Beyond Limits," a series airing on CBS Television Network and Paramount+ that celebrates the achievements of diverse athletes. His four Emmys have been awarded for team coverage of NCAA Basketball, The Masters and NFL, including his most recent Emmy in 2024 for his part as sideline producer for Evan Washburn during Super Bowl LVIII.

Ellis said success comes one step at a time. For example, he secured an internship with **Al Roker '76** after his junior year, and that provided valuable on-site learning and opened up additional opportunities.

"During that great experience with Al Roker Productions, I also was an athletic trainer at my local YMCA," Ellis said. "I met a CBS employee who invited me to tour the studios with him that summer. He said I could check back after graduation, so I kept his contact information and reached out in 2004."

That tour and the follow up led to Ellis' first job at CBS, working weekends to log times of important football and basketball plays. He then was offered increasingly higher level responsibilities that brought him to his present position as associate director/producer.

Irizarry, a freelancer, who works primarily with CBS and TNT Sports, has won an Emmy for Outstanding Technical Team Event for CBS in 2020 (Super Bowl LVI), another for NBC in 2022 (XXIV Olympic Winter Games in Beijing) and his third at Super Bowl LVIII for Outstanding Technical Team Event CBS | Nickelodeon.

This marks Irizarry's 21st year in sports television. He oversees the technical crew and setup for events, and he produces a

technical book/memo that provides all departments with key information on connectivity to get their signals back to the truck. Irizarry then confirms with CBS New York or TNT Atlanta Master Controls that they are seeing all signals clearly from the remote site to get the show on the air.

"Each venue and truck has its own challenges, and it's my role to address issues and create a seamless setup," he said. "I work closely with production to deliver what they want — from camera angles, interview locations, schedules and other details that make it possible for the director and producer to get the stories out."

Looking back two decades to their student days, Ellis and Irizarry credit faculty members, especially the late Jerry Condra, with mentoring them at Oswego.

"Professor Condra's easygoing manner and open-door policy helped me build a relationship with him," Irizarry said. "When he received an email from a production crewing company in search of help at a Mets/Yankees game, he forwarded it to me. That kickstarted my TV career. If it hadn't been for him, I'm not sure how long it would have taken me to get my foot in the door."

Student internships helped both men develop professional habits early.

"The Career Services Office played a major role in finding my internship at the local CBS affiliate in Syracuse," Irizarry said. "The staff in that office was tremendous in researching with me, following up and confirming we were in line with academic credit."

Calling the Shots

All-women sports broadcast makes history at SUNY Oswego

Natalie Barden '24, a journalism major, and **Jolie Santiago '24**, a broadcasting and mass communication major, are breaking through in an industry where women only represent 15 percent of all working professionals — sports reporting. They took the lead on co-producing the first, all-women sports broadcast by SUNY Oswego's student-run TV station, WTOP-10.

"The success of live television broadcasts are directly dependent on teamwork, research and effective communication," said Barden (below left), who served as WTOP-10 news director. "Our broadcast was no exception. Jolie and I both knew that because of the historic nature of this broadcast, expectations would be higher, critics would be harsher and extra eyes would be on our work."



Santiago (above right) added: "This had to be the best of the best due to the fact that it was the all-women broadcast. We did not want to give people a reason to think something went wrong because we are women."

The Feb. 2 game was a success from the broadcast to the ice, where the Laker men's ice hockey team defeated Brockport 5-1 to secure the program's 1000th victory. But the bigger milestone might have been the team of 21 women staffing all of WTOP's positions that night, the first all-women-run sports broadcast in the university's history.

The broadcast fell just ahead of National Girls and Womens in Sports Day on Feb. 7.



LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION

"This broadcast is extremely important because it puts women at the forefront of sports media and we don't see that very often," Santiago said.

In fact, according to a 2022 Pew Research Center study, sports broadcasting is the news area with the largest discrepancy between men and women reporters.

One purpose of this broadcast was to shatter any lingering stereotypes of sports journalism being a man's world.

"We made it clear that sports is a place for everyone," said Santiago, who was also the play-by-play announcer. "Broadcasters are a huge part of the sports community, so making sure you include different voices is essential to expanding your audience. I know we got a lot more people to become fans of hockey because of this."

The successful broadcast was the result of many hours of preparation by Barden and Santiago, who spent their winter break working on pre-production.

"Once we developed a clear, shared vision of the final broadcast, we began to plan different production elements, create a rundown, research stats, build graphics, among many other important tasks," Barden said. "Over-preparation was the key to our success. We controlled everything we could control, meaning we could devote more attention and energy to finding quick and effective solutions to any unplanned day-of problems."

As part of the project, they reached out to alumnae who helped pave the way over the years, and aired several videos from them during the broadcast.

"I think it is so awesome that you girls are taking the initiative to do an all-women's broadcast, especially in sports," said **Lexi**

Bruening '20, who is now a multimedia journalist for WWNY-7 in Watertown, N.Y.

"I'm just thrilled for all of you and everyone involved," said **Linda Cohn '81** of ESPN, who has been a trailblazer her whole career, including in anchoring the show's iconic *SportsCenter*. Barden added having seen these other women broadcasters gave her the confidence to volunteer for this historic role.

"My involvement in the all-women hockey broadcast at WTOP as a co-producer is by far one of the highlights of my time at SUNY Oswego," said Barden, who is a news producer for WNYT NewsChannel 13 in Albany, N.Y. "I first joined WTOP as a freshman, when I could count the number of women who regularly participated in live sports productions on one hand. Now, as a senior, I'm incredibly proud of how much the culture has changed to not only have an all-women hockey broadcast, but to do it with the support of the men in the club."

Santiago, who appeared on the May 22 national broadcast of NBC's *Today* show to demonstrate her broadcasting skills, counts the all-women broadcast as the highlight of her SUNY Oswego experience.

"The number of people who came up to me after [the broadcast] to say how much they loved the idea and wanted to do something they're passionate about too is just so powerful to me," said Santiago, who is the morning show producer at WNYT NewsChannel 13 — the same station as Barden. "We should make the most of our resources and work to achieve our biggest goals even if they're scary. This project brought a community together and I know all the women will keep in touch going forward."



LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION

Stirred to Action

Alumnus hopes to create ‘Ripple Effect’ with anti-gun violence docu-series

Tragedies may often offer victims and their loved ones significant moments of clarity and realization as they endure the aftermath. For **Elie Fleurant '76**, one fateful event signified a call to action.

Fleurant was only an 8-year-old living in his home country of Haiti when he witnessed his father's friend, a prominent businessman, tied to a pole and executed by a group of Haitian soldiers under the dictatorship of Dr. François Duvalier, Papa Doc, known as one of the most brutal regimes in modern history.

He migrated to the United States in the early 70s, created a family, and in 2013, his son, Duke-Ellie, was shot by a mentally ill gunman in the streets of Boston.

"[Gun violence] is a poison," Fleurant said. "It is an epidemic. We should mobilize against it."

For years, Fleurant has dedicated himself toward finding a solution to curb gun violence and promote gun safety. His recent efforts have led to the development of a four-episode short documentary, tentatively titled *Ripple Effect: The Epidemics of Gun Violence*. In collaboration with

Hollywood film producer Carole Dean, Fleurant hopes to create a tetralogic film project that will share his personal story and raise awareness about and reduce the number of violent acts by addressing their root causes.

Citing the high volume of firearms and prominent gun culture in the United States, Fleurant acknowledged his efforts will not completely eradicate gun violence. However, by spreading awareness through education, he hopes these senseless acts can be significantly reduced.

The Mind Behind the Project

Fleurant graduated from SUNY Oswego in 1976, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and education.

Looking back on his decision to go to Oswego, Fleurant said he chose to attend the university after seeing advertisements featuring Lake Ontario, whose scenic view reminded him of the Caribbean. Though harsh winters changed his impression of the area's weather, he still cherishes Oswego for the education he received and the friends he made along the way.

"I'm very much indebted to Oswego," Fleurant said.

After graduating, Fleurant went on to earn a master's degree in school administration and philosophy of education at St. John's University. He has since taught at the City University of New York (CUNY), Hofstra University and SUNY Farmingdale.

For decades, he has gained prominence for his work as a philosopher, educator, historian, poet and inventor. He is notable for having developed Diaphanism, a philosophy which promotes moral values, reason and non-violence. Fleurant asserts that moral virtue is the primordial step to reach happiness — or "collective well-being," a phrase he uses for "happiness" in his Diaphanist philosophy.

Fleurant introduced this philosophy among a group of his peers in Paris in 2000. He has since gone on to embrace it in his campaign against gun violence.

"After confronting recidivist gun violence tragedies in my life, thanks to the practice of Diaphanism and Stoicism philosophies, I've been able to attain inner peace," Fleurant said.

The Inciting Incident

Fleurant's son, Duke Fleurant, had his own run-in with such violence in 2013 as a young man living in Massachusetts. While spending time with friends, he was wounded by a gunman in an unfortunate chance encounter.

Duke luckily survived the attack, and has since drawn from his experience to show why these mindless acts must be addressed and prevented.

"We have to ask the U.S. government: How far are we going with this cycle of gun violence?" Duke said.

In the wake of his son's attack, Fleurant answered the call to decrease gun violence as much as possible. As a professor and philosopher, his solution to this pressing issue came naturally to him: Education.

This realization led to the creation of the Foundation for Moral Action, a non-profit and educational organization that Fleurant established to advocate against and to condemn violence. These messages will be carried on into *Ripple Effect*, which will inform viewers on the realities and motives behind these attacks.

Proof of Concept

In his film project, Fleurant stated he intends to spark change by exploring the psychological elements behind shooters and their motives.

“Understanding what drives a shooter or a mass shooter is the key to prevention,” Fleurant said.

Fleurant proposed measures like reenacting real-life incidents, including his son’s, in the film to emphasize their emotional and psychological impacts. To add more authority to its messages, he also intends to feature interviews from individuals, including public officials, medical professionals and psychologists such as Dr. Jillian Peterson who will help shine a light on the enigma of gun violence and its impact on our society.

Additionally, he is highlighting people and organizations, such as Guitars Over Guns, National Association on Mental Illness, Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program and American Federation of Teachers.

By exposing viewers to such visuals, accounts and expert opinions, Fleurant believes they may gain a deeper understanding of why these attacks occur, and what measures could be taken to prevent future incidents.

The Big Picture

Fleurant is no stranger to his work in the film industry. In addition to being a graduate of the Hollywood Film Institute, where he received a certificate in feature and documentary film producing and directing, he has also written two screenplays, titled *Sisters’ Dreams* and *Stay with Me*. He is currently working on another film project, *Toña*, an Afro-Mexican singer and actress from Veracruz who gained fame in Latin American countries, Spain and the United States.

Bringing his expertise to the table, Fleurant is working to assemble all necessary resources and personnel to get the ball rolling on *Ripple Effect*, including appointing a director and producers, and by securing a production company and distributor.



Elie Fleurant '76 (fourth from right) poses with members of the Laker community during the Scholars Brunch in fall 2023.

He is also calling on Oswego alumni, students and faculty with experience and connections in filmmaking to aid the project in any way possible — whether it be on the production scope or through promotion and distribution.

“Alumni should take a very important part in this project,” Fleurant said.

As a student at Oswego, his experiences living and learning in a constructive environment provided him the tools to lead a successful professional life and to strive to make the world a better place. Thus, he feels the university’s positive influence may encourage others to also strive for change.

“Oswego is an educational institution,” Fleurant said. “[As such,] it should have a vital role in this respect.”

Call to Action

Fleurant is looking for Oswego alumni, students and faculty with experience in production, promotion and distribution to create *Ripple Effect* by helping to progress the documentary’s development in any way possible.

He is in contact with the SUNY Oswego Cinema and Screen Studies department, which is considering folding the project into a course or offering an independent study/internship for students who are interested in participating.

For more information on the project, contact Elie Fleurant at fleurante941@gmail.com or call or text him at 516-590-6042.





Action Unfolds

Alumna encourages exploration of world, space

Whether performing her duties as interim executive director of Pittsburgh's Moonshot Museum or leading a select group of tourists around Jordan as owner of Curated By Cath, the travel company she founded a decade ago, **Cathleen Richards '09** applies the skills and values she acquired at SUNY Oswego.



"I've found opportunities to use everything — not just what I learned in classes but, most critically, the knowledge I acquired through serving as an admissions tour guide, working in residence life, participating in campus media, studying abroad, and yes, even taking those general education classes that we didn't expect might be beneficial," Richards said.

At Moonshot Museum, a nonprofit and Pennsylvania's first space museum, people who never dreamed of seeing more than a liftoff on television can watch through a glass wall as the Astrobotic Technology team constructs spacecraft in real time. More than 12,000 guests saw Astrobotic's Peregrine spacecraft under assembly before it was launched to the moon in January.

The museum, intended to make space accessible to all, is a destination where visitors and students engage with immersive exhibits that help them realize that whatever they are interested in — marketing, medicine, writing, art, engineering, mechanics — there is a career for them in the contemporary space industry.

"We focus primarily on the K-12 population," Richards said. "Since opening in 2022, we have engaged more than 10,000 students in our programs on-site and in schools to inspire them to reach for the moon and beyond. Our goal is to show students, especially those in rural and urban communities of our region, that there is a pathway to space they can follow right here in Pittsburgh."

Richards served on the museum's board of directors, providing insight into the design and experience-creation phase of development. She was asked to serve as interim executive director in early 2023. During her tenure, she co-wrote a 90-page proposal that has been successful in obtaining an \$800,000 grant from NASA to create educational experiences for middle school students.

"Moonshot is one of only four institutions in the country selected," she said. "It's going to help us create the kind of transformative experiences that are fundamental to our mission."

Some form of the word "experience" comes up regularly in Richards' conversations. She said it is experience that creates vision for guests at Moonshot Museum, and it is experience that opens new vistas, both physical and emotional, for those who travel with Curated By Cath, the company that takes guests far beyond the typical tourist trip.

"I'm just back from leading a small group of women through Jordan, where my role was to be the bridge that connected travelers with locals while introducing them to unparalleled experiences. From Petra, to stargazing in the red desert of Wadi

Rum, to dining in family homes, we were welcomed with genuine hospitality and gained a new appreciation for the natural and manmade treasures of the land," Richards said. "My company is all about curating the kind of experiential travel that changes perspectives."

Having helped travelers find the unique qualities in more than 50 countries, including Italy, Australia, Saudi Arabia and lands throughout the Middle East, Richards plans to continue to build her business, a career choice that was born from her years on campus.

"I fit an Italian language class into my program just for fun. And, surprise! I experienced the transforming power of travel with Professor Joseph Alessia, who led students on an immersive summer study trip to Rome," Richards said.

She recalled the excitement of discovering a culture different from her own and of being mesmerized by the tour guides, who deftly led them through the marvels of the country.

"Those guides were so knowledgeable, so accomplished in welcoming us into a new culture," she said. "I knew right then I wanted to help travelers experience the world in a meaningful way. The trip was life-changing. When I later became a professional guide, I realized that the skills I had developed as a campus tour guide and as a resident mentor were invaluable in the industry, as was my Italian language ability."

Other SUNY Oswego professionals, including **Frank "Fritz" Messere '71 M'76**, the first dean of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, stand out in Richards' mind as having been mentors who encouraged her throughout her undergraduate studies.

"Cathleen was bright and focused," Messere recalled. "She had a wry sense of humor that was often reflected in our advisement discussions. She was an active participant in the department and throughout the college. After her graduation, we met at an alumni event and she described her future plans to create her own travel agency. I was always impressed with her drive."

Richards said her Oswego success began with her first moments on campus.

"It started with the Johnson Hall freshman experience," Richards said. "That was such a help in my adjustment to college. **Robin McAleese '93 M'95 CAS'09** and the wonderful Dr. Jay Button made me feel at home from the moment I stepped out of the car, gave my name to Jay and heard him start singing that familiar ballad, 'I'll take you home again, Kathleen.' What a warm welcome that was."

McAleese recalls Richards' intellectual curiosity having been just one of her many strengths.

"As a staff member in Johnson Hall, I loved working with Cathleen because she understood the goals of the FYRE (First Year Residential Experience) program and found creative ways to meet them," McAleese said. "She's a former student who is now a dear friend. Cathleen's heart is Oswego Green and Gold."

Richards graduated summa cum laude with a degree in broadcasting and mass communication and a minor in arts management. She received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence in 2009, the highest honor bestowed upon a student by SUNY.



Cathleen Richards '09, owner of Curated By Cath, enjoys leading travel tours overseas, including to the ancient city of Umm Qais in Jordan, pictured above.

In graduate school at the George Washington University, Richards earned a master's degree in international education. She worked in the travel industry for a decade, gathering experience and building a philosophy that would help her become the kind of tour guide and travel curator she envisioned. Her work has been noted in *Travel Agent Magazine*, *Nylon Magazine* and *U.S. News & World Report* and is recognized by colleagues. But, most important in Richards' view, is the feedback she receives from travelers, including **Sara Cooper '14 M'23**.

"Cathleen led the trip to Jordan focused on women's experiences in the region and opened my eyes to an entirely different way of life," Cooper said. "She included history of Jordan and the Middle East and shared incredible cultural experiences, including a cooking class, breaking bread with local families, tours of the desert and Petra. I think about this trip frequently and am grateful our paths crossed at Oswego."

Although she graduated 15 years ago, Richards has maintained her ties to Oswego as a career mentor to current students through the Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) program, as a former member of the Oswego Alumni Board of Directors and through service on several committees.

"I'll always do whatever I can for Oswego," Richards said, "because Oswego has done so much for me."



LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION

Getting in on the Action

Lakers build lifelong friendships through the gritty game of rugby

Crouched low with their shoulders pressing into their teammates and opponents, the 16 rugby players all maneuver through the mud and the biting wind that still carries remnants of icy rain, to eject the ball from the middle of the scrum toward their side.

Shouts erupt from the field and sidelines as the Oswego State Black Widows free the ball and a team member scoops it up and begins a mad dash toward the goal line. She finds a free lane, and breaks toward the center before touching the ball down to score 5 points while lining up the 2-point after kick.

For a moment, the Black Widows rugby players and the handful of die-hard fans watching at the Hidden Fields forget the stinging pain of this windy, wet, 38-de-

gree April day in Oswego. The adrenaline of the second of three victories during the annual Greased Weasel tournament fuels a fire that warms them from within.

Meanwhile, on an adjacent field, the men's Wizards of Oz rugby team are shedding their outer layer of clothes that are drenched in a mixture of sweat, sloppy mud and frigid water, and are heading to a gas grill nearby where lunch is cooking. Many of them are nursing injuries to shoulders, legs and arms sustained during the very physical games on the mucky field.

For a first-timer, the attraction to the game of rugby can be elusive. What on earth would compel these players to willingly subject themselves to these conditions?

"Rugby is very warm and friendly," said the mud-caked and straight-faced **Rose Ayala '25**, a criminal justice and human development double major who serves as vice president of the Black Widows. "It's so inclusive. It doesn't matter your body shape or size. Anyone can play rugby. It's a true team sport."

Ayala, like many past and present members of Oswego State rugby, had never played the game — which some describe as American football mixed with soccer with no protective equipment — before coming to Oswego.

"I grew up playing football, with quick bursts of high effort, but time between snaps," said **Kevin "KFC" Clark '17 M'19**, a chemistry major who played for the men's rugby team and today is a senior research associate for X-Chem Pharmaceuticals in Waltham, Mass. "Responsibilities in football are also generally very narrow and specific. By contrast, rugby has a constant, free-flowing rhythm that requires a completely different type of conditioning. And while there are set positions, which have their own general responsibilities, everyone on the field has to be able to do the core things: tackling, passing, running, rucking. There's a shared responsibility and trust when you are out on the field. Selfishly, as a big guy who played lineman positions in high school football, consistently getting your hands on the ball was fun, too!"

Getting in on the action also initially attracted **Jim "JC" Clark '77** to the sport.



"In high school, I was good enough to make the football team, not good enough to play," said Clark, who served as head coach of the Wizards for 13 years before stepping down in 2023. "I was tall, but I was kind of a wanna-be athlete."

So when his resident assistant in Oneida Hall suggested he try rugby — a game he had only seen as a child on ABC's *Wide World of Sports* — he decided to give it a go.

"It wasn't until I was 18, which is when I went to college, that my brain finally caught up to my body and I figured out how to work it," he joked. "So, when I went out for the rugby team, I was like, 'oh, I can play.'"

Clark said one of the things he loves about rugby is that if you show up for practices and work hard, you're going to play in the game.

"We'll have an A side, like your starters," said Clark, who continues to play rugby 50-plus years later for the Wild OATS (Oswego Alumni Touring Side) at the annual summer Can-Am Rugby Tournament in Saranac Lake and Lake Placid, N.Y. "But then everybody else gets to play in the B side game. So I played my first game on the B side, and I must have done something right because the next week, I was on the A side and I've never looked back after that."

Jennifer Ofodile '19 said she ran track and played soccer in high school but wanted to try something new when she came to college, so she joined the rugby team and found a welcoming culture.

"I enjoy the team aspect and how you have to work as a unit to achieve success," said Ofodile, a biochemistry major who won the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence as a senior and who is now a Ph.D. candidate in atmospheric chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. "I find that this type of teamwork translates well into other parts of life. Being able to depend on teammates who also want to succeed together was a valuable and enjoyable experience."

The rigorous physical nature of the game also strengthened players' resiliency and resolve to push through adversity, on and off the field.

"We would do training like you wouldn't believe," **Reid Adler '16 M'19**, who was part of the Wizards when they won the conference championship in 2014, 2015 and 2017 and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the National Championship each of those years. "I think everyone could say that they were in the best shape of their lives during their seasons. After doing that, I now think anything is possible."

"KFC" recalled when the team's bus broke down on their way to the Cherry Blossom Rugby Tournament in Washington, D.C., in spring 2017.

"By the time we pulled into the hotel in D.C., it was about 6 a.m.," he said. "And our first game was scheduled for an 8 a.m. kickoff. We were dead on our feet and exhausted, but in the proceeding three games that morning we played some absolutely phenomenal rugby, the weather was beautiful, and we had a great time. After our final game of the day at 2 p.m., we all promptly returned to our hotel rooms and crashed."



Those experiences created strong bonds between the players who serve as groomsmen in each other's weddings, plan annual get-togethers and continue to text each other regularly.

"The brotherhood that rugby culture breeds is unlike any other sport/activity I've ever been a part of. Blood, sweat, tears ... brotherhood," said finance major **Tim "TJ" Kimmel '15**, who now works for JRM Construction Management in New York City. "Some of my best friends to this day came through playing for the Oswego Wizards!"

Zack "Stinky Pete" Heaton '13, a linguistics and TESOL major who had never played rugby before playing for the Wizards of Oz at Oswego, takes that sentiment a step farther.

"Funny enough, rugby actually gave me one of my best friends ever — my non-biological brother **Julian Torriente ['15]**. "Torriente and I met in 2009 and were living together by 2011. He is literally the type of brother that my kids call Uncle Julian."





Rugby has a unique culture that forges those deep relationships, not just among teammates but among its players — regardless of age, race, gender, university or even nationality.

"There's a lot of trash-talking and testosterone on the field," Coach "JC" Clark said. "You bloody each other up and give it everything you got. Then afterwards, you put your arm around the guy, buy him a drink and sing songs together. That's just the culture. From professional level down to high school, the home team hosts a social for the other team, and you all get together afterward. In the end, you're all just rugby players and you're welcomed into the family. It's a very special vibe."

That's what **Dana "Patella" Segall Murphy '99** remembers most about her time with the Black Widows.

"We would travel to some other upstate colleges to play, which was always a good time," she recalled. "I remember playing a game in Rochester in the rain, possibly it was RIT. I don't know if we won or lost, but after the game, both teams went to eat at Nick Tahoe's to get Garbage Plates. It was a scene! 30-plus women rugby players, muddy and starving descended on the place!"

In her post-Oswego life, Murphy was visiting Amsterdam and happened upon an Australian rugby team.

"Rugby songs started to be sung," she said. "I was glad to be able to participate and know all the words!"

Members of both the Wizards and the Black Widows credit rugby as playing a leading role in their Oswego experiences and for some, like Adler, it was one of the main reasons they chose attending Oswego.

"I only applied to schools that had rugby," said Adler, who double majored in communication and social interaction and art with a graphic design emphasis and who stayed to earn a master's in strategic communication. "One of my high school teammates went to Oswego. He said it was a great school, great team. 'You'll love it.'"

And he did.

"I spent the majority of my time in college at Penfield Library and the rugby fields," Adler said. "Some of my best times and best friends from Oswego are from rugby."

Aidan "Broccoli" Baitzell '27, who played in high school and is a current Wizard, also said rugby was one of the reasons he chose SUNY Oswego.

"The location is fantastic," said mud-covered Baitzell after receiving treatment on a wounded arm during the Greased Weasel Tournament. "And rugby was a big draw for me."

Then Baitzell hollered out: "Hi Grandpa!" as an "old" Wizard, **Bobby Commisso '23**, walked by. Commisso, who had graduated with a degree in technology education in December 2023, returned to Oswego to cheer on his former teammates before starting a job as a technology teacher on Long Island in fall 2024.

This kind of banter and camaraderie among teammates span generations and help carry them through the good times as well as the bad.



Heaton was learning to play rugby as a freshman under Coach **P. Kevin "Magician" Gilman '74** when the team received tragic news.

"The spring/summer after my first season we got the unfortunate news that Magician passed away," said Heaton, who now works as a solutions engineer at Datadog based in Denver, Colo. "I remember being maybe 19 or so at the time, and all of us from around the state got together and showed up at his house. The coming together piece was something at that point of my life I had never seen before."

Players say that their rugby experience at Oswego taught them about qualities that carry them through their post-college lives: trust, resiliency, strength, teamwork and camaraderie.

"Playing rugby at Oswego became more than just a sport or a thing you did with your spare time," Kevin Clark said. "It felt important, and helped me forge lifelong friendships with many people."





Class Notes

Among the equipment housed in the Media Archeology Lab are several 16mm film cameras, including (front to back): Arriflex 16 S (1950s); Frezzi LW-16 (1970s); and Bolex H16 Rex-5 (1960s).

From The Archives

SUNY Oswego's Department of Cinema and Screen Studies maintains a Media Archeology Lab in Mahar Hall, filled with vintage equipment that students use every semester.

In an age when cell phones can be used to capture, edit and share video, why are the antiquated film cameras and splicing machines needed?

Associate Professor Jacob Dodd, who oversees the vintage equipment, rattled off a list of reasons, including technical skill development, visual storytelling and project planning.

"Shooting on celluloid film provides a dedicated focus in the art and craft of filmmaking," Dodd said. "Your camera will not distract you with dings, feeds, texts and email. This gives your mind complete dedication to making a film. Making a movie on traditional film also encourages organization and develops a focus discipline in replanning.

"There's a limited amount of film: 100ft roll is 2 minutes and 45 seconds and costs \$40," he said. "You learn to make every shot count. Film stock also has a beautiful textured aesthetic and unlimited color range. This gives students a lot of flexibility in designing their movies.

"Furthermore, the film is archival with predictions of the newest stocks up to 500 years when stored in a cool and dry environment," he continued. "It's exciting to think of someone discovering CSS student films in 100 years. Lastly, film is fun! It's completely hands on and provides the rewards of making a film from scratch and seeing your movie buildup as you edit a reel together."

Department Chair and Associate Professor Joshua Adams added: "Students should be able to utilize all of the various modes of film production, to get a better perspective on the history, as well as the functionality of the industry, and it all starts with the tool that gave moving pictures the ability to move, the camera."

Do you have a favorite photo from your college days that you'd like featured in an alumni communication? Send the photo and a description, along with your name and class year, to alumni@oswego.edu; or King Alumni Hall, Oswego, N.Y. 13126.

Shining a Light on Alumna's 101-Year History

Editor's Note: Patricia Otis Hanley '44 passed away peacefully at the age of 101, on June 5, 2024, before this article was published.

When radios blared the news that the Japanese had destroyed the United States fleet in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, **Patricia Otis Hanley '44** and her friends, at what was then the Oswego Normal School, went bowling.



"We were not being disrespectful," Hanley said while recounting the story from her home in Oswego. "We simply had to get our minds off the horror."

She recalled that the country was already sending supplies to European allies in the fight against Nazi aggression, and after Pearl Harbor, the rush of men signing up for military service increased, leaving young women to pick up the jobs and civic responsibilities formerly done by males.

With her older sister, Elizabeth Otis, Hanley worked in munitions plants during the war — two of thousands of "Rosie the Riveters." They also volunteered to watch for enemy planes at night from the Oswego Armory building tower.

"In the munitions factory, Elizabeth and I operated huge machines and carried heavy shell cases to be inspected," Hanley said. "One evening we just sat and laughed as we watched our arms shake from the weight of those casings. It was hard work, but Elizabeth and I wanted to do our part. Two of our brothers were flying missions over Europe, so we all had a huge stake in the outcome of the war."

Born in New Rochelle, N.Y., to Irish immigrant parents on Oct. 15, 1922, Hanley moved with her family to Oswego to escape the Depression-era poverty of the city. Her life has spanned the years from horse and buggy trans-

portation to space travel. She counts the moon landing of 1969 as one of the most significant advances in her lifetime but, she said, people still have much to learn. Like her contemporaries, she relied on radio for news and entertainment until, in the 1950s, she and her husband, Edward Hanley, and children, **Vincent Hanley '79**, **Ted Hanley '80** and **Mary Elizabeth Hanley Collins '83**, turned to television. More recently, she enjoyed TV for news, classic movies, and — her favorite entertainment — *Judge Judy*.

Reminiscing about her college days, Hanley said the professors she studied with are now memorialized by the names of campus buildings: Moreland, Hart, Romney, Johnson, Wilber and others.

"We had wonderful relationships with the faculty," she said.

Despite the war, students had meaningful experiences on campus. Hanley eagerly accepted leadership roles and, in her junior year, was elected president of the student body. She is the first woman to have served in that capacity.

"Those were the years of the big bands, and my favorite was Glenn Miller. I am pretty sure we danced for miles every weekend to his orchestra and the music of Arty Shaw, Jimmy Dorsey and others," Hanley said. "We loved going to the movies, and many of them were musicals. I joined Clio sorority,

and we had lovely formals, dances, teas and socials."

Even work provided good times, Hanley said, recalling a summer waitressing job in Cape Vincent, N.Y., with her sister and some friends and saying, "We always found ways to have fun."

As a result of male teachers leaving for military duty, Hanley began teaching professionally in her junior year when her supervising professor suggested she take a job instead of doing the usual student teaching.

"I had a paid position in a one-room schoolhouse on the Tug Hill Plateau," Hanley said. "I roomed in the farmhouse of an elderly Welsh couple and snowshoed to and from the schoolhouse each day. At a county fair, I bought a baby pig and raised it during the year I spent there. I was paid \$100 a month, and believe you me, that was good money for a student in those days."

Following graduation in 1944, Hanley accepted a job teaching seventh grade in Rochester, N.Y., where she worked for three years before returning to Oswego, meeting and marrying her husband, and taking a break to raise a family. She pursued a master's degree in reading through part-time study and returned to teaching in 1965. She taught fifth grade at Charles E. Riley Elementary School until retirement in 1987.



Speaking at the 1944 commencement of the Oswego Normal School, **Patricia Otis Hanley '44** represented the student body as its first female president.

Having accumulated more than a century's worth of experiences and wisdom, Hanley said she was blessed in every phase of her life.

"I was the baby of five children, and they all took such good care of me that I flourished," Hanley said.

Saying how much she enjoyed her career, Hanley declared that if she were still teaching, there are two things she would emphasize to her pupils: 1) The most important thing is family. 2) Love one another.

"Really, when it comes down to it, there is nothing more important than that," Hanley said.



A family of Oswego graduates, from left, back: **Vincent O. Hanley '79** and **Mary Elizabeth Hanley Collins '82**; front: **Patricia Otis Hanley '44**, and **Ted Hanley '80**.

Patricia Otis Hanley '44 explains longevity

1. The right family; several aunts and uncles reached 99.
2. Have fun. Make life joyful.
3. Practice faith and charity.
4. Become educated, keep reading and learning.
5. Stay engaged, remain interested in everyone and everything.
6. Work hard and serve others.
7. Enjoy good food. Her stepmother was a professional cook.

SUBMITTING A CLASS NOTE

To submit your class note, email alumni@oswego.edu, call 315-312-3003 or complete the class note form online at alumni.oswego.edu. You can also mail submissions to the OSWEGO Alumni Magazine, King Alumni Hall, Oswego, N.Y. 13126.

Editor's Note:

Due to changes to our typical production schedule, this Class Notes reflects submissions from July 1, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2023. We apologize if the information has changed since submission.

We encourage alumni to submit their updates as we expect to resume our normal schedule in 2024. All submissions received between Jan. 1-June 30 typically run in the Fall/Winter issue; and submissions received July 1-Dec. 31 run in our Spring/Summer issue.

1960s

Perry Zirkel '66 of Allentown, Pa., has continued his research and writing since retiring eight years ago as a University Professor of Education and Law from Lehigh University, reaching his 1,700th publication in December 2023 with an article in the *Connecticut Law Review*. He holds a bachelor's in foreign language education from Oswego; a master's in foreign language education, a Ph.D. in educational administration and a Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut and Master of Law

degree from Yale University. He specializes in special education law, and hosted annual conferences at Lehigh University from 1977 to 2022.

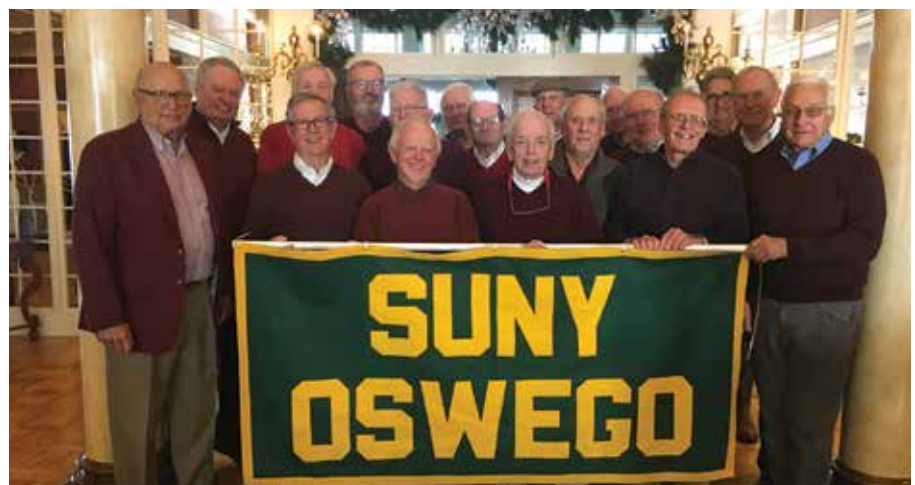
Lewis Widoff '69 M'77 of New York, N.Y., reports that there is never a dull day in the Big Apple. He is a brother of Beta Tau Epsilon fraternity, and was involved with *The Oswegonian* as a student. He is an Alumni Sharing Mentor and was a member of the 2024 Reunion Engagement and Philanthropy Committee.

1970s

William Price '70 of Oswego has retired. At Oswego, he became a member of Phi Sigma Phi.

Ronald Charney '71 of Johnstown, N.Y., is enjoying the retired life, traveling and pursuing hobbies, including restoring and showing his collection of antique and classic cars. He enjoys visiting his daughter and son-in-law in the Rochester area often. Ron is always willing to hear from his SUNY Oswego friends and acquaintances. He said, "let's do lunch!"

Richard Cobello '73 of Greenfield Center, N.Y., is a risk management strategist at the law firm of DeAngelus Goralczyk, specializing in data privacy and cybersecurity, corporate law, real estate, regulatory compliance and trusts and estates with offices in New York and Florida. He also started a cybersecurity business, Global Cybersecurity Solutions LLC.



Brothers of Delta Kappa Kappa and other friends of SUNY Oswego gathered together on Nov. 29, 2023, at the Skaneateles (N.Y.) Country Club for their annual tradition of camaraderie and holiday cheer — coordinated by former Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors member **Dan Scaia '68**. We love to hear about Laker alumni gatherings throughout the year. If you and your Oswego buddies are getting together, be sure to snap a photo and send it to alumni@oswego.edu.



Christie Sommers '73 of Scituate, Mass., visited Students Helping Oz Peers (SHOP) pantry on Sept. 23, 2023. SHOP is a student-run, on-campus food and clothing pantry in the basement of Penfield Library. It provides students, faculty and staff with FREE non-perishable food, toiletries, sexual and reproductive health products, and professional and winter apparel. Christie committed \$30,000 to endow the Christie Sommers '73 Food & Clothing Pantry Forever Fund to address the most urgent health and well-being needs of our student body. The fund is distributed at the discretion of the Dean of Students Office to support initiatives such as SHOP.

Larry Wraight '73 of Baldwinsville, N.Y., is a strategic intervention coach for Finger Lakes Coaching. He enjoys gardening, being a member of the Onondaga County District Attorney's Advisory Council, executive coaching and spending time with Buddy, his liver-and-white springer spaniel with tan markings. At Oswego, he was a member of the varsity wrestling team.

Marcia Osterhout Kees '74 of Waterford, N.Y., is a lecturer at State University of New York at Albany.

Daniel McManus '74 M'14 of Pennellville, N.Y., is a therapy supervisor at Oswego Health.

Joseph Midura '74 of North Tonawanda, N.Y., is the newsletter editor for the Historical Society of the Tonawandas. He also is a high school swimming official. At Oswego, he was a member of the symphonic choir and the men's varsity swimming team.

Patrick Murphy '74 of Ringwood, N.J., is celebrating the recent birth of his third grandchild, named Eve. He is a member of the community board in Hilton Head, S.C., and the Lake Community Board at Erskine Lakes, N.J. He also chaired the annual St. Patrick's dinner celebration in Hilton Head, S.C. He has enjoyed chairing the first SUNY Oswego School of Business Advisory Board. For the past 25 years he has participated in the Alumni Sharing Knowledge program and hosted many students. At

Oswego, he was a member of the men's varsity swim team, varsity track team, business club and student government, and also served as a residence hall president and on the resident assistant interviewing team.

Arthur Salisch '74 of Princeton Junction, N.J., is the director of data insights and analytics for Black Communications - WDRB-TV. At Oswego, he was a member of WOOCR, *The Oswegonian* and intramural sports.

Michael Calabria '75 of Bee Cave, Texas, is an independent management consultant for PEAC Consulting LLC. At Oswego, he became a member of Sigma Tau Chi and the varsity lacrosse team.

Richard Ellison '75 of DeWitt, N.Y., works in the newsroom editorial department for *The Post-Standard*.

Alan Spindler '75 of Rome, N.Y., is an agency principal for Alan Spindler Agency - Allstate. He enjoys work and spending time at camp on First Lake in the Adirondacks. At Oswego, he participated in concert band, wind ensemble, Solid State and the State Singers.

Edward Confino '76 of Fairfax, Va., recently retired after 29 years of federal service as a human resource policy analyst. He enjoys playing men's baseball and traveling. Within a couple of years, he plans to move to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. At Oswego, he was a student senator, representing Onondaga Hall.

Mark Allen Baker '79 of Hebron, Conn., was inducted into the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame. One of the most accomplished boxing journalists in the world, Mark has devoted much of his life to chronicling many notable moments in the sport of boxing. His published works range from *Willie Pep: A Biography of the 20th Century's Greatest Featherweight*, to *The World Colored Heavyweight Championship, 1876-1937*. An author of over 25 books about American culture, history and sports, he is a member of the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame Board of Directors. He is the recipient of the 2021 Oswego Alumni Association Lifetime Award of Merit.

Harry MacAvoy '79 of Nokomis, Fla., is retired and living in Florida now. He happily reports that he will no longer have to experience any more Upstate NY winters.

William Newsome '79 of Raleigh, N.C., retired from the Duke University Health System. He enjoys traveling and watching sports. At Oswego, he was a member of the men's basketball team.

1980s

Philip Catalano '80 of Manlius, N.Y., is celebrating a five-year work anniversary as associate vice president and controller at Keuka College.

Elizabeth Meyer Fuller '80 of Schenectady, N.Y., enjoys volunteering for the Red Cross, Girl Scouts and a soup kitchen.



Golden Alumni Society Inductees — Class of 1974, Celebrating the 50th Reunion at Reunion Weekend 2024: Front row (from left) John Bendas, Donna Palmer Pogue, Louise Barwinczok Wilson, Evelyn Poore Landini, Judy VanDusen Harris, Francis Picart, Dennis Luzon, Marcia Guller Collier, Marcia Osterhout Kees, Frank Caruso and Arthur Salisch; Second row (from left) Lynda McNeil Finley, Joan Crumb Dougall, Peter Dougall, Virginia "Ginny" Bleier Nugent, Susan Reuter Shaw, Patrick Murphy, Dave Cristantello, Joseph "Mike" Midura, Ray Schwarz, Eric W. Overstrom and Robert "Bob" Valenoti Jr.; Third row (from left) Bonnie Bleier Buske, Jim Buske, R. Paul McCarty, Peggy Hoerburger and Joe F.S. Chin.

Dr. Michael Gannon '80 of Altoona, Pa., retired as professor emeritus of biology at the Pennsylvania State University after 32 years of service. After earning a baccalaureate degree at SUNY Oswego, Michael earned a master's degree in biology from SUNY Brockport, and a Ph.D. degree in ecology and biology from Texas Tech University. His area of research expertise is concentrated in bat ecology, primarily in the Caribbean, where he conducted long-term research projects on numerous islands. His work has resulted in several books, book chapters and over 30 technical papers published in a variety of scientific journals.

Douglas Delaney '81 of Laurel, Md., is celebrating 34 years at Kaiser Permanente, where he serves as senior finance manager. He had a great time attending the 2022 reunion. At Oswego, he became a member of Phi Sigma Phi.

David Burnett '83 of Sugar Loaf, N.Y., is celebrating 10 years as a systems, applications and products finance and controlling (SAP FICO) systems analyst for Carl Zeiss Inc. He loves his job, as every day presents a different challenge, so he never gets bored.

Phillip Kaplan '83 of Knoxville, Tenn., is celebrating 39 years in legacy media. He is the associate director of content for the USA TODAY South Region. He focuses on college sports, including Tennessee, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Southern Mississippi and South Carolina.

Robert Bebak '84 of West Seneca, N.Y., is a confidential criminal investigator for the Erie County District Attorney. At Oswego, he became a member of Sigma Tau Chi.

Brenda Corlis Ferlenda '84 of Milton, Del., is a patient services representative for Beebe Healthcare.

Kelley Flood '84 of Constantia, N.Y., is a grants manager and writer for Planned Parenthood of Central and Western NY. She continues to volunteer at Helping Hounds Dog Rescue, plan European vacations and research her family history. At Oswego, she became a member of Omega Delta Phi.

Suzanne Selkowitz Reek '84 of Wantagh, N.Y., is the executive director of Nassau Suffolk Chapter of the Autism Society of America. At Oswego, she enjoyed the sunsets and the friends she made. She is a 2022 winner of the Oswego Alumni Association's Community Service Award.

Oswego Experience Sets Off Chemical 'Re-Action'

Bruce Ellsworth '87 remembers the unfortunate circumstance that led to the introduction of a mentor who would affect his life's path.

During the second semester of his organic chemistry class with Dr. Pearl Monroe, his professor was hospitalized and subsequently passed away. Dr. Augustine Silveira Jr. stepped in to finish teaching the rest of the semester.

"Dr. Silveira is such a passionate scientist and teacher that I decided to do undergraduate research in his lab, setting me on a path to do chemistry research for the rest of my career," Ellsworth said.

Across the country at the University of California at Irvine, Geeta Govindarajoo was studying chemistry and biology when Dr. Silveira, who was on sabbatical from SUNY Oswego, crossed paths with her.



Benefactors **Bruce Ellsworth '87** and Geeta Govindarajoo

"We were both inspired by this passionate SUNY Oswego faculty member," said Ellsworth, who returned to SUNY Oswego on April 12 with his now wife, Govindarajoo, to deliver the Dr. Augustine Silveira Jr. Distinguished Lecture. During their visit to Oswego, they also met with biochemistry major **Emily Harte '25**, who was selected as the first recipient of the Geeta Govindarajoo and Bruce Ellsworth '87 Scholarship.

"We were so excited to meet our first scholarship recipient," said Ellsworth, executive director and head of Oncology East and BBRC Medicinal Chemistry at Bristol Myers Squibb in Princeton, N.J. "She's an impressive student-athlete, and she said that the scholarship both

validated her choice of major while also relieving some of the financial pressure of her academic pursuit."

The scholarship provides financial support to a chemistry, biochemistry or geochemistry student at SUNY Oswego who has demonstrated academic initiative and success with a minimum GPA of 3.3 while also having documented financial need.

Although both Ellsworth and Govindarajoo have affiliations with other universities for their various academic degrees, they said their mutual appreciation for Dr. Silveira and Ellsworth's gratitude for his other Oswego faculty guided their decision about establishing a scholarship.

Their scholarship also supports the Transforming Lives Scholarship initiative and advances President Peter O. Nwosu's Vision 4040: Expanding SUNY Oswego's Promise, which seeks to double the annual number of graduates by 2040 to meet the needs of the Central New York region.

The couple has not only witnessed the impact that scientific advances have on society, they have helped make those contributions.

"I am honored to have been part of a large team that discovered and developed a new medicine for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus," Ellsworth said. "Several of the skills employed in this contribution stemmed directly from my training at SUNY Oswego, especially under the tutelage of Dr. Silveira."

The couple said they are happy to be able to provide assistance to future scientists through their scholarship.

"We hope to encourage students to pursue and complete their degrees in science with the hope that they will uncover new knowledge, new facts, and promote a common understanding of the natural world that surrounds us," Ellsworth said. "Some students may decide to pursue teaching professions wherein they can amplify their impact on society, inspiring others as Professors Shineman, Monroe and Silveira have done for us."

A Love Story Fit for Film



Amy Jacobson '91 and Michael Normand '91 grew up 20 minutes from each other in the Utica, N.Y., area, and even performed together at the

Oneida County sixth-grade All-County Music Festival in Poland, N.Y., in 1980. But it wasn't until Spring 1990 between their junior and senior years at SUNY Oswego that they met each other.

As president of Omicron Xi, Amy took a little brother, **George Wehbe '92**, in Sigma Tau Chi on Switch Day, and she soon became fast friends with him and his best friend, **Jon Moore '92**. During a Sig Tau gathering, the brothers introduced her to her now husband. Amy and Mike hit it off and have been together ever since.

Amy, a zoology and anthropology major who played Laker field hockey, was planning on serving in the Peace Corps in Africa, eventually hoping to pursue a Ph.D. in primatology studying western lowland gorillas. Mike, a broadcasting and mass communication major with a minor in business, worked on-air part-time at WRVO-FM on campus and WSGO-FM in Oswego and hoped to establish himself in the radio advertising industry.

After graduation, the couple moved to Durham, N.C., and then to Tempe, Ariz., where Amy was accepted into the master's program in physical anthropology at Arizona State University. She conducted research on ring-tailed lemurs and wrote her master's thesis on evaluating psychological wellness in a colony of 90 captive chimpanzees.

Mike got his break in radio sales, working as an account executive at KFNN Financial News Radio in Phoenix. They were married in August 1994 in Upstate New York surrounded by family and SUNY Oswego alumni.

Upon completion of Amy's master's in anthropology, they moved back east in 1996 to New Jersey. She earned a Ph.D. in evolutionary anthropology at Rutgers University, and taught at the collegiate level for 20 years.

Recently, Amy has been working on documentary films, as a contributing scientist writing curriculum to accompany educational films and as an associate producer. She appears along with actor Jeff Bridges in the award-winning film *Living In The Future's Past*, and is featured in the 2024 biopic, *Wild Genius: The Unconventional Life and Legacy of Evolutionary Biologist Robert Trivers*, her academic mentor, friend and collaborator for the past 25 years.



Mike has found success working as



an account executive at WDHA-FM and WM-TR-AM in Cedar Knolls, N.J., and rising through the ranks to nation-

al sales manager. In 2001, he took a position with sister stations, WRAT-FM and WJRZ-FM, at the Jersey Shore. He currently serves as vice president and director of sales, and he has worked for the same group of seven radio stations with Beasley Media Group for the past 27 years.

The couple has enjoyed returning to campus over the years, bringing their four children to watch sunsets over the lake, eat at Rudy's and enjoy ice cream at Bev's. They regularly attend reunions of their Greek organizations, including most recently the 75th Anniversary of Sigma Tau Chi and the 40th Anniversary of Omicron Xi during SUNY Oswego's Reunion Weekend in June 2022.



Linda Beegen Reyna '84 of Brownstown Township, Mich., is the director of human resources for Dickinson Wright PLLC. She enjoys golfing. At Oswego, she cherished her lakeside time.

Peter Rogers '84 of Fishers, N.Y., is the general manager of Rochester Yacht Club. At Oswego, he became a member of Zeta Chi Zeta.

Mark Burr '86 of Cayuga, N.Y., works in customer service for Cayuga County Veterans Service Agency.

Robert Hageny '86 '99 M'06 '16 of Oswego is a technical support specialist for SUNY Oswego. At Oswego, he became a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.



Jennifer Shropshire '86 of Philadelphia, Pa., is a principal at Shropshire Nonprofit Consulting, LLC. She returned to campus last fall and spoke in several classes through the Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) program. At Oswego, she was a member of the Program Policy Board and served as an admissions tour guide. She is a member of the Oswego University Foundation Board of Directors and a past member of the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors and a recipient of its Alumni Service Award.

Geri Penz Vaeth '87 of Hamlin, N.Y., is an administrative office assistant for Caldwell Manufacturing Co. NA LLC. She said she is living the dream and is very happy with life after finding her love. Geri has happy memories from living in Cayuga Hall from 1983 to 1986. Shout out to Cayuga Hall, **Pamela Wiley Formosa '87** and **Maureen Clune Ryan '87**: She said it's time to schedule a weekend together.

Claire Wyngaard '87 of Delaware City, Del., retired from BoatUSA.

Mark Delaney '88 of Smithtown, N.Y., is the vice president for global retail strategy at FourKites. He lives with his wife, Kathy, on the north shore of Long Island with their three children. Annual golf outings still happen with **Thomas Povlok '86** and

Patrick Hogan '88. Mark is happy to connect with any students and alumni who are interested in the supply chain industry.



Tom Caraccioli '89 of New York City is pictured at right with **Andy Bliss '04**, and the pair show off one of 11 king salmon caught in Lake Ontario on the first day of summer 2023. Andy is the first mate of the Cold Steel Sportfishing Charter, owned by Captain Tom Burke. Tom Caraccioli and his brother, Jerry, enjoyed a morning fishing on Lake Ontario with Cold Steel and went home with more than 30 pounds of filleted salmon.

1990s

Donald Little '91 M'94 M'15 of Syracuse, N.Y., is celebrating his 30th year as a teacher in the Syracuse City School District. He is an advanced placement world and U.S. history teacher at Nottingham High School. He is the second vice president of the Syracuse Teachers Association. At Oswego, he became a member of Alpha Phi Omega, and was involved with *The Oswegonian* and Hewitt Union management.

Craig Yaris '92 of West Palm Beach, Fla., is a managing partner of Holon Law Partners. He specializes in franchise, general business practices and mediation. Craig has delivered many keynote addresses and educational seminars for many New York-based organizations and is a continuing education instructor for Hofstra University.

David Phillips '94 of Lewisville, Texas, works in contract and proposal assurance for Logicalis US. At Oswego, he was a member of the crew team.

Jerrell Robinson '94 M'96 of Winston-Salem, N.C., is the associate dean of new student experiences and undergraduate engaged learning at Winston-Salem State University. At Oswego, he was a member of Phi Beta Sigma, Black Student Union, LEAD Center, Gospel Choir and Caribbean Student Association, and was a student orientation leader.

Chad Hoffman-Fragale '95 of Victor, N.Y., is the vice president of human resources for Finger Lakes Health. At Oswego, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Jeffrey Solan '95 M'97 of Wallingford, Conn, is the superintendent of Cheshire Public Schools. He was the keynote speaker at the 2023 International Conference on Future Education at the Gyeongsangnam Do Office of Education in South Korea. At Oswego, he was a member of the men's varsity hockey team, men's varsity lacrosse team and Omicron Delta Kappa.


Kathleen Percival DeForest '96 M'18 of Fulton, N.Y., is a web/digital content coordinator for SUNY Oswego. The main focus of her work is in website content strategy, design and digital accessibility. She has been fortunate to have the opportunity to travel and present at conferences, representing Oswego, a few times a year. In September 2023, she attended and presented at her first overseas conference, held in Liverpool, England. At Oswego, she was a member of Solid State, concert band, Mu Beta Psi Nu Chapter, Alpha Psi Omega, Blackfriars, WNYO and WRVO.

Jennifer Hyman Zimmerman '96 of Colts Neck, N.J., is a plus model. She enjoys volunteering at her son's elementary school as often as possible. At Oswego, she was a member of the Del Sarte Dance Club, Shaun Cassidy Fan Club improv troupe, State Singers, Chamber Singers and Mu Beta Psi.

Giovanna Colosi '98 M'04 of Cicero, N.Y., was promoted from lead senior assistant librarian to lead associate librarian at

Syracuse University Libraries, where she is the team lead for subject instruction and the subject specialist for the School of Education. At Oswego, she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi honor society.

Cheryl Webster '98 of Swampscott, Mass., is completing nearly 14 years of service to Salem State University as vice president of institutional advancement/executive director of the Salem State University Foundation. In October 2024, she begins a new position overseeing advancement and marketing/communications at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga. At Oswego, she was in the college choir and Phi Lambda Phi, and served as a Telefund student caller.



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Visit alumni.oswego.edu or email us at alumni@oswego.edu.



Current and former members of the Lakers softball team came together Oct. 8, 2023, for an Alumnae Game in Romney Field House. They shared in familiar team cheers and friendly team competition in what the program expects to become an annual tradition. The following day at Romney, the program hosted a Softball Skills Clinic, led by current coaches and players, for prospective players ages 11 through 18 to practice hitting, fielding, pitching, catching and baserunning, among other skills.

Oswego Matters |

Fun fact about me: I entered my freshman year at Oswego as a theatre major before switching to public relations that spring. And, even after declaring a different major, I participated in many productions in Waterman Theatre over my four years as a student. (Yes, I danced on stilts in *Lost in a Viral Paradise* in 2007; I was “happy to see you” at the Kit Kat Klub’s *Cabaret* in 2008; and I traveled *Into the Woods* as the Baker’s Wife in 2009.) On top of that, I sang with State Singers, acted in staged readings and spent summers in community theatre rehearsals. All of that is to say, I spent many years being very familiar with the phrase, **Lights, Camera, Action.**

While my personal and professional schedules don’t allow much room for performances nowadays (apart from what my steering wheel hears on my commute), I am still incredibly lucky to be able to experience **Lights, Camera, Action** regularly here at our alma mater in ways I wouldn’t have expected years back.

I get a front-row seat to our bi-annual Torchlight Ceremonies — where we welcome new students into the Laker

community and welcome our graduating seniors into the Oswego Alumni Association. If you’ve seen the live view of hundreds of candles illuminating the room as we sing the “Alma Mater” in unison, you know how beautiful the moment is. (If you haven’t seen it, I invite you to join us to represent your class in the Alumni Inner Circle on May 16, 2025!)

Like it or not, I’m “ready for my close up” on **camera** weekly (if not daily!) via Zoom meetings in our increasingly digital world. The benefit to that? We can engage alumni from across the country, and world, who aren’t able to make the trip to Oswego. All Reunion Engagement and Philanthropy Committee meetings are held via Zoom; we host webinars, featuring alumni, faculty and staff; we live stream popular events; and our Oswego Alumni Podcast guests are interviewed virtually. So, un-mute yourself and know that we’d love to “see” you online — from wherever you are!

I witness alumni taking **action** every day to help our Laker family grow and thrive. You have experiences and insights that are invaluable to students, and that help foster relationships with other alumni. Share your professional expertise through the Alumni



Sharing Knowledge program; help our Admissions Office recruit new students; host a gathering of “Local Lakers” in your city; and return to campus for reminiscing during Reunion Weekend, Founder’s Weekend or your group’s mini-reunion activities.

However you choose to do it, I hope you find a way to share your **Lights, Camera, Action** with us in the coming months — before we yell, “Cut!” for another class of Laker grads.

Laura

Laura Pavlus Kelly '09
Executive Director
Oswego Alumni Association, Inc.

2000s

Malia Small Roberts '01 of Portage, Mich., graduated with a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership in 2023 from Western Michigan University. At Oswego, she was involved in the college/community orchestra, Omicron Delta Kappa, WNYO, Program Policy Board/SAPB and WTOP, and served as a Telefund student caller.

Christopher Hockey '02 of Liverpool, N.Y., is the director of registration and records for Onondaga Community College. At Oswego, he was involved in WNYO, WRVO, Omicron Delta Kappa and Student Association, and served as a student orientation leader.

Natasha Johnson Polito '02 of Spencerport, N.Y., was promoted to national/regional sales manager of WHEC and EHEC television. Her duties are to handle the day-to-day transactional sales for all national accounts and some local accounts. She has been at Hubbard Broadcasting

since 2012. At Oswego, Natasha was a member of WRVO, WTOP and WNYO, and was a resident assistant for Seneca Hall.

Fred Vigeant '02 of Carlisle, Pa., is vice president and chief audience officer for WITF Inc. At Oswego, he was a member of Concert Band/Wind Ensemble, Student Association, WRVO and WNYO.

Robert C. Whitaker Jr. '02 of Camillus, N.Y., has been selected for inclusion in “Upstate New York Super Lawyers” from 2017 to 2024. Robert is a partner in the labor and employment, construction and intellectual property practices at Hancock Estabrook LLP. He is the chair of the firm’s labor and employment department and leader of the military law practice, and formerly served as chair of the firm’s hiring committee. At Oswego, he was involved in men’s hockey and Tau Sigma National Honor Society.

Brooke Palmieri Kibrick '03 of Tonawanda, N.Y., is the director of events and programs

for the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. At Oswego, Brooke was a member of WTOP and the varsity women’s tennis team.

Tracy Underwood-Caryl '03 of Clay, N.Y., is the director of development and membership at Syracuse University’s WAER/Newhouse School.

Deborah Daby M'04 of North Syracuse, N.Y., is a data and grants coordinator for Farnham Family Services.

Julie Dougall Slate '04 of Rochester, N.Y., is the assistant director of admissions for Monroe Community College. At Oswego, she was involved in Omicron Delta Kappa, Student Advisory Council for School of Business and Phi Beta Lambda.

Gregory O'Leary '05 of Oswego is a financial assurance services principal. He specializes in assurance and financial reporting services in DeJoy & Co.’s financial assurance practice. At Oswego, he was involved in the Honors Program and was a resident assistant.

Eric Potts '05 of Schenectady, N.Y., works in administration for the Glenville (N.Y.) Police Department. He enjoys bowling and softball. At Oswego, he worked in the Oswego Alumni Office and the fitness centers.

Rachel Forman LaCoe '07 of Wilmington, N.C., is the director of the City of Wilmington's housing and neighborhood services department. She oversees code enforcement, code compliance and community development operations, including the city's affordable and workforce housing programs. At Oswego, she was involved in Phi Sigma Sigma, and served as a resident assistant and a Sheldon Leader.



Sara Getz Bailey '08 M'09 of Clay, N.Y., put her bachelor's degree in fine arts to good use when she submitted a quilt that took first place at the Great New York State Fair in August 2023. The photo above was submitted by an admirer of the quilt and retired professor of English and creative writing **Linda Loomis '90 M'97** of Liverpool, N.Y.

Kristin Benodt '08 of Hamburg, N.Y., is a network services director for D'Youville University. At Oswego, she was involved in Mu Beta Psi and College Choir.

Sara Gotlib Bussert '08 M'10 of Niskayuna, N.Y., is the director of art and design for the Niskayuna Central School District. She and her husband, **Will Bussert '08**, have two daughters and a dog named Laker. At Oswego, she was a member of the varsity tennis team.

Garrett Cooperman '08 of Landis, N.C., is an assistant principal for Kannapolis (N.C.) City Schools. At Oswego, he became a member of Mu Beta Psi, Phi Kappa Phi, Student Association Senate, Jewish Student Union/Hillel, Hart Hall Global Living and Learning Center, College Choir, Festival Chorus, Even Bigger Picture and Boys Down the Hall A Cappella. Garrett also played indoor soccer and broomball.

Danielle Poli O'Brien '08 of Syracuse, N.Y., is a program coordinator for the tobacco health systems grant at St. Joseph's Health.

Alumnus Lights Up Broadway



When imagining how major theatrical productions are successfully executed, creatives like actors and directors are often the first people credited with bringing their shows to life. For technical theatre graduate **Quentin Mariano '15**, the real magic is what goes on behind the scenes.

"It's basically [our] job to help create the atmosphere essentially that you see on stage," Mariano said.

For example, Mariano recently served as head electrician in the production of *Good Night, Oscar*, starring *Will and Grace*'s Sean Hayes, which ran on Broadway from April 24, 2023-Aug. 27, 2023. The job marked his first in a major Broadway production.

As head electrician, Mariano helps bring a lighting designer's vision to life, and he does so on a regular basis to help performers get in the proper mindset and give audiences the same stellar performance daily.

"We want their vision to come alive to make the world the best it can be in the show," he said. "So the actors have an area to work in that's believable to them, plus the audience, making it like, 'Oh, I really am in Hometown. I'm in hell. I'm really at the Paris Opera House.' They want to feel it."

Since 2015, Mariano has worked as a touring electrician for multiple stage shows, including *Annie*, *Hadestown* and *The Phantom of the Opera* sequel *Love Never Dies*. The challenges he has faced setting up and running these productions nationwide have prepared him for his new journey at the top of the theatre world, an environment which poses its own unique trials.

"Broadway is harder because there's more eyes on it and it's like, that's where the money is," Mariano said. "But I think touring is [even] harder because you have the challenges of a new city, new theatre [and] new locals every day loading in the show for you, but the show doesn't change."

Regardless if he is touring or in a Broadway theatre, Mariano's goal is to ensure audiences are treated to the same quality show, regardless of the location, scenario or the time it is performed.

"It's fair to [the audience]," he said. "They're paying X amount of money to see this show. It's not fair that because they're in whatever city or whatever tiny town that they shouldn't get the same show."



In that pursuit, Mariano must perform daily work, including checking rigs, running a light board and performing other tasks in accordance with the lighting designer's ideas.

His close ties to his professors like **Gregory Brewster '05** and **Suzayn MacKenzie-Roy '08** and run-ins throughout his career with the Oswego alumni network have taught him how crucial connections are for any person hoping to succeed as a professional.

In turn, Mariano believes maintaining a likable personality and positive attitude are the keys to success for anyone hoping to make it in his, or any, profession.

"The world is so small, and people will know everything about you before you even get there," Mariano said. "Just have a good attitude because people will remember it, and they'll hire you for that."

Fun from Reunion Weekend 2024



Save the date to attend **Reunion Weekend June 5-8, 2025.**

For more photos from last year's reunion and for the latest on this year's celebration, check out alumni.oswego.edu/reunion.

More than **680 alumni** from **51 different class years** from 1954 through 2024 returned to Oswego for Reunion Weekend 2024, and strengthened their friendships and connections to campus.

The celebration included **14 anniversary classes**, 4 mini-reunion groups celebrating milestone anniversaries and many more mini-reunion affinity groups. The highest single class participation honors go to the **Class of 1974**, celebrating their 50th anniversary, and the highest single affinity group participation honors go to

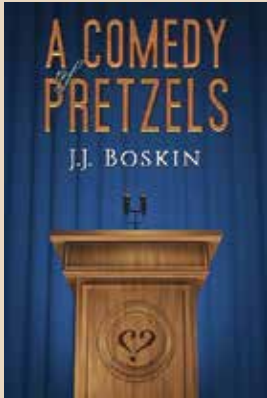
the men's and women's **Swimming and Diving teams**, which were celebrating the programs' 60th anniversary.

Events ranged from a panel on the LGBTQIA+ experience to presentations on Greek life, University founder Edward Austin Sheldon, Oswego's Special Collections and even a workshop on health and wellness, led by Prof. Amy Bidwell. However, the most popular parts of Reunion Weekend were undoubtedly the many informal opportunities to reconnect with classmates and Oswego friends.






ALUMNI BOOKSHELF



We celebrate and share the success of Oswego alumni authors, illustrators and recording artists, who may ask their publisher/distributor to send a copy of the work to the Oswego University Advancement office to be considered for this column and our website, where cover photos of all works in this column will be displayed.

 To see all book covers, please visit alumni.oswego.edu/magazine.

Joseph "J.J." Boskin '51

A Comedy of Pretzels

Austin Macauley, 2023.

When tradition twists with popular culture and lands on "people's oral humor," idealistic Reuben Lamberth finds himself in a mess. The book shares the story of idealistic Reuben Lamberth, who is a young scholar teaching at a university with another foot planted secretly in the world of standup comedy as Josh Sandburg (a stage name pulled from "joshing" and renowned American poet Carl Sandburg). Should he be outed as a comic, he jeopardizes receiving tenure and his marriage to a fully tenured faculty member could suffer as well. Reuben wonders, is it worth giving up academia and taking a flyer in the world of comedy culture? The finale in this novel reveals tantalizing internecine connections that land squarely in the realm of people's oral humor.

Donald Moriarty O'Leary '76

Son of a Nun: An East Side to West Side Story

Outskirts Press, 2023.

A photo discovered at a vacant relative's cottage in Ireland led the author to explore his family's history, including the story of his own mother. When she was only 3, his mother's mother and her two siblings died during the Spanish Flu pandemic. His mom entered a convent to become a nun when she was 21, and left four years later. She married and had three sons, whom she raised on the east side of Syracuse, N.Y. After graduating from Syracuse University in 1960, she moved the family to the city's west side on Tipperary Hill. This book explores family connections, childhood adventures and travels pulled from the vivid memories of one "son of a nun."

Joan Meaney Ulsher '91

Misplaced Childhood: A True Story of Resiliency and Child Advocacy

Rehm Press, 2023.

There are over 391,000 children in foster care in America today, and *Misplaced Childhood* by Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Joan Ulsher is a compelling true story of the author's endured child abuse, foster care experience and her journey into CASA advocacy. Focused on themes of resiliency, hope, redemption, forgiveness and finding purpose in serving children in the foster care system as a volunteer child advocate, *Misplaced Childhood* is a call to action where the author introduces the CASA/GAL model uniquely and personally while urging readers to consider serving children in foster care in their local communities.

Dori Gronich '17

What About Tomorrow!

Libresco Feeds Private Limited, 2023.

Gronich shares a poetry collection about global issues both big and small. She shares that humanity is an interesting subject because humans are the ones who write stories, and that often only through their struggles can people create something beautiful.

Kayla Elfers '22

In the Body of a Mind

Lightning Tower Press, 2023.

In the Body of a Mind is a collection of confessional free verse poetry that uses the anatomy of the brain to navigate mental health struggles. Written with vivid details and striking candor, this collection openly and freely addresses and confronts issues in familial and romantic relationships, self perception, self harm and more.

OSWEGO ALUMNI BOOK CLUB

The Oswego Alumni Association launched this **free** online book club and facilitated discussion forum in partnership with the Professional Book Club (PBC) Guru. Joining is completely free; participants just have to get a copy of the book to enjoy. Learn more details and register at pbc.guru/oswego.

Christina Scodary '08 of Schenectady, N.Y., is a business services center analyst for New York State Office of General Services. At Oswego, she was involved in College Choir.

Brian Denman '09 of Washington, D.C., is a systems, applications and products finance and controlling (SAP FICO) manager for Accenture.

Alexander Rufer '09 of Schenectady, N.Y., is a finance manager for Beech-Nut Nutrition. At Oswego, he was a member of the men's rugby team.

2010s

Amanda Osborne '11 of Baldwinsville, N.Y., is an administrative assistant to the Red Creek (N.Y.) Central School District superintendent and board of education. She enjoys working at the school she attended and helping make a change in the community. At Oswego, she was a resident assistant and member of the geology club.

Sarah Boutwell Roder '12 of Greensboro, N.C., was named chief human resources officer of Children and Families First. At Oswego, she was part of Omicron Delta Kappa.



Marissa Bacon Mason '13 M'15 of Red Creek, N.Y., and her husband, Mike, were honored to be selected as the 2022-2023 Blue Line Club Laker Fans of the Year for Men's Ice Hockey. They welcomed their first little Laker in Spring 2024. At Oswego, Marissa worked for Residence Life and Housing as a resident mentor, Village community assistant, assistant hall director and residence hall director.

Kathryne Davis '14 of Bethlehem, Ga., is the coordinator of sports information and marketing and events in the athletics department at Oxford College of Emory University. At Oswego, she was involved in the College-Community Orchestra, *The Oswegonian*, WTOP, *Her Campus* and Alpha Sigma Eta.



Dianora De Marco '14 M'15 (center) of New York City catches this stunning sunset Sept. 29, 2023, at the flat rocks with fellow Oswego University Foundation Board of Director members **Jennifer Shropshire '86** and **Aurée Houston '00**. The trio were among dozens of alumni who returned to campus for 2023 Founder's Weekend activities, which included a foundation board meeting.

Maxwell Weinstein '14 of Dix Hills, N.Y., was promoted to the manager of computer data solutions and analytics for The Walt Disney Company. At Oswego, Max was involved in men's cross country and indoor and outdoor track.

Kristen Burke Stahl '15 of Tarrytown, N.Y., is an account director of ICR's consumer lifestyle public relations division. At Oswego, she became a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America and Lambda Pi Eta.



Sunday Bamgbose '14, **Joseph Manganiello '14** and **Jeremy Sanders '11** chat during an alumni reception at Audacy in Manhattan on Nov. 30, 2023. They were among the 50-plus alumni, including alumnae hosts and Audacy team members **Susan Applebaum Larkin '85** and **Dana Segall Murphy '99**, who shared a warm welcome with new SUNY Oswego President Peter O. Nwosu. During the event, President Nwosu discussed Vision 4040, a bold initiative that leverages the economic opportunities in the region to double the number of graduates by the year 2040.

EVENTS

While planning for these events continues, please check the online events calendar for the most up-to-date information.

- Oct. 12** Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony
- Oct. 23** D.C. Election Panel and Reception
- Oct. 24-25** 85th Annual Technology Fall Conference
- Nov. 3** Newman Center 90th Anniversary Mass and Luncheon
- Dec. 14** December Commencement
- Jan. 25** Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting
- May 16** Commencement Eve Torchlight Ceremony
- May 17** Commencement
- June 5-8** Reunion Weekend 2025
- June 7** Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

alumni.oswego.edu

Weddings



Kassandra "Kassi" Jones '19 and **Jesse Johnson '20** were married on July 8, 2023, at Pratt's Falls County Park, in Pompey, N.Y. Alumni in attendance were from left Chen Wang '20, William Johnson '20, Nyiah Bagwell '21, Rahsone Simpson '20, Monica Rosado '20, Sydney Waloven '20, Mike Di-Fabio '18, Kassi Jones '19, Nick Geffken '20, Jesse Johnson '20, Joshua Hernandez '20, Brian Dawson '20 M'21, Aaron Shopland '22, Lillian "Morgan" Meaney M'19, Dimitri Lobacz '19, Antonia Lobacz and Mackenzie Shaffner (2017-'19). Alumni in attendance, but not pictured, are Cheryl Gordon Wolfe '76, Janice Burdick '77, Marcello Brattesani '20 and Derek Dalleo '18.



Erin Turner '14 and Anthony Gioacchini were married on Sept. 16, 2023, at Point O'Pines Camp on Brant Lake in New York. From left are Nicole Leader Abbott '14 M'18, Kathryn Siskin Mazzarella '14, Rebecca Doruszewski '14, Christina Lynch Rodriguez '14, Nicole Azero '14, Erin Turner '14, Alexis Avery '14, Madison Tuller '14, Alexa Haller '14, Olivia Barry Layton '14 and Jennifer Carrieri '14.



Phoebe Molano Federow '16 and **Sean Federow '17** were married Aug. 19, 2023, at a venue built by the groom and his father, Arthur Federow '82, on their family farm in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Phoebe is a fifth-year occupational therapy student at the University at Buffalo, and Sean is a construction manager at Own Buffalo Inc. The bride's father, Paul Molano '80, celebrated the wedding with many Lakers, some of whom are included in this photo.



Jodi Castello '06 M'09 and **Jason Gibson '02** were married July 7, 2023, at their home in West Carthage, N.Y. Jason is a middle school English teacher, dean of students, and coach of varsity football, wrestling and track at South Lewis Central School District, and Jodi is a school counselor at Indian River Middle School. Sheri Pender '06 M'09 officiated the wedding. Alumni in attendance were Jessica Bautista Sosa '06, Beth Farwell Gawinski '06 M'09 and Dan Williams '09.



Maria C. Polifroni '06 and **David Haas '09** were married on Sept. 29, 2023, at the Century Club in Syracuse, N.Y. The couple lives in Syracuse, N.Y., where Maria is an outreach and education specialist at Planned Parenthood and David is the executive director of Sarah's Guest House. Alumni in attendance were: (back row, from left) Michael Massenzio '02 M'07, Michael Brown '13, Steven Kelley M'11, Nate Bristol '09, Michael Clark '09 and Andrew Miner '08; (front row, from left) Nicole Polifroni Massenzio '03 M'05, Maria C. Polifroni '06, David Haas '09, Michele Hierholzer Bristol '10, Alicia Schaumberg Johnston M'18 and Chris Johnston '10.

Rebecca Stroh Keating '16 of Rixeyville, Va., is an associate geologist for Groundwater and Environmental Services, Inc. At Oswego, she was a member of the geology club, anthropology club and ONE campaign and participated in an alternative spring break project in Alabama.

Jamie Lavigneur '16 of Rochester, N.Y., is a donor relations assistant of the Diocese of Rochester. She is also in her seventh season as a member of the Rochester Red Wings Game Day Production staff. At Oswego, she was involved in Lambda Pi Eta, WTOP, the Dr. Lewis B. O'Donnell Media Summit and the National Broadcasting Honor Society.

Dori Gronich '17 of Nashville, Tenn., is a paraprofessional for the Metro Nashville Public Schools. Dori recently published a poetry book titled *What About Tomorrow!* The poems are about the struggle and triumphs of humanity (see page 50). At Oswego, she took photos for *The Oswegonian*.

Nicole Damboise '18 of Oswego is a student program liaison for Oswego Health.

Deirdre Leo '18 of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., works in the Registrar's Office at the State University of New York at Albany.

Olivia Melinski M'18 of Syracuse, N.Y., is the engagement systems manager for Syracuse University. At Oswego, she was a member of the Human Computer Interaction Organization and Women in Computing.

Tyler Doan '19 of Glenmont, N.Y., is an assistant counsel for New York State New York State Homes and Community Renewal. At Oswego, he became a member of Alpha Phi Omega and swing dance club. He also interned with the University Advancement communications team.

Matthew Seymour '19 of Washington, N.J., earned a master's degree in atmospheric science at SUNY Albany in 2021. He is a forecast meteorologist for a private weather forecasting company, Weather-Works, LLC. At Oswego, he was involved in the Meteorology Club, the Outdoor Club and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and he was also a featured writer on the SUNY Oswego Student Blogs site.

2020s

Cameron Ott '20 of Rome, N.Y., is a technology teacher for the Whitesboro (N.Y.) Central School District. At Oswego, he was a member of the Oswego Technology Student Association, SUNY Oswego Transfer Association and Team MINI.

Nicholas Davis '22 of Virginia Beach, Va., is an engineer for Hitachi in Japan. At Oswego, he was involved in the Computer Science Association.

Kayla Elfers '22 of Seldon, N.Y., earned a master's degree in early childhood special education from St. Joseph's University New York. She is a writer and poet whose work has been published in several publications (see page 50). At Oswego, she interned with the University Advancement Office.

Justin D. Mancuso '22 M'23 of Liverpool, N.Y., is an audit staff accountant at Dannible & McKee LLP in Syracuse, N.Y. He joined the certified public accounting and consulting firm following a one-year internship. At Oswego, he was part of the Laker men's swimming and diving team.

SUBMITTING A CLASS NOTE

To submit your class note, email alumni@oswego.edu, call 315-312-3003 or complete the class note form online at alumni.oswego.edu. You can also mail submissions to the OSWEGO Alumni Magazine, King Alumni Hall, Oswego, N.Y. 13126.

Keeping Her Dreams 'Insight'

Erin Czadzeck '10 M'25 recently earned second place in the software and services category of the New York State Business Plan Competition for Insight, an app that would help fellow blind and visually impaired people pick out clothes independently and create outfits every morning.

Czadzeck was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at age 4 and continued to lose her sight on her way to adulthood. She has remained active as an employment specialist at a residential facility for youth, as well as an advocate for visually impaired individuals, and this concept came out of her drive and passion.

Czadzeck's concept started during professor Sarah Bonzo's "Principles of Agile and Design" Thinking class.

"As part of that class, we had to come up with something in our personal or professional life that we wanted to improve or a problem we wanted solved," Czadzeck said. "Before the competition even came about, the problem that I determined was that blind and visually impaired people don't have an accurate and consistent single solution to identifying clothing and having outfits put together. I have been working through that this whole semester."

The course is all about putting the user first and showing empathy, and Czadzeck has excelled with that in this project, Bonzo noted.

"Erin has made significant progress with a really valid idea," Bonzo said. "It's clear that she was really onto something. And she has been really into advancements in technology, ChatGPT and image-to-data developments."

Czadzeck thought about her own challenges, and conducted interviews and research with others in the visually impaired community.

"There are certain things that I do to identify my clothing," said Czadzeck, a public justice graduate and current MBA student. "But I just get frustrated every morning when I have to ask my husband or hope my 4-year-old knows his colors for the day."



Erin Czadzeck '10 M'25 (center), a student in Oswego's online MBA program, with School of Business faculty member and mentor Sarah Bonzo (left) and Irene Scruton, assistant dean of business and director of SUNY Oswego's MBA programs.

Some technologies do exist in this space, such as Braille tags and services that pair people with a stranger via video chat, but no one solution allows people to take a picture and immediately have a description of that clothing or an outfit created for the user.

"There are also wardrobe apps for the sighted community, but they are super complicated as they put outfits together for people who can see," Czadzeck explained. "I wanted to take all of those things — I wanted to take the advancements in image-to-text recognition and AI and ChatGPT and throw all of it into one app or one single solution."

The New York State Business Plan Competition starts with around 400 competitors and only a dozen earn awards in the statewide competition, the top two in six categories. The road to the finals in Albany started with the Central New York Regional Business Plan competition, hosted by SUNY Oswego's School of Business at the university's Syracuse Campus. She then made it past the preliminary state round to make it to the finals on April 25 in Albany.

"She crushed it," Bonzo said. "She hit every single point but also kept her voice."

The body language of everybody in the room was amazing — they were all leaning forward and smiling. You could see a difference in how engaged they were with Erin's presentation."

For Czadzeck, going back to school, and specifically for SUNY Oswego's highly rated online MBA program, was about exploring how to use her existing people skills and empathy in fulfilling ways in the business world.

"I never thought of myself as a business person, but I always wanted to be in some type of management some day," Czadzeck said. "I wanted something that had room for growth."

Czadzeck plans to continue to work on the idea in her master's capstone project this semester, using the \$2,000 in prize money from the state competition to help seed the product development.

"This isn't the end of the road for me," Czadzeck said. "I met a ton of investors ... I'm just more driven and fueled and passionate than I've ever been and am 100 percent going to continue pursuing this and reaching out to people."

In Memoriam

Jean Hart Fitzgibbons '49
of Dryden, N.Y., July 19, 2023.

Bettejane Tully Mahoney '49
of Denver, Colo., Nov. 30, 2023.

Joseph P. Makowiec '50
of DeKalb Junction, N.Y., July 3, 2023.

Joan Bresseleers Ahders '54
of New Hartford, N.Y., Nov. 18, 2023.

Edwin J. Peterson '54
of Oswego, Sept. 15, 2023.

Robert "Bob" F. DeVoe '55
of Homer, N.Y., Aug. 2, 2023.

Gilbert Stebbins '55
of Kittery, Maine, June 16, 2023.

Wanda E. Molinelli Frappier '58
of Lady Lake, Fla., May 29, 2023.

Ethelmarie Smith '59
of Chaumont, N.Y., Dec. 2, 2023.

Howard Kucks '60
of Orleans, Mass., Nov. 5, 2023.

David Raymond Hawley '63
of Warsaw, N.Y., Nov. 11, 2023.

Michael Angerame '64
of Venice, Fla., Nov. 14, 2023.

Dr. Craig Fisher '65
of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Aug. 21, 2023.

Nancy Butters Mavian '65
of Livermore, Maine, Oct. 20, 2023.

Dr. John Worzbyl '65
of Cary, N.C., Nov. 29, 2023.

Elizabeth O'Neil Cliff '67
of Fulton, N.Y., Oct. 6, 2023.

John E. Forsberg '67
of South Salem, N.Y., June 12, 2023.

John Prugar '68
of Watertown, N.Y., Nov. 22, 2023.

John T. Sullivan Jr. '68
of Oswego, Nov. 27, 2023.

Sue Herse '69
of Adams Center, N.Y., Nov. 9, 2023.

Anita Simpson Horowitz '69
of Stony Point, N.Y., Sept. 22, 2023.

Susan Horlacher Raymond '69
of Fredonia, N.Y., April 12, 2023.

Betty Jean Molnar Reno '69
of Hector, N.Y., Oct. 11, 2023.

Concetta "Connie" Cincotta Gosek '71
of Oswego, Dec. 4, 2023.

Maryanne Sokerka Mamrosch '73
of Dolgeville, N.Y., Dec. 9, 2021.

Peter Fontana '74
of Athens, Ga., June 2, 2023.

Laura Schmitt Swanson '74
of Aurora, Colo., Feb. 4, 2023.

Deborah Wright Belvedere '77
of Annapolis, Md., July 13, 2021.

Regina "Gina" Waite Platt '77
of Tupper Lake, N.Y., July 8, 2023.

Marion Wilbur '78
of Lake Pleasant, N.Y., Aug. 28, 2023.

Margaret "Marge" Doyle '79
of Ontario, N.Y., June 27, 2023.

Retired Maj. Herbert Smith Jr. '79
of Lake Placid, Fla., Nov. 21, 2023.

Michael Such '79
of Latham, N.Y., Aug. 26, 2023.

Robert Needle '80
of Manalapan, N.J., May 22, 2023.

David Baden '84 M'94
of Syracuse, N.Y., Sept. 2, 2023.

Susan Beck Payne '86
of Syracuse, N.Y., Aug. 7, 2023.

Barbara Randall M'95
of Syracuse, N.Y., July 4, 2023.

Eric Bresee '01 M'03
of Scriba, N.Y., Nov. 18, 2023.

Ashley Kurtz Sheppard '10
of Syracuse, N.Y., Oct. 29, 2023.

Stanley "Stan" Babiuk, Former Oswego University Foundation Board of Directors Member, of Rochester Hills, Mich., April 26, 2021.

Anne Commerton, Former Penfield Library Director, of Wilmington, N.C., Oct. 12, 2023.

Donald Cox, Director Emeritus of Rice Creek Field Station and Chairman Emeritus of Biology Department, of Oswego, Nov. 18, 2023.

Bruce Frassinelli, Professor Emeritus of Journalism and Communications, of North Whitehall, Pa., Sept. 6, 2023.

Richard "Dick" Johnson, Mail Room Supervisor, Lead Score Clock Operator and Blue Line Club President Emeritus and SUNY Oswego Athletic Hall of Fame member, of Oswego, June 28, 2023.

Larry E. Maher, Professor Emeritus in the School of Business, of Baldwinsville, N.Y., Sept. 28, 2023.*

Andrew "Andy" Nelson, Director Emeritus of Rice Creek Field Station, of Oswego, July 22, 2023.

* Friends and family have established a fund in memory of this SUNY Oswego community member. Gifts can be made at alumni.oswego.edu/givenow or sent to the Oswego University Foundation, 215 Sheldon Hall, SUNY, Oswego, N.Y. 13126. Please indicate the name of the person you wish to honor.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

We will share the news of a SUNY Oswego community member's death when we receive the information from a family member, friend or another source in the form of a previously published notice, typically from a newspaper or funeral home. Please send such notices to University Advancement c/o In Memoriam, 215 Sheldon Hall, Oswego, N.Y. 13126; or email alumni@oswego.edu.

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Learn more, visit alumni.oswego.edu/plannedgiving, email sheldonlegacy@oswego.edu or call 315-312-3003.



Into Camera Eye

This excerpt was taken from *Roommates: 3½ Scenarios* (ZanyZest Press, 2022) by **Joseph "J.J." Boskin '51**. It is a work of autofiction, inspired by his three years as a roommate with **Melvin Bernstein '51**.



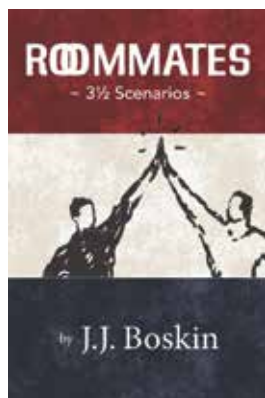
Melvin Bernstein '51



Joseph "J.J." Boskin '51

Not long before becoming roommates, they already knew universal time, or thought so. First in their families to go to college, heaps of expectations were gushed on them. That was directly from the past. But it was the conscious present, and the hurtling upcomings that whetted their imaginations.

What surprised and surrounded, frequently jolting, were those events arriving singly or atop one another that led them smack into an ancient Chinese aphorism: *May you be cursed to live in interesting times!*



Cursed they felt most of the time, though with laughter frequently filling their tiny room, followed by shouts that conveyed an expressive — here-we-go-again!

....the furious hot Cold War ... the imminent treat of Thermonuclear destruction...the totalitarian spectre of George Orwell's futuristic novel 1984... the political repression of the McCarthyism liberal leftist hunt...the House Un-American Activities Committee throttling of democratic discourse ... the infamous artistic Blacklist...the Korean War monthly draft of 55,000

men...the Attorney General's Loyalty Oath opening question: 'Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of a subversive organization'... the fear and stigmatizing of homosexuals...the rollicking folksinger Peter Singer...the clever satirical songs of Tom Lehrer... I.F. Stone's incisive reporting analyses...George Seldes's little-known muckraking newsletter "In Fact"...the imaginative impressionistic dance routines of the Martha Graham troupe...

On it went then on...

Beckoning profs were the pathway trek into the mountains of knowledge with their stimulating vibrant lectures and odd-shaped ideas, all courses requiring thick-text books. Meshing voices of camaraderie carried them even further along.

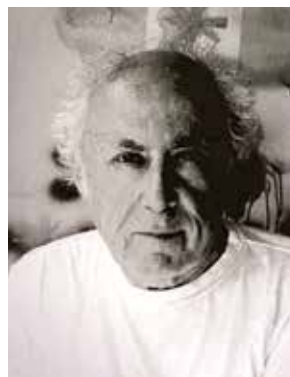
Puzzling ideas often crisscrossed, then merged with others, pulling the roommates into a slew of conundrums. Occasional notions hit a dead-end, seemingly no way out, yet propelled by curiosity they ultimately comprehended, often to get partially ensnared and vexed once again.

They got sucked into the college Debate Team, and quickly became adept at battling both sides of a proposition. High on wine coolers, oversized peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and packages of cigarettes, they sometimes took on each other in mock debate, howling uproariously at the slippery tactics of the other. By the time they became seniors, only the con side of an equation offered heady exchange, and they wound up as the Negative Squad on the College Debate Team.

Contesting on the turfs as diverse as college rooms, university auditoriums, athletic arenas, and even a federal penitentiary — at one point at the prison they were thanked by a well-known prisoner, Alger Hiss, a highly-controversial, top-ranked State Department official who had been accused of spying for the Soviet Union but convicted of perjury — they were giddy from multitudes of oral battling.

May you be cursed to live in interesting times...

● — **Joseph Boskin '51**



Joseph Boskin '51 is an emeritus professor of American social and ethnic history at Boston University. He is the author and editor of numerous works of social change, radical conflict and folk humor, including his latest novel, *The Comedy of Pretzels* (Austin Macauley Publishers LLC, 2023). See Alumni Bookshelf on page 50.

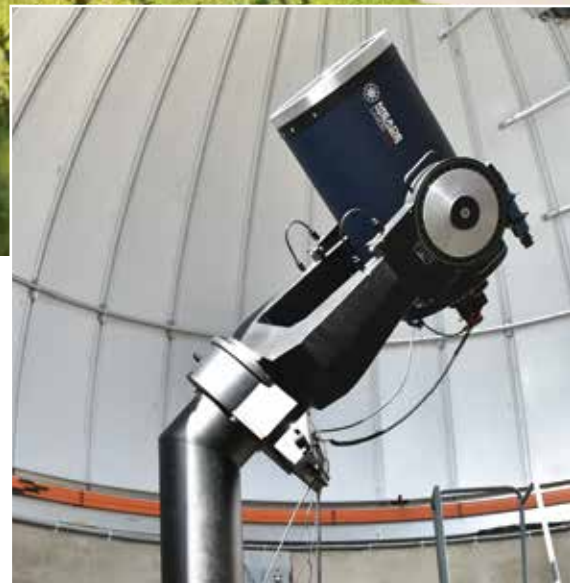


The Observatory at Rice Creek Field Station

Located one mile south of the main campus adjacent to the Rice Creek Field Station, the observatory, which opened in 2013, features a 16-inch Ritchey-Chrétien telescope that offers a wider field of view free of optical errors compared to a more traditional reflecting telescope and is ideal for astrophotography. In addition to night sky viewing, the telescope is outfitted with an H-alpha filter for solar viewing.

During the total solar eclipse on April 8, the observatory at Rice Creek hosted a range of activities, including a kids' station with STEAM activities and arts and crafts, expert guidance, live-streaming planetarium shows and access to the gardens and five miles of trails, that sold out quickly.

Dr. Kamal Jabbour, who was a U.S. Air Force senior scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, N.Y., and is now an astronomer at Pompey (N.Y.) Observatory, led a live streaming from the telescopes at Rice Creek beginning at 9 a.m. and ran through the entire day. Rice Creek had seven telescopes on site, and offered opportunities to view detailed images of the sun before, during and after the eclipse through direct eyepiece viewing and projections onto small and large screens.





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Faculty —HALL OF FAME—



Larry Maher

School of Business Professor Larry Maher was not your standard, run-of-the-mill kind of professor.

He was known for his scared-straight tactics, staging a kick-out of students during the first class of the semester who had supposedly failed his class the previous semester. These students would create a little scene and stomp out in a huff, only to return later that same class session as the teaching assistants who handed out the syllabi.

He had a reputation for being tough, but fair. Some students even made T-shirts that proudly declared "I survived Maher." Despite his reputation and some online reviews saying his course is difficult, his sections would fill within 15 minutes, said his widow, Pam Youngs-Maher.

Maher began his career with SUNY Oswego as an adjunct professor in 1989, and then served as coordinator of Oswego's North Country programs at Fort Drum from 1990 to 2000. He became a full-time, tenure-track faculty member in 2000 and taught up until August 2023 when health issues forced him to retire. He died a month later on Sept. 28, 2023, at the age of 79.

Provost Scott Furlong said in the campus announcement about Maher's death that the professor was "integral to the foundation and development of our School of Business."

"[Maher] introduced a number of innovations, including a business plan project and the inclusion of student teaching assistants in the department," Furlong said. "Larry also co-authored multiple papers related to the theory and practice of teaching business courses."

Business Professor and colleague of 25 years Ashraf Attia said he considered Maher a role model for his colleagues and students alike.

Among the hundreds of students who served as teaching assistants in the required MGT 261 Business Organization course were **Robyn Kilts '22**, **Emily Jeran '22** and Maher's daughter, **Marisa Maher Hernandez '16**. They said that he cared deeply about the well-being and success of his students, and despite offering an initial impression as a tough teacher, they said he was really a kind-hearted mentor in their lives.

In addition to teaching essential business and management skills, he gave all he could to support his students' success inside and outside the classroom. He was the professor that students — particularly those with few resources or family support — knew they could turn to.

He purchased new suits and gave away his own ties for two of his students who received invitations to job interviews but didn't have anything to wear.

Maher offered rides, loans or other assistance when students' cars broke down. He would hold meetings with his students at 7 a.m. or 11 p.m. if that is what worked best in their schedules. He even kept an envelope of cash in his desk drawer for students who didn't have the money for essentials like food, transportation or other items.

School of Business Associate Dean Raihan Khan said that his words fall short in conveying the impact that Maher had on his students.

"Everything he did was focused on helping students develop and grow," Khan said. "He was always very respectful and was driven by the desire to do what is best for the students to help them excel."

To honor the legacy of generosity and excellence established by Maher, his friends, former students and colleagues have established the Professor Larry Maher Memorial Scholarship.

Professor Larry Maher Memorial Scholarship

Please consider honoring Larry's impact by making a gift to his memorial scholarship online at alumni.oswego.edu/give, calling 315-312-3003 or sending your gift to: SUNY Oswego, University Advancement, 215 Sheldon Hall, Oswego, N.Y. 13126.