Autumn Greetings to Emeriti, Associates, and Friends:

The 21st year of our organization’s official existence is underway. We celebrated 20 years of activity and service at our August luncheon and noted that our luncheon has been ongoing for 40 years.

This issue of the Emeriti Newsletter departs somewhat from previous issues, since it celebrates the Emeriti Association's 20th year from its inception in 1989. Beginning on page 2 you will find interesting articles that chart our history, our mission, and the contributions of the Association and its members over these 20 years.

Prior to this year's August luncheon, Laree Pease was elected a director at the Annual Meeting and Don Cox and Herb VanSchaack were re-elected. We were unable to award a scholarship this year because the students who descended from emeriti did not demonstrate financial need and no qualified non-traditional student applied for an award. Consequently, at the Annual Meeting, we changed the scholarship policy to (1) require a FAFSA report to document financial need, (2) removed unrelated non-traditional students from eligibility, and (3) defined eligible students as direct descendents of Oswego faculty members or emeriti. The Scholarship Committee of the College Foundation handles the review and selection of candidates.

Ellie Filburn and Barb Shineman were thanked for their long service with the presidential portraits and building plaque programs, respectively. Jim LeFlore has taken over responsibility for building plaques, and a plaque for Swetman Hall was unveiled at the luncheon. Memorial books have been placed at Penfield Library for twelve colleagues who died during the past year.

Please remember our requested annual contribution of $15 and a gift or bequest to our scholarship fund. We welcome your suggestions and questions (315-343-9692 or Vernon@Tryon.com).

That’s the emeriti news from Oswego.
Over the Years: Events of 1989

The Nation
President George H.W. Bush appoints Houston-born former senator John Tower secretary of defense, but Tower's reputation for drunkenness and womanizing causes the Senate to reject their former colleague.

House Speaker Jim Wright of Texas resigns after accusations of ethics violations.

The first elected black governor, Douglas Wilder, wins office in Virginia, and New York City elects its first black mayor, David Dinkins.

The Internment Compensation Act awards $20,000 to each Japanese-American surviving victim of President Roosevelt’s infamous February 1942 executive order.

The Supreme Court rules that flag-burning is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Pete Rose agrees to a lifetime ban from baseball.

President Reagan leaves office with a budget deficit of $155 billion, double the deficit with which he entered office.

U.S. banks write off billions of dollars in uncollectible Latin loans.

“Junk” bond guru Michael Milken and others are indicted on 98 counts of conspiracy, stock manipulation, racketeering and securities fraud. Prominent business leaders come to his defense.

The Exxon Valdez releases 240,000 barrels of oil into Prince William Sound, Alaska.

Financial Institutions Rescue, Recovery, and Enforcement Act signed by President Bush provides a $150 billion “bail out” of the nation’s savings and loan associations. The government sells many S & Ls to private investors and banks at bargain prices.

The Dow Jones closes the year at 2753.20.

Prices of the year: A new house, $120,000; the average income, $27,450; the average price of a new car, $15,350; a gallon of gasoline, 97 cents; a postage stamp, 25 cents.

The World
The PLO and Israel begin preliminary talks to create peace in the region.

The USSR pulls out of Afghanistan after that country had been aided by the U.S. in its bid for freedom.

Pro-democracy demonstrators clash with Chinese security forces. Students occupy Tiananmen Square and hundreds of demonstrators are killed.

The Tokyo stock market crash ends Japan’s long period of economic growth.

Massive protests on both sides of the Berlin Wall cause the collapse of the East German government and the wall.

In December, President Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev release statements that the Cold War is coming to an end.

The End of Nature, by William McKibben, warns of the ecological disaster that will come if the industrial world does not stop using fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases.

President Bush announces on November 7 that the U.S. “has agreed with other nations that stabilization of CO2 emissions should be achieved as soon as possible.”

Scientists pronounce 1989 as the warmest on record, possibly a sign of the greenhouse effect.

Microsoft releases Microsoft Office, including Word and Excel.

Iran’s Ayatollah Khomeni offers a $3 million reward for the death of author Salman Rushdie.

Former Philippines president Ferdinand Marcos dies of cardiac arrest in Honolulu, leaving his wife Imelda very rich, and with the world’s largest selection of shoes.

1989 Necrology
From the Emeriti Association Chair
Richard Wheeler  (November 1989)

The report below by our first emeriti president is from the initial edition of the Emeriti Newsletter.

With this, the first edition of an Oswego Emeriti Newsletter, and with a growing number of donations coming in, our organization is growing in visibility and in the ability to address the desires of retired professional staff members. The executive committee’s agenda, sent to you last August by mail, outlines what we hope to accomplish this academic year. Nevertheless, this is your association. Please let us know if we are missing any important goals. We will do our best to achieve them.

Names, Names!  (Spring 1990)

What’s in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.

--Juliet

Several members met our challenge to enter the “Name the Newsletter” contest. Laying aside the more ribald entries, the executive committee has decided to put some of the more colorful ones to a ballot by the membership.

Nina Hastings suggested Emeriti-ties, as a way of bringing us together. Lois Goodwin offered The Good Ol’ Boys’ Network, noting that she would be “pleased and honored to be one of the good ol’ boys.” Ken Sipser offered a page-full of possibilities: Lakers’ Social Security Collectors’ Quarterly; Organ of Oswego’s Best Bypass Candidates; The Pensioned Professors’ Press; The Magazine of the Academician Gone Fishin’ Association.

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Nice poetic touch there! Bob Sullins “toyed” with Emeritus is Us as well as Notes from the Other Side.

So there we are. If you prefer one of those titles—or the Emeriti Newsletter, now that it looks so handsome at the top of page 1—let the editorial board know.

From the Editor’s Desk:  A Report from the Associated Press  (Fall 1991)

ALBANY—No women allowed. That’s what the State University of New York at Albany’s Student Association resolved this fall. Beginning this semester, references to women in any of the student association’s writings has been discontinued. Instead, females will be referred to in the new, improved, non-sexist term: “Womyn.” A companion decision refers to “religion” as “religion/creed.”

Patricia Ireland, vice president of NOW, sees the revision as a “small but important point to make. In a world of policemen, man-hours, chairmen, and manmade goods, it’s an effort to note how language affects perception.”

Camp Shady Shore: A Look Back
Nancy Osborne  (Spring 1993)

During the summer of 1919, several summer session students “conceived the idea that it would be a novel thing as well as healthful and inexpensive to pitch a tent on the shore of the lake for the period of the summer session.” A “real tent colony” was created the following year, using 40 tents from the state Militia. From that date to 1936, a few small cottages were constructed. A grant in the ’30s made toilet, shower, sink, and drainage facilities available. Subsequently, a trailer area was added, along with a small convenience store.

Registration at the camp over the years paralleled the summer school registration. It was asserted that “the clean water of Ontario, its beautiful sunsets, and the recreation offered is excelled by no other institution.” Vaudeville by the Tent Colony, Shore Dinners of Married Colony, and Quoit Championship were included in the 1920 camp director’s report. In 1936, 673 students were enrolled at an average cost of $150 for six weeks. Of these students, 168 attended with family members. [Camp Shady Shore was in operation through the 1956 summer session. The site became occupied by a new lakeside dormitory in 1957.]

A Student Remembers: 1940
Charles Shoemaker  (Spring 1993)

In 1940, the Oswego Normal School was composed of Sheldon Hall, Park Hall, the North Athletic Field, and the principal’s home at Shady Shore. To the southwest were open fields and hedgerows extending to Route 104. Sheldon Hall was the center of activity. The cafeteria was in the east wing, and for 15 cents one could have a breakfast of cereal, toast or sweet roll, and coffee or milk. The campus school was also in the east wing. The center section of the third floor housed the library. It is interesting to note that in later years, when the library was moved from Sheldon Hall, a brigade of students and faculty marched in single file to the third floor, received eight to ten books and then walked to nearby Rich Hall, to the proper stack, under the supervision of librarian Helen Hagger.

The clothing uniform for young ladies in 1940 was a full skirt (below the knee!), a sweater, a pearl necklace over the sweater, and saddle shoes. Young men wore trousers, shirts, and sweaters. It was tradition for men to wear a suit, shirt, and tie during the senior year as a display of respect. Underclass students looked forward to it.

In 1940, industrial arts graduates were the first to receive the B.Sc. in education, and two years later all four-year graduates were to receive the B.Sc. When World War II came, the class of 1944 was scattered. The I.A men were reduced to 14 who were graduated in 1944. Many of us returned after the war to finish our education.
SUNY Shrinks  (Fall 1995)

Thousands of students in the State University system faced tuition hikes this year of $750, taking the total cost to $3,400. But the increase is not enough to make up for the $185 million in state aid that Gov. George Pataki and the state legislature cut from this year’s SUNY budget. Campuses are reducing faculty and programs to save the other $56 million needed to balance the books. They find their own ways to make up for lost dollars. SUNY Buffalo is eating up its endowment, and all the schools are hiring low-cost part-timers.

The most obvious way to concentrate the cuts is to close some campuses, but state lawmakers eager to retain jobs in their districts have historically blocked any closings. “Maybe what we need is something like a base-closing commission,” said Frederick Salerno, chairman of the SUNY board of trustees.

A Mutual Vision for the Future  
Deborah Stanley  (Spring 1998)

[The following is from Deborah Stanley’s first address to the faculty as president.]

We have many goals that new strategies could help us attain. Upholding our covenant with the citizens of New York to provide access and opportunity is one to which we have given our assent and is more than ever needed to light the path to social transformation. The answers we supply will come through study and discussion with our committees, chairs, student service professionals, and with students. Emerson observed that “Our chief want in life is somebody to make us do what we can.” Intellectual interactions of faculty and students are the centerpiece of a learning experience, and they satisfy that want.

Campus School Reflections  
Ralph Spencer  (Spring 1998)

The Campus School Reflections, held in October, has been judged a tremendous success. The event was funded by the Emeriti Association, and directed by the historical committee. Nearly 500 persons participated. The activities included tours of Sheldon Hall and opportunities for former students to meet in small groups with old friends and teachers. The highlight was the banquet which more than filled the Hewitt Union ballroom with 425 attendees.

Many hours of videotapes featured small-group discussions by former students, two former principals, and segments of the day’s programs. The balance of $1,800 after expenses will produce a summary video that will be available to those who attended, and that can be placed in the college’s archives.

Bloopers of the Sometimes Rich and Always Famous  (Spring 1998)

Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country. (Mayor Marion Barry)

I’m not going to have some reporters pawing through our papers. We are the president. (Hillary Clinton)

That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I’m just the one to do it. (Unidentified congressional candidate)

Things are more like they are now than they ever were before. (Dwight David Eisenhower)

A billion here, a billion there; sooner or later it adds up to real money. (Sen. Everett Dirksen)

I don’t feel we did anything wrong in taking this great country away from them. There were great numbers of people who needed land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves. (John Wayne)

I stand by all the misstatements I’ve made. (Dan Quayle)

Descendent and Emeriti Honor Founder  
(Spring 1999)

The great-granddaughter of Edward Austin Sheldon made her first visit to the college her illustrious ancestor founded. Anna Howe VanGilder and her husband, Charles, traveled from Wisconsin to see Sheldon’s legacy and to make a gift of books and papers to the Penfield Library archives. Their visit coincided with Founder’s Day and a special tribute to Sheldon by members of the Emeriti Association. During their stay in Oswego the VanGilders joined the Emeriti Association which honored Sheldon’s memory by refurbishing his Riverside Cemetery gravesite and laying a wreath on his grave.

“One initiative of the Emeriti Association is to focus on the rich heritage of our university and to pass on the traditions that help make Oswego State such a strong and venerable institution,” said Barbara Shineman, president of the association.

FYI: A Miscellany  (Fall 1999)

In colonial New York City, farmers erected a long wall in what is now lower Manhattan to control free-roaming hogs. Today, the site of this former “pigpen” is known as Wall Street.
**From the Editor’s Desk** (Spring 2000)

In 1899 a British scientist declared, “Radio has no future. Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible.” And even the literary futurist, H.G. Wells, disbelieved Jules Verne’s prediction of submarines. Such a vessel is incapable of anything but “suffocating its crew and floundering at sea.”

In spite of bad prophecy, the 20th century rolled on. And looking back, one realizes that, like all centuries, it was one of influential men and women, many of whom contributed something good in some way. As Macaulay said, “History is merely biography.” Those who influenced us in this country are familiar enough to be known by their first names: Woodrow, Franklin, Eleanor, and Harry; Rosa and Jackie.

Other names of the past century, less familiar to the nation, but perhaps as important, are Don, Lida, Rupe, Doc, R.Lee, Harold, Foster, Cecil, Kermit, Seward, Aulus, Taylor . . . . These too are gone. But their work lives on—in former students who will carry on the affairs of the 21st century.

**About Dim Bulbs** (Fall 2000)

*[This U.S. News article appeared in the Newsletter just before the 2000 presidential election.]*

Got mediocre grades in college even though you took easy courses? Coasted through those four years drinking and smoking and acting like a jock even though it was costing your parents a small fortune? Well, tell them you can still become . . . president of the United States!

Though both Al Gore and George W. Bush want to be known as the “education” president, a review of their grades reveals they barely got one. Bush largely partied his way through Yale, but that is not the bad news. The bad news, as Jay Leno joked, is that Bush may be the smart one. Gore’s grades in his sophomore year at Harvard were lower than any semester Bush spent at Yale.

Bush has said of his “Dumbya” image, “It’s part of the media elite game. Anybody who doesn’t think I’m smart enough to handle the job is underestimating. I hope Al Gore feels that way.”

Turns out Al Gore does. Gore was recently asked if he believes Bush is “too dumb” to be president. Gore convulsed in laughter while taking a drink of Diet Coke. He grabbed a towel to hold against his mouth, then, finally swallowing, insisted the tape recorder be stopped for an off-the-record observation. We do not know what the observation was, but Bush might point out that he, at least, is capable of drinking a Diet Coke without carrying a towel with him.

**Staggering Stats** (Fall 2003)

SUNY Oswego’s statistics are impressive. Check these out.

--The tree-lined campus spreads out over nearly 700 acres. Another 400 acres of trail-crossed field, streams, and forests are found at Rice Creek Field Station.

--Penfield is the largest library in northern New York with over 2.8 million books, periodicals, and other materials.

--More than 115 majors, minors, and other programs are available, including those in cooperation with other schools, such as Case Western Reserve U and the SUNY School of Optometry. One such 2+2 cooperative degree program is cardiovascular profusion with SUNY Upstate Medical University.

--Nearly 5,000 Oswego students receive over $43 million a year in grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study wages.

--In 2001-02, the college received more than $3.9 million in federal, state, and private foundation funding for new scientific equipment and research initiatives in education, the environment, and human development.

--In 2002-03, the Experience-Based Education Program placed 94 student interns who generated over 325,400 hours of volunteer service at businesses, non-profit agencies, schools, and government offices.

**Technology Endowment Fund** (Spring 2004)

The department of technology has established an endowment fund to help the department remain current with future technological developments. For many years there has been little money for the acquisition of equipment to address new technologies. Contributions will continue the legacy of Edward Austin Sheldon’s object method of teaching, which influenced manual training, manual arts, industrial arts, and technology education.

At the start of the fund drive in spring 2003, several earlier bequests were combined to put about $12,000 in the account. The longer-term goal is to build the endowment to the $1 million level where it could provide an additional $40,000 per year to the department’s budget. [As of the first of this year, the endowment fund has reached over $51,000.]
Over the Years: The Ringing Grooves of Change

Let the great world spin forever down the ringing grooves of change. Tennyson, “Locksley Hall”

To look at the major and minor academic possibilities for the 2009 SUNY Oswego entering freshmen makes one wonder if this is the same college from which some of us retired twenty years ago. Times have changed, and so have the campus and the curriculum.

When the Emeriti Association was established in 1989, Oswego looked like most liberal arts colleges, offering the standard fare in major disciplines. True, we faculty had been creative and forward looking, offering such departmental and interdisciplinary programs as linguistics, public justice, African/African-American Studies, American Studies, Women’s Studies, Native American Studies, and a couple of interdisciplinary science programs.

But, as reported in these pages over the past twenty years, today the college’s program offerings are very much expanded. Looking into a recent college catalog, one finds 82 academic degree programs, many of them new, leading to a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Most are traditional and still come out of a single department, but many have been designed for different times, often by faculty from different disciplines. Consider the following, among the college’s more recent new programs: Computer engineering is only the first of the college’s engineering programs, with two others projected. A degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages now offers a specialty for those who will teach in areas with a high immigrant population (Twenty years ago, this program was mistakenly considered unnecessary by the college). Geochemistry, offered by the earth science and chemistry departments trains students in environmental impact. Global and International Studies is an interdisciplinary and multicultural degree program that considers interconnections across political, social, religious, and ethnic borders. For additional interdisciplinary and international programs, check out the items under “What’s New on Campus.” What’s new is mind-boggling!

And consider several of the over 40 newer minor programs being offered, many of them interdisciplinary: Arts management, athletic coaching, biocultural anthropology, creative arts therapy, health sciences (at least one program offered in cooperation with Upstate Medical Center), Medieval and Renaissance studies, museum studies, public administration and public policy.

The list is likely to grow as those who have followed us continue to respond to the needs of society. Central NY companies and the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse long sought a university program in risk management and insurance, and Oswego responded with a new bachelor’s program that began this fall. Appropriately for this economy, students will study alternatives to traditional insurance, techniques for hedging risk, and regulatory compliance. Also new this fall is a minor in Peace and Conflict Resolution, an offshoot of the program in Global and International Studies. (The program is international in scope, of course, but your editor can think of at least one department twenty years ago that might have profited from engaging its students as interns!)

Over the past twenty years, the campus’ physical changes, which have been reported in these pages, have also been truly remarkable. Swetman and Poucher halls have disappeared within the Campus Center, and that facility makes student-faculty interaction even more possible than before. Lakeside dormitories and dining facilities have an updated look. Rich Hall, which houses the School of Business, is a technological marvel, offering its students state-of-the-art electronic classrooms. Venerable Sheldon Hall appears the same from the outside, but one can step inside and marvel at its renovated offices, which include development and alumni facilities, and its new student suites, much sought-after by juniors and seniors. Incidentally, in spite of its changes, Sheldon Hall remains as the center of the college’s heritage, with the recent restoration of its historic lecture room on the second floor, where emeriti have an opportunity to sponsor one of its renovated chairs, reminiscent of the time when many of us taught there.

And there are more changes to come. Student apartments are rising at the edge of Glimmerglass, and Snygg Hall will soon be razed to make room for expanded and changing science facilities. Piez Hall will change. One finds that some laboratories are a bit old-fashioned, now that computer technology can often simulate scientific experiments.

Luckily, some aspects of the college have not changed. The faculty and students have even greater opportunities to interact, with earlier-reported faculty apartments in Hart Hall, as well as the new facilities in the Campus Center. And faculty, although sometimes contentious (often for good reason), enjoy the comradeship of striving for the same goal—the good of the students. And we emeriti still look forward to meeting with each other, even though our careers are behind us.

We remain “the friendly college by the lake”!
Over the Years: Projects of the Emeriti Association and Its Members

1989.

Vice President and Provost Ralph Spencer called upon emeriti Ruth Everett, John Fisher, Erwin Palmer, Harold (Hop) Powers, John Readling, Richard Shime
man, Charles Shoemaker, and Richard Wheeler to consider establishing a SUNY Oswego Emeriti Association. Dick Wheeler was elected first president.

The first issue of the Emeriti Newsletter was published in the fall semester to serve the mission of the Emeriti Association to preserve the history of the college, and to encourage emeriti to continue their meaningful association with the college.

1993.

Established the Memorial Book Collection. Since 1993, nearly 150 memorial books honoring deceased emeriti have been purchased for Penfield Library at a cost to date of more than $5,000.

1994.

$500 contributed for a lighted Emeriti Display Case to exhibit historical materials in Penfield Library.

1995.


1997.

Over a 3-year period, provided $1,000 to plant perennials throughout the campus as part of a campus-wide beautification project.

Sponsored the Campus School Reunion and Commemoration, bringing together former students and faculty of the school. Created a video of the event.

Since the 1997 August luncheon, occasionally provides after-luncheon seminars on such topics as long-term care insurance and health insurance benefits, as well as campus tours of new facilities.

Contributed an initial $500 to help establish a climate-controlled Special Collections area of Penfield Library. An additional $500 was later contributed. Since then, emeriti have contributed funds and personal classroom and professional materials to the archives.

1998.

Founded the Presidential Portraits project to honor the college’s presidents, with the ultimate goal, now completed, to establish a Hall of the Presidents in Sheldon Hall. Presented the first portrait, that of President Deborah Stanley, at her 1999 inauguration.

Began a series of continuing events to honor Founder Edward Austin Sheldon, including lectures and wreath-laying ceremonies at his Oswego gravesite.

1999.

Established the Building Plaques project, at the suggestion of Lois Jackim, to honor emeriti and others for whom the college’s buildings are named. The first plaque, honoring Lida Penfield, was placed in the library in 2000. Since then, 10 plaques have been purchased and placed in buildings.

The most recent plaque was presented to the college at the August luncheon in honor of Ralph Waldo Swetman, Oswego’s fourth president (1933-1946).


Purchased name plates and refurbished a number of 1960s-era faculty and administration photographs in Penfield Library.

2002.

Joined with the college in support of Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego. $500 seed money provided for the Emeriti Scholarship for children and grandchildren of faculty and emeriti, which to date has raised in excess of $30,000 from among the membership of the Association.

Well over $1.5 million was raised among members of the Emeriti Association in the form of outright donations and bequests.

2006.

At the suggestion of President Vern Tryon, expanded the annual luncheon schedule to the fall and spring semesters as well as in August. The two additional luncheons are held at Springside, fondly known as the “South Campus” for its number of emeriti residents.

In addition to the above tangible contributions to the college and our own members, the Emeriti Association has provided the following support to the membership through the Emeriti Newsletter:

Information about the activities of retired former colleagues.

News about the college, SUNY, and higher education.

Information regarding long-term care insurance, retiree health insurance, the NYS pension system, and suggestions for the spouses of deceased members.

In keeping with the Association’s stated mission to preserve the history of SUNY Oswego, a look back at interesting former faculty and students.
Welcome, New Retirees!

Ten former colleagues have become colleagues again in retirement, and we welcome them as members of the Emeriti Association. We look forward to seeing these friends at the annual August retirees’ luncheon, and to their joining us as we continue to serve the college through the activities of the Emeriti Association.

Bruce Frassinelli, who retired as adjunct professor in communication studies, came to the college in an expanded capacity after he retired as publisher of Oswego’s Palladium Times. His major interest was in the field of journalistic ethics, and he was at one time president of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association. Bruce received the Master of Arts degree from East Stroudsburg University, Pennsylvania. John B. Hurlbutt, associate professor and chair of the art department, was appointed to his department in 1995. Her responsibilities included program and instruction. Her specialty was in mental health counseling. Her BS degrees were taken at SUNY Oswego, and her MA degree from SUNY Oswego in 1972, but he served on the staff of WRVO from the station’s inception in 1969, when he was a student. From 1980 to 2006 John served as the WRVO station manager, and retired in March as the host of its “Morning Edition.”

Linda Loomis, assistant professor and chair of the communication studies department, was appointed to her department in 2000, and is a past editor of Oswego, the Alumni Office magazine. Her major interests were in community newspapers and women in journalism. Linda received her BA and MA degrees from SUNY Oswego.

William Lundy, associate professor of accounting, finance and law, received his BBA from LeMoyne College, his MS from SUNY Binghamton, and has been certified as a CPA by New York state. Bill came to the business administration department in 1978, and taught courses in financial accounting and accounting theory.

Gerald Oliver came to the college in 1992 and retired as associate director for international student and scholar services. While on campus he was responsible for recruitment and support of international students, and articulation agreements with international institutions. Gerry took his Master of Education degree from the University of Manitoba. Ira Sukrungruang, assistant professor of English, joined his department in 2002 to teach creative writing, with specialties in nonfiction, poetry, and Asian-American literature. Ira’s BA degree was taken at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and his MFA is from Ohio State University.

Betsy Waterman has retired as professor of counseling and psychological services. She left the chairmanship of her department in 2008 after shepherding it through significant accreditations and a 60-hour licensure-qualifying program in mental health counseling. Her BS and MS degrees were taken at SUNY Oswego, and her PhD was taken at Syracuse University. Betsy was appointed to her department in 1995. Suzanne Weber, who came to the college in 1973, has retired as associate dean of the School of Education and professor of curriculum and instruction. Her responsibilities included program development, assessment, and accreditation. She was program director of the federally funded SUNY Teacher Education Assessment Project, which included all SUNY teacher education institutions. Sue received her BS degree from Michigan State University, and her PhD from Syracuse University.

Rosalie Young was appointed to the college in 1992, and retired as associate professor of public justice. She was the program’s advisement coordinator, and her research interest was in reforming the family court system. Rosalie received her BA from Pennsylvania State University, her MSW from Columbia University, and her MA and PhD degrees from Syracuse University. Helen Zakin, professor and chair of the art department, was appointed to the college in 1970. Her major interest is Medieval and Renaissance art history, and in 2005 she received the Chancellor’s Research Recognition Award. Helen’s BA is from Ohio Wesleyan, her MA is from the University of Iowa, and she received her PhD from Syracuse University.

New Book for Sesquicentennial

At the Emeriti Board’s September meeting, Nancy Bellow, chair of the college’s Sesquicentennial Committee, discussed the possible role of the Association in the college’s 150th anniversary in 2011. Also mentioned was a new history to be published, and we find that the author has started talking with emeriti as it progresses. Tim Nekritz, Oswego’s associate director of public affairs and author of the local bestseller Oswego’s Public Library: A History, is writing the book and coordinating the broader Oswego History Project.

“The book itself is important, but we’re also trying to assemble greater resources on the college’s history for the benefit of our knowledge base and efforts of future historians,” said Tim, who earned his master’s degree in history from Oswego. “To be honest, there are many more great voices and stories here than I could ever fit into a book.” Part of that involves Oswego’s history students through such projects as oral-history style interviews and archival research.

Interviewing emeriti has been a key component, as well. “The professors who taught here in the second half of the 20th century saw so many changes, on campus as well as in the global context,” Tim said.

While starting the process, Tim discovered how many current members of the campus community did not know much about Oswego’s rich tradition. “People know Sheldon Hall is named after Edward Austin Sheldon, but not that he started an educational movement,” Tim said. “I’ve learned, to my pleasant surprise, that fellow institutions at Brockport, Buffalo, Cortland, Geneseo, New Paltz and Potsdam were all organized under Sheldon’s Oswego model. Oswego’s mark on education is greater than most people know.” Pat Devendorf, the project’s lead graduate assistant and a staff member in the Disabilities Services Office, is helping spearhead the project’s oral-history collection. For more information, or to make a contribution of your own experience at the college, contact Tim Nekritz at 315-312-2265 or nekritz@oswego.edu.
SUNY: Engine of the Empire State
Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher

[Nancy Zimpher, recently appointed chancellor of the State University, wrote this article, slightly edited here, for the New York Post on June 1, the day her appointment began.]

I woke up this morning with about 439,694 students. How’s that for a teacher?

Challenging to say the least. Daunting for sure. Most of all, it’s exhilarating. Today is my first day as chancellor of the State University of New York—the nation’s largest comprehensive public-university system.

Our students come from all over New York and the world. They attend classes from Stony Brook on eastern Long Island, into Manhattan, due north through Albany to the Canadian border and then west to Buffalo.

They study everything from history, English and business to medicine, nanoeconomics and genomics. They leave with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the world, which they certainly do. SUNY’s 2.4 million alumni are corporate executives, research scientists, doctors, lawyers, journalists, government leaders, community and civic leaders, good mothers and fathers and more.

While growing up and working in the Midwest, I was always aware of SUNY’s strong reputation, but my education has intensified in the last few months. Here are some early reflections:

SUNY is an educational and economic engine that you couldn’t build today if you tried. One of Nelson Rockefeller’s big ideas, it’s bringing high-quality, high-value higher education to more New Yorkers than ever. Every dollar going into SUNY generates $8 in economic activity for New York state and localities.

Demand for SUNY has never been greater. Enrollment rose 20 percent in the last decade. Applications rose again this year. We need to be able to say yes to more deserving students while ensuring a high-quality education.

SUNY seeds New York’s future. More than four out of five SUNY graduates stay in New York. Our staff live in every region. And our research is helping to create jobs of all sorts from Suffolk County to Buffalo. SUNY must be a part of any strategic economic plan for the state.

With 2,800 buildings on 20,000 acres and 80,000 employees on 64 campuses, SUNY is very much like a Fortune 200 enterprise. We are fourth in research expenditures among U.S. universities and the eighteenth largest patent producer.

Our tremendous faculty includes Nobel, Grammy and Pulitzer Prize winners, Fulbright scholars and MacArthur and Guggenheim fellows.

We also have challenges. The current economy has increased demand for SUNY and made state support harder to come by. Albany can help with resources, but also by giving our campuses flexibility so they can become more entrepreneurial and better compete.

But I am confident we can achieve great things as we work with CUNY, New York’s great private schools, and universities across the nation. The public education continuum—from pre-K through college and beyond—is the door to opportunity for our kids and our communities.

Our work starts today. This week I will embark on a summer tour of all 64 campuses. The tour will lead to a strategic plan for SUNY that will reflect the contributions and views of a great many—a collaboration that will help us figure out what we need to do to make SUNY a model for the nation and the world. Then we’ll do it!

[During her campus visit to SUNYIT Utica, in June, the chancellor noted that colleges should take part of the blame for students not being better prepared for post-secondary education. She also briefly outlined other issues to be addressed. Her remarks follow.]

Where we have been misguided is we point the finger and say, “that’s your problem.” But we produce the teachers who teach the children. The state’s assessment tests need to be more diagnostic in nature. It’s way too late to correct a weakness in math in the junior and senior year. It needs to be addressed where it starts, in the third grade. I plan to address this as well as other issues:

A comprehensive strategic plan for the SUNY system.
Managing a growing enrollment at campuses that are “filled to the gills.”

The ability of students to transfer from school to school within the SUNY system.
Diversity of the student body, faculty and leadership.
Student achievement.

[In Rochester, in July, the chancellor noted that her plan “is to make it so obvious that the State University is key to the economic transformation of this state that any investor, including the state legislature, would see the return on investment if they invest in SUNY.”]
Friends We’ve Heard From and About

Congratulations to Sandy Sternlicht, the Alumni Association’s inductee to the Faculty Hall of Fame last spring. This is not Sandy’s first award for excellence in his career. He received Oswego’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 1973 and the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1974. After his retirement from Oswego, where he had served for 12 years as the theatre department chair, he went on to Syracuse U where he was honored as University College’s 1986 Teacher of the Year. During his extensive teaching career (he still teaches at University College and conducts summer seminars in Ireland), Sandy has written, edited or anthologized 32 volumes, mostly about British or American writers. And as reported in a recent issue of the Emeriti Newsletter, he will be lecturing through 2012 for the NY Council for the Humanities on Jewish writers of the Lower East Side and on James Herriot. He has come a long way since 1952, when he and your editor happened to meet as he was hitchiking to Provincetown on Cape Cod! At the time, Sandy was doing stock theatre on the island, and neither of us knew that five years later we would meet again as new teachers at Oswego.

Congratulations also go to Marcia Moore, the most recent inductee to the Faculty Hall of Fame. When Marcia joined the Oswego faculty in 1971, she started the speech pathology and audiology program; but several years later, when the program fell victim to the massive budget cuts that took place in the university, she continued with the communication studies department, which she eventually chaired. In 1994, she received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. A past member of the Emeriti Association’s board of directors, Marcia continues today as a consultant in nursing homes, helping stroke victims to speak and eat again. Constantly on the move, she practices yoga, sails on Lake Ontario with her husband Charles, a 1968 alumnus; and when they are at their Florida home, she swims with the manatees and kayaks on the Weeki Wachee River.

Tom and Shirley Gooding were featured in the summer issue of Oswego, the alumni magazine, for their on-going support of The Fund for Oswego. Both were instrumental in spearheading planning given for the college in the 1990s. Their personal generosity of two scholarships, one named for Don Snygg, and additional bequests in their wills, when reported in the Campus Update, was an incentive for others, including emeriti, to make similar donations.

At the Emeriti Association’s spring luncheon at Springside, Bob Rock noted that his book 11,762 Words for Fly Fishers and Fly Tyers has now been published, along with Firsts: An Anthology of Angling Experiences, which he edited for fellow members of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. It includes an article of his own. Luther Peterson reported that he had recently been on the Big Island of Hawaii, while his wife, Shelby, was occupied with the college’s High School Musical. When that was completed, they were then off to Arizona, followed by a tour of Ireland with Bob and Barbara Moore.

This past spring, Harry and Lorraine Nash traveled to Graham, NC, to help son Tim and their daughter-in-law and two grandchildren celebrate Tim’s 50th birthday. Time does fly!! Ray and Molly Schneider were ecstatic about the coming spring weather, and their meeting with friends at Springside: “Yeah! Winter does end. Spring with friends is true nectar of youth!”

Nancy Osborne recently contributed a chapter entitled “Nursing Arts Manual” in A Call to Nursing: Stories about Challenge and Commitment, published by Kaplan. It was news to us, but Nancy studied nursing prior to her studies as a librarian. She also contributed an article in this past spring’s issue of RVing Women. “Searching for Gnarly Growths” is about using GPS devices to explore the Cypress Tree Museum in Palmdale, FL, an outdoor area gradually reverting back to wilderness. Incidentally, Nancy and Barb Gerber still spend time canoeing with alligators in Florida in the winter and with friends and cousins in the Adirondacks in the summer. And Nancy has become a biker on her new Terra-Trike, which she fondly calls "Terror-Trike." She and Barb tell us that while they were up North last year, they were married in Ontario in “a sweet ceremony, a quiet celebration of our having shared our lives for over 36 years.” And both were recently honored in Pompano Beach by the Veteran Feminists of America for their work on behalf of the movement.

Bob Schell and Ralph Spencer have been busy making beautiful music with the Emeriti Jazz group, with gigs all around town and beyond. Ralph is also a member of the local New Horizons band, former musicians and singers who take up their instruments and voices again in retirement. The concept began several years ago at the Eastman School of Music, and is now in communities throughout the country. Ralph has also joined the choral group. Both Ralph and Marion still use their motor home during the summer and fall, but stay pretty close to their children’s homes during their travels. Gus and Bev Silva”er tell us that in spite of health issues, their new motto is “Have fun,” which they are doing with various vacation trips and exercise classes, and they are doing a lot of square dancing, where they have made great friends in both California and Massachusetts.

Peter Hertz-Ohmes recently had an article, “Deleuze on Intensity Differentials and the Being of the Sensible,” published in Deleuze Studies, a publication named for Gilles Deleuze, the Parisian intellectual and internationalist with philosophical and political interests. Peter’s article is also a chapter of a book by Mark Rolli, which he is translating from the German into English. And in August, Peter participated in a Deleuze conference in Cologne. He and Andrea now live permanently in what was once their 5-acre summer retreat three miles east of Lake Ontario in Belleville, NY. But, to escape the winter snows, they also own a house in Mulhausen, Thuringen.
In August, Al Bremmer was among those featured in an art exhibition at the SUNY Oswego Metro Center in Syracuse. It was an opportunity to view Al’s latest work. In July and August, Herb Garber appeared as the lead in a play, Under a Full Moon in November, presented by the Heritage Village Theater Guild, in Southbury, CT, where Herb and Doris make their home. The play was written by Paul Pastore, a professional screen writer and fellow-resident at Heritage Village, a senior living community.

“Mike” Harrison told us that “living at Springside is such a pleasure. Good friends and lots of bridge, and projects like The Ladies’ Home and Library meetings and Stamp Collectors—and soon, the little backyard garden with tomatoes and lilies and roses.” She invited us to come see for ourselves! Al Leighton sends his greetings to all, but was unable to attend the August luncheon. He tells us that "at 90, [he] can hardly get around the house anymore." JoAn Huff is now a Florida resident, having sold both her house in Oswego, and her manufactured one in FL. She is now in the independent living section of Westminster Manor in Bradenton. She has a two-room apartment (and new furniture from Pier 1) with a mini-kitchen to get her own breakfast and lunch. She seems to be enjoying her new life style. She tells us that “rocking on the porch after dinner sure beats doing dishes. Entertainment comes to us. I take in weekly movies, musical presentations, chair exercise, tone chimes and trivia. No snow or ice storms and so far no hurricanes!”

Over the Years: Emeriti
 Presidents and Directors

1989-90. Richard Wheeler
1990-92. Harold (Hop) Powers
1992-93. Ralph Spencer
1993-97. James Hastings
1997-99. Barbara Shineman
1999-04. Eleanor (Ellie) Filburn
2004-10. Vernon Tryon

Other members of the Board of Directors (In order of their initial appointments):


SUNY Celebrates

The State University of New York celebrated its 60th birthday this past April 3-5 with speakers, past chancellors, and discussions with scholars from across the nation. The youngest and largest higher education system in the country, with nearly 440,000 students on its 64 campuses, when it was officially founded in 1949, SUNY had just 27,000 students on 32 campuses. (Note: It was unofficially founded in 1948, hence that date on its logo.)

In 1968, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, who was largely responsible for what we see on SUNY campuses today, noted “If you want to preview the American university of the 21st century, look at what is happening in higher education at SUNY today.”

The 60th anniversary presented an ideal moment to assess the history of the university. The conference sought to promote a scholarly understanding of SUNY in the context of New York state’s political, social, economic, and cultural history, and to assess how effectively it has broadened access to higher education and brought social and economic benefits to the state. In addition, it examined SUNY’s development in relation to other national and international models.

During the three-day conference, a variety of intriguing panels were presented by the university’s faculty and staff, presidents and former chancellors included, and by nationally known observers of the university. Among the panels: Maritime’s Strange Entrance into SUNY; Politics, Policy, and Education; Preserving and Telling SUNY’s Community College Story; The State of Archives on SUNY Campuses—The Good, the Bad, and the Unaccounted; The Changing Face of SUNY—Diversity and Educational Equity; and The State Teachers College Era and the Origins of SUNY’s University Colleges, with a presentation by Oswego’s Tim Nekritz, associate director, public affairs, on “SUNY Oswego—From Recovery and Refugees to Re-invention and Revival.”

Tim’s presentation focused largely on the movement of the college from a teacher-preparation institution to an arts and sciences college—from Edward Austin Sheldon to Ralph Swetman to Foster Brown. Sheldon paved the way for modern education in the schools; Swetman saved the college from closing in the 1940s by securing a government program to train an Air Force contingent, then went on to create degree-granting programs, moving from the Normal School model to a teachers college; and Brown took on the challenge of expanding the student base, creating classroom and dormitory buildings, and doubling in 1957 the number of faculty to create a college of arts and sciences which included an expanded teacher-education program. Tim’s fascinating account of the history is available (315-312-2265 or tim.nekritz@oswego.edu). You may also want to keep an eye out for his forthcoming book on the history of the college, which will continue the work of Dorothy Rogers.

Included during the three-day conference were displays of the histories of SUNY campuses, and exhibits of archives. The conference will generate a SUNY Press book. The Closing Plenary was a session on Where Does SUNY Go from Here? with panelists from a variety of public universities from Vermont to California.
What’s New on Campus?

The next time you’re on campus, consider taking a stroll along Glimmerglass and stopping at the memorial garden dedicated to the twelve Oswego alumni lost when the Twin Towers collapsed on September 11, 2001. You are likely to have an unforgettable experience sitting on a bench in the botanical sanctuary, one of the most tranquil places on campus. One of the first memorials of the tragedy in the state, the garden was dedicated on September 11, 2005. It was the gift of the classes of 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, all of which were on campus at the time the tragedy occurred.

In January, during the college’s first international Winter Break project, ten SUNY Oswego community members from the college’s Center for Community Service and Service Learning taught children and built infrastructure in Jamaica. Eight students, the center’s coordinator, and an AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteer taught basic subjects and gave computer lessons in grades 1 to 6. And they were in charge! One of the Oswego students reported “The teacher essentially handed us the chalk and said ‘Go ahead and teach’ and left.” The group also painted the school, thatched a hut for a computer learning area, cleared brush for a play area and erected a jungle gym for a school of 3- to 5-year olds. But our students took something back home with them—an understanding of the creativity and community of the residents there, who make the most of their environment.

Also in January, for the second straight year, Oswego’s completely student-run production, Honor and the River, was one of just a few plays in the Northeast selected to compete at the Region II Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival. And the Oswego students placed second in the competition! The festival, located in Philadelphia, aims to “recognize and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs,” according to its Web site.

A new interdisciplinary peace and conflict studies minor will expand on the former conflict studies and management program. The program can include courses from among communication studies, English, history, human resource management, management, philosophy, political science, public justice and sociology. In keeping with Oswego’s strategic goal to develop students with an understanding of the world and its problems, and how to create solutions, the program will review the causes and consequences of war and strategies for reducing or eliminating conflict.

In 2009, its 10th year, Hart Global Living and Learning Center offered its first Global Awareness Conference. Hart is home to over 50 international students each year, but it is not conceived as an international house. Rather, its mission is to develop global awareness and social responsibility among a variety of student residents with the help of live-in faculty mentors. The theme of the conference concerned doing good in the world by developing cultural awareness. Students apply to live in Hart and commit to performing 10 hours of community service a semester and taking a one-credit international studies course that requires attendance at internationally themed campus programs plus a 3-credit course a semester related to a global issue.

Of the 150 international students on campus last semester, 67 were from China; and Oswego, as well as the rest of SUNY, is offering more opportunities for our own students to study in China. The language department has offered courses in Chinese since 1997, and an interdisciplinary cultural program is in the works.

Six Oswego students spent part of the summer charting the ecological future of Brazil’s Pantanal region, an area half the size of California and similar to the Florida wetlands before development began to obliterate it. The student researchers are part of an effort by the Brazilian government to study the region before determining how much of it to open to development. The way the Pantanal floods and drains means any development will impact the rest of the region. The area is home to thousands of species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and freshwater fish. It harbors 3,500 types of plants. Students begin their Biology 393 International Environmental Studies course on campus with a review of Brazilian politics, culture, economy, and history before departing for Brazil, where they are joined by a group of students from that country’s universities.

In April, a SUNY Oswego student, Jennifer Nagel took first place in the high point rider event at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Championship in Tennessee. She triumphed over the reigning champion from Findlay College (Ohio), which usually produces the winner in such an event. It was quite an upset! This is not only a personal win, but a big boost for Oswego’s equestrian program, which is still only a club sport. Jennifer credits her success to her coaches, Jill and Dan Bergstresser.

The college has received an annual $300,000 state grant for up to three years to help develop teacher leaders for school districts in greatest need. It will provide free tuition for eight teachers with leadership ability to take educational administration courses in the CAS program. The cohort will include four recipients from the Syracuse schools, three from Oswego County and one from the Onondaga Nations School. Introductory courses will prepare teacher leaders by exploring such topics as dropout rates, school violence, curriculum development and cultural diversity.

U.S. News named SUNY Oswego as one of its “Top Up-and-Coming Schools” in its August “America’s Best Colleges” issue. Its annual peer assessment survey identified “colleges and universities that have recently made striking improvements or innovations—schools that everyone should be watching.” Many of those innovations have been reported in these pages over the last several years.

--From SUNY Oswego news releases
**List of Emeriti and Associates**

(*Denotes an associate member of the Emeriti Association*)

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