Emeriti President’s Report

Vern Tryon

Autumn Greetings from Oswego,

Driving home along the Oswego River, through the beautiful sun-drenched fall colors, the warm fellowship of an hour ago at our emeriti luncheon at Springside fresh in mind, my thoughts were drawn back to what a special place this is. The "pouring out" place where the Oswego River enters Lake Ontario, the community that has been home for nearly sixty years, and the college which offered years of fulfilling work and priceless relationships with like-minded colleagues and students. The sweet sounds of conversation around the luncheon tables attested to the blessings that our emeriti gatherings provide. What a privilege we have!

Our board of directors met September 28th to review our progress and make some decisions. Bob Schell, our representative on the College Sesquicentennial Planning Committee, reported that October 2011 has been designated Founder’s Celebration. The Fall 2011 issue of the Emeriti Newsletter will be a commemorative edition. The board also reviewed the actions taken at the annual meeting in August. We will do more e-mailing to members and associates to share current information and provide reminders of emeriti activities. Send an e-mail to shelley.love@oswego.edu so we will have your address and be able to include you in the mailings. The directors continue to explore ways of enticing more emeriti, especially the most recent retirees, to participate in Emeriti Association activities and services. Several suggestions to the contrary, the board concluded that there are several compelling reasons to continue holding the annual luncheon on campus.

The board decided that the plaque honoring Faculty Assembly chairpersons should be hung in Sheldon Hall in the area of the presidential portraits. It was also decided that the portraits of four acting presidents — Thomas Miller, Charles Turner, Sherry Dunham, and Ralph Spencer — will be displayed in the proper chronological position among the presidential portraits. They will be labeled with the name, years of service, and the title, Acting President. A suggested plaque to honor the Campus School faculty will be referred to the School of Education for consideration. Professor Emeritus John C. Fisher was recognized with a plaque at our August luncheon for “twenty years of faithful and exemplary service” as editor of the Emeriti Newsletter.

Please remember our requested annual contribution of $20 and a gift or bequest to our scholarship fund. I welcome your suggestions and questions (315-343-9692 or Vernon@Tryon.com).

That’s the Emeriti news from Oswego.

In Memoriam

Carol O’Mara Vermilye Associate Member January 2010
Eleanor “Fergie” Boyd Associate Member February 2010
Kenneth L. Sicke Former Assistant Director of Admissions (1962-1975) April 2010
Phyllis Kazarian Associate Member August 2010
Jacqueline Wassenaar Associate Member October 2010
Friends We’ve Heard From and About

Congratulations to Ray O’Donnell, inducted last winter into the Faculty Hall of Fame by the Alumni Association. Ray’s biography was featured in the winter issue of Oswego, the Alumni Association magazine. In his 40-year career in the chemistry department, Ray taught everything from large survey courses to small seminars in his specialty, instrumental analysis. And when he was not in the classroom, he was often in front of a concert organ in St. Mary’s church and in other venues, including at the weddings of former students—which attests to his popularity as a teacher. When he came to Oswego in 1964, and over the years, Ray helped found his department’s programs, which have turned out graduates who are competitive in national labs, academia, and industry. As an active member of the American Chemical Society, he was honored with the Henry Hill Award, the highest honor in the Professional Relations Division, which he recently chaired. He has also worked on NSF grants and projects for Saudi Arabia and has served as a senior research fellow at the U.S. Army Chemical and Biological Research Center in Maryland. He maintains his ties with his former department, attends conferences, and continues to give workshops.

This past spring, before he passed away in May, Dick Shineman was inducted into the Faculty Hall of Fame. The Association noted that “It’s hard to think about the chemistry department without thinking of Richard Shineman, who served as first chair of the department and guided its early development.” Dick, who came to the college in 1962, also collaborated with the newly appointed chairs of the physics and math departments to design Snygg Hall. In later years, he and Gus Silveira, whom Dick recruited to come to Oswego, worked together with members of the department to earn the American Chemical Society’s accreditation. One of Dick’s continuing legacies to the college and its students is the Freshmen Chemistry Scholarship, with four awarded to incoming students each year. He also served on the College Foundation’s board of directors. The Alumni Association concluded its announcement by noting that “Richard Shineman’s name is synonymous with the sciences at Oswego.”

This past summer, Emeritus John Cooper was also inducted into the Hall of Fame. One of John’s early role models was John Wooden, the legendary basketball coach who guided him when John was a high school athlete in Indiana. John did follow in Wooden’s footsteps as teacher and coach in South Bend, and later as an elementary school principal. John joined the Oswego faculty in 1967 as chair of the elementary education department. The college was going through a period of change with its increased emphasis on liberal arts, and John met the challenge by upgrading education as a major. He designed seminars around specific problems students would face in the classroom, and pioneered interdisciplinary graduate courses such as the popular “Power, Politics and Public Education.” Like Wooden before him, John was very much appreciated by his students. Ed Fayette, who received his graduate degree in 1987 has said, “He was a great help, providing insight and inspiration in getting my master’s at Oswego.” And not to be slighted in John’s influence while he was active in Oswego was his interest in fishing and friendly games of poker during Friday evening P-Seminars. He taught a number of us how to cast and to hold our cards close to the vest!

In a recent meeting with the Emeriti Board of Directors, Kerry Dorsey, vice president for development and alumni relations, reported that when she meets with alumni, the first questions asked have to do with former professors. “How is he—or she—doing?” Kerry then learns that the professors in question have had a great influence on the former students’ lives. And in the spring issue of Oswego, a number of emeriti visiting the college were mentioned as influencing the lives of former students. Dr. Lois Frankel ’73 recently noted that one of the important mentors in her life was Barbara Gerber, then head of the Women’s Studies Program. She praised “[Barbara’s] generosity of spirit, how [she] would take people where they are, accept people for who they are and help them grow to be who they can be.” Frankel is the author of best-selling books [Note Nice Girls Don’t Get the Corner Office, for instance] featured on televised shows such as The Today Show. A professional career counselor, she is also the founder of the Bloom Again Foundation dedicated to aiding people in need in her community, as well as MOSTE (Motivating Our Students Through Experience), which links professional women in the Los Angeles area with young girls from disadvantaged neighborhoods to encourage the girls to finish school, go on to college and be successful in life.

Also noted in Oswego was a meeting last fall between Ed Thibault and Linda Maryanov ’76 who had reconnected in New York City after 33 years to celebrate Ed’s 70th birthday at lunch. They got together at Linda’s law office, Zimmerman and Maryanov. She credits Ed with starting her on her career at a time when he chaired the public justice program. Gene Pizzolato ’81, an executive with the Golf Channel developed the drive to make a career in television at Oswego, and he credits, among others, Lew O’Donnell and Nola Heidlebaugh for his academic foundation. He recently noted, “In 1981, I thought the broadcasting and communications program was ahead of its day.”

Dr. Donald Astrab ’79, a biology and chemistry double major at Oswego, credited Peter Weber and Gus Silveira as influences in choosing his future work. He went on to a doctorate in organic chemistry and was recently named as president of Nassau Community College. And Gus recently noted that during his twenty years at the college, he and his students collaborated with Dr. Ei-ichi Negishi, distinguished professor at Purdue, who recently received the Nobel Prize in chemistry. As Gus says, “The fact that
SUNY Oswego students are very capable of doing Nobel Prize quality research work speaks volumes about the caliber of our students and the quality of Oswego’s chemistry program.” Gus and Negishi’s collaboration extended for more than 20 years and won more than 50 national awards and recognition of his teaching and research work with his students.

Looking good, George! George Koenig appeared in last winter’s issue of the alumni magazine, and, except for the grey hair, looked pretty much like a student himself. It was noted that the young man standing next to him, former student Matthew Weiller ‘84, a career U.S. diplomat and enthusiastic SUNY Oswego supporter, had been nominated by George for the Alumni Association’s prestigious Anniversary Class Award.

Former colleague Gene Chermack, who passed away in 2006, was honored last fall by the naming of the college’s newest weather station. Oswego’s Professor Scott Steiger ’99, a former student of Gene, donated funds to name the 30-foot weather tower on the lakeshore in memory of his former professor. Although the college had earlier courses in meteorology, many of them taught by Bob Sykes, it was Gene who founded the major in 1971 and had a profound influence on Scott’s future career as a meteorologist. The tower and its accompanying equipment, reported in an earlier issue of the Emeriti Newsletter, directly samples lake-modified air to help with lake-effect storm research.

Among others who have been recognized for their lasting dedication and work is Tony Van Geet, who passed away in 2002. In October last year, he was honored by the Central New York Land Trust, when members of the organization, family and friends gathered to dedicate a plaque in a natural area whose preservation is largely attributable to Tony’s resolve, action and vision. Last fall’s journal of the Trust referred to Tony’s own words, “All of my life I have had my heart on preserving nature,” noting that, in addition to his achievements as a former president of Save Oswego County, and a founder of the Central New York Land Trust, he and Johanna made a significant contribution without which the Fen at Silver Lake nature preserve most likely would not have come under the protection of the land trust. The editor of the journal went on to say that Tony’s “passion continues to benefit Central New York years after his passing. . . . Others who never met him will continue to benefit from his selfless and far-sighted generosity.” And that editor is correct. Today’s SUNY Oswego college students do research on endangered species in the preserve.

Mary Loe reported some time ago, in a note unearthed from the bottom of your editor’s pile of “stuff” recently, that she and Tom had gone on a long-planned road trip Out West, visiting nearly all the national parks west of the Rocky Mountains. They looked up former colleagues and friends, like Don and Joan Mathieu and Helga Burkhardt, took along their three-season tent and smallest canoe, and hiked and paddled where they could. Tom relished paddling in LA and Mary hiked to her heart’s content to the top of Half Dome in Yosemite. Mary has continued to organize annual mountain hikes in Norway’s stunning national parks as a volunteer for the Adirondack Mountain Club and went along on other extended hikes in the Dolomites and Darjeeling. Mary also reports that she is now getting to her reading list more often, gardening, and keeping up with their kids, parents and grandkids.

Forty of our emeriti and associate friends attended the Springside luncheon last April and reported on their activities. Kay Shaver spent Christmas with family in Seattle and in nearby Leavenworth (No, not the prison!), a community that has evolved into a Bavarian village on the edge of the Cascades. And since Amelia Earhart was a heroine of Kay when she was in elementary school, she spent time in the Museum of Aeronautics, which featured a display of Earhart’s life and flights. Carlton Salvagin told us that he and Barbara spent the month of January in Venice, Florida, and that he and Barbara together are involved with seven volunteer activities. They note that they are very busy all the time! Like most of us, they would like to go back to work to have some time to themselves!

Harry Nash seemed a bit reticent about reporting his activities, telling us only “Nothing new, enjoying our time at Springside,” but Lorraine was more informative, noting that she plays bridge in four (Yes, four!) different groups in and around Oswego, and she was looking forward to playing more golf, since she had been unable to play last year. She and Harry swim three mornings a week at the YMCA, they continue to play pinochle with Lois and Will Allen when they are in Oswego and not Florida, and Harry is playing euchre with Sherry Dunham and Paul Hutko fairly often. Ray and Molly Schneider wouldn’t tell us anything about their activities. Hmm! They did, however, wish us all good health and a fun year ahead, and we certainly wish the same for them!

June Johnston told us she still enjoys cooking and entertaining. She loves trying new recipes that she gets off the Internet and passing them on to friends and neighbors. She suspects, however, that her friends don’t really want the recipes—they want only the cooked, finished product! Kolan and Elaine Bisbee enjoy traveling, especially if their travels include tours of interesting architecture, covered bridges and railroad properties. Kolan chairs the church council of the Brewerton United Methodist Church, which keeps him busy reviewing annual reports and various conferences. And, in spite of an aching back, he was also refinishing the basement in order to set up a model railroad for his HO rolling stock, track and buildings.

Teneo Press has announced the publication of The Italian Americans: Bridges to Italy, Bonds to America, edited by Lou Iorizzo and E. Rossi. The editors and eight other scholars produced nine chapters dealing with a variety of topics appealing to both scholars and the general public. The book, drawing from a variety of sources, such as census tracts, diaries, voting records, and personal interviews, shows how Italian Americans adapted through work, prejudice, and strife to the social and political life in America while still retaining an element of their Italian ethnicity.
In July, Lou spoke about the book at a Springside dinner. And Lew Turco recently added to his long list of writings with La Famiglia, which explores his personal life through memoirs and poems. It is available through Bordighera Press.

Joanne and John Fisher enjoyed the month of April in Maui, where their daughter, Beth, and her family now live. They also enjoyed re-visiting the Big Island, Hawaii, where they had spent a summer years ago while John taught at the local campus of the University of Hawaii. On their return trip, they spent several days in Seattle. They are now frequently asked, “Did you go to the top of the Space Needle?” Well, they visited it, but after looking up, they decided to keep their feet on the ground! John was recently commissioned to edit a history of their Fairport parish church, St. John of Rochester, named interestingly enough for St. John Fisher of Rochester, England. He’ll use as a model the history he produced years ago for St. Mary’s church in Oswego.

Mario and Helen Rabozzi told us at the August luncheon that following a few months in Florida they took a daughter and granddaughter on a memorable trip to Italy to visit family. And they have a cruise through the Greek Isles and Turkey planned for this fall. Betty Moody tells us that she and Connie Bond have sold their Florida home and will be permanent Oswego residents. Betty had melanoma surgery on her right leg in March, and is making weekly visits to the Wound Center in Fayetteville. Hugh and Grace Mowatt Burritt continue with their golfing and swimming, but Hugh reported that, like several others at the annual luncheon, he has a new knee, and apparently it has worked out well. Grace continues to volunteer for the Horses and the Handicapped program.

John and Maria Demidowicz had an unforgettable year enjoying visits during summer vacation, spring break and at Christmas. Sharing fun times with their grandson, Eric, is always very special. One of the year’s highlights was a surprise visit from Maria’s niece, nephew and wife to celebrate John’s 80th birthday. John continues his research on 19th century Spanish literature and had an article, “The History of an Extraordinary Photograph,” published in the literary journal Isidora in Madrid. They also report that their summer tradition of a visit to the Shaw Festival is a constant joy. And Sandy Sternlicht continues his publications. His latest work is Modern Irish Drama: W.B. Yeats to Marina Carr, available through Syracuse University Press. It introduces 26 new, young Irish playwrights and their works in a history of Irish theatre in the 20th century. Sandy also continues his lectures in humanities through the NY Council for the Humanities. This past May, Sandy retired for a second time — as Emeritus Professor of English from Syracuse University. In Sandy’s words, “50 consecutive years of teaching is enough. It’s time to give some other bloke a chance.”

Herb and Doris Garber enjoyed their annual trek to Oswego to join friends at the August Luncheon. Herb, certified in Connecticut as an EMS instructor, now teaches those training to be instructors themselves. He also continues his acting career, having just finished with a role in Murder can be Habit-Forming, about a serial killer who kills only women named “Mary.” The setting is in a convent where all the nuns are named “Mary”! One of our newest emeriti, Vivian Anderson, enjoyed her first luncheon with us, and plans to see us again. She taught a course this past summer, and worked all seven sessions of orientation as an advisor. She has been working as a literacy volunteer since March and this fall began working breakfasts for the Salvation Army.

Muriel (Mike) Harrison has had a busy year, “but barely worthy of a headline” she reports. She’s just trying to stay healthy and active with her daily walking, her twice-weekly bridge, and keeping up with her very active granddaughter. She is always happy to see friends at the luncheons on campus and at Springside. Ralph and Marion Spencer report that they continue their RV travel in the summer and fall. And Ralph continues his music activities as a drummer with the New Horizons Band and with the Emeriti Jazz Group. He is also singing with the New Horizons Chorus.

Speaking about drumming, we recently heard from drummer Doug Aldrich, whom we have missed seeing at the last couple of luncheons. He tells us that he and Terry haven’t attended because of Terry’s problems, the most recent of which is macular degeneration, for which her treatments, however, are helpful but unpleasant. Doug reports that his health is amazingly good for an 88-year-old. His only infirmity is deafness, “which is probably prevalent among superannuated drummers.” But he hears well enough, he says, “when I can endure wearing my hearing aids.” Doug notes that their daughter thinks her parents should be planning to move into assisted living, but Terry can’t see it, and Doug won’t hear of it (Get Doug’s pun?). Doug leaves us with this thought about today’s technology:

Twitter, Google, Facebook, Puerile words of communication.

When radio was young, there was Superheterodyne and amplitude modulation.

Scholarship Alert!

Do you have a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild enrolled as a student at SUNY Oswego? If so, alert the student to the fact that your Emeriti Association sponsors a scholarship for which he or she may qualify. Although we have already awarded $1,000 scholarships to the grandchildren of two emeriti, in the past two years the scholarship has not been awarded. Also, please tell your student that the forms must be filled out completely and accurately, with financial information included. Those forms are available at the Alumni Office (315-312-2258).
Cap and Gown Gathering Dust?

If your cap and gown are gathering dust in your closet, the college would like you to consider one of two possibilities. Each year, we emeriti are invited by President Stanley to attend the May commencement ceremony. And because we continue to be members of the academic community, we are also encouraged to attend the event in cap and gown and join the procession (When else do we get a chance to shake out the gown, and check for moths?). Academic protocol suggests that emeriti proceed at the head of the faculty line, but an individual may choose instead to join his or her former department.

A second possibility is to donate your cap and gown to your department so that they can be used temporarily by a faculty member who does not yet have them.

We hope to see your cap and gown on you at the next commencement ceremony because it is important for former colleagues and for students to know that we maintain our interest in the academic community. However, if you choose not to attend, the college hopes we will at least see your cap and gown there.

Genius Grants: Honorable Mentions

The Macarthur Genius Grant is awarded each year to 20-30 talented individuals. According to Yoni Brenner in an edition of Smithsonian, a few brilliant minds just missed last year’s cut. Here are the Honorable Mentions:

Victor Bladinovsky, composer, defied conventions of classical music by sacrificing traditional notions of structure and lyricism for ever-increasing volume. Best-known for the 12-minute air horn chorale at the end of his NASCAR Sonata and the exquisite but rarely performed Fantasie for Strings and Industrial Wood Chipper (Op.433).

Arthur Grexby, geologist, transformed the field of geology with a reconfigured Richter scale that awards points not just for magnitude but for artistic merit. A fiercely independent thinker, he is believed to be the first major geologist to refute the existence of the Himalayas—a claim later retracted when he realized that two pages of his atlas were stuck together.

Carol Shapiro, literary critic. Adjunct professor at the University of East Montana, Shapiro has devoted her career to championing the obscure Irish novelist, Percy O’Hanlon, whose difficult melancholy prose might otherwise have gone completely neglected.

Percy O’Hanlon. Obscure Irish novelist who has devoted his career to writing impenetrable melancholy prose solely for the benefit of literary critic Carol Shapiro, who O’Hanlon believes would be totally bereft and possibly dangerous were he to stop.

Campus Construction Continues

Tom Simmonds, vice president for facilities, recently brought us up to date on new construction planned for the college, and it seems that recently retired emeriti who would like to remember SUNY Oswego as it was “in the good old days” should take a tour of the campus as soon as possible. Things are changing fast!

The college has embarked on a new $170 million construction program that will now transform the east end of the campus. This is part of the current $300 million capital plan started in 2008 that builds upon over $400 million in updates over the last ten years which included the development of the Campus Center, classroom upgrades and residence hall changes.

The newest construction phase, which began at the close of the spring semester, is expected to last three years and will upgrade out-of-date science and education classrooms and laboratories. Piez Hall will be gutted and wrapped around by an innovative four-story major construction to create a new $118 million state-of-the-art sciences complex with more than a quarter-million square feet in all. The current Snygg Hall will be demolished in 2013 or 2014, and a geothermal well field will be built under the current site and topped with a parking and green landscape area. The building is being constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold standards and will be connected to a consolidated School of Education.

The School of Education renovations will occur over the next 3-5 years as part of the development. Park and Wilber halls will be modernized to house the six education departments. This project will include a Wilber Hall technology laboratory addition and links to Park and the sciences complex.

Another component of the major development will be the exterior preservation of Old Main, Sheldon Hall. In order to preserve the shell of the building, its roof and cupola will be rehabilitated, masonry will be repaired and replaced, and windows will also be replaced.

A ceremonial ground-breaking took place in September, followed by a tour of the recently completed Glimmerglass residential apartments for students.

Research: The Good and the Bad

Scientists at Columbia U are warning that the doses of radiation from the new full-body scanners at airports could be up to twenty times higher than originally estimated. They suggest that travelers take a pass.

Researchers at SUNY Buffalo received $389,000 from the U.S. government to pay residents of Buffalo $45 each to record how much malt liquor they drink and how much pot they smoke each day.

The Cactus Bug Project at the University of Florida was allocated $325,394 in economic funds to study mating decisions of cactus bugs.
Traveling on a Budget

Has your travel budget become a bit cramped since the stock market blew a hole in your investments? Well here are a few tips that can get you back in the car—or plane or boat.

Frugal travel often means staying away from a hotel or motel room, and opting for a condo, where you can cook your own meals. You can also rely on Internet travel sites, such as travelzoo.com, homeatfirst.com, evergreenclub.com, smartertravel.com, or adktravel.org (Associated with the Adirondack Mountain clubs) that will alert you to discounted opportunities. Some are group travel programs, and some require dues. The site retirement-on-a-budget.com will even give you additional tips about your retirement. Check out expedia-aarp.com, orbitz.com, priceline.com, or travelocity.com.

For a cruise, check out vacationstogo.com, ecruise.com and cruise411.com, and consider an inside cabin, since you can always watch the ocean from an upper-deck lounge. Some airlines, such as Southwest, offer a limited number of senior fares. Call a tour provider or hotel to see if you can negotiate your own lower price. AARP negotiates discounts with tour providers and others. And don’t forget Elderhostel, now called Road Scholar. The price is fair, and you’ll enjoy the people you meet. If you try one of the above sites, tell us your experience, and we’ll let others know.

Contributions are Due

Those of you who are long-time members of the Emeriti Association have seen this notice before, but it bears repeating, so bear with us.

In this issue of the Emeriti Newsletter is an opportunity for you to show your interest in the Emeriti Association and your continued interest in SUNY Oswego. We ask you to return the attached envelope with a $20 contribution for this academic year to help defray Association costs including your newsletter, the book memorials placed in Penfield Library that honor our deceased colleagues, and the information plaques placed at the entry of buildings named for former faculty members. Your contribution will help students and faculty in the future know that we were here. Those among us who are optimists can make a one-time contribution of $125 for a life membership. Over eighty of us have already done so, and the interest from that money also helps support our programs.

You may disregard our request for your $20 donation if you are a life member, if you made your contribution at the August luncheon—as many of us did—or if you have since sent a check.

Get on the Internet to look for a used copy of Adventures After 50 by Don and Judy Mac Isaac or Joan Rattner Heilman’s Unbelievably Good Deals and Great Adventures That You Absolutely Can’t Get Unless You’re Over 50. Google ”Tours” and the area you’d like to visit.

Want to take a chance? Book a trip at the last minute, when the prices usually fall. Consider opting for a bus if your trip is less than 400 miles. You might save time and aggravation as well as money, and bus travel has gotten better in recent years. Join a club that will match you with hosts in the cities you plan to visit. Google “home exchanges.”

Do yourself and others a good turn. Take a less-expensive volunteer vacation. The government website senior-corps.gov will connect you to volunteer opportunities around the U.S., and your church can suggest opportunities around the world.

Consider heading for chain restaurants on your trip. Prices are reasonable, many offer discounts for seniors, and you know the food is not likely to send you to the hospital.

Finally, don’t put off those dreams of fantastic, wild, over-the-top adventures. If Bush #1 can jump out of a plane at age 85, you should be able to do it at your young age!
Welcome, New Retirees!

Eight 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 SUNY Oswego through the activities of the Emeriti Association.

Vivian Anderson, assistant professor of mathematics, retired in January of this year. Before coming to the college in 1999, she had taught at several universities, including Hamilton College. Her Bachelor of Arts in mathematics is from Wheaton College in Illinois. She has a master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Nebraska, a master’s degree in theoretical computer science from Syracuse, and her Ph.D. in college-level mathematics education.

Jerry Condra has retired as associate professor, communication studies. His Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees are from Friends University. He was appointed to his department in 1999.

Jerry DeSantis was appointed to the college in 1992. In April, he retired from his position as associate vice president for facilities management. Jerry received his Bachelor of Science degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Philip Gaines, associate professor and chair of the technology department, was appointed to his position at the college in 1974. He took his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Tarleton State University, Texas.

Anthony Henderson, appointed to the college in 1986, retired in February from his position as a residence hall director in the Office of Residence Life and Housing. Tony received his Bachelor of Science degree from Delaware State College.

Kathleen Lewis, assistant professor, retired in February from her position in the mathematics department. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree from the University of Rochester, her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and she came to the college in 1985. In 1994, she received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Alison Lovallo has retired as associate director of extended learning. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees from SUNY Oswego, and was appointed to her position in 1997.

Joyce Smith, professor of curriculum and instruction, joined the education department in 1968. She received her Bachelor of Science from SUNY Potsdam, her Master of Science from SUNY Oswego, and her Doctor of Education degree from Syracuse University.

Treasurer’s Report
Paul Liebenauer

At the annual business meeting prior to the August luncheon, the finances of the Emeriti Association showed $13,517.89 in our lifetime membership fund, $42,838.29 in our scholarship fund, and $2,320.31 in our operating fund. Members should note that only the interest from the lifetime membership fund is available for the Emeriti Association’s programs, and the board of directors intend to make only the interest from the scholarship fund available for scholarships.

As of the August meeting, 314 retired faculty and staff were members of the Emeriti Association, and we numbered 56 associate members. All members receive the Emeriti Newsletter with information about SUNY, higher education, the college and each other, and members are sent invitations to all emeriti and college-related events. Of the 370 total membership, 65 retirees and 9 associates are life members. In 2009-2010, 58 retirees (23.3% of retirees), and 10 associate members (21.3% of associates) made an annual contribution to the Association for its efforts on behalf of the college.

Emeriti Association of SUNY Oswego
Board of Directors, by Class, 2011–2013

2011 (through 8/31/2011)
Luciano Iorizzo • 343-4070
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Robert E. Schell • 342-1262

2012 (through 8/31/2012)
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Emeriti Newsletter Editor
9/1/2010–8/31/2011
John Fisher • 585-223-7192
SUNY to Focus on Revitalizing the State

[Following is an edited June 18, 2010, article from The New York Times.]

In June, Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, after a tour of all 64 campuses of the university and several town-hall-style meetings that focused on different themes from diversity to sustainability, revealed a 21-page, 5-year plan for SUNY. The plan, “The Power of SUNY,” relies on broad stokes rather than specifics, but lays out more than a dozen initiatives and declares that “SUNY’s priority is the economic revitalization of the State of New York and a better quality of life for all its citizens.”

The document calls for better coordination among the colleges in the system, which has more than 465,000 students, and a deeper involvement by both students and faculties in their communities, which, in many upstate areas, are still ailing in the wake of manufacturing’s retreat.

Among the specific ideas in the plan are an “urban-rural teacher corps” that would redirect teacher preparation from theory toward more practical classroom skills; a new online health care database that would test and develop national standards for treatment and delivery; and an entrepreneurial SWAT team of sorts that would identify research projects with commercial promise and help move them to market.

The SUNY Scene

- New SUNY initiatives, proposed by Chancellor Zimpher in her “Power of SUNY” plan, will marshal the resources of the university’s 64 campuses to focus on statewide health. Healthy New York will seek to improve New Yorker’s access to health care by training a diverse medical force to work in underserved areas—starting at the community college level by encouraging talented students from high-need communities to pursue health-related careers. The SUNY Wellness Network will join students, researchers, and medical practitioners with community public health agencies and issue an annual state-wide assessment of preventative care issues like obesity and smoking rates. The SUNY Scale will set up scientific trials that gauge the effectiveness of medical practices, and SUNY Reach will help SUNY medical and optometry schools coordinate grants and research.

- SUNY has announced that the book marking its 60th anniversary, SUNY at 60: The Promise of the State University of New York, is now available for purchase. It is the product of a conference held in the spring of 2009 that brought together scholars from across the country who presented on a number of topics such as the creation of SUNY in the state and national context; accessibility; quality education; diversity and educational equity; and SUNY as an economic engine for the state. It offers an in-depth look at a variety of issues, such as SUNY’s history, political landscape, evolving mission, institutional variety, international partnerships, and leadership. Contributions are from, among others, SUNY-affiliated staff and professors, both past and present. It is available from SUNY Press.

- New York colleges and universities spent more than $6.8 million lobbying last year. SUNY, the nation’s largest public university system, spent the most—$1.46 million to lobby both state and Washington legislators. NYU came in second, with $511,127 spent.

- On August 4, the NYS legislature came within a week of breaking the record on late budgets set in 2004 when it was 133 days past the April 1 deadline. Unfortunately, the budget did not include a sought-after higher education reform measure that would have allowed SUNY and CUNY to set individual campus tuition rates and undertake economic-development ventures without prior approval by lawmakers. It also would have given campuses an opportunity to keep a greater share of tuition, most of which presently goes into state coffers as a tax on students. A “framework agreement” has been agreed to by the legislature and the governor, however. What that means is unclear, so stay tuned! In the meantime, John B. Simpson of UBuffalo notes, “We have been forced to operate in a highly regulated environment, more befitting a state agency than a research university.” What the lawmakers did do, was cut an additional $210 million in SUNY’s budget, bringing the three-year total to a 30 percent reduction.

--From various sources, including SUNY press releases
What’s New on Campus?

- In August, U.S. News Media Group counted SUNY Oswego among the Top Public Regional Universities in the North, a week after Princeton Review included the college in “The Best Northeastern Colleges: 2011 Edition.” Oswego is No. 18 on the U.S. News list of the best 50 public campuses in the Northeastern region this year. The magazine also selected Oswego for its “A-Plus Schools for B Students” list. It compared a set of 15 performance indicators, from freshman orientation to financial resources to peer assessment.

- The college’s relatively new Possibility Scholars program aims to help high school students who otherwise would not be able to afford pursuing degrees in science and technology fields. Supported by private donations, Possibility Scholarships assist promising students with tuition, room, and board, as well as hands-on research and international service learning. The program is designed to aid students from the Syracuse and Oswego school districts who meet Oswego’s admissions criteria. Largely supporting the initiative are members of the Alumni Association, but all are invited to participate by contacting oswego.edu/possibility.

- An Oswego Engineering Board met for the first time last November. The group, which includes alumni and community professionals in engineering and related fields, is setting the course for the college’s new program. One board member, Ruth Baltus ’77, presently chair of chemical and biomolecular engineering at Clarkson University, notes that “Oswego’s strength is the ability to put an engineering education in the context of a broader education. You need engineers these days that can address the profession within broader perspectives: cultural, ethical, regulatory.”

- Expecting to take advantage of the Possibility Scholarships and the new engineering curriculum is Oswego’s STEM program, which invites local high school students to enroll at the college with an elite group of science, technology, engineering and math majors, and to go on to graduate work at a major research university.

- John McHugh, former North Country congressman and now Secretary of the Army, was scheduled to give the college’s May commencement address, but asked to be relieved of the assignment when it became apparent that he and not the graduates would be the object of attention that day. It was expected that students and the community would disrupt the ceremony because of the controversy over the armed services’ “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy. McHugh, once a proponent of the policy, but now ready to discard it, felt that he should withdraw for the sake of the graduating students and their families. Mr. McHugh was replaced by the best-selling author and activist, Naomi Wolf, who spoke on “The Changemakers: Ethical Leadership and Real Power.”

- Fritz Messere has been named founding dean of the college’s newest academic unit, the School of Communication, Media and the Arts. Fritz had acted as the interim dean since the school’s establishment in January 2008. The school includes the departments of art, communications, music and theatre, which are becoming increasingly collaborative. This fall the school’s faculty has begun to plan a full-scale renovation of Tyler Hall, home of three of the departments. A future possibility is for Tyler to connect with Hewitt Union, which would house the communications department. Also in the future is the possibility of an addition to Tyler that would overlook Glimmerglass Lagoon and include a state-of-the-art indoor performing and gallery space and an outdoor amphitheater.

- In addition to semester- and summer-long overseas programs, Oswego offers quite a few advanced classes with overseas segments: Travel Photography (Amsterdam), International Environmental Studies (Brazil), Tropical Marine Biology (Virgin Islands), Schooling, Pedagogy and Social Justice (Paris and Benin), Impact and Influence of Fermentation Science on a Global Society (Belgium), Global City (Cape Town, Edinburgh, Istanbul, London, Paris, Rome, Tokyo), Contemporary Italy (Rome and Altomonte), International Business (Hangzhou and Shanghai), and Astrophysics (Brazil). In 2008-09, Oswego sent nearly 20 percent of its students abroad, compared with a one percent average nationally.

- “Going Green” is academically, as well as economically, important to the college. Among other programs, Oswego’s revived Energy Institute brought science and technology schoolteachers to campus last year to learn new ways to teach the next generation about global energy concerns, and science faculty took environmental issues to the local community with town-hall discussions on such topics as "The Energy Future of Our Community." The class of 2009 set a goal of endowing an “eco-fund” to support campus environmental projects, and the college became a partner in the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems, an industry-university collaboration that works toward creating innovations in green technology.

- In June, President Stanley traveled to Brazil to sign three agreements that establish some of the first in Oswego’s planned world-spanning network of global laboratories. The network is a key component of the college’s new Possibility Scholarship program, which assists talented students in the sciences with hands-on research and international learning experiences. At the signing ceremony, Stanley noted that the new partnerships “will strengthen relationships between scientists for the purpose of developing the next generation of highly skilled, globally engaged scientists.”
A pilot program to train 120 veterans in emerging jobs in green industries was begun in February at Oswego’s Metro Center in downtown Syracuse. A $317,000 grant from federal stimulus funds through the state’s Department of Labor made the pilot program possible. Students are veterans and their spouses who will be trained in rural and urban agriculture, food supply and distribution, environmental technology, or other environmental sustainability fields.

This past summer, the School of Communication, Media and the Arts hosted the 2010 New York State Summer School of the Arts. The program, recognized as one of the finest programs of its kind, each year provides students with the opportunity to study in an atmosphere that features innovative thinking in a variety of art forms—video, film, photography and graphic arts. Participants work in small groups with instructors, and at the end of the program produce a final showing and screening of their work.

The college has announced the founding of the newly endowed Gordon A. Lenz Center for Finance, Insurance and Risk Management in the School of Business. It will support the first dedicated four-year program to focus on insurance and risk management studies in SUNY. Also one of only a few in the country, it is a program that has increased in importance as the nation seeks solutions to current health care issues. It is named for Gordon Lenz ’58, a member of the College Foundation board and a widely known and respected insurance industry executive and innovator. Organizers, spurred on by local businesses and the Metropolitan Development Association of Central New York, say the program meets a key industry need. Students will take core business courses in accounting, business law, finance, marketing and management, as well as math and economics.

A new online MBA program will enable students as diverse as soldiers at Fort Drum, busy professionals around New York state and Oswego alumni from Pennsylvania to India to obtain their master’s degrees in business administration. The School of Business will enroll an estimated 20 to 25 students for the program’s first semester starting in January. Oswego, the first comprehensive college in the SUNY system to offer an MBA, starting in 1997, has increased the options for obtaining the degree: for example, rotating courses between the main campus and the SUNY Oswego Metro Center in downtown Syracuse. The school, working with the Division of Extended Learning, has steadily added online sections of courses to assist students who cannot travel easily. The school will offer both an on-campus orientation and a program-ending capstone experience for online students. Those unable to attend can petition for release from either residential experience. The present MBA program currently enrolls 115 students, a leap of 55 percent over the fall of 2009.

Small-business advisers based at SUNY Oswego and Jefferson Community College have won a national award from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Oswego’s Small Business Development Center, part of Watertown’s center received the Service Excellence and Innovation Award in May during the Small Business Week observance. In the decade the Oswego and Watertown office has been open, it has created or saved 1,584 jobs and helped business people find $59.1 million in funding.

A SUNY Oswego team’s groundbreaking research on the effects of low levels of lead in children’s bloodstream recently broke through the stiff competition for federal stimulus funds. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided nearly $75,000 for an additional member of the research team and related costs. The team is working to confirm their initial findings that lead adversely affects the young cardiovascular system’s response to psychological stress. It continues to investigate the complex biochemical interplay that is causing that effect.

For all of you Laker sports fans, here are the highlights of the 2009-2010 year. As reported some time ago, the men’s hockey team recorded one of the most successful seasons in program history. Oswego put together a 22-game win streak to ascend to the top of the national polls, where it remained for 10 straight weeks en route to winning the Pathfinder Bank Classic and the SUNY Athletic Conference Championship and regular season title. The 26-3-0 Lakers returned to the NCAA Division III championships for the first time since 2007, but fell to St. Norbert 4-3 in the semifinal round. The Laker women’s ice hockey team remained in the thick of the ECAC West playoff chase until the final week of the season, but narrowly missed the postseason, finishing with a league mark of 5-12-1 and an overall record of 7-17-1. The men’s basketball team started the season by taking first place at the Max Ziel Tournament. It clinched a spot in the SUNYAC playoffs with a regular season league mark of 7-11, finishing the year at 13-13 overall. The women’s basketball team used a five-game winning streak in January to help clinch a fifth seed in the SUNYAC playoffs with a league record of 10-8. It ended the season at 13-13. In wrestling, head coach Mike Howard and the team had several team and individual successes, including a fifth-place finish at the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference Championships. In another successful season for the men’s and women’s swimming and diving programs, both squads finished in fifth place at the SUNYAC Championships and sent three divers to the NCAA Championships in March. And a month earlier, men’s and women’s indoor track and field teams each finished in eighth place at the SUNYAC Championships. A reminder: Emeriti are eligible for free and discounted faculty tickets for all athletic events. We are still members of the college community!

--From SUNY Oswego news releases
A collaboration between USA TODAY and the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) provides tools and information to help college-bound students assess the quality of the undergraduate experience at schools they are considering. Colleges are not ranked, but they are reviewed according to five benchmarks: The level of academic challenge in the classroom, the level of meaningful academic participation in and out of class, student-faculty interaction in and out of class, the quality of activities provided by the college at large that complement the classroom experience, and institutional support that helps the student become successful. Several SUNY units are participating in the survey: Binghamton, the four-year colleges at Buffalo, Cortland and Oneonta, and the two-year college at Cobleskill.

In the past decade, the average increase in public college tuition, fees, and room and board has been 46 percent, from $10,440 to $15,210. For private colleges the increase has been 28 percent, from an average of $27,740 to $35,640. But even as the price tag of a college degree outpaces inflation, a handful of universities are picking up full tuition for their students. Military academies are in that list, of course, but Webb Institute, Berea College, College of the Ozarks, and Cooper Union are among those private schools that provide free tuition, often through work and internship programs. At the College of the Ozarks, for instance, dubbed “Hard Work U,” every student participates in an on-campus work program for 15 hours a week, plus two forty-hour workweeks. Some may do landscaping, others work in the cafeteria or on production lines making fruitcake and jellies.

Although fewer than 10 percent of college students attend for-profit colleges, those schools account for 44 percent of all defaults on federal student loans. It is expected that the government will lend $300 billion to students over the next decade, and the growth of those loans will be fueled by for-profits in which recruiters are paid on how many students they sign up. Instructors are paid on course completions, and there is no risk to executives or investors because the loans are guaranteed by the government. One manager of a financial fund notes, “The incentives to grow far outweigh the incentives to educate.”

This past spring, Rochester’s Nazareth College hosted an Interfaith Understanding Conference which drew participants from a wide geographic and faith area, and an group from the college journeyed to the Middle East to sign an agreement of cooperation with Al Quds University which enrolls Palestinian students and is just outside the security wall on the east side of Jerusalem. According to Muhammad Shafiq, the director of Nazareth’s Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue, “We are looking for more relations, both with Palestinians and Israelis, to promote peacemaking in the area.” Nazareth’s Center, founded on Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, is in keeping with the goal of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to encourage educational interfaith agendas in colleges around the country. Nazareth’s interfaith curriculum and programs intend to “celebrate our similarities but also to focus on differences that have been a source of discord,” notes Nazareth’s vice president for academic affairs, Sara Varhus, former professor of English and dean at Oswego.

A recent study by faculty at the U of California-Riverside found that college students spend ten fewer hours a week studying now than they did in 1961. But college grades on average have gone up. Their question: Are professors demanding less while giving better grades? One of the authors of the study notes “We appear to be catering to students’ demands for leisure.”

A special section of the September 24 Chronicle of Higher Education entitled “Diversity in Academe: Social Class on the American Campus” offers a number of interesting and revealing discussions for those who are interested in the topic: achieving economic diversity on campuses, low-income applicants, race and gender of doctoral recipients, hiring minority scholars, training American Indian dentists, steering minority undergraduates to doctoral programs, a bi-lingual creative writing program at the U of Texas-El Paso, and undocumented students for instance. The edition offers insight into a growing area of interest and concern for our still-active academic colleagues.

At the University of Victoria in British Columbia, you don’t need to know Fibonacci’s rabbit formula (fn=fn-1+fn-2) to realize that the university has a serious problem. Fibonacci was the 13th century mathematician who posed the question: If you start with two rabbits which reproduce each month, and their offspring reproduce each month, at the end of the year how many rabbits would you have? “A lot!” says Victoria’s director of facilities, and that is exactly how many rabbits the university has. The campus, located in a sprawling, park-like setting is littered with them. Descended from abandoned Easter pets or escaped from medical labs, the rabbits laze outside classrooms, chase one another around parking lots, nibble on grass outside the library. They also burrow under sports fields, are regularly flattened by cars, devour tender new plantings at a pace that would have given Mr. McGregor a coronary, and litter the lawns with droppings. The university would like to kill them, but that’s not so easy to pull off on a campus with 19,000 students, where rabbit sensibilities run high (Of course there is an exception to that sensibility. Quite a few students come from lands where rabbit is a delicacy, and at times the rabbit population does decrease by one or two). There is a happy-ever-after ending, however. A hundred or so rabbits will remain on campus, but sanctuaries have agreed to take nearly all the rabbits and some are being taken into homes. To apply for one, contact the university. If you want two, remember Fibonacci’s formula!
According to an attorney, it is very important to get our financial and personal records in order, especially if a relative or friend will one day have responsibility for our affairs. The following personal and financial records are recommended.

Personal Records. These should include the following information:

- Full legal name
- Social Security number
- Legal residence
- Date and place of birth
- Names and addresses of spouse and children (location of death certificates if any are deceased)
- Location of will or trust
- Location of birth certificate and certificates of marriage, divorce, and citizenship
- List of employers and dates of employment
- Education and military records
- Religious affiliation, name of church or synagogue, and names of clergy (if desired)
- Memberships in organizations, and awards received
- Requests, preferences, or prearrangements for burial

A family member or friend should know the location of the personal records file and the location of all important papers and documents, although it is not necessary to reveal the contents of wills or trusts.

Financial Records. In making a financial records file, list information about insurance policies, bank accounts, deeds, investments, and other valuables, using this outline:

- Sources of income and assets (wages, pensions, interest, dividends, etc.)
- Social Security and Medicare information
- Investment income (Stocks, bonds, property)
- Insurance information (Life, health, auto, property), with policy numbers
- Location of safe deposit boxes
- Copies of recent income tax returns
- Liabilities—what is owed to whom and when payments are due
- Mortgages and debts—how and when paid
- Credit card and charge account names and numbers
- Property taxes

Location of valuable personal items such as jewelry or family treasures

It is also important to know what Medicare does and does not cover. It does not cover most nursing home or home care. Medicaid is a program for people with limited income and pays for some services. Since state laws vary, it is important to check with a local office on aging. You may wish to explore long-term care insurance options.

Three legal documents (power of attorney, durable power of attorney, and a living will) should be discussed with your legal counsel. Both powers of attorney authorize a person or persons to act on your behalf, but the standard power of attorney loses its effectiveness if you become legally incompetent. The durable power of attorney will continue in force. A living will, recognized in most but not all states, provides written instructions concerning health care in the event of a terminal illness.

Now, what do we do with all those old receipts and credit card statements that keep piling up? Some lawyers belong to the “keep almost everything, just in case” school. They generally say the following, however:

Throw out now: Bills of sale, credit card receipts and statements for items that either have no tax impact or don’t represent important assets; expired warranties; papers relating to smaller assets (such as appliances) that you no longer have, unless you’re depreciating them as a business expense.

Three to six years: Tax-related documents. The general statute of limitations is three years, but to be safe, keep all tax records six years. Note: There is no limit in the case of tax fraud!

Indefinitely: Depreciation records and documents of purchases, improvements, and tax-return treatment of assets such as real estate until the assets are sold, plus three years.

Records relating to investments, IRAs and the like, pensions, insurance contracts, and other contracts should be kept until the transaction has been fully completed and/or all funds withdrawn (which might mean indefinitely). All contributions, distributions or rollovers for IRAs, then, probably must be kept indefinitely.

Legal counsel notes that it is almost impossible to tell when the IRS may take a look at values on appraisals, gift tax returns and family buyouts. It is therefore important to keep all buyout agreements and records that set value.

And, finally, it is suggested that we permanently store estate planning documents, wills, trusts, estate tax returns, birth certificates or adoption records, military records, marriage or divorce records, custody agreements, and proof of naturalization for naturalized citizens. And don’t forget where you stored them!
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