Greetings from Oswego:

Living in Oswego, I have frequent occasion to drive on or past the campus and am amazed at the extent of construction that is underway. Nothing like it has been seen since the 1960s. It holds great promise for the future of the college but I do not envy the students and faculty who must cope with the dislocation in the meantime. It is quite a change from the later years of my career when even basic maintenance was hard to come by. Go to http://www.oswego.edu/ and search the word construction and you will find several articles and pictures.

In August about 55 of us gathered for our forty-third annual luncheon in Sheldon Hall Ballroom. As usual, the main activity was the visiting and catching up that went on around the tables and in the corridors. Academic Vice President and Provost Dr. Lorrie Clemo, gave us a most upbeat report on a number of very significant recent program developments and accomplishments of the students and faculty. Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Kerry Dorsey greeted us and spoke about how important faculty are to the experiences of students and their recollections of Oswego.

Rev. Jim Tschudy read the names of nine emeriti and five associates who died during the past year. The names of nine faculty and professional staff who retired this year were read. Bob Schell presented a plaque for Caroline L. G. Scales Hall. The recipient of this year’s Emeriti Scholarship is Kristen Tryon, a senior graphic design major. Nine memorial books were placed in Penfield Library during the past year and luncheons were held at Springside in October and April with 49 and 48 in attendance, respectively.

We elected Leslie King to fill the final year of Jim LeFlore’s unexpired term and Emily Oaks, Laree Pease, and Linda Tyrrell (formerly Syrell) to three-year terms as directors during the twenty-third Annual Meeting. We adopted a program of activities for the coming year, including a new program to be presented to active faculty and staff who are looking ahead to retirement. We amended the constitution to add a new first purpose of the Association: Maintenance of the traditions and collective memory of the College and transmission of them to the College community.

Our next Springside luncheon will be on Monday, October 29. Please remember our Scholarship Endowment Fund and tell your family members about our scholarship.

That’s my Emeriti news from Oswego.

From the Editor's Desk

John Fisher

Help me, Cassius, or I sink — Julius Caesar, Act I, Sc. 2

Well, the Emeriti Association is hardly going to sink, but we can always use a little more help. We were recently fortunate to find hardy souls to accept nomination to the Board of Directors, and other members have been willing in the past to accept an assignment or to volunteer for the good of the organization and the college and its students. Many among us find it personally satisfying to maintain contact with SUNY Oswego and former colleagues through the Emeriti Association.

In this issue of the Newsletter you will find a list of the many projects of our Emeriti Association. In essence, the list tells a great story about our continued interest in the college, and how we emeriti contribute to the college, even in our retirement.

We’d like to hear from you if you have an interest in any of our projects. We would especially like to hear from you if you can write. I have been your editor since we first organized, and would like to add a member or two to the editorial board.

Take a look at the list. Can you help? Do you have ideas we can use to make a difference at the college? If so, contact Vern Tryon (315-343-9692 / Vernon@Tryon.com) or me (jcjbfisher@frontiernet.net).

And to those who have been at the college for more than a few years, we're sending you a copy of this newsletter just in case you, too, would like to join us in our work.

Whoops! Correction . . . .

Your editor goofed in last spring’s issue, and you can thank Terry Hammill for this correction. “Oswego and the Nation” for November 1952 states that “Dwight D. Eisenhower defeats Thomas Dewey for the presidency,” but obviously should have read “Dwight D. Eisenhower defeats Adlai Stevenson for the presidency.” Your editor should have known better, especially since he was saddened by the outcome!
Friends We’ve Heard From and About

Congratulations to Ron Brown, the Alumni Association’s spring inductee to the Faculty Hall of Fame, whose reported teaching philosophy can be summed up in three letters: F-U-N. When he joined the physics faculty in 1971, the department needed to attract non-majors to remain viable, and Ron’s mission was to make physics understandable for those fulfilling general education requirements and education majors looking for fun ways to use science in their own classrooms. He utilized wooden toys that illustrate gravity and kinetic energy. In his annual egg drop activity, students would devise protective coverings for a raw egg and drop the package from the third floor of Snygg Hall. In a separate alumni magazine article, a former student, math teacher Tom Vakkas ’98, credits Ron for opening his eyes to using toys and entertainment to teach. In 1974, Ron’s creative approach won him the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. In retirement, Ron continues his interest in the history of physics, and he also continues to play ragtime and classical pieces on the piano.

The Spring Emeriti Luncheon at “South Campus” this year was its usual success, with a large number of retirees in attendance: Will and Lois Allen, Pat Benjamin, Mary Bennett, Frank and Gloria Bickel, Ron Brown, Mary Dorsey, Sherry Dunham, Ellie Filburn, “Mike” Harrison, Bernie Henderson, Deale Hutton, Lou and Marilee Iorizzo, June Johnston, Florence Kirk, Paul Liebenauer, Harry and Lorraine Nash, Queenie O’Neil-Sands, Emily Oaks, Larree Pease, Ken and Lois Peterson, Bob and Shirley Rock, Karen Sawyer, Ruth Sayer, Bob Schell, Ray and Marlene Schneider, Ralph and Marion Spencer, Vern and June Tryon, Juanita and Jim Tschudy, Herb and Sandy VanSchaack, Jim Wassenaar, and Gay Williams. Your editor was a bit snow-bound (Love that upstate spring weather!), but friends reported that a great time was had by all.

The spring issue of the alumni magazine, OSWEGO, features an article announcing the creation of the Ernest B. Luongo Memorial Scholarship. Spearheading the drive to raise funds are Dan Scaia ’68, Harry Nash, and the family of Ernie Luongo. Harry and Ernie were lifelong friends, and Dan readily acknowledges Ernie’s belief in his academic promise as well as his abilities in soccer. Anyone interested in contributing to the scholarship can call the development office.

Oswego native Peggy La Tulip Focarino ’77 is another former student who recognizes the influence that former faculty had on their lives. As the nation’s first woman Commissioner for Patents, she credits emeriti John O’Dwyer, Ram Chaudhari, and Paul Liebenauer for making a positive impression on the physics department’s only female student. She speaks of the “wonderful, fatherly way” John led the small department and its eight majors, and hopes to instill a love of science and technology in the next generation, lest America finds itself “woefully behind the rest of the world.”

As a professor of chemistry, Todd Pagano ’96 opens a world of scientific inquiry for deaf students at RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf. In the fall of 2011, he was elected a fellow of the American Chemical Society. And last spring, he traveled to San Diego to give the keynote speech at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society. In attendance at the black-tie affair was his former mentor, Ray O’Donnell, who was responsible for starting the student ACS chapter at Oswego. Pagano credits Ray with opening his eyes “to what it meant to be a member of the profession.” Ken Hyde, he has also said, “really turned me on. He confirmed for me that I wanted to major in chemistry.” It has also been noted that Todd’s philosophy of teaching is student-centered, which his Oswego mentors and college founder Edward Austin Sheldon would likely approve.

Jasmyn Belcher ’06, a producer for StoryCorps, a nonprofit oral history project often featured on NPR and collected in the national archives, started her career on campus as a reporter and producer for WRVO, where she earned upwards of 40 awards for her work. She tells us that her discovery of journalism in college and the “intense” instruction of mentor Ron Graeff made broadcast her professional pursuit. Debra Schutt ’77, winner of the 2011 Emmy Award for “Outstanding Art Direction” and a 2008 nominee for an Academy Award, has designed several dozen stage and film sets since she was graduated from Oswego. As an upperclassman, she was drawn to the technical side of theatre and found mentors in department staff like emeritus Jon Vermilye, himself a graduate in 1966. Debra’s experience in Waterman Theatre helped her get her first work in theatre, and in the mid-1980s she transitioned to film.

Lew Turco has added a companion to his previous books, The Book of Literary Terms and The Book of Dialogue, with his newly revised version of The Book of Forms. This edition shows the crafts of poetry, adding new forms and examples by young and older contemporary poets. It is available from the University Press of New England.

In May, we learned that Sandy Sternlicht received a Syracuse U Tolley Humanities Grant to script and narrate a short film, “Jewish Immigration and Life on NYC’s Lower East Side.” With a team of Newhouse film majors he drove to the Big Apple and filmed the walking tour that accompanies a course he has taught at SU, "The Immigrant Saga: The Lower East Side and Early Jewish American Writers." The students were delighted with the project, especially since it was their first paid film work.

Quite a few of us enjoyed getting together at the annual August Luncheon in the Sheldon Hall Ballroom, and several shared their experiences since we had last seen them. Harry and Lorraine Nash, like many of us, spend time visiting doctors, but do manage to continue playing pinochle with Lois and Will Allen, who were in attendance. Herb Garber recently played the part of Marvin...
Michaelis (the part played by Walter Matthau) in Neil Simon’s California Suite to happy, laughing audiences in their Heritage Village auditorium in Connecticut. Doris tells us that she was among those laughing the loudest!

Jan and Paul Hutko and former faculty member Jerry Davis and his wife, Ruth, recently visited Cherokee county in South Carolina as members of a Road Scholar (Formerly Elderhostel) group. And, incidentally, if you enjoy relatively inexpensive educational travel and have not tried that program, check out roadscholar.org. Ray and Molly Schneider send greetings to all, tell us they are practicing gerontology and will continue to update us on their studies. Joan Schum reports that the highlight of this year was celebrating Will’s 80th birthday at the Ritz-Carlton at Lake Oconee, Georgia, with their family. And they continue their volunteer activities in Florida, most significantly at the Venice Hospital, where both have been active for the past 18 years.

Jerry Exline just can’t leave the classroom and his profession! After 15 years, he still teaches in the visual and performing arts department at LeMoyne College. He is a collaborative accompanist for professional singers in Syracuse, producer and director of the acclaimed Tony Regulbuto Show, organist of the Luther Memorial Church in North Syracuse, and accompanist for the Ross-Eisenman-Ensworth Trio. He also handles development and fund-raising for the Civic Morning Musicale in Syracuse and is a member of the Bearcat Jazz Band. But he still looked as spry as ever at the luncheon!

This past April, Luther Peterson traveled throughout Greece and the Greek Islands, and topped off his tour with a visit to western Turkey. In the fall of 2011, Leslie and David King had a great trip to China, just as tourists. They were in Shanghai and Beijing, but also had a 5-day cruise on the Zantze River and saw the terra cotta soldiers—a wonderful highlight of the trip. They have enjoyed a few other trips as well—to New York City, Washington, DC, and Florida. They hope to keep travel high on their agenda, especially when Dave retires, which he recently suggested might be fairly soon. Hugh and Grace Mowatt Burritt have also had recent traveling excitement. This fall had them into the air to Italy, where they experienced a variety of Renaissance scenes. And they continue their golfing and swimming, of course.

A number of emeriti and spouses who attended the luncheon were speechless—if you can believe it! They were Henry and Billie Angle, Alex and Ana Beattie, Ron Brown, Mary Dorsey, Sherry Dunham, Ellie Filburn, Barbara Gerber, “Mike” Harrison, June Johnston, Paul Liebenauer, Ray and Mary Lou O’Donnell, John O’Dwyer, Emily Oaks, Laree Pease, Virginia Pratt, Karen Sawyer, Ruth Sayer, Bob Schell, Barbara Shineman, Ralph and Marion Spencer, Vern and June Tryon, Juanita and Jim Tschudy, Frank and Linda Syrell Tyrrell, Johanna VanGeet, and Herb and Sandy Van Schaack. If they leave us a note for you at the conclusion of next year’s August Luncheon, your editor will put their names in bold lettering!

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.

Please add your e-mail address to the envelope when you return it, note any changes in your address(es), and include the name of your spouse. If you have two addresses, please indicate which is appropriate for receiving the fall and spring issues of the Newsletter. Send that information even if you have already made this year’s contribution.

Also, please note that the enclosed envelope invites you to support the Emeriti Association’s special activities that cannot be entirely funded by the annual contributions. Those activities include the SUNY Oswego Emeriti Scholarship to be granted annually to a child or descendant of emeriti or active faculty.

Finally, if you did not have the opportunity at the August luncheon to let us know what has been going on in your life this past year, please send us a note in the envelope. Your colleagues really do want to keep up with you. You all say, in fact, that the most important part of the Emeriti Newsletter is the news about old friends. The rest is dispensable, but you aren’t!

College Documentary Available

For an enlightening, inspirational view of the history of the college, your editor suggests that you go to the website Oswego.edu/about/150/documentary and view the video series The Story of Oswego—150 Years. You will find eight highly interesting chapters on “Our Founding,” “Spectacular Campus,” “Oswego and the World,” “Laker Lore,” “Athletic Spirit,” “Becoming SUNY Oswego,” and “Our Future.” You will be glad you watched this amazing series.
The Legends: True or False?

As with any campus, over the years several legends have developed about supposed or real events at SUNY Oswego, and this past spring, during the sesquicentennial celebration, there were questions about the truth of several. Let’s see how many of us do know fact from fiction—or still have memories of past events.

1. Legend: A car is buried somewhere on campus.
2. Legend: The college has been the proud owner of a U.S. president’s bathtub.
4. Legend: There once were rope panels strung along pathways at the college to keep students from being blown away by winds off Lake Ontario.
5. Legend: At one time there were a horse farm and a ski lift next to each other at the college.
6. Legend: There once was a military hangar on campus that housed a zoo.
7. Legend: At one time the college had heated sidewalks on campus to melt ice and snow.
8. Legend: A view of the entire campus was once seen on national television.
9. Legend: An Oswego president has gone on to become chancellor of SUNY.
10. Legend: Edward Austin Sheldon, the founder of the college, never attended college himself.

(Answers on page 8)

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 the Emeriti Association sponsors a scholarship for which he or she may qualify.

For several years, we have annually offered a scholarship to a direct descendent of an Oswego emeritus or current faculty member. Eligible applicants must be matriculated undergraduate students at Oswego, demonstrate financial need as indicated by the FAFSA Scholarship Application, and describe their relationship to an emeritus or current faculty member. Application forms, available at the Alumni Office (315-312-2258), are due by February first.

In Memoriam

Irene Canfield                                          February 2012  Associate Member
Louise Harter                                           February 2012  Associate Member
Katherine L. Beers                                      May 2012  Associate Member
Tullio “Leo” Garzone                                    June 2012  Associate Professor Emeritus
Curriculum and Instruction (Active 1974-December 2001)
J. Michael Adams                                        June 2012  Former Professor, Technology (1972-1984)
Joan Mathieu                                            June 2012  President, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Emeriti Activities, 2012-2013


Founder’s Day. A committee will meet in the fall to explore possibilities for collaboration that would put more information about the founder and the history of the college into the curriculum for education majors.

Memorial Books. Honor the memory of deceased faculty with a book given to Penfield Library.

Building Plaque. Continue the Memorial Plaque project with a plaque to be placed in Romney Field House. The remaining buildings named for faculty are Funnelle and Hart Halls.

Emeriti Scholarship. Award a 5th SUNY Oswego scholarship to a descendent of an emeritus or faculty member in the fall of 2012, funds to be taken from the Emeriti Scholarship Endowment.

Regional Emeriti Luncheons. Continue March-April and October luncheons at Springside in Minetto.


Commencement. Encourage emeriti to attend spring commencement.

Development and Alumni Meetings. Encourage the participation of emeriti in alumni gatherings around the country.

Retirement Seminars. Share retirement experiences with those faculty members who are considering their own retirement.
**So, What’s New on Campus?**

- Short-term options for study followed by travel have increased rapidly at the college in recent years, including a first-time program culminated in May 2011 with a trip to Iceland. “Earth’s Fury in Iceland” now offers an intense study of ash, glaciers and geothermal activity. The eruption a year ago of Iceland’s Eyjafjallajokull volcano provides students with a vivid experience to bring coursework to life. Other travel destinations following on-campus courses are Ireland, the Congo, Brazil, Australia, and Greece.

- Interested in taking a tour of the Oswego campus, even in your PJs? Check out YourCampus360 on the college website for a complete walking tour. And if a grandchild is interested in an application form, one is available.

- In June 2011, the first GENIUS Olympiad took place on campus, featuring an exhibition of student projects and a ceremony with noted National Geographic photographer Annie Griffiths. Over 130 student finalists and their mentors from more than 30 nations exhibited their science and art projects focused on two precious global resources, oil and water, and how to clean up major oil spills in the oceans. The five-day Global Environmental Issues U.S. (GENIUS) conference offered scholarships, prizes and medals to students whose projects were judged best in their categories. The program continued this past summer.

- Five years ago, Gary Morris of Oswego’s Career Services Office decided to climb Mount Kilimanjaro; his wife blamed approaching middle age. So he went alone. Once there, he thought he’d like to have Oswego students join him. And in January 2012, he and another faculty member, Mehran Nojan, did just that—took a class to the top of Kilimanjaro, not only to climb the mountain but to meet the people of the region. Prior to the trip, students registered for a course about the people and culture of Tanzania, trained to prepare for the climb and first climbed Mount Marcy to gauge their preparedness.

- As announced earlier, the college opened twelve townhouses known as The Village along Glimmerglass in 2011 for 348 juniors, seniors and graduate students. We now learn that the U.S. Green Building Council has certified the 68 units as meeting the “LEED Gold” rating under its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Homes program. Exterior siding is a concrete fiberboard—made to withstand Oswego winters—that cover insulated panels to make the buildings energy efficient. Other features include a high-efficiency heat recovery ventilation system and environmentally preferred products. In March The Village was showcased at the annual New York State Green Building Conference.

- SUNY Oswego has an economic impact of more than $427.9 million in New York State, and $345 million in Central New York. It employs 1,754 full-time workers with a payroll of $98.3 million. During the 2008-09 school year, it generated an estimated 3,049 jobs in Oswego County and an additional 4,017 jobs in the six neighboring ones.

- In the fall of 2011, the college received a $300,000 NSF grant to develop a program to attract talented science and math students to become K-12 teachers, particularly in high-need school districts. The STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program, a cooperative effort of the School of Education and the College of Liberal Arts, will take advantage of projects already in place: Rice Creek Biological Field Station; Project SMART, a learning group of educators and community leaders across the state; summer research opportunities for students; and collaboration with the Syracuse Academy of Science. The college is well positioned to move forward, with the $118 million new science and engineering complex opening in 2013.

- The college has launched SUNY’s first multiple-major program, which can place students into full-time paying jobs in their area of interest for up to six months. Students will take theory into such companies as Welch Allyn and IBM, while earning up to $16,000 for a half-year of work, establishing a network of contacts, and funding their education. By using summers to earn credits, students will still graduate in four years.

- Two new graduate certificate programs in health will help feed the need for trained workers to make medical records available electronically. One 15-credit-hour certificate will prepare systems professionals to deal with the latest innovations for handling medical information securely. Another will provide training in human-computer-human interaction and social networking technologies in the transition from paper to digital records.

- Oswego’s psychology department is teaming with the Syracuse U department of public health to offer undergraduate military veterans a program in trauma research training. A two-year, $ 228,750 NSF grant will fund the research training, which includes an online research methods course and a four-week summer institute at Oswego, concluding the following year with research and analysis. Ten undergraduate veterans a year for the two years will each receive a $3,000 stipend.

- A trauma studies graduate certificate program was recently designed to serve a wide range of health care workers who encounter people emotionally shocked by war, disaster, abuse, or other stresses. It will be available to students in the existing program in mental health...
counseling and to licensed mental health professionals, but will also provide expertise to nurses, social workers, veterans’ caregivers, police and firefighters, and others who provide related services.

Last February, Edward Austin Sheldon came to life when a famous alumna and four students presented excerpts in a readers theatre performance of his biography, letters, and favorite music. They gave voice to the founder and important people in his life. Starring in the production was Robin Curtis, ’78, once featured in Star Trek movies, who retired as a professional actress in 1999 and now lives in Cazenovia.

Also last February, the college announced a $43,910 State Education Department grant to a School of Education program to increase the number of students of color training for careers in urban schools. The grant enables the Teacher Opportunity Corps program to provide stipends to income-qualifying teaching candidates and to purchase needed equipment.

More recently, the NYS Education Department granted the college $1.73 million in federal Race to the Top funding to support a 3-year proposal to establish a teacher training pilot program in nine high-need secondary schools in Oswego County, Syracuse and New York City. The Oswego Residency Initiative for Teacher Excellence, a graduate program, will place mid-career professionals with full-year school placements in exchange for an agreement to stay in the district after the placement ends. Candidates’ undergraduate degrees must be in math, a science or linguistics.

In 2011, 19 faculty members offered a service-learning component in course work to more than 430 students. In 1998, when Dr. Laura Brown began offering students a service-learning option in an introductory gerontology course, only a couple of other Oswego courses challenged students to get out in the community to apply what they were learning in class. Courses offering such opportunities today range from public justice to music with such organizations as the YMCA, the Oswego Animal Shelter, and the BOCES Migrant Education Outreach Program. And the rewards are two-way. Brown remembers the joy in the face of the Japanese-American student who had visited WWII veterans in an Oswego nursing home. “She floated back to the classroom, she was so excited” Brown said. The veterans were grateful for the student’s willing ear, and they wanted to hear about her own family’s times during the war. “The student said, ‘I did that. I made a difference.’ ”

A SUNY Oswego student researcher, Tyler Maxon, has advanced a faculty member’s years-long study in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on plants that help diabetics. He and the faculty member, Webe Kadima, are looking at what’s in the plants that makes them bioactive, in order to identify how plants used in traditional medicine in the DRC work to lower blood glucose levels in diabetic patients.

The college’s athletic department has received a 2010-2011 Division III Athletic Administrators Community Service Award for raising over $442,000 and participating in nearly 20 events, including the annual Fall Leaf Rake and the St. Baldrick’s headshaving fundraiser. The Lakers were one of only 15 NCAA Division III institutions that were eligible for the community service awards in three separate categories.

A $90,000 National Park Service grant, the second for the college, is helping to catalog and map the origins of at least 160,000 centuries-old Native American and other artifacts from archeological sites around the state. Two students a semester are paid to research and catalog pottery shards and pipe stems, grinding stones, and other items from their manufacture. In all, five dozen students have worked on the project as part of a course, "Archeology Lab and Collection Management." Skeletal remains and funerary objects are repatriated to the nation associated with them.

Last March, the 3rd-ranked Oswego men’s ice hockey team (24-4-2) fell short of capturing its second NCAA Division III championship when it fell to defending champion, the 5th-ranked St. Norbert, by a score of 4-1. The Lakers earned the program’s third NCAA runner-up trophy. The team reached their third straight Frozen Four on the back of one of the nation’s top defenses, having allowed only 56 goals up to the championship game.

The Oswego women’s soccer team experienced a banner year in 2011, with an 11-8 record. The season culminated with a win over Brockport, 2-1, to get the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Upstate New York Championship.

By next spring renovations and equipment estimated at $2 million will breathe new life into Golden Romney Field House. Scheduled are a rubberized four-lane track and an artificial-turf infield for four tennis courts, lacrosse, soccer and more.

The college has named NBC and ABC news veteran Garrick Utley as senior fellow and professor of broadcasting and journalism. He will teach and hold seminars in contemporary journalism, modern media and globalization. In addition to teaching, Utley will continue his eight-year service as founder and director of New York in the World, an initiative of the SUNY Levin Institute that focuses on the competitiveness of New York in today’s global economy.

Last spring the campus Scholarly and Creative Activity Committee and President Stanley approved over 25 grants for faculty and students, for a total of $112,000. The projects sponsored by the grants are varied. Student-faculty teams support undergraduates working with faculty on research and creative projects during the academic year and during the summer. Faculty grants support scholarly and creative activity and curriculum innovation.
The 3-year schedule for renovations to Park and Wilber halls continues. Upon completion in 2013, the School of Education will be together in the two buildings, with a physical connection to the new Science, Engineering, and Innovation complex to facilitate greater collaboration between the sciences and the education faculties. Both Park and Wilber are undergoing total rehabilitation with new mechanicals and updated classrooms, offices, and labs. A Webinar room will allow for instruction that links students and faculty throughout the region, and new facilities will support instruction in such areas as engineering graphics, energy, transportation and design.

The college has launched a new combined undergraduate broadcasting and MBA degree program. Because many of our broadcasting students end up in such major markets as New York City and Los Angeles where an MBA program is more expensive than at Oswego, the program offers a tremendous savings in costs. Another advantage to students is that the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences lists Oswego’s broadcasting program among the nation’s outstanding TV, film and digital media programs, and the School of Business appears every year in Princeton Review’s guide to “Best Business Schools.”

Three spring 2013 courses will partner with a class in another nation as a pilot for the college’s recent agreement to join the SUNY Center for Collaborative Online International Learning. COIL courses will have students in their home countries use technology to collaborate on cross-cultural projects and courses.

—From OSWEGO and college news releases

The SUNY Scene

In her State of the University address last January, Chancellor Zimpher coined the term “systemness” to emphasize that the 64 campuses in the nation’s largest university complex need to work together to lower costs, improve productivity and stimulate the economy of the state. Her goals include increasing graduation rates, reducing the need for remedial education, and expanding online courses and paid internships. While state funding has been cut by $1.4 billion in the past four years, Zimpher said that SUNY is stable financially because a five-year plan for tuition hikes has been approved. She outlined other initiatives: Campuses will shift at least 5 percent of administrative spending to academics and student services over the next three years; OpenSUNY, an expanded online learning system, will be launched; a portion of funding will be directed to campuses based on performance; SUNY will ensure that programs meet workforce demands in the competitive global job market.

Four months after the chancellor’s address, SUNY announced an initiative to terminate remedial courses at community colleges. As a first step, a Remediation Task Force composed of nationally recognized researchers, representatives from the NYS Education Department, faculty, community college and K-12 leaders, and students has been created to study remediation. In announcing the initiative, Chancellor Zimpher said, “Today I want to be clear that SUNY’s goal is not only to reduce remediation, not only to be more effective in delivering remedial education . . . but to END the need for remediation in our lifetime.”

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul held ceremonies last February for 200 students potentially destined to study for three or more years at seven SUNY colleges. Of those, 53 students are likely to spend their final three years at Oswego, starting this coming spring. The Korean students have diverse academic goals in the sciences and math, in liberal arts, business, education and more. The program is part of the SUNY Global Initiative to increase its international enrollment by 14,000 students over the next five years to approximately 32,000 and also to increase the involvement of its own students in foreign studies.

With most college students now taking five or six years to complete a four-year degree, degree guarantees are popping up on campuses as a way to counter the trend. The University at Buffalo joined the ranks this semester with a program called Finish in Four. It promises students a four-year roadmap in exchange for a commitment they’ll stay on track. If a student meets the obligations but still can’t graduate in four years, UB will pay the tuition for the work that remains. Fredonia and Oswego also offer the guarantees.

An Energy Smart New York is among six SUNY initiatives to revitalize and enhance quality of life in the state. According to SUNY, the state’s energy costs run 50 percent above the national average. Among the university’s goal is a 30 percent reduction in its energy consumption by 2020 by research and changes in the habits of SUNY personnel, including students and faculty. To date, the most unique project is University at Buffalo’s Solar Strand that provides enough renewable energy to power 700 student apartments. Also scheduled to make a difference in the future are Oswego’s geothermal well field, its implementation of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold standards, and its environmental programs.

—From various sources and SUNY press releases
Answers to the Legends

1. True. In 1970, during a student-led Environmental Awareness Week, the college grounds crew, with its heavy equipment, buried a gas-guzzling Chrysler in the northern section of the island between the lanes of the divided road leading to Culkin Hall. It remains there today. It symbolized a pledge not to drive gas-guzzlers.

2. True—in a manner of speaking. C. Sidney Shepard, a wealthy businessman and an 1878 Yale classmate of William Howard Taft, once owned a 100-room estate in New Haven, east of Oswego. Shepard constructed a huge bathtub in his home in the event his friend Taft, at nearly 350 pounds, ever visited. The estate was eventually left to SUNY Oswego through Shepard’s descendants and when the college checked out the house, the bathtub was still there. Did Taft ever visit the home? There is no evidence of a visit, but the president’s bathtub was there, ready for him.

3. True. Found in the Shepard attic was a trunk filled with letters and writings by President Millard Fillmore. Shepard acquired the papers from his father’s business partner in Buffalo, a friend of fellow Buffalonian Fillmore. The papers are now housed in Penfield Library.

4. Not really. But leftover construction ropes were used as a guide when walking in the late ’70s when several buildings were new. Bob Schell reports that “the pathway behind Tyler Hall was over a little bridge and up a hill, and to mark the path, there were ropes on the side of it. They were there through the winter, and they kept us from losing small people.”

5. True. The Fallbrook recreational center, south of campus, contains a ski lodge and a barn behind the lodge, where nearly 190 larger events are held each year. Although the nearby slope, which once featured a rope tow, has not been used for skiing since the early ’80s, it is still popular with students for sledding. The barn once housed student-owned horses used for equestrian events.

6. False. BUT—Romney Field House began its life as a drill hall at Sampson Naval Training Station on the east side of Seneca Lake, south of Geneva, during WWII. Shortly after the war it was used by a hastily created Sampson College, a forerunner of SUNY, created to help relieve the high number of returning GIs who wanted to begin their studies on the GI Bill. When Sampson students were able to go on to other state colleges, the drill hall then became a military hangar for the Sampson Air Force base. In 1960 the government auctioned the land, and Tully Wells, who wanted to start an ice hockey team, traveled to Sampson and persuaded the college to purchase the hangar. It opened in 1964, was named for the former athletic chair Golden Romney (Related to the Romneys of Michigan, one of whom is a presidential aspirant), and is believed to be the first hockey rink in SUNY.

7. False. There is no evidence of this.

8. You bet! It was during one of the famous 1960s snow storms that students could look up and see helicopters from one of the national TV stations filming the city as well as the campus. They later tuned in to see themselves in the small boxes in their dorm lounges.

9. False. Some say we came close, however, when Foster Brown was considered to be a good prospect for the position of chancellor by the SUNY Board of Trustees. But Foster, always drawn to St. Lawrence in Canton, his alma mater, left Oswego when he was offered the presidency there.

10. False. Sheldon did attend Hamilton College for a time, but finally left in 1847 for health reasons and to enter the nursery business in Oswego. For his work in education, however, he was awarded two college degrees: an honorary master’s by Hamilton College in 1869, and an honorary doctorate by the Board of Regents in 1875.

From President Stanley's Desk

[In recent “Friends We’ve Heard From” articles, we have featured emeriti who have been acknowledged by former students in the alumni magazine, OSWEGO, as having greatly influenced their lives and careers. This issue of the Emeriti Newsletter continues that tradition. It is interesting to note that in the Spring 2012 issue of OSWEGO, President Stanley also refers to that influence—and shows that the influence continues. Her edited remarks are below.]

Throughout our 150-year history, a hallmark of an Oswego education has always been an emphasis on learning by doing. As I travel around the country, alumni from every era share stories of Oswego professors who involved them as equals in important research and creative projects. The pages of this [alumni] magazine are brimming with examples.

Now we are embarking on a new era of faculty/student collaboration. Oswego professors share their labs and studios with current undergraduates who contribute substantively to scholarly and artistic pursuits, and often present the results alongside their professors at conferences around the country and the world.

Academic departments create capstone experiences to help students put their classroom learning into action. We have sought external funding to help undergraduates study abroad. According to the Provost’s Office, we achieved a 23 percent increase in faculty-led student undergraduate research experiences during the 2010-2011 academic year, thanks in part to the donor-funded Summer Scholars program. We have also seen a 45 percent increase in campus grants to students for research and creative activity.

These types of opportunities are at the heart of the Oswego experience, and we are proud to make them possible for our students.
Donor Bequeaths $5 Million

[The following was announced by President Deborah Stanley last March.]

An anonymous native of Central New York who used a math degree from SUNY Oswego to make a fortune in real estate has donated approximately $5 million in support of the Possibility Scholarship program. It is the largest planned gift in the school’s history, and will affect the lives of generations of students who otherwise might not be able to afford a college education. The college’s Possibility Scholarships are provided for talented students from the state who want to study in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

The alumnus made clear that his intention is to promote the study of math, which he feels is crucial to success in most fields. “Math is a universal language and supports every other subject,” the donor said.

As a soldier toward the end of the Vietnam War, the donor used his math skills to help the Pentagon determine which troops to bring home first. After his service he began a career in real estate, where math helped him succeed. “Math was very helpful in evaluating my investments,” he said.

The donor wants to keep America more competitive in the global economy, he said, by reversing a trend toward accepting poor math skills in this country’s students. He focused his generosity on the Possibility Scholarship program because it covers all tuition, fees, and room and board, in coordination with any other grants or scholarships awarded, for four years.

The donor knows how important such aid can be. A Regents Scholar, he worked to pay his way through college, scrubbing pots and pans in the dining hall, serving as resident assistant in a Lakeside residence hall, and bartending locally. He still made the most of his time at Oswego, taking part in varied and enriching experiences, including student media. He said he wants to give back to Oswego because of the great experience he had at the college, and he wants to help others—who might not otherwise be able to afford higher education—to have the same great experience.

A third-generation American, he formed a bond with Professor Joseph Wiecha, who helped him get a scholarship to study in the land of his ancestors. “I considered that the highlight of my life,” he said. Possibility Scholars travel to one of several Global Laboratory partners that Oswego has on every continent to study and work on science projects with researchers in their fields.

The bottom line for this savvy investor and philanthropist is investing in the next generation.

Remember Stephen Weber?

[The following edited report comes to us from a May, 2011, Los Angeles Times article we thought would be of interest to emeriti.]

Reporting from San Diego—Stephen Weber says he’ll miss walking across the campus of San Diego State when he retires in a few weeks and moves to coastal Maine.

The sun-splashed campus is, to a large degree, a reflection of Weber’s 15 years as president. Beyond the new construction and landscaping, there have been significant changes in the curriculum, student achievement levels and the university’s involvement with its host city. Research funding is up, private fund-raising is up, the grade-point average of entering freshmen is up, and the percentage of students graduating in four years has increased from 38 percent to 66 percent. Plus, the football and basketball teams have just enjoyed a highly successful season. Even in the years when losing seemed to be a habit for Aztec teams, Weber was there as Fan No. 1.

At 69, Weber is retiring with his wife, Susan, to a cabin in Maine where he started his academic career. He had wanted to retire at 65 but was persuaded by faculty members and others to stay four more years. He has said he is proud of his accomplishments but disappointed that he was unable to do more to improve K-12 education in the three public schools the university runs in the inner city, and he’s also worried about a drift in political support in higher education in California.

If there is a Weber style, it’s long on collaboration, according to academics and community leaders who have worked with him.

Weber arrived in San Diego in 1996 after a year as interim provost for academic affairs at the State University of New York system and eight years as president of SUNY’s Oswego campus.

When he arrived, San Diego State had 60 students studying abroad. Today there are 1,800, as students are encouraged to consider careers in international business. He sought advice from business leaders on what kind of education they needed for their workforce, particularly in sectors key to the local economy. From that advice came curriculum changes.

Under the California Master Plan for Higher Education, state universities are still designed to be predominant-ly a place for undergraduates. But San Diego State, with its 30,000 students, has pushed that envelope and now offers 16 joint-doctoral programs.

One of Weber’s passions has been making San Diego State supportive of military veterans. More than 1,000 veterans are enrolled; the university opened the first veteran’s center in the Cal State system; all applications from veterans are reviewed by a military officer.

In a few weeks, the Webers will move to their home in Hancock Point, Maine, south of Bangor. It was their home when, with a fresh doctorate in philosophy from Notre Dame, Weber was on the faculty of the University of Maine. However, they will spend a couple of months each winter in San Diego.

“It’s a really good job for persons with a short attention span,” he said.
The purposes are to facilitate:

- Maintenance of the traditions and collective memory of the College and transmission of them to the College community
- Communication and fellowship among emeriti and associate members
- Continuing relationships between emeriti and associate members and the College community
- Involvement of emeriti and associate members in services to the College community

Membership

- All professional staff members who are not designated clerical or classified and who retire from service at SUNY Oswego shall be considered members of the Emeriti Association.
- All spouses, domestic partners, widows, and widowers of retired professional staff members at SUNY Oswego shall be considered associate members of the Emeriti Association.
- Professional staff and spouses who do not meet the above criteria may become Emeriti Associates upon approval by the Board of Directors.
- The chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Association shall communicate with professional staff persons upon their retirement, informing them of the services and programs of the Association and inviting their participation and financial support.

Financial Contribution

- Members of the Association and widows and widowers of deceased members will be invited to make an annual contribution to support the work of the Association.
- The suggested amount shall be set by the annual meeting at a level believed to be sufficient to fund the Emeriti Newsletter and other approved programs of the Association for the next year.
- Members of the Association may choose to make a one-time contribution of $125.00.

Annual Meeting

- There shall be an annual meeting of the Emeriti Association, held on the first Monday of August at an hour and place set by the Board of Directors.
- At that meeting, an annual class of Board of Directors members will be elected and any unexpired Board vacancies filled.
- The annual meeting shall act on the Board of Directors’ recommended activities for the next year and the amount of financial contribution to be requested of members.
- The fiscal year of the Association begins on the first day of July.

Board of Directors

- The business of the Association shall be conducted by a Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors shall be made up of nine (9) or ten (10) members. Three (3) members shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve three-year terms.
- If the person selected to serve as Emeriti Newsletter editor is not one of the elected Board members, that person shall become an ex-officio member of the Board, giving the Board a total membership of ten (10).
- At its first meeting after September first, the Board of Directors shall select from its own membership a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer. Board officers shall take office upon election and serve until replaced.
- The chairperson and vice chairperson of the Board of Directors shall also serve as president and vice president respectively of the Emeriti Association.
- The Board of Directors shall appoint an editor for the Emeriti Newsletter to serve for a three-year term. The editor may appoint an editorial board to help carry out the mission of the Newsletter.
- Vacancies on the Board occurring between annual meetings may be filled by the remaining members of the Board. Persons so appointed shall be subject to election to the balance of the unexpired term at the next annual meeting.
- The College’s Vice President for Development and Public Affairs or that person’s designee shall be invited to serve as the College’s liaison to the Board of Directors.
- Prior to the annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall select a three-member Nominating Committee from its own membership to present a slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors shall present to the annual meeting a schedule of proposed activities for the next year and a suggested financial contribution sufficient to fund the activities.

Amendments

- This Constitution shall be adopted and may be amended, upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at an annual meeting.
Emeriti Memorials Placed in Penfield Library

Since 1992, the Emeriti Association has donated over 150 publications to Penfield Library in the name of 123 deceased members. Each item is purchased from requests presented to the library from the former member’s department or office. Purchases are published periodically in the Emeriti Newsletter, and below is an update since our last notice in the spring of 2010.


Joan Gibson (Counseling and Psychological Services). Lynne Carroll, Counseling Sexual and Gender Minorities, Merrill, 2010.


SUNY: Does It Matter?

Once in a while we hear someone ask if the State University of New York really matters with so many private universities scattered throughout the state. Well, take a look.

Each year, SUNY’s 64 campuses provide an education for over 460,000 students with 83,000 faculty and staff. Each year it grants over 78,000 degrees, 30 percent of all degrees granted in the state. Living in the state are 1.6 million alumni.

Small Business Development centers dedicated to assisting local entrepreneurs can be found in Brockport, Buffalo State, Corning Community College, Geneseo, Oswego, and Rockland Community College. Oswego’s center provides training in business and financial planning, and marketing research through workshops and one-on-one counseling.

In a typical year, SUNY generates 360 invention disclosures, 225 patent applications, 79 patents, and 25 start-ups. It receives $1.3 billion in research revenues, and $23 million in license income.

A recent SUNY revenue was $10.3 billion, with $1.5 billion from student tuition and fees, $2.6 billion in auxiliary service sales, $3.9 billion in state appropriations, grants and contracts, $1.1 billion in federal grants and contracts, and $1.2 billion from other sources such as alumni contributions.

It was recently estimated that $13.6 billion in spending by employees, students, visitors, and institutional purchases is put into the state’s economy each year.

The economic output of SUNY in the state is estimated at $19.8 billion each year. The employment impact is 173,000 jobs across the state, with 89,000 indirectly supported. Taxes generated for state and local governments in income, sales and property taxes are estimated at $460 million each year.

Now think about what those 1.6 million alumni give to the state. Perhaps SUNY does matter.
Welcome, New Retirees!

Twelve 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 again at our annual retirees’ luncheons, and to their joining us as we continue to serve SUNY Oswego through the activities of the Emeriti Association.

Mary Avrakotos, Coordinator of the Oswego ARTSwego program, was appointed to the college in 1999. Her Bachelor of Arts degree is from New York University.

Susan Skripac Camp, Associate Professor, vocational teacher preparation, was appointed to the college in 1987. Her Bachelor of Science is from Ohio State University, her MEd is from Kent State University, and her PhD is from Louisiana State University.

J. Douglas Deal, Professor of History and Director of General Education, received his AB degree from Harvard U., and his MA and PhD from the University of Rochester. He was appointed to his department in 1982.

Joseph Grant, Vice-President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, received his BA from SUNY Plattsburgh, his MS from SUNY Albany, and his EdD from Syracuse U. He has served at the college since 1972.

Timothy Hale, Director of Athletics, has his Bachelor of Science in Education degree from SUNY Cortland, and his Master of Science degree from Canisius College. Prior to his appointment at Oswego in 2003, he served as an associate athletic director at the University of Rochester. He has also served as president of the NCAA Division III Cross Country Coaches Association.

Kathleen Hangac has served the college in the Office of Learning Services as a Learning Specialist since 1992. Her Bachelor of Arts degree is from CUNY Lehman College, and her Master of Science is from SUNY Oswego.

What’s New in Higher Education

- For generations, if universities paid money for a commencement address, especially if an honorary degree was being given, it was usually for lodging and travel. But more substantial honoraria are becoming common, and experts say hundreds of schools now pay them—though quietly. Fees ranging from $5,000 to over $50,000 are standard. In recent years, Rutgers paid Nobel-winning novelist Toni Morrison $30,000 to deliver the university’s commencement address. SUNY has no policy on paying commencement speakers and a university spokesman says that Central Office is not aware of any unit having paid a fee.

- Apparently, however, the pouf is mightier than the pen when it comes to speaking fees at Rutgers. Last year, students paid Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi of the reality show Jersey Shore $32,000 from their student activity fee to dish on her hairstyle, fist pumps, and lifestyle. That’s $2,000 more than the university paid Tony Morrison. Snooki’s advice to students: “Study hard. But party harder.”

- A recent study shows that the number of students enrolled in higher education rose by 32 percent between 1998 and 2008, while the number for African-Americans rose by 55 percent and the number for Hispanics attending college increased by 74 percent. But diversity still seems out of reach. African-Americans account for 13 percent of the nation’s population and Hispanics account for 16 percent. The total number of college students among the total U.S. population is 19.1 percent, but of that number, only 2.4 percent are African-American, and only 2.1 percent are Hispanic. At least one cause seems obvious: A University of Michigan study shows that, while eight in 10 youths from high-income families begin college, fewer than three in 10 youths from low-income families do so.

- In recent years, college students have been taking clickers to large lecture halls, where professors require their use for attendance and multi-choice tests. Fans of the devices say they are efficient and “techno-tickling,” allowing students to mimic TV game-show contestants. While giving an opinion by raising one’s hand may never become extinct, the devices give voice to students too shy to speak up.

Linda Lord, Visiting Assistant Professor, has been in the curriculum and instruction department since 1996.

Edward O’Shea, Professor of English, received his appointment to his department in 1980. Ed received the bachelor of science degree from Loyola University, his MA from the University of Wisconsin, and his PhD from Northwestern University. His department specialty was in Irish literature.

Tina Pieraccini, Professor of Communication Studies, was appointed to her department in 1976. She received her BA in speech communication from the U. of Rhode Island, and the MA in broadcasting and mass communication from the U. of Massachusetts. Tina’s major teaching responsibilities were in broadcasting and public relations.

Claire Putala, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, received her BA from the U. of Massachusetts, and her MS and PhD from Syracuse U. She was appointed to her department in 1992, and was largely responsible for her work with the graduate literacy program.

William Scheuerman, Professor of Political Science, was appointed to his department in 1974. He received his BBA from City C. of New York, his MA from Queens College, and his PhD from the City U. of New York For 15 years, while still a member of his department, Bill served as the SUNY UUP president, and from 2007 to 2009 he was a member of the NYS Higher Education Commission. In 2007 he was also appointed president of the National Labor College in Silver Springs, MD, where he served until 2010.

Celia Sgroi, Associate Professor and chair of the public justice program, has her BA from Oswego, her MA and PhD from Ohio State U., and her JD degree from SUNY Buffalo. She was appointed to her department in 1980.
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I believe in man’s divinity and its potency to advance the individual and society to higher planes of living. . . .

I believe that the education of youth is the finest of the fine arts and that my task as interpreter of life to youth is a great trust placed upon me. I believe in the aspirations and enthusiasm of youth. I believe in the power of example.

My Creed

—Richard K. Piez

June 1923