



# THE EMERITI NEWSLETTER

The Emeriti Association • State University of New York at Oswego • Spring 2010 Vol. 21 No. 2

## Emeriti President's Report

Vern Tryon

Spring Greetings to Emeriti, Associates, and Friends:

Despite some snow lingering in the woods outside my window, the promising smell and feel of spring is in the air in Oswego. One dares to anticipate the warm days to come and the green leaves and flowers they will bring.

This has been a difficult winter. Not so much because of the weather, since the worst of that went far south of us in places less well equipped to deal with it. No, I am thinking of our emeriti fellowship that has suffered some troubling losses this year.

I am the collection point for information about the deaths of colleagues and associates so that I can request memorial books. I am constantly reminded of the passage of time and its consequences. The experience of the past few years has given me a new perspective on the value of our Emeriti Association. Through its programs and activities, it provides a means of preserving the connections that we enjoyed during the years of our active service. While the relentless obligations and schedules of daily work and even the occasional disagreements are gone, we can still savor the fruits of long-standing friendships through face-to-face gatherings and collaboration on projects that leave our mark on the College. One becomes mindful that the time for such opportunities is not unlimited.

I hope that all emeriti, associates, and friends will accept this as a renewed invitation to join with us at the August 2nd luncheon and the spring and fall Springside luncheons. I know you will enjoy seeing old friends and they will enjoy seeing you. Our gatherings truly are not the same without you.

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

That's the emeriti news from Oswego.

## President Stanley Honored

This year, eight people received the 2010 Syracuse Post-Standard Achievement Award, each working in different ways to make the Central New York a better place to live. SUNY Oswego President Deborah Stanley is noted as one of the eight honorees.

President Stanley has helped update the college's facilities, spearhead a major fund-raising campaign, institute innovative programs for first-year students and increase enrollment.

Under Stanley's leadership since 1997, the college opened the SUNY Oswego Metro Center in downtown Syracuse, which offers graduate study and professional development. The college also underwent a campus renewal that resulted in updated "green" facilities, including a new Campus Center, science building renovations and construction of student townhouses.

A new needs-based Possibility Scholarship helps students in Oswego and Syracuse earn degrees in science and technology without incurring debt. And, under Stanley's leadership, Oswego has been named one of the "Top Up-and-Coming schools by U.S. News for 2010.

-- *Post-Standard*, February 17, 2010

### Save the Date !!

Annual Emeriti Business Meeting  
and Luncheon  
Monday, August 2, 2010

10 a.m. 232-33 Hewitt Union  
Emeriti Business Meeting

11:30 a.m.  
Annual Emeriti Luncheon  
Venue place to be announced

Please attend the annual business meeting for important announcements and to add your voice to financial and program decisions. Spouses and associate members are welcome. Also, to be assured a place at the luncheon, please return the invitation you will receive later this spring.

# Interesting Alumni You've Never Heard Of: Charles Edward King (1874-1950)

[If this article is well received, we may find other interesting alumni you've never heard of. Our thanks to Bob Schell for alerting us to the story of Charles E. King, an 1895 graduate of the Oswego State Normal School. Thanks, also, to Bob and Librarian Nancy Johnson for providing much of the research for this article.]

Charles E. King, mentioned in A.P. Hollis' 1898 edition of *The Contributions of the Oswego Normal School to Educational Progress in the U.S.* as one of the two young Hawaiian men graduated in 1895 from Oswego Normal School, came to be known as "Dean of Hawaiian Music" for his tremendous influence on its development. Following his career as a teacher and school administrator in Hawaii, his native land, he became noted as a composer, publisher, and band leader. His three song books, *King's Book of Hawaiian Melodies*, *King's Songs of Hawaii*, and *King's Songs of Honolulu*, have been treasured around the world since their publications early in the 20th century.

Born in Honolulu in 1874, King, who was one-quarter Hawaiian and fluent in the language, was raised among the ali'i (Hawaiian aristocracy), which accounts for his having attended the Normal School with a scholarship from the Hawaiian Kingdom. Queen Emma was his godmother, and Queen Lil'i'uokalani, the last of the Hawaiian reigning monarchs, was his music teacher. At home, he attended Kamehameha Schools, named for the legendary Hawaiian monarch, which was renowned for the musical atmosphere on its campuses.

According to the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame, which inducted King as an honoree in 1995, his knowledge and appreciation of Hawaiian culture and history was reflected in his compositions. "By consensus, this Dean of Hawaiian Music was one of the Islands' foremost composers. He exerted a tremendous influence on the development of Hawaiian music." He added sophistication and complex structure to his music, but he was a traditionalist who insisted that his subject be Hawaii, and his melody be nahenahe (sweet), not "jazzed up."

After his graduation from the Oswego Normal's English course in February 1895, King returned to Oahu to become principal at the Waiahole School (1895-1899). After leaving the Kamehameha Schools, where he likely had served under the principalship of another Oswego alumnus, 1889 graduate Uldrick Thompson, he worked for the Territory of Hawaii as an inspector of private schools (1902-1913).

King began composing his Hawaiian songs in 1911, but ironically left the islands and established the Charles E. King Music Company in New York City in 1916, which continued to his death in 1950. He returned to Hawaii for a period, where he conducted the Royal Hawaiian Band, and served in the Territorial Senate for two terms—the 1919 and 1922 sessions.

"The Hawaiian Wedding Song" is perhaps King's best-known composition, but he wrote an operetta, *The Prince of Hawaii*, which debuted in 1925, and which was

produced on the Mainland as well as in Hawaii. A tale of love and machinations in ancient Hawaii, it is replete with royalty, hula dancers and musicians, and contains twenty-four songs, several of which continue as Island classics, including "Ke Kali Nei Au," the wedding song.

At least several of King's 400 recorded songs have appeared in 13 Hollywood productions over the years, including the films *Blue Hawaii*, which featured the wedding song, and *Cheaper by the Dozen*, which featured "Song of the Islands (Na Lei O Hawaii)." And his compositions have been recorded by a wide variety of vocalists, from Don Ho to Betty Grable. Your editor remembers often hearing Don Ho sing King's compositions on live radio several decades ago, and while on a visit to Honolulu in 1970, hearing him still singing King in a local nightclub. (Unfortunately, your editor can't recall listening to Betty Grable in person!)

Even Oswego's later Normal School students were familiar with King's work. In September 1913, after eighteen years away from Oswego, he returned to his *alma mater* to deliver an address about his work in Hawaii, where he was superintendent of thirteen schools. During his address, which was reported in the *Oswego Daily Times*, he noted that "the Oswego Normal school is as complete an educational institution as I have ever visited." Interestingly, several students were so taken by his description of Hawaii that they inquired about available teaching positions in the islands. Unfortunately for the interested students, none were available at the time. At a later date, a 1930s *Oswegonian* reported "This week the [school] orchestra has been playing a selection entitled 'King's Serenade' at assemblies. This is a Hawaiian Waltz and was composed by Charles King who was once a student in our Normal school." King's name was apparently known for many years.

On February 28, 1950, *The New York Times* noted the death of Charles E. King the day before in Queens, Long Island. He left his widow, his fourth wife Regina, and a daughter, Mrs. Joan McCue.

Postscript: King's fellow graduate from Hawaii was Samuel Keliinoi. Both young men were popular in Oswego's larger community, as well as at the Normal school. A February 1894 *Daily Times* article reported on a Fortnightly Club address the two gave, which outlined the history and home life of their native islands: "The hearty applause that frequently interrupted the speakers showed the audience's enjoyment and appreciation of the excellent addresses." And a year later, an article in the *Paladium Times* reported that the two sang native songs at a post-graduation party in their honor. The paper noted that "Both have won honors and distinction in the school."

One wonders if Samuel might also have honored the founder and principal of the school in later years. A 2006 notice in Honolulu mentions the names of a Sheldon Keliinoi and his brother Samuel, both presumably grandchildren of alumnus Keliinoi.

## Friends We've Heard From and About

At last October's Springside luncheon, about twenty emeriti gathered to reminisce and enjoy each other's company. The conversation and food were excellent. **Ralph** and **Marion Spencer** were among friends we saw there. They continue to use their motorhome to visit family around the Northeast and along the St. Lawrence. They especially enjoyed being with children, Janet and Bob and their families, and with other relatives at Thanksgiving in Poughkeepsie, and at Christmas in Sackett's Harbor, where Janet and her family live.

**Paul Hutko** reported that he was recovering from a right hip replacement, the final replacement of the set (two knees and two hips), and that **Jan** had given him a TV remote to insure his good behavior. **Ray** and **Molly Schneider** noted that they still work for global peace and a sustainable existence with the ELDERS Network, and are thankful for the excellent teamwork of the cardiology staff at the Mayo Clinic. They wish us all Peace and Good Health! "**Mike**" **Harrison** is still heavily involved with bridge, and in fact had played just before the luncheon. She also enjoys Springside's Winter Club book reviews and continues to volunteer at the Ladies Home and tend her tomato garden behind her home. And like many of us, one of her best hours each week is tuning in to the Antiques Road Show! "**Georgie**" **Powers** had good news about a friend we haven't seen in quite a while. She had had a good visit with **Doris Wedlake**, who was in town for a long weekend. Georgie is now in an apartment at Springside, "surrounded by wonderful folks (many of them long-time friends), with many activities to keep her busy. She and **Nina Hastings** had just come from bridge. Nina missed the luncheon because she was just on her way to St. Luke's to pick up **Jim** from a therapy session.

**Mary Loe**, one of our more recent emeriti, also enjoyed the luncheon and meeting former colleagues, and she reported that she has had a wonderful 15 months since her retirement. She made an earth (clay) oven outside her and **Tom**'s Minnesota cabin, has led an ADK (Adirondack) Adventure hike in the Norwegian Jotunheim mountains, and plans to do the same in 2011. She and Tom (Still teaching in the English department) made a great road trip out West from Vancouver to Las Cruces, NM, and she is presently taking a writing class at the college.

**Bob** and **Shirley Rock** were with us, and Bob reported on his latest volunteer activity, which takes place at Fort Drum. He is involved with the country-wide Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled military personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly-tying education. The relearning of the fine motor skills required in fly fishing and tying has proven to be especially effective in the rehabilitation of the disabled, and in helping them realize that

a more normal life is possible. According to one disabled female veteran, "It is through such events as a day on the river fly fishing that has allowed me to regain some control over my life and limbs. Any day on the river is a good day. The pain goes away, and for a while I am allowed to be one with nature." Bob teaches fly casting on the lawns at the fort, and fishes with the students in nearby lakes and streams. He is presently working with the college's Office of Veteran Services to create an Oswego chapter of PH-WFF.

We have learned that **Lou Iorizzo** was recently mentioned in a CNN.com article about the infamous mobster, Al Capone, and his reputed Wisconsin hideout which had just been sold to a bank in that state for \$2.6 million. The property, which includes a 37-acre lake and an eight-car garage, had changed hands over the years, and earlier had been transformed into a tourist attraction. CNN reported that "State University of New York at Oswego professor emeritus Luciano Iorizzo, who wrote *Al Capone: A Biography* in 2003, said he has never come across evidence that Capone visited the Wisconsin hideout."

**Bob Schell** has been very active with the SUNY Oswego College Hour, which presents each semester a one-day calendar of programs by faculty, emeriti, and visitors. At several college hours now, Bob has presented a discussion of Founder Edward Austin Sheldon. His most recent topic was "The Education of Dr. Sheldon: The Oswego Sunrise," which touched on the early years of the college and its creation of an educational revolution that spread around the world. In addition to his well-presented college discussions on Sheldon, Bob recently co-authored the results of two classroom projects for elementary students. The first, "Second Graders Learn Animal Adaptations through Form and Function Analogy Object Boxes," was published in the *International Journal of Science Education*, 30(9). The second, "Trick-Or-Treat Candy-Getters and Hornet Scare Devices: Second Graders Make Creative Inventions Related to Animal Adaptations," was published in the *Journal of Creative Behavior*, 43(3). During the first classroom project, the children addressed the adaptations of two animals in six week-long lesson sets, and in the second, the authors examined the second graders' performance in creating inventions related to animal adaptations.

We received word recently that **Lew Turco** has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by the University of Maine-Fort Kent for his insightful writings in literature and history. This past year, Lew published *Satan's Scourge: A Narrative of the Age of Witchcraft in England and New England 1580-1697*. His work, which takes a close look at the Age of Sympathetic Magic, is available from Star Cloud Press. Last fall, in a

printed article, **Judy Wellman** was credited by a former student and advisee, Historian Melissa Brown, the collections manager of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society Museum, with having made a great difference in her life. Melissa had recently mounted an exhibit of President McKinley artifacts and Pan-America in that museum. While at Oswego, Melissa had a work-study position in the college's art gallery, and interned at the Oswego County Historical Society under Judy's guidance.

In the fall, **Sachi (Gubbi Sachidanandan)** reported that he had had a mild heart attack, but he is recovering nicely and obviously enjoying a very active lifestyle. He has been president of his condo association for the past six years. For the last four years he has been serving as chair of the Turtle Coast Sierra Club, and is also a member of the Sierra Club of Florida advisory council. In addition, he has been appointed by Florida's Department of Environmental Protection to serve on its advisory group for Sebastian Inlet State Park. He was also recently honored by the Melbourne Municipal Council for his long service on the Golf Advisory Board. Yes, he still plays golf—three days a week! And he camps and hikes whenever possible. Last year, he returned to India for a joyous visit with his brothers and sister, and took his son and granddaughter with him. And in June, he traveled to Houston to attend the high-school graduation of his first granddaughter, now a freshman at Washington & Lee, in Virginia. He ended his note with "Life has been good to me. Friends here and in Oswego have been wonderful. My children and grandkids (6) have been a joy. I am a very lucky person. And I am proud to be an American."

**Fred Ratzeburg** tells us that his move to an assisted-living facility has its advantages. He has found a place with "outstanding cuisine and an excellent support staff." Look for his new address in the fall *Newsletter*. He'd love to hear from you. In spite of his failing eyesight, he has friends to read to him. **Walt and Barb Nitardy** spent another great year in 2009 visiting with their HUGE family all over the country. Twenty-nine gathered again for Thanksgiving, but much of their time was filled with tennis, golf, swimming and gardening in Florida and at the cottage near Sackett's Harbor. Barb did take some time away from the lake, however, to spend a week sailing the Spanish West Indies on a catamaran with daughters and daughters-in-law. The all-women crew report having had a great time! But, later, back at camp, it was time for the men to get to work re-roofing the cottage and bunkhouse.

We've heard that **Harry Charlton** spent a couple of comfortable days last June at Lake Placid's High Peaks Resort, touring the Olympic sites and Keene Valley. He was also able to get to a conference sponsored by SUNY-CUAD, the SUNY public relations council for university advancement. It was an important part of his life, dating back to 1957, when he became the public relations director at Oswego, and it continued to be when he moved on

to the SUNY central office. In 1964-65, while at Oswego, Harry served as the SUNYCUAD president. He and friend Kay still enjoy Beverwyck, a senior-living complex in Albany, where Harry regales the residents and staff with limericks in their honor, and where he produces a newsletter for their benefit. **June and John Cooper** report that they have been in reasonably good health in spite of recent operations for both of them, and they "have much to be thankful for." In spite of hand surgery, John is back to being captain of his bocce team. He still goes to the fitness center and visits residents in the medical units in the complex where they live. They have had a few trips to doctors, but June notes that they have no reports of overseas tours or even long trips in the U.S. They do see their children often, however.

## Want to Feel Good?

At the SUNY Retirees Service Corps inaugural conference in November, which brought together emeriti from around the state interested in creating emeriti associations, Vern Tryon and your editor not only passed out some good advice based on our association's twenty-year experience, but we received some good advice to bring back to our members. Among that good advice was how to feel good, even as we age—in other words, how to age successfully!

The theme of the conference was Volunteering. Its complete title, a mouthful, was Re-Imagining SUNY Retirement: Strategies for Designing Campus-Based Organizations that Serve Retirees and Offer Opportunities for Public Service (obviously titled by an academic). Keynote speaker Lloyd Anunsen, co-founder of mindRamp and a leader in the field of aging and memory, emphasized the conference's primary theme, Volunteering, as his first suggestion to retirees who want to continue feeling good—even GREAT—in retirement. He also suggested: Share your knowledge. Exercise regularly, for research shows that the additional blood flow to your brains will keep it alive. Eat foods that will increase your anti-oxidant and omega-3 oil intake. Find a way to relax before you go to sleep, and don't be afraid to take a nap. Give yourself a regular mental challenge—Sudoku, bridge, a crossword puzzle, any kind of puzzle, or any other kind of game. And, perhaps most importantly, socialize. Find times to surround yourself with others, in large or small groups, to carry on a conversation, and laugh!

A recent article in *U.S. News* also encourages us to travel, spend \$20 on an experience rather than an item. Money spent on a theatre ticket will invigorate us more than a piece of jewelry. Nurture meaningful relationships—surround ourselves with cheerful people. Count our blessings, not our problems. And the article mirrors Anunsen's suggestion to get out and sweat. When we're down in the dumps, there's no better pick-me-up than burning off a few calories in exercise.

# What's New on Campus?

- This past fall, incoming freshmen numbered 1,400, with a mean high-school average of 90, and a mean SAT score of 1110. Incoming transfer students numbered 700, with a mean transfer GPA of 3.0. There were 6,700 full-time undergraduates, with 4,200 living on campus, and 1,500 full/part-time graduate students. The college's freshmen are studying education (20%), business (15%), communication, media and arts (14%), liberal arts (16%), and math/science/computer science (16%), and 19% are undeclared. Over \$2.5 million in scholarships were awarded to freshmen and transfers. The students have access to 73 major programs, 52 minor programs, 6 cooperative degree programs with Upstate Medical University, and three additional cooperative degree programs in zoo technology, engineering, and optometry.
- In addition to housing classrooms, offices, and event space, Sheldon Hall is now home to 80 students in the east wing, which was re-modeled years ago to accommodate guests of a never-completed hotel. A variety of rooms are available, including suites, but chief among the attractions for student residents is the sense of history they get from the architecture, the Sheldon statue, the old paintings, the antique grandfather clock that still announces the time on the second floor, and the presidential portraits and historic room that have been supported by the Emeriti Association and several of its members.
- This year's Oswego Reading Initiative is *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, Marjane Satrapi's illustrated story about growing up during the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and her later personal displacement. The book relates to Artswego's Arts Across the Curriculum theme of "Arts, Identity and Diaspora," which looks at the experience of people displaced for a variety of reasons.
- The next major campus development will see the renovation and expansion next year of the School of Education. Park and Wilber halls will be modernized and about 15,000 square feet will be added. The two already-attached buildings will then connect to a three-story addition that will bring the counseling and psychological services department to the area, making it possible for all six departments of the School of Education to be housed together. At the same time, Piez Hall will be gutted and renovated with new construction surrounding it. That project will conform to the U.S. Green Building Council gold standard for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Both projects will begin next summer with an expected 3-5 year completion.
- In the face of rising tuitions at private universities, and as a result of the nation's economic problems, applications at public universities have risen significantly. Oswego's application rate has climbed nearly 40 percent in the past four years, up 20 percent in just the last year.
- Last summer, a team of 11 students, along with faculty, once again traveled west in search of tornadoes. The group was a part of VORTEX2 (Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment 2). The program focuses on collecting data to improve tornado predictions. On June 5, the group witnessed a 25-minute tornado in Wyoming.
- According to the *Oswego County Business Magazine*, SUNY Oswego's Small Business Development Center is lending a helping hand to a record number of people seeking self-employment in this uncertain economy. The program has been up and running for some time.
- Last month, two professional event directors, one of whom is the former director of marketing for the NYS Fair, offered an event-planning certificate program in the Oswego Metro Center in downtown Syracuse. Offered were key strategies for managing event logistics, including volunteers, facilities, food and beverage, ticketing and admissions.
- Among the many college student volunteers is a group from the department of health promotion and wellness that have formed a partnership with Bishop's Commons, the Oswego assisted-living facility—where, incidentally, several of our emeriti friends reside. Twice a week, students enhance the physical fitness and quality of life of the residents by conducting classes that include chair, elastic band, stretch, and low-impact cardio exercises. Through the classes, the seniors improve their flexibility, balance and body tone, and increase bone density, muscle strength and endurance, as well as their psychological well-being.
- SUNY Oswego reached a milestone this past fall when the rate for 2008-09 freshmen returning for their sophomore year reached 81 percent, close to the 81.7 percent rate for "selective" public institutions. President Deborah Stanley noted several factors that influenced the statistic: the first-year advisement program, the small-class initiative, the first-year residential experience, the admission of students who are well-prepared academically, and the increasing collaboration of faculty with students on scholarly and creative projects (See below).
- A new initiative will take place this summer that will expand the support of faculty-student collaboration. Up to \$50,000 is being made available by the college

to fund stipends that will be used by faculty to pay students working with them on their summer research. This semester, the Scholarly and Creative Activity Committee has been reviewing faculty proposals.

- Oswego is engaged in a pilot project to further improve its first-year programs. Nearly 80 faculty members are conducting a study of transfer students and an established evaluation on freshmen in collaboration with the Policy Center on the First Year of College, one of the foremost authorities on practices, programs and policies.
- This coming summer, 10-15 students from the Syracuse school district's Academy of Science will arrive on campus to get a hands-on science experience. The program is open to students with two of three conditions: a member of a low-income family, part of a minority group underrepresented in the sciences, or a first-generation college student. Participants will work with a teacher from their own school and an Oswego student for ten weeks and present a final research project.
- *U.S. News* has placed Oswego on a list of just 30 colleges nationally that are highly regarded and offer small classes with relatively inexpensive costs. Other SUNY schools mentioned are SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, and the SUNY colleges at Potsdam, Fredonia, and Alfred. Oswego is also listed as a "selective" school.

--From SUNY Oswego news releases

## Oswego Sesquicentennial: A Global Vision

Highlighted in SUNY Oswego's celebration of its 150th year in 2011 is the college's interest in giving its students an even greater understanding of the world in which they live. Foreign influences have been evident on campus from the school's very beginning, with E.A. Sheldon's acceptance of a European philosophy of education, from his acceptance of students from as far away as Japan (Note Takamine Road on campus), and with the great number of his students who took his educational practices into classrooms around the globe. Sheldon's vision has continued with the college's great number of overseas programs—often reported in these pages—and with its increase in the number of foreign-born faculty and students.

Today's Oswego faculty and student population show the college's interest in bringing together a group that represents diverse interests and cultures. The new body of foreign faculty members will obviously give their students new perspectives as they pursue their personal interests and create new overseas programs. In the School of Education, for instance, a Nigerian faculty member is involved with a program to strengthen vocational training in his home country. In an early stage is a collaboration that will include the University of Nigeria, SUNY Oswego, and the World Bank. The goal is to open frontiers for future inter-collegiate relationships with Nigerian universities.

Last August, five professors from the School of Education and an Oswego County teacher went to Turkey to travel and visit schools where they and local teachers, students and administrators shared information about their educational accomplishments and goals. Since returning, the Oswego group has joined in activities at the Syracuse Turkish Cultural Center.

And SUNY Oswego's overseas programs continue and expand. In a January short-study course, "Schools and Urban Society in a Global Context," several students traveled to India to teach and interact with some of the country's poorest children in an educational effort to save them from poverty and the slums. The students worked with 130 children in village schools, helping them with English and health and hygiene issues to prepare them to mainstream into regular public schools. In the process, the Oswego students experienced a different cultural reality.

Also in January, several students traveled to India to learn first-hand about the international challenge of human trafficking, in a course led by Geraldine Forbes. In Calcutta and Delhi, they spoke with academics, activists, and victims as a first step in creating an on-going research and teaching partnership between Oswego's and Calcutta University's women's programs.

Sheldon's vision is alive and well!

### In Memoriam

William Huss	2005
Professor Emeritus, Industrial Arts (1939-1969)	
Stephen Torok, Sr.	October 2009
Librarian Emeritus (Active 1966-1981)	
Richard Hyse	November 2009
Professor Emeritus, Economics (1961-1985, Adjunct 1985-1994)	
Josephine Hyse	November 2009
Associate Member	
Alvin Westcott	January 2010
Associate Professor, Elementary Education (1959-1996, Adjunct 1999-2000)	
James "Roger" McLaughlin	January 2010
Professor Emeritus, Anthropology/Sociology (1964-1987)	

# The SUNY Scene

- September's enrollment at the 64 campuses of the State University was at an all-time high, with 464,981 students. SUNY saw a nearly six percent increase over the previous fall. Community colleges had some of the largest gains, increasing enrollment by 9.8 percent. Overall, the community colleges enrolled over 20,000 more students than the state's four-year schools. According to the higher education program coordinator for the New York Public Interest Research Group, "It shows how important SUNY is to the state."
- From November to February, several second-phase conversations were conducted at campuses in different regions of the state to develop a new strategic plan for SUNY. The first phase of the process saw Chancellor Zimpher on a 64-campus tour, where she met with the SUNY community to develop a list of themes and core issues for the second phase. A group of 200 faculty, staff, students, alumni and system administrators were then nominated by campus presidents and took part in seven scheduled sessions. Themes of the sessions included "ensuring economic vitality and quality of life," which focused on SUNY as a catalyst for improving the state's economy, and "the education pipeline," which included such topics as how to create a viable collaboration in the state's K-20 institutions (i.e., from kindergarten through graduate school). Other themes included "arts and culture," diversity and globalization," and "energy and sustainability."
- In November, citing the corruption that has robbed the state's pension fund of hundreds of millions of dollars over generations, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo proposed changing the way the \$120 billion dollar fund is managed and regulated. Suggested reforms include replacing the sole trustee, the state's elected comptroller, with a board of trustees; blocking campaign contributors from any business with the fund; banning the use of lobbyists from soliciting investors in the funds; introducing more transparency; and applying stiffer criminal penalties for corruption cases.
- The transition from NCAA Division III to Division I athletics among SUNY's university centers began in 1991, when Buffalo, Stony Brook, and Albany wanted to raise their visibility. Binghamton joined them in 2001. While ticket sales, donations and other revenues help pay for athletics, the transition is still costly. In 2007-08, the school subsidy was \$3.1 million for Binghamton, \$6.7 million for Albany, \$8.5 million for Stony Brook, and \$7.5 million for Buffalo. A state senator, the former chair of the higher education committee, has been very good to Stony Brook, helping the college to procure \$22 million from the state for a new stadium named in his honor. Binghamton also was helped by a local senator to dip into state coffers for a \$33 million sports arena. But even though the SUNY budget cuts since 2008 have been \$334 million, and are an additional \$90 million this year, university officials note that athletic spending accounts for no more than five percent of the university centers' overall budgets.
- SUNY trustees have approved a state budget request to increase tuition from \$4,970 to \$5,070 at the four-year colleges. SUNY wants the additional \$16 million to go into its own coffers, but past practice suggests that only 20 percent of the money will be returned to the university. The remainder will go into the state's general fund in spite of faculty and student rallies to protest the state's use of student tuition to help close the budget gap.
- The State University has ten of its units ranked in the top 100 best values in the nation's public colleges, according to the latest edition of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*. Five hundred schools were ranked according to academic quality, admission and retention rates, student/faculty ratios, graduation rates, cost, and financial aid. Number 5 nationwide is SUNY Binghamton, especially noted as a top value for out-of-state students. Other SUNY schools and their rankings are Geneseo (# 9), Stony Brook (# 39), New Paltz (# 53), University at Buffalo (# 70), Cortland (# 75), Oneonta (# 81), Albany (# 84), Fredonia (# 87), and Brockport (# 96).

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Liebenauer

The treasurer's report, was accepted December 8, 2009, by the Emeriti Association's Board of Directors.

<b>Emeriti Life Membership Fund</b>	\$ 13,380.04
74 members including 1 new member this academic year	
<b>Emeriti Scholarship Fund</b>	\$ 41,598.87
<b>Emeriti Operating Account</b>	\$ 1,935.53
September 1, 2008	\$ 1,583.95
Total Revenue (59 emeriti and associate memberships, and luncheons)	\$ 1,075.50
Total Expenses (Memorials, custodial fees)	\$ (723.92)

## Emeriti Memorials Placed in Penfield

Since 1992, the Emeriti Association has donated 135 publications to Penfield Library in the name of 112 deceased members. Each item represents the scholarly interest of the member, and is taken from a list presented to the library from the former member's department or office. A nearly complete list of the materials is available from the college Web site (Type "Emeriti Memorial Books" at the homepage, enter, then click on "Memorial Books Project"). The list has been published periodically in the *Emeriti Newsletter*, and below is an update.

**Faiz Saleh Abu-Jaber.** Gerardo L Munck, *Measuring Democracy: A Bridge Between Scholarship and Politics*, Johns Hopkins, 2008.

**Wilma Baitzell.** Gill Hope, *Thinking and Learning Through Drawing: In Primary Classrooms*, SAGE, 2008.

**Donald L. Buck.** George Theoharis, *The School Leaders Our Children Deserve: Seven Keys to Equity, Social Justice, and School Reform*, Teachers College, 2008.

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## 1923

Do you know the fate of those who, in 1923, were:

President of the largest steel company in the U.S.?

President of the nation's largest gas company?

Greatest U.S. wheat speculator?

President of the Bank of International Settlement?

"Great Bear," a prominent speculator of Wall Street?

Manager of a utilities company that would become General Electric?

A very wealthy Secretary of the Interior in President Harding's cabinet?

The winner of the U.S. Open and PGA tournaments?

These men were considered the world's most successful men. At least they found the secret of making money. Now, do you know what became of these men?

Turn to page 11 to find out.

# What's New in Higher Education

- Wired students are becoming a problem. That is, students who are wired to the Internet or to their text messages during class. And large lecture classes especially offer opportunities for students to divert their attention from the lecturer. Some professors station teaching assistants in the back of the room to remind wandering students of class rules. Others forbid cell phones or laptops, but the problem seems to persist.
- Your editor had hopes that the mystery gifts to colleges late last year might have come from one of our emeriti, but that seems unlikely since not a penny went to SUNY Oswego. Secretly doled out to eight universities was nearly \$45 million by a single donor, and the schools had to promise not to try to identify the giver. The gifts ranged from \$8 million at Purdue to \$1.5 million to the U of North Carolina-Asheville. Other recipients were the U of Southern Mississippi, the U of North Carolina-Greensboro, U of Maryland's University College, and the U of Colorado-Colorado Springs. Most of the money was designated for scholarships. The gifts keep coming, however, so let's keep our fingers crossed!
- The U of Oregon—one of its school colors is green, after all—is only one of several colleges that is generating power from sweat. Campus exercise machines have been retrofitted to generate small amounts of electricity. The machines even made their way into one of the school's biggest events this past fall—the annual football game with Oregon State University. Twenty-two exercise machines were connected to the electric grid, and students competed to see who could generate the most electricity.
- Well, those coaches' salaries keep rising! The average pay for a head coach in the NCAA's top level, 120-school Bowl Subdivision is now up to \$1.36 million. UCal Berkeley's football head coach is guaranteed \$2.8 million this year, and he got his \$430 million to improve Memorial Stadium. Incidentally, funding for the 10-school UC system was slashed by \$813 million this year, with the Berkeley campus absorbing close to \$150 million of that by laying off faculty and staff, imposing furloughs, cutting back enrollment and paring course offerings while hiking tuition.
- International student enrollment in U.S. colleges increased by eight percent in 2008-09, the largest increase since 1980-81. It reached an all-time high of 671,616, with the largest numbers coming from India (103,260), China (98,510), and South Korea (75,065). New York state colleges reported 74,934 foreign students, coming in second only to California, with 93,124. In SUNY, Stony Brook enrolled 2,922 among

its total student body of 23,000. When questioned why she chose Stony Brook for her bachelor's degree, a young lady from India who had just been graduated from there and who is now in its graduate program, replied "There is more openness in the educational system here. There are lots of ways you can put into practice what you're learning."

- The National Survey of Student Engagement recently found that online learners report a deeper involvement in their learning experiences compared with students in face-to-face classes. They also reported a higher frequency of participating in intellectually challenging course activities, which suggests that faculty teaching online are making special efforts to engage their students. The report also found that when courses provided challenging writing activities, students engaged in analysis, synthesis, and integration of ideas from various sources, and they grappled more with course ideas in and out of the classroom.

## The State Pension Plan: The Good News and the Bad

New York had the best-funded state pension plan in the nation in 2008. The New York State Common Retirement Fund was considered 107 percent funded in 2008, well above the 84 percent average for other states. Therefore, even with the economic downturn, the fund is still safe. That's the good news.

The bad news: According to a report released February 18 by the Pew Center on the States, New York, along with 19 other states, has no money set aside to pay for future retiree health benefits, and future costs are projected to escalate because of baby boomer retirements. Stay tuned!

## Emeriti, Please Note . . .

Each year, we emeriti are invited by President Deborah 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. Whichever you choose, we hope to see you at the commencement ceremony in May. It is important for former colleagues and for students to know that we maintain our interest in the academic community.

## Oswego in the 1850s

[*The following, edited here, can be found in A New and Complete Gazetteer of the United States, published in the 1850s by T. Baldwin and J. Thomas. Our thanks to Bob Schell for calling our attention to this information.* ]

Oswego, a port of entry and semi-capital of Oswego County, is the most populous and flourishing town (belonging to the United States) on Lake Ontario, and is very advantageously situated for trade. The harbor formed by the mouth of the river is one of the best on the lake, and has been improved by the U.S. government with a substantial pier about 1200 feet in length. It is defended by Fort Ontario, on the eastern bank of the river.

The Oswego canal, and the Oswego and Syracuse railroad connect at Syracuse with the Erie canal and the Central railroad. A bridge about 700 feet long connects the opposite banks of the river, and the city is handsomely built with streets about 100 feet wide.

Oswego contains eleven churches (The First and Second Presbyterian, built of red sandstone, are large and beautiful edifices), a court house, custom house, two banks, several large hotels, an academy, and other seminaries. There are four or five newspapers published here, two or three of which are dailies.

The falls of the river supply abundant waterpower to the manufactories of Oswego, among which are ten or twelve large flouring mills, and a starch factory which employs about 100 men. The building called Doolittle's Block is very large and handsome, and contains one of the most extensive halls in the northern part of the state.

The shipping of the port, to June 30, 1852, amounted to an aggregate of 26,107 tons, all of which was employed in the coast trade. In addition, there were 1,784 foreign arrivals from foreign and American ships for the year (240,253 tons), and 1,781 clearances for foreign ports (284,625 tons). During the year, ten vessels were built.

The entire trade of the port in 1851 was \$22.5 million, nearly half in goods flowing to Canada. This Canadian trade of Oswego is nearly half of the entire commerce of the United States with Canada.

The population of Oswego in 1840, 4,665; in 1850, 12,206; in 1858, about 25,000.

## They Really Said That?!

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend . . . if you have one."— George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second . . . if there is one."— Winston Churchill, in response

## Remember Hollywood Squares?

Of course you remember *Hollywood Squares*! And in its early days, the answers were spontaneous, not scripted. Here's host Peter Marshall asking the questions:

Q. Do female frogs croak?

A. Paul Lynde: If you hold their heads under water long enough.

Q. If you're going to make a parachute jump, how high should you be?

A. Charlie Weaver: Three days of steady drinking should do it.

Q. As you grow older, do you tend to gesture more or less with your hands while talking?

A. Rose Marie: You ask me one more growing old question, Peter, and I'll give you a gesture you'll never forget.

Q. Can boys join the Campfire Girls?

A. Marty Allen: Only after lights out.

Q. When you pat a dog on his head he will wag his tail. What will a goose do?

A. Paul Lynde: Make him bark?

Q. If you were pregnant for two years, what would you give birth to?

A. Paul Lynde: Whatever it is, it would never be afraid of the dark.

Q. According to Ann Landers, is there anything wrong with getting in the habit of kissing a lot of people?

A. Charlie Weaver: It got me out of the army.

## Yale Five Vanquished

Oswego Normal Too Fast and Skilful for Elis

Oswego, N.Y., Dec. 29.—Yale's basketball team went down to defeat before the superior team work of the Oswego Normal School team, American Interscholastic champions, at the State Armory, by a score of 28 to 18, tonight. The Blue five was outclassed by the school team and showed poor form throughout. Man for man, the Normals were far superior, except in weight and size. The game was extremely rough and eighteen fouls were called, ten on Yale. Finnessey of Yale and Kern of Normal School, both centres, were disqualified for fouling. Jacks, Capt. McCall, and Kern starred for the Normal School, while Reilly and Murfey showed the best form for Yale. The Normals' passing system completely bewildered the Blue squad.

--*The New York Times*, December 30, 1910

## Answers to 1923

The president of Bethlehem Steel, Charles M. Schwab, lived his last years on borrowed money.

The president of the largest gas company, Howard Hopson, spent time in prison after being found guilty of creating a pyramid scheme and later died in a mental institution.

The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cutton, was indicted for tax evasion in 1936 and died soon after.

The president of the Bank of International Settlement, Leon Fraser, blamed for his participation in the Great Crash of 1929, shot himself.

The "Great Bear of Wall Street," Jesse Livermore, died a suicide in 1940.

The General Electric utilities giant, Samuel Insull, lost his holdings in 1932, and after being charged with mail fraud and embezzlement, died in a Paris subway with 20 cents in his pocket.

The cabinet member, Albert Fall, convicted of bribery in the Teapot Dome scandal, was later released from prison so he could die at home.

In 1923, Gene Sarazen won the U.S. Open and several PGA tournaments. He died in 1999 at the age of 97.

The moral of the story?

STOP WORRYING ABOUT BUSINESS AND START PLAYING MORE GOLF!

## April History

**On April 5, 1615**, Pocahontas, daughter of the leader of the Powhatan tribe, married English colonist John Rolfe in Virginia. A convert to Christianity, she went by the name Lady Rebecca.

**In 1792**, George Washington cast the first presidential veto, rejecting a congressional measure for apportioning representatives among the states.

**On April 6, 1909**: American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole (Or was it Frederick Albert Cook and two Inuits on April 2, 1908?).

**In 1830**, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, NY.

**In 1896**, the first modern Olympic Games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

**On April 7, 1862**: Union forces led by Gen Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

## Remember When . . . .

Remember when the Big Storm of 1978 didn't happen? It was January 26, and Oswego was expecting a replay of the Big Storm of '66. The college's meteorologist, Bob Sykes, alerted the community in the late morning, and when Bob alerted us, we took action! A retired Air Force meteorologist and in 1978 a member of the faculty, he was the man we all looked to for the latest information during the occasional (?) nationally renowned Oswego blizzards. Not even the newsmen hovering above town in an NBC-rented helicopter could deliver the minute-by-minute reports on the storm that Bob could. He was on the ground, and in the middle of it.

So that day, when Bob Sykes came over the college's WRVO and the community's WSGO to announce the coming storm, cars raced to the stores to stock up on bread and milk and anything else needed to sustain life for the next several days. According to Bob, this was going to be this season's BIG ONE!

As your editor pulled up to join others for storm supplies at Byrne Dairy on West Bridge Street, the radio was just announcing the expected closing of schools, including the college, and everything else scheduled for the afternoon and evening, with the possibility that no community activities would take place for the next several days. An hour later, the streets were quiet, the city was deserted. The entire community was beginning to burrow in at home.

Two hours later, Bob was again on the air, and if you knew Bob, with news that might have disappointed him. It certainly disappointed all the school children in the area. There were other plans for the BIG STORM of '78! Schools were not planning to close early!

The raging blizzard with winds up to 75 mph had been heading that morning for Oswego from the east end of Lake Erie. It had reduced visibility in Buffalo in the early hours of the morning to zero, and hit Batavia as the sun was coming up. Rochester had braced itself for the worst. Eastman Kodak had closed down before it was expected to hit.

But the blizzard gods had something else in mind. In the early afternoon, instead of continuing on to Rochester and then Oswego, the storm took a left at Batavia and headed north for Toronto. In Oswego, a sunny, relatively mild afternoon and evening lay ahead, and the city came alive again, waiting for news of the next storm certain to come.

*Have you a favorite Oswego "Remember When"? Let us know, so we can share it with former colleagues.*

*Let us "summon up remembrance of things past."*



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## SUNY Albany's Emeritus Center: Celebrating a Legacy

*[Below is a follow-up to an earlier issue's notes on "The SUNY Scene" regarding the establishment at SUNY Albany of an Emeritus Center. This is edited from an article, "Celebrating the richness of retiree research," that appeared last spring in New York State United Teachers. It was also reported at the inaugural conference of the SUNY Retirees Service Corps last fall.]*

One goal of the Emeritus Center, established two years ago by SUNY Albany, is to share the results of emeriti research. The first paper presented there concerned Thomas Jefferson and his complicated feelings about slavery. The second took up the life of pianist, composer and conductor Alexander Semmler, the father of the emerita author who retired from teaching American literature at SUNY Albany in 1997. The third was on higher education in the former Czechoslovakia by an emeritus who had spent six weeks in Bratislava as a Fulbright scholar.

A professor emeritus of philosophy, the president of the Emeritus Center, has noted he is working on an Aristotle piece, and he will "read some of it when we get a need, but we're booked through next year."

The room housing the center has been provided with computers to encourage emeriti to conduct research there, the walls have been hung with emeriti paintings, and bookshelves are beginning to be filled with emeriti publications. Notably, attendance has been brisk.

The center also provides an intellectual clubhouse for what one emeritus calls "the living memory of the university." Present faculty can join emeriti and come to know the history of the institution.

Overheard recently: "At our last two events one guy said to another, 'Oh boy, I haven't been on this campus in nine years.' The other one said 'I'm seeing people I haven't seen for dozens of years.' Unless I'm mistaken, great bonds have gotten established." And those bonds are among the emeriti faculty and those who are still teaching. A librarian at SUNY Albany notes that she witnesses firsthand the intellectual connection retired faculty and staff retain.

There are emeritus centers at other SUNY campuses also, including Buffalo and Cortland.