



THE EMERITI NEWSLETTER

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Emeriti President's Report

Vern Tryon

One never knows where one's Emeriti Association activities will lead. For example, mine recently nearly turned me into an historian. I discovered what a pleasure it can be to search out previously unknown, at least to me, information about a subject of interest. Let me explain.

Your Board of Directors decided, two or more years ago, that those who had served as acting presidents of the college without succeeding to the office of president should be remembered with portraits in our presidential portrait gallery in Sheldon Hall. Research by Tim Nekritz revealed that there have been four such persons—Thomas R. Miller (November 1946-August 1947 and December 1951-August 1952), Charles E. Turner (October 1963-June 1965), J. Sherwood Dunham (January 1972-August 1972), and Ralph L. Spencer (March 1988-August 1988). The dates were clarified by reference to Dorothy Rogers' books, visits to Special Collections at Penfield Library, and online searching of back issues of *The Oswegonian*. The board further decided to use funds sitting idle in the Life Membership account to complete all four portraits this year and unveil them at our annual luncheon on August 1, 2011.

Next came the challenge of finding suitable photographs for the display. Ralph Spencer was easy. Jim Russell simply went to his house and made an excellent picture. Charles Turner was a little more difficult. His daughter, Nancy Caldwell, thought the best picture of him appeared in one of the college yearbooks while he was in office. A trip to the Alumni Office produced two such photos that were scanned and saved to a CD. Sherry Dunham said that the best photo taken of him at the time of his service as acting president was hanging in the conference room of Oswego Hospital where he had served as chairman of their board of directors. We borrowed their portrait, had it professionally removed from the frame, took it to Syracuse Blue Print to be scanned, enlarged, and saved to a CD, had it professionally reframed, and returned it to the hospital.

Thomas Miller's photo was the most challenging. Consultation with Bud Coward, the only person around

who had actually known Dr. Miller, combined with an online search, revealed that he went to Edinboro State College as president when he left Oswego. An e-mail to their director of development produced the name and address of Dr. Miller's son, also Dr. Miller, in Erie, Pennsylvania. Correspondence with him produced a copy of a portrait taken while President Miller was in office. That photo was taken to Syracuse Blue Print where some damage was repaired; it was cropped to a vertical orientation, and scanned to a CD.

With all the finished portraits now available electronically, they were taken to the irreplaceable Jim Ford in Lanigan Hall who used Photoshop to enhance the tone and contrast and printed them on paper that will endure in the gallery. (I said "irreplaceable" because Jim will retire on April 1, and his lifetime of experience, knowledge, and skill will be sorely missed.)

Brass nameplates are being made at DuFore Jewelers as this is written. Next, the photos will go to the Picture Connection to be framed. Space precludes reporting any more details of this project but they will be included in my report to the Annual Meeting, which I hope you will attend. You will have an opportunity to see the finished results when you come to our Annual Luncheon on Monday, August 1.

That's my Emeriti news from Oswego.

In Memoriam

Barbara Steinkraus January 2011
Associate Member

Theodore C. Moss January 2011
Professor Emeritus, Education (Active 1958-1979)

Charles "Bud" Coward March 2011
Associate Professor Emeritus, Industrial Arts
(1954-1975)
Assistant to the President (1960-1975)

Charles Phallen Receives France's Top Military Honor

(The following article, edited here, appeared in the Syracuse Post-Standard in December 2010.)

Sixty-five years after the end of World War II, Charles Phallen figured he was done collecting war-related medals.

A Purple Heart and seven Bronze Stars are testament to the three years he spent as a leader of a tank destroyer unit that traversed Africa, the Middle East and Italy. But this past September, Phallen was recognized by the French government, which awarded him the Chevalier Legion of Honor, which is similar to the U.S. Medal of Honor. The ceremony took place at Arlington National Cemetery as part of the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division's 91st annual reunion. At the ceremony, Phallen was greeted by a mayor of one of the towns in France he helped liberate. He also met the French consulate and other French dignitaries.

As the leader of his unit, Phallen often drove a jeep into enemy territory, coordinating and carrying out missions when American infantrymen needed assistance. He was assigned to the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion in 1942 in North Africa, and over the next several years he took part in five invasions, up to the time of the German surrender in 1945. The campaign after North Africa was at Salerno Beach, Sicily, and then at Anzio, where he was wounded, shot in the right leg and hip. After a four-month hospital stay in Naples, he and others were loaded onto a landing craft for the invasion of south France.

Last May, Phallen spent two weeks with officers from the pentagon and two other veterans touring the places they had fought to liberate. He said it was surreal to retrace the steps he took as a young soldier from North Africa to Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, Rome, Southern France into Germany ending at Berchtesgaden, and then on to Salzburg. At several towns throughout Europe, they dedicated plaques in honor of those who supported the efforts. At each stop there were townspeople who remembered the war, and had the chance to thank Phallen and his comrades for their service.

He said it was interesting to note that the Germans remembered and talked about the Marshal Plan and how it helped to start the recovery of their destroyed cities. "Today Germany is again a beautiful country."



Joint Assets: Risky Business?

[The following information, provided by an attorney, has appeared in a New York state retirees' newsletter.]

Aging parents often list their children as joint owners on some of their assets. Having a joint holder on a bank account can be convenient in the event a parent is not able to manage monthly expenses. The child can continue to pay a parent's bills. However, an aging parent listed as joint holder on a child's account or a beneficiary on the child's assets could create problems if the parent requires long-term care or if the child predeceases the parent.

Obviously, without any legally binding agreement, parents must trust that the child will use the funds only for their parents' expenses. Also, one should recognize that in the event a child is sued, the accounts could be frozen and/or seized until it is proven that the funds originally belonged solely to the parents and that the child's name was on the account only as a matter of convenience.

If the child's social security number is on the account, the child may be responsible for any taxable income generated from the account.

Adding a child's name to an account is not deemed to be a transfer to that child of half the balance in the event the parent is applying for Medicaid. The *entire* account is considered an available resource for the parent to pay the nursing home bill.

It is advised that parents and children should carefully consider all the consequences as well as the benefits of joint accounts.

Check with your lawyer — and perhaps an accountant!

Save the Date !!

Annual Emeriti Business Meeting
and Luncheon
Monday, August 1, 2011

10 a.m. 223 Sheldon Hall
Emeriti Business Meeting

11:30 a.m.
Annual Emeriti Luncheon
Sheldon Hall Ballroom

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.

Friends We've Heard From and About

Congratulations to **Tom Brennan**, the Alumni Association's most recent inductee to the Faculty Hall of Fame. And he's one of the luckiest people around. Having retired from leading successful golf programs at three schools, he can still be seen on the greens most days! Tom joined the Oswego faculty in 1962 and coached the golf team until his retirement in 1989. In that time the team had an impressive 11 consecutive SUNY Athletic Conference Golf Team Championships and 15 straight NCAA Division III Golf Championship appearances. He coached nine NCAA All-Americans, including 1978 Individual Champion Jim Quinn '79 and PGA pro Wayne Levi '74. In 1977, Tom was elected to the Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame, one of only 55 in the nation at that time. After his Oswego retirement, Tom went on to Myrtle Beach to teach at Coastal Carolina University for ten years, then to the Carolina Golf Academy, to train golf professionals. In the '90s, he directed the summer Myrtle Beach Junior Golf Program. In his most recent retirement, Tom continues to share his golf expertise through articles in local newspapers and talks at area civic groups. And he devotes himself to watercolor painting with the same passion he brings to golf.

We heard from a number of our friends at last October's Springside get-together. **Paul** and **Jan Hutko** celebrated their 50th anniversary at Oswego's Bridie Manor with family and friends. And last September they participated in a Road Scholar program in Asheville with former faculty friends, Jerry Davis and his wife, Ruth. The topics were the Great Blue Mountains, Cherokee Indians, and the "dizzying Parkway." **Jim** and **Juanita Tschudy** spent much of the past year traveling the country and beyond—to Illinois, Kansas, Wisconsin, Cape Cod, and Canada. And they enjoyed a visit from their whole family. Juanita is busy as co-president of AAUW, and she continues as treasurer of Faith United Church.

Kay Shaver finally fulfilled a wish to spend a week at Chautauqua Institution's pre-season, rooming at the Victorian grand old lady, the Athenaeum Hotel. She also had a wonderful time exploring the White Mountains of New Hampshire, where she attended the Highland Games. She also said, "What a pleasure to people-watch and note the dozens of clan tartans." **June** and **Vern Tryon** noted that they enjoyed a St. Lawrence cruise that had taken them from Kingston to Quebec City in September to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Laree Pease continues to spend the winter months of January and February enjoying the sun and warmer weather in Myrtle Beach. **Pat Benjamin** told us that she continues to carry on the work that **Dick** created for

the community and youth of Oswego. A proclamation in Dick's honor had recently been declared by the City of Oswego and Mayor Bateman. **Bernie Henderson** is serving on the college's Sesquicentennial Committee and wants us to know that any ideas would be welcome. And, incidentally, **Bob Schell** also serves on that committee as a representative of the Emeriti Association.

"**Mike**" **Harrison** enjoys her home at Springside, and told us that she is always glad to see everyone at the luncheon. She also noted how funny it is that none of us seem to grow older! It was good to see old poker buddy, **Ernie Luongo**, at Springside. He still works out every morning, and spends a lot of time rooting for Syracuse and the New York Yankees! "**Georgie**" **Powers** continues to enjoy her busy life at Springside—"bridge, special parties for each holiday, delicious meals, and a wonderful staff."

Harry and **Lorraine Nash** still enjoy their regular pinochle games with **Will** and **Lois Allen**. And they are among emeriti who continue to enjoy old friends and colleagues in Oswego and at what we like to term South Campus, Springside. Lorraine plays bridge with **Jan Hutko**, **Helen Rabozzi**, **Ruth Sayer**, "**Mike**" **Harrison**," "**Georgie**" **Powers**, **Kay Shaver**, and **Nina Hastings**. Harry enjoys euchre with **Paul Hutko** and **Mario Rabozzi**. Just before our luncheon they had welcomed Tim, granddaughter Allison and grandson Ian visiting from North Carolina.

Luther Peterson had recently taken a cruise to Alaska with Bob and Barbara Moore, **David Hill**, and Chuck and Margaret Spector. The group had then left the ship and traveled to Dawson City, Fairbanks, and Denali. **John** and **Maria Demidowicz** reported a "great and unforgettable experience" traveling through Germany, Austria and Hungary with a St. Joseph's group.

June and **John Cooper** tell us that they no longer take exciting overseas tours, but they do enjoy their children, who visit and often call. Jay is still legal counsel for the Colorado Wildlife Association and enjoys roaming the mountains from his high school days, and Beck and Bob are still crossing the country with their trailer, volunteering at parks and historical sites. Tim and Barbara are still in Las Vegas, involved in the entertainment world, and Bill and Eve's children seem to be traveling the world. John has given up driving, but with a new motor chair, he tours their retirement community inside and out.

We've also heard from good friends since our October luncheon. The **Spencers**, **Ralph** and **Marion**, are happy to let us know that 2010 was a good year! Two granddaughters were graduated in May, making this a total of four college graduates now. They spent a busy and enjoy-

able September week in New Hampshire with friends, followed by another week in October on Hilton Head Island with a second group of friends. Their big celebration, however, was with their children and grandchildren in August. The family, three generations and four dogs, gathered on Casco Bay, on the coast of Maine, to celebrate their 60th anniversary. In their words, "It was all too good to be true."

The **Mathieus, Don and Joan**, recently sent greetings to us all. They remind us that they have been Californians for ten years now—"Time does fly!" They are at the head of the Sacramento River Valley with mountains on three sides. Both Mount Shasta and Mount Lassen are visible from their deck, where they can enjoy looking at the snow from afar without having to deal with it. Don keeps busy with his woodworking and Joan is a docent at Turtle Bay museum which combines history, horticulture, and wild-life of northern California, plus art exhibits. While the *Titanic* exhibit was there, she and others portrayed actual passengers as part of the exhibit (She survived in lifeboat 7). Their travels take them up and down the West Coast to visit family from the Bay Area to Seattle, and each year they head for Ashland, OR, for the Shakespeare Festival and great restaurants. Daughter Mary is in San Francisco where she does bio-chem research at Genentec. Son Jonathan is now in Denver as an economist with the Nature Conservancy working on the Colorado River project. He and Susan have two little boys, Teddy, 5, and Peter, 3. Don and Joan tell us that they have made good friends, but they do miss their old ones!

Because **Ken Rosenberg** retired at the end of a fall semester, we just recently learned that he is indeed an emeritus, and are glad to pass along information about him and **Carol**. They moved to Sun City Hilton Head, SC, following their retirement in 2007. Ken came to the college's psychology department as a newly minted Purdue Ph.D. in 1969, primarily to teach statistics, research methods, and comparative psychology, and to continue his research on hormone-behavior relationships in Mahar Hall's new animal lab. Now, with the U of South Carolina/Bluffton (host of the OSHER Lifelong Learning Center) just outside the main gate, and with Savannah as well as Beaufort, Charleston, and Hilton Head Island so close by, Ken and Carol, who retired from Oswego County ARC, find that there is almost always more to do than time allows. Both have taught courses for OSHER and volunteer in other ways. Ken is the Cantor for Temple Oseh Shalom, the local 520-member (and growing!) Jewish congregation, and Carol consults at Head Start to help teachers with behavior and classroom management issues. Carol's passion is jazz and ballet dance, and Ken can often be found walking the nature trail, working out at the gym, or blasting away at the nearby indoor firing range pursuing his lifelong interest in marksmanship (Ken is the 930th civilian since 1890 to be

designated Distinguished Pistol Shot by the U.S. Department of the Army and has Master classification). As grand as life is in the South, however, both Ken and Carol look forward to a return visit to Oswego in the not-too-distant future. We hope to see them at our August luncheon!

Lew Turco continues to be seen in the bookstores. His latest work is *The Gathering of the Elders*, which chronicles the ups and downs of the real world. A former office-mate of your editor at The University of Michigan, X.J. Kennedy, calls the book, written under the pseudonym of Wesli Court, "an event calculated to shiver all literary seismographs." Sounds like an interesting read!

Walt and Barb Nitardy continued to gather with family throughout 2010. There were plenty of opportunities to welcome children and grandchildren at their summer home near Sacketts Harbor, and during Thanksgiving they had their annual family gathering in Cininnati. They also celebrated a couple of anniversaries surrounded with family and friends—Walt's 80th at Vero Beach, and their 58th wedding anniversary in November, with a family visit to Texas. For Christmas they traveled to South Carolina for another family visit. Walt and Barb do get around the country all year long, visiting with children and grandchildren who live up and down the East Coast. And Walt was recently mentioned in *Oswego*, the alumni magazine as having influenced former students Ted Grinnell '60 and Fred Parrow '60. As Walt's baseball players, they had learned that the emphasis should be on playing to win, playing fair, and maintaining focus, attributes that made them successful in their careers.

And other emeriti continue to be praised in Oswego as inspirations for former students. German major Matthew Cutillo '95 recently mentioned **George Koenig** and **Peter Hertz-Ohmes** for their inspiring his love of language with their encouragement. During a semester in Germany, he not only studied the language but honed his musical skills playing guitar at local venues. On a return to Germany, he spent four years playing hit parade songs and German versions of American and British pop hits of the '60s and '70s. The late **Girgis Ghobrial** was recently mentioned by Richard Clarke '82 as having had a huge influence on him. Clarke had planned to study meteorology at Oswego and had instead been graduated with a degree in geography. He recently scaled Kilimanjaro on a trip that included a safari and a stop in Egypt, having recalled stories that Girgis had told him about his country.

Tom Weil '66, remembers **Dick Shineman** as an important mentor and great teacher who, along with **Gus Silveira**, played a key role in his becoming a chemistry major. After three decades in research and development at Amoco, Tom is now an adjunct professor at the college. The article in *Oswego* goes on to mention additional ways by which Dick has influenced and will continue to

influence the lives of Oswego students with his freshman chemistry scholarships, his recent bequest of \$100,000 to the college, and his past donations that remain anonymous.

On a recent visit to his Oswego alma mater to give a Science Today lecture, David Troilo '80, vice president and dean of academic affairs at SUNY College of Optometry, mentioned **Lee Marsh** and **Peter Weber** as paving the way for his lifelong interest in research. Lee taught him that the essence of research is creating new knowledge, and working alongside Peter in the lab gave him hands-on experience that helped him grow. David has become one of the premier researchers in the country on the development of the eye from birth to maturity and the development of the refractive state. His work can help millions of patients with refractive errors like myopia.

Oswego to Celebrate Its Sesquicentennial

Beginning with the 2011 Commencement, the SUNY Oswego community will celebrate its 150th birthday. The theme of the year will be "Celebrating 150 Years of Engaging Minds and Opening Doors." During the year-long celebration, students, faculty, alumni, and emeriti will revisit the creation of the modest Oswego Primary Teachers Training School, the vision of its founder and Edward Austin Sheldon—a man whose interest in the well-being of humanity turned him into an unintentional educator. Discussed will be the work of the faculty he assembled, and the alumni they produced, who left the shores of Lake Ontario and changed the world.

The year will be marked by a series of events that include:

- **Commencement** in May. This event is under the direction of the Public Ceremonies Committee. Present plans include extending invitations to delegates from each class year to participate in the commencement for the School of Education and a special Torchlight Ceremony.
- **Alumni Weekend** in June. A special Reunion Weekend, *to which emeriti are invited*, is planned for June 10-12, and a Facebook Group is available at www.facebook.com/oswego150. A variety of events are being planned involving the College-Community Relations Committee and the members of the college's Orientation staff. Events will occur on and off campus. Special touches include Alumni Night at the Oswego Farmers Market on Thursday and a birthday cake at the "I Love New York" dinner on Saturday night, a 5K Fun Run/Walk (Yes, emeriti can participate!) and an antique trolley shuttle around campus.

- **Welcome Back** in August. A variety of on and off-campus events are being planned by the College-Community Relations Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Oswego. There are also plans for the creation of a special Torchlight Ceremony for entering students.
- **Founders Celebration** in October. These activities are in the planning stage and tentatively include a convocation-style event that pays tribute to Sheldon, a campus-wide picnic and birthday cake. *The emeriti have been invited to assist in this celebration.*
- **Documentary.** The college has commissioned the production of a documentary celebrating our past, present, and future. The film is focused on 4-5 minute online chapters that will tell the story of the people and the campus. These will culminate in a full documentary that will be completed in the spring of 2012.

All members of the Emeriti Association are invited to be involved in all stages of the celebration in part because it is our story and because we are the collective memory of the college.

For more information, you are invited to check the Sesquicentennial Committee's website at www.oswego.edu/about/150. Anyone who would like to participate in the event is encouraged to go online as noted above, or contact Bob Schell at schellr@earthlink.net. Bob is the Emeriti Association's liaison to the Sesquicentennial Committee. If you would like to contribute an article or an idea for a fall 2011 Sesquicentennial Edition of the *Emeriti Newsletter*, please contact John Fisher at jcjbfisher@frontiernet.net.

Emeriti: Meet Your Former Students!

It seems that our students from years ago really enjoy meeting their former professors. The Alumni Association tells us that they like to share their experiences since their college days with us, and they truly want to know how we are. Many of them want you to know that you have been a profound influence on their lives. So let's take the opportunity to see them again. This year's special Sesquicentennial Alumni Reunion Celebration will take place June 10-12, and you are cordially invited by your students to meet with them to renew friendships.

Advance reservations will be required for all reunion events. The schedule is in the planning stage at this writing, but you can go to www.oswego.edu/reunion around mid-April for the final schedule and registration information.

What's New on Campus?

- Applications to attend SUNY Oswego set a 21st century high again this year, and students in underrepresented racial and ethnic groups increased significantly. The college welcomed about 1,400 freshmen and 785 transfers in the fall. Freshmen applications totaled about 10,650, 40 percent more than five years ago.
- Last July, a two-week Energy Institute provided secondary school teachers with activities they can implement in new curricula on energy and sustainability. Topics included alternative energy sources and energy's connection to politics. In August, Oswego hosted K-6 teachers in a program of energy stewardship for their students. Among other projects, teachers learned and shared ideas for field trips, assembled a solar-powered motor, and studied the water cycle from rain to wastewater. Rice Creek helped them learn how to impart lessons of wetlands, wind and solar power.
- A new interdisciplinary minor in audio design production offered in the School of Communication, Media and the Arts includes possible classes in physics, broadcasting, music, theatre, and art. A student could choose a program that connects radio production and theatre sound classes, or recording classes in music. The recent explosion in production opportunities, including those on the Web, makes the program highly marketable.
- One night last December, more than 300 Oswego students mobbed Canale's restaurant as part of Carrot-mob, a program to entice businesses to do more to save energy by promising a "mob" of sales in return. Nick Canale of the restaurant promised to use 30 percent of the mob's proceeds, which amounted to over \$2,300 in sales, to make the restaurant more energy efficient with the help of an energy auditor. The auditor's work was paid for through fundraising done by the Go Green Team at the college, an organization of students involved in educating others about green initiatives on campus.
- A new capstone course option for Oswego English majors partners them with career possibilities. Early in the course students composed and revised resumes and cover letters, then interviewed for writing positions with business partners on and off campus. Each student was matched with a business partner for most of the semester, and work-related issues were discussed in class workshops. The English students also collaborated with graphic design students and faculty to learn fundamental design principles. Graphic design students have also worked with their English counterparts to produce an instruction manual detailing the basics of graphic design.
- Oswego graduate students in agricultural and mathematics education will have an opportunity to combine Peace Corps service and a master's degree. The new Master's International program fits well with the college's many global awareness initiatives. Participants will usually complete all course work before earning additional credit for serving 27 months as a Peace Corps volunteer.
- The convergence of media sources and skills has fed into the college's new interdisciplinary graduate certificate in integrated media and social networks offered in the School of Communication, Media and the Arts. Designed to help professionals gain greater understanding of a burgeoning field or to help students make themselves more marketable, the program brings together broadcasting, graphic design, and human-computer interaction. The goal is to help students gain skills in such areas as social network communication, interactive web interfaces, and other areas spanning disciplines. Two tracks are available, one technical, including design and social networks, the other on practical applications in areas like multimedia design, digital illustration, and video game theory.
- *The Princeton Review* has named the School of Business among "The Best 300 Business Schools: 2011 Edition," the seventh consecutive year the school has made the list of top graduate schools. Not affiliated with Princeton University, the *Review* cited the School of Business for small class sizes, professor-student interaction, team activities, knowledgeable faculty and engaged alumni. The *Review* surveys only AACSB-certified, MBA-awarding schools of business.
- An \$86,000 grant from the National Science Foundation provided a meteorology faculty member, Scott Steiger '99, and his students the tools to chase this past winter's most intense snowstorms and collect first-of-its-kind data. A radar-carrying NSF truck called Doppler-on-Wheels was provided, and experts from Boulder, CO, trained students in its use. Data gathering regarding lake-effect conditions lasted from late December to early February. Data analysis and writing for the project are taking place this spring and will continue through the summer, followed by publication and conference presentations in the second year of the grant.
- Rhonda Mandel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Webe Kadima of the chemistry department, have received a grant of \$200,000 to study the status of women faculty in science, technology, and math (STEM) disciplines at the college. Researchers will learn whether anything—from policies to practices—holds back women in STEM in terms of recruitment,

hiring, retention, and promotion. The award will help determine whether the college may be a candidate for a much larger “institutional transformation” grant.

- The School of Education is working closely with the Office of International Education to develop more Global Student Teaching opportunities. Some pre-service teachers already have an opportunity to complete coursework in Benin, France, and India as part of their majors, and some also choose to complete part of their student teaching in Australia and New Zealand. Currently, the college is beginning negotiations with several international English-speaking schools for families, American or foreign, who want their children educated in an English-language environment.
- The biological field station at Rice Creek will undergo a nearly \$2 million redevelopment as part of the rebirth of science facilities at the college. Little of the current wood-frame building that houses the laboratory, classrooms and offices will remain. Reconstruction and an addition will provide about one-third more space, and an observatory will likely replace the aging structure adjacent to Romney Field House. Most activities will continue during construction, including nature education workshops for students and the community.
- An adaptive ice sled has been obtained for people to use during open skate times at the ice rink in the Campus Center Arena. An adaptive ice-sled program has seen at least several physically challenged people use the sled, while a few able-bodied folks also have given it a whirl. The sled has a seat and two long bars in front that stretch to accommodate a person’s legs. Underneath are blades that glide along the ice. The person propels himself or herself across the ice using short hockey stick-like devices with picks on the bottom. Tim Graber, skate shop manager, began thinking about the project after seeing the national sled hockey team perform at the college in 2009, and he involved Greg Callen ’99, a paraplegic since a 1995 two-story fall. Greg grew up in Oswego, played hockey, and wanted to see people get back into the sport after an injury.
- The Carnegie Foundation has recognized the college with a national award for its community engagement programming, including volunteer work and research by students outside the classroom. At Oswego more than 1,500 student volunteers and 700 unpaid interns logged in 110,000 service hours in the 2009-2010 school year. The list included projects in New Orleans, and efforts to benefit local residents, like the Adopt-A-Grandparent program and more than 30 courses that include community service.
- And the volunteer work continues. In January, eight Oswego students and three psychology professors journeyed to Haiti for ten days to work with community leaders on continuing issues of trauma. The trip culminated a key college response to the Haiti disaster, a re-developed upper-division and graduate-level course in psychology and counseling for students and professionals called “Ethnocultural Aspects of Trauma: Focus on Haiti.” Understanding their own cultural prejudices and limitations was an important learning outcome of the trip. In Petit-Goave, a two-hour ride from Port-au-Prince, the group helped to build monuments, paint schools and enriched the lives of the people through teaching courses on African history and technology. They even helped Haitians create their own Facebook profiles. Students and staff plan to return to Haiti to continue their work.
- Operation Southern Comfort, a Central New York organization dedicated to rebuilding homes in Katrina-torn Louisiana, recently praised SUNY Oswego students and staff for its winter-break work in St. Bernard’s Parish, New Orleans. The New Orleans team, a group of ten, painted the interior of a house for a family of four. Other students and staff worked in West Virginia and Jamaica rural communities during the winter break. They helped out in classrooms at a preschool and painted the interior of primary schools in both locations. But they didn’t stop there. They also built huts and showers for future volunteers to use. All projects are directed through the Center for Service Learning and Community Service, a division of Compass, the college’s comprehensive career planning center that asks a student to Discover Your Vision, Define Your Future, Develop Your Skills, and Distinguish Yourself.
- In February, Compass kicked off a new Leadership Mentor program to connect students with faculty and staff. The program, with eighteen faculty and staff who agreed to mentor dozens of student leaders, centers on the premise that leadership is a collaborative relationship, not a position or title. It will culminate in a “Future Leaders of Oswego Conference” sponsored by the Student Association, campus fraternities, and the Oswego Alumni Association.
- Also in February, faculty and staff, alumni, emeriti, and parents of students were invited to SUNY Oswego Night at the Symphony—the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra. The occasion featured ticket discounts, a pre-concert reception to meet the musicians, and the option of traveling by bus from the campus at no charge. The concertgoers were encouraged to wear green and gold, and, of course, many did. The program included the Canadian group, Nexus, “the high priests of the percussion world, contemporary American composer Steve Reich’s “Music for Pieces of Wood,” and Jean Sibelius’ exhilarating Second Symphony.

The SUNY Scene

- A December *Chronicle* article noted that SUNY Albany has announced it will close programs in the classics, French, Italian, Russian, and theater because of lessening student demand. Demand for those programs is ebbing nationally, in fact, and many schools find they don't have the budget to keep marginal programs intact. A number of university humanities programs are apparently becoming marginal, from the point of view of students who favor programs that will more easily lead to careers. Universities seem to be promoting majors like information technology as career preparation. And as one state official has asked, "How can we as a state afford unchecked expansion of academic programs without a commensurate reduction of unproductive programs?" AAUP has urged Albany to reconsider its closures, and a national petition has circulated that expresses "concern and dismay" over the elimination of language programs (but not, apparently, over closing the classics and theater programs). In December, the petition had nearly 14,000 signatures.
- After Albany announced its plans to eliminate five departments and 160 full-time faculty positions, students demonstrated, carrying signs that read "Don't Kill French." When Geneseo decided to shed 54 jobs and close three departments, including communicative disorders and sciences, the signs read "Geneseo is Speechless" and "Save the Endangered Speechies." With repeated multi-million dollar cuts in funding since 2007 and the state confronting a \$10 billion budget gap, SUNY and CUNY face their stiffest challenge since the 1970s. SUNY's annual state appropriation has been cut dramatically, to \$2.3 billion, since 2007. The CUNY budget has been cut by \$205 million, to \$2.6 billion, since 2008. The total SUNY budget is \$10 billion.
- SUNY's Professional Science Master's program, which aims to increase the flow of scientific skills and innovation into the business-industry arena in New York, got a boost recently with a \$350,000 grant from the Sloan Foundation. The PSM degree combines graduate studies in science or math and business management. New programs are anticipated that will add to those already in place: Oswego's degree in chemistry and human-computer interaction, for instance, forensic biology at Albany, and biophysics at Buffalo. David King coordinates the program that to date has established 13 new master's degrees at 16 SUNY campuses.
- According to a National Council for Teacher Accreditation report endorsed by Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, teacher-training programs need to be revamped to focus more on hands-on clinical instruction, similar to how physicians are trained. The report finds the current model of teaching, which relies heavily on classroom instruction and course work, inadequate. "We have a model from medicine, and we ought to use it," said the chancellor. She is calling for the clinical-model to be adopted throughout SUNY. Coupled with that design would be more-rigorous accountability measures for education schools, and the accumulation of better knowledge about which programs work. Most aspiring teachers are in student-teacher positions for 10 to 12 weeks near the end of their education, but the recommendation of the panel and the chancellor calls for significant time in front of a classroom throughout their training.
- Last October, Chancellor Zimpher launched Phase IV of The Power of SUNY, a plan to revitalize New York's economy through a refocusing of the university system. The conference was held to establish guidelines for grading the university's progress over the next five years. The Power of SUNY will be focused on: SUNY and the entrepreneurial center; SUNY and the seamless educational pipeline; SUNY and a healthier New York; SUNY and an energy-smart New York; SUNY and the vibrant community; and SUNY and the world. According to the chancellor, the core message is that SUNY should be the backbone in New York's economy. Eventually, a report card will be issued yearly for each SUNY school.
- Many college students have replaced the library with computers as they do online research in their own dorm rooms. A recent report in *Business First* shows that SUNY Buffalo saw a huge drop in its library use, so it decided to reinvent itself. The library now has a high-tech support center with new computer terminals, expanded hours, and digital cameras to lend to students. Other schools in the nation are also going high tech with expansions as the trend catches on.
- From the Associated Press: In his first State of the State address, newly inaugurated Gov. Andrew Cuomo assigned SUNY a high-profile role to help turn around New York state's economy, after the university got a decade of underfunding and little attention from Albany despite enrollment increases. In January, SUNY officials and the new lieutenant governor, Bob Duffy, met to meld existing SUNY efforts to revitalize the economy with Cuomo's plan for regional economic development councils. The regional centers will try to exploit each area's attributes, such as a skilled work force or natural resources, and coordinate local and state economic funds and tax breaks. The regional centers would also compete for a share of \$200 million in funding for the most innovative approaches. This gives SUNY a protected spot among state agencies, which face a projected state deficit of more than \$10 billion. The Associated Press noted that the three previous state governors had similar rhetoric for SUNY, only to cut or freeze funding for the university.

--From various sources, including SUNY press releases

What's New in Higher Education

- Although fewer than 10 percent of college students attend for-profit colleges, those schools account for 44 percent of all defaults on federal student loans. It is expected that the government will lend \$300 billion to students over the next decade, and the growth of those loans will be fueled by for-profits in which recruiters are paid on how many students they sign up. Instructors are paid on course completions, and there is no risk to executives or investors because the loans are guaranteed by the government. One manager of a financial fund notes, “The incentives to grow far outweigh the incentives to educate.”
- Last September, the London-based *Times Higher Education* released its World University Rankings. Harvard, California Institute of Technology, MIT, Stanford, and Princeton received the five highest rankings. Cambridge and Oxford tied for 6th place. The *Times* noted that this year it is emphasizing what it describes as a new methodology, which places less importance on reputation than in previous years and gives more weight to hard measures of excellence — research, teaching, and knowledge transfer. There has been a painful outcry, of course, by skeptics from a number of universities, especially in England.
- The December *American Teacher* features an article about the National Labor College, the nation’s only accredited higher education institute devoted exclusively to educating union members, leaders and staff. Many of us remember Bill Scheuerman, its recently appointed president, formerly a faculty member at Oswego, and SUNY’s UUP president for many years. The article notes that the Silver Spring, Maryland, college offers a variety of ways to complete a degree, including online courses as well as courses in residence. Students, many of whom work fulltime, often take years to complete their degrees. The school also offers graduate opportunities, certificate programs, labor safety and health training, union skills and building trades courses.
- Reported by Associated Press: A number of years ago, ROTC units disappeared from campuses (including Oswego’s), casualties of Vietnam-era tensions and academic power struggles. Now, many of the schools are moving toward welcoming ROTC units back, thanks to the proposed demise of “don’t ask, don’t tell.” Apparently, universities largely value the positive impact veterans bring to campus, as well as their GI Bill money. But campus debates could reveal continued antimilitary sentiment, and because of limited resources, it’s far from certain the military will be willing to return to these colleges, especially the elite colleges such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Stanford, where ROTC first disappeared. The military long ago shifted officer recruitment to the South, and as one Wisconsin professor has noted, “a lot of people in the military, they’re not sure the Ivy League type of student is the kind that would make a good warrior.”
- A new study by NYU and U of Virginia professors provides disturbing answers to questions about how much students actually learn in college—for many, not much. The research involving more than 2,300 undergraduates found 45 percent show no significant improvement in key measures of critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing by the end of their first two years in college. One problem is that students just aren’t asked to do much, according to findings in *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses*. Half the students did not take a single course requiring 20 pages of writing, and one-third did not take a single course requiring even 40 pages of reading per week. The 24 schools taking part in the survey did so on the condition that their institutions not be identified.
- Faculty members from public-college unions in 21 states met in Los Angeles in January and committed to launching a campaign to assure the future of higher education. Participants expressed support for a document called “Quality Higher Education for the 21st Century.” It advocates for a scrupulous analysis of calls to reform higher education: “Wholesale embrace of change without careful thought can take us in the wrong direction, not toward reforming, but toward deforming those aspects of American higher education that have made it the envy of the world.” The document stakes out seven principles: Increased inclusivity and access for students; a broad, diverse, liberal arts curriculum; less reliance on contingent as opposed to tenure-track faculty; incorporating technology with an eye toward maintaining educational quality; more judicious balancing of short-term cuts with long-term costs; better state support; and the adoption of evaluation metrics that go beyond graduation rates. SUNY’s UUP was in attendance.
- For this year’s freshmen, e-mail is too slow, phones have never had cords, and the computers they played with as kids are now in a museum. The Class of 2014 thinks of Clint Eastwood more as a director than as Dirty Harry urging punks to “go ahead, make my day.” Few freshmen know how to write cursive or have ever worn a watch. These are among the 75 items on this year’s Beloit College Mindset List meant to remind teachers that cultural differences familiar to them might draw blank stares from college freshmen born mostly in 1992.

--Lifted from a variety of sources, including
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Chancellor Zimpher: Flexibility and Independence

(The following article, edited here, was released by the Gannett News Bureau, January 20, 2011.)

With an ever-climbing enrollment and dwindling state funding, SUNY is again making a case for tuition flexibility and greater independence from the Legislature. It also plans to move forward with shared-services initiatives and developing competitive funding to drive campus improvements and efficiency, Chancellor Nancy Zimpher said in her January State of the University address. Currently money is doled out according to enrollment.

The chancellor noted that starting in 2012, some of the state funding SUNY passes on to its colleges will be based on performance measures, such as how campuses fare in research awards, student retention and rates of degree completion. She reiterated SUNY's support of hoped-for legislation called the SUNY Empowerment Act, a measure that would allow the university system to enter into public-private partnerships, scale back the review for purchases of goods and service, and implement a five-year plan to increase tuition by small increments on a regular basis. [As noted in last fall's issue of the *Emeriti Newsletter*, the legislature and then-Gov. Paterson were unable to reach a compromise on the bill last year.]

According to the chancellor, the strategies she outlined would help create and retain about 40,000 jobs in the state. Roughly 20,000 would be in the construction industry and another 20,000 would be "spin-off jobs" as a result of partnerships [Note The Power of SUNY item in this issue's "The SUNY Scene."]

UUP has said that it needs more information on the incentive plan, noting that "competition among campuses for funds may have unintended consequences. That is, competition may lead campuses to select only those students who've already demonstrated academic success. That could compromise access."

In his recent State of the State address, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that higher education is a key ingredient in helping New York's economic recovery, but he has not yet committed to the SUNY empowerment plan. The state has cut SUNY funding by \$1.1 billion in the past three years, or about one-third of the university's income from the state. The university, which educates nearly 465,000 students, has a total budget of \$10 billion, which includes the state appropriation of \$2.3 billion.

Shortly after Zimpher's address, Carl Hayden, chair of the SUNY board of trustees, said "I would be less than realistic if I did not say that there is a high likelihood that more cuts are on the way. But with that said, I think everyone understands that we are approaching a tipping point, a point at which this great public institution may very well be imperiled."

Effects of E-Mail, Tweets, Text

[The article below comes to us from Suzanne Fields in an interesting February editorial released by the *Tribune Media Service*.]

We're moving swiftly into post-literate America, and more's the pity. Many of us can't write a coherent, straightforward, easy-to-read sentence. Nobody but a Tiger mother seems interested in teaching her cubs how to write clearly.

The ubiquitous e-mail message had just about done the language in, then came texting and Twittering, with its abbreviations and inane speech conventions. OMG, soon we'll all have sore thumbs, and speak only a version of pidgin.

Pidgin is OK if you're a backwoodsman in New Guinea come to town to buy tobacco and beans and neither you nor the storekeeper speak the other's language, but it's not what parents send their kids to Harvard (or Southwest Missouri State) to learn.

We're waking up to the hard fact that our kids are woefully deficient in math and science, and next must follow the realization that reading and good writing are necessary to learning math and science.

Students in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan, whence come so much of our imported talent in the sciences, are far ahead of us already.

Fads rule, and the latest fad among English teachers—who ought to be concerned with teaching the clear writing necessary to dealing with math and science—is to belittle Strunk and White, the authors of a little book, *Elements of Style*, which has been the best-known guide to effective writing for nearly a century. This little book has sold 10 million copies.

The latest skeptic of this guide is a professor of humanities and law at Florida International University and a columnist for *The New York Times*. He doesn't like Strunk and White's rules for good writing, which he regards as picayune and elementary. Strunk and White offend certain professors because their "brief for brevity," as one critic calls it, teaches in 43 brief pages what learned professor often fail to do in two semesters.

Membership Stats

To date, the SUNY Oswego Emeriti Association lists 372 emeriti and associates as members. We have 75 life members and 45 who have made a contribution for this year's annual membership.

Emeriti Continue to Support Students

The good that men do lives long after them. (Euripedes/Shakespeare)

One cannot help but be impressed by the extent to which former faculty continue to be a presence in the lives of Oswego's students. Not only do present members of the Emeriti Association indirectly support today's students through the activities of the Association, but they and our deceased members, as well as historical former faculty, directly support students through named awards and scholarships. Note the number and variety of those awards bearing the names of former colleagues that are granted at the annual Honors Convocation or individually. Many of the awards, each for amounts up to and over \$4,000, have been funded by the individuals named, some have been funded in honor of the individuals, and you will notice that quite often more than one scholarship is offered in the name of a former colleague. In addition, at least three of our members, Connie Bond, Nancy Osborne, and Barbara Shineman, have served in recent years as members of the college scholarship committee.

Scholarships for freshmen and transfer students are offered in the names of the following former colleagues: Roland and Dorothy Brown Clark, Helen Daly, Girgis Ghobrial, Lynn and Ellen Hemink, Barbara Shineman, and Gerhard Zeller. Graduate study awards are offered in the names of Thomas and Shirley Gooding, Donald Snygg, Barbara Shineman, and Charles Turner; and two research awards are offered in the name of Helen Daly, one of which fosters basic behavioral research.

In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, scholarships have been provided in the names of: Norman E. Whitten (Anthropology); Norman and Elsie Gillette, and Martin V. Torok, the latter provided by his parents (Biology); Pearl Monroe, Richard Shineman, Augustine Silveira Jr., and Anthony VanGeet (Chemistry); Obele Van Dyk

(Computer Studies); Richard Hyse (Economics); Erwin Palmer, Charles Wells, and Richard Wheeler (English Literature); Helen Buckley (English Writing Arts); Marion Mahar, and Virginia Radley (History); Louis DeRitter, Emmet Stopher, and John Walcott (Mathematics); Hubert B. Smith (Office of Learning Services); Gerhard Zeller (Native American Studies); Helen Daly, David J. King, and William McGarvey (Psychology); Lou Iorizzo (Public Justice); Seward Salisbury (Sociology). And the School of Business, in addition to other scholarships, provides an award in the name of John Parr (Marketing and Management).

The School of Communication, Media and the Arts provides scholarships in the names of Aulus Saunders, Joseph F. Schoenfelt, and Robert Sullins (Art); I. David Glick, J. Edward McEvoy, and Vernon Rank (Communication Studies); Maurice Boyd, and James Soluri (Music); John and Ida Mincher, Kathleen Pendergast, and Olla Rickett (Theatre).

In the School of Education, scholarships are available in the names of the following former colleagues: Thomas Chapman, and Lucy Wing (Counseling and Psychological Services); James and Nina Hastings, Hazel Hewitt, and R. Lee Martin (Curriculum and Instruction); David A. Campbell (Health Promotion and Wellness); James Hastings, Robert Helsby, and Jessie and Jay Rudolph (Technology).

In addition, general scholarships, not attached to a specific discipline, are offered by: Barry Atkinson, Lois and Paul Goodwin, James Perdue, Patti McGill Peterson, Dorothy Rogers, and William Tucker.

Quite a display of generosity from our former colleagues! That generosity changes the lives of more than a few of our students.

Bits and Pieces: Miscellaneous Info

- A survey conducted by the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum notes that "Only one in four Americans can name more than one of the five freedoms guaranteed under the First Amendment . . . but more than half can name at least two members of The Simpsons family." Among those surveyed were college professors—and emeriti.
- Feeling chatty? That might be good news. A University of Michigan Institute for Social Research study suggests that emotional well-being isn't the only thing at risk from social isolation. Spending just 10 minutes a day talking to another person can help improve your memory as much as doing a daily crossword puzzle.
- Ever wonder about the omnipresent Starbucks? It started as a coffee-bean store by a trio of Seattle coffee-lovers—An English teacher, a history teacher, and a writer. And why "Starbucks?" They were intrigued by the resolute character of Starbucks, the first mate on the *Pequod*, in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*.
- Bothered by airline delays? Check Flightaware.com to determine where a flight is at that specific time.
- Questions George Carlin might have asked: Can a hearse carrying a corpse be driven in the carpool lane? Do the "Alphabet Song" and "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" have the same tune? Why did you just try singing the two songs?

Welcome, New Retirees!

Fourteen former colleagues have become colleagues again in retirement, and we welcome them as members of the Emeriti Association. A number of them were recognized at the December commencement. We look forward to seeing these friends again at the annual August retirees' luncheon, and to their joining us as we continue to serve SUNY Oswego through the activities of the Emeriti Association.

Suzanne Gilmour, Professor and chair of educational administration, was appointed to her department in 1998. Her Master of Science and PhD degrees are from Syracuse University.

David Hill, Professor of English and creative writing, and director of the linguistics program, was appointed to his department in 1978. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University, and his PhD from Indiana University. For several years, David directed the college's Honors Program.

Kenneth Hyde, Distinguished Teaching Professor, was appointed to the college in 1968. His BS in chemistry is from Carnegie-Mellon University, and his PhD in inorganic chemistry is from the University of Maryland. He has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in his department. In 1981, Ken received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He recently served half-time as assistant dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, overseeing the construction for the new Science Center

Linda Johnson, Visiting Assistant Professor, mathematics, was appointed to the college in 1979.

Lanny Karns, Professor, marketing and management, and founding dean of the School of Business, was appointed to the business department in 1976. His BS degree in marketing is from Pennsylvania State University, and his MBA in management information systems and PhD in operations management are from Syracuse University. He served as chair of the business administration department and director of the MBA program. Lanny is also a retired Lt. Colonel from the U.S. Air Force.

Florence Kirk, Professor of accounting, finance and law, was appointed to the college in 1993. Her Bachelor of Arts degree is from Tufts University, her Master of Arts from Boston College, and her Master of Science and PhD degrees are from Cornell University.

Thomas Loe, Professor, English and creative writing, was appointed to his department in 1971. His Bachelor of Arts degree is from St. Olaf College, and his MA and PhD were taken at the University of Iowa. Tom served two terms as acting chair of the department, and later as acting

chair of writing arts. For thirteen years prior to his retirement, he directed the English department's graduate program. Over the years Tom published a number of articles in his field, and in the late 80s he received the President's Award for Scholarly Writing. In 1990, he received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Donald Masterson, Associate Professor of English and creative writing, was appointed to his department in 1976. He took his Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and PhD degrees from the University of Illinois. In 1985, he was honored with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Melsome Nelson-Richards, Associate Professor, sociology, received his appointment to the college in 1993. His Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and PhD degrees are from the Free University of Amsterdam.

Karen S. Nicholas, Associate Professor, was appointed to the history department in 1985. Her Bachelor of Arts in history was received with distinction from Mount Holyoke College, and her PhD in history is from Brown University. She taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in her department, where she was the advisement coordinator. Karen also served as the college's coordinator of Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Kenneth Peterson, Associate Professor, health promotion and wellness, was appointed to the men's physical education department in 1968. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Springfield College.

Kenneth Rosenberg, Professor, psychology, was appointed to his department in 1969 and retired in 1997 at the conclusion of the previous fall semester. He thus missed recognition in our list of retirees that year. Ken's Bachelor of Science degree was from Tufts University, and his Master of Science and PhD degrees are from Purdue University. You can read more about Ken in this issue's "Friends" article.

Donald Vanouse, Professor of English and creative writing, and coordinator of the college's American Studies program, was appointed to his department in 1971. Don's Bachelor of Science and PhD degrees are both from the University of Minnesota.

Gay Williams, Assistant Professor of accounting, finance and law, was appointed to her department in 1996. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from SUNY Oswego, and went on to Syracuse University to receive the Juris Doctor degree. During her tenure at the college, Gay taught her department's courses in business law.