Emeriti President’s Report
Vern Tryon

Spring greetings from Oswego:

Your Emeriti Association Directors would like to hear from you. We wish to know your ideas and suggestions of activities and services that you think our organization should undertake. We want to offer programs that you would support and enjoy, but you are such a varied group in so many ways that we need your advice. Send your thoughts to Vernon@Tryon.com or Vernon Tryon, 3 Margaret Street, Oswego, NY 13126, or 315-343-9692.

Our Association recently received some attention as an exemplary pioneer for retirees within the State University. It was profiled in the first issue of the SUNY Retirees Service Corps’ Retirees Newsletter. Furthermore, John Fisher and I were invited to tell the Oswego story at the Corps’ second biennial conference in Albany on November 3, 2011. John drew upon his 22 years of editing our Emeriti Newsletter and described his procedures for selecting content and the role of the publication in enriching communication and fellowship among our members. I spoke about the elements necessary to develop an effective retiree organization and its desirable relationships with the college offices and personnel.

The SUNY Retiree Service Corps (RSC) was formed in early 2008 to serve retirees from all SUNY colleges, universities, affiliated organizations, and system administration. RSC seeks to promote a strong retiree-campus-community connection by linking retirees to service opportunities, information, and resources that enhance their retirement. Dr. Ram Chugh serves as director of RSC with offices at SUNY System Administration in Albany. You can find information about RSC at its website: http://www.suny.edu/retirees.

The RSC recently released the results of a survey of some of the 20,000 SUNY retirees entitled, SUNY Retiree Volunteers: An Analysis of Responses to the Survey on SUNY Retirees Volunteer Activity. I think you will find it interesting to learn what your fellow retirees are doing and how they feel about it. You can find a copy of the report at http://www.suny.edu/retirees/reports.cfm.

Our next Springside luncheon will be on Monday, April 23. Please remember our Scholarship Endowment Fund and tell your college-bound family members about our scholarship.

That’s my Emeriti news from Oswego.

In Memoriam

Ursala O. Kingston Associate Member March 2011
Ernest B. Luongo October 2011
Professor Emeritus, Health and Physical Education
(Active 1957-1985)
Nancy Seale Osborne October 2011
Librarian Emerita (October 1980-August 1998)
Owen Pittenger November 2011
Professor Emeritus, Psychology
(February 1955-August 1990)
Kay Schell December 2011
Associate Member
William K. Todd December 2011
Professor Emeritus, Technology (1955-1985)
James Leflore January 2012
Professor Emeritus, Anthropology (1972-2005)
(Emertiti Board Member, 2007 - 2012)
Joseph Braco January 2012
Associate Professor Emeritus, Technology
(1957-1985)
An Engaging Challenge: The Sesquicentennial Plan for the Future
Deborah Stanley

SUNY Oswego’s recently developed Engaging Challenge, The Sesquicentennial Plan, is an ambitious document that takes bold, innovative steps to develop our students as true global citizens. It is designed to deliver a SUNY Oswego education with global views and inventive solutions that will enrich the lives of our students, communities and world.

We envision a college where students are highly directed learners with a clear understanding of the interdependencies among major global challenges and where they are prepared to offer solutions that address the root causes of societal issues in order to build a better world.

In preparing Engaging Challenge, 30 members of the Strategic Planning Advisory Board, with the thoughtful input of colleagues and others, conducted a thorough, highly consultative and far-reaching analysis of our purpose, priorities, needs and aspirations.

The Advisory Board has identified five strategic directions—Vitality, Intellectual Rigor, Engagement, World Awareness, and Solutions (VIEWS)—as key to achieving our aspiration as a world-class institution that prepares its students as responsible global citizens. These VIEWS will help lead the college and our graduates to national and international distinction.

VITALITY. We will be an intellectually engaging, forward-thinking, collaborative community, held together by a shared vision, and supported by expanded and diverse sources of revenue so that we can continue to accentuate academic excellence.

INTELLECTUAL RIGOR. Our academic environment will be rigorous, stimulating, and more diverse. Merit and need-based aid will allow us to compete for the very best students regardless of their financial circumstances. Students will be drawn into the work of faculty engaged in scholarship, research and the production of new knowledge.

ENGAGEMENT. We will take advantage of the substantial human and other abundant resources of our region to build new and more collaborative ties with neighbors and neighboring institutions to advance the quality of life for our citizens and to grow the economies at the local, regional and state levels.

WORLD AWARENESS. The campus community will reflect the world’s rich diversity, and our students will have a deep understanding of themselves and respect for the complex identities of others, their histories and their cultures. They will develop a greater understanding of how to participate in a complex pluralistic society.

SOLUTIONS. The college will give priority to applying research, scholarship and creative activity to solve real-world problems. Students will examine pressing social and ethical questions and will work in partnership with the world community to define research issues. Every discipline will have a role to play in finding solutions to global challenges, and in demonstrating global responsibility.

Through these strategic directions in our 150th year, we will be a closely connected community of scholars with lifelong allegiance to the college, learning, and humankind. We will be an academic community moving in concert with the needs of the world.

The Editor’s Desk
John Fisher

Because one mission of our Emeriti Association has been to keep the history of the college alive, we are pleased to present this second sesquicentennial issue of the Emeriti Newsletter. Once again we focus on presidents and former faculty who, in fact, have been the history of SUNY Oswego.

One of those who have helped present that history to us in the Newsletter over the years is the late librarian emerita, Nancy Osborne. Her articles, re-printed in last fall’s sesquicentennial issue, and here in this issue, continued her deep interest in the college well beyond her active tenure as librarian. We are doubly pleased to make additional articles of hers, as well as those of others, available again in this issue celebrating the 150th year of the founding of the college.

Save the Date !!

Annual Emeriti Business Meeting and Luncheon

Monday, August 6, 2012
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.
Over the Years: SUNY Oswego Presidents 2

[The fall 2011 sesquicentennial issue of the Emeriti Newsletter presented historical information regarding the first four presidents of the college. The below continues that information.]

Harvey Rice (1947 – 1952)

Harvey Rice, the first of Oswego’s chief executives not to hold a degree from Hamilton College, was born in West Virginia, and received his doctorate from Ohio State University, where he had once taught. He came to Oswego from Albany State, where he had been head of the history department. He was a man of tremendous energy, with a keen concern for civic and educational affairs.

The major development at the time was an increased interest in general, rather than liberal, education. It was said that liberal education draws on the heritage by studying it as an end in itself, while general education utilizes the heritage to understand the problems of modern living. Concurrently came a trend toward more electives. The most notable development in industrial arts was further diversification. New shops were added, including those in textiles, elementary industrial arts, ceramics, and transportation.

Administrative changes were also made, with the appointment of the first director of the Division of Elementary Education created to parallel that of the director of the Division of Industrial Arts Education. An audio-visual department was added, and the size of the Campus School was increased.

These developments were accompanied in 1947 by the creation of the State University of New York, the state’s first attempt to bring together the separate public higher education institutions under one governing body.

In June 1950 the first master’s degrees in education were granted to seven candidates. In the same year the college applied for and was granted, for the first time, accreditation from the Middle States Association.

Building expansion involved both temporary and permanent structures. By January 1948, at Oswego, as elsewhere at colleges after World War II, a “Splinter Village” of army barracks was completed. It included homes for married veterans, classrooms, a cafeteria, and a gymnasium. In 1951, additions were made to the industrial arts building, and Moreland Hall was erected as a student union and dormitory.

An event affecting faculty was the creation in 1949 of a Faculty Council, with representatives elected from the Industrial Arts Division, the Elementary Education Division, the Campus School, and the faculty at large. Harvey Rice compressed into four brief years a considerable array of achievements before he left to become president of the State College for Teachers in Buffalo, and later of Macalaster College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Foster Brown (1952 – 1963)

Foster Brown was born in Leyden, New York, at the edge of the Adirondacks. His first degrees were from St. Lawrence University, and his doctorate was from Columbia. Before coming to Oswego as president he had been superintendent of schools in Suffern and dean at Cortland.

Brown placed great emphasis on faculty morale—the subject of his doctoral dissertation—and on community relations. He initiated faculty participation in making promotions, and he made college facilities available to people in the area.

The most significant development during Brown’s tenure, however, was the school’s growth—in student body, faculty, facilities, buildings, and grounds—for he was a builder. The campus we know today is largely the result of his vision. In 1955 he initiated a long-range study to insure that facilities be practical, aesthetic, and adequate for the future. The student body doubled from 1,148 in 1952. In 1957 alone the faculty doubled from 40 to 80, and it continued to grow. In quick succession six off-campus residence halls, as well as a former orphan’s asylum, Hillcrest, were purchased, usually at a fraction of their original cost. The 150-acre Fallbrook Farm was developed as a recreation area, with ski tow and modern stables, as was a large parcel of land on Fairhaven Bay, Shore Acres, where faculty and students could enjoy the benefits of living on one of the Great Lakes. Brown believed that a college should tend to more than just the curricular needs of its constituents—faculty and students.

Late in Brown’s tenure the college began to develop degrees in the arts and sciences and business. For the first time in its long history, students came for a liberal arts degree, and to prepare for careers other than teaching. Professional education was also revised and expanded to include programs in early childhood, elementary education, and junior high school. A five-year program for training secondary math and science teachers was instituted in 1959.

Also in 1959 the college began to offer an innovative elementary education degree with a minor in industrial arts. Laboratories were developed to incorporate new technologies, such as those in space travel. And a new driver-education program recognized its status as the fastest growing high school subject of its day.

Addenda to the regular curriculum included extension courses and foreign study, and graduate work in a variety of education and liberal arts programs, as well as a program for permanent certification of elementary school...
administrators. But at the end of Brown’s tenure, Oswego was still largely a training ground for teachers. And it was performing that mission well. In 1960, in anticipation of the college’s 1961 centennial celebration, the head of the department of industrial education at Penn State wrote, “Oswego, more than any other teacher-education institution, has influenced the development of industrial arts as an important phase of public education.” And the college in that year received letters commending Oswego’s graduates as classroom teachers. What impressed their employers most was the way they “take hold in the classroom,” reflecting a preparation which integrated theory and practice.

In 1961 Foster Brown enjoyed the admiration of the faculty and staff, students, the local community, and the state administration. There was even talk of his becoming the next chancellor of the State University. But when he was asked to return to his alma mater it was as though he had been asked to return home. He left Oswego to become president of St. Lawrence University.


James Perdue’s tenure at Oswego followed the two-year interim presidency of Charles Turner, director of the Education Division. In spite of his overwhelming popularity, Charlie, as he was known on campus, was ineligible for the permanent position because at the time presidents of the university could not be chosen from the local staff.

During his twelve years as the college’s seventh president, Perdue enjoyed a distinguished career outside of Oswego as well as on campus. He was a director of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, received an administrative leave grant from the Danforth Foundation, was made a trustee of Parsons College and, in 1970, was invited with others to the White House to advise President Nixon on matters of higher education. The next year he accompanied Protestant church leaders to Paris to discuss the treatment of American prisoners of war in Vietnam. A year later he took a six-month leave to study higher education in this country and Europe.

On campus, Perdue continued the transformation of a single-purpose institution for teacher preparation, with about 2,000 students, into a multi-purpose college of arts and sciences, with about 8,000 students, in effect carrying out the vision of his predecessor, Foster Brown. Once begun, the shift was rapid. In 1966, 98 percent of Oswego students were preparing to teach and, by 1973, only 54 percent. The ratio of women to men was two to one, reflecting the large numbers in elementary education, and by 1973, the sexes were almost equal in number. In just five years, 1962 to 1967, the faculty had grown from 238 to 459.

When Perdue came in 1965, the campus was limited to the Lakeside and Sheldon Hall vicinity. In 1966, construction was begun on the Rice Creek Field Station, a wildlife refuge unique in the State University. In 1968, several major buildings were opened: Snygg, Laker, Onondaga, Tyler, Mahar, Penfield, and Culkin halls, and Hewitt Union and Littlepage Dining Hall.

Perdue identified his own most significant achievement as “changing Oswego’s mentality from one of a teachers college to more of a liberal arts school . . . . Teacher education had become far too professionalized and limiting in scope.” His biggest disappointment was failure to make a greater impact on faculty, students, and curriculum. “My problem,” he said, “was that I couldn’t work with faculty from day to day.” Instead, he had to work with budgetary and political aspects of the college, with the alumni, and with gaining national recognition for the institution, especially when elected president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

In 1977 Perdue left Oswego to assume a newly created position with the SUNY Central Administration, Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs, Policy and Planning.

Virginia Radley (1978 – 1988)

Virginia Radley arrived in Oswego in 1974 as provost and executive vice president, following several years in administration in private colleges and a year in Albany as SUNY’s provost for undergraduate education. She was acting president for much of 1976, and from February 1977 until she was named president in 1978, the first woman to be appointed to that position in the State University.

Radley’s task was not an easy one. She assumed the presidency in a time of budgetary stress, which required cuts in facilities and personnel. Perhaps the most shocking cutback occurred in 1981 with the state-mandated closing of the Campus School, which had been central to the college’s mission from its founding to when the college became a multi-purpose institution.

In spite of her being plagued by budget cuts, Radley’s trademark was a quest for excellence, and by 1983 Oswego was ranked among the best colleges in Barron’s Guide. 1980 saw the beginning of the Quest program, Oswego’s first conference for scholarly activities of students, staff, and faculty. She was instrumental in raising entrance requirements, and in establishing the General Education Program and the first Honors College at a four-year SUNY unit. After strengthening the academic advisement program, she encouraged students to get to know their professors better and professors to spend time with their students, “not hovering, not mothering, but helping their minds catch fire.”
In her inauguration speech, Radley predicted that America's further expansion into unknown areas would be in the "mind and heart of man . . . . Our expansion will be one of mental rigor, of mental exploration . . . . We will be contemplative, thoughtful, caring. We will look to cultivating our own gardens of intellect."

Bruce Dearing, then vice chancellor for academic affairs, recalled that the University was fortunate in attracting Radley "at a time when our mission was to maintain rigorous standards in undergraduate education throughout SUNY, and at the same time continue the adaptation of the four-year colleges to a broader and still-evolving mission in liberal education. Well in advance of the current vogue for reemphasizing modern languages, revitalizing the study of history, and seeking balance among the essential components of the arts and sciences, Virginia Radley was fighting valiantly in support of these values."

Whenever it was possible during her years as president, Radley taught, and she maintained a bond with students. In 1988 she left the presidency to resume teaching English literature full time. From her earliest teaching at Chatham Hall in Virginia, to her later position at Russell Sage, where she had once been dean, her students marveled at her ability to inspire. As one Oswego student has said, "It was so obvious that she just loved what she was doing . . . . She seemed to just enjoy – life."


Before coming to Oswego in 1988, Stephen Weber was vice president for academic affairs at St. Cloud University, Minnesota. He had previously been dean of arts and sciences at Fairfield University, Connecticut, and assistant to the president at the University of Maine.

President Weber received his bachelor’s degree from Bowling Green State University in 1964, and completed his PhD in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame in 1969. His academic interests include the history of philosophy, existentialism, and the philosophy of science. While a faculty member at Maine, he was chosen as the campus' outstanding humanities professor. He has authored numerous articles on philosophy and higher education.

When Weber assumed the presidency, the college was facing waning support from the state and the local community, so he spent considerable time during his first year talking with faculty, staff, students, and townspeople. From the experiences he developed a “Five-Year Plan” that focused on his visions for the future of the college. His 1995 report details the progress of the initial plan. The campus had increased funding for faculty development, enhanced diversity and multiculturalism in the student body and staff, worked closely with area business and industry, built partnerships with area schools, and strength-ened the college’s self-sufficiency. Under his leadership, the college opened a continuing education center in Phoenix, New York, and through its Regional Corporate and Community Services Office continues to help train employees of business and industry.

To cope with the erosion of financial support from the state, Weber involved a broad range of constituencies in enhancing college programs. He helped establish close ties between college and community through his service on a variety of local boards of directors. A local editorial noted that he “succeeded in showing the community that the college was a huge resource that should not be taken for granted.”

During his tenure, Dr. Weber taught philosophy to large classes of appreciative students. His wife, Susan, taught communication studies. She was very much involved in college and community activities, and in preserving the history of the college.

In July 1995 President Weber left Oswego on a temporary assignment as interim provost of the State University. In recommending his appointment, then-Chancellor Thomas Bartlett said he “brings to the provost’s office an extensive knowledge of system issues and the concerns facing higher education. He is a strong advocate for academic excellence.”

In December 1995 Weber was appointed president of San Diego State University, and assumed that duty the following July. He retired from that position in 2011.

Deborah Stanley (1997–present)

On August 1, 1997, Dr. Deborah F. Stanley was appointed the tenth president of the State University College at Oswego by the SUNY board of trustees. The appointment was the result of two separate nationwide searches over a two-year period, and she was the first person since Isaac Poucher to be appointed to head the college after serving on the faculty for a relatively large number of years.

Dr. Stanley, a native of Utica, came to Oswego to teach in the business administration department in 1977, after receiving her juris doctor degree at Syracuse University’s law school. She had previously received her bachelor’s degree in English from Syracuse. She maintains her associate professorship in the School of Business.

In addition to her teaching duties, for several years after 1989 Dr. Stanley served as executive assistant and legal counsel to President Weber. In 1994 she was appointed provost and vice president. When Dr. Weber left to take the position of interim provost of SUNY, Deborah Stanley was appointed interim president, the post she held during the two-year search period.
As the interim president she initiated the Oswego Guarantee, which assures entering freshmen that tuition will remain level for them during their four years on campus, and that all their required courses will be available. She established 100 new Presidential Scholarships of $1,000 each for academically talented freshmen, and initiated the campus-wide discussions that have ultimately provided physical links between compatible services and academic departments. The state committed funds for the renovations required for campus development, but additional private support was secured for the development and other programs by the Inspiring Horizons fund-raising campaign, completed in 2008, which raised $23,857,114, exceeding its initial goal of $17 million.

The new Campus Center has brought athletic, community, and commencement activities closer to the campus hub and to student government. Student housing has expanded to Sheldon Hall and Glimmerglass Lagoon, and once-separated departments in education and the sciences have been or are being brought together in a major redevelopment on the east side of the campus. Dormitories, dining halls, and classroom areas have been extensively renovated to provide not only more comfortable quarters for students, but easier access to faculty.

And with a creative faculty, the Oswego curriculum has been greatly expanded to meet the needs of a 21st-century society. Most of the academic degree programs are traditional and come out of a single department, but during President Stanley’s tenure many programs have been designed for different times, often by faculty from different disciplines. These include computer engineering as only the first of the college’s engineering programs, with two others projected; a degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, now available for those who will teach in areas with high immigrant populations; Geochemistry, offered by the earth science and chemistry departments, which trains students in environmental impact; Global and International Studies, which considers interconnections across political, social, religious, and ethnic borders.

There are also over 40 new minor programs being offered, many of them interdisciplinary: arts management, athletic coaching, biocultural anthropology, creative arts therapy, health sciences (at least one offered in cooperation with Upstate Medical Center), Medieval and Renaissance studies, museum studies, public administration and public policy.

At her inauguration in 1998, President Stanley restated her intention to continue – and to enhance – the tradition of excellence that had marked the college’s 137 years since its founding by Edward Austin Sheldon. During the past fourteen years she and her faculty and staff have indeed continued—and enhanced—that tradition of excellence.

Oswego and the Nation: Part 2

[The following timeline indicates events in the United States during the first year of each president’s tenure.]

Harvey Rice (1947)

February. World War II peace treaties are signed; Willie Sutton, who had lifted $2 million from banks over the years, makes his escape from a Philadelphia jail.

April. Jackie Robinson becomes the first black in major league baseball (Brooklyn Dodgers).

June. Secretary of State George Marshall outlines the Marshall Plan to strengthen European economy (Pravda denounces the plan); the tennis shoe is introduced.

October. The first presidential address is televised from the White House by Truman; Chuck Yeager in Bell XS-1 makes the first supersonic flight (Mach 1.015).

November. Meet the Press makes its TV debut on NBC.

December. The first Howdy Doody show is telecast on NBC; Tennessee Williams’ Streetcar Named Desire premieres in New York.

Foster Brown (1952)

January. The Today Show begins on NBC with Dave Garroway as host.

February. Police find Willie Sutton. Asked why he robs banks, he replies “That’s where the money is.”

April. Elia Kazan testifies before the House Un-American Activities Committee naming fifteen of his former colleagues as members of the Communist Party.


Additional events of 1952: Richard Nixon delivers his “Checker’s speech”; Jonas Salk, University of Pittsburgh microbiologist, introduces his polio vaccine in a year when 3,300 die of polio and 57,000 children are paralyzed; Naval Reserve officer Grace Hopper inverts the first compiler to program a computer automatically; IBM introduces its first computer; movies include Singin’ in the Rain with Gene Kelly.

James Perdue (1965)

January. During his State of the Union Address, President Lyndon Johnson proclaims his “Great Society” initiative, a declaration of “War on Poverty.” It is somewhat hampered by the cost of the Vietnam War.

March. 3,500 U.S. Marines, the first combat troops, arrive in South Vietnam; Martin Luther King Jr. and 25,000 followers successfully end a 4-day march from Selma to the capitol in Montgomery, AL.
April. The 100th anniversary of the end of the Civil War is celebrated; a march against the Vietnam War draws 25,000 protestors to Washington, DC; the Elementary and Secondary Education Act establishes Head Start.

May. Forty men burn their draft cards at the University of California at Berkeley.

September. The National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities is signed by President Johnson.

December. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes the year at 969.26.

Additional events of 1965: *Amos and Andy*, which has had a black cast since its TV debut in 1952, is withdrawn from syndication following protests against its stereotyped images of Blacks (It had begun on radio in 1928 with a White cast until 1948 when Blacks began playing the characters); Ralph Nader quits his job with the Department of Labor to crusade for consumer protection; university enrollments soar as males take advantage of draft deferrals to escape the Vietnam War; the Higher Education Act provides Pell Grants and guaranteed student loans; Andy Warhol creates *Campbell's Tomato Soup Can*; former SUNY Oswego professor Roy Lichtenstein, turned pop artist, creates *Griddy*, which now resides in the Guggenheim Museum.

Virginia L. Radley (1976)

February. Clifford Alexander Jr. is confirmed as the first African-American Secretary of the U.S. Army.

March. Patty Hearst is found guilty of armed robbery of a San Francisco bank. She is sentenced to seven years in prison, but on a clemency order, President Carter later sets her free after 22 months.

April. Apple Computer is founded by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.

July. The first class of women is inducted at the U.S. Naval Academy.

November. Jimmy Carter defeats Gerald Ford, becoming the first candidate from the Deep South to win the presidency since the Civil War.

Additional events of 1976: IBM introduces the laser printer; Alex Haley publishes *Roots*.


May. The Supreme Court rules that police officers do not need a warrant to search through discarded garbage; Surgeon General C. Everett Koop states that nicotine’s addictive properties are similar to those of heroin and cocaine.

August. Former U.S. Navy patrol boat commander Elmo R. Zumwalt, 3rd, dies of lymphoma and Hodgkin’s disease at age 42, possibly as a result of the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam. Before his death, he defended the order of his father, Admiral Zumwalt, who had ordered the spraying to clear out enemy areas.

October. President Ronald Reagan decides to tear down the new U.S. Embassy in Moscow because of Soviet listening devices found in the building; Sen. Dan Quayle, in a vice presidential debate, declares he is as experienced as Jack Kennedy was when he sought the presidency. His opponent Sen. Lloyd Benson replies, “Senator, I knew Jack Kennedy. I served with Jack Kennedy. Senator, you’re no Jack Kennedy!”

November. Representatives of 30 nations form the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; George H.W. Bush is elected over Michael Dukakis for the presidency; Pan Am Flight 103 is blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people, including Syracuse University and SUNY Oswego students returning from studies abroad.

Additional events of 1988: The Human Genome Project, a joint program of NIH and the Department of Defense, is launched; Zebra mussels, indigenous to the Black and Caspian seas, begin to proliferate in the Great Lakes; after eight years, New York state declares that Love Canal is again habitable.

Deborah Stanley (1995)

April. 168 people, including 19 children, die in the Murrah Federal Building bombing, Oklahoma City;

June. The Supreme Court rules that federal programs favoring persons on the basis of race are presumed unconstitutional, thus supporting opponents of affirmative action.

July. President Clinton extends diplomatic recognition to Vietnam 22 years after U.S. disengagement.

September. The DVD, a computer storage medium, is announced; eBay is founded.

October. 10 people are convicted of bombing the World Trade Center; O.J. Simpson is found not guilty of murdering his wife; Bethlehem Steel shuts down its 88-year old mill in Pennsylvania, idling nearly 1,800 workers; Kitty Litter creator Edward Lowe dies (His product, introduced in 1948, accounts for about $350 million, 40 percent, of the U.S. market for cat box fillers).

November. President Clinton dedicates an Arlington memorial to the victims of Pan Am Flight 103.

December. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes the year at 5117.12.
Our Buildings—Who Were They?

Some years ago an alumnus returning to the campus for his 25th class reunion remarked, “It’s interesting to return to Oswego; all of my old professors are now buildings.” But others often wonder about the people for whom the college’s buildings are named. Check out the below information, much of it gathered by Coy Ludwig in 1987 for the 125th anniversary of the college, and you can astound your friends with your knowledge. Each building is presented in the order in which it was occupied.

1912. Sheldon Hall. Formerly known as Main Administration Building. In 1961, the 100th anniversary of the college, the building was formally named for its founder, Edward Austin Sheldon (1823-1897).

1933. Park Hall. Joseph C. Park, director of manual training, 1902-1908, then director of industrial arts, 1908-1940.

1951. Lonis Hall. Ernest J. Lonis (1878-1954), class of 1905, state legislator and member of the board of visitors, who, with Harold Johnson, helped facilitate the transition from Normal Schools to degree-granting colleges.

1951. Mackin Dining Hall. Marian Mackin, member of the College Council; civic leader; executive secretary of the American Red Cross during World War II; chair of the local housing authority.

1951. Moreland Hall. James E. (Jimmy) Moreland, popular member of the English department, 1936-1951, who also served as advisor to the freshman class.


1958. Lee Hall. Dr. Mary V. Lee, alumna, physician and influential member of the faculty, 1874-1892, who taught zoology, physiology and physical culture.

1959. Lakeside Dining Hall.


1963. Poucher Wing of the Campus Center. (Formerly Poucher Hall). Isaac B. Poucher, principal of the Normal School, 1897-1913, and his wife, Matilda Cooper Poucher, teacher of language and methods, 1861-1886.

1963. Romney Field House. Golden Romney, head of the department of health and physical education, 1930-1942. A member of a distinguished political family whose members have included governors of Michigan and Massachusetts.

1963. Swetman Hall, since 2006 enclosed by the Campus Center. Ralph W. Swetman, principal of the Normal School, 1933-1947, instrumental in taking the school from a two-year Normal School to a four-year Teachers College.

1964. Funnelle Hall. Amanda Funnelle, class of 1862, and later the second head of the kindergarten department, 1888-1911.


1965. Cooper Dining and Fitness Center. James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851), America’s novelist, lived in Oswego in 1808 and 1809 as a young naval ensign stationed on Lake Ontario. Later, Lake Ontario and the Oswego River appeared as settings in some of his works.

1965. Cooper Dining and Fitness Center. James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851), America’s novelist, lived in Oswego in 1808 and 1809 as a young naval ensign stationed on Lake Ontario. Later, Lake Ontario and the Oswego River appeared as settings in some of his works.

1965. Walker Health Center. Dr. Mary Walker (1832-1919), Oswego’s pioneering physician awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her service during the Civil War, who fought for women’s rights and dress reform.


1966. Rice Creek Field Station. Rice Creek, on which the field station is located, is named for Asa Rice, the first settler in the Town of Oswego (near the college campus), who had come from Connecticut in 1797.

1967. Culkin Hall. Francis D. Culkin (1874-1943) Oswego attorney, county judge, and a member of Congress from 1928 to 1943.
1967. Hewitt Union. Jesse Merle Hewitt (1898-1918), Oswego Normal School (Also known as State Normal and Training School) student killed in France during World War I. Brother of Emerita Hazel Hewitt.


1967. Mahar Hall. Marian E. Mahar, teacher of social studies at the college for nearly thirty years.

1967. Pathfinder Dining Hall. The Pathfinder, 1840, by James Fenimore Cooper set in the Lake Ontario region, is one of the Leatherstocking Tales, five historic novels largely about the creation of a new nation out of the wilderness.


1968. Laker Hall. The men’s health, physical education and recreation building named in honor of "The Lakers" teams.

1968. Littlepage Dining Hall and Glimmerglass Fitness Center. The Littlepage Manuscripts is a trilogy of political novels (1845-46) by James Fenimore Cooper about the aristocratic Littlepage family. Glimmerglass is the name given by Cooper to Otsego Lake, often the site of his Leatherstocking Tales.


1968. Tyler Hall. James Gale Tyler (1855-1931), marine painter born in Oswego, where he lived until he was 15. Waterman Theater within Tyler Hall named for Charlotte Waterman, head of the music department, 1911-1933, first dean of women, 1933.

1970. King Hall. Carol King, popular young associate dean of students, who died of cancer in 1959. Her office was in the former home which now bears her name.

2006. Convocation Center. Later expanded to include adjacent Swetman and Poucher Halls as the Campus Center.


Rice Creek Field Station: 50 Years
Michelle Reed

[The following article, edited here, first appeared in the Winter 2010 issue of the Alumni Association’s OSWEGO. Michelle Reed is the college’s director of alumni and development communications. Her article reminds us that emeriti and associates leave a lasting legacy to the college.]

Dr. Lucina Hernandez, professor of biology and present director of the Rice Creek Field Station, has remarked that the station’s closeness to the campus “makes it easier to make that link between the scientific studies, the education for our university, and the education for the public.” She also notes that it will serve well in “monitoring the changes in . . . communities of plants and animals due to global climate change.” The station’s assistant director, Dr. Diann Jackson ’89, agrees, and goes on to note “there’s a sense of wonder that I feel every day that I come to work.”

It’s just possible that the same sense of wonder welled up in Asa and Elizabeth Rice when the pioneers settled the area of the field station in 1797. The Rices and their eight children had made a difficult trip up the Mohawk River, across Oneida Lake and down the Oneida and Oswego rivers. While making their way down the shore of Lake Ontario they landed at the mouth of Three Mile Creek, now Rice Creek. There they made a new life for themselves and their family amid the forbidding terrain.

The land they settled and the farming community that grew up around it, devoted to grazing as late as 1955 and a horse pasture until 1963, is now a young woodlot. A dairy farm, orchards and crop fields dotted the landscape.

Fifty years ago, the Oswego College Foundation, due to the vision of President Foster Brown, acquired much of the land from the Conway, Hilton and DeAmbrana families. Science faculty began to plan the research and instructional station. John Weeks, former professor of biology, helped to design the field station and fish ladder that is fed by the pond, along with New York state engineers. Boy Scouts cut up logs for the original boardwalk. Construction was completed in 1966.

George Maxwell was first official director and the longest serving. He was followed by Ron Engel and J. Alden Lackey. Don Cox took over the leadership in the early ’80s and stayed ten years. Sigurd Nelson was next, serving three years, followed by Andy Nelson, who held the director’s post for 14 years. In 1972, a group of zoology faculty members named one of the trails the Carlita Snygg Memorial Trail in honor of their colleague, a well-known naturalist. The addition of an herb garden, planted by Ruth Sachidanandan, wife of Gubbi Sachidanandan, complements other flower gardens in the area.

Because it is a living space, Rice Creek Field Station will continue to change and grow. But it will always be a valuable resource for students and faculty to conduct research and for community members to learn about science and nature in a hands-on way.
Sheldon Hall: Its Centennial Year

Sheldon Hall, SUNY Oswego’s oldest and most prominent building, has gone through a number of lives and seen much in its 100 years since the laying of its cornerstone in 1911 at the college’s 50th anniversary. Renovations in recent years make it quite different from the administrative office complex, classroom, library and Campus School that it was when many of us first walked its halls and taught our students.

Restoration of the exterior of what was once known as Old Main is taking place, and inside it now houses junior and senior students as well as classrooms, the Development and Admissions offices, and the Children’s Day-Care Center. The interior of the building, as well as its exterior, has required special historic consideration during its present renovations, since the building has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

At least one thing has not changed, however. The historic lecture hall, room 110, which dates to the opening of the building, was recently restored to showcase its traditional raised platform and layout. During the college’s recent Inspiring Horizons: Campaign for Oswego, emeriti were given the opportunity to be recognized with a plaque on each of the lecture hall’s restored chairs, and a number of emeriti became generous benefactors. That opportunity still exists, and you can call the Development Office at 315-312-3003 if you wish to participate.

Sheldon Hall Timeline

1911: The cornerstone of the Main Building, later known as Sheldon Hall, is put into place.
1913: Oswego Normal School classes begin meeting in the building, although many of the rooms lack furnishings.
1914: The building is officially dedicated.
1919-20: World War I student veterans construct a temporary rear addition (demolished during President Perdue’s tenure).
1926: Industrial Arts students construct the pergola connecting the east wing to adjacent trolley tracks on Washington Boulevard. Only a portion remains today.
1941: In the fall, a massive fire destroys the auditorium.
1961: In the centennial year of the college, the Main Building is renamed for its founder, Edward Austin Sheldon.
1980: Sheldon Hall is declared a National Historic Landmark.
1983: During state budget cutbacks, officials announce the building will close because of the high costs of needed renovations and maintenance.
1987: A private developer begins renovation work to turn Sheldon Hall into an inn and conference center, but legal issues prevent the plan from coming to fruition. The major issue: The developer's refusal to honor a state mandate to hire union workers to lay carpeting.
1998: Sheldon Hall returns to full campus control with the Edward Austin Sheldon statue returning to its place in front of the building from its temporary location in the quadrangle between Culkin Hall and Hewitt Union. The Sheldon lighting ceremony takes place September 8, on the eve of the inauguration of President Deborah Stanley. Renovations begin for limited use.
1999: The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation begins to rent temporary space for a training academy, with rent and usage opening a door toward bringing Sheldon Hall back into full campus use.
2004: In December, renovations of the west wing begin.
2006: During the spring semester, the extensive renovations of the west wing are completed, with occupancy of several administrative offices. Extensive renovation begins on the remainder of the building, which leads to occupancy as noted above.
2011: Renovations begin on the exterior of Sheldon Hall.

Some Things Do Change

[We present below an edited college press release regarding a unique college course. It helps illustrate that SUNY Oswego has come a long way since 1861, 1961, and the subsequent years when many of us became emeriti.]

A 23-member team from SUNY Oswego successfully reached the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in mid-January as part of a class that brought learning to new heights. The course, PED 399: Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, covered mountain-climbing techniques and preparation in terms of fitness, health, nutrition and essential gear. An October climb of Mount Marcy had served as a preliminary test.

On January 10, by satellite phone, Mehran Nojani, instructor and the college’s director of institutional research, reported back to the college, after their 8-day ascent and descent, that the students had aced their final. Members of the team had messages posted on the Oswego Global Facebook account, facebook.com/OswegoGoingGlobal. Interim provost Lorrie Clemo noted that while unusual, the course provided experience that challenged students mentally and physically, as well as exposed them to the culture of Tanzania.

Team members took time to visit school children in a Maasai village to distribute school supplies, a first effort to encourage donations to support international education scholarships.
Our Reason for Being: The Campus School

Ralph Spencer

[The below address, edited here, was delivered in 1999 by Ralph Spencer, at the time the chair of the Emeriti Association's Preservation Committee. Two years earlier, in 1997, Ralph had chaired an Emeriti event called "Campus School Reflections," briefly described below.]

During the Campus School’s 120 years, from 1861 to 1981, it was housed in six different buildings. Edward Austin Sheldon’s first training school for his Oswego teachers was on the west side of the W. 4th Street city school near Bridge Street. Classes then moved to a new and larger 4th Ward School on E. 4th Street. In 1865, the Oswego Board of Education purchased the U.S. Hotel for use by the training and practice school. Located on the north side of W. Seneca Street between 6th and 7th streets, it was in use from 1866 until 1879. Two years after its relocation to that building, the State Superintendent of Schools (later known as the Commissioner of Education) appointed a local board for the school, thus ending the school’s official connection with the Oswego City School System. In 1879, the school moved to a new Normal School building in the city, and in 1913 it moved with the Normal School to what is now known as Sheldon Hall. The final move of the Campus School was to the newly constructed Swetman Hall in 1963.

In 1862, Sheldon’s training and practice school consisted of three primary grades in five rooms. Three rooms had permanent teachers assisted by members of the training class, and two rooms were taught entirely by training class members. Grades 4-8 were added later with three student teachers assigned to a room at a time, with about 28 student teachers for each grade over a year. College professors oversaw the student teachers, meeting with them weekly. 1936 marked the hiring of faculty members specifically for the Campus School. In 1946, Anthony Marinaccio was appointed as the first full-time principal [Tony remains interested as an emeritus of the college and regularly receives the Emeriti Newsletter at his home in Florida].

One of the early kindergartens in the state was added in 1881, but it was private until 1885, when it became free and public. Closed in 1934 to enable a special education program, it resumed in 1939 and was offered as an all-day program in 1945. In 1958 a 9th grade was established.

Campus School enrollment in 1970 was 497 students, with 35 percent having a parent who was a member of the college faculty or professional staff. During the year, over 1,000 college students used the school for observation or classroom participation, and nine research projects were ongoing.

Early students in the Campus School came from the city. Later, as small schools in the towns of Oswego and Scriba were closed, students were admitted from outlying areas. In 1962, applications were required, and two years later, after district schools were consolidated into the city district, chance drawings of applicants were required.

The early 1900s were an interesting time. Practice School minutes show that teachers “ought to seek to make children more independent.” A 1903 entry discusses the “lack of order” and “soulless teaching on the part of the student teachers.” In 1905, “There is a spirit of lawlessness and disorder in the Practice School, with flagrant cases of disobedience.” There are references to faculty visits to other colleges for ideas, parents' complaints about excessive homework, and complaints about children wasting paper and throwing it around the room.

The 1930s, 40s, and 50s were a creative period, with strong music, drama, art, and physical education programs. For instance, 1955 saw the introduction of the melody flute (flutophone) by Dottie Hickock to provide musical experiences for all. The PTA was organized. Clubs such as Actors, Thomas Edison, Camera, Coping Saw and Wood, and Dance, sprang up. Annual Christmas caroling in the college halls began. In 1958, the Campus School went on TV with Ten O’clock Scholar, the college’s first educational program via St. Lawrence Valley Television and Channel 7’s North Country Kitchen.

The 1960s and 70s saw curricular innovations: In 1965, a computer class elective was first offered. Team teaching, foreign language instruction, and a guidance program for elementary students came into being. Students built couch frames in industrial arts. A home economics fashion show, “Shades of Summer,” was sponsored by Pepsi Cola with proceeds going to the purchase of equipment for the children’s ward of the Oswego Hospital. By 1980 there was a Montreal Exchange Program for 6th graders and also an advanced algebra class for some 6th graders.

In 1981, due to financing restrictions by New York state and the State University, the Campus School was sorrowfully closed. After all, many noted, the training school was historically the reason for the existence of the present college. In 1997, a well-attended “Campus School Reflections,” sponsored by the Emeriti Association, celebrated the school, brought its former students and faculty together, and collected material for the Penfield Special Collections. A videotape of the event is available in the Penfield Library archives.
Camp Shady Shore: A Look Back
Nancy Seale Osborne

During the summer of 1919, several summer session students “conceived the idea that it would be a novel thing as well as healthful and inexpensive to pitch a tent on the shore of the lake for a period of summer session.” A “real tent colony” was created the following year, using forty small 9x9 tents from the State Militia donated by Dr. L.A. Wilson, Assistant Commissioner of Education of New York State.

Vaudeville by the Tent Colony, Shore Dinners and Married Colony, and Quoit Championship were included in the 1920 camp director’s report. Commentary on the daily regime suggested that the absence of Reveille was satisfactory to the men, since many of them had recently served in the armed forces during World War I. After nine o’clock, all women visitors were excluded, with the exception of those in the Married Colony.

Dr. Riggs’ recommendation to clear the underbrush and eliminate poison ivy was taken to heart by the 1920 camp director. The report concluded with a recommendation that the physical education department be reorganized to provide a Physical Director for Men. Justification for this was that “this field [should] be manned by bright, alert, red-blooded young men.” One caveat was included: “This is in no way a criticism of the splendid [physical education] work done by Miss Walker and Miss Heaton at the school, but rather a recommendation that this work be extended to include the men as well.”

Up to 1936, a few small cottages were constructed; their 9’x12’ size allowed accommodation for two small people. A grant in the ’30s made toilet, shower, sink, and drainage facilities available. Another grant supplied by the city administration employed lifeguards to protect swimmers and provide instruction. A camp canteen provided much improvement over the canvas-covered frame used for a number of years. Subsequently, a trailer area was added, along with a small convenience store.

Registration at the camp over the years paralleled the summer school registration. It was asserted that “the clean water of Ontario, its beautiful sunsets, and the recreation offered is excelled by no other institution.” In 1936, 673 students enrolled at an average cost of $150 for six weeks. Of these, 168 attended with family members.

In 1937, material indicated that “nights are usually quite cool in camp; therefore, it is advisable to bring plenty of bedding. Bed sacks filled with straw may be rented at camp by depositing $1.75 for each sack. Electricity is strictly forbidden, so leave the electric grill at home,” the material warned.

Dr. Ralph Swetman, Principal of the State Normal School, wrote to summer school students in 1939 that Camp Shady Shore is “situated in a grove of trees adjacent to the home of the Principal and extends along the shore of the lake. The view,” he continued, “is unrestricted in all directions: To the south are athletic fields and school buildings; to the east the city of Oswego, to the north beautiful Lake Ontario, to the west forested shores of the lake. Sunsets over the lake,” he concluded, “leave a memory never to be forgotten.”

By 1948, rates for guests had been established: “Guests may be accommodated in the camp at fifty cents per day if no extra accommodations are necessary.” By this date, six-occupant cabins were available for summer school students and their families.

A 1949 handwritten listing entitled “Trailer Camp Lav” described the custodial situation: “Dirty dishes on floor. No hot water. Floor needs scrubbing badly. Large store: fire out.” A concluding statement on the list described conditions on the other side of the lavatory: “Women’s side of lav very good.”

By the early 1950s, with the building of dormitories, Camp Shady Shore was being phased out, but the few remaining early students, now long retired from their teaching careers, remember with great fondness their living along the shore during the summer those many years ago.

No Connection, But . . . .

He had no connection to SUNY Oswego, but the late Andy Rooney certainly had the same wry sense of humor often exhibited in and out of class over the years by our departed colleagues. Names such as Bob, Paul, Helen, and Frank might jog your memory. In their honor, and in honor of countless others, presented below are some of the witticisms of Andy Rooney.

Did you know that it costs $40,000 a year to house each prisoner in the penitentiary? Jeez, for forty thousand bucks apiece, I’ll take a few prisoners into my house. I live in Los Angeles. I already have bars on the windows. I don’t think we should give free room and board to criminals. I think they should have to run twelve hours a day on a treadmill and generate electricity.

My wife uses fabric softener. I never knew what that stuff was for until I noticed women were coming up to me (sniff). “Married” (walk away). I guess that’s how wives mark their territory. You can take off that ring, but it’s hard to get that April-fresh scent out of your clothes.

My grandmother has a bumper sticker on her car that says “Sexy Senior Citizen.” You don’t want to think of your grandmother that way, do you? Out entering wet shawl contests. Makes you wonder where she got that dollar she gave you for your birthday.
Professors of the Post-WWII Period: A Remembrance

Alex Beattie

Although I retired as an Oswego librarian emeritus, my career at SUNY Oswego began a number of years before my appointment to Penfield Library. I came to the college in 1949 as a freshman and have very fond memories of all my professors. Oswego’s faculty was happily endowed with characters! Professors like Dorothy Rogers, Kermit Kuntz, and Paul Goodwin come to mind.

The moment Dorothy Rogers opened her mouth you would swear she was a redneck, which she was not. But neither did she have the demeanor of the sophisticate. During the first few days of class you were convinced that she was just a lovable country hick, and cornball Southern gal. She had a Southern twang that just cut the air like a knife slicing butter. But she was no cornball! She was not only a distinguished educational psychologist, but she wrote delightful books about her really daring experiences in her world travels in a battered old surplus Army jeep through trackless Africa and Asia shortly after World War II. One of those books was *Jeopardy in a Jeep*.

Professor Kermit Kuntz would sit behind his classroom desk with a perpetual sardonic smile. He was a very entertaining and knowledgeable history professor. One day he was discussing colonial America and hit upon the topic of the town crier, whose job was to patrol the streets at night to make sure all was in order and everybody was behaving. And then Mr. Kuntz came to the most delicate part of the town crier’s job.

It was the job of the colonial town crier during his lonely nighttime rounds, Professor Kuntz stated solemnly, to ensure that all happily wedded couples were at home and in bed. Upon finishing that phrase, Mr. Kuntz fell silent for a few pregnant moments, and then slyly added, “and asleep.” The whole class broke up!

We students could regularly be assured that Professor Goodwin’s reading assignment for the next day was to read at least five articles or book chapters and submit a report on the effects of the Great Depression on the working people of America. That hapless and nonplused teacher left the classroom that day with a flushed and crimson face. I sure was glad I hadn’t made that comment!

The 1930s, when I was in high school,” she retorted. Well, upon hearing this, Mr. Goodwin turned apoplectic. Nowadays we would say, “He went ballistic.” In the Navy we would have said, “He went APE!”

“The 1930s were normal, you say?” he exploded. “Where were you? Didn’t you ever hear of the Great Depression? I heard of it! I lived it, unfortunately! I graduated with a useless teaching degree in my hands at the beginning of the Depression. Fat lot of good it did me. I spent years looking for a job! Then the Army gave me my first job, as a dogface soldier, when World War II started. Oh, I know you! You probably came from one of those sheltered executive-level families that never lost a day of work during the Depression, while the rest of us ‘common folk’ practically starved! Didn’t you ever see poor folk scavenging stray coals along the railroad lines, desperate for heating fuel?”

Needless to say, his indignation having abated, Professor Goodwin’s reading assignment for the next day was to read at least five articles or book chapters and submit a report on the effects of the Great Depression on the working people of America. That hapless and nonplused teacher left the classroom that day with a flushed and crimson face. I sure was glad I hadn’t made that comment!

Documentary Celebrates 150 Years

The college has debuted the beginning of an eight-part documentary, *SUNY Oswego: 1861-2011, 150 Years*, chronicling its history as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration. The remaining chapters will be released over the coming months.

Topics include *Edward Austin Sheldon—Our Founder, Physical Campus, World Events Impacting SUNY Oswego, Unraveling the Mysteries*.

Also to be included are *Academic Program Evolution, Student Life at SUNY Oswego Through the Ages, Athletics, and Eye to the Future*.

New York Network is producing the documentary from staff writings and archival documents from Penfield Library’s Special Collections, which, incidentally, has received considerable support over the years from the Emeriti Association and its members. The first installments are accessible on the college homepage and the sesquicentennial site, oswego.edu/150.

The sesquicentennial site also features an interactive photo timeline, some video segments, brief histories of Oswego’s buildings, and more.
“Maxie” Ziel: 36 Years as Athletic Director

Nancy Seale Osborne

“Oswego’s Speed Merchants had another great season under Coach Ziel.”

“The 1946-47 edition of the Green and Gold again exhibited the flawless teamwork of spirit that the past quintets of Oswego have shown.”

“Coach Ziel has a group of well-seasoned veterans around which he will build his team. We only regret that the location of the school and the lack of a good diamond make an extensive home schedule impossible.”

College publications touted a man who was a legend in his own time and beyond, Coach Max G. Ziel, known affectionately and respectfully as “Maxie.” Max retired in June 1957, having served the college for 36 years as athletic director.

“Maxie’s” father, an Austrian engineer, wanted him to stay in Alabama and work as an industrial engineer. His mother, a Russian-born pianist, wanted him to be a pianist. Instead, he took every opportunity to play shortstop, subsequently attending Howard College in Birmingham. His team played Tulane in New Orleans in 1911. By 1912, he was playing professional baseball in the Appalachian League in Bristol, Virginia.

Bingham Military School, a prep school in North Carolina, signed Max on as playing coach for $75 a month in 1912, but by 1915 he was attending Springfield College in Massachusetts, studying physical education, and being named Most Valuable Player. He decided at that time to become the first good shortstop who didn’t chew tobacco. Max played summers with various teams in the Northeast, graduating in 1917, at which time he enlisted in the Army. He played in a number of venues to raise money for War Bonds.

His collegiate coaching career started in 1919 at Hamilton College; he was hired by the college at Oswego two years later, where he served as athletic director and “head coach of everything,” in addition to teaching health, first aid, and men’s and women’s physical education.

In 1940, Max was called up for active duty as commanding officer of Company D, New York National Guard. Offered the opportunity to ride in a car by a Guard general, “Maxie” replied, “General, I’ll ride when my men do.” He was later separated with the rank of major after 31 years of reserve and active service.

Several years ago, Charles (Bud) Coward, ‘49, recalled “entering study at Oswego in September 1944, fresh out of the U.S. Army Infantry, along with hundreds of other GIs who were to be my classmates in the years ahead.” All in excellent physical condition, these new classmates found that academic credit was required in physical education, noted on the schedule as ‘gym.’ They assembled in the old gymnasium below Sheldon Hall, a “dismal, dark, uninviting space for basketball or any other indoor sport. . . . The ceiling in that old gym was about the same as the one in your grandmother’s hall closet, and the lighting about the same. One thing the gym did have was a fairly well-maintained maple floor.” Genuine “games” were played in the City of Oswego’s National Guard Armory—which Max had somehow commandeered.

“So there we were,” Bud told us, “most of us in WWII mufti, with a few dozen boys fresh out of high school, some wearing their freshman beanies and feeling out of place among all the ex-GIs. Out steps this diminutive Coach Max Ziel and he lets everyone know that he served in WOWO TOO as a major, and at the same time made it abundantly clear that he also served in WOWO ONE! He went on to explain that his favorite coaching areas were BASEBAW and BASKETBAW. It wasn’t long before we recognized that his early life was spent in Alabama!

“He addressed his athletes: ‘Now, all you non-veterans step forward. Turn about and look at all the others behind you. They are veterans. All you non-veterans do 20 laps around the gym. And you veterans – back up and sit down against the wall and watch. You’ve all been marching long enough!’

Bud concluded his correspondence with: “Our beloved coach, Max Ziel. How can y’all forget him?”

An inventor (Ziel Pitching Control, Developer, and Tester), a friend of 50 years of intercollegiate athletics, and a lifetime member in Basketball’s Hall of Fame at Springfield College, Max Ziel is a man to be remembered in the history of the college. His athletes, called “Zielmen” (according to 1934-35 newspaper articles), always “made quite a showing in their initial contest prospects” (the latter according to the college’s coaching staff). And to “Maxie,” Dorothy Rogers writes, “football was youth’s highroad to grit, gumption, and other assorted virtues.”

Emeriti Project Completed

Those of us who attend the next August Luncheon will have the opportunity to view the Emeriti Association’s recently completed project, the Hall of Presidents in Sheldon Hall. The portraits of the college’s principals, presidents, and interim presidents, donated over several years by the Association and individual members, now line the main-floor west wing of the building named for the founder. Also displayed in the Hall is the Emeriti Association’s plaque recognizing the chairs of the SUNY Oswego Faculty Assembly.
Friends We’ve Heard From and About

Congratulations to Charlie Phallen, recognized in the summer issue of the Alumni Association’s OSWEGO as an inductee of the Faculty Hall of Fame. As readers of last spring’s issue of the Emeriti Newsletter know, Charlie was honored last year by the French Chevalier Legion of Honor for his part in the liberation of France. After the war and earning his bachelor’s and doctor’s degrees, Foster Brown appointed him to the industrial arts department where for 25 years he taught mostly graduate courses. Charlie now enjoys spending time with family—his daughter, a 1975 Oswego Master’s degree graduate, and his son and daughter-in-law, both 1970 graduates from Oswego.

Congratulations also go to Ken Peterson, elected to the Oswego Sports Hall of Fame this past November. During his tenure as the men’s soccer coach, Ken received the SUNY Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1987, 1988, and 1993. As coach of the women’s soccer team from 1997 to 2004, he fielded 18 All-SUNYAC players, a Player of the Year, and a first-year Player of the Year. Ken also coached track from 1968 to 1980. And his 38-year coaching tenure at Oswego passed that of Maxie Ziel by two years!

Last fall OSWEGO again mentioned the influence emeriti have had on alumni. Amy Gingold Horwitz ’86 remembers Nick D’Innocenzo’s Dimensional Design class and their 1984 Art Attack which decorated a number of campus buildings. Also mentioned as one of the special events at the college by the president of the Class of 1966 was its class gift of the college medallion crafted by Dom DiPasquale.

Don ’62 and Linda Mykland Blauvelt ’61, who recently established the Blauvelt Scholarship Fund, fondly remember former faculty. For Don it is Dick Pfund, with whom he went on to volunteer at Oswego’s Maritime Museum; George Radcliff, who supervised industrial arts student teachers; and Earl Sparr, who would have students over to his house at holiday time.

Also mentioned in the recent issue of OSWEGO was Herb VanSchaack, a 1951 graduate of the college. At the 2011 alumni reunion, Herb helped a library clerk with Special Collections create a display of the time capsule his class had given to the college for its 50th anniversary ten years earlier. It included such memorabilia as student ID cards, blue books, and a Clio beanie.

Harry Nash appeared in an article about the college’s 1970s migrant project that formed special bonds and memories for teachers. Harry recruited education students to work with 320 children whose migrant families worked local farms and fruit orchards. During Reunion 2011, he and his former students gathered to share memories of the program. Harry was also one those who gathered at the August 2011 annual Emeriti Luncheon on campus. He and Lorraine told us that, with nine years behind them, they continue to enjoy their home at Springside, especially since so many of their former colleagues are there. Playing cards and swimming are enjoyable pastimes and keep them busy.

Pat Benjamin thanks all who make it possible for the Emeriti Association to continue operating. She still volunteers with an organization she and Dick founded years ago, the Oswego Youth Soccer Association, which has been built into an all-inclusive joy for thousands of children—both boys and girls! Many of the participants are graduating from high school these days with college scholarships. Pat also volunteers with United Way, Human Concerns, and gives a helping hand with grandchildren.

Jan and Paul Hutko celebrated their 50th anniversary with their four daughters, eleven grandchildren, and relatives and friends. They also recently enjoyed a Road Scholar program (formerly Elderhostel) in Asheville, NC, with friends. Leslie King and Dave toured France a while back and headed out to California, Monterey and San Francisco twice this past summer. But the big trip was to China in October! Leslie stays busy with her book club and church activities, and she and Dave often see their grandchildren. She tells us that she is very much up-to-date on political issues and would like to start or become involved with an interest group. Anyone with a similar interest? Give Leslie a call.

Grace and Hugh Burritt obviously continue to enjoy the role of snowbirds. It gives them the opportunity of playing golf year-round, in Florida as well as in Oswego. They report that they have taken trips elsewhere, however, to enjoy friends and family. Their recently established scholarship to be presented for alternating majors — one year to a student in music, and the next to one in health and wellness — was featured in the alumni magazine. And they were handsome couple in the accompanying photo! Ray and Molly Schneider mentioned their latest interest at luncheon: watching the animals—possums and armadillos—migrating north, with the global climate change. They send greetings and peace to all, and appreciate keeping up with friends through the Emeriti Newsletter. So keep sending stuff in!

The fall luncheon at “South Campus,” Springside, brought many of us together for a good time with friends. Nina Hastings told us of her great joy in joining her daughter and son-in-law last summer in a cruise along the three German rivers—the Rhine, Main, and Moselle. They flew to Paris, and before boarding ship, visited Luxemburg. Following the cruise, they spent several days exploring the historic city of Prague. It was a sentimental
journey, since she and Jim had enjoyed the area many times. Nina, a 1943 graduate from the college, was also recently mentioned in the alumni magazine as having been a member of Clio, Oswego’s first sorority, which offered a place to have fun and to volunteer in the community during a difficult era—World War II. Your editor imagines that at least one moment was especially memorable for Nina—when she met Jim on campus.

Like Nina, “Mike” Harrison enjoys life at Springside, and finds it wonderful to see “Old Friends” and catch up with the news when the emeriti luncheons are there in the spring and fall. She noted that there were new faces in October, and she welcomes all to the group! She and Nina still enjoy the changing of the seasons in the Oswego area, but apparently Ed Keen and Ann, like many emeriti, would like to get away from the Oswego snows. They plan to spend their winters in Dallas, Texas.

Carlton and Barbara Salvagin have been leading very busy lives, Barbara with P.E.O. and the Hannibal Elderberries, and Carl with a variety of activities. He is the architect and project manager for the Hannibal Community Center addition, and represents the township on the Municipal Solid Waste Management Board and the Environmental Management Council. June Johnston told us at the spring luncheon that she continues to enjoy retirement, and can’t believe that it has been 17 years. She would love to see even more of her colleagues at our luncheons—“They are great fun, with excellent food!” Kolan Bisbee tells us that in his retirement he is fascinated by railroading and model railroading; and still a “techie,” he is deep into computers and computer control interfacing.

Bob and Shirley Rock were among those who enjoyed lunching with friends at Springside, and a day or two after the luncheon, Bob was featured in a Syracuse Post-Standard story about an activity that we reported a year ago. The article, “Oswego’s Bob Rock still going strong giving fishing lessons and tying flies at 85,” pictures Bob creating flies that he uses and gives to soldiers when he visits Fort Drum. The article notes that Bob, whose life has been packed with fishing and other outdoor adventures, shares that experience, confidence and love for fishing every Wednesday when he travels to Fort Drum to work with two other anglers as part of Program Healing Waters. As reported earlier, the group is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled and active military personnel and veterans using the medium of tying and fly fishing. Soldiers are referred to them by the Fort’s Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic.

We were pleased to hear from emeriti friends recently. Bev Pfund continues her winter trek to Key Largo where she has friends from the many years she and Dick were there together. She tells us that she can walk out the door and find people she knows, which doesn’t happen in Oswego in the winter. She can walk out the door in Oswego, but often can’t find her friends in the snow! Before leaving this year, her son Dave and his family were with her for Thanksgiving, and she spent Christmas with daughter Laurie’s nearby family. She hopes that Bill’s family will fly down to the Keys in March. She has a lot family to keep up with. Her grandchildren are scattered throughout colleges—Oswego, Penn State, Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Cortland, and Hartford.

June and John Cooper remind us that another year has gone by, and at their ages they can expect that the next year will bring its “challenges.” Last fall, John had a successful hip replacement. Their out-of-state family keeps close to them by phone and their close-by family often stops by. And they, too, have grandchildren all over, several in graduate school or about to enter. Jay’s son Tom received his doctorate last spring. Daughter Becky and Bob, they report, have finally ended their seven years traveling the country by trailer, and have settled in the Finger Lakes. June and John still enjoy their senior-living home. The “lovely surroundings, great food, lots of interesting and friendly residents, and very good medical facilities have let us know that we are right where we belong.” They also tell us that they have their warm memories of Oswego and friends.

Barb and Walt Nitary had their usual 4th of July family gathering at the cottage near Sackets Harbor last summer, with great weather for sailing, golf, and tennis. Barb did have to lay off on golf and tennis for a short time, however, due to a hip replacement on April Fool’s Day. Thanksgiving was with the family at State College, PA, and they had family with them in Florida for Christmas and the New Year. Their children are traveling the world, and their grandchildren, like their parents, are living all over the country, including at colleges like Oswego.

Other proud grandparents are Marion and Ralph Spencer, with four grandchildren in graduate school or in wonderful careers. It is almost unbelievable, but Marion and Ralph have been at Springside for 12 years now, and, of course, enjoy being with friends and former colleagues there—at “South Campus”—every day. This past summer they spent two marvelous weeks at Coles Creek State Park on the St. Lawrence, camping in their motorhome. Shortly after, however, they reluctantly acknowledged that after 49 years of journeys through all the continental states and five Canadian provinces, it was time for them to give up RV camping. They know they will miss it, but they also feel it was a wise decision.

Now about those luncheons: Over 100 emeriti and spouses attended the August luncheon at the college, and the spring and fall luncheons at Springside. And although most emeriti were shy about reporting their recent activities, all agreed that they look forward to visiting with friends at the next one—summer, spring or fall. And they hope to see you there!