Emeriti President’s Report
Vern Tryon

Greetings from Oswego:

It is a bittersweet occasion for me to acknowledge that this is the last Emeriti Newsletter to be published under the exclusive leadership of English Professor Emeritus John Fisher. John was present on June 13, 1989, when the idea for an association of SUNY Oswego Emeriti became a reality. A few days later, an executive committee elected John vice chairperson and editor. And a wise choice it was because John created the format and procedures for the Newsletter and proceeded to lead it most ably for the next 25 years — 50 issues — one-quarter of a century, researching and writing a great deal of the copy himself.

Thanks to his skillful work, the Newsletter is undoubtedly the single most thoroughly used and enjoyed service of the Association, appreciated by emeriti far and wide, like receiving a letter from home in a far-off place.

John has also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the past twenty-five years. In that role he has been faithful in his attendance, driving to Oswego from Fairport in all kinds of weather during most of those years. His contributions to our discussions are always thoughtful and respectful of this college’s history and traditions and the purposes of the Emeriti Association.

In my view, John Fisher is a consummate college professor — intelligent, cultured, informed, gentle, kind, generous, and caring. His counsel has been invaluable to me and to many others, I think, as well. Those of us who know John well are mindful of the support he receives from his wife, Joanne, both for his Emeriti tasks and his work with his community and Rotary club. We shall sorely miss his active leadership of our Emeriti Association.

Many of us will gather for our next Springside luncheon on Monday, April 14. Our next Board of Directors’ meeting will be on Tuesday, May 20, and, of course, our 25th Annual Meeting and 45th Annual Luncheon will be on Monday, August 4, 2014. I hope to see you at one or all of these events.

From the Editor's Desk
John Fisher

"The thought of our past years doth breed perpetual Benediction"

Ode: Intimations of Immortality, Wordsworth

Well, like Wordsworth, your editor has also been blessed over the past years — by those who have contributed to the publication of the Emeriti Newsletter since its first issue when the Emeriti Association was established. I have had the good fortune to work with the Association's Board of Directors, and it has been a special pleasure — and blessing — to be able to continue all these years as a member of the SUNY Oswego community.

In fact, it has been since 1957, when Charles Wells said "You're hired," that I have been blessed by my association with the college. Shakespeare once noted that "Time trots withal," But these 57 years have not trotted. They have galloped!

But enough of that! With the completion of my 25 years as editor of the Newsletter, the Association—and I—look forward to the editorship of David Hill, Professor Emeritus of English, and former chair of the Honors Program and the Linguistics Program. We all wish Dave well, and are confident that he, in fact, will do well.

This issue of the Newsletter and the issue which follows it in the fall—at the 25th anniversary of the Emeriti Association—will offer bits and pieces of the history of the Association. It has been a good history—one that offers insight into the hearts of emeriti who have continued a productive relationship with SUNY Oswego, even in retirement. Like other Newsletter issues, it will show that emeriti have been an inspiration to our students and continue to be a force in the development of the college.

This issue will also show that we emeriti have also led fulfilling out-of-career lives. Mary Loe and Owen Houghton, like others who have preceded them on these pages, now share those lives with us. I trust you will enjoy their experiences and think fondly of your own.

A final note. Thanks are in order not only for those who have contributed articles over the years but to those who have contributed their secretarial skills. In our early years it was Lisa Potter; and for many years since, it has been Shelley Love. These two young ladies have really been responsible for what you see before you. And without the assistance the administration, our liaison from the college, Kerry Dorsey, and President Deborah Stanley, we would be a much different organization.
I was a bit overcome with nostalgia during the recent holidays. We had plans to downsize and leave favorite things behind. Thoughts turned to past celebrations and family gatherings I was about to abandon. Downsizing plans hinged on the sale of the camp which had been our favorite recreational playground for nearly 45 years. The charming 21 acres of Sleepy Hollow were nestled in a valley with a serpentine brook, mowed meadows, two ponds and wooded trails.

The nature of wisely aging for me is to accept necessary adaptations and embrace the challenges and opportunities of change. So it was that my day dreams were consumed by Christmas memories of special times at our family camp in Vermont. As I was reminded by Sharon Randall in a "Life/Family" Sentinel article in December 2013, Christmas memories "can happen any day, any time of year. Because more than a date on the calendar, Christmas is a feeling somewhere deep in the soul."

Our experiment in "pioneering" included many Christmas memories—gathering wild apples, pressing them at a local water-powered mill for cider, tapping maple trees for syrup, clearing the pond for skating, picking wild berries, and fishing the brook. The kids enjoyed the frequent sightings of deer, rabbit, fox, otter, beaver and blue heron, the evening bonfires with smores, catching fireflies, walks to identify animal tracks, the games of badminton, horseshoes, and five holes of golf in the meadow. Keeping the family warm in the winter required a lot of woodcutting. With a small ceramic stove and no central heating, our family, which included three kids under seven, spent a lot of energy on the home fires as a major daily task.

In 1975, Christmas in camp was very special. We cut our own tree, a bushy white pine, and decorated with popcorn and colored paper rings. Our holiday music was from radio and cassette tapes. We enjoyed the usual culinary delights of the season cooked on a wood stove. With crystal-clear skies and ice on the pond, Currier and Ives would have been cozy there! We quickly made friends with neighbors and members of the village church, enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a community bicentennial music production. I was invited to help start a co-op nursery which is still active today!

Now it is time to move on. Before hanging a "For Sale" sign, the three kids were given a chance to "sign off" on the property. Considering their busy lives at a distance from Vermont, they agreed to embrace the memories and shed upkeep responsibilities: "Dad, while I love the Hollow and my time there as a child, I can't help maintain it." I am thankful for their perspective at this stage of our ageing journey.

Of all the Christmas memories from kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors, this closing message from a nephew in 2003 gives me closure in 2014.

"There is no way to express my gratitude for the Paradise you created that we fondly call the Hollow. It filled my childhood with golden moments, and offers me a place to go in my mind when I need to connect with memories that fill my heart with joy. When I think of "home," I think of all of us together . . . (deceased family) are still alive . . . there is a campfire in the upper meadow . . . the sound of the brook and laughter. To me this is heaven. Whether or not it is in God's plan for the Hollow to be part of the next generation's experience, I remain ever grateful."

Strange, But True
Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846; John F. Kennedy in 1946.

Lincoln was elected President in 1860; Kennedy, in 1960.

Lincoln’s secretary was named Kennedy; Kennedy’s was named Lincoln.

Both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson.

Andrew Johnson was born in 1808; Lyndon Johnson, in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth was born in 1839; Lee Harvey Oswald, in 1939.

In Memoriam

A. Ronald Medici October 2013
Associate Professor Emeritus, Theatre (Active 1979-2001)

Albert C. Leighton November 2013
Professor Emeritus, History (1964-1985)

JoAn Huff December 2013
Professor Emerita, Women's Health and Physical Education (1958-1989)

Norma Bartle Associate Member December 2013

Sheldon Goodman December 2013
Associate Professor Emeritus

Note: We also recently learned that Shelly's wife, Josephine, died November 2008

Luther Peterson January 2014

Garrick Utley February 2014
Adjunct Professor and Senior Fellow, Broadcast and Journalism (2012-2013)
Friends We’ve Heard From and About

Congratulations to Emily Oaks, Emeriti Association Board member, and the Alumni Association's newest member of the Faculty Hall of Fame! Through its most recent publication of OSWEGO, the Alumni Association notes that "after 21 years in the biology department, [Emily] is on a mission to restore her property [in Sterling] to its natural state. While the effect is that of a free-growing wildflower garden, the fields represent years of deliberate restoration, replacing imports with indigenous plants. She knows every living thing on her property by name and location—even three resident garden spiders! And in her fading red barn, she is restoring a Model A Ford, employing skills she learned in an engine tune-up course." Emily began her teaching career in Utah, joined the Oswego faculty in 1984, served as department chair from 1998 to 2005, and still teaches one course a year. One of her strategies in teaching evolution is the prompt, "From fish to philosopher," which recently prompted two teaching assistants to present her with a custom-printed mug with illustrations that proceed from fish to amphibian through the vertebrates to humankind. As the OSWEGO article goes on to note, "It is their way to say thanks for an unforgettable experience and an unforgettable mnemonic from an unforgettable professor."

While reading the Winter issue of the alumni magazine, it becomes obvious that emeriti have had quite an impact on the lives and careers of their former students. Tom and Nancy Dana, both 1980s graduates of the college, PhD's, and faculty members at the University of Florida, recall their nurturing by Tom and Shirley Gooding and by Nate and Pat Swift, and their work on an NSF grant with Tom and Nate. At the recent dedication of the Shine Center they noted that treasuring their association with Barbara and Dick Shineman, who became lifelong friends and inspirations, they try to incorporate Barb and Dick's practices into their own teaching and administration. John Planz, PhD, another '80s graduate, recalls the influence of Peter Weber and Al Lackey, both of whom provided a reliable base of knowledge for his advanced studies, and an introduction to the Rice Creek Field Station, which became his "home away from home." His varied Oswego experience led the way to a challenging prominence in forensics and investigative genetics. Another of our science graduates, Jason Bennett '01, PhD, credits Ray O'Donnell, for his mantra to "think and not just memorize." Jason plans to do the same with the seven undergraduate students at Penn State Erie (Behrend College) who will assist in his recent NSF grant of over $240,000 for chemistry research.

And strange things happen in strange ways! Frederick Bieber '72, associate professor at Harvard Medical School and a recognized leader in forensic pathology, recalls a chance meeting when he literally bumped into Tony Annunziata in the middle of the 1968 Oswego snowstorm. When Tony asked what Bieber was reading, he replied he was reading books for class, but not much else. Tony suggested a book he had just finished, and passed it on to him. The book, The Double Helix, by DNA discoverer James Watson, changed Bieber's academic interest, and he enrolled in a genetics course by Hop Powers. His interaction with his professors, visiting them in their homes and working with them on projects had a profound impact. He recalls that Sherret Chase took his class to Harvard, where he now teaches, in his senior year.

Incidentally, Tony Annunziata recently told us at Springside that he still works out daily at Gold's Gym in Liverpool, and does two miles of fast walking — and it shows. He looks younger every time we see him! But he is still involved in the literary life. He also heads a Finnegan's Wake group of the Syracuse Joyce Society in his home.

According to an OSWEGO article, life, as Doug Purdy '85, M '86, knows it, has flourished from his roots in the Technology Education Program, where he did his first teaching as a graduate student. An innovative robotics, computer and technology educator, he credits his success to his college mentors. "All my instructors were outstanding and cared deeply about their students' success." And "The long reach of their influence on my life has been incredible," he says. Wes Boydston taught him residential construction. Purdy built his own house. Carl Salvagin taught him graduate-level energy courses. Purdy incorporated energy efficiency into his home. Woody Baughman taught him design and took him sailing. Purdy still sails and recently passed the Coast Guard exam to become a professional captain.

At the dedication of the rejuvenated Rice Creek Field Station in October, Frederick Walker '64, and Edward Currier '68, fondly recalled the early years of the station. Ed did the initial stream studies with Ron Engel, and observed the mating ritual of the woodcock with Carlita Georgia. He remembered Dick Shineman as a professor who had a true calling. "He just loved chemistry, and he was so helpful to me—to all students." Walker remembers working in the station's animal lab as an assistant to John Weeks, the first director. Very much influenced by John and his work at the station, when he began to teach, Walker and his wife, also an Oswego grad, bought a piece of woodland that they still enjoy.

In the Winter OSWEGO report on the rejuvenated Rice Creek Field station, John Weeks recalled that he "had
an itch that needed scratching" to establish a field station and nature center as part of the college's teaching/learning experience. He and other faculty worked with students and Boy Scouts to forge trails on land acquired by Foster Brown in the late '50s. John tells us that when he was leading hikes, he wore a trademark hat — blue, with a long feather in it. "I'm not very tall," he said, "so I always told people just to follow the feather." In October, when the field station was re-dedicated, the blue hat with the long feather was right there, along with John!

As many of us have realized, Warren Weinstein, a friend from some time ago who served at the college, appeared on a video released this past Christmas by the terrorist group al-Qaeda. A government contractor, Warren had been kidnapped in 2011 in Pakistan. In September of that year, President Stanley condemned the capture of Warren, who had been a tenured professor in the political science department from 1970 to 1979. She noted that Warren had left the college to work with U.S. AID on behalf of developing countries concentrating on economic development.

We recently heard from Sandy Sternlicht, emeritus professor from Syracuse as well as Oswego, that his latest lecture as Speaker in Humanities for the NY Council for the Humanities was at the Great Neck L.I. Public Library, where his topic was All Things Herriot: James Herriot and His Peaceable Kingdom. Sandy's lecture was based on his 1995 Syracuse U. Press book. Last fall, an article appeared in the Rochester newspaper about Judy Wellman. As coordinator of the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse Museum, Ontario County, she has undertaken the restoration of the former house of worship, which recently received a $10,000 donation from the NYS Preservation League. The people who had prayed there had an important role in advocating for women's rights, abolition, and Native American land rights. Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony all spoke there. Judy noted that the project would require about $1 million, and fundraisers were about halfway there. A project of Geraldine Forbes recently came to fruition with an agreement between Oswego and St. Xavier's college in Kolkata, India, to exchange students, faculty and staff. Over the course of 14 years, she took dozens of students to India for study and research. Four years ago, she began talking with the president at St. Xavier's and wrote a report recommending the school as a strong candidate for academic ties with SUNY Oswego.

At our fall Springside get-together in Minetto, Johanna Van Geet noted that she and her son, Paul, who lives in Scriba, had recently had a wonderful time visiting relatives in Holland. Their last visit had been in 2007. No siblings are left, but several nieces and nephews have been added. Paul especially enjoyed exploring the countryside on his bicycle trips. We also learned, happily, that Ray Schneider has recovered from the heart problem that had occasioned his leaving the Emeriti Board, but sadly, his and Molly's granddaughter had recently died in her sleep from viral myocarditis, an immune disorder. Much less important was the recent microburst that had uprooted a black cherry tree on their property and blown it across their motorhome. They noted that their gatherings of emeriti are "wonderful, with much talk and exchange of news and ideas," and they hope for "a happy, peaceful New Year for everyone."

It was good to see Ed and Marianne Thibault at the Springside luncheon. We learned that Ed's current publishing project is in cybercrime and predictive policing, and that his Proactive Police Management, in print for over a quarter century, is now in its 8th edition. Last spring, Ed had open heart surgery, and he reports that his heart "is still ticking." Don Vanouse has had some foreign influences in his life. He proudly announced that he had recently walked his first daughter, Melissa, down the aisle for her marriage to an obviously half Norwegian young man from Wisconsin. Don has been a mentor to a Chinese professor of English, and he also recently presented a conference paper in Porto, Portugal. Grace Mowatt Burritt and Hugh tell us that they are up to their old tricks — golf and entertaining. And they are very happy to have seen the first recipient of their named scholarship. For Harry and Lorraine Nash there were no projects planned at the time. For Harry, "Projects bring out my allergies!" They are "doing fine," but they still see their doctors often — "They need the money!"

In the fall, Lou Iorizzo spoke at a Springside dinner and reviewed Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts, a well-received text in which he had contributed an essay on Italian immigrants. Written by a number of scholars who trace the beginnings of various immigrants to the present day, the essays focus on America's response to the influx of immigrants and the response of the newcomers. Germans, Irish, Italians, Eastern Europeans, Jewish Americans, Greeks, and others are covered. In a recent e-mail message, we had an interesting note from Owen Houghton. In his retirement he is an ageing and wellness educator, past chair of the New Hampshire State Committee on ageing, and founder of Monadnock at Home. He suggests that his and Norma's retirement motto has been "Let your inner child out to play," so early on they enjoyed their journeys in their RV van, and note that church and community volunteering has also been fun. Planning is necessary, so while sound of mind and body, it is wise to record our "end of life" intentions with estate plans and the "what ifs" of life. Facing the reality of ageing with spirit, flexibility and courage is part of retirement. Owen paraphrases Bette Davis (For you younger retirees, she was at one time a well-known movie star!): "Old age is neither for sissies nor the unprepared!" In January, Owen's text was used in "Surviv-
The SUNY Scene

- With the cost of textbooks having increased 82 percent in the past ten years, and students spending, on average, $1,200 a year on books and supplies, SUNY is calling for additional faculty to create online textbooks. SUNY grants pay faculty $3,000 each to write a textbook—and $1,000 more if they involve students in the project. The Open SUNY Textbook initiative is part of a nationwide trend as college students nationwide say "No to costly textbooks."

- A number of innovative economic and service programs have been developed by SUNY in recent years. Among them: START-UP NY, reported in this issue in the Oswego campus article, which received a national award last fall by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities for its economic engagement efforts. SUNY Networks of Excellence increases research collaborations between SUNY and industry partners. The SUNY Research Collaboration Fund encourages inter-campus collaborations. The Technology Accelerator Fund helps the SUNY community to develop and commercialize technology. Innovative Keystone provides a centralized repository of information, including model forms and agreements relative to technology commercialization. SUNY Insure reduces the costs for new start-ups affiliated with SUNY. SUNY Entrepreneur in Residence encourages alumni and businesses to mentor entrepreneurial faculty and students.

- In her January State of the University address, Chancellor Nancy Zimpher noted that she will personally engage the chief executive officers of the state's largest companies to increase SUNY’s paid internships. She will look for 100 percent participation from New York's Fortune 500 companies in the SUNY Works initiative meant to better prepare students for the workplace. She will also appoint a task force to propose ways to improve diversity in the SUNY system. Following Gov. Cuomo's State of the State address, she praised the governor for his "vision" of the future for SUNY students—help to expand access to college, complete programs and become successful in the job market. "[He plans to help] focus on educating our students in highly sought-after fields, . . . and provide full scholarships to top-performing high school students who want to enter the STEM fields." Following her January address, however, the chancellor asked that the Legislature double the $500 million allocated for capital projects at the campuses for high-priority projects.

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

The college and the Communications University of China, located in Beijing, have signed an agreement that could send 20 Chinese students a year to Oswego to complete their undergraduate degrees in broadcasting and mass communications, journalism and public relations. The door is also open to Oswego students to study at the university known as “a cradle of China's radio and television talents.” An option in the future for Oswego students could be completing a master's degree in international communications at CUC.

A new agreement with highly regarded St. Xavier's College in Kolkata, India, will open paths for students, faculty and staff exchanges for semester-abroad and visiting-scholar programs, collaborative research, cross-cultural art opportunities and professional development.

Last October, it was announced that the National Science Foundation had awarded Oswego a five-year $1.2 million grant for scholarships to help in its program to develop science, technology, engineering and math teachers for high-need school districts. Graduate students in master's teaching programs at the college will receive scholarships worth $16,000 a year, and undergraduate students recruited for the program would receive $12,000 to complete their STEM degrees and any coursework needed to prepare for Oswego's graduate programs in STEM education.

Last fall, through a series of action-oriented challenges from living without power at the college to calling members of Congress, Oswego students won ONE's Campus Challenge and a private, pre-release screening of the new film, Mandelala: Long Walk to Freedom. ONE, co-founded by Bono, is an advocacy organization engaged in the fight against extreme poverty in Africa. In order to win the opportunity, "ONE at SUNY Oswego" students hosted two events to raise awareness of energy poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

In November, the college's annual Hart Global Awareness Conference featured two keynote speakers. Gabriel Bol Deng, a "lost boy of Sudan," spoke of his return to his homeland twenty years after his harrowing escape from Sudanese militaries, a journey documented in the film Rebuilding Hope, to provide educational and health services. Jessica Hinhas spoke of her advocacy on behalf of sex-trafficking survivors. An expert analyst on child labor and exploitation and youth advocacy, she is a TV host and producer specializing in cultural and media impact on women. She is developing an open-media platform called "I'll Go First" that invites individuals to tell their own stories of survivorship.

In December, as Park Hall neared the end of a two-year, $1.7 million modernization, the School of Education announced that it looks forward to new opportunities for collaborative teaching and learning, from a more visible Center for Urban Schools to innovative partnerships with the sciences. In January, the college's second-oldest building threw open its doors to high-tech flexible classrooms, a webinar room, fully renovated transportation lab and much more, even as Wilber Hall emptied for its own yearlong renovation. A STEM for Kids program, Youth Technology Days and the recent Nor' Easter VEX Robotics Competition are examples of what is going on in Technology these days.

SUNY Oswego is embracing Gov. Cuomo's START-UP New York program, selecting three areas on the main campus as possible business sites. The program offers businesses the chance to operate on SUNY campuses tax free for 10 years if the company provides an economic boost for the community. An advisory panel representing the college and community has been created. A number of businesses have shown interest, including those with technology-related components. The college is also considering the potential of its Phoenix and Syracuse Metro Center campuses for attracting businesses.

SUNY Oswego's online MBA tied for 14th among online graduate programs—the highest of any institution in the state, according to U.S. News' "2014 Best Online Programs: Business (Graduate)" rankings.

A good reason to invest in SUNY Oswego: The Oswego College Foundation Investment Committee has announced that for the year ending in June 2013 its endowment investment return was 14.1 percent, once again leading the industry. The endowment continued its trend of outperformance for a seventh consecutive year, and now nine out of the past ten years. In November, the results of the 2013 annual study of endowments by the National Association of College and University Business Officers showed that the June average return among colleges nationwide was just 11.7 percent. Oswego's endowment assets are nearly 100 percent donor designated in support of scholarships and student academic experiences. Assets provide critical funding that gives students access and opportunity at SUNY Oswego.

Al Roker to Brian Williams, on NBC Evening News, January 6, regarding the unusual polar vortex: "But the next thing we're worried about, Brian, is a major outbreak of lake effect snow over the next 24 hours. We're talking about snowfall amounts that are going to exceed three or four feet of snow between Syracuse and Watertown—my alma mater, Oswego, right in the midst of it, so it's going to be rough!"

What a revolting development! Michigan Tech, located along Portage Lake in Houghton, Michigan, has taken top honors on AccuWeather's list of the snowiest U.S. colleges. In the winter of 2000-2001, students there braved more than 300 inches of the white stuff. Oswego, along with Syracuse, has now dropped to 2nd with its annual average of 200 inches.

The college's decade-old farm-to-campus program continues to work toward promoting locally grown vegetables and the sustainability of healthy local foods. Last fall, the American Farmland Trust won a grant to work with Oswego and several other SUNY schools to increase the use of fresh, frozen and processed vegetables raised by New York farmers as part of a pilot program that eventually would target all colleges statewide. There will be a detailed look at Oswego's program to investigate areas of success as well as potential for gains. Oswego County growers such as Dunsmoor, Ferlito, Fruit Valley Orchard have already increased employment and volume through the college program.

During the month of July, the college will offer a program titled School of Media Arts as part of the New York Summer School for the Arts. Robert Harris, nationally known media educator and videographer, will direct a program consisting of a review of media fundamentals, instruction in new techniques and processes, instruction in aesthetics, surveys of contemporary works, trends, and ideas. Areas include 16-mm film, digital photography, video, electronic sound art and computer animation, and intermedia.
Roughing It (In a Retired Sort of Way)
Mary Loe

There's a special place that Tom and I have retreated to all but one summer over nearly five decades together. Now that we're both retired we have lingered there well into September, 'til there's ice in the morning washbowl. To some friends and colleagues this place—our cabin or camp—is something of a mystery: strange, primitive, too far away to visit.

To get there we head west, cross the amazing Mackinaw Bridge, and are still only half way. At Duluth we turn N.E. and hug the long North Shore of Lake Superior with its knife-edged rocky points, quite unlike the southern shores of Oswego's great lake. After crossing "our river," the Brule, near the Canadian border on the state highway, we drive eight miles through forest on gravel roads and walk the final one-third mile of rough track over a creek, up a steep hill and through more woods. All this effort leads to a clearing with a small, green-roofed cedar cabin balanced on a river bluff.

Where we park was a logging camp in the '30s and '40s, and before that a hardscrabble farm carved out of the North Woods by a Norwegian immigrant family some hundred years ago. We're mindful of Mons & Anna Hansen's efforts and pioneer life every time we dip our water pails into their spring for drinking water—still reliably clean, cold and strong after all these decades. And there are still two of their small, log outbuildings perched near our cabin, reminders of the building techniques any successful pioneer had to master.

When we leave our cars, we go through a portal to an earlier life that is both simpler and more difficult. We don't go there for a restful vacation, we've realized. What we're seeking is mostly a change. And then there's the lure of this singular spot that has not altered more than one or two iotas in our lifetime—no electricity, no piped water, not even any cell phone service—not since Mary's father drove north seeking hay fever relief in the late 1940s and discovered it.

The Minnesota North Woods is boreal forest—birch, pine, quaking aspen, spruce and balsam—much like the Adirondacks without the high peaks. We're drawn back each year by our slice of this fragrant forest — now surrounded by a state park — wedged between a cold trout stream and our mountain river. The logging camp is long gone, and an original five-room log cabin burned down decades ago. In its place several family friends threw up their own smaller summer cabins built from local lumber and recycled windows.

Here we fall asleep to the rumbling bass notes of the river, and dawn is whistled in by a winter wren energetically anticipating sunrise. Some mornings we're treated to a loon's wild laugh as it follows the river upstream to a nearby lake. The next sounds are usually the clank of stove lids followed by the snap and crackle of the fire starting up in the enameled, iron cook stove. Tom's mother discovered the old stove on a back porch of a rural farmhouse when we were still building the cabin. It's dictated our slow, cabin breakfasts ever since: coffee water heats up as the sun washes into the river's gorge, gilding stately white pine and spruce and highlighting bone-white birch clinging to cliffs across from us. We read another chapter in our books and consider plans for the day over a second cup of coffee, letting others sleep longer.

Cooking on the old stove is something of an adventure, but fun when you learn its ways. Since the oven heats up whenever the fire is lit, breakfast can as easily be popovers as oatmeal or eggs. The entire top offers a range of temperatures, from pancake hot to soup simmer far from the firebox. When a pecan pie puffed up into a small volcano and was done in 15 minutes instead of 45, we realized the oven was close to 500 degrees when the gauge showed "very hot." Perfect for pizzas, even with the oven door ajar! Several years ago we built an earth oven out of the local red clay for baking bread and pizzas on warm summer days.

Meals, sleeping, evenings with conversation/games/books, and shelter from the elements and bugs: that's the purpose of the cabin we built back when we were graduate students. Our 16' X 24' cabin sits on cedar posts and a few concrete-enhanced rocks, and is anchored by a stone fireplace in one corner. The space is Spartan, with a ship's galley-sized kitchen, one small bedroom, a low loft for two beds, and two bed/couches lining the main room. The table Tom made is commodious, since maps, stone collections, dried moose tracks, chainsaw parts, birch bark, Scrabble games-in-progress, and jars of daisies often compete with dining space. We've added a small deck and an adjoining sleeping room, plus a shed for tools and firewood. These help accommodate the family as it grows, but it's still mighty cozy if eight of us are there at the same time.

On the deck overlooking the river a small solar collector helps charge a collection of batteries, so we no longer depend on white gas or propane lamplight. We glory in LED lights that reach once-dark corners, but we love the ambience of candles too. We don't miss the smell of kerosene lamps or the hiss of the old Coleman gas lamps.

When our three children were young, we wondered if they would get bored Up North without their usual toys or even occasional TV. But finding things to do was never a problem. They readily took to the cabin as if it were a
child-sized playhouse, and the river was a perennial magnet. Where else could they play with moving water to their hearts' content, making dams, throwing drift wood, tossing stones, testing their birch bark sail boats, safely lighting small marshmallow fires on flat rocks in the river, besides learning to swim? We adults relish the river too, especially our swimming hole, where the river tumbles over giant basalt boulders for several hundred feet, creating a playground of bracing waterfalls and currents for every type of swimmer, even babies. We know we have one of only three spots in a long stretch of the river that is deep enough for diving, because we've stone-hopped seven miles down to Lake Superior and explored upriver as well.

But what else do we do all day for weeks in such a primitive place? For most of us, reading on sun-warmed rock and hours in and on the river are almost an addiction, but there are many other tasks and projects that make up our cabin routines: getting firewood (sawing, chopping, stacking); catching and storing rain water; scouting out the best blueberries before the bears get them; spotting eagles, loon, pileated woodpeckers; building tree houses or another shed; repairing the outhouse or the sauna; getting water from the spring; hiking sections of the Superior Trail; fishing for rainbow trout or walleye; working on our or friends' cabins; paddling canoes on nearby lakes and rivers, pitching in on road work; clearing brush and unwanted trees; trail making; planting white and red pine; lighting picnic fires; going into town—a 44 mile round trip—for supplies; sharpening the chain saw; biking or running back roads; hunting mushrooms; taking long breaks on the deck; and the like. Leisurely breaks with friends and family are a key part of cabin life.

Our North Woods cabin is not a place where very old folks can manage. We helped Mary's parents—both well into their nineties—stay at their nearby cabin until the last year of their lives: fetching spring water, chopping firewood, assisting with anything that enabled them to be in that their simple Eden. Now we—like them—"beat on, boats against the current," hoping to spend as many summer months there as possible.
What’s New in Higher Education

- The National Council of Teacher Quality has been critical of teacher education in the U.S., finding that college's "have become an industry of mediocrity, churning out first-year teachers with classroom management skills and content knowledge inadequate to thrive in classrooms with ever-increasing ethnic and socioeconomic student diversity." NCTQ's rating system consists of four stars, and determines that more than 90 percent of colleges earned only two stars or lower. National organizations note, however, that NCTQ relies mainly on examination of college syllabi, program offerings and admission standards, and does not include on-site visits, interviews with college personnel or students, or analysis of test data.

- A new book, Beyond the Asterisk: Understanding Native Students in Higher Education notes that the number of Native Americans attending college makes up only about one percent of the total undergraduate population, and that those students often have not had their needs addressed by their schools. The disconnect helps explain the low retention and graduation rates of Native Americans. The book grew out of a 2007 meeting of Native American educators who have called for such reforms as a Native voice in higher education literature, first-year experiences for Native American freshmen, and incorporating Native culture into courses and student affairs. The Native authors conclude "Our book addresses the complicated ways in which we interact with higher education to expose the richness beyond the asterisk."

- On paper, three friends at Purdue were remarkable students who had earned straight A’s in one to twenty-four of their engineering courses, eventually graduating in 2010. But their high marks didn't come from hard work and studying. Instead, the three hacked into their professors' university accounts and gave their report cards a significant boost. One of the students' original grades were nine F's and one incomplete. In April the students were charged with a variety of conspiracies.

- Several Texas A&M professors know something that generations of us could only hope to guess: Are our students reading their textbooks? They know when students are skipping pages, not bothering to take notes—or simply not opening the book at all. The faculty members are not clairvoyant. They, along with colleagues at eight other colleges, including Stony Brook, are testing technology from a Silicon Valley start-up, CourseSmart, that allows them to track their students' actual use of their digital textbooks. Students are aware that their engagement with the textbook is being watched and generally do not see it as a problem, especially when the instructor advises a better way of approaching the text. After using the system for two months, one professor noted that students with low engagement indices were still doing well on quizzes and assignments. His comment: "Maybe the course is too easy, or the textbook is not as good as I had originally thought."

- An opinion by an op-ed contributor last April in the Christian Science Monitor upon reading a recent report by the National Commission on Higher Education Attainment: "To their credit, the authors of the report call for better professional development for college faculty; however, most reports of this type have little to say about teaching, focusing instead on structural and administrative reforms outside the classroom. I don't see much evidence at the policy level of a deep understanding of college-level teaching or a respect for its craft. In the graduate programs where faculty are minted, students learn a great deal about political science, for instance, but not how to teach it. They might assist in courses and pay attention to how their professors teach, but none of this is systematic or a focus of study or mentoring. And there is rarely a place in the curriculum to consider the difficulties students might have as they learn how to think like a political scientist."

- Last fall's college football Bowl Championship Series was about more than the winning team's chance to say "We're No. 1." It was also about money. Auburn coach Gus Malzahn was eligible for a $625,000 bonus for a win, and Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher was eligible for an additional $325,000. Remember who won?

- Drones are getting big! Amazon hopes to use UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) to deliver packages and Domino's plans to have them deliver pizzas. To keep up, universities, including the U. of North Dakota, Kansas State-Salina, and Embry-Riddle, are starting drone degree programs. It is expected that 70,000 new U.S. jobs will be created throughout the country by the programs that will be offered in our colleges.

- According to Lawrence Wittner, SUNY Albany professor emeritus, underpaid adjunct faculty, employed at an average of $2,700 a course, now comprise an estimated 74 percent of America's college teachers. Their income, when adjusted for inflation, has dropped by 49 percent over the past four decades. By contrast, others on some campuses seem to do very well. The Chronicle recently noted that 42 presidents of private colleges and universities were paid more than a million dollars each in 2011. The highest earners were the presidents of the University of Chicago ($3.4 million) and Northeastern University ($3.1 million). And high-level positions often come with substantial perks. The University of Nebraska medical center chancellor tools around town in a university-given Porsche. NYU trustees gave the president ($1.5 million salary) a $1 million loan to help him purchase a vacation home on Fire Island. After the faculty recently voted no confidence in his leadership, however, the trustees did convince him to retire at the end of his contract in 2016. Wittner additionally questions why there should be an ever-growing number of administrators on campus—presidents, vice presidents, provosts, associate provosts, deans, assistant deans, and a myriad of other officials. Between 1993 and 2009, the ranks of campus administrators grew by 60 percent, a growth of ten times that of tenured faculty.
Pestalozzi, Krusi and W.N. Ferris:  How Sheldon Got into the Mix

[This article, titled "Pestalozzi, Krusi and W.N. Ferris," recently discovered by Bob Schell, comes to us from Ferris State University, founded in 1884 in Big Rapids, Michigan. It is interesting to note that the name of the Oswego president at the time that Hermann Krusi was in residence at the Oswego Normal School was not identified in the article below.]

While John Dewey (1859-1952) was developing his philosophy to change the educational system, Woodbridge Nathan Ferris (1853-1928) was building a school by trial-and-error which would become the cornerstone for career, technical/professional education beyond the secondary level. Dewey became internationally famous. W.N. Ferris did not.

Dewey and Ferris were both influenced by the same man: Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi. Many believe that Ferris nurtured the Pestalozzian movement and carried it into the twentieth century.

That movement began in pre-revolutionary France with John Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) who wrote the book *Emile*, which proposed a new educational plan. In an unorthodox manner, a mix of academic and practical, Emile was educated to use his hands as well as his mind to provide the necessities of life.

Emile, although a member of the upper class, was taught things which would be considered low class by the aristocracy. He was even "apprenticed" to a carpenter in order to learn how to build a house. Rousseau's philosophy was not popular, and he was thus banished from France for publishing a book that seemed to favor the working class.

The thread then extends into the next century to Switzerland where Pestalozzi, who set up, among other things, a school on a farm where he planned to educate poor people's children; for this he earned the title of "Father of Elementary Education." But his method of teaching was to have his pupils learn while doing, thus also making him "Father of Vocational Education."

He had tried his educational principles by educating his own daughter according to the format Rousseau suggested for educating Emile. Pestalozzi asked for a government grant from Switzerland to support his school concept, but he was turned down. Without this financial support, he personally paid for the education of his pupils until he ran out of finances. He later set up a private school which he operated for many years.

The system became popular throughout the United States and Europe, particularly England. There even was a Pestalozzian Center in Japan.

Pestalozzi's assistant was Hermann Krusi, whose son, Johann Heinrich Hermann Krusi, Jr., (1817-1903), found his way to Oswego, New York, where he became a faculty member at Oswego Normal School, teaching the Pestalozzian method which the Oswego president [Edward Austin Sheldon] adopted as the basis for teacher training at this fountainhead of teacher education in America.

When W.N. Ferris entered Oswego Normal School in 1871, he fell under the influence of Krusi. In his autobiography, Ferris mentions Krusi as the one outstanding teacher who influenced his thinking to develop an educational institute for the working class.

Krusi also taught geometry at Oswego, and Helen Gillespie Ferris, who attended long enough to receive her advanced certificate, also had many courses from him. In her time, Helen Ferris was considered the best geometry teacher in Michigan, as attested to by the state superintendent of Public Instruction. Woodbridge and Helen Ferris, much influenced by the Pestalozzian philosophy, carried to Big Rapids this philosophy and used it as a foundation for their Big Rapids Industrial School.

Among the books salvaged from Mr. Ferris' library is a biography of Pestalozzi written in 1875 by the younger Krusi as a tribute to his father, Pestalozzi's long-time associate — Pestalozzi: His Life, Works and Influence.

When the younger Krusi retired from Oswego Normal School in 1887, the Pestalozzian identity began to wane as the normal school concept waxed. Although he died in 1903, Krusi's autobiography, Recollections of my Life, was not published until 1907.

In 1969, Will S. Monroe published A History of the Pestalozzian Movement in the United States. It concluded with a chapter on a St. Louis example from 1868-1880.

Thus the St. Louis impetus was there for W.N. Ferris to incorporate whatever Pestalozzian theory he saw fit into his school— now Ferris State University—in Big Rapids.

There are many who believe that much of the Pestalozzian push came from Helen G. Ferris. After all, she attended Oswego Normal School for three years and earned a degree while Woodbridge attended for little more than a year. As is often the case with wives of domineering men, she probably had a great deal of influence on her husband without his realizing it.
Moving? Reorganizing? Remember the Archives!

If you’re making a residential move or reorganizing office space, you’re probably dealing with old files of professional and personal papers, correspondence, photos and memos from your years at SUNY Oswego. The College Archives, part of Special Collections, encourages you to consider donating the kinds of materials listed below to help preserve our college’s history. This list is not definitive or exhaustive. Material that will contribute to the documentation of faculty and staff careers as fully as possible will be welcome.

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Young at elizabeth.young@oswego.edu, call Special Collections at 315-312-3537, or e-mail at archives@oswego.edu.

**BIOGRAPHICAL**

Resumes, vitae, bibliographies, biographical and autobiographical sketches, chronologies, genealogies, newspaper clippings, memoirs, and reviews of your publications

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Official: Outgoing copies and drafts, and incoming letters and memos

Professional: Correspondence with colleagues, publishers, organizations, and students

Personal: Letters to and from friends, relatives, acquaintances, and business associates

**DIARIES, NOTEBOOKS, AND JOURNALS**

**CLASSROOM MATERIAL**

Lecture notes, syllabi, course outlines, reading lists, examinations, selected student papers

**RESEARCH FILES**

Research designs, raw data, notes, analyses, and reports of findings

**DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE RECORDS**

Agendas, minutes, reports, and correspondence

**DRAFTS AND MANUSCRIPTS OF ARTICLES, BOOKS, REVIEWS, AND SPEECHES**

**PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND MONOGRAPHS**

**AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL**

Tapes of lectures, speeches, discussions, interviews; videotapes; architectural drawings; examples of creative work

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Prints, negatives, and slides with identifying information

**COLLEGE MEMORABILIA**

College Announces New Bequests

Deborah Stanley recently announced that the college has received the largest single gift in its history: a $7.5 million gift from the estate of Oswego County resident Lorraine E. Marano. The gift establishes the Nunzio "Nick" and Lorraine E. Marano Endowment, primarily to fund scholarships for students with financial needs, especially those who are first-generation college students.

Lorraine Marano had openly discussed her admiration for SUNY Oswego and believed the college was worthy of a gift of such magnitude because of the benefits it accords to students through academic programming, committed faculty and staff, and strong, imaginative leadership.

The late Lorraine and Nunzio Marano had a prosperous agricultural business located on a muck farm in Scriba. Originally from Philadelphia, she was an education enthusiast who held bachelor's and master's degrees from two universities and a paralegal certification from Syracuse University. A Scriba native, he was a former officer of the Marine Midland Bank in Phoenix and held a seat on the New York Mercantile Exchange until his death in 2002.

A second bequest recently announced by President Stanley was for $5 million from an anonymous donor, a native of Central New York who used a math degree from the college to make a fortune in the real estate business. His intention is to support the Possibility Scholars program, which provides financial support for talented students from New York state who want to study in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

Possibility Scholarships cover all tuition, fees and room and board for four full years. Scholars travel to one of several Global laboratory partners that Oswego has around the world to study and work on science projects with researchers in their fields.

The alumnus made clear that he wishes to promote the study of math, which he feels is crucial to success in most fields. "Math is a universal language and supports every other subject," he said. "Regardless of what career path one takes, a strong math background is important to excel." He also intends to help keep America more competitive in the global economy by reversing a trend toward the acceptance of poor math skills in this country's students.

Despite wanting his name kept private, the donor said he hopes that his gift will inspire others to support Oswego and its students with an estate gift, especially since the state budget to support the college is diminishing. And he points out that a bequest to a charitable organization reduces the taxable portion of an estate, thus avoiding the maximum potential 55 percent estate tax. "I would rather give a dollar than pay 55 cents to Uncle Sam," he said.
The Building Plaques

Each year since 2001, the Emeriti Association has presented to the college a wall plaque that provides biographical information about former faculty and others for whom buildings have been named. The plaques have been prominently placed in the buildings which memorialize the individuals. Following is a record of each year in which those presentations have taken place by the Emeriti Association.


Former faculty members to be honored in subsequent years: Principal James G. Riggs, 1913-1933; Isabel Kingsbury Hart, teacher of geography and dean of women during the Riggs and Swetman eras; Amanda Funnelle, kindergarten, 1888-1911; Carol King, associate dean of students, 1954-1959.

Cap and Gown Gathering Dust?

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

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

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

Updated Tyler Coming

Tyler Hall, at age 46, will go into a construction cocoon after May commencement, emerging in November 2015 as a 21st century home for the college's visual and performing arts. Its $21 million renovation will remove sections of the moat-like exterior wall, the shallow lobby, the divided art galleries, and the old stage floor, along with its 1968 mechanicals.

Up will go a Waterman Theatre with modern seating, lighting, sound and multimedia; a two-story music rehearsal hall doubling as a new venue for small performances, a welcoming lobby, a larger and more flexible Tyler Art Gallery, a digital media lab and a recording studio, and a host of environmentally friendly improvements to the building's HVAC and other systems.

Classroom and lab theatre modernization and additional improvements in Tyler will await Phase 2 funding, which remains to be allocated in the state's capital plan.