

OSWEGO

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT OSWEGO ■ VOL. 34, NO. 1 ■ FALL/WINTER 2007

A man wearing a green baseball cap with a logo, glasses, a light blue button-down shirt, and a dark suit jacket is smiling and speaking into a black microphone. He is surrounded by a large, diverse crowd of people, many of whom are also smiling and holding up signs. One sign in the background says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" in yellow and red letters. Another sign to the right has a drawing of a person and some text. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

Today at Oswego:
The Forecast is Sunny

PLUS

- **Breaking Through**
- **A Campus Connected**
- **Return to Oz**

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*Laptop pictured is for illustration only. Actual model may vary.

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Look for our new Career Center coming this spring with many new and improved features.

OSWEGO

Alumni
Association of the
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at Oswego
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From video-on-demand to the latest in cell phone entertainment, the annual Media Summit explored new media and was renamed to honor a beloved professor.

Breaking Through to a New Era 17

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ON THE COVER:

Al Roker '76 featured Oswego State in his Oct. 18 "Today" show broadcast.
Photo by Robert Mescavage Photography



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President's Desk



President Deborah F. Stanley

Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego has shown us in dramatic ways just how powerful it is when many people — faculty, staff, students and friends of the college — all come together to benefit the institution. This autumn, several events showed me just how special this synergy is. We opened the final portion of our Campus Center with a symbolic “breakthrough” ceremony and honored those leading donors who made this unifying structure possible. This year’s installment of our annual media summit, founded in 2005 thanks to a generous donation from **Louis A. Borrelli Jr. '77**, was a huge success and was renamed by **Al Roker '76** and Lou in honor of beloved professor Lewis B. O’Donnell. We welcomed Al and his “Today” show national audience to our campus with a tremendous outpouring of support from students, faculty, staff and community members. And our third

Return to Oz reunion was a great and uniting success. Much of this was made possible by *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego*. We kicked off our campaign in September 2005 and in October 2006 we met our \$17 million goal, eight months ahead of schedule. Now we have just six months left in our campaign, which ends June 30. We are at more than \$21 million and have nearly \$2 million left to raise toward our expanded goal of \$23 million. Our success so far has been due to the Oswego tradition of working together. Donors giving \$25, \$1,000, \$25,000 or more have made our success possible, and they will put us over the top. Every gift counts. Please consider being part of this historic campaign while there is still time. And experience the magic that happens when we all — alumni, faculty, staff and students — work together for the future of Oswego.

Deborah F. Stanley
President

FROM

the Editor's Pen

Remember how, on the Oswego campus in late autumn, the wind would pick up little piles of dried leaves and swirl them around, like a mini-tornado? That was what our autumn felt like this year. Return to Oz III, the opening of the Campus Center, raising the championship banner for men’s hockey, the media summit, and a broadcast by **Al Roker '76** and the “Today” show, all within a three-week span. It really was a whirlwind of activity, and left me — like all the alumni and development staff — somewhat breathless.

But, picture that little pile of leaves again. What do you remember about it? What do you take away from it? I’ll just bet it’s the sheer beauty of it. Each leaf a little gem — red, gold

and green — and swirling together, it was a kaleidoscope of color. And that’s what we’ll take away from this autumn: those of us involved behind the scenes, those who participated in those events in person, and now you, as you behold the images reproduced in the pages of this magazine. That’s what’s so great about Oswego. It may take us on a wild ride, sometimes its wind buffets us. But we will always remember its beauty, good times and the good friends we shared them with.

Michele A. Reed
Oswego editor

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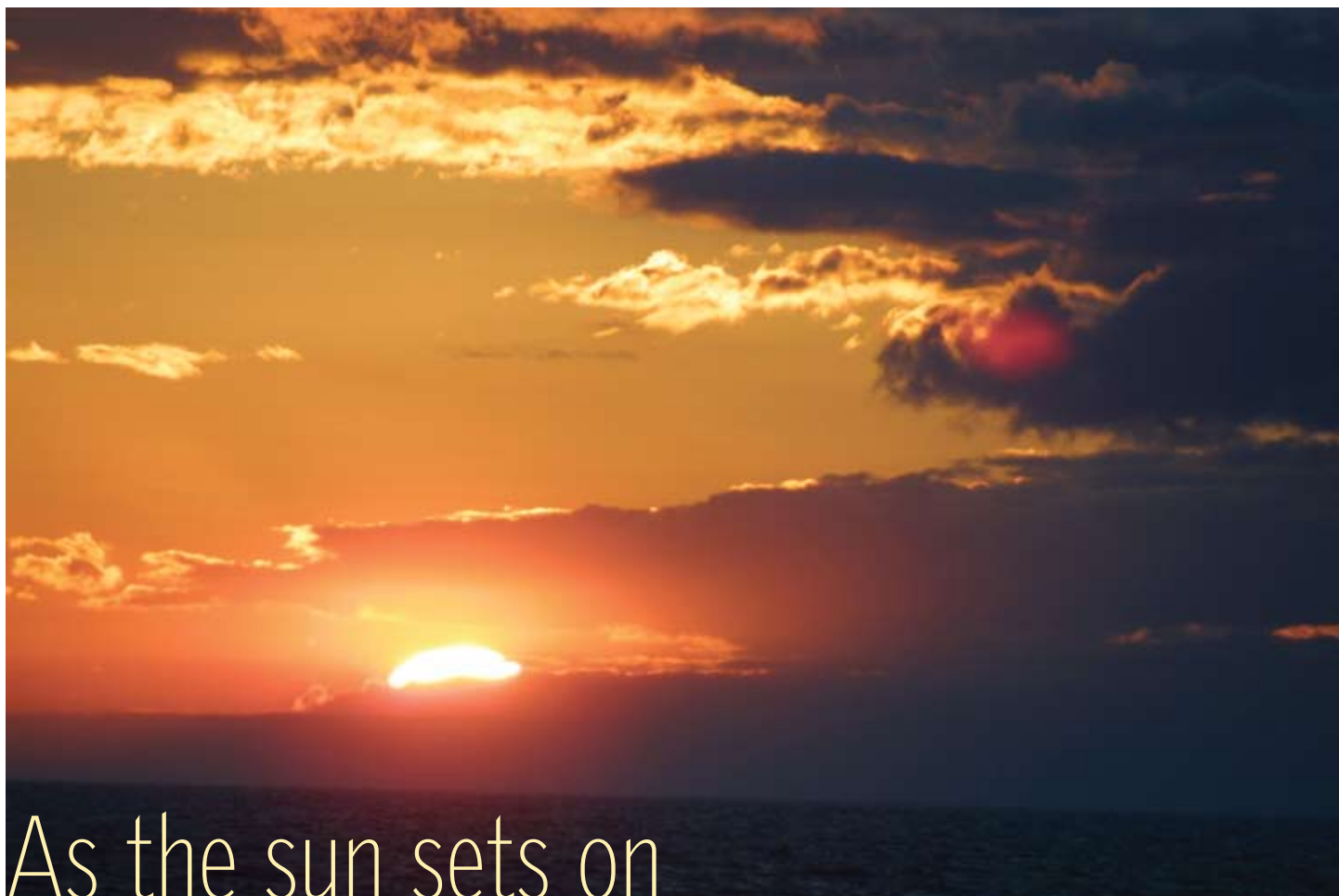
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As the sun sets on
Inspiring Horizons...

The end of *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego* is fast approaching. The campaign officially ends June 30. But there's still time for you to be part of this historic first campaign for Oswego.

Every day, we see evidence of how *Inspiring Horizons* has helped to change the face of campus — and the lives of our students. Whether a donor-sponsored fellowship program provided the opportunity of a lifetime or lectures paid for with a departmental excellence fund sparked an abiding passion, whether their education was made possible with a scholarship or they participated in student organizations at the new Campus Center, students' lives were touched by donors to the campaign.

To those generous supporters, thank you! If you have not yet made a gift, there's still time to make a difference. *Inspiring Horizons* has raised more than \$21 million toward our \$23 million goal. But there's still much more to be done. Contact the Office of University Development at 315-312-3003 or e-mail give2@oswego.edu today.

DR. AUGUSTINE 'GUS' SILVEIRA JR.

Growing up in Massachusetts, Dr. Augustine Silveira's passion for chemistry began while performing magic tricks for his family and friends. His interest was further ignited when he received a chemistry kit as a Christmas gift.

As an undergraduate student at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Silveira's main interest was in textile chemistry. When he found out during his senior year that he was colorblind and could not properly match textile dyes, Silveira shifted gears toward organic chemistry and a career in teaching.

Prior to coming to Oswego, Silveira taught at other colleges including Rutgers University and the University of California Irvine. When Silveira came to Oswego in 1963, he was entertaining offers from several other colleges, but it was the "ground floor level" of the chemistry department that caught his attention.

"I thought for a young person I could really be involved with a lot of other young people in developing the chemistry program. I just fell in love with Oswego and the students," said Silveira.

Silveira taught at Oswego for 38 years, 33 as chair of the chemistry department, until his retirement in 2000.

Silveira's favorite part of teaching was conducting research, because it was an opportunity to work one-on-one with students. The bulk of that joint research was on synthesizing compounds for useful pharmaceutical drugs.

According to Silveira, the unique thing about Oswego State is that students get extensive hands-on experience with laboratory equipment.

"That is why our students can get jobs, because they learn how to do it all," he said.

Silveira talked with pride of his students who have gone on to become successful doctors and chemists.

"Oswego is all over the map," he said. "I've been asked to speak all over the world, to talk about our students and what they have done."

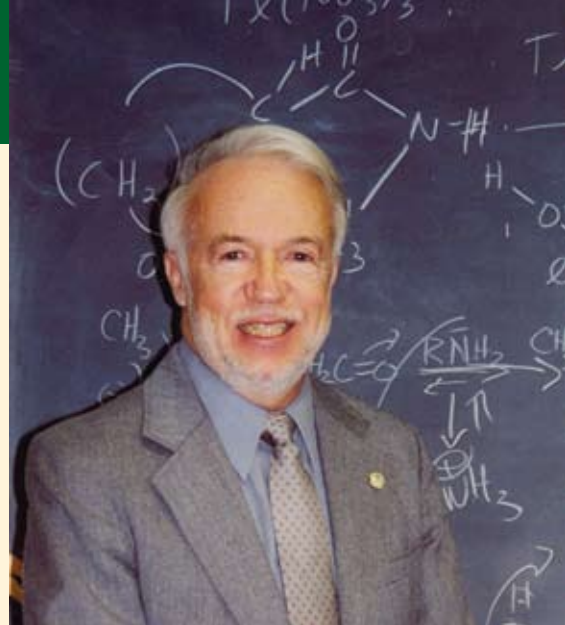
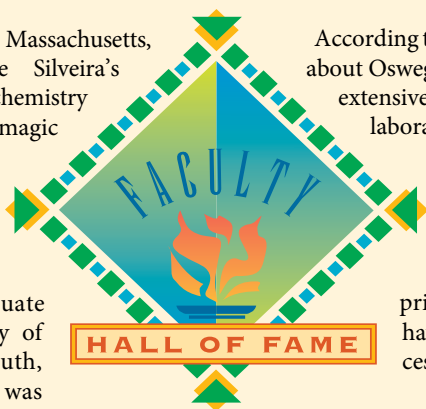
Since retirement, Silveira has kept in touch with Oswego in several ways, especially by reading the chemistry department newsletter.

"The new science facilities, the new faculty, the students...It reminds me of the '60s. It's an exciting time," he said.

Shortly after Silveira's retirement, he was honored by a former student, **Dr. Thomas Weil '66**, with the creation of the Augustine Silveira Jr. Fund, which supports scholarships, fellowships and guest lectures in chemistry.

In April, Silveira was honored by his alma mater, UMass Dartmouth, with the Samuel Stone Lifetime Science Award. He also gave the commencement address to the college of arts and sciences there in May. He has visited Massachusetts high schools to talk with students about opportunities in the sciences and was a visiting scholar at SUNY Purchase.

In retirement, Silveira and his wife, Beverly, live in California during the winter months and in Massachusetts throughout the summer. They enjoy traveling, square danc-



Dr. Augustine 'Gus' Silveira Jr.

ing, biking, kayaking, tai chi, yoga and music and art appreciation classes.

Silveira said of his wife, that although he has received several awards throughout his career, "She is the one who is really the most deserving of all these awards...there's no way I feel that I could be as successful without her."

The Silveiras have two daughters, Linda and Karen, and four grandchildren.

But according to Silveira, his family does not stop there, for he considers many people that he met during his 38 years at Oswego to be extended family. He was touched by their outpouring of love and support when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer last summer.

"The place that is closest to my heart is Oswego. It will always be number one."

—Kristin Quinn '08

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