

OSWEGO Parents

A Publication of the
Office of Alumni and
Parent Relations

SPRING 2003

School of Business Earns International Accreditation

SUNY Oswego's School of Business has achieved accreditation of its undergraduate and graduate programs by AACSB International. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business is the premier accrediting agency for business schools in the world.

Oswego joined Syracuse and Cornell universities as the only AACSB-accredited schools in Central New York and became one of seven campuses in SUNY with this prestigious accreditation.

"It ranks us with the best and assures our students that they are getting exceptional preparation for careers in the competitive world of business," said Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley of the accreditation, which Oswego completed in the minimum five years.

Oswego's School of Business offers a broad undergraduate program with majors in accounting, business administration, finance, human resource management, management accounting, management science and marketing that together enroll 1,100 undergraduate students. The MBA program enrolls 65 graduate students, many of them professionals pursuing part-time study.

"Oswego's programs are distinctive in providing students a global perspective, a high level of computer literacy, an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving, and practical hands-on experience," said Lanny Karns, dean of the School of Business. "AACSB accreditation provides external validation not only that we aim high in formulating our programs but that we deliver for our students."



The newly accredited School of Business will move into Rich Hall next fall following an \$8.4 million renovation of the building. The AACSB International accrediting team called the academic building design "unusually well thought out in terms of technology, pedagogy in general and student-faculty interaction."

As part of the accreditation process, an AACSB peer review team of three business school deans spent three days on campus in October applying a wide range of quality standards relating to curriculum, faculty resources, admissions, degree requirements, library and computer facilities, financial resources and intellectual climate.

The team report singled out four areas for special commendation:

- "Students have very positive attitudes and high morale regarding their experiences in the School of Business."
- "Faculty members clearly have student learning as the top priority."
- "The renovation of Rich Hall and its conversion to the School of Business building will provide an exceptional facility to support a high quality program."
- "The School has developed a freshman 'Gateway to Business' course that is highly innovative in what it achieves and how it is taught."

Oswego Accredited by NCATE, Reaccredited by Middle States

The School of Business Accreditation was one of three received by SUNY Oswego recently.

The Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools notified SUNY Oswego this summer that it has reaffirmed the college's accreditation. Like every reputable institution of higher learning in the United States, Oswego undergoes an accreditation review every 10 years.

The site visit team, which evaluated the campus, gave the college two commendations: one for the first-year retention program that consists of First-Year Advisement, FirstChoice, First-Year Residential Experience, and Sheldon Leader Program, and the other for the scholarship funds available to students for international study.

"We are pleased to have our accreditation reaffirmed," said President Stanley, "and we are especially gratified to see our hard work in developing our vision of a learner-centered campus acknowledged with these commendations, which we understand are not handed out lightly."

In the fall of 2001, Oswego received national accreditation for its School of Education through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The college's roots in education stretch back over 140 years. In 1861, Edward Austin Sheldon founded the Oswego Normal School, which is believed to be the first urban teacher training program in the United States.

"Accreditation is important to prospective students, to graduate schools and to employers because it validates our good work and the high caliber of learning that occurs at SUNY Oswego," said Dr. Joseph Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, speaking about all three accreditations.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

- Fast Facts About Freshmen
- New Smoking Policy
- Professor Bequeaths Over \$1 Million for Scholarships
- Business School Accredited

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OSWEGO Parents



Professor emeritus Girgis Ghobrial, center, enjoyed meeting the recipients of his scholarships at Honors Convocation every spring. Thanks to his bequest of over a million dollars, the largest gift in the college's history, students will continue to receive Ghobrial Scholarships for generations.

Professor Bequeaths Over \$1 Million for Scholarships

Generations of Oswego students will have help to fulfill their dreams of a college education, thanks to Dr. Girgis Ghobrial. The kindly geography professor has bequeathed over a million dollars to Oswego, the largest gift in the college's history.

"Dr. Ghobrial was among our most generous donors in supporting student scholarships during his lifetime," said Kevin Mahaney, vice president for development and public affairs. "We are deeply grateful to him for permanently endowing these scholarships through this enormously generous bequest."

The bequest will establish the Girgis B. Ghobrial Scholarship Fund. Incomes from this permanent endowment will provide scholarship support for students attending SUNY Oswego.

"This is a transformational gift for the college," President Deborah F. Stanley said. "It dramatically increases our endowment for scholarship support."

The former chair of the college's geography department, Ghobrial spent 41 years of his life in Oswego, 32 of them teaching generations of Oswego students, Stanley said.

"He was a valued member of the SUNY Oswego family and, obviously, we were an important part of his life as well," Stanley said. "For an individual to bequeath nearly

his or her entire estate for the benefit of our students is a remarkable act of love and generosity."

Supporter of scholarships

During his lifetime, Ghobrial funded numerous annual scholarships across many departments, always doing so in memory or honor of his parents, fellow faculty members and other individuals who played an important role in his life.

Ghobrial loved to meet students and to hear their stories, and took great joy in helping them realize their dreams of an

education, Mahaney said. After his retirement in 1992, Ghobrial remained active with the college and attended many events.

Students' kindness

In a 2001 interview with *Oswego* alumni magazine, Ghobrial

recalled how his special relationship with students was underlined when the blizzard of 1964 crippled the city. He said students shoveled his driveway, and three girls who lived nearby baked and delivered a cherry pie for him. "Their kindness reminded me that people in this country are very generous, very good," the native of Egypt recalled.

That kindness, Mahaney said, has been returned to the college many times over by this gift.

"This is a transformational gift for the college. It dramatically increases our endowment for scholarship support."

— President Deborah F. Stanley

Taking It to the Drive-Through

The Oswego Reading Initiative has set *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*, journalist Eric Schlosser's tasty bestseller, as their summer 2003 official reading selection.

Fast Food Nation topped four other selections, including Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, Leif Enger's *Peace Like a River*, Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point* and Edwidge Danticant's *Breath, Eyes, Memory*.

A group of faculty, staff and students choose a book to be read campus-wide over the summer months that can then be related in the upcoming academic year to course curriculum in all departments. The goal is to enhance students' learn-

ing experience through the reading of the common text.

Schlosser's book is a non-fiction exposé that, in true muckraker fashion, details America's obsession with fast food, malls and the inevitable obesity and socioeconomic gap that is resulting from these trends.

"*Fast Food Nation* has lifted the polystyrene lid on the global fast food industry ... it could even change the way we eat," said the *Observer*.

The book will be ORI's second annual selection following this past year's choice of the non-fiction tale of World War II refugees brought to Fort Ontario, *Haven*, by Ruth Gruber.

—Kyle Konkoski '03



Students Say 'Thanks!'

Three current Presidential Scholars reflect on what their scholarships mean to them.

"Being an out-of-state student is difficult to finance with respect to transportation and tuition. The Presidential Scholarship I received as an incoming freshman made it possible for me to attend college 1,100 miles away from my hometown of Duluth, Minn. I have benefited from the support and prestige offered by the program in multiple ways, ways that continue to open doors for me every semester."



Kimberly Trela '04
Duluth, Minn.
Major: Journalism

"Because of the generosity of the sponsors, I did not have to worry about the financial burden of college. I will now be able to continue my education at Oswego, working toward my Master's in Business Administration. I believe the Presidential Scholars Program is very

worthwhile because it encourages students to be the best they can be and rewards them for maintaining excellent grades."



Megan Ingersoll '03
Oswego, NY
Major: Accounting

"If I hadn't received the Presidential Scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to attend SUNY Oswego. I've had so many opportunities at Oswego, and I know I would not be where I am now in my educational career if I hadn't been selected for this prestigious honor."



Chad Bigelow '03
Mexico, NY
Major: Education

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Center for Urban Schools Debuts at Oswego

Students at Oswego's School of Education will soon be exposed, more than ever, to the urban school setting with the addition of the Center for Urban Schools in Swetman Hall.

The center is a spin-off of the 15-year-old Project SMART (Science and Mathematics Applied Resources for Teaching), a program designed to spark interest in and practical understanding of science, mathematics and technology for elementary and middle school students. The project initially served small town and rural teachers, but with recent funding allocations and the leadership of Dr. Pat Russo, chair of the center, and Dr. Barbara Beyerbach of the curriculum and instruction department, the project has grown to include the urban school component.

The Center for Urban Schools will allow for more urban field placements in locations like Utica and New York City, in-service mentoring, urban-related partnerships and urban student recruitment and resource location. The goal of the center is that all students would be equipped to work in any urban school district upon graduation, from Syracuse to the Bronx,

whether they choose to or not. Close to 60 students a semester are student teaching in urban field locations since the launch of the center in spring 2002.

The program has been in existence for a few years, but just recently received funds through Project SMART to allow the center to become a physical reality with more organization and structure.

"Even for students who don't take positions in the city after graduation, [The Center for Urban Schools] greatly enhances their life experience. They generally describe it as life-altering," Beyerbach said.

Also, students can expect more opportunities in New York City with increased student-teaching placements, summer teaching assistantships and a "Schools and Urban Society" course that includes a two-



Student teachers from SUNY Oswego are shown with students of JHS 56 in the Bronx during a six-week placement during Winter Break 2002.

week field placement in Manhattan.

"Many students have a negative view of urban life. Teaching there lets them see a vast picture of what schools are," said Russo. "It will expand their view of themselves as teachers. This program is about how to enhance students and enhance the school."

For more information on the Center for Urban Schools, visit their Web site at www.oswego.edu/~prussol.

—Kyle Konkoski '03

No Ifs, Ands or Butts – Smoking is Out

SUNY Oswego is putting cigarettes – and their smokers – out.

Smoking is now prohibited on campus in all academic buildings, along with the residence halls of Hart, Johnson, Moreland, Oneida, Riggs, Scales and Seneca.

All smokers living in these buildings must smoke outside. This is due to a policy enacted this fall by the Oswego State Smoking Policy Review Group, ultimately under the direction of the President's Council.

The Policy Review Group, comprised of staff, faculty and student representatives,

researched health concerns linked to cigarette smoking and followed this research with a survey of students.

Charles Weeks, director of Residence Life and Housing, cited many different reasons for the decision.

"The survey was part of it," Weeks said. "We researched the medical information that was out there, we held focus groups and we surveyed other colleges and universities in the SUNY system and private colleges as well.

With all four of these sources, we came to our conclusions.

Ultimately, we were concerned with the health effects of second hand smoke."

Cayuga Hall will prohibit smoking in fall 2003 and then "one or more" halls will become non-smoking the

next fall. By that time, all resident dining centers will also prohibit smoking.

Stickers have been placed on the main entrances of buildings across campus, warning that smoking is not permitted inside and within 20 feet of the building.

Weeks added that there is a contingent of students opposed to smoking who want to "stamp it out," but there is a significant number of students who are also not in favor of prohibiting the lifestyles of smokers.

"We will continue to examine where we are in this issue," Weeks said. "It's not unreasonable to assume that we're heading in the direction of having very little to no smoking on campus." —Kyle Konkoski '03



Photo by José Luiz Pederneras

Grupo Corpo, a wildly popular 19-member dance troupe from Brazil, will be coming to SUNY Oswego to perform their routine called a "simmering stew of Brazil's African, Arabic and European influences." The dancers will demonstrate their saucy style at Waterman Theatre March 12. The event is made possible by Artswego and the Office of International Education. Discounted student tickets are available for all Artswego performances.

A Mix of Disciplines, One Home

The newly formed Interdisciplinary Program Activities Center has found a temporary home in Room 105B of Mahar Hall before it will make permanent residence in the soon-to-be Campus Center.

Dr. Stephen Rosow, director of the center, says IPAC is designed to encourage the development and support of the interdisciplinary programs on campus. It gives a home to programs like global studies, international trade, American studies, linguistics, women's studies and other specialized programs that don't have homes within departments.

"I think that IPAC gives a certain presence to the campus. Interdisciplinary programs are one of the areas that this campus has staked out as important. SUNY Oswego has always encouraged interdisciplinary studies, making it a requirement for the intellectual issues requirement," says Rosow. "It will ultimately make interaction easier among all majors."

The center will also organize the long-running Arts and Sciences Lecture

Series. This past fall, center staff brought speakers James DerDerian of Brown University and Peter Vale, a Nelson Mandela professor at Rhodes University in South Africa.

"Bringing scholars to campus and letting our faculty lecture as well is creating a dialogue among the different disciplines and encouraging and facilitating conversation across disciplines," Rosow adds.

In the future, the center might expand existing programs and give them additional support or possibly participate in the creation of new programs. Already, some faculty members are looking into a cinema studies major and a forensic anthropology and forensic studies program. Next spring, the IPAC is hoping to offer a course designed completely around the Oswego Reading Initiative book, *Fast Food Nation*. Rosow hopes professors from all the topics involved in the book – economy, psychology, and so on – will help formulate the course.

—Kyle Konkoski '03

Campus Clips

PLAN NOW FOR GRADUATION



It's not too early to make reservations for May commencement. The annual Torchlight

dinner and ceremony are scheduled for Friday evening, May 16. To make reservations for families and graduates, call the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at 315-312-2258.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Applications for scholarships and awards for the 2003-2004 academic year are now being accepted with deadlines for some of the scholarships being as early as Jan. 31.

Students may qualify for one or more of over 240 scholarships available through the Oswego College Foundation.

Scholarships are awarded based on course of study or areas of special interest, academic performance, and/or financial need. Find the listing of scholarships and awards along with instructions for applying and application forms online at <http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/scholarships>.

Scholarships are funded through the generosity of Oswego State alumni, faculty, staff, emeriti, and friends of the university. For additional information call 315-312-3003 or email manwarin@oswego.edu.

'MOM, DAD, SEND MONEY'



The Student Association Check-Cashing facility, located on the main level of Hewitt Union, is

open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parent checks must be \$50 or less and one check can be cashed per day.

THE ROAD HOME



The OCT Bus Service has charters home to New York City and the Long Island area during Spring

Break. Student Association provides this service. The contact phone is 315-312-3231.

SNACKS, FLOWERS AND MORE



The Corner Store, run by Student Association, has fresh bagels, drinks and snacks along

with a new floral service. Order flowers and have them delivered, by calling 315-312-3603. The store also has a gift selection along with gift baskets.

GET TICKETS ON CAMPUS



TicketMaster in Hewitt Union is the place for students to purchase tickets to events anywhere in the

Northeastern United States. To purchase tickets, call 315-312-2929.

FILE FOR GRADUATION



Students are required to file for graduation. Degree information for May and August 2003 was

mailed to the students' local address in April 2002. The form or online filing is due in the Registrar's Office no later than Feb. 15, 2003, in order for the students to have their names listed in the commencement program at the May 17, 2003, ceremony. December 2002 graduates and the May and August 2003 graduates are eligible to participate in the May 2003 ceremony. Students can file online to graduate under myOswego.edu. Follow registration links. There will also be a separate December 2003 ceremony on Dec. 20 for those students who will complete their requirements during the Fall 2003 semester. In order to have their names printed in the program for that ceremony, students should file to graduate no later than Sept. 30, 2003.

SURF FOR INFO



The Oswego Alumni Association Web site invites you to visit at <http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu>.

Calendar

Spring 2003

- Jan. 22 Spring semester classes begin
-
- Jan. 31 - Feb. 22 "The Henricksen Collection of Chinese Painting" and "Lenore Schwarz Neumaier: A Voice Silenced," Tyler Art Gallery
-
- Feb. 7 River City Brass Band, Artswego
-
- Feb. 27-28 Mar 1, 7-9 "The Secret Garden," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
-
- March 7 - April 7 40th annual Juried Student Art Exhibition and "Helene Brandt: Recent Sculpture," Tyler Art Gallery
-
- March 12 Grupo Corpo, Artswego
-
- Mar 24-28 Spring Recess
-
- April 7 College Admissions Open House
-
- April 18 - May 17 Bachelor of Fine Arts/ Master of Arts Thesis Exhibition, Tyler Art Gallery
-
- April 23 Honors Convocation and Quest '03, no classes
-
- April 24-26 May 3-4 "The Diary of Anne Frank," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
-
- May 9 Last day of classes
-
- May 12-16 Final exams
-
- May 16 Torchlight ceremony and dinner
-
- May 17 Commencement



Kendis Gibson '94, right, entertainment anchor with CNN Headline News, speaks to students in a communication studies class in September. He visited classes as part of the Alumni-in-Residence program, sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association.

Fresh Facts

- ✧ Oswego had 7,594 applicants for the 2002 freshman class, and accepted 4,386.
- ✧ Sixty-four percent of freshman students received financial aid this year.
- ✧ Freshmen were awarded over \$2 million in renewable scholarships over a four-year period, this year.
- ✧ Incoming freshmen received 146 Presidential Scholarships (\$13,600 over 4 years). Other merit scholarships awarded to freshmen included 74 awards of \$5,000 over 4 years and 163 awards of \$2,000 over 4 years.
- ✧ This fall, 91 percent of freshman students lived on campus.
- ✧ Nine percent of the incoming freshmen this year were in the top 10 percent of their high school class.