Mission review to outline college’s path to 2010

SUNY’s System Administration has set in motion a second round of “mission review” among the 64 campuses. Mission review is the process by which the campuses take a new look at their academic programs, student outcomes, facilities, administrative structure and other elements with an eye to raising academic quality.

At Oswego, President Deborah F. Stanley plans to convene a broadly representative steering committee in early April that will produce the college’s mission summary by June.

A similar steering committee in 1998 during the last mission review assembled a 23-page mission summary, with many appendices, in response to 37 questions from SUNY. It is online at http://www.oswego.edu/mission/summary.html (viewable from a campus account only).

This round, SUNY has asked 49 questions about Oswego’s plans for 2005 to 2010. In announcing the second cycle of mission review last month, Chancellor Robert L. King noted that it “will be broader in scope than the first and will give more focused attention to resource and facilities implications of academic plans.”

“Broadly consultative”

Oswego’s steering committee will include elected faculty representatives of each school and college and presidential appointees including the interim provost, deans, United University Professions chapter president, Faculty Assembly chair and Student Association president.

“It was broadly consultative last time, and we want to have the same kind of process this time,” said Howard Gordon, executive assistant to the president.

He and Doug Deal, professor of history and faculty fellow in the President’s Office this year, will serve as staff to the committee as well as liaisons with SUNY during the mission review process.

In the next step of mission review next fall, representatives from individual campuses and from System Administration (“interlocutors”) will engage in a dialogue guided by questions that System Administration representatives develop after reviewing the mission summaries.

By spring 2005, a memorandum of understanding between the college and System Administration is scheduled to be in place to guide campus development over the next five years.

In the first mission review, Oswego was one of 33 campuses to receive funding to advance initiatives identified during the process. Oswego’s grants included $30,000 to develop a new certificate program in gerontology, $95,000 to expand the first-year retention program and $130,000 to develop a master’s program in human-computer interaction.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities in 1999 named SUNY’s mission review one of the best educational practices among the nation’s colleges and universities.

— Julie Harrison Blissett

SUNY Oswego students to collect, stage stories of domestic-abuse survivors through arts grant

A grant and a residency program will enable a group of Oswego students to create a play about surviving domestic abuse.

The $10,857 Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation grant will bring Peggy Shaw of the Split Britches troupe to campus for five weeks to oversee the creation of the performance piece, “No Such Thing as Solo,” said Jonel Langenfeld-Rial, who coordinates the project.

Students taking part in a quarter-session class in the fall will devise, script and perform in the original production.

Langenfeld-Rial has been working with community groups. She has talked to Oswego County Opportunities’ Services to Aid Families program and the women’s studies program, and plans to work with the Women’s Center on campus, among others. The assistant professor of theater said the grant would be happy to work with “anybody and everybody” on campus or in the community willing to help.

Students in the class will interview survivors of domestic violence, but Langenfeld-Rial emphasized that they are collecting information that will contribute to a positive message about people moving on and making a new life for themselves,” she explained. “We’re not going to dwell on what happened.”

Ultimately the goal involves a “re-imaging” process, letting survivors “visualize that perfect someone you are collecting information that will contribute to a positive message about people moving on and making a new life for themselves,” she explained. “We’re not going to dwell on what happened.”

Hundreds of prospective students and their families will explore SUNY Oswego during the college’s 27th annual Open House.

Running from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, April 5, Open House will showcase three spaces that were renovated and re-opened last fall: Johnson Hall, which hosts the First-Year Residential Experience; Rich Hall, the new home for the School of Business; and the Lake Effect Cafe, a refurbished space in Penfield Library that resembles a cozy, cosmopolitan cafe.

“I think students and families who visit will appreciate the many innovative, imaginative steps Oswego has taken to present a stimulating, learner-centered experience,” said Joe Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment. “Families also can learn firsthand about the many exciting plans we have for the college on the drawing board.”

Tours, classes, presentations

Open House represents the best opportunity for visitors to see everything at once, said Katie Maxwell, an admissions counselor who coordinates the programs.

“Our walking tours are always very popular because they offer an interactive, intimate look around campus,” she noted. “People also enjoy the guided bus tours we run during Open House. Families can be dropped off anywhere on campus to explore buildings and programs, then be picked up at the same location.”

The Admissions Office is making a special effort to have more student organizations participate in Open House this year. “We hope to have as many groups and clubs as possible participate, because it benefits prospective students to know more about what organizations are on campus and what kinds of activities they can expect,” Maxwell said.

Open House attendees can sit in on any of dozens of open classes, hear special presentations on programs and career paths, check out the college’s broadcasting facilities, visit Rice Creek Field Station or see current creations by students at the 41st annual Juried Student Art Exhibition in Tyler Art Gallery.

Carole Cooney, a former Oswego professor and children’s book author, will be among the guests taking part in Open House this year. “We hope to have as many groups and clubs as possible participate, because it benefits prospective students to know more about what organizations are on campus and what kinds of activities they can expect,” Maxwell said.

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Kristen LoVullo, one of the student tour guides for the event, credits her Open House experience with convincing her to enroll here. “The night I came back from Open House, I decided I wanted to go to Os- wego,” the junior public relations major from West Seneca recalled. “I remember everyone answering my questions before I even had to ask. It was very thorough.”

For more information about Open House, call the Admissions Office at 312-2250.

— Tim Nekritz

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— Tim Nekritz
College trends

Security problems create position

“Within most universities, CIOs, chief technology officers (CTOs), or chief financial officers (CFOs) typically oversee IT security. But that’s changing as more and more universities hire the dedicated chief security officer (CSO). Even three years ago, however, CSOs were a rare breed on university campuses. Then anywhere, anytime computing came on the scene, and triggered heightened security needs. Wireless Internet access, online registration, distance learning, Web-based tuition payment, and other applications have forced many universities to battled their CIOs with fulltime CSOs who live and breathe security. . . Not all institutions can afford another C-level executive. . .”

— University Business, March 17, 2004

Salary growth rate declines

“Growth in median salaries for college and university administrators has continued to decline, according to an annual survey by the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources. . . Median salary increases, according to the report, for various types of colleges and universities were: . . . 3 percent, down from 5.7 percent in 2002-3 and 4 percent in 2001-2, at private institutions.”


Applications drop from abroad

“More than 90 percent of American colleges and universities have seen a drop in applications from international graduate students for the fall 2004 term, and the number of submissions has tailed off for their domestic counterparts, according to a survey released by the Council of Graduate Schools. . . The findings support a similar survey . . . that found a sharp decline in the number of applications from graduate students from overseas, and a smaller drop in the number from undergraduates. That survey was jointly conducted by the graduate-schools council, the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities, Nafsa: Association of International Educators, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. The new study, which focuses on graduate students only, found the largest drop in applications from countries that usually send the most applications. Applications from students in China declined by 76 percent, those from India fell 58 percent. Students from countries that usually send the most applications. Applications from students in China declined by 76 percent, those from India fell 58 percent. Students from China, India, and France are the top three in overseas applications. The Council of Graduate Schools released the survey’s findings on Friday.”

— The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 18, 2004

People in action

Hearing voices — Student writers, directors and actors will join forces for the 11th annual “New Voices” at 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Tyler Hall’s lab theatre. The admission-free event features staged readings of six one-act plays written by Oswego students. Shown at a recent rehearsal session for “Something Blue,” in the theatre department’s green room are, from left, playwright Adam Sweeney, director Todd Silverman, and actors Christopher Vicenzo and Ailis LeMay.

“New Voices’ features writing, directing, acting

Student playwrights, directors and actors will collaborate for the 11th annual “New Voices” at 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Tyler Hall’s lab theatre. The admission-free event features staged readings of six one-act plays written, performed and directed by students. The plays are “A Bundle of Sticks,” written by Jonathan Altman and directed by Allie Heitner; “Indefinable,” penned by Kenneth Nichols and directed by Erin Naughton; “The Happiest of Days,” authored by Louis Paduano and directed by Michael Climenack; the Stephanie Pivac-penned “Please Wait for a Complete Stop to Exit,” which Ryan Oliver will direct; Daniel Preston’s “What We May Be,” staged by Bailey Gies; and “Something Blue,” written by Adam Sweeney with Todd Silverman directing. The collaborative project developed more than a decade ago when Brad Korbesmeyer, associate professor of English and director of writing arts, and Mark Cole, professor and chair of theatre, wanted to fill what they saw as a void in the writing and theatre programs.

“There really wasn’t an opportunity on campus to view the work of student playwrights,” Korbesmeyer recalled. While student artists, actors and directors could all show their work, Korbesmeyer and Cole thought an avenue for playwrights would present a novel experience.

— Tim Nekritz

Challenge Perceptions Week to highlight disability issues

A number of activities designed to raise awareness of disability issues are planned for Challenge Perceptions Week. A faculty panel at 6:30 p.m. today will feature Oswego professors from across the disciplines talking about disabilities in the classroom. Rolando Arroyo-Sucre, assistant provost for social equity, will moderate the panel. The Syracuse Flyers will challenge the Laker men’s hoops team to a wheelchair basketball game at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Lee Hall gymnasium.

There is no admission charged for the activities, and the public is invited.

Dan Preston, director of disability affairs for the Student Association, spearheaded the activities. Events are sponsored by the Student Association with support from the college’s Committee for Services to Students with Disabilities.

— Tim Nekritz

Vitamins for beauty, health to be topic at next lecture in campus series

The author of the award-winning book Vitamania: Vitamins in American Culture will speak at SUNY Oswego on March 31 as part of the College of Arts and Sciences Lecture Series.

Rima Apple, a professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, will speak on “Selling Beauty and Health: Vitamin Advertising in the 20th Century” at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Hewitt Union’s Bell Auditorium.

“The history of the advertising of vitamins shows the power of the rhetoric of science to shape our opinions and attitudes,” said Apple, who holds a doctorate in the history of medicine.

“Vitamins are mystical and magical. At the same time, they are the epitome of modern science and rationality,” she said. “This contradiction engendered nutritional controversies that fueled rancorous scientific disputes.”

Apple teaches consumer science as well as women’s studies and science and technology studies at Wisconsin. Her book Vitamania won an award from the American Institute for the History of Pharmacy in 1998 and was published in Chinese in 2002. She is the author or editor of many other books, articles and chapters. She is co-editor of the Ohio State University Press series “Women and Health in Culture and Society.”

A reception will follow her admission-free talk.

— Julie Harrison Blissert
Graduate student’s research paper becomes both book, donation

In his first history class at Oswego two years ago, Tim Nekritz chose the Oswego Public Library as the topic for his big research paper. When he wrote that “its ability to overcome obstacles throughout its rich past may be as interesting a story as anything on its shelves,” little did he know that the story, the very one he was writing, would soon become a book on the library’s shelves.

The Oswego Public Library: A History was published last fall and was a best-seller at the River’s End Bookstore in Oswego during the holiday season. “I was very flattered and happy when some of the trustees approached me about publishing it as a fund-raiser,” said Nekritz, a part-time graduate student and full-time associate director of public affairs.

He donated his manuscript for publication, with the sales proceeds to help renovate the library. So far, the book has sold more than 130 copies, raising over $2,200 for the cause.

Professor supportive

“I am always hoping for something like this!” said Judy Wellman, who taught the online class in local history where Nekritz produced his paper. She said she has seen a few of her students’ papers get published and many more make a positive difference for the community, from getting a building on a historic register to assembling collections of oral histories.

So she was not surprised when Nekritz’s paper made an impact. “This paper put together, for the first time, I think, an integrated history of the library, from the beginning to the present,” she said when interviewed by e-mail last week.

“Allowing us to see its origins in the idealism of Gerrit Smith and his fellow reformers of the mid-19th century, the controversies that surrounded the building in the early 20th century, as people no longer appreciated its architectural beauty, and the ongoing commitment that the people of Oswego have made to their library — for its architectural value, as a symbol of equality for all people, and as the oldest library building in continuous use in New York state.”

Wellman contributed an introduction to the book. Members of the college community played roles in the public library throughout its history, Nekritz said, from the library’s beginnings, when in 1858 school Superintendent Edward Austin Sheldon lobbed, un

Spotlight

DiVita happy to serve diverse appetites on campus

The Campus Update Spotlight shines on Paul DiVita this week. The food production manager for Auxiliary Services works in Hewitt Union.

Q. How long have you been at Oswego?
A. About 15 years.
Q. How would you describe your job responsibilities?
A. Besides overseeing the menus, I purchase all of the food needed for this building. My job also involves staff development, constantly monitoring our service standards, managing our inventory, constantly keeping updated with trends in the industry, working with student employees. I’m also a resource for other managers in developing their menus.
Q. What is your favorite part of working at Oswego?
A. I like that I’m allowed to be very creative in a number of different areas, be it a cash operation or a catered event. I like that I can see results. I come in, I know I have a big luncheon, put a lot of time and effort into it, and see the results.
Q. What is your impression of Oswego students?
A. In a way, they’re no different than any other customer in the food industry. They are looking for fresh foods. They are looking for reasonably priced meals. What’s interesting is that they are looking for camaraderie from our staff. When they come in, they like people who know them by name. They don’t just want to come in to get food. They want conversation.
Q. What achievement are you most proud of?
A. I would say I’m most proud of our catered events. I have a talented and diverse staff and we are able to put our creativity and strengths together and make some memorable events.
Q. What is your educational background?
A. I have a degree in culinary arts, and I’m pursuing my bachelor’s in business administration here. Being a student in the classroom gives me a better perspective on what I do.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?
A. My wife, Amy, is the assistant director for special education at the Oswego schools. Our daughter Katie is 14. Our son Andrew is 10. We live in Minetto. I’m the best chauffeur in the world. My wife and I keep busy driving the kids places. I like any sport. Pickup games, golf, you name it. I like gardening. I have a great herb garden at home. We also have a quarter horse, and we spend a lot of time with that. Recently I entered my first cooking competition and took a bronze. It was at the Oncenter in Syracuse and had top campus chefs from across the Northeast. It gave me confidence knowing that I can compete.

Student group publishes cookbook

Students in the Adopt-a-Grandparent program have collected favorite recipes from residents of local nursing homes, family and friends for a cookbook. The book contained 135 recipes, including appetizers, main dishes and desserts. The cookbooks may be purchased for $5 from any member of Adopt-a-Grandparent or the Center for Service Learning and Community Service in Room 217 of Hewitt Union. All proceeds will go to help bring local nursing home residents to the college for the Adopt-a-Grandparent Senior Ball, a formal dinner and dance, in April.

The Adopt-a-Grandparent program brings student volunteers into local nursing homes for activities. For more information, stop by the Center for Service Learning and Community Service.
New Shanghai Circus to perform Thursday

The New Shanghai Circus will offer up feats of skill and daring when it performs at 8 p.m. Thursday in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre as part of the college’s Artsweego series.

Praised by the New York Times for acts “that reach lightning-bolts, breathtaking heights of skill,” the troupe performs such acrobatic stunts as juggling human bodies with their feet, bicycle tricks, feats of strength, contortions, magic and somersaults through hoops.

The troupe’s origins date back 2,000 years when spectacular acts were performed every year at village harvest celebrations in China. These competitive acritical events were similar to modern athletic games, and among peasant’s houses, farms and workshops — continued to develop over the centuries. Today’s version represents a re-

Circus coming — The New Shanghai Circus will present feats of strength and skill when it visits SUNY Oswego for an 8 p.m. performance Thursday in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre.

The Women’s Center celebrates ‘Herstory’ Month

March is Women’s “Herstory” Month, and the SUNY Oswego Women’s Center will continue its annual observance this week and next with a series of free evening activities.

Kim Trela, an Oswego student and a feminist song-writer, will perform her work at 7 p.m. today in Hewitt Union’s Bell Auditorium.

Discussions of “Woman and Body Art in Herstory” and “Women in Leadership” will take place in Hewitt Union’s formal lounge, the first at 5:30 p.m. Thursday and the second at 7 p.m. Monday.

Also on Monday, the annual Gender Bender Bake Sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Hewitt Union lobby. Homemade baked goods will be sold for 75 cents each to women and for $1 each to men to rectify inequities in wages between the sexes.

A video of the hit 1999 movie “Boys Don’t Cry” recounting the true story of a woman who lived as a man and died for it, starring Hilary Swank, will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Room 226 of Hewitt Union.

As part of the Women’s Studies Speakers Series, Yunan Hong will present her documentary-in-progress about the life of Chinese-American film star Anna May Wong at 5 p.m. March 31 in Room 105 of Lanigan Hall.

Wong achieved international fame in the 1920s and ’30s, headlining the original “Shanghai Express” along with Marlene Dietrich.

The Women’s Center is celebrating 30 years on campus this month. Its annual banquet will take place at 7 p.m. April 8 in The Forum in Hewitt Union. Admission is $5, and reservations are required.

For information and reservations, call the center at 312-2967.

Oswego to participate in $3 billion challenge

The State University of New York launched a $3 billion fund-raising challenge last week, when Chancellor Robert L. King met with the board of trustees.

The $1 billion that the 64 campuses raised between 2000 and 2005 counts as the foundation for SUNY’s new “$3 Billion Challenge.” The second phase is projected to raise an additional $2 billion in increased private support between now and 2012 based on fund-raising targets at each of the 64 campuses.

Oswego’s share of the additional $2 billion system-wide goal is $20.5 million.

“All the money raised by the campuses will remain on the campuses to be used for scholarsthips, endowed faculty chairs, investments in new equipment and technologies, research and other campus-based initiatives,” King said. “None of the money raised in this effort will be used to replace government-provided funding.”

Oswego is in the second year of its first comprehensive campaign, with plans for a public kickoff next fall, said Kevin Mahaney, Oswego’s vice president for development and public affairs.

“the two largest gifts in college history — $2.2 million from Charles Wiley, a 1922 graduate, and $1 million from the late George Ghobrial, emeritus professor — got Oswego’s campaign off to a promising start, he said.

“Long-standing and aggressive fund-raising efforts helped develop great public universities in Michigan, Illinois, California and Texas,” King said. “Philan-

thropy will provide that margin of excellence, which will propel this university to the front rank of public higher education in America.”

SUNY catching up

The New York Times last week quoted Roger Benjam,

in the right direction,” but small compared with the other major state universities that King cited.

The newspaper attributed the difference to the legacy of public and private universities in different regions.

King credited presidents and staff with tremendous growth in philanthropy for the campuses. Giving across SUNY increased 14 percent in 2002 and 60 percent in 2003.

She said part of the learning process will develop from students hearing stories from women who have made something positive from such a negative experience.

“There are some women out there with stories that they think may not be important,” she said. “But they are important, and they may have things to share that can help others.”

For more information, contact Langenfeld-Rial at langenfe@oswego.edu.

— Tim Nektritz

Calendar highlights

• “An Evening of Schubert,” March 24
• Hunger Banquet, March 25
• New Shanghai Circus, March 25
• “New Voices,” March 27 and 28
• Arts and Sciences Lecture, March 31
• President’s Open Hour, April 1
• Chamber concert, April 1
• Rice Creek Ramble, April 3
• Open House, April 5
• Jazz concert, April 7

For a more complete calendar, see the Events Calendar link at http://www.oswego.edu/news.html — the News button on the college’s home page.

March 24, 2004

Vol. 15, No. 13

4