First Challenge Grants fill need to support student-faculty collaboration

Since the geology program instituted its required capstone experience, “all the students are really, really fired up about doing research,” said Sharon Gabel, associate professor of earth sciences. She is “really glad” the college’s new Student/Faculty Collaborative Challenge Grant program has arrived to help support such work.

Gabel and sophomore Rob Venczel make up one of four faculty-student pairs who have received Challenge Grants to work on scholarly projects beginning as early as this summer. The campus grant program promotes collaborative scholarly and creative work by undergraduates and faculty. Interim Provost David King initiated the program this year, with $10,000 in funding, in part from the Oswego College Foundation.

Gabel invited Venczel, a geology major, to join her in her 2-year-old project of monitoring changes in the shoreline of eastern Lake Ontario. The project provides information for plans to preserve “this unusual and important freshwater beach-dune ecosystem,” she and Venczel wrote in their proposal. The erosion of the sandy eastern shore has long been a community concern, and Gabel’s work in collaboration with students has received support previously from the local chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Venczel said he believes the project will help further his career goals. “It’s going to allow me to understand what I want to do after college,” he said, adding that he hope to pursue a career in environmental science.

In its first cycle for projects to be carried out in 2004-05, the Challenge Grant program also produced winning proposals that cross disciplines.

• Katie Milosi, a biology major and chemistry minor, will work with Kestas Hensdnaskas, assistant professor of chemistry, on her study of medicinal plants used by diabetics in the Republic of Congo. She hopes to identify the mechanisms by which these plants activate a response in human liver cells. The project is related to a larger project that Hensdnaskas is working on with Webe Kadima of the chemistry department and an international team of scientists. Milosi said she plans to attend medical school after graduating from Oswego.

• Craig DeLancey, an assistant professor of philosophy and cognitive science, and John Callan, a junior majoring in computer science and cognitive science, will test a series of hypotheses about the nature of the social and economic role of anger. They will use a modeling technique called genetic algorithms to model retributive behavior. DeLancey is the author of the book ‘Passionate Engines: What Emotions Reveal About Mind and Artificial Intelligence,’ published by Oxford University Press in 2002, and his work with genetic algorithms has been applied to financial problems on Wall Street.

• Courtney DeLosh’s paper about the justice of the gender-structured family in Robert Card’s “Philosophy, Public Policy and Public Affairs” class was the impetus for the project they will conduct with their psychology major, and Card, an assistant professor of philosophy, will convene ‘Challenge Grants,’ page 3

SUNY Oswego names chief academic officer

Susan M. Coultrap-McQuin will be the new provost and vice president for academic affairs at SUNY Oswego, President Deborah F. Stanley has announced. Currently the dean of social and behavioral sciences at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Coultrap-McQuin will assume her position at Oswego in July.

“Dr. Coultrap-McQuin brings extensive administrative experience and scholarly achievement to this important leadership role on our campus,” Stanley said. “I am delighted to announce that she will be joining Oswego’s administrative team as our chief academic officer.”

While teaching women’s studies and humanities at the University of Minnesota at Duluth for 14 years, Coultrap-McQuin received an outstanding faculty award from the Student Association. She rose to serve progressively as a program director, department head, institute coordinator, study abroad director and acting associate dean at Duluth before becoming dean at Mankato in 1995. She twice served as acting vice president of academic affairs at Mankato, a public comprehensive university of 14,000 students and 600 full-time faculty.


She received her doctorate in American studies from the University of Iowa. After earning her bachelor’s degree in English and French from Iowa State University, she served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines.

“I am looking forward to the opportunity to work for this outstanding university,” Coultrap-McQuin said. “When I interviewed for this position I was extremely impressed by the commitments of the faculty, staff, and administration to providing the highest quality learning opportunities for all students. We will achieve much together.”

Among her many accomplishments at Mankato, she led a variety of university projects including development of the first university technology plan and the most recent enrollment management plan, and she actively participated in the university’s recently concluded $38 million fund-raising campaign.

During her nine years as dean, she improved recruitment and retention of faculty and increased faculty diversity; increased support for faculty research and scholarship; and promoted active and applied learning, service learning, internships, study abroad and research opportunities for students.

Coultrap-McQuin serves on the national board of directors of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences and is a consultant evaluator for the North Central Association, the accrediting body for colleges and universities in the north central states. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and was president of its Mankato chapter.

SUNY Oswego began a nationwide search to fill the position a year ago with the departure of John W. Presley. More than 100 academics from around the nation applied for the position.

Text on medical ethics offers unified approach

Robert Card brought two projects to fruition this semester. His first book, Critically Thinking About Medical Ethics, rolled off the presses less than a month before he began teaching “Medical Ethics,” a new course he developed at Oswego. The book is the text for the course.

The assistant professor of philosophy first developed and taught a course in medical ethics at McDaniel University. Later he taught the subject at the University of Vermont.

“I was unsatisfied with the texts that were available,” he said, and so about two years ago, he set about creating his own.

Members of the campus community can hear Robert Card address a problem in medical ethics at Quest today. At 1:30 in Room 104 of LaGrange Hall, he will ask “What Makes a Research Project Morally Justifiable?” with respect to a specific study of drugs intended to prevent HIV/AIDS.

See ‘Medical ethics,’ page 3

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• Calendar highlights, page 4
College trends

Expense of surveillance I

“...if federal law-enforcement officials get their way, colleges may have to spend millions of dollars to re-engineer their networks so federal agents can eavesdrop on Internet-based voice conversations, higher-education officials say. . . . Federal officials say they worry that without the changes, conspiracies to commit terrorist acts and other plots beyond the reach of the plotters use Internet telephony. At issue is the scope of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, adopted in 1994. . . . But it is unclear if the act also applies to networks that offer telephone services online. Several colleges were among the earliest adopters of the technology, known as ‘voice over IP.’”  


Expense of surveillance II

“Government officials confirmed on [April 14] what international student officials at many colleges have long feared. Customs officers at ports of entry into the United States frequently do not consult the federal database that tracks foreign students. College officials are concerned that their hard work to provide data for the system has been wasted and that the system’s promise of greater national security has been compromised. The primary line of customs officers that foreign students are not at airports, and border crossing officers currently do not have direct access to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, or Sevis, said Jill Drury, director of the program. Run by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Sevis allows officials to scrutinize foreign students and scholars closely in the hope of weeding out potential terrorists. . . . Some college officials say they are exasperated. Their international offices have created new positions, worked thousands of hours, and spent millions of dollars to make sure they meet federal guidelines for Sevis, largely in efforts to provide information to the Sevis database on the hundreds of thousands of foreign students and scholars at American colleges. ‘Why in the world are we doing all this work to keep this database up to date if they’re not going to use it?’ asked Wendy Syer . . . of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.”


Skyrocketing textbook costs

“Legislators and interest groups around the country are looking to reign in the rising prices of textbooks, as students are often forced to purchase high-cost materials for their classes. The price of textbooks has increased 41 percent since 1998, with the average student in some states paying more than $900, according to U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer of New York. The senator recently proposed making up to $1,000 of textbook costs tax deductible for students while a California legislator is advocating for a law that would encourage schools to offer unbundled books.”

— EdLines, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, April 9, 2004

Importance of need-based aid

“How much money states provide their need-based aid programs plays a bigger role in influencing the college-going rates of high-school graduates than several other factors, including the cost of public-college tuition, state demographic trends, and state spending on elementary and secondary education, according to a study released by the Lumina Foundation for Education. A 38-page report on the study . . . recommends that states increase their spending on need-based aid to help improve college participation, especially among students from low-income families.”


People in action

At the central division meeting of the American Philosophical Association this week in Chicago, Craig Detaney, assistant professor of philosophy, will be the commentator on the presentation “Understanding Emotions: Affect Programs and Higher Cognitive Processes” by Michel Sontag of the University of Cincinnati. In February, Detaney presented a paper titled “Environmentalism and Conflicting Community Interests: The Lessons of Abolition in Early America” at the 14th North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community at Saratoga Springs.


Earlier this month, two Oswego students attended New York state’s annual Campus Compact Conference at Nazareth College in Rochester. Sara Hamme and Ashley Atend, co-coordinators of the Mentor Oswego program, joined about 50 students from various universities around the state for the conference, “Pay It Forward: The Ripple Effect of Civil Engagement.” Participants learned about civic engagement and how to advance it on their campuses. Abend and Hamme presented a workshop on the development and progress of the Mentor Oswego program. They explained what Mentor Oswego is, what activities they have planned, what the process is for students to become mentors, the coordinator’s duties, and elements of effective mentoring. The Mentor Oswego program operates out of the Office of Service Learning and Community Services and sends student volunteers to a local teen recreation center as positive role models for underprivileged youths of Oswego County.

Music faculty member Juan Francisco La Manna recently conducted 10 successful performances of “Giselle” and “Diamonds” for the Miami City Ballet, Florida’s internationally acclaimed company. Reviewing a performance of “Giselle,” the Palm Beach Post wrote, “The drama onstage gained tremendously from the excellent Florida Classical Orchestra, conducted by Juan Francisco La Manna of the State University of New York at Oswego.” Following the show, Edward Villella, the company’s founding artistic director and legendary American dancer, invited La Manna to conduct 24 performances next season. The shows will take place at the Jackie Gleason Theatre of the Performing Arts in Miami Beach, the Howard Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale and the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach. La Manna will direct members of the Florida Philharmonic in, among other works, Maurice Ravel’s “La Valse” and Claude Debussy’s “Après un Rêve.”

Professor receives national award

Ray O’Donnell of the chemistry department received the Henry Hill Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Professional Status of Chemists and Chemical engineers last month at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society. James Burke, chairman of the society’s board of directors and a former Hill Award winner himself, made the presentation. O’Donnell has long been active as a career consultant for the society. He currently reviews resumes and conducts mock interviews and career workshops all over the country. “He does it all with a smile and now is involved in the training of new consultants,” Burke said.

The chairman said O’Donnell is best known for his outstanding work in service as a mentor, teacher, and preceptor and leader of the society’s Project SIEED. He has been active in the Syracuse Section of the American Chemical Society for 40 years. He received the Syracuse Section Award in 1990.

Emeritus professor to present reading, new book at library

Lewis Turco, emeritus professor of English writing arts, will give a reading and debut his latest book at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, in Penfield Library’s Lake Effect Café. He will read from his latest books, A Sheaf of Leaves: Literary Memoirs and The Book of Dialogue. Inaugural copies of a new book from Star Cloud Press, a “festschrift” that celebrates Turco’s life and work, can be found at the event.

Turco was the founding director of both the Cleveland State University Poetry Center and Oswego’s writing arts program. He is an award-winning author of more than 40 books, including The Book of Forms: A Handbook of Poetics, Visions and Revisions of American Poetry and A Book of Fears. He retired from Oswego in 1996 after 31 years of teaching.

I there is no admission fee to attend the reading, and the public is invited. Refreshments will be available.

For more information about the event, call 312-2595.
American Democracy Project aims to increase campus engagement

Oswego is one of nearly 200 campuses throughout the country working to increase student engagement and community involvement through the American Democracy Project. The American Democracy Project is a nationwide initiative co-sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the New York Times. A major goal “is to bring the practice and education of civic engagement into the classrooms and to activities outside the classroom,” from voter registration drives to volunteering in local nursing homes, said Douglas Deal, professor and chair of history and convener of the steering committee for this project.

While the effort is a nationwide goal, “there is no name for what we are doing,” Deal said, as each campus is empowered to find the best way to encourage students to be responsible citizens and good neighbors.

Six professors get grants to refresh curriculum

Six faculty members have received SUNY Oswego Faculty Enhancement Grants for course development, according to Assistant Provost Michael Amegh, who administers the program.

• Ashraf Attia, associate professor of marketing, will develop a new course on e-commerce. It will be Web-enhanced, with a significant online component. He said it would prepare students for future challenges.

• A team of management faculty — Professor Sarfraz Mian and Associate Professors John Huonker and Ding Zhang — will develop a series of courses on organizational decision making for students pursuing various majors in the School of Business. It will be especially important to the business administration major, which is currently being revised to fulfill General Education requirements. “Robots and Intelligent Agents” will be useful to computer science, cognitive science and information science majors, he said, and could fulfill a natural sciences requirement.

• Tamra Kamath, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, will revise the “Critical Pedagogy” course, offered in the first semester of the master of science in education degree program. Among the innovations to be made is the enhancement of the course web site, the portion of the material online.

Challenge Grants

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Keeping current

When he was finishing the text, he was selected to participate in a faculty institute on the implications of the Human Genome Project last summer at Dartmouth College. Card said the institute “really prepared me to keep current” with the fast-changing field of genetics.

Published in paperback by Prentice Hall, Critically Thinking About Medical Ethics sells for $66.67.

Sarkissian’s Oswego experience goes swimmingly

The Campus Update Spotlight shines on Anne Sarkissian this week. She is a senior from Oswego with a double major in education and math and with a minor in athletic coaching. A standout swimmer, she recently set a school record with her career mark of 12 NCAA Division III All-American honors and also has been an Academic All-American.

Q. What made you want to come to Oswego?

A. It was a couple of things. Kami (Gardner, the SUNY Oswego swim coach) has been my coach since high school. I had brain surgery when I was in high school, so I kind of wanted to stay close to home, and I wanted to keep swimming for Kami. It’s been a pretty good experience, I would say.

Q. What are you interested in doing after graduation?

A. It changes. Sometimes I want to be a math teacher. Sometimes I want to be a swimming coach. Sometimes I want to be the statistician for the Boston Red Sox.

Q. What is your favorite part of attending Oswego?

A. The swimming part. I’ve made friendships on this team that are going to last a lifetime. I know it’s been the most amazing experience I ever had.

Q. How have you been able to balance everything?

A. I take a full course load every semester. I haven’t yet had an easy semester. It will take me an extra semester to graduate with the double major. The whole balancing act is something I’ve been doing for a long time, so it wasn’t hard to make the whole transition to college between schoolwork and swimming.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

A. I had to sit out a lot after my surgery because I couldn’t swim. It was hard, and sometimes I didn’t think I could ever do it. Kami was my coach and always believed in me. I was happy to be able to get back into swimming and able to do what I did.

Thinking critically — Robert Card of the philosophy department is the author of the new text Critically Thinking About Medical Ethics. Card wrote introductions to each chapter of the faculty/student pairs to produce co-authored presentations or publications. “The possibility for this kind of collaborative work is really valuable,” Card said, adding that involvement in undergraduate research improves a student’s prospects for graduate school.

Of the Challenge Grant program, Venczel said, “I think it’s a great program and should be offered to other students, too.” — Julie Harrison Blissett

Spotlight

Thinking critically — Robert Card of the philosophy department is the author of the new text Critically Thinking About Medical Ethics.

Medical ethics book, course

Continued from page 1

The more than 80 readings range from the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision to “Save the Old, Save the Young” by Annati Uzes. They are organized in sections covering reproductive issues; life, death and medical technology; HIV/AIDS and the relationship between patient and health care provider; and medical research and allocation of medical resources.

Card wrote introductions to each chapter that treat the readings as a coherent dialogue and provide students with broad connections between them.

More than just a collection of readings, Card’s book first introduces critical thinking tools and then applies them to the specific issues and cases presented by other authors. “It’s really a hybrid,” Card said, “a mixture of an edited text of readings and a single-author text that lays a foundation for being able to think about the issues.”

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Keeping current

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Published in paperback by Prentice Hall, Critically Thinking About Medical Ethics sells for $66.67.

This semester’s “Medical Ethics” class at Oswego is the first to use the book. Professors elsewhere will likely begin picking it up next year, Card said. “My editor has told me there have been numerous professors who have requested copies,” he said.

In its debut at Oswego, Card’s class filled to 26 students, including philosophy majors, students interested in entering health professions and business majors. It fills General Education requirements as an intellectual issues course, Card noted.
Exhibition on tragic DWI accident opens today

"Friends: One Day . . . One Wrong Turn," an exhibition detailing a deadly drunk-driving accident involving seven college students at Colgate University, will have its Central New York premiere when it opens today in the formal lounge of Hewitt Union.

Four of the students returning from a night out died in the single-car crash in November 2000 near Colgate, and the driver is serving a prison sentence for operating the vehicle while intoxicated.

"The exhibition focuses on the lives of the victims prior to the crash, emphasizing individual histories through photos, possessions, interviews of victims’ friends and families, and audio and visual recordings," according to an exhibit brochure. "The combination of these elements creates an emotional reaction in observers, with the goal of behavioral change."

The admission-free exhibition will run through June 4. Hours will be noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; noon to 7 p.m. Wednesdays; and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

The Louis Henry Morgan Institute at Union College and the SUNY Institute of Technology prepared the exhibition, working with the New York State STOP-DWI Foundation, Capital District STOP-DWI Programs and the Mandeville Gallery at Union College.

"This exhibit helps us identify with the human tragedy behind the stories about drinking and driving we all see in the news," said James Schartenberger, associate vice president and dean of student affairs at Oswego.

"Friends: One Day . . . One Wrong Turn" is made possible thanks to sponsorship from the New York Press Association, Oswego County Weeklies and SUNY Oswego, with curatorial services donated by the Oswego County Historical Society.

Student volunteers are needed to staff the exhibition in the coming weeks. For more information on volunteering, call the Center for Service Learning and Community Services at 312-2505.

Organizers expect the display to tour campuses throughout New York state in 2005.

Art students participate in design of logo for Penfield’s new café

Penfield Library and the art department have worked together this semester on the design of a logo and entrance sign for the new Lake Effect Café in Penfield Library. Now library staff are seeking input from students and faculty in making a final choice of one design that will become the trademark for the café.

The work of the seven students who participated in the project will be on display in the café through April 30. A comments box will be kept at the café.

Musical production tunes in to radio’s past

The theatre department will peek behind the curtain of old-time radio with the spring musical “1940s Radio Hour,” opening Friday in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre.

Directed by Jonel Langenfeld-Rial, assistant professor of theatre, this musical comedy focuses on a case of students looking to make their big break at a radio variety show one December evening in 1942 New York City.

“The 1940s was the golden age of radio,” Langenfeld-Rial explained.

She wants to introduce high school and college students to an era of news and entertainment outside their regular experience. Audience members will become part of the studio audience and are encouraged to cheer when the “applause” sign lights up. Jingles come part of the studio audience and are encouraged to cheer when the “applause” sign lights up. Jingles come part of the studio audience and are encouraged to cheer when the “applause” sign lights up.

“Please come in, lend your thoughts, and help us make a selection,” said Mary Beth Bell, library director. “All of the designs are very good, making it difficult to choose just one.”

Police report

Since April 2, University Police investigated several cases of theft, harassment and vandalism. They arrested three men, none of them students, on charges of driving while intoxicated, driving with a blood alcohol content above .10, and various other offenses.

One, a 22-year-old Oswego man, was also charged with driving on the sidewalk between Tyler Hall and Hewitt Union. The second, a 33-year-old Baldwinsville man, was also charged with failure to yield the right of way and speeding on Sweet Road. He was remanded to the Oswego County Correctional Facility for eight hours. The third DWI arrest involved a 46-year-old Hannibal man driving on Route 104, who was also charged with failure to keep right.

Multimedia masterpiece comes to Waterman

“Voices of Light,” a multimedia production that blends the screening of the silent classic film “The Passion of Joan of Arc” with live music headlined by Anonymous 4, will take the stage of Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre at 8 p.m. May 6 and 7.

Hailed as “a triumph” by the Los Angeles Times and “an overwhelming experience” by the Chicago Tribune, the production has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning” and NPR’s “Performance Today.”

Artswego Coordinator Mary Avrakotos said staging the production locally has been a dream of Julie Pretzat, professor and chair of music, who will serve as the show’s musical director.

“We are extremely fortunate to have this at Oswego, especially because this will be Anonymous 4’s farewell tour,” Avrakotos said.

I show uses Carl Dreyer’s 1928 silent film “The Passion of Joan of Arc” as the backdrop with music by contemporary composer Richard Einhorn. Oswego’s College Choir, Festival Chorus, Chamber Singers and College-Community Orchestra will join Anonymous 4 in the performance.

Entergy Nuclear Northeast provided funding support to bring the production to Oswego.

For reservations, call 312-2141.

Calendar highlights

• Quest, April 21
• Honors Convocation, April 21
• “The 1940s Radio Hour,” April 22 to 24 and May 1 to 2
• Counseling and psychological services spring seminar, April 23
• College Council meeting, April 23
• Admitted Student Day, April 24
• Blood drive, April 26 and 27
• Student Involvement Awards ceremony, April 28
• Rice Creek Rambles, May 1 and 8
• General faculty meeting, May 3
• Concert Band concert, May 4
• President Stanley’s open hour, May 5

For a more complete calendar, see the Events Calendar online at www.oswego.edu/proflife/calendar.html.

Gospel Choir holds free dinner

The Gospel Choir will hold its annual dinner April 23. Members of the campus community are invited at no charge, according to Ebony Coleman of the choir.

The dinner will be at 7 p.m. in Hewitt Union’s ballroom.

For more information, call Demetris Barnwell at 529-5570.

On the air — Zachary Levin practices his delivery as announcer Clifton Feddington in this rehearsal scene for the theatre department production of “1940s Radio Hour.”

-service counter while the art work is on display.

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