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Soon-to-be graduates working on bright futures

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People in action

The Bachelor’s of Fine Arts exhibition, running through May 15 in Tyler Art Gallery, showcases the work of 26 degree candidates. Participating in the show are studio art majors Tiffany Bartlett, Rachel Briggs, Tiffany Chiarilli, Anina Ertel, Lindsey Guile, Rebecca Henderson, Mark Knapo, Melissa Newcomb, Annyres Vasquez and Emily Wright; and graphic design majors Jeffrey Allen, Sara Barden, Christina Capowich, Casey Feeney, Matthew Gabriel, Rob Gamble, Rochelle Grabbatin, Raven Green, Erica Jaquin, Pauline Johnson, Lisa Mott, Daniel Petersen, Erik Peterson, Deborah Richards, Lindsay Smith and Mariel Spano.

Robert Card, assistant professor of philosophy, was invited on the committee of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association to comment on a presentation titled “Rawlsian Feminism and the Social Position of Women” by Lisa Schwartzman of Michigan State University at its conference last month in Chicago.

Lorrie Cleen of the political science department presented “Using Technology to Help Students Strengthen Their Understanding of Different Cultures” at the New York State Political Science Association meeting, April 23 and 24 in Binghamton. Also at the meeting, she was chair and discussant for a student panel, “Protties of Courageous Politicians.” Oswego’s Pi Sigma Alpha political science honors student panel presentations were Katie Ball, Kevin Sutherland, Khalifa Muhammad and Shin-gai Mangiza. Also, Cleen was recently elected vice president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Faculty Athletics Representatives Association. Her term runs to next January.

Sara Cunningham, a graduate student, won first prize of $300 in the global and international studies essay contest. The topic this year was “Are Human Rights Ethnocentric?” said Steve Rosso, director of the program. Second prize went to Kana Senha, a freshman global and international studies major, and third prize to Yoko Omura, an exchange student from the University of Tsukuba in Japan. The prizes were awarded last week at the global studies dinner, which about 70 people attended, Rosow said.

Ranjit Dighe, associate professor of economics, received a $1,395 Rockefeller Archive Center grant to cover expenses to conduct research at the center in steeple Hollow this summer. “It’s a part of a project looking into the extent and importance of business support for Prohibition, especially from big corpora-
tions and captains of industry like the Rockefellers,” Dighe said. John D. Rockefeller Jr. initially supported Prohibition, then later opposed, Dighe said.

Journalism students Michelle Garcia and Emily King have earned paid internships this summer through the New York Press Association. These prestigious eight-week internships pay students $2,000 to work at an NYPA member weekly newspaper for the summer.

Six students received music scholarships for next year, it was announced at Tuesday’s band concert. They are Justin McVey, who received the Maurice O. Boyd Scholarship; Jodi Castello, Sophie Sarat Welling Scholarship; Michael Nirsberger, Carlos Manobianco Scholarship; Dan Williams and Greg Wachala, Music Memorial Scholarships; and Robert Cowan, Orchestra Society Scholarship. Four freshmen entering next fall — Jason Salmon, Stephanie Carrati, Jason Schneider and Sandra Laycock — will receive Music Memorial Scholarship Awards.

Mehme Nelson-Richards of the sociology department has published an article in the fall-winter 2003 issue of the Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives, which appeared last month. His article “ICT’s Role and Influence in the Disorganization of the World Economy: Examples from EU and SEA,” is the first of two papers that examine the influence of information and communication technologies on the economy. It demonstrates that information and communication technologies have disorganized and, in some instances, destroyed the world economy, according to Nelson-Richards. In its attempt to solidify the capitalist world system, information and communication technology with globalization creates and intensifies regionalization in various parts of the world, he argues. Instead of globalization, there has been global capitalism, he says.

John Kares Smith, professor of communication studies, was a participant at the 95th annual convention of the Eastern Communication Association recently held in Boston. He chaired a panel and was a respondent on modern political communication and was part of a panel of experts discussing teaching political communication that encourages civic engagement.

Lawrence Spizman of the economics department and Frederick Floss of Buffalo State are the authors of “Loss of Self-Employed Earning Capacity in Wrongful Death or Major Accident” in the recent issue of the Journal of Legal Economics. Floss is a 1978 economics graduate of Oswego. Their paper establishes a framework to evaluate economic damages, resulting from the death or a catastrophic injury, of a small business owner when income tax records show either a small profit or a loss. The paper can be viewed at www.oswego.edu/~spizman/papers.html.

See ‘People in action,’ page 4

Scholarship winners — Several Oswego students have earned SUNY Empire Honors Scholarships, given to African-American, Latino-American and Native American students who have shown great promise for high academic achievement. Standing from left are Howard Gordon, executive assistant to the president; Jose Valdez; President Deborah F. Stanley; and Brian Loughlin. Seated are Damon Leavitt (left) and Lenesha McMillan. Other Empire Scholarship winners at Oswego include Arielle Brassard, Gwen Cruz, David Johnson, Giorianna Robertson and Rebekah Williams.
Firsthand view of Cuba finds SUNY Oswego program succeeding

Students participating in the program are from colleges and universities that include Oswego, Cornell, Binghamton, Tulips, Indiana, Reed, Portland State and Vanderbilt.

The participating students joined Stanley and Opello for a dedication of Oswego’s office space at the University of Havana. Just getting that space and furnishing it with amenities like an air conditioner, a small refrigerator and a computer terminal represent quite an accomplishment and resulted from Basualdo’s ability to get things done, Opello said.

“The program in Cuba has this kind of arrangement,” he said. “The plan is for students to have access to this space, especially the computer. It is hard for students in Cuba to have regular computer access because the high demand exceeds the small number of terminals, some of which may be broken and not repaired quickly, he added.”

That Cuba is a closed society without free expression was clear, Stanley said. “There are limitations on what an individual can say and possess,” she noted. “People do not have choices or options they have in a free society. As a result, the students are understanding what it means not to be in a free culture.”

At the same time, students have discovered “the real Cuba,” Opello said, through facets of the nation that transcend the images presented by the U.S. government and media. Students have taken advantage of many opportunities to explore historical and cultural sites, and some even volunteered to go dig potatoes by hand, he added.

Seeing a culture of great disparities where luxuries are scarce has provided another lesson. The lack of the amenities found in the states, such as high-speed Internet, abundant cell phone service and cheap long-distance rates means the students are more cut off from other families and less connected to other student-industry abroad countries. But even that has had its positive side, Stanley said.

“They are a very tight group,” she said of the students in the Oswego program. “They have developed a lot of esprit de corps from their experience and have really bonded.”

— Tim Nekritz

Torchlight Ceremony next Friday to feature alumna speaker, sing

Two traditions — one dating back to 1936 and the other a new revival of an old favorite — will combine Friday, May 14, when the college celebrates the annual Commencement Eve.

The Torchlight Ceremony, which welcomes graduating seniors into the Oswego Alumni Association by passing the torch of learning, is one of the longest standing traditions at Oswego and is the centerpiece of Commencement Eve celebrations.

This year, organizers of the event have revived the older tradition of the Senior Sing — where the graduating class, led by the State Singers, will sing favorite songs from their years at Oswego. Seniors voted for their favorites on a Web site. A rehearsal will be held at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 41 of Winter Hall. The Senior Sing will be at 8:30 p.m. outside Hewitt Union, with the Torchlight Ceremony to follow at 9 p.m.

The emcee for the Torchlight Ceremony will be Tomasina Boyd Boone, a 1993 graduate of Oswego and associate publisher of Today’s Black Woman and Hype Hair Magazine.

Boone began her career at Johnson Publishing, which produces one of the oldest African-American publications, Jet magazine, and earlier at The Nation, a 100-year-old liberal magazine, as assistant advertising manager. A native of Harlem, Boone received her master’s in graphic communication from New York University. She has been involved in her community as a volunteer teaching English, working at a women’s homeless shelter and mentoring teen-age girls.

She has also been involved at her alma mater as a volunteer with the Return to Os Ii reunion for alumni of color and as a member of the Oswego Alumni Association board of directors. She is one of the founders of the Reaching Scholarship for students of color.

Commencement Eve activities will include dinner in the ballroom at 7 p.m. Dinner costs $25. Graduating seniors attending the dinner with at least one guest can purchase their own ticket for $5, thanks to a grant from Auxiliary Services. Reservations, required for the dinner, can be made by phone at 312-2258 by Friday.

All other Commencement Eve activities will be free and open to faculty, staff, seniors, their friends and their families.

Alumni and members of the faculty and staff who wish to participate in the Torchlight Ceremony as members of the inner circle may call 312-2258 to volunteer.

Moore works at ‘getting students to think hard’

The Campus Update Spotlight shines on Robert Moore this week. He is a professor of English, associate director of the Honors Program and associate director of the new McNair Program.

Q. How long have you been at Oswego?

I came in the fall of 1978. I joke that I’ve been here for 26 years, and I’m finally adjusting to Oswego winters.

Q. Where did you earn your degrees?

I did my undergraduate work at Vanderbilt and graduate school at the University of Virginia. I was an economics major as an undergraduate. I started in an MBA program, decided it wasn’t for me and switched to the English program. I taught high school for a few years, then went back to Virginia for my Ph.D.

Q. What classes do you teach here?

Usually I teach American literature classes, drama classes, and all kinds of writing classes from freshmen composition to advanced composition to graduate courses on the teaching of composition.

Q. What are your research interests?

Well, Faulkner is my main research interest. I’ve written and published on F. Scott Fitzgerald. My other interest is composition theory — the theory and methodology of teaching writing to students.

Q. What is your favorite part of teaching at Oswego?

I like to see students get excited about what I’m excited about. Getting students to think hard about what they’re reading is always rewarding. I really enjoy the interaction of ideas in the classroom.

Q. What is your impression of Oswego’s students?

I think Oswego students have the capability to be excellent students anywhere. The students who are motivated are getting a great education and can compete with students who are getting an education at any college.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

I’m proud of being recognized for my teaching — I’ve won a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching — but I’m more proud of the way I interact with students and that students seem to respond. I

Advisement awards

Continued from page 1

the award. Rebeca Baldwin, Jennifer Haberer and Paulina Seczak. “His door is always open and he is the best students we have ever had,” he said. “They are forced to speak Spanish there a lot more than any other Latin American country where they could have studied, so they have become very fluent.”

Students — including students in the McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Award Program, new this year on campus, which involves about 20 students. He co-directs the campus program, which is part of a national program that aims to boost the number of Ph.D.s among members of underrepresented groups.

Erin Naughton, a double major in English and graphic communication from Boone received her master’s in graphic communication from New York University. She has been involved in her community as a volunteer teaching English, working at a women’s homeless shelter and mentoring teen-age girls.

She has also been involved at her alma mater as a volunteer with the Return to Os Ii reunion for alumni of color and as a member of the Oswego Alumni Association board of directors. She is one of the founders of the Reaching Scholarship for students of color.

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Tomasina Boyd Boone
New campus Web site to debut this summer

The Web site redesign, which has been under way throughout the academic year, will result in a new campus Web site to go live this summer, June or July. Undertaking the structure of the new site is a content management system that will help many people on campus to keep their sites up to date without maintaining a SUNY Oswego identity. Currently many offi ces on campus are beginning to migrate their sites into the new er.

Drew Hill, campus Web coordinator, is the campus manager of the project, working with a team of content providers from across campus coordinated by Tim Nekritz of the Of fice of Public Affairs, and many staff in Campus Technology Services, with Don Michaux the point person there.

The lead consultant is mStoner, and the provider of the content management system, Omni.Update, is WebsiteASP. “Both organizations have their own teams working all hours on Oswego’s project at this point,” Hill said.

The new campus home page will feature a set of short bios illustrating the Oswego college experience. The site will be viewable using any current Web browser, but many campus users will need to download a current browser to use instead of Netscape 4.8. Two current browsers — Internet Explorer 5 or 6 and Mozilla 1.6 — are available now for free download from the Help Desk Web site at www.oswego.edu/help/software.html.

For more information on the project or advice on moving existing or new pages to the new site, contact Hill at drewhill@oswego.edu or 312-3159.

Design students help nonprofits

Several Oswego students in graphic design and digital illustration helped ARC of Oswego County and its sister agency Oswego Industries to develop a variety of public relations materials.

ARC and Oswego Industries provide services to individuals with disabilities such as vocational training, and ARC also provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers.

“ ’We look forward to working with the projects that students at SUNY Oswego with inspiring me to succeed,” said Bergman explained. She added Bonita Hampton and Barbara Beyerbach were “especially inspirational and instrumental in my choosing a graduate program that will allow me to focus on multicultural and social justice issues.”

— Tim Nekritz

Grads fi nd jobs

Continued from page 1

her major in the immediate transition. Already knowing how to report, write and shoot meant NewsWatch 50 didn’t have to train her on the job, she said.

Megan Ingersoll, who will start as an intern at Furst Charles Chambers in DeWitt in October, credits classroom work and internships for already securing a position in her field.

“The classes were taught by excellent professors who were very knowledgeable and helpful,” said Ingersoll, an Oswego native who will earn her MBA in May. “I learned a lot of useful information when I did an internship with Audrey Owens, a CPA in Os- wego.”

Before starting, Ingersoll will take a break this summer to travel with her family. She will also study for the CPA exam, which she plans to take in the fall.

Doreen Bergman, a childhood education major from Volney, can combine continuing her studies and working in the months ahead. Bergman earned a tutee scholarship to Syracuse University’s library sciences and school media program as a Preparing Librarian for Urban School scholar.

“I will begin classes this summer. The majority of classes are distance learning so I will be able to accept a teaching position while I work on my mas-

— Julie Harrison Blissert

Retreat kick starts campus effort to raise academic expectations

About 80 members of the campus community spent most of Saturday, April 17, at an academic affairs retreat in Hewitt Union discussing ways to create a challenging and engaging academic community. Interim Provost Drew King said a goal of the retreat is “to promote an ongoing dialogue among faculty, staff, administrators and students about the quality of Oswego’s academic culture, both in and out of the classroom.” Over half of participants were faculty, with the remainder students, professional staff and administrative staff.

Participants were asked to read the Association of American Colleges and Universities bookler “Greater Expectations,” which advocates helping students to become “intentional learners,” who are empowered, informed and responsible. “It’s really more about learning than it is about teaching,” King said.

Karen Maitland Schilling, a professor of psychol- ogy at Miami University of Ohio and a consultant, guided the day’s discussion. Among universities in her region, she initiated efforts at increasing student engagement that became a model for national efforts.

Among the ideas bandied around during the retreat were how to reconcile requirements with empower- ment, replacing office hours with something more proactively engaging, celebrating academic achieve- ment more, reinvigorating writing across the curricu- lum, finding ways to overcome the isolating infl uence of winter weather, discussing the value of liberal education with students, implementing the “college hour” now on the table, requiring more faculty ac-
countability, devising more integrated curricula and removing scheduling confl icts.

‘Light years ahead’

In her concluding remarks, Schilling advised partici-
pants to model the engaged academic, “the fl nished product” that students should aspire to, by “embod-
ying the wisdom of the way.”

She pointed to such innovative efforts as Oswego’s FirstChoice (freshman seminars), the integrative learning project just under way and seminars on courses to praise Oswego as “really light years ahead” of other campuses.

“There’s enormous good will and good energy here and, along with that, an unusually strong set of best practices and good programs,” she said. “I hope you see that you’re out at the head of the pack, and that comes from a lot of good work.”

— Julie Harrison Blissert

Police report

Since April 16, University Police have investigated several cases of theft, harassment and vandalism. They arrested three students on charges of unlaw- fully dealing with a child and criminal mischief and a 19-year-old Hastings man on a charge of criminal trespass in Funnelle Hall.

Calendar highlights

• President Manley’s open hour, today
• Senior Toast, today
• “Voices of Light,” May 6 and 7
• Last day of classes, May 7
• Rice Creek Rambles, May 8
• Torchlight Ceremony, May 14
• 143rd Commencement, May 15
• Summer sessions begin, May 24
• Employee Recognition Ceremony, May 26

For a more complete calendar, see the Events Cal- endar online at www.oswego.edu/proflce/calendar.html.

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