Alumni return to campus for Reunion 2004 this weekend

Hundreds of graduates are expected to return to campus from June 3 to 6 for Reunion 2004. Events will include such attractions as a barbecue at Fallbrook Recreation Center, a golf outing, tours of campus and the city, a sketch comedy show and the gala Anniversary Class Dinner on Saturday evening.

“Reunion weekend is a special event for the Oswego Alumni Association, because it is our opportunity to welcome back to campus hundreds of alumni, many of whom have not been back to Oswego since their graduation many years ago,” said Betsy Oberst, director of alumni and parent relations.

She encouraged faculty and staff members to attend events and renew friendships with alumni. “So often we hear from alumni sharing fond memories of professors and college staffers who have made a difference in their lives,” she said.

Richard Thomas, a 1968 graduate of the college and executive director of the School Administrators Association of New York State, will be honored at the Anniversary Class Dinner with the Sheldon Award for Excellence in Education.

Thomas also heads the Magellan Foundation, which grew out of a need recognized by the School Administrators Association. It is an educational foundation that seeks to link those who know what is necessary to improve the quality of education with the resources to make it possible. It has received a $7.5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide educational opportunities for public and private school principals and superintendents.

He formed the New York State Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Leadership, which will create a leadership development program stressing learning and character education for middle and secondary level students.

Specially honored will be the anniversary class of 1954 and the 25th anniversary class of 1979. Other class years ending in 4 and 9 will be featured, but everyone is welcome. The 15th cluster reunion will be held for the classes of 1988 and 1990; and the 35th cluster reunion for the classes of 1968, 1969 and 1970.

Mini-Reunion events are scheduled by 35th cluster classes of Zeta Chi Zeta, Theta Chi Rho and Delta Chi Omega (TKE), as well as alumni of Psi Phi.

For more information or to make a reservation for reunion events, go online to http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/reunion2004 or call the Reunion hotline at 312-5559.

Sketch comedy show slated

Dresden Engle, a 1988 graduate of Oswego, and her troupe will perform a comedic palette of sketches and musical numbers Saturday, June 5, as part of Reunion Weekend.

The performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Bell Auditorium, on the second floor of Hewitt Union. The show will be open to the public.

For more information, call 312-2258.

American, Russian scholars collaborate on book

Co-editing a publication on crime in Russia presented an opportunity to tackle an interesting subject and engage in a compelling international project, said Tim Delaney, assistant professor of sociology.

Social Diseases: Mafia, Terrorism and Totalitarianism, a collaboration with Valeri Kuvakin of Moscow State University and Imitroy Madigan of the University of Rochester, was published this spring by the Russian Humanist Society in Moscow. A number of Russian and American scholars contributed writings to the book.

“We did this book as a form of cooperation between American and Russian scholars,” Delaney said. “It developed because of friendships I have with a number of Russian scholars.

Delaney has presented papers at the Russian Academy of Sciences, the oldest academic society in existence, he said, where he will also teach summer classes this year.

He contributed a pair of articles to the anthology. “The Russian Mafia in the United States” presents a topic not often covered in either country, he noted.

“The Russians have found it interesting because they know about the mafia in Russia, but they don’t know much about the Russian mafia’s activities in the U.S. Delaney also wrote a chapter called “Street Gangs: A Growing Social Problem” because his Russian colleagues asked him to write something on the subject.

“Ever since the collapse of the USSR, there has been a dramatic increase in street crimes, including street gangs,” he explained. The escalation of criminal activity represented an unexpected consequence of the new freedoms that came from the collapse of Soviet totalitarianism, he added.

He differentiates between the Russian mafia — a collective term for organizations that provided blackmarket goods during the Communist regime — and the rising street criminals. “The Russian Mafia provided goods and services the Russian government couldn’t, simple things like bread, vodka, caviar and Western clothing like blue jeans,” Delaney said. “Street criminals do not provide any service.”

The work also ties in with work Delaney is doing on street gangs in the United States. He hopes to have a book on that subject out some time next year.

— Tim Nekrutz

Conway earns Chancellor’s Award for service

For members of the campus community, the good news is that Jean Conway, assistant athletic director and academic and life skills coordinator for student athletes, has earned a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

The bad news is that the award will only grace Conway’s Oswego office until the end of summer. Her husband, John, recently accepted a job in Minnesota, and Conway will leave Oswego before fall.

Conway started as a graduate assistant counseling student athletes in 1993 while earning her master’s in counseling services. She earned her full-time position, focusing on academic advisement and personal counseling and support for at-risk student athletes, after receiving her degree.

She proposed, developed and implemented several innovative programs, including a nationally recognized version of the NCAA Champs/Life Skills program to prepare student athletes for successes inside and outside the classroom and the Student Athlete Mentor Program, which runs specific events for local children and fund-raisers for community causes.

Conway also wrote grant proposals that cultivated...
College trends

CEO survey

“The results of AASCU’s 2003 Chieft Executive Profile provides a range of information about members’ backgrounds, compensation and employment data for the purpose of providing them with accurate tenure and academic employment data.” — Memo to the President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, May 2004

Ineffective exchange

“A report by the American Institutes for Research found that state and federal programs that cover the cost of college for people who agree to work in certain occupations or underserved regions have no report on their effectiveness. They remedy lower shortages and help people pay for college.” — Memo to the President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, May 2004

Accountability

“American colleges must develop clearer means of communicating their value to lawmakers and the public if the institutions and the U.S. economy are to remain vital,” college officials said [May 10] at the first meeting of a new commission on college accountability. More than 25 people, including leaders of state-college systems and experts from various college associations, are members of the new panel, called the National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education. The commission was organized by the State Higher Education Executive Officers association to influence public policy and is being paid for by the Ford Foundation. . . . Colleges and lawmakers should work together to create accountability standards, participants in the meeting said. But two commissioners disagreed on whether colleges should set standards on their own, or rely on government agencies to make sure that institutions set standards high enough so that students are well taught. . . . Accountability standards must be described in plain terms that drive home their importance to colleges, those attending the meeting said. Such clarity is especially important for faculty members, whose endorsement of accountability standards is crucial to success.” — Academic Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education, May 11, 2004

Loan change may cost

“A new proposal by Gov. George Pataki would require all state colleges and universities to support travel to this forum on public policy. $50 for information, call the Oswego Alumni Association at 312-2258 or visit http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/carnegiehall/. A special offer is available for theatre and music alumni, who may purchase two tickets for the price of one. . . .” — Memo to the President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, April 22, 2004

People in action

Decade of dedication — A number of campus employees were honored for their years of service during the college’s annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony last week. Among those thanked for 10 years of work were, from bottom left, Traci Terpening of the art department; JoAnne Sivers of the Office of Campus Life; Lin Murray of the Purchasing Office; and Deborah Haynes of Campus Technology Services. On the stairs, clockwise from top, are Physical Plant employees James Ferguson, Kevin Deier, Lissette Alvarado, Cirilo Valentin and Geralyn Roy; Patricia Tiffit of Vocational Teacher Preparation; Joann Capron of the Office of International Education; Maria Caldado Vega of Physical Plant; and Carol Carter of Penfield Library. Also honored for 10 years of service were Thomas Abbott and Eugene Williams of Physical Plant and Richard Sherwood of University Police.

The following faculty members are promoted, effective Sept. 1, to full professor: Steven Abraham and Paula Bobrowski of the marketing and management department; Dean Crawford of the accounting, finance and law department; Suzanne Guilmore of the educational administration department, Audrey Ratele of the curriculum and instruction department and Karen Wolford of the psychology department. Promoted to associate professor are Laura Brown of the psychology department, Pamela Cox of the marketing and management department, Michel Helfgott of the mathematics department, Karel Kurst-Swanger of the public justice department, Claire Patula of the curriculum and instruction department and Dorothy Shedlock of the psychology department. James Nicholas and Karen Shockey of the library are promoted to associate librarians.

Mixed media paintings by Richard Metzgar, assistant professor and foundations coordinator in the art department, will be on view in the 2004 Everson Biennial at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse from June 11 to Aug. 29. The opening reception will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 11. This year’s exhibition will feature 70 works by 40 artists. Pavel Zoubok, director of the Pavel Zoubok Gallery in New York City, juried the exhibition.

Kimberly Ayn Reed, assistant professor of sociology, has been invited to participate in the Aug. 8 to 11 Summer 2004 Oxford Round Table, Session on Women’s Leadership. She will present a lecture about “Women in Small Businesses in a Global Age: A Cross-Nation Comparison of Government Policies that Shape Wage Employment, Health, Safety and Environmental Conditions.” She received a grant from the Office of International Education and Programs to support travel to this forum on public policy.

Beatriz Salcedo-Strumpf, a Spanish instructor, has published an English version of her 2000 novel, E-mail for Lovers (AuthorHouse), about a Mexican-born woman, Milagros. Salcedo-Strumpf is pursuing her doctorate at Syracuse University and working on a second novel, E-mail for Ghosts.

Star Cloud Press of Scottsdale, Ariz., will publish The Collected Lyrics of Lewis Turco/Wesli Court this month. “Wesli Court” is an anagram pen-name under which Lewis Turco, an emeritus professor of English writing arts at Oswego, has published most of his traditionally rhymed and metered poems since 1960. At the West Chester University Poetry Conference on June 12, Turco will give a reading and be recognized with a panel on his life and work. Panelists will include the poet R. S. Gwynn and the publisher of Star Cloud Press, Steven E. Swerdfeger, an Oswego graduate who is editing a festchrift volume that is also due to appear this month.

K. Brad Wray, assistant professor in philosophy, will have his paper “Rethinking Scientific Specialization,” published in Social Studies of Science, a leading journal in science studies. His paper “An Examination of the Contributions of Young Scientists in New Fields” will be published in Scientometrics. Research for this paper was supported by a New Faculty Enhancement Grant.

Faculty to perform at Carnegie Hall

Pianist Robert Auler and violinist Seung hee Yang of Oswego’s music faculty will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Yang and Auler will perform 19th and 20th century sonatas for violin and piano by Schumann, Janacek and Ravel along with short pieces by Debussy and Brahms. Auler will perform 20th century piano works by a French composer, Olivier Messiaen, and a New York-based composer, Derek Bermel.

Tickets are still available for this event at a cost of $50. For information, call the Oswego Alumni Association at 312-2258 or visit http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/carnegiehall. A special offer is available for theatre and music alumni, who may purchase two tickets for the price of one. Current students may attend for free, although reservations are required.

Auler, making his Carnegie Hall debut in this performance, maintains an active national and international performing career. Yang made her New York debut at Carnegie Hall in 2002. She has been featured as a soloist of the CIS Collegium Musicum string orchestra of Mozarteum in Europe.
WRVO Stations collect awards from Syracuse Press Club, NAACP

The WRVO Stations, the National Public Radio affiliate on campus, took home six honors in the Syracuse Press Club’s Professional Recognition Awards in the club’s 2003 competition.

First and Special Mention Honors were named at the Syracuse Press Club’s Professional Recognition and Scholarship Dinner last month. The Press Club of Dallas judged entries.

The Syracuse Press Club presented WRVO Assistant News Director Elizabeth Christensen, along with the WRVO news staff, a first-place award in the Best Radio Public Affairs category for the weekly program “Then and Now.” The show is a compilation of news stories and interviews produced by WRVO’s news department. The judges said the entry had good pacing and good sound bites.

The club also recognized Christensen with a Special Mention Award in the Best Radio Spot News Coverage category for “The 174th Prepares for War.”

WRVO also received the Community Service Award last month from the Syracuse/Onondaga County chapter of the NAACP at its annual Freedom Fund Banquet.

Ulanowski said the honors reflect the depth of service offered by WRVO to Central and Northern New York listeners. Under his tenure, the WRVO Stations have earned 145 awards for news excellence over the past 22 years.

Based in Lanigan Hall, the WRVO family of stations includes WRVO 89.9 in Oswego, WVRJ 91.7 in Watertown, WKNY 91.9 in Utica, WRVD 90.3 in Syracuse and WSUC 90.5 in Cortland. Programming simulcasts on the Internet at wrvo.fm.

Fred Vigeant and News Director Chris Ulanowski announced the results.

Syracuse Press Club president Jay H.F. Jaeger presented the awards.

WRVO summer intern Jeremy Hanlon, who is blind, won a first-place award for Best Radio Human Interest Feature for “Jeremy’s Day at the Fair.” The piece chronicled a visit to the New York State Fair by WRVO summer intern Jeremy Hanlon, who is blind.

“Tight piece, insightful, colorful,” judges observed. “We could see the fair!”

WRVO also received the Community Service Award for “Utica Curling Club” and a Special Mention Award in the Best Radio Documentary category for “Unity Acres.”

Human interest award

The Syracuse Press Club also recognized WRVO Producer/Host Mark Lavonier, Operations Director Fred Vigeant and News Director Chris Ulanowski with a first-place award for Best Radio Human Interest Feature for “Jeremy’s Day at the Fair.” The piece chronicled a visit to the New York State Fair by WRVO summer intern Jeremy Hanlon, who is blind.

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Police report

Since April 30, University Police investigated several cases of theft and vandalism and made six arrests.

Police charged a 17-year-old Oswego boy with grand larceny and criminal mischief, both felonies, two counts of petit larceny and one of criminal mischief, both misdemeanors. He is accused of breaking into three vehicles on campus and in the city with a group of youth.

University Police charged an 18-year-old Seneca Hall resident with criminal nuisance. Officers said he was lighting an aerosol spray can on fire and using it as a blowtorch.

Officers charged a 19-year-old Cayuga Hall resident with making graffiti on the resident assistant’s door with black marker.

Police arrested three Brooklyn men, none of them students, on charges of disorderly conduct. They were arraigned at Oswego Town Court and remanded to the Oswego County Correctional Facility in lieu of cash bail.

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Oswego hosts national workshop for math faculty

Mathematics professors from around the nation will attend a two-week workshop at SUNY Oswego this month to learn effective ways of preparing secondary school math teachers.

The workshop June 6 to 18 is one of eight around the country this summer in the Mathematical Association of America’s program called Preparing Mathematicians to Educate Teachers. Two of the workshops focus on secondary-level teachers, one at Oswego and the other at the University of San Diego.

Jack Narynay, distinguished teaching professor of mathematics as well as dean of graduate studies and research at Oswego, will lead the Oswego workshop along with Steven West, distinguished teaching professor of mathematics at SUNY Geneseo.

“The education of teachers is crucial to the success of mathematical literacy for all students,” Narynay said. “The goal of the workshop is to make mathematicians more aware of the importance of the teaching strategies that are needed to promote a deeper conceptual understanding of mathematics at the school level.”

Art students add final flourish to new library café

Designs for a sign for Penfield Library’s Lake Effect Café and for a variety of related merchandise were selected at the end of spring semester. Kelley Shipley, a graduate student who received her master of arts degree in art in May, submitted the winning design.

Using her design, the library hopes to have a sign crafted for the café this summer, said Mary Heth Helt, library director. “I hope the library is hoping to produce not only a sign, but also cups and T-shirts with Shipley’s design, Bell added.

A second entry, from Lindesy Aragona, who is scheduled to receive her bachelor of fine arts degree in 2005, will also be used for shirts and other library memorabilia, Bell said.

Following the opening of the café last fall, library staff worked with the café’s designer, Tedra Pratt, and several art students to design an entrance sign and logo for the café. Seven students in a senior-level art class taught by Professor Cynthia Clabough submitted their ideas for the new sign.

The library posted the seven entries in the café for two weeks in April and May to gather public opinion. Over 90 people participated in this opinion-gathering activity, Bell said.

“The choice of which design to go with was a difficult one, given the high quality of all entries,” she said.

“The library wishes to publicly thank Professor Clabough and her students for all of their hard work this spring,” she noted. “The process of meeting and working with the class was a wonderfully gratifying experience.”

Chancellor’s Award

Continued from page 1

alcohol-free programming including Laker Days, introduced a new student orientation program for student athletes and created for-credit courses that foster personal growth for Oswego students.

Conway’s goal was “to develop a first-rate academic support program for student athletes that would not only serve to help retention and graduation rates, but would also provide students with the consistent guidance needed to develop the leaders of tomorrow,” said Laurie Clemo, professor of political science and chair of Oswego’s Intercollegiate Athletic Board.

This vision, Clemo added, became reality because of Conway’s “perseverance, drive, and genuine concern for students.”

Many offered praise for Conway’s many successes as well as her caring nature.

“She is truly an inspiration to me as a future teacher,” said Lynn Halforen, a May graduate who served as Conway’s mentor. “I hope that I can establish such bonds with my own students and maintain the sense of passion that is evident in her face as she works with others.”

Earning the award in her last months here is a bit-sweet experience, Conway said. “It’s wonderful to be acknowledged in this way, but it’s sad to leave because I’m going to miss all the people,” she said.

Calendar highlights

• Reunion Weekend, June 3 to 6
• Preparing Math Education Teachers workshop, June 6 to 18
• Rice Creek Rambles, June 12 and 26 and July 17 and 31
• SUNY Council for Business Deans and Administrators meeting, June 13 to 15
• Second summer session begins, June 14
• SUNY Judicial Affairs Officers conference, June 16 and 17
• College Council meeting, June 22
• Third summer session begins, July 5
• Sheldon Institute, July 19 to 30

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