May grad’s story wins prestigious fiction prize

Michael Capel, a May SUNY Oswego graduate, put a little bit of reality into a short story that recently took first place in the prestigious Stony Brook Short Fiction Prize competition.

“Divers,” a story about a narrator discovering a good friend has signed up for active duty in the military, was influenced by a real-life situation, Capel said. The story began as a creative fiction exercise in Leigh Wilson’s class at a time when the country prepared for the war in Iraq and one of his best friends was planning to enlist. It’s about knowing that a friend is “going to be gone . . . very far away, most likely to go to battle,” noted Capel, who also earned the Helen Buckley Award at Oswego this spring.

Capel topped a competitive field that annually averages around 200 entries from across the United States and Canada. The $1000 award “has come to the attention of writing faculty in all states and provinces who encourage their best students to enter,” said Caroline McGrath, the contest’s coordinator.

“The quality is high, the competition tough.”

“Astounding” talent

The judges were impressed by Capel’s subtlety in developing contrasting characters through dialogue, action and the narrator’s observations, she added.

Ira Sukrungruang of Oswego’s English writing arts department, who has served as a kind of mentor for Capel, saw promise in the story and “grabbed it out of my hand and said, ‘you’re submitting this’” to the competition, Capel recalled.

“Michael’s story had a legitimate chance of winning. Mike had already published a story in a national literary magazine — Sou’wester — earlier this year. Because of the prestige of this contest, I didn’t want him to miss this opportunity,” Sukrungruang said.

“There are so many things in Michael’s writing I find astounding in one so young,” Sukrungruang said. “His gift of crafting scene, his use of dialogue, expert exposition. But what most impresses me is his sense of plot, how to move a story along in complicated, yet effortless ways. Things are happening in his stories, characters set in motion. Every word, every sentence propels the story forward. I see a need, an urgency to the things he puts on the page.”

Capel is the second first-place winner from the SUNY system in the contest’s history. Previous winners. [See ‘Winning writer,’ page 4]

New HCI graduate program to connect this fall

Oswego’s new graduate major in human-computer interaction will both meet an important market need and offer an innovative interdisciplinary experience, said program director Gary Klatsky.

The graduate program would be the first of its kind in New York State and one of only a handful in the country. Gary Klatsky, left, director of the program, looks at some design work from graduate student Brent Farrell on the college’s soon-to-launch Web redesign. The innovative program combines computer science, psychology and graphic design components to help students meet a hot demand in the HCI field.

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The graduate program would be the first of its kind in New York State, Klatsky said. Such universities as Carnegie-Mellon and Maryland are among the few institutions with comparable programs.

HCI has become an in-demand discipline that focuses on designing, evaluating and implementing computer systems with human factors in mind. Oswego’s interdisciplinary program incorporates computer science components that provide students with the ability to program user interfaces, psychology courses to learn how humans interact with technology, and graphic design courses that will help students understand visual and creative considerations.

“What makes our program unique is that our students will learn the usability and aesthetics components of user interface design and how to program these designs,” Klatsky noted. The program will give students the understanding and broad base required to make them competitive for this hot field, he added.

Klatsky’s interest stems from when he worked for General Electric several years ago and discovered a pressing need for workers with HCI experience.

“I was looking for people with a background that spanned psychology and computer science,” he recalled. “I had a difficult time finding people with the qualifications I was looking for.”

The associate professor of psychology kept the project in mind after he joined the Oswego faculty in 1995. The college included a general proposal on the program as part of its Mission Review process around five years ago. Oswego received Mission Review funding from Albany to continue the project, showing that SUNY had an interest in the program’s development, Klatsky said.

While the college had the necessary programs in computer science, psychology and graphic design, most core classes had been created from scratch. Graduates will be well positioned for jobs designing human-computer interactive technology, including any companies that develop hardware or software and those with defense-industry projects.

Brent Farrell of Oswego hopes to become one of the first enrolled in the new program. He has already [See ‘HCI program,’ page 4]

Web redesign coming soon

In a matter of days, visitors to www.oswego.edu will discover a redesigned college Web site.

A content management system will help many people on campus to keep their sites up to date while maintaining a SUNY Oswego identity. New and expanded content areas will serve campus community members and prospective students alike. [See story in June 2 edition of Campus Update.]

For more information on the redesign, details about browser compatibility, and an image of the new site, visit www.oswego.edu/proffi ce/redesign.html.
College trends

Technology overhyped

“The boom in educational technology has not lived up to its promise of revolutionizing the classroom and making higher education more profitable, two professors conclude in a report scheduled to be released [June 24]. Despite the rapid growth of online education — at a distance and in the classroom — many faculty members at colleges do not incorporate innovative technology into their course work, and many administrators have reaped much benefit from the technology they purchased, the report concludes. Robert Zemsky, an education professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and William F. Massy, professor emeritus of education and business administration at Stanford University, wrote the report, ‘Thwarted Innovation: What Happened to e-Learning and Why.’ “e-Learning was an interesting idea that simply got hyped to the point that it created expectations that couldn’t be met,” Mr. Zemsky said in an interview. “e-Learning is a real revolution. It will just happen more slowly, more painfully. And the challenge now is for advocates to deliver more and promise less.” One of the impediments to keeping online learning from moving into every facet of education is the lack of a standardized format or software tool for creating online course enhancements, Mr. Zemsky said. Until a large entity, such as the Internet2 consortium, develops a standard format, many faculty members will not want to venture into the online-education arena.”


Charitable giving founders

“Americans gave more money to charities in 2003 than they did in 2002, but education — including higher education — did not benefit from the increase in generosity, according to the annual ‘Giving USA’ report. . . . Amid two straight years of decreased giving to education, fund-raising experts cannot say with authority whether the decline is a temporary blip or a signal of shifting in giving patterns. . . . Education received an estimated $31.59-billion in 2003 — 13 percent of total giving — a decline of 3 percent from 2002. The ‘Giving USA’ report, published by the American Association of Fundraising Counsel for Philanthropy and conducted by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, typically adjusts its estimates upward when complete federal tax data become available. The study does not differentiate between gifts to higher education and elementary and secondary schools, though the majority of donations to education go to colleges and universities. Another annual survey, released in March by the Council for Aid to Education, found that higher-education contributions totaled $23.9-billion in the 2003 fiscal year, down from $24.2-billion in 2001.”

— The Chronicle of Higher Education, June 25, 2004

Paying for college

“A new report by the National Center for Education Statistics chronicles how changes made in the 1992 Higher Education Reauthorization act caused major changes to how students pay for college. The reauthorization expanded student eligibility for need-based aid, raised student loan limits and introduced unsubsidized loans for all students. As a result there has been an escalation among full-time dependent undergraduates’ reliance on loans and other forms of financial aid in order to keep up with the rising cost of attending college. “Paying for College” the authors note that . . . the percentage of students with loans at public four-year schools increased from 26.0 percent in 1989-90 to 46.6 percent a decade later. The average amount of loans increased from 26.0 percent in 1989-90 to 46.6 percent a decade later. The average amount of loans increased from $3,300 to $5,300 during the same time span.”

— Edlines, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, June 4, 2004

People in action

Honored for service — A number of college employees were honored for their years of service during the college’s annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony. Among those recognized for 15 years of service were, from left, Kevin Velzy of University Police; Shelly Reifke of the communication studies department; and Diane Chesare, Jeff Seymour, Anne Demm, Ada Czamanski and Earl Cook of Physical Plant. Also honored for 15 years of service, but not available for the photo, were Kelly Byrne of University Police, Diana Carroll of Experience-Based Education and Lawrence Kelly of Physical Plant.

Taking Manhattan — Robert Auler (left) and Seung hee Yang (right) of Oswego’s music faculty recently performed at Weill Recital Hall at world-famous Carnegie Hall. President Deborah F. Stanley (center) was among those from the Oswego campus community who offered encouragement and support. The Oswego Alumni Association sponsored the program, which was very well received.

“Learning the Art of Policy Management,” an article by Bruce Altschuler, professor and chair of political science, will appear in the Volume 3, Number 2 issue of the refereed journal White House Studies. According to editor Robert Watson, “the reviewers commented that the manuscript is well written, interesting, will be enjoyed by the journal’s readership, and will make a solid contribution to the literature by posing a strong question to the ‘trus’ of going public.” Using case studies of every president from Ford to Clinton, the article examines how the need for re-election has changed the way presidents make policy.

The SUNY Athletic Conference Commissioner’s List for spring includes 31 Oswego student-athletes who qualified by maintaining a grade-point average of 3.3 for three semesters. From the baseball team are seniors Michael Baca, an accounting major; David Johnson, a chemistry major; and Daniel Vacco, a physics major. Basketball seniors Sally Shuster, a business major, and Lauren Vesnaver, a public relations major, qualified. On the golf team is senior adolescence education major Russell Korn. From the ice hockey team are seniors Antoine Dufour, a chemistry major, and Paul Perrier, a chemistry major; junior Bryan Gent, a communication major; and sophomore Ryan Woodard, a business major. On the lacrosse team are seniors John Spuhler, a wellness management major; and seniors Michael Nolan, a history major, and Michael Uchel, a technology education major. Swimmers include seniors Jodi Frank, a chemistry major; and Erin Varley, an English major; juniors Jason Denny, a philosophy/psychology major, and Corey Stark, a broadcasting major; and sophomore Shelly Damm. Tennis players include seniors Matthew Mueller, a management science major, and Mark Prestoknik, an economics major; and juniors Daniel Clouston, a global and international studies major; David Perl, an accounting major; Stark; and Todd Wojnowski, an English writing arts major. From track are seniors Heather Bamford, a childhood education major; Brad DePoint, a childhood education major; Kevin McGarrah, a chemistry major; and Abby Oliver, a psychology major; juniors Jessica Adam, a zoology major, and Weston Fellows, an adolescent education major; and graduate student Kellie Winters, an MMA major. In addition, Oswego students charted /1 of the /28 slots on the spring SUNYAC All-Academic Teams.

David Clouston, an English writing arts major. From track are seniors Heather Bamford, a childhood education major; Brad DePoint, a childhood education major; Kevin McGarrah, a chemistry major; and Abby Oliver, a psychology major; juniors Jessica Adam, a zoology major, and Weston Fellows, an adolescent education major; and graduate student Kellie Winters, an MMA major. In addition, Oswego students charted /1 of the /28 slots on the spring SUNYAC All-Academic Teams.

William Silky of educational administration recently received the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) Friend of the Council Award at the Mid-Winter Conference in Albany. He See “People”, page 4

Campus Update

July 14, 2004

Vol. 15, No. 18
A promising new musical program joins two popu-
lar institutes geared to help high-school students cultivatetheir creativity on the Oswego campus this month.

The new Summer Jazz Institute joins existing resi-
dential art and theatre institutes sponsored by the Of-
lice of Continuing Education.

The brand-new Summer Jazz Institute invites high-
schoolers to interact with and learn from master play-
ers from July 25 to 31. The brainchild of Richard Hollan-
d, an assistant professor of music at SUNY Oswego, the institute also will offer nightly perfor-
mances as a beneficial experience for student players and to entertain interested community members.

The instructors will give back to the community with a free performance by the world-renowned Kerry Strayer Septet at Oswego’s Farmers’ Market on July 29. The bands assembled during the week will play for parents and the public in the Lake Efect Café in Penfield Library at noon on Saturday, July 31.

The Summer Art Institute, July 18 to 31, allows high-schoolers to earn college credit for attend-
ing classes and studios while learning creative skills. Three three-hour daily sessions in morning, afternoon and evening will provide an environment for students of all levels to expand their abilities and creativity in a range of media. Kelly Roe of Oswego’s art faculty directs the program.

A trip to Ottawa will give students an opportunity to explore museums and galleries and to attend performances at the National Arts Centre and discuss artwork from around the world.

The institute will culminate in a student exhibit, open to family, friends and faculty, at Tyler Art Gal-
ery on Saturday, July 31.

The Summer Theatre Institute, also July 18 to 31, is at capacity for an eighth straight year with a wait-
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mances of Eugene O’Neill’s “Ah Wilderness!” and George Bernard Shaw’s “Pygmalion.”

The institute, which focuses on the craft of acting, will wrap up July 31 with an opportunity for partici-
ants’ families to come and watch them work.

For more information on these and other summer programs at Oswego, visit www.oswego.edu/ced/
sumersession/index.html.

Institutes cultivate creativity for high schoolers

Energy institute in 20th year of teacher training

Oswego received support from Entergy Corp. for the 20th Institute in Energy Education for Secondary School Science and Technology Education Teachers.

Rogers Hinrichs, professor of physics, and Carlton Salvag, professor of technology, founded the pro-
gram in response to the 1973 oil embargo and the need for energy education for future teachers.

Funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and subsequently from the National Science Foundation helped get the program under way. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. and the New York Power Authority jointly sponsored the third and fourth offerings, as the institute grew to include all energy sources and their financial and environmental impacts. NYP A alone funded the fifth through 15th years. Entergy Corp. has sponsored the past five institutes.

The first 12 institutes were held at SUNY Oswego, while the last seven have been held downside in Westchester County.

Twenty-six teachers of science and technology education from around the state are attending the 20th institute, which began Monday and runs through July 23 at the Putnam Northern Westchester Board of Co-
operative Educational Services in Yorktown Heights.

In its first 18 years, the program versed 461 teach-
ers in energy technology and exposed them to new ideas, teaching methodologies and strategies ap-
licable to science and technology education. These participating teachers have had an estimated impact on over 550,000 students.

Participants have gained knowledge on the impor-
tance of energy to state, national and world econo-
 mies. “They also better understand how energy use impacts our society and environment, as well as be-
ing informed of the current dynamic changes occur-
ing in the electric utility industry,” Hinrichs said.

The institutes have contributed to meeting the charge of the New York State Regents Action Plan that requires a significant amount of energy-related instruction in the secondary schools.

National education reforms have emphasized the kind of inquiry-based teaching, hands-on activities and real-world applications the Energy institute was de-
gined to promote.”

Hinrichs noted.

The institute earned the first-ever Governor’s Award for Excellence in Energy Education in the col-

First Technology Camp

The first-ever SUNY Oswego Technology Camp, Aug. 9 to 13, will aim to help fifth through eighth-
grade students plug into problem-solving exercises while learning about advanced technology.

Sponsored by Oswego’s department of technology, the camp will offer daily sessions on topics including robotics, digital imaging, flight and computer-aided design.

The camp will be very hands-on with “make-
and-take!” projects, said coordinator Judith Belt of Oswego’s department of technology. “One great thing is that students will be able to walk away with something they constructed and with a feeling of ac-

 complishment,” Belt said.

Professors from Oswego’s technology department will lead the sessions in Park and Wilber halls on campus. “Roborotics: Machines in Action,” taught by Mark Hardy from 9 a.m. to noon, will allow students to build robots and learn about how robots see and work. Another 9 a.m. to noon daily session, “Digital Imaging: Camera-to-Computer!” under Tim Patterson, will show youngsters how to take, edit and alter digi-
tal photographs.

“Flight: Da Vinci to NASA,” led by Dan Tryon from 1 to 4 p.m. daily, will teach children how to build kites, small planes or solid-fuel rockets. Anoth-
er 1 to 4 p.m. session, “CAD for Kids: Puzzlemania!” taught by Donna Matteson, will let youngsters design and create two- and three-dimensional puzzles.

Increasing access

The cost for each five-day session is $175, except for the robotics class, which costs $185. There is a $50 discount for anyone enrolled in more than one session, or for two or more siblings attending the pro-
gram, geared toward students within driving distance.

There are multiple goals behind starting this pro-
gram at Oswego. “One is to introduce as many chil-
dren as possible to technology to make them more technologically literate,” Belt noted. “The second is that we want to introduce both genders to technology. From some reason, many girls feel that technology is not for them. So we’re trying to show this is not the case and we can create some diversity.”

The sessions reflect the changing face of technol-
y program. “Technology education has come from industry, geared toward problem solving,” Belt said. “We’re hoping to enhance the prob-
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The initial effort is a kind of pilot program, she added, with an interest in expanding the camp next year if this year goes well. Future plans could include holding concurrent sessions for interested teachers to enhance technological classroom initiatives.

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Winning writer
Continued from page 1
He credits Oswego’s program, which is “chock full of great writing teachers” for giving him his start and encouraging his creativity.

Storyteller — Michael Capel, a May English writing arts graduate, recently won first place in the prestigious Stony Brook Short Fiction Prize contest for his story “Divers.” His entry topped competitors from across the United States and Canada.

“Your creative writing program here is top-of-the-line,” Capel said. “They are the people who first got me to write and are continuing to keep me writing.” Hearing that would please Sukrungruang, who said the department’s goal is to try to create the top undergraduate creative writing program in the country.

“Through workshops and one-on-one interaction with faculty, students are able to learn and explore numerous genres — fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, playwriting, screenwriting,” Sukrungruang noted. “Our goal is to make students the best writers they can be, and show them where their writing can take them beyond the classroom, what opportunities are out there.”

— Tim Nekritz

Calendar highlights
• Rice Creek Rambles, July 17 and 31
• Oswego State Lacrosse Camp, July 18 to 22
• Summer Art Institute, July 18 to 31
• Summer Theatre Institute, July 18 to 31
• Oswego State Basketball Camp, July 19 to 23
• Sheldon Institute, July 19 to 30
• Summer Jazz Institute, July 25 to 31
• Fourth summer session begins, July 26

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

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HLC program
Continued from page 1
took some core courses and finds the range of experiences and the rarity of the program appealing. “I like being able to get experience in more areas than just programming,” Farrell said. “I get to program, which I enjoy doing and is something I’m good at, but can also broaden my experience with psychology and graphic design.

Farrell has picked up additional experience working on Oswego’s soon-to-launch Web site redesign. Between that experience and the HLC program, he can see his future plans involved in more than just programming and coding. “I might be able to design interfaces and products, and become more involved in many facets of creation,” he said.

For more information, see www.oswego.edu/hcl.

— Tim Nekritz

Spotlight
Moore enjoys working with Summer Institutes
The Campus Update Spotlight shines on Karen Moore. The administrative assistant to the director of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions, she began working on campus in November 2003.

Q. How would you describe your job and responsibilities?
A. My main responsibility is to work with Yvonne Petrella as her assistant. My first assignments were to assist her in the search for the new Provost and to work on putting together the Summer Sessions Course Bulletin. Both provided a great opportunity to meet many members of the campus community including faculty, staff and students. Summer is a very busy time in Continuing Education. Right now I am in the final stages of coordinating the Art, Jazz, and Theatre Institutes for high school students, which start in mid-July. The Jazz Institute is new this year and we are very excited about launching this new program with Rick Holland of the music department. Once this summer’s institutes are over we start working on next year’s programs.

Q. What is your favorite part of working here?
A. I truly enjoy the fact that there are many diverse functions that I am able to take part in. These include everything from working with the Intensive English Program, assisting with the Winter and Summer Sessions coordination, working with the high school students who participate in our summer programs and learning about the Phoenix facility.

Q. What is your impression of Oswego’s students?
A. Our focus here in Continuing Education is with the adult, non-traditional students. What impresses me most with these students is their dedication and drive to complete an education while juggling work, family and school responsibilities. We all know how difficult this can be at times.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?
A. I enjoy golf, cross-stitch and gardening. We purchased a new home late last summer and are now in the process of totally redesigning our landscaping, which has proven to be quite the challenge. I have a newfound respect for those who do this for a living.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?
A. I’ve been married for six years and we live in a nice, quiet neighborhood in Minetto. My husband John works on campus in the Facilities, Design and Construction group and is responsible for the engineering of campus capital improvement projects which include the new Campus Center and the renovation of existing buildings.

Amazing art — Work from five Oswego students appears in the 2004 Best of SUNY Student Art Exhibition in State University Plaza in Albany. Lindsay M. Aragona, Paulette Doremus, Richard Mulye, Tracy Niemczal and Jessica Williams were among the 63 students from around the state displaying pieces in the show. State University of New York Chancellor Robert L. King pauses with Aragona during a special reception. The exhibition runs through Sept. 24.

— Tim Nekritz

People
Continued from page 2
was recognized for his dedicated service to current and future superintendents. As director of the SUNY Oswego Superintendent Development Program, he has worked collaboratively with NYSOCSS to prepare future school district leaders. He has also assisted numerous individuals in gaining superintendencies through his work as a search consultant. Silky participates in various initiatives related to superintendent preparation, recruitment, and advancement. His work with the New York State Association for Women in Administration (NYSAWA) is an example of his commitment to advancing all qualified individuals to the position of superintendent.

In Memoriam
John J. Readling, 79, a professor emeritus and founder of the department of educational administration at Oswego, died May 22 at his home in Oswego. He taught on campus from 1962 until 1987.

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Continued from page 2
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