SUNY Oswego named among best colleges for girls

SUNY Oswego joined such schools as Brown, Duke and Stanford universities among the 50 Best Colleges for Girls selected by CosmoGirl! magazine, editors announced last week.

“This recognizes the dedication we have to ensuring our young women — as well as young men — have the best possible college experience and are prepared for success after they graduate,” Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley said.

The October issue featured the first of what is expected to be an annual list for CosmoGirl!, a Hearst magazine for young teens with a circulation of around 1.3 million. It is the younger sibling of Cosmopolitan, also published by Hearst Magazines.

“Not only is this first college guide designed specifically for girls, but what really makes it unique is that we’ve identified specific factors that give girls an edge,” Editor-in-Chief Susan Schulz said. “This is no arbitrary list.”

The magazine editors compiled the list after consulting admissions officers and guidance counselors across the country to determine the kind of environment that gives girls the best chance of success in school and after graduation.

Editors identified six key factors — small class size, prominent female faculty members, strong women’s sports programs, a career center that facilitates internship opportunities, opportunities to hold leadership positions in clubs and activities, and an active alumni network — that they cross-referenced with baseline data from the Princeton Review to determine the best schools.

The entry cites Oswego’s “renowned meteorology program” and its being the first of the 64 colleges in the SUNY system to hire a woman president when Virginia L. Radley took the post in 1978.

“Oswego has a long tradition as a progressive institution, which one can see in the high number of women represented among campus leadership positions, student involvement and prominent alumni,” Stanley noted.

“We’re in some excellent company, which reflects our ongoing efforts to attract students who excel inside and outside the classroom,” said Joe Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment.

Oswego is one of three schools in New York state that made the list, joining Bard College and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Other private colleges on the list include Amherst, Middlebury and Oberlin. Public schools include the universities of California at Berkeley, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wisconsin and Madison.

Oswego Reading Initiative author Sherman Alexie to speak here Oct. 5

Sherman Alexie, the award-winning author of “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven” and other books, will speak at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, in the Laker Hall gymnasium.

“The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven” was selected for campus-wide reading under the college’s Oswego Reading Initiative. In addition to this admission-free lecture, classes, performances and other activities tie into the collection of short stories about characters crossing on a Spokane Indian reservation in Washington.

Alexie has been named one of the top 20 writers of the 21st century by The New Yorker. The book that ORI selected won such honors as the 1993 PEN/Hemingway Award for best first book of fiction and the 1994 Lila Wallace-Readers Digest Writers Award.

“These spare, disturbing stories trace with stark, lyric power the experience of American Indians in the modern world,” the New York Times said of the book. The Library Journal observed that “the text brims with humor and passion as it juxtaposes ancient customs with such contemporary artifacts as electric guitars and dust Pepsis.

Alexie produced and wrote the screenplay for “Smoke Signals,” a film based on part of the book. The first feature film produced, written and directed by American Indians, “Smoke Signals” premiered at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival and earned the Audience Award and Filmmakers Trophy. Miramax subsequently picked the film up for wide distribution.


A sought-after speaker, Alexie has appeared on such television programs as “NOW with Bill Moyers,” “Politically Incorrect,” “60 Minutes II” and an edition of “The News Hour with Jim Lehrer” on former President Clinton’s national dialogue on race.

His storytelling skills helped him win the World Heavyweight Championship Poetry Bout four years in a row, from 1998 to 2001.

Moved to Laker Hall

There is no admission fee for the Oct. 5 program, which is open to the public and was moved to the Laker Hall gym to accommodate a surge in interest, organizers said. To accommodate anticipated demand, passes are required to enter. Passes are available through the Hewitt Union box office or by calling 312-2939. Passes may be acquired at the lecture on a space-available basis.

Alexie’s lecture is sponsored by several college groups: Artswego, Auxiliary Services, the Coalition for Peace Education, the Native American Heritage Association, the Student Association Art Exhibition Committee and its Program Board.

For more information on ORI and related programs, visit www.oswego.edu/ori.

Special guest — Native American singer/songwriter Bill Miller spoke to a number of classes during his Artswego residency on campus last week. He also performed in Waterman Theatre, taught a Native American flute session and led a “Racial Reconciliation” workshop. Here Miller shares his knowledge with Marilyn Smiley’s “American Music” class.
College trends

Troubled students strain services

“More students are arriving at college today with emotional issues than just five years ago, and there has been dramatic growth in the severity of the problems. These students are creating a need for significant expansions in college counseling services. . . . Powerful social forces underlie these issues. These include family lifestyle changes, parental pressures, increased access to higher education under the Americans with Disabilities Act and significant growth in the use of prescription medications to treat the emotional and learning needs of children and youth. Our students come to us from blended, dysfunctional or small families that may have only one effective parent. Many have few support systems within their family or community. . . . Meanwhile, parents are getting more involved than ever in campus life, sometimes attempting to manage their children’s college experiences.”

— Connection, New England Board of Higher Education, Summer 2004

Poor grades on affordability

“The nation’s K–12 schools have gained ground in college preparation, but campuses are not keeping up in access and affordability, according to a report card released this week by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The report card, Measuring Up 2004, found improvements in college-prep course-taking and teacher quality in recent years, but documented slippage in college participation rates, stagnation in college completion rates, and a significant increase in the ratio of net college price to family income.”

— Edlines, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Sept. 17, 2004

America slipping in college completion

“According to a new report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States is losing ground to international competitors in the share of the population with high school and college credentials. Education at a Glance 2004 indicates that the U.S. now ranks 10th among industrialized nations in the percent-age of adults 25 to 34 with a high school diploma, behind nations such as South Korea, Norway, and the Czech Republic. In the area of college attainment, the U.S. fared slightly better, ranking second (behind Norway) in the share of 25 to 34 year-olds with a four-year credential. However, these data also show that in nations with historically lower rates are rapidly closing the gap.”

— Edlines, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Sept. 1, 2004

Women in science make strides

“Federal agencies need to do more to ensure that women faculty members and students are not discriminated against in mathematics, engineering, and the sciences, a U.S. Government Accountability Office report indicates. The report assesses compliance with Title IX, the 1972 law that prohibits discrimination in education programs that receive federal funds. . . . [T]he Office concludes that women’s participation in the sciences — especially the life sciences — has increased dramati-cally since Title IX was adopted. In the early 1960s, women accounted for only 3 percent of all scientists and in 2003 they constituted nearly 20 percent; but men still outnumber women in most scientific fields. The proportion of women science students has also grown, but less at the graduate level than at the undergraduate level. In 2000, women comprised 40 percent of undergraduates studying science, and less than a third of graduate science students. The proportion of women faculty in the sciences has increased since the early 1970s, with the majority of the gain being in the life sciences.”

— BriefCASE, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, September 2004

People in action

Coming together — Santo Pagano, a welder for J & J Mechanicals, works at the site of the future Campus Center last week connecting steam pipes serving Hart Building and the campus pack. Finishing the site’s water and steam delivery system, including these new sections, completes the work on phase one of the Campus Center project.

Richard Izzet of the psychology department has been selected for inclusion in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers for 2004. A recent Oswego graduate, Meghan Mullally, nominated him for the honor. Only students who themselves were in either Who’s Who Among American High School Students or the National Dean’s List could nominate college faculty; only 5 percent of the nation’s teachers can be so honored. The citation on a plaque presented to Izzet states: “Richard Robert Izzet is recognized and honored for contributions made to the education of our nation’s youth and is hereby acknowledged for excellence as a distinguished educator in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.”


Lalonde taught on the German language faculty this summer in Austria at the American Institute of Musical Studies. The institute, which prepares international students for careers in classical music, operates in conjunction with the University of Graz in Austria. While in Graz, Lalonde also conducted research at the European Union’s Center for Modern Languages.

Ampalavanar Nanthakumar, professor of mathematics, has co-edited a special issue of Communications in Statistics: Theory and Methods (Issue 9, Volume 33) with C. Srinivasan of the University of Kentucky. This special issue honors Zakhula Govindarajulu on his 70th birthday for his contributions to the development of statistics. This special issue has an article co-authored by Nanthakumar titled “Estimation of Proportion of Success from a Stratified Population: A Comparative Study.”

Biologist Jim Seago gave an invited presentation at the seventh INTECOL International Wetlands Conference, held in Utrecht, Netherlands, in July. Seago was the lead-off speaker in a symposium titled “Plant Life in Oxygen-deficient Environments: Ecological, Physiological and Molecular Perspectives,” chaired by Tim Colmer of the University of Western Australia and Kees Voesenek of Utrecht University. Seago’s presentation was titled “Development and Structure of Root Aerenchyma in Wetland Flowering Plants.” His co-authors were Olga Votrubova and Alex Soukup of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, Kevin Stevens of Southeastern Louisiana University, Daniel Euston of the University of Waterloo and Lee Marsh, emeritus professor at Oswego.

K. Brad Wray, assistant professor in philosophy, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science in August in Paris. His paper was titled “Decentralization and Big Science.” It was part of a panel on “Democratic Values and Science.” The other participants in the panel were Kristina Rolin of the Helsinki School of Business and Philip Mirowski of the economics department at the University of Notre Dame.

Wray also had a paper accepted for publication in the journal American Philosophical Quarterly. His paper is titled “Does Science Have a Moving Target?” He received support from the Office of International Education and Programs to present an earlier version of the paper at a conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Oxford professor to deliver Warren Steinkraus Lecture

SUNY Oswego’s 7th annual Warren Steinkraus Lecture will feature Henry Shue of the University of Oxford on Oct. 2. His topic is “Superpower Account- ability.”

Admission will be free. The event will begin at 2:15 p.m. in the east conference room of Sheldon Hall. Robert Card, assistant professor of philosophy at Oswego, will give opening remarks at 2:30 p.m. At 2:35 p.m., Shue will give the lecture and afterwards field questions from the audience.

At Oxford’s Merton College, Shue teaches politics and international relations. His books include Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence, and U.S. Foreign Policy and Nuclear Deterrence and Moral Restraint: Costly Choices and American Strategy. He received his doctorate from Princeton University and has also taught at Cornell University.

The Warren Steinkraus Lectures on Human Ideals were founded in honor of the late Oswego philosophy Professor Warren Steinkraus, who retired in 1987.

Card said that he thinks that people can learn about public policy by attending this year’s event. “I can’t think of a more meaningful topic right now. People are talking about the situation in Iraq and our in-volvement there and the call for including members of the international community,” he said. “Philosophy examines those very fundamental questions that un-derlie and sometimes are neglected in politics.”
A campus symposium on medical ethics next week will be the first public event in a School of Education project funded under Auxiliary Services’ Support for Engagement 2000. The symposium will begin at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 29 in Bell Auditorium and is open to everyone.

The collaborative School of Education project, “A Community of Leaders and Learners,” involves classes in all six education departments in an online seminar whose discussions will be sparked by a series of three public symposia this fall. Symposia topics in addition to “Medical Ethics” next Wednesday will be “Professional Collaboration” on Oct. 18 and “Social Justice” on Nov. 19.

Ron Graham, a local health educator, will lead the symposium on medical ethics. Other experts from the community are being invited as guest participants. Graham works for the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services as the director of the New Vision Allied Health Careers Program at Oswego Hospital. He is also an adjunct instructor here in both the health promotion and wellness department and biology department.

The School of Education project is one of two projects under way with funding from Auxiliary Services’ Support for Engagement 2000, said Mike Flaherty of Auxiliary Services. The program aims to further the goals articulated in the college’s strategic plan.

Susan Camp of the vocational teacher preparation department and Suzanne Guilmore of the educational administration department proposed the School of Education project in collaboration with others in the school, including the other four department chairs.

“This comprehensive, collaborative program has at its essence the goals of Engagement 2000 — it is learner-centered, reaches across department and community boundaries, strengthens the use of technology and invites the exchange of ideas, values and knowledge among diverse groups of people,” they wrote in their grant proposal.

Next week’s symposium will kick off the online discussion in six classes in the six education departments. The classes encompass students from the junior undergraduate to the post-graduate levels.

“Each faculty member is using the online seminar differently,” Camp said. “In my class, it’s part of the professional participation grade.”

Steve Frawley, a longtime educational administrator in the area, developed the seminar and will be interacting with the students online throughout the semester. A former public school teacher and principal, he has a background in special education at BOCES.

Camp said her steering committee plans to apply for funding to continue the project in the spring.

The other Engagement 2000 project funded so far, “A Celebration of Learning,” currently involves focus groups in discussions of the meaning of learning centered, said Mark Morey, professor of psychology. Its work will become more visible later this year, he indicated.

Flaherty invited additional proposals from faculty with ideas for new projects. — Julie Harrison Blissert

### Provost’s Council produces change agenda

An agenda for academic change emerged early in the year from SUNY Oswego’s Provost’s Council. The group of administrators who report to the provost and vice president for academic affairs has settled on 10 annual goals for this academic year. Provost Susan Coutltrap-McQuin presented them at Faculty Assembly last week.

“These are goals that we’ll work on together,” she said last week, noting she and the members of the council welcome feedback on their list. She added that list does not exclude other initiatives. “There will be other things happening across the division,” she said.

The preamble to the list describes the 10 goals as “prominent initiatives” and promises broad communication about progress and accomplishments in these areas.

“Throughout our implementation of these goals we will address our commitments to cultural diversity, and we will review our policies and procedures for resource allocation in support of our policies,” it states.

The goals are for the Division of Academic Affairs to:

1. Advance the discussion across campus of ways to help students integrate their learning experiences.
2. Review opportunities currently available to faculty and professional staff members for professional growth and develop strategies for appropriate enhancements.
3. Provide recommendations to Facilities about the development and renovation of academic spaces.
4. Develop strategic goals for the future of graduate studies.
5. Develop strategic goals for future initiatives in scholarly and creative activities and in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.
6. Study issues and set goals related to the size and mix of our undergraduate and graduate programs.
7. Develop recommendations regarding student-faculty ratios and the appropriate mix of faculty appointments to provide the best learning environments for our students.
8. Identify additional strategies for increasing students’ learning about international and global perspectives.
9. Develop a planning process for the use of technologies in the support of learning.
10. Develop recommendations for the president related to a new teaching symposium, graduate school mentoring, Phi Beta Kappa, and new initiatives for improving retention and graduation rates.

Each goal is accompanied both by an indication of how the group will know that it accomplished what it intended and by a list of the groups and individuals primarily responsible for leading the effort. — Julie Harrison Blissert

### Deadline for student grants nears

The deadline for students to apply for the student version of the college’s Scholarly and Creative Activity Grants is Nov. 15. These grants, which range from $500 to $1,000, support the scholarly activities of undergraduate and graduate students that are done in collaboration with a faculty sponsor. For more information, see http://www.oswego.edu/administration/OHSP/campus_grants_and_awards/student_grants/grants_undergraduate_sca_grants.html.

— Julie Harrison Blissert

### Political book finds receptive audience

A book by two Oswego political science professors has found an audience among scholars and professors large enough to warrant a second, revised edition.

The Nation State and Global Order: A Historical Introduction to Contemporary Politics by Walter C. Oepello Jr. and Stephen J. Rosow is used in college courses from “Introduction to Comparative Politics” at the University of Virginia to “The Making of Modern Europe” at the University of Sussex in England.

The book takes a historical approach to trace the formation of specific forms of the state, from ancient Rome through the feudal, medieval and liberal states to the current managerial state.

The managerial state is the authors’ term for all the dominant nations of the present day. “It’s procedural,” Oepello said. “It’s about managing people and managing the political process in a way that doesn’t allow for too many surprises.”

Managerial states want every other form of political rule to become like them. They assume, Oepello said, that “the way we live is the way human beings were meant to live.” In the authors’ view, however, the democratic and capitalistic nation state is just one of many possible political constructions.

### New global developments

For the new edition, Oepello said, the two revised about 20 percent of the book, wrote the introductory chapter and added new sections. They also updated the case studies — one of which is Iraq — in light of developments since the 1999 edition.

One question driving their revisions was, “Are we in a transformative stage?” Oepello asks. “The managerial state is where we’re at,” he said, yet “we’re in a period where there are all these experiments going on. There is all this multiplicity.”

In their expanded final section, Rosow said, they examine current challenges to the state, such as economic globalization, global social movements made possible by new technologies, and the new possibility of “post-territorial war” where war can be waged by stateless groups such as al-Qaeda and nations cannot really protect their territory.

— Julie Harrison Blissert

### ‘Marvelous Adventures’ end Oct. 1

“Mad Sally’s Marvelous Adventures: Paintings by Joy Adams” is on view at Tyler Art Gallery this month. Adams will discuss her works at a lecture, sponsored by Artswego, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 102 of Tyler Hall. The exhibition will run through Oct. 1. New Tyler Art Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. weekends. Also currently showing is an American Indian Baskets exhibition.

— Julie Harrison Blissert

### Working session

Provost Susan Coutltrap-McQuin, center, meets with Provost’s Council last week. The group has formulated its priority initiatives for the year.

The group has formulated its priority initiatives for the year.
Business sense — Ed Barlow, president of Creating the Future Inc., visited campus during the recent Fall Classic fund-raiser for the Presidential Scholars program. In addition to addressing the Sithe kickoff luncheon, here he takes time to discuss the future at a special session with students, faculty and community business leaders. This year’s edition of the Fall Classic raised around $206,000 to support scholarships.

Science Today series under way

Bill Rule, associate professor of mathematics and physics, will give a Science Today lecture at 4:15 p.m. today in Room 305 of Park Hall. His lecture will be “Engineering on the Edge — A Look at the Columbia Space Shuttle.”

Rule earned an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the University of Waterloo in Ontario and graduate degrees in engineering mechanics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He spent three summers working at NASA/ Marshall Space Flight Center on space debris and other problems. Rule also worked for Jet Propulsion Laboratory on systems engineering problems for the International Space Station. In the next two weeks speakers will be Jeetley He- mes of the University of Rochester Medical School discussing “‘The Jose Makes the Doctor: Effects of Great Lakes Toxicans on the Brain and an Educa- tion” on Sept. 29 and William Hunt of North Carolina State University on “Training Environmental Statisti- cians” on Oct. 6.

Hunt, a well-known environmental statistician, is to visit SUNY Oswego from Oct. 4 to 8. His visit is sponsored by the mathematics department as well as Science Today. During his visit, he will help the mathematics department to develop a new interdisci- plinary course in environmental statistics.

Hunt is the former director of the U.S. Environ- mental Protection Agency’s Emissions, Monitoring and Analysis Division. Over the past 35 years, he has been in the forefront of advancing statistical practice in the analysis of environmental data. In 1999, Hunt was honored with the 26th Century Distinguished Service Award for Work in Environmental Statistics and Ecological Statistics at the ninth Lukacs Sympo- sium.

Future Science Today sessions will include Ann Bunch of Oswego’s anthropology department on “Forensic Anthropology” Oct. 20 and Paul Tomaskac of Oswego’s earth sciences department on “Lithium, from an Earth Science Perspective” Oct. 27. The final three lectures will feature faculty from the University of Rochester: Frank Wolfs explaining “‘The Physics of Flying” Nov. 5, Carmela Guzzone exploring “How Did the Largest Plateau on Earth Form?” Nov. 17 and John Frentinger addressing “Immune Responses to Tumors.”

Haiku deadline extended

The deadline has been extended to Oct. 8 for the second Hideo Haiku contest, honoring Hideo Taka- mine, who graduated from Oswego in 1877 and went on to found a teacher’s college in Japan. Haiku is the traditional Japanese poetry form written in 17 syllables. For the Hideo Haiku contest, poe- ms should make some reference to Oswego State. Contestants can enter at www.oswegoalumni. oswego.edu/haku.

Depression screening Oct. 6

Mental health professionals from the Counseling Services Center will offer information about depression and free screening as part of National Depres- sion Screening Day, Oct. 6. The program will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the formal lounge of Hewitt Union. Individuals will have the opportunity to discuss their screening questionnaire with a mental health professional.

Police report

Since Sept. 3, University Police have investigated several cases of theft and vandalism. They made nine arrests. Officers arrested three people, one a student, on charges of driving while intoxicated, driving with a blood alcohol context above .08, and various other offenses. Police arrested two women on charges of criminal trespass in Hart and Funnelle halls. Both out-of-state women were posing as SUNY Oswego students and soliciting for sales of magazines. Three charges of unlawful possession of alcohol by some- one under the age 21 were lodged against residents of Cayuga, Seneca and Uthera halls. Police charged a 20-year-old Onondaga Hall resident with unlawful possession of fireworks. He is accused of shooting off a bottle rocket in front of the building.

Announcements

Spotlight

Atia aims to prepare students for working world

This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Ashraf Atia, associate professor of marketing and management. He has been a faculty member since 1998.

What classes do you teach?

I teach “Consumer Behavior” and “Electronic Mar- keting.”

What is your educational background?

I got my doctorate in marketing from Old Domin- ion University. I mastered in economics there as well. I received my MBA from American University in Cairo. My bachelor’s in business is from the Univer- sity of Cairo.

What are your research interests?

I do my major research in two areas: cross-cultural marketing and sales management with a focus on sales training. My secondary area of research is e- commerce. I try to maintain an international view in my research.

What is your favorite part of teaching at Os- wego?

I’ve wanted to be a professor since I was doing my undergraduate work. I really like working with people, whether students, faculty or staff.

What is your impression of Oswego’s students?

I think they try to do their best and we as faculty have to work with them to make sure they get the most out of their time here. Most of my courses are Web-enhanced, so I’m trying to prepare them for the digital age.

What achievement are you most proud of?

I’ve received three best-speaker awards at national and international conferences. I’m really proud that this provides recognition for Oswego. I’m proud that I was part of the team that accomplished the AACSB accreditation for the School of Business. It was a lengthy process.

Do you have any hobbies?

I like to play soccer, sometimes basketball. I like to travel with my family. Making them happy is some- thing I really enjoy. I like to go shopping with my wife. It gets expensive, but it’s great experience for my “Consumer Behavior” class.

What can you tell us about your family?

My wife, Rana Fakhir, just finished her master’s in information management at Syracuse University. My oldest, Mohamed, is a fifth-grader, Hib is a fourth-grader and Omar is a first-grader. I have twin sons, Bilal and Khaled, who are 2 years old. I really believe that family responsi- bilities and job responsibilities have to be balanced. You need to be successful in both of them.