Grant to help Oswego continue study on children, PCBs

More than $900,000 in federal funding will help SUNY Oswego continue its landmark study on how an environmental toxicant affects growth and development.

The three-year grant from the Center for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will support a study that began in 1990 monitoring newborns who had prenatal exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Researchers will now be able to follow these subjects from about 13 to 15 years old, said Paul Stewart, director of the study through the college’s Center for Neurobehavioral Effects of Environmental Toxics.

“Children who have been exposed to high levels of PCBs have what we would call subtle behavioral deficits” mainly seen in limiting “their ability to inhibit their own behavior when appropriate,” Stewart said. In studies, children exposed to PCBs while in the womb tended to respond to stimuli impulsively, over-respond or respond to “non-targets,” he added.

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Honors Convocation, Quest get separate days

Honors Convocation next spring will move to Friday, April 15, with a 3:15 p.m. ceremony in Hewitt Union ballroom.

“Putting it near the weekend gives parents more opportunity to attend the ceremony,” said Susan Coultrap-McQuin, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

She added that giving the ceremony a day separate from Quest — the daylong symposium that spotlights scholarly and creative activity of students and faculty — allows more opportunity for the college to recognize honors students.

Pre-election events continue

The debates and voter registration drive may be over, but the march toward the 2004 election on Nov. 2 continues with issue-awareness events for the campus community.

NYPiRG, the Social Justice Club and the Student Association will sponsor a mock presidential debate, NYPIRG, the Social Justice Club and the Student Association will sponsor a mock presidential debate, featuring student representatives of six presidential candidates, at 7 p.m. Monday in Room 103 of Lanigan Hall.

“Turn the TV Off, Turn Democracy On,” from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Coffee Connection on Water Street in Oswego, will provide information on candidates for president, U.S. Senate, State Supreme Court and Congress.

“The idea is to have one discussion, a political discussion and a discussion of social issues,” said Kate Ivancicew of Oswego’s NYPiRG office.

Campus and community members are invited to attend both admission-free events.

PCBs accumulate

“This is no longer a fish-eating study,” Stewart said. “The most likely predictor of the amount of exposure was how old the mother is because you accumulate PCBs in several ways over a number of years.” He stressed that the relatively low exposure amounts mean the subjects are indistinguishable from how other children seem and act, as the differences are only apparent through well-regulated tests.

I research showed that eating Lake Ontario fish was still a risk, but only one of many sources of PCB exposure, Lonky said.

The grant represented a large portion of the money available through the awarding agency, showing how important reviewers considered Oswego’s project, Reihman said. Oswego will receive $285,867 the first year, $300,000 the second and $317,141 the third to pay for instructional support, research assistants, supplies and other needed expenses.

The results have been published in such journals as Neurotoxicology and Teratology, Neurotoxicology. See ‘PCB study wins funds,’ page 3

Discovering Oswego — David Jagoda and his son Adam, a senior at Nyack High School, talk with Glynn English of the School of Business during the recent Columbus Day Open House. With 308 families registered, and nearly 800 prospective students and family members touring campus, meeting faculty or attending presentations, this year’s edition was one of the most popular in the program’s history.

Whirling colors — Quetzalli: Ballet Folklorico de Veracruz will perform as part of the Artswego series at 7 p.m. Saturday at Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre. The Mexican dancers will also meet with students, provide a lecture/demonstration of their work and present a program for migrant workers during their residency in Oswego. For tickets to the main performance, call 312-2141.
People in action

Former SUNY Oswego Professor Anthony Crain presented a program at the Everson Museum on Oct. 13 consisting of masterpieces for the piano by 19th century composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk. The 45-minute program was one of a lunch hour series presented by the Syracuse Civic Morning Musicals.

Thomas Darvill, professor of psychology, has been appointed interim director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. He will serve in this position from now until a permanent director is named in summer 2006. Darvill has served as director of the Center for Neurobehavioral Effects of Environmental Toxics and has received almost $7 million in external funding (see story on page 1). As chair of the Scholarly and Creative Activities Committee and of the psychology department, “he has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the scholarly and creative activities of both faculty members and students,” said Susan Coultrap-McQueen, provost and vice president for academic affairs, who announced the appointment last week.

James Pagano of the chemistry department presented a paper titled “Identifi cation of a Source of Arocrol 1268 and Mirex to the Oswego River Area of Concern” at the 228th national meeting of the American Chemical Society held in August in Philadelphia. The research identifi ed high-chlorinated polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and Mirex in surficial and core sediment samples suggesting an active source of persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic contaminants to the Oswego River. The Oswego Harbor at the terminus of the Oswego River is one of the 43 “areas of concern” in the Great Lakes Basin identified by the International Joint Commission and has recently been proposed for delisting.

Paul B. Tomascak of the earth sciences department will present a paper at the 116th annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, to be held Nov. 7 to 10 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. Approximately 6,200 geoscientists are expected to attend. Tomascak will present “Petrogenesis of the Cross Lake Pegmatite Field, Central Manitoba.” He is co-author with Alan J. Anderson of St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia and Petr Cerny of the University of Manitoba.

Supplemental U.S. grant extends assessment study to Empire State

The Teacher Education Program Assessment Project that involves all SUNY institutions with teacher education programs has added Empire State College, thanks to a $21,600 grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The SUNY-wide assessment project, directed by Suzanne Weber of SUNY Oswego and John Porter and Hubert Keen of SUNY System Administration, is also funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

The new grant will enhance the program assessment system for Empire State’s new master’s of art in teaching degree. Empire State’s new teacher education program is designed especially to serve the interests of those who wish to change career directions and become teachers. Initiated this fall at several sites across the state, it uses the college’s strong online and mentor model of education.

The primary goals of the SUNY-wide project are to develop assessment instruments and data collection and analysis systems that permit the evaluation of programs through the preservation of candidate enrollments in the programs as well as graduates. This supplemental grant increases the total support provided by the U.S. Department of Education for this collaborative project to $704,369, about 40 percent of the total $1.7 million dollar cost of the project.

Award nominations due Monday

Nominations are being invited for the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Any member of the campus community may nominate a deserving person presently serving in a full-time professional service capacity whose assignment is more than 50 percent in professional non-teaching services.

Nominees must have completed three years of continuous full-time professional service (since August 2001) in the position for which they are nominated. The nomination should be in the form of a letter that briefly describes how the nominee performed superbly and demonstrated excellence.

Nomination letters may be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs, Room 711 of Culkin Hall, through 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28.

The process and deadline for the other Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence and appointments of distinguished professorships subject of countywide project

Rebecca Ryan, founder and president of Next Generation Consulting of Madison, Wis., will present the fi ndings of a recent study conducted to determine what Oswego County can do to attract and retain young professionals at a 7:45 breakfast Thursday, Oct. 28, in The Forum in Hewitt Union. There is no registration fee, but reservations are required.

Ryan’s firm has hosted a series of focus groups and interviews in the county over the past few months. Ryan will profile how the area scored in seven indexes that are considered important to young professionals: vitality, earning, learning, social capital, cost of lifestyle, after hours and around town.

The forum is part of a strategic planning initiative that the Workforce Development Board of Oswego County began in February. The Workforce Development Board, SUNY Oswego and Operation Oswego County will co-host the Oct. 28 forum.

Hosts for the program include Nancy Bellow, director of SUNY Oswego’s Center for Business and Community Development, and L. Michael Treadwell, executive director of Operation Oswego County, the county’s designated economic development agency.

To make a reservation, call 312-3492.

Sharing good works — Art Professor Richard Zakin signs a copy of his latest book, the third edition of Electric Kiln Ceramics: A Guide to Clays and Glazes, before presenting it to Mary Lee of Penfield Library for the college’s Display-to-Archives collection. The annual exhibition seeks books, scholarly material and documentation of creative works that members of the campus community have completed in the past year. The deadline to submit to this year’s Display-to-Archive collection is Oct. 30. An opening reception from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in the Lake Effect Café will celebrate the sharing of creative and scholarly work. All faculty and collection donors are welcome to attend the free reception, sponsored by Penfield Library, the President’s Office and United University Professions.

Art professor remakes book on kilns, ceramics

When the time came to create the third edition of his book Electric Kiln Ceramics: A Guide to Clays and Glazes, art professor Richard Zakin decided to fire up a whole new version.

Zakin said a pair of SUNY Oswego honor students, Ben Hance and Valerie Dielmann-Hance, offered professional work, he said. While the process hasn’t changed much since then, or since the second edition appeared in 1994, “I did not want to reuse the photos because they want fresh material,” Zakin said. Including new work also allowed him to showcase up-and-coming artists who represented the future of the field.

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Business enrollment rises one year after Rich Hall opens

SUNY Oswego’s enrollment in the School of Business has increased by 5 percent since Rich Hall opened a year ago. “We have experienced an increase in enrollment this semester, higher than expected,” said Paloma Jalite, assistant dean of the school.

The renovated building has provided state-of-the-art classrooms, a café and media lounge area.

Rich Hall originally opened in 1961 as the campus library. After Penfield Library was built in the 1960s, Rich Hall would serve as an office building, even housing the University Police Department. After an $8.4 million renovation by the SUNY Construction Fund, it became the home for the School of Business in 2003. The college also raised about $900,000 in private funding for technology and fixtures to make the building a state-of-the-art teaching facility.

“You feel like you’re actually in a professional building,” said Shannon Duffy, a freshman business administration major. “The money spent on Rich Hall was worth it.”

Jalite said the new building has promoted student and faculty interaction. Professors and students alike said they feel the new building provides a professional atmosphere and has improved learning. “The technology makes it easier to present information to students,” said Joan Carroll, a professor of accounting.

Rich Hall’s advanced technology classrooms, which students call smart rooms, are equipped with PCs, projectors and CD/DVD players. “The smart rooms in the classroom make it easier for teachers to teach and students to learn,” said Steve Lavoie, a senior majoring in accounting. “Students love the wireless laptop areas,” he added.

Duffy said, “It’s a lot easier to take notes in classes because of the projection board” and noted that “the teachers use a lot of PowerPoint presentations, which are easier to learn from.”

The freshman said she likes the new flat-screen TV in the lobby, where she regularly watches MSNBC “to keep up on politics, the stock market, and news around the world.”

Business, art come together in Rich Hall mural

In three weeks last summer, an art class in Tyler Hall conceptualized, designed, and painted a mural that has now been installed in the atrium area inside the entrance to Rich Hall, the School of Business.

The interdisciplinary collaboration between the art department on one side of campus and the School of Business on the other “represents what is really great about Oswego State,” Provost Susan Coultrap-McCue said at a brief ceremony marking the work’s installation earlier this month.

The mural also represents one of the finishing touches that is making Rich Hall a model of where the campus is headed in its renovations — “comfortable, beautiful, up-to-date learning spaces for our students,” she said.

Dean of Business Lanny Karns said the project started with a conversation with Helen Zakin, chair of the art department, and Dean of Arts and Sciences Sara Varhus. The School of Business in effect commissioned the mural, and Matthew Friday, assistant professor of art, dedicated his summer painting class to the project. The art students got the real-life learning experience of working together on deadline to deliver the finished work.

Mexican inspiration

Friday said that the murals of 20th century Mexican artist Diego Rivera inspired both the art students and business faculty as they undertook the project. The School of Business forged ties with Mexico through its Project Globalization.

“We’re really excited that we were able to create a public work of art that interacts with the environment and with other students,” Friday said.

The 10 students who worked on the mural were Stephen Brucker, Nathan Clark, William Thomas and faculty members. 

W. R. Grace COO to speak

An Oswego alumnus and successful leader of a multinational company will return to campus Monday to share his experiences with current students.

Fred Festa, a 1981 graduate and president and chief operating officer of W. R. Grace, will speak on “Leadership and What It Means” to three business classes. W. R. Grace is a specialty chemical company that offers innovative technologies and services to global markets.

Before joining W. R. Grace, Festa was a partner at Morgenthaler Private Equity for a year. Morgenthaler is an $850 million venture capital and buyout firm.

Festa’s leadership presentation will be to students in senior-level human resource management, applied financial management and international business classes. In addition, Festa will tour campus and meet with chemistry students and faculty members.

Author appearance — Sherman Alexie, author of the 2004 Oswego Reading Initiative selection The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven, talks to sophomore technical management major Ryan Pillsbury and freshman childhood education major Stephanie Burant at a book-signing during his recent campus appearance. The list of nominations for the 2005 ORI selection is down to five choices, with the campus community asked to help by voting online at www.oswego.edu/ori.

PCB study wins funds

Continued from page 1

Environmental Research and the National Institutes of Health’s Environmental Health Perspectives. Researchers have also presented at dozens of national and international conferences.

The investigating team—which includes Tom Darvill, Brooks Gump, Lonky, Reinhart and Stewart of the psychology department and Jim Pagano of the Environmental Research Center—has also been a model of interdisciplinary cooperation and an opportunity for everyone to learn, researchers said.

“A lot of this wouldn’t have been possible without both analytic assistance and PCB measurement from Jim Pagano,” Stewart said. “He taught me most of what I know about PCBs. His contributions are a core component of this work.”

Lonky added that Oswego’s supportive environment also helps the project succeed. “It all starts from a willingness from the beginning by the college to give us a laboratory, startup equipment and allow us the time necessary to pursue this important work,” he said.

— Tim Nekritz

Correction

A statement was misattributed in the Oct. 6 story about David C. Conrad’s book Sunjata: A West African Epic of the Mandé Peoples. Conrad said, “The publisher told me that they intended to keep the book in print for 40 to 50 years.”

— John Hong and Candice Berardi
Suny Oswego Conference Examines Knowledge in Global Media Age

Oswego will host a conference on “Interdisciplinarity: Cultures of Knowledge in a Global Media Age” from Friday to Sunday in Sheldon Hall’s ballroom. A grant through SUNY’s Conte on the Disciplines program supports the conference. The grant came to Oswego through the college’s Interdisciplinary Programs and Activities Center, directed by Stephanie Rosow.

Timothy Murray of Cornell University will deliver the keynote address at the dinner Friday evening. He is a professor of English and comparative literature as well as a director of the graduate program in him and video at Cornell. His books include “Utopia Trauma: Specters of Race and Sexuality in Performance, Vidéo, Art.”

The conference will focus on five subjects where contemporary knowledge overflows the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines. Five panels — each with a presenter, a chair and one or two commentators — will explore the questions that this “interdisciplinarity” raises.

Saturday’s presenters will be Timothy Luke of Virginia Polytechnic and State University on “What Is Information?,” Bennet Schaber of SUNY Oswego on “The Question of Language,” Charles Shepherdson of SUNY Albany on “Engineering Sex” and Michael Finnegan of Kansas State University on “The Forensic Vum.”

Sunday will feature a video, “After 911,” directed by James Der Dernan of Brown University’s Information, Technology, War and Peace Project. The chairs and commentators for the various sessions will come from the SUNY campuses at Binghamton, Buffalo and Oswego as well as Cornell and West Virginia universities.

“The conference is open to everyone, and we especially hope to attract faculty and students from Os- wego and surrounding SUNY schools,” Rosow said. “It looks like we’ll have a pretty good crowd and a good mix of students and faculty.”

The deadline to register was Tuesday. Rosow suggested that hopeful latemakers get in touch with him right away at 312-3236 or 312-3448. The College of Arts and Sciences covered the registration fee for Os- wego students and faculty.

For more information on the conference, see the Interdisciplinary Programs and Activities Center’s Web site: www.oswego.edu/~ipac/.

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Announcements

SEFA aims to increase participants

The SEFA/United Way campaign is now under way, with a theme “Step Up: You’re Needed More Than Ever Now!” Last year there were 161 donors, and this year the goal is to get at least a 10 percent increase, organizers said.

Activities are taking place to raise awareness about this year’s campaign. The highlights so far have included the President’s Breakfast on Oct. 7 and the United Way Walk-a-thon on Saturday. Coming up are the Culkin Dessert Bake Off on Friday, the Baskets of Caring competition, a baby photo contest, and a silent auction.

The Baskets of Caring will take place Nov. 16 and 17 in the main lounge at Hewitt Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. “It really benefits the campaign and is a re- ally fun event,” says Joanne Sivers, a member of the SEFA/United Way committee.

People can vote on a favorite Basket of Caring that a campus department, floor, or building has donated. For each dollar received, one vote will go towards the basket of choice. The team who created the basket with the most votes will receive a $100 gift certificate to wherever the team chooses.

Last year 26 baskets were donated and collected $2,086 towards the SEFA/United Way campaign.

“It creates a visible awareness and reminds people of their contribution,” says Howard Gordon, executive assistant to the president and also leader of the SEFA/United Way committee.

“We’re thankful for any contributions from anyone, whether it be helping make the baskets or contribut- ing,” he says. 

Candice Berardi

Jazz guitar festival returns Nov. 13

Intensive sessions for all levels of musicians, on- workshops and performances will highlight the fourth annual daylong SUNY Oswego Jazz Guitar Festival on Saturday, Nov. 13. The deadline for early-bird registration is Oct. 30.

The event will feature a master class with jazz guitarist Rodney Jones, concerts by the Jonathan Kreisberg Trio and Trio da Paz, and workshops and seminars for beginning to advanced students.

Cost of early-bird registration is $45 for adults, $25 for students and $10 for SUNY Oswego students. For more information, call 312-2141.

No flu vaccine available

Walker Health Center on campus will not have flu vaccine this fall, because of the nationwide shortage. Oswego County offers the latest information on local vaccine supplies at its vaccine hotline: 349-3545.

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Spotlight

Currier’s efforts register in student schedules

The Campus Update Spotlight shines on Caroline Currier this week. A keyboard specialist II in the Registrar’s Office, she has worked on campus since August 1989. Before joining that office in February 2003, her previous jobs included the Residence Life Registrar’s Office, she has worked on campus since August 1989. Before joining that office in February 2003, her previous jobs included the Residence Life

Q. How would you describe your job and re- sponsibilities?

A. I’m usually on the front line helping students with registration or transcript questions or answering phones. I process registration changes, transcripts, withdrawals and re-admissions. I also do a lot of behind-the-scenes data entry in Banner.

Q. What is your favorite part of working at Os- wego?

A. All the different types of people. I like getting to know the students and staff that I come into contact with.

Q. What is your impression of Oswego’s stu- dents?

A. It’s difficult to have one impression of such a varying group of people. But, their differences are a part of what makes working here so interesting. They are all good kids. I think they have good goals, and they try their best to work toward achieving them.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

A. I have a daughter, Rachel, who is almost nine, and a dog and a cat. We live between Minetto and Fulton. I also like to crochet, read and go for walks, and I am involved in church activities.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. I’m kind of a soccer mom. I spend a lot of time with my daughter. I also like to crochet, read and go for walks, and I am involved in church activities.

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