Children’s Study receives $800,000 grant from CDC agency

Four years of federal funding totaling $800,000 will help a SUNY Oswego team of researchers to continue its study of how exposure to environmental pollutants before birth influences behavior as children mature toward adulthood.

The four-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’ neural exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Paul Stewart, Jacqueline Reihman and Edward Lonky of Oswego’s psychology department will now follow their subjects from the age of about 15 to 18, through September 2011, and they will look at the effects of two additional pollutants — mercury and lead — both alone and combined with each other and PCBs.

Stewart directs the Oswego Children’s Study at SUNY Oswego’s Center for Neurobehavioral Effects of Environmental Toxics in Mahar Hall. “Jim Pagano (of the college’s chemistry department) did the PCB analysis for much of our study,” he added.

The team’s past work has shown that prenatal PCB exposure is associated with impaired impulse control. New data indicate that mercury and lead may produce the same effects and that exposure to all three toxicants has a cumulative effect, Stewart said. In the next four years of the study, the researchers will aim to confirm these findings.

They will also look for “real-world” effects of exposure to these substances, he said, including juvenile delinquency, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and impaired scholastic achievement.

The team will talk about the long-term study and the data it has amassed during College Hour on Nov. 13. Their presentation is scheduled for 12:45 p.m. in Room 214 of Mahar Hall.

“Of the things we will be doing at the College Hour talk is presenting a plan such that students and their faculty mentors can use our longitudinal data set as an archive for their own research projects,” Lonky said.

The Oswego study is extraordinary for its length and comprehensiveness, examining many variables beyond exposure to environmental toxicants, including geographic, sociological, economic and other factors.

“This work has brought national and international acclaim to our department and our institution,” said Karen Wootford, psychology department chair, noting that the team has published and presented its work nationally and internationally over the years.

— Julie Harrison Blissert

Oswego offers resources for undeclareds to make major decisions

Students who come to Oswego without declaring a major are not alone. It could be considered the largest major at the college, with about 525 undeclared students starting the fall.

But this figure represents one of the college’s strengths in reputation, said Kathy Evans, associate dean of students and director of the Student Advisement Center in the Compass.

“For many years, Oswego has been a place that is attractive to undeclared students because of the options we offer,” Evans said. “People know we’re a comprehensive institution that can help you find your path in education and in life.”

To better serve this large group, Christy Huynh has joined the Student Advisement Center to coordinate new and existing programs. These include a series of workshops, targeted to undeclareds but open to any student, that allow them to explore their strengths, interests and talents. A one-credit career exploration course and a special living and learning community are among the other tools now available.

“We acknowledge that students shouldn’t just jump into a major for the sake of having a major, but we encourage students to be more intentional and proactive about their decision making,” Huynh said. “We work with them on self-identification while providing support and services.”

In addition, two of the student navigators at the Compass are trained especially to work with undeclared students on self-assessment and creating resources, often high-tech. But a large focus is on empowering students to make their own decisions, and for the right reasons. “Ultimately it’s about ensuring our students are more confident about the choices they’re making,” Evans said.

Student-athletes Amy Carey, Joe Hall and Chris Laganiere were three of this fall’s more than 300 first-year undeclared majors. They found plenty of formal and informal avenues of support on campus.

“I have found the college supportive,” said Carey, who spent her first semester adjusting to classes, college life and playing field hockey. “I realized that I was making the right decision for me because I didn’t want to choose a major when I really was unsure what I was truly interested in.”

Hall and Laganiere, both men’s ice hockey players, are leaning toward wellness management.

Hall said he is “about 95 percent sure” of his choice. “The more research I do about it, the more I get interested,” said the freshman from Schaumburg, Ill. “I got a lot of good information from my teammates, just asking them what they’re taking.”

Laganiere started with General Education classes and consulted with teammates, teachers and Ryoko Sekiguchi, coordinator of the athletic department’s CHAMPS-Life Skills program.

“I’m glad they let me take my time,” said Laganiere, a Binghamton native. “People were very supportive, and even sent information about attending a seminar for picking a major.”

Stephanie Wasley has been through it. Now a senior sociology major, she came to Oswego unsure of her major.

School of Education to host re-accreditation examiners

SUNY Oswego’s School of Education will host a site visit for its re-accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education from Nov. 3 to 7.

A seven-member team of NCATE’s Board of Examiners will be on campus to review documents and exhibits, visit classes and conduct a series of focused interviews with students, alumni, faculty and the college’s preschool through high school partners.

The visit will include two open meetings for faculty and students who would like to take an active part in the re-accreditation process. The faculty session will take place at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, in the Sheldon Hall East Conference Room. The student session is slated for 11 a.m. Nov. 6 in the same room.

A consultant from the New York State Education Department will join the team for one day during the visit.

The many topics of discussion with members of the campus community will include assessment, diversity, instructional technology, collaboration, field placements, integrative learning, professional dispositions and program design.

Many faculty members in the School of Education, College of Arts and Sciences and School of Business will participate in focused sessions with the visiting accreditation team.

NCATE accreditation is the standard of excellence in teacher education. Oswego has been an accredited NCATE member since 2001.

Happy homecoming — SUNY Oswego alumnus Al Roker, host and weathercaster for NBC’s Today show, is surrounded by sign-waving fans as he broadcasts a live national segment from the Campus Center arena and convocation hall on Oct. 18. Millions of viewers across North America saw the college and its Campus Center spotlighted during Roker’s weather segments.

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• Take Back the Night march, page 2
First year abroad

“A growing number of colleges are offering semester- or year-long study abroad programs specifically for freshmen, billed as opportunities for students to start their college careers at Florida State, New York or Syracuse Universities — overseas. Only a handful of institutions offer the option, but with internationalization buzz words all over campuses these days, there seems to be growing interest in the model from the long-established leaders in study abroad and relative newcomers to the field alike.”


Second chance

“New York state officials are proposing a plan to put 12,000 potential high school dropouts in college classes. This plan, approved by the Board of Regents, would allow students to graduate from 12th grade even if they drop out of school after nine years. Studies conducted by Columbia University reveal that students who participated in programs like this were more likely to earn high school diplomas, make progress toward postsecondary education, and stay in college for more than one semester. Legislation for the program is not required; the department will ask for $100 million in funding, as well as seek money from private sources.”

— Edunews, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Oct. 25, 2007

More lost data

“Lost data from decentralized servers is a growing problem for colleges, according to the Campus Computing Project, an annual survey of how colleges use information technology. ... Of 55 college administrators surveyed over the last two months, 14.6 percent said their colleges had lost data that was not under the control of central IT services, up from 11.3 percent in 2006. The survey also found, among other things, that: Colleges reporting major computer viruses declined from 35.4 percent in 2005 to 14.8 percent this year. A new question revealed that 6.5 percent of colleges experienced a security breach because of employee malfeasance. The percentage of college reporting attacks on networks declined from 51.1 percent in 2005 to 45.6 percent this year. Three-fifths of college classrooms have wireless access, compared with half in 2006.”


Female faculty and the sciences

“Wednesday’s hearing of the House of Representatives Science Subcommittee on Research and Science Education focused on... the rep­resentation of women in academic engineering and science faculty positions, and several witnesses at Wednesday’s hearing explained in the model from the long-established leaders in study abroad and relative newcomers to the field alike.”


Promoting harmony — SUNY Oswego students spoke out against, and looked to prevent, violence by participating in the annual Take Back the Night march on Thursday. It was part of Take Back the Night Week activities sponsored by the college’s Women’s Center.

Robert Card, associate professor of philosophy, recently presented a paper titled “Conscientious Objection, Emergency Contraception, and Public Policy” at the Northwestern Philosophy Conference at Lewis & Clark College earlier this month. Card recently published an invited commentary on the same topic: “Yes, Drugs, and the Rocky Role of Livnengrund in the American Journal of Bioethics.”

Ana Djukic-Cocks, assistant professor of German, led a group of students to the German Studies-DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Weekend at Cornell University last month. The weekend conference focused on German midwives and featured a number of speakers from Germany and the United States. Oswego students participating were: Chelsea Katz, Georgie Keene, Kristoff Jaekc, David J. Ams­ten, Lawrence Glauser, Xian Vu and Kate Ritzko.

Djukic-Cocks served as German program chair for the annual conference of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, held Oct. 12 to 14 in Rochester. She and John Lalande II, professor of German, also delivered presentations. Djukic-Cocks spoke about the positive connections between the study of German theater and the development of German language proficiency, while Lalande spoke about the connections between selected successful extracurricular activities and the development of students’ linguistic and cultural proficiencies.

The peer-reviewed journal Astronomy and Astro­physics has accepted a paper by two Oswego faculty members for publication. Shashi Kanbur of the physics department, Ampatavanar Nanthakumar of the mathematics department and C. Ngeow of the University of Illinois are coauthors of “Testing the Non-Linearity of the BVlV/HKs Period-Luminosity Relations for the Large Magellanic Cloud Cepheids.”


Almost 30 migrant and English as a second lan­guage students from Oswego County middle and high schools on Oct. 8 engaged in a series of events that encouraged them to attend college at SUNY Oswego. “Discover College Day” included dining hall visits, presentations from Gary Morris of Career Services and Monica Soto-Granado of Admissions, dancing lessons from the student group El Ritmo, two class visits, a visit to the Tyler Art Gallery, and a presenta­tion titled “Cross Cultural Conversations,” which encouraged SUNY Oswego students and migrant and ESL students to express their thoughts on difficult and controversial immigration topics. The program involved collaboration of community members, students, faculty and staff. The planning group for the event included Paul Guetl of HOUSE Migrant Services; local ESL teachers Laura Stevens and Dh­ane Garafalo; Jean Ann of the college’s program in teaching English to speakers of other languages; Sus­an Santana, a senior TESOL major; and Amanda Wilson, an Americorps VISTA volunteer on campus. Several TESOL students volunteered their time to meet with the young visitors and talk about their ex­periences as college students.

SUNY Oswego and the Oswego YMCA continue their program partnership where professors give talks at the Y’s downtown Armory building, corner of West First and Ulica streets. Andy Nelson of Rice Creek Field Station spoke at Rice Creek to open the series. Gwen Kay of the history department followed with a talk on “Fort Ontario: Historical Context of the Refugees,” on the one-of-a-kind shelter in Oswego for nearly 1,000 European refugees — most of them Jewish — during World War II. Mark Cole, chair of the theatre department, will talk about this year’s theatre season and the department’s upcoming Nov. 8. Student actresses Ariel Marcus and Sara Weiler will read a short scene from Cole’s upcoming play “The Laist Cottn.” Gay Williams, the Oswego city attorney and a member of the School of Human­ness fac­ulty, will speak about estate planning on Nov. 20. The partnership began last year as an initiative to present programs of interest to community residents and strengthen college-community relationships.

Undeclared a popular major

Continued from page 1

her direction. Advised to start with as many General Education courses as possible, she took Sociology 100 and the field of study clicked with her.

“I didn’t even know what sociology was when I started,” she said. “I really liked the things we learned and that you could apply them to everyday life.”

Even then, her adviser told her to take more classes to be sure. “They didn’t want me to change my major six times,” she said. “Then I starting taking 200-level sociology courses, and it just kept getting better as I went up.”

She has gone from undecided freshman to deciding which graduate school to attend. “I’m going to get my master’s in sociology or criminology,” Watson said. “But I’m in a program that gears toward Ph.D.s, so that’s definitely on my radar.”

— Tim Nekritz
McNair program renewed with $924,000 from U.S. Education Department

The McNair Scholars Program at SUNY Oswego, a graduate preparation program, this month received federal funding of $231,000 per year for another four years, marking its first renewal since it was established in 2003.

“The ultimate goal for our McNair scholars is for everyone who participates to receive their terminal Ph.D.,” said Adri-anne Morton, Oswego’s McNair project director.

She said the number of scholars participating in Oswego’s program has grown, from 22 students to 26, and funding from the U.S. Department of Educa-tion has grown as well.

“The bulk of the money goes toward services for the students,” Morton said. “We use the money to increase support for those students who do not have the support, (for) visiting graduate schools, and so much more.”

The national Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Award Program was created to honor the memory of McNair, who earned his doctorate in physics and became the second African-American astronaut in space. He died on the Challenger space shuttle.

Students who participate in the program receive academic counseling and tutoring. Participants also receive financial aid assistance. McNair pays half the fee for students who take the Graduate Record Examinations for graduate school. McNair also pays for courses that are required on campus to complete their research project.

“McNair pays people under the perfect circum-stances where you feel as if you could do this — you could get that advance degree,” said one McNair scholar, Stephanie Wesley, a senior sociology major.

Winter storms may cancel classes

To find out if classes are canceled because of inclement weather, members of the campus community have several options: listen to television or radio, check with the front desk of the residence hall where they live, or call 312-3333, the SUNY Oswego Information Line.

The New York Alert system will provide a new op-tion. Students can sign up through my.Oswego, and soon employees will be able to sign up as well.

Among the 1V and radio stations making this college’s class cancellation announcements are TV Channels 3, 5, 9 and 10 in Syracuse, the WROO Sta-tions (FM 89.9 to 91.9 throughout Central and North-ern New York); WSYR AM 570 and WNY FM 94.5 in Syracuse; and WHAM 1180 in Rochester.

The public announcement of class cancellations only occurs when the entire campus of all students and faculty are affected. Faculty members wishing to cancel their own classes should follow the same procedure used when a student is ill.

Faculty teaching classes off campus should follow the weather closing policy governing the class site and inform students accordingly.

Under the state’s regulations, only the governor has the authority to close a state agency such as SUNY Oswego. Unless the governor closes the college, em-ployees who choose not to come to work or to leave work early are required to charge their time. The only exception is for instructional faculty when classes have been canceled.

Facility marshals wanted for December graduation

The Public Ceremonies Committee seeks faculty marshals to guide students and faculty colleagues during the December commencement ceremonies. This graduation, for those earning degrees at the end of the fall semester, will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, in Tyler Hall.

Anyone interested in volunteering as a marshal can contact Richard Bush, the committee’s marshal coordinator, at 312-3990 or at rbush@oswego.edu.

Trainees are provided, and caps and gowns are available for those who need them.

“We volunteers, as well as veterans, are welcome and encouraged to take part,” Bush said. “We very much thank all who have participated in the past and hope to have new faces join them this year.”

Senior theatre major Lucaya Luckey-Bethany will direct the college’s student honors production “The Trestle at Pope Rick Creek,” which will open Nov. 13 in Tyler Hall’s lab theatre.

But Luckey-Bethany’s own journey from a theatric-al family in Gardnerville, Nev., to directing a play on the shores of Lake Ontario is a story in itself.

“My family, especially my grandfather, was very involved in theatre,” she said. “My father was a prop master for Universal Studios for 30 years. When I was 5 years old, I told my mom I wanted to act.”

Luckey-Bethany was impressed by Oswego where her uncle attended.

“My father would tell stories of my Uncle Jimmy who attended SUNY Oswego,” she said. “The legend goes that he was an Army Ranger who returned from Vietnam but couldn’t afford an increase in costs to live in the residence halls, so he just set up a tent on campus. ‘I were all these pictures of my Uncle Jimmy camped out in four feet of snow, having the time of his life.’

While other colleges’ theatre programs wouldn’t let students work on a production until their senior year, Luckey-Bethany was impressed by Oswego’s

Student director has had storyworthy journey

Senior theatre major Lucaya Luckey-Bethany will direct the college’s student honors production "The Trestle at Pope Rick Creek," which will open Nov. 13 in Tyler Hall’s theatre. The Trestle at Pope Rick Creek, an uncompromising coming-of-age tale centering on Dalton (Mike Racicoppa) and Pace (Allison Kleber), is this year’s student honors theatre production. Directed by senior theatre major Lucaya Luckey-Bethany, the show will run Nov. 14 to 18 in Tyler Hall’s lab theatre.

The McNair program renewal, along with $924,000 from the U.S. Education Department, is an important milestone for the program, Morton said. "The McNair program prepares students who are the first in their families to attend college," she said. "With the additional funding, we can continue to support these students as they work toward their degrees."
**Announcements**

Oswego State Downtown slates grand opening exhibition today

Oswego State Downtown will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon cutting at 4 p.m. today and an opening reception for the gallery’s first, art exhibition — “Ready!” — from 5 to 7 p.m. The event is free of charge. Refreshments will be served.

Students from Jubin’s studio practice cur will showcase their work in the new space. They chose “Ready!” as a theme to reflect their preparedness for post-graduate life as well as their readiness for more connections between the college and downtown community, Jubin said.

SUNY Oswego has leased the main floor of the former bank building at the corner of West First and Bridge streets as a gallery and retail outlet selling college merchandise. The college’s Auxiliary Services began operating the site earlier this month (see Oct. 3 Campus Update).

“The work in this premier show has been thoughtfully selected to suit this specific gallery site, with a conscious eye towards our efforts to bridge the community with the campus,” said Michael John Sturdevant, one of Jubin’s students.

“Ready!” will be on exhibit at Oswego State Downtown, 130 W. First St., through Nov. 30. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday; and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Oswego State Downtown will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

**Library to forgive fines for aid**

Once again this year, giving non-perishable food items to support a local food pantry will provide forgiveness of fines at Penfield Library through Nov. 21. The annual food for fines activity, with all donations benefiting Oswego’s Human Concerns Food Pantry, offers forgiveness at $1 for most items, except name-brand noodles where four packages equal $1 of forgiven fines.

**Spotlight**

Woodruff enjoys keeping college environment safe

This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Officer Tom Woodruff, a University Police Officer 1 who was sworn into the campus police force since 1991.

Q. How would you describe your job and responsibilities? A. Maintaining the safety and security of the Oswego campus.

Q. What is your favorite part of working at Oswego? A. My favorite part of working here is probably the college environment — it’s more fun than what I’ve seen or heard of working in a city or municipality or for a sheriff’s department. It’s different, and I think I enjoy our campus environment more than I would working elsewhere.

Q. What is your impression of Oswego’s students? A. The students are quite industrious, but it’s really no different than it was in the mid-’80s when I was a student here. Many, many things are the same, but the main differences are the technology, both learning and non-learning.

Q. What is your educational background? A. I have an associate’s degree from Broome Community College in criminal justice and a bachelor’s in public justice from here.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of? A. Personally, I’m really proud of our bike patrol. I’ve been part of the bike patrol since it started in 1994, and it’s well-known and has a very good reputation around the state, where we train other departments.

Q. What can you tell us about your work with the Mike Payne Memorial Softball Tournament? A. I’m the organizer of the tournament in honor of a former U.P officer who passed away three years ago. It’s a tournament for emergency services personnel and all the money we raise goes directly to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for research. In the three years of the tournament, we’ve donated more than $11,000.

Q. What can you tell us about your family? A. I live with my wife Julie and our two dogs, Bailey and Kolby, just outside Oswego.

Q. Do you have any hobbies? A. Cycling, camping, photography, spending time with my wife and our dogs.

**Calendar highlights**

- Oswego State Downtown grand opening, Oct. 31
- “Futur” shot clinics for faculty, staff, Nov. 1 and 6
- Tyler Art Gallery opening, Nov. 2
- Men’s ice hockey vs. Plattsburgh (White Out), Nov. 2
- Faculty recital, Nov. 3
- College–Community Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble concert, Nov. 4
- Rice Creek Ramble, Nov. 10
- Latino Student Union dinner-dance, Nov. 10
- Veterans Day Open House, Nov. 12
- “Songs of the Spirit” concert, Nov. 13
- “The Trestle at Pope lick Creek” opens, Nov. 14

For a more complete calendar, see SUNY Oswego Events online at www.oswego.edu/news/calendar.

**Police report**

Since Oct. 12, University Police have investigated several cases of vandalism, graffiti, theft and harassment and made five arrests.

Police charged a Funnelle Hall resident with criminal mischief. He is accused of breaking a light fixture and making five arrests.

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Police charged a Funnelle Hall resident with criminal mischief. He is accused of breaking a light fixture and making five arrests.

**Walk for lupus set for Saturday**

A fundraiser to support people with lupus, a chronic inflammatory disease, will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Campus Center food court. Participants can register for the walk-a-thon (a $10 donation or $50 in pledges) and take part in other events until the walk begins at 10 a.m. The first 100 to arrive will receive sweatshirts.

**Songs of the Spirit**

Folk icon Odetta, described as the “Mother Goddess of Folk and Blues” by the New York Times, joins an international all-star lineup, “songs of the Spirit,” part of SUNY Oswego’s Arts Oswego series, at 8 p.m. Nov. 13 in St. Mary’s Church in Oswego. Call 312-2141 for reservations.