Quarter course to France, Benin proves popular

When developing Oswego’s first short study-abroad foray into Africa, curriculum and instruction faculty members Marcia Burrell and Barb Garii hoped they could convince at least eight students to join the quarter course to Paris and Benin. Instead, they reached the maximum of 15 — with a waiting list.

They were impressed with what attracted students to EDU 201/501 “Schooling, Pedagogy and Social Justice in Paris/Benin.” “When we first started talking about the class, we thought the draw would be Paris,” Garii recalled. “We’ve learned the draw is Benin.”

The course builds on the School of Education’s Project CLIMB (Collaborative Link for Instructor Mentoring in Benin) partnership, which evolved from Professor Alfred Frederick’s research as a Fulbright scholar and Fulbright senior specialist in Benin (see story, page 2). Frederick “has been phenomenal with his expertise, his help and his knowledge,” Garii said.

Burrell and Garii worked with Joshua McKeown in the Office of International Education and Programs to craft a hands-on experience comparing education in the United States, France and Benin. They structured an intellectual issues course, hoping to draw education majors as well as students in the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Business.

A developing country

The course immediately appealed to junior global studies and international studies major Jason DeMauro. “Because Benin is a developing country, I was very interested in how they use education to address labor, gender and other issues,” he said. “How do they address globalization and how that’s affecting their decisions to make themselves more attractive to investors or building a more attractive labor force?”

Such questions of education, culture, economics and geopolitics are hot discussion topics in the course, which first met Oct. 28 and combines classroom time with online discussions through Angel. The class will leave Jan. 5 for a week in Paris, followed by a week in Benin.

Students will teach American English to a range of classes in Versailles, France, and gain classroom experience in both public and international private schools in Benin. They will also work with Peace Corps volunteers in Benin and learn more about issues that developing nations face.

Senior business administration major Yves-Laure Medidor said he sees parallels between Benin and her home country of Haiti, where those who can afford private schools take this advantage over underfunded public schools. “The public schools are run by the government, and it’s not a good government, teachers don’t get paid,” Medidor explained.

School system evolves

She said she was first attracted to the course from a cultural standpoint, but has found the educational component increasingly interesting.

With Oswego’s input, Benin is engaging in massive education reforms, modernizing from a country where 80 percent of teachers were untrained. The new course joins an emerging field of solutions-based study abroad, McKeown noted.

“Oswego has identified solutions as one of its five strategic directions,” McKeown said. “We want our students not only to learn about the world, but to do what we can to expose students to some of the critically important global challenges and forces, as well as to do what we can to learn about ways to make changes and contribute to solutions to these problems on a global scale.”

Students appear unfazed that this will be no tourist jaunt. “I wanted to gain firsthand knowledge from their perspective,” said adolescence education master’s student Matt Williams. “I’m a firm believer that if you have an opportunity to travel and experience something different from your day-to-day life, you should. We’re going to carry this experience with us the rest of our lives.”

Burrell previously visited Benin for three weeks. She said she was amazed how, despite being a developing country, “people would give you the shirt off their backs” and remained upbeat in the face of what Westerners would consider challenging conditions.

See ‘Paris-Benin course,’ page 3

English professor to direct NEH institute on Yeats in Ireland

Edward O’Shea, professor of English, will direct a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Teachers on the eminent Irish poet William Butler Yeats next summer.

The NEH has awarded him a grant of $175,693 to run the four-week program in Ireland, which features a distinguished international faculty of Yeats scholars. It is one of just 12 NEH summer institutes for college faculty funded for 2008.

O’Shea has previously conducted six NEH summer seminars on Yeats for high school teachers. The 2008 program will be his first institute, a larger program aimed at fellow professors and focusing on the latest scholarship.

Titled “W.B. Yeats: A Reassessment,” the institute will draw on new resources available only in the last 20 years, such as new biographies of Yeats and his family and new editions of the poet’s vast writings, which include plays, criticism and letters in addition to poetry.

Distinguished faculty

Participants will study with eight Yeats scholars from the United States, Ireland, Canada and Great Britain. In addition to O’Shea, author of two books on Yeats, they are Daniel Albright of Harvard University, author of The Myth Against Myth: A Study of Yeats’s Imagination in Old Age; Brian Atkins of the National University of Ireland, Galway, author of a book on Greek and Roman themes in Yeats; Isolde Brown of Trinity College, Dublin, author of a critical biography of Yeats; Margaret Muhl Harper of Georgia State University, Atlanta, author of a book on the literary and spiritual collaboration of Yeats and his wife, William O’Donnell of the University of Memphis, editor of three volumes in the Collected Works of W.B. Yeats; James Pethica of Williams College who is writing the authorized biography of Yeats associated Lady Gregory; and Ann Saddlemeyer of the universities of Toronto and Victoria, author of the authorized biography of Yeats’ wife.

‘A sense of place is crucial for understanding Yeats, especially his ‘Tower’ poems.’ — Edward O’Shea

The institute will be based at the National University of Ireland, Galway, with one week at the Yeats International Summer School in Sligo and a weekend in Dublin to see a major exhibition at the National Library of Ireland called “W.B. Yeats, Works and Days.”

In addition, each week will include a field trip to relevant sites, such as Coole Park and Yeats’ tower, Thoor Ballylee. “We will read and discuss informally selected Yeatsian texts at each of these sites,” O’Shea said. “A sense of place is crucial for understanding Yeats, especially his ‘Tower’ poems.”

Twenty-five college and university faculty members will be competitively selected for the institute. They will each receive a stipend of $3,000 to cover basic expenses.

Complete information on the institute is available online at http://www.yeatsinstitute.org/.

— Julie Harrison Blissert

Inside:

• Frederick’s sixth Fulbright, page 2 • People in action, page 2 • Dean search update, page 2 • The Point, page 3 • NSF equipment grant, page 3 • Spotlight, page 4 • Calendar highlights, page 4
Board awards professor sixth Fulbright grant

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and its partners recently awarded Alfred Frederick, a professor of curriculum and instruction at Oswego, the sixth Fulbright grant of his career.

Frederick will spend six weeks next fall as a Fulbright senior specialist in education at the Université d’Abomey-Calavi in Benin. Since 1990, he has received three traditional Fulbright awards and three senior specialist grants to teach, conduct research and consult in Benin and Brazil.

His trip to Benin next fall will be his third in 2008, he said. He plans to travel to Benin in April, when the United States celebrates the 50th anniversary of the nation’s independence from France.

Under the Fulbright grant, Frederick’s hosts will be two units of the Université d’Abomey-Calavi, the teacher training school and the physical education and sports institute.

Frederick will conduct workshops for students and faculty there on curriculum development and evaluation, multicultural education, teaching methods, and assessing student performance.

The workshops will promote the effective implementation of the curriculum reform proposals that were the focus of Frederick’s first two stays in Benin under the Fulbright Scholar Program. He coordinated a research team that produced an evaluation of the schooling process in Benin.

Last year, Benin’s Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education published the result of that work, The Integration of Language, School and Community: Bridging the Gap Between Home and School (4 Pace adign for Monitoring, Assessing and Improving the Schooling Process), in both French and English. The book has been distributed to 7,500 teachers in Benin.

Frederick has attracted many educators to the cause of developing Benin’s educational system, both in that country and in the United States. At SUNY Oswego, Frederick has been a collaborator with several students, administrative offices and faculty members to Benin in 2006 and brought 10 school inspectors from Benin to Oswego for professional development last summer. The latest spin-off of his work is a study-abroad quarter course (see page 1).

Frederick’s credentials include having taught at the primary, secondary and university levels in English, French and Portuguese; having conducted research on culturally relevant teaching in the United States, Belgium, France, Brazil, Nigeria and Benin; and having published two books on his findings.

— Julie Harrison Bislett

People in action

Tyler Art Gallery will feature original student work in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition on display from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12. Participation in the exhibition fulfills graduation requirements for the BFA degree. Students have the option of the studio art or graphic design program. Participating artists include Venence Akissi, Steven Bisbikos, Rachel Borowski, Laura Brenon, Alisha Giona, Matt Hunt, Thomas J. Tucker, Jesticia Kostek, Jennifer Osganian, Robert Ramos, Sara Renfew, Luanne Redeye, Dan Truax, Maggie Vesico and Jenilee Ward. Conversely, Kacie Haynes will conclude her master of arts program with a thesis exhibition, a requirement for the degree. Haynes will present more recent design techniques for her exhibition. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. weekends.

“I’m very excited to have students present their work and share their experiences,” said Frederick.

Announcements

Finalists for dean to be named

Finalist candidates for the position of dean of the School of Business will be determined shortly, and tentative dates for campus interviews are being set for the last week of November and the first week of December.

“The search committee is making great progress,” said Yvonne Petrella, director of continuing education and administrative liaison to the search committee. Tentative dates for up to four candidates are Nov. 27 and 28, Nov. 29 and 30, Dec. 3 and 4, and Dec. 5 and 6, she said.

Open sessions will be listed in the college’s online calendar, http://www.oswego.edu/news/calendar.

Basket hits highlight SEFA campaign

The campus State Employees Federated Appeal/United Way campaign has now reached, with 14 days left, one of the highest number of donors whose generosity can support more than 350 participating charitable agencies.

In addition to personal donations, one of the campaign’s major fundraisers — Baskets of Caring — takes place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Thursday in the Campus Center upper concourse near the arena.

Employees from various buildings and floors create themed gift baskets that people can vote for via a $1 donation. Those who vote for a basket have a chance to win it.

Donations will take place at 3 p.m. Thursday, though one need not be present to win.

Trustees schedule meeting

The board of trustees of the State University of New York will hold a public hearing Nov. 27 in conjunction with the November month of trustees meetings in Albany. It will be held at 3 p.m. in the Federal Court Room on the third floor of the State University Plaza in Albany.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony and statements from concerned individuals about university-wide issues.

People wishing to present prepared testimony are asked to get a letter to John J. O’Connor, vice chancellor, and secretary of the university, State University Plaza, Albany, N.Y. 12246, no later than noon on Monday, Nov. 19. Letters should identify the subject of testimony and provide a telephone number and an address. Such testimony will be limited to five minutes, and the speakers are asked to provide six copies of their written testimony on the day of the hearing.

People who wish to make extemporaneous comments of no more than three minutes are asked to name their names with the hearing registration officer on the day of the hearing.
Student organizations get The Point, new space in Campus Center

Oswego’s student organizations have a new place to call home. Room 101 in the Campus Center, named The Point, is the new hub for the Student Association, many clubs and organizations.

“The Point contains SA clubs and organizations, the senate, judicial branch, executive branch, easy access and is a gathering place for most meetings,” said Christina Ballesteros, SA director of communications. “It’s a bigger space, with greater student involvement, more passion as well as compassion.”

The increased reliability of new state-of-the-art three brand-new machines in all.

Fredonia collaboratively applied for, and received, NSF grant to support environmental research

A National Science Foundation grant will bring two new high-tech instruments to campus for work research and use will allow many more students to gain experience will be continued on a deeper level,” Williams added.

“Point’ work — Senior psychology major Durrell Queen of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and senior public relations major Amanda Rosa, president of the Latino Student Union, talk last week at The Point, the new student organizations space in the Campus Center.

Oswego and SUNY Fredonia collaboratively applied for, and received, three brand-new machines in all.

The increased reliability of new state-of-the-art equipment — Oswego’s existing machines are 12 years old — and greater sensitivity are key to work on measuring and tracking bioaccumulated, persistent and toxic chemicals that collect in wildlife, and in human who consume those animals, and that potentially harm an ecosystem, Pagano explained.

“The awareness of these kinds of chemicals in the environment is critical, so we don’t make the same mistakes.” — Jim Pagano

“Most of what this lab does is track legacy pollutants, used in the 1960s and 1970s but since banned, but persistent in that they stick around a long time,” Pagano said. There are newer, emerging chemicals of the past 15 years, though many of them are tested more before use, but there are hundreds in all worth tracking for their prevalence and effects, he added.

“The process pollution of the 1960s is not there any more, but the effects are much more subtle,” Pagano said. “We’re making progress, there’s no doubt about it, but we have to keep working. The awareness of these kinds of chemicals in the environment is critical, so we don’t make the same mistakes.”

The gas chromatographs will support the ongoing Great Lakes Fish Monitoring Program, a collaboration with Clarkson University and Fredonia measuring chemicals in fish, with an eye toward effects on their hosts and humans who eat them. The far-reaching project, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, involves analyzing fish tissue samples for more than 30 contaminants.

More precision, accuracy

Because the newer gas chromatographs have greater sensitivity, “you can sense chemicals in the environment at a lower concentration,” he noted. “Having the newer software and computers will allow us to integrate data better and faster. We will be able to do things at a higher level of precision and accuracy.”

A main thrust of the grant involves ensuring undergraduate students have the opportunity to use the new equipment, something Pagano said the college has long made a priority.

“Students are an important part of what we do,” Pagano said. “We’ve had undergraduate environmental fellowships since the early ’90s that allow students to really understand what’s going on. They learn that by preparing a sample is quite an involved process, and they learn to be dedicated and focused.”

Many students work with researchers for a couple years and gain experience that can help them with graduate school or into an environmental career. “The end projects for students can be manuscripts with other authors and presentations at conferences, which really give a boost to further work in the field,” he said.

The old gas chromatographs will not go to waste, either. Freeing up this equipment from constant project use will allow many more students to gain experience with them and better understand the research process, Pagano said.

— Tim Nekritz

NSF grant to support environmental research

NSF grant to support environmental research

‘Point’ work — Senior psychology major Durrell Queen of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and senior public relations major Amanda Rosa, president of the Latino Student Union, talk last week at The Point, the new student organizations space in the Campus Center.

Announcements

‘Sing! Sing! Sing!’ Nov. 18

Ecclectic music from around the world will infuse the music department concert “Sing! Sing! Sing!” at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at St. Paul’s Church, 30 E. Mohawk St. in Oswego. The College Choir, State Singers and students from music classes will present a varied program.

A group of percussionists from a new “African Music in the Americas” course will accompany the College Choir on an African piece sung in Zulu and a Calypso selection from Puerto Rico, sung in Spanish. The choir’s other works will include a part song by Johannes Brahms, an African-American spiritual and an American folk song by Kirke Mechem.

The State Singers will perform a South American piece and an African piece created by American composer Joan Smyranko.

The State Singers also will sing several Victorian part songs and parlour songs by composers such as Amy Beach, Charles Vitters Stanford, Carl Marie von Weber, Hubert Hummel and others. The Victorian pieces will be featured again in the theatre department production of "A Glass Coffin" Dec. 2 in Waterman Theatre.

“Sing! Sing! Sing!” will also feature emeritus Professor Leon Carapetyan and pianist Rebecca Horning.

Paris-Benin course

Continued from page 1

Participating students plan to speak during Quest or College Hour in the spring. “I’d be happy to share my experience, maybe create that spark in somebody else,” DeMauro said.

“We can hopefully show the campus community this was an incredible, rewarding experience that can be continued on a deeper level,” Williams added.

— Tim Nekritz

Christopher Hill

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Residents get more parking

The Parking Committee has re-designated Lot 17 off Centennial Drive north of Poucher Hall for resi-
dent students. The lot was formerly designated for employees.

The re-designation was made to provide sufficient parking for resident students on the lakefront who
required additional parking spaces due to the re-
opening of Riggs Hall and the increased number of resident students living in that area,” University Po-
lice Chief Cindy Adam said.

Motorists who park there inappropriately will be
warned until Monday, when tickets will be issued, she
said.

Lakefront resident students are encouraged to park in
Lots 3, 4, 23R and, now, 17. “Resident students are
reminded not to drive to class to but to use the shuttle
service or to walk to the academic areas of campus,” Adam added.

Sweet Honey in the Rock to sing

This Grammy-winning gospel-flavored Sweet Hon-
ey in the Rock will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Hewitt Union ballroom.
The all-woman a cappella ensemble combines the sounds of traditional gospel hymns, blues spirituals,
race, reggae, African chants, hip hop, lullabies and
jazz improvisation. It mixes the sacred music of the black church with songs of struggle for justice.

Spotlight

Teaching, conducting, performing strike right notes for La Manna

Q. What classes do you teach?
A. In the fall, I teach a big music appreciation class for freshmen. In the spring, I usually teach classes
such as conducting or orchestration. I teach the College-Community Orchestra, and I teach private
piano classes.

Q. What is your educational background?
A. I earned my bachelor’s and master’s degrees
from Indiana University. I worked for 10 years, then
I got my doctorate from the University of Missouri at
Kansas City.

Q. What are your research interests?
A. I’ve always had a passion for ethnomusicology,
especially Eastern European and Indonesian music.
Through a dear friend, I got involved in the college’s Cuba program through the Office of Interna-
tional Education and Programs. I’ve been going down to Cuba regularly to act as a liaison with the students.
When I had my sabbatical, I did some research there
that led to a new class I teach with Eric Schmitz titled
“Cuban Music in the Americas.” I want to continue studying in that field — I’m especially attracted to
to musical mixtures of all kinds, and the Americas are
where all kinds of great music came together.

Q. What is your favorite part of teaching at Os-
wego?
A. It’s a combination of many different things. I
love to conduct the orchestra. I also love teaching music appreciation to freshmen. I love giving recitals
when I have the time. As a person, I don’t like doing
any one thing. I like doing many different things.

Q. Can you tell us about other musical activi-
ties?
A. When I came to Oswego, the late Jim Soluri
asked me to conduct the Oswego Opera Theatre. When he became a fixation to music, I asked him to take over as artistic
director. It has been rewarding but challenging be-
cause it involves functions like administration and
fundraising I’d never done before.

I’m also the conductor for the Miami City Ballet.
This is an exciting season because we are doing a
world premiere of a ballet by Twyla Tharp with mu-
sic by Elvis Costello in March. When the New York Times did a spread of what was happening in dance,
this piece was right at the top.

Sweet Honey’s Oswego appearance is presented by
SUNY Oswego’s Artswego Performing Arts Series
and Student Association Programming Board, with
additional support from the college’s Office of In-
ternational Education and Programs. Support comes
from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation’s American
Masterpieces Artistry and Influence Tour.
The SUNY Oswego Gospel Choir will make a spe-
cial appearance for the evening.

For tickets — $15 ($12 for seniors and students, $7
for SUNY Oswego students) — contact Tyler box of-
ifice at 312-2141 or tickets@oswego.edu.

Concert Band to present ‘Solace and Wonder’ of wind music

The SUNY Oswego Concert Band, directed by Trevor Jorgensen, will perform a variety of wind
music invoking “Solace and Wonder” at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre.
The program will include John Philip Sousa’s “Eas-
ter Monday on the White House Lawn,” Franz von
Suppe’s “Poet and Peasant Overture,” Gustav Holst’s
“In the Bleak Midwinter” and First Suite in E flat,
Ralph Vaughn Williams’ “Sea Songs,” David Hobling-
er’s “On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss,” Eric Whitacre’s
“October” and Frank Ticheli’s “Sanctuary.”

Admission is a suggested $5 donation, benefiting
the SUNY Oswego Music Department Excellence
Fund. SUNY Oswego students are admitted free.

Children invited to audition

The theatre department will host an open audition for children ages 7 to 10 for the spring production of
Henry Jr. Bogen Jr.’s “A Doll’s House.” Audition slots may be reserved by e-mailing director Kevin Kennison at
kennison@oswego.edu. Today is the deadline.

Three outgoing, energetic, focused children are
needed. The audition, from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday in
Tyler Hall’s lab theatre, will consist of theatre
games, improvisation and/or storytelling.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or
guardian at the audition, but parents do not have to be
present for rehearsals or performances. A child wan-
grant will be in charge of the children during rehears-
als and performances.

Kennison, a visiting professor of theatre from New
York City, is a 1982 graduate of Oswego. He has
spent his career as a producer, director, independent
casting director and acting teacher. He has cast for
Broadway, national and international tours including
“The Lion King,” film and television.

Police report

Since Oct. 26, University Police have investigated
several cases of vandalism, graffiti and theft and
made six arrests. Officers arrested a 30-year-old Martville man on
charges of driving while intoxicated, operating a
motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08
or above and operating a motor vehicle without a
license.

A 21-year-old Seneca Hall resident was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated, operat-
ing a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content of
.08 or above.

Police charged four 19-year-old Seneca Hall resi-
dents with disorderly conduct. They are accused of
urinating on another resident’s vehicle.

Calendar highlights

• Flu shot clinic for students, Nov. 14
• “The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek” opens, Nov. 14
• Baskets of Caring SEFA fundraiser, Nov. 14 and
15
• Concert Band concert, Nov. 16
• Rice Creek Ramble, Nov. 17
• “Sing! Sing! Sing!” concert, Nov. 18
• Thanksgiving recess, Nov. 21 to 25

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