Biggest Quest to date to fill Campus Center

Oswego can expect the biggest and most diverse Quest yet, with around 180 contributions marking the college’s annual daylong symposium of scholarly and creative activities by faculty, staff and students on Wednesday, April 23.

This year’s Quest also will be more centralized in location, with sessions expected to unfold throughout the Campus Center, said Jack Gelfand, Oswego’s director of research and development.

“We really value the experience of students working with faculty members in various intellectual and creative activities that go beyond the classroom,” Gelfand said. “For an individual student to be able to give a talk about a research project is very exciting and could be a highlight of their time in college.”

Gelfand has also encouraged strong faculty representation at Quest and has been pleased with the results. “I clearly see it serves as a venue for the faculty to make presentations and have discussions on topics that are of interest to them,” he noted. “They get very excited to be able to do the kinds of things they can at Quest.”

Of the 180 sessions, around 160 of them are talks, highlighted by keynote speaker Bruce Altschuler of Oswego’s political science department discussing “Isn’t There a Better Way to Pick Our President?” at 1 p.m. in the Campus Center auditorium (see accompanying story).

The overall diversity of sessions should be a strength this year, Gelfand noted. Discussions from the world of science, a School of Business symposium and presentations on education are complemented by performances and interactive events.

“We made a very specific effort to encourage people to present activities that go beyond talks and beyond topics we usually have,” Gelfand said. “We have a lot more presenters from the humanities and the arts than we’ve usually had for Quest.”

An example is a morning of film presentations in the Campus Center auditorium. Participants will include students working with faculty members Julia Offen of anthropology, Cynthia Clabough in the art department and Amy Shore of cinema and screen studies. The auditorium will host musical presentations in the afternoon.

“We’ve encouraged interesting visual and musical activities as part of Quest,” Gelfand said. “Those are important intellectual activities we have on campus and they also increase the festive nature of the event.”

Another topical feature will involve around 25 students performing and displaying posters drawing parallels between protests during the Vietnam and Iraq wars, organized by student Casey Accordino.

Gelfand said he envisions people walking through the Campus Center on Quest day to see presenters in classrooms, poster presentations lining the halls and artwork on display. As he spoke, a small group of students in the next room worked on the complex task of finalizing the schedule, forsking part of their spring break to pull together the day’s activities. “They have been doing a great job,” Gelfand said.

Daytime classes make way for Quest, with students urged to attend a variety of events to learn more about subjects of interest as well as what their colleagues are doing.

The full schedule is expected to be available by Monday on the Quest Web site, www.oswego.edu/quest.

— Tim Nekritz

Study: College has $326.3 million impact in CNY

An update of last year’s economic impact study shows that SUNY Oswego had an economic impact of $326.3 million last year on the seven-county Central New York region and injected $169.4 million into the Oswego County economy last year.

“Prospering Together: 2006-07” goes beyond dollars to detail many of the effects the college has on the neighboring area in terms of economic development, educational and civic support, and cultural enrichment.

“We are proud to play a leading part in the Central New York community and look forward to increasing cooperative efforts that will further spur its development and prosperity,” SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley said in the report.

Stanley took copies of the newly published report to Albany the week before spring break to share as she met with elected representatives and their staffs as the Legislature and governor entered the final days of budget negotiations.

The college’s study notes that the campus had 1,760 full-time-equivalent employees last year, making it the top employer in the county and one of the largest in Central New York, with a payroll of $86.5 million. The spending of the college and its students, faculty and staff created an additional 2,881 jobs in Oswego County plus another 2,134 jobs in six neighboring counties — Onondaga, Cayuga, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Madison, the study found.

The report cites other ways SUNY Oswego benefits the economy, such as its Small Business Development Center and programs for entrepreneurs, businesses’ employees, and individuals seeking career advancement.

The college adds to the quality of life in the area educationally and culturally and enhances the area through the research and volunteer activities of its faculty, staff and students. Among such items mentioned in the report are Project SMART’s partnership to improve teaching in public schools; the dozens of art exhibitions, concerts and plays available for community people to attend; WRVO, one of the top public radio stations in the country by ratings; research to improve lake-effect storm forecasting; the college-based Retired Senior Volunteer Program; and faculty leadership in community organizations.

— Tim Nekritz

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Another boom turns to bust

A new national report projecting the size of high school graduating classes through 2022 finds that the rapid, sustained growth of graduates that began in the early 1990s ends this year, in 2007-8. A long-anticipated period of moderate declines in the number of graduates—traditional-aged college applicants—is soon to set in, which could increase competition among colleges and intensify financial pressures on tuition-dependent institutions. . . . But the report also projects enrollment patterns that are distinctly regional and, in some cases, state-specific. . . . Generally speaking, the report projects growth among non-white graduates, especially Hispanics, as the number of white multipurpose students shrinks. . . . At the same time, the number of graduates — and traditional-aged college students — will also peak this year at just over 3 million before beginning a rapid, sustained growth of graduates that began in the early 1990s and encompasses the number of graduates since 1996. . . . A new national report projecting the size of high school graduating classes through 2022 finds that the rapid, sustained growth of graduates that began in the early 1990s ends this year, in 2007-8. A long-anticipated period of moderate declines in the number of graduates—traditional-aged college applicants—is soon to set in, which could increase competition among colleges and intensify financial pressures on tuition-dependent institutions. . . . But the report also projects enrollment patterns that are distinctly regional and, in some cases, state-specific. . . . Generally speaking, the report projects growth among non-white graduates, especially Hispanics, as the number of white multipurpose students shrinks. . . . At the same time, the number of graduates — and traditional-aged college students — will also peak this year at just over 3 million before beginning a rapid, sustained growth of graduates that began in the early 1990s and encompasses the number of graduates since 1996.
Sociology professor’s new book draws lessons from ‘Simpsons’

Tim Delaney is using the world’s most popular animated dysfunctional family to impart lessons on sociology, philosophy, psychology and popular culture with the Presbyterian Book’s publication of Simpsonology: There’s a Little Bit of Springfield in All of Us.

Readers, even if they aren’t fans of the show, should find the book “entertaining and informative,” said Delaney, who teaches sociology at Oswego.

“From an academic standpoint, readers are going to learn about a lot of serious issues,” he said. “They will learn about feminism in the gender character, the sociological condition of race and ethnicity, and the value of strong family ties. They’ll even learn about things like the actual origins of April Fool’s Day.”

While critics have found some of the humor crude, Delaney describes the show’s writers as “equal opportunity offenders” that will poke fun at Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals, religion and atheists — and just about everyone else. Because it’s a cartoon, “The Simpsons” can explore taboos and present situations live-action shows couldn’t, he added.

The show’s universal themes also translate into many cultures, as Delaney has found the program in every country where he has traveled, including being very popular in Russia.

“I think part of the reason the show has stood the test of time is that it’s just funny,” Delaney said, and the show has 23 Emmy awards to back that claim. “There are these classic one-liners that stand the test of time. There is a lot of clever writing, some of which goes over people’s heads.”

And ultimately, the plot tends to affirm the importance of family — and “The Simpsons” is a throwback sitcom with “a breadwinning father, a stay-at-home mother, and dependent children living at home, which is an ever-smaller percentage of American households,” Delaney said. “To many viewers, the Simpsons may be dysfunctional, but they are the model family under the old ideal family construct.”

— Tim Nekritz

Arts announcements

SUNY Oswego’s musical talent showcased at ‘Collage’ fundraiser

Students and faculty from the music department will participate as featured artists of archetypal characters — bumbling dad Homer, efficient mom Marge, bratty son Bart, brainy daughter Lisa and silent baby Maggie. Throw in other Springfield residents ranging from incompetent police Chief Wiggum, slyly Krusty the Clown, Homer’s evil boss Mr. Burns, Asian Kwik-E-Mart owner Apu, pious neighbor Ned Flanders and others — including celebrity guest voices — and writers have many different ways to explore (often skewer) popular culture, politics and society at large.

While Delaney’s previous books include Seinology: The Sociology of Seinfeld, he noted that Simpsonology is a different piece, and not just because it focuses on another iconic show.

“Seinology was more explicit, focusing on the bases of sociology, while Simpsonology offers more of a multidisciplinary approach,” Delaney explained.

Chapters focus on such topics as American culture, community, love and marriage, gender roles, religion, politics, education and physical and mental health.

Delaney draws from the show’s first 400 episodes, providing examples designed to introduce concepts in understandable — and often humorous — ways. (He subtitles every chapter with quotes like Homer’s “Our marriage is like soft serve ice cream and trust is the hard chocolate shell that keeps it from melting over our carpet.”)

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— Tim Nekritz

Balinese orchestra to conclude Ke-Nekt chamber series season

Gamelan Lila Muni will present the sound of Balinese orchestra to conclude the annual “Collage” concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre.

Music will encompass classical, jazz and show tunes performed by College-Community Orchestra, College Choir, Concert Band, Oswego Jazz Project, State Singers, Jazz Ensemble and Recorder Consort. The annual fast-paced show features “a series of spotlight pieces moving from one performance to another so that the effect is an integrated program of music,” said music faculty member Rob Auler, who coordinates the performance.

Student soloists will include pianists Tamar Greene, Tim Lanigan and Wojciech Milewski; trombonist Jonel Langenfeld-Rial of the theater department and Brad Korshmeyer of English and creative writing.

Master’s students exhibit jointly in college gallery’s ‘RGB’ art show

Tyler Art Gallery will feature work from three graduate students in “RGB: Master of Arts Thesis Exhibition,” opening with a free public reception 6 to 8 p.m. Friday. The exhibition will include pieces by Roey Bann, Gail Bering-Porter and Brian Schwartz. “RGB” stands for both the first letter of the artists’ first names and for “red-green-blue,” the term used to describe color on a computer monitor. They use an array of multimedia to produce graphic design creations.

For the exhibition, Bann has decided to focus on how photography communicates to the audience. “I hope my art will reveal the value of photography as a tool for graphic design as well as an independent tool for communication,” Bann said.

Bering-Porter used cloth as a medium in creating art and found that the process of creation is much the same with graphic design. “Regardless of medium — cloth, wood, paint, computer, film, clay — all endeavor to give form to thought and to make ideas visible,” she said.

Schwartz’s work carries a narrative thread on life’s moments that are good and bad. “Life is a journey through winding roads, some bright and pleasant and some dark and disturbing,” Schwartz said.

The exhibition will run concurrently with the 45th annual Juried Student Art Exhibition through April 27. Tyler Art Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. weekends. For additional information, call 312-2113.
Announcements

Oswego noted in U.S. News’ latest U.S. News and World Report on Friday released its list of best graduate schools. Oswego made the business school list, though it was unranked.

Albany and Buffalo were the only other SUNY campuses on the list, and they were unranked as well.

Submissions due by April 30 for Display-to-Archives Program

April 30 is the date by which faculty and staff works must be received to be in the next Display-to-Archives Program display in Penfield Library’s lobby.

Faculty share their latest scholarly or creative work with the campus community through the program, which collects and promotes access to their work.

Faculty and staff are invited to donate copies of their published professional work or material such as programs and news related to recitals, exhibitions or theatre productions.

The displays in the entrance lobby of Penfield are changed twice a year, after the two annual submission deadlines: April 30 and Oct. 31. Donated materials become part of the library’s permanent collection.

Faculty and staff should send their material to Elizabeth Young, or to their designated liaison in Penfield Library.

Police host seminar on campus

Oswego’s University Police along with the Middle Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network hosted a two-day seminar on patrol interdiction on campus during spring break.

Officers from agencies throughout Oswego, Onondaga, Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Livingston counties as well as officers from SUNY Oswego, New York State Police, Park Police and Department of Environmental Conservation Police attended.

Master Trooper Michael Connor of the Maryland State Police taught the session in the Campus Center auditorium. It included identification of suspect vehicles, roadside interviews, hidden compartments, legal aspects and officer safety.

Oswego and Fulton Police, the Oswego County Sheriff’s Department and the U.S. Attorney’s Office assisted in sponsoring the event.

College has CLAS

SUNY Oswego’s largest academic division, formed by合并 of the College of Arts and Sciences, is now the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, President Deborah F. Stanley announced last week.

“The new name is one result of the visioning process that [Interim Dean Rhonda] Manda began with faculty members in the past year and acknowledges the change in the college’s composition with the recent creation of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts,” Stanley said in a memo to the campus community.

The college has six academic departments that offer more than 40 undergraduate and four graduate degree programs. “The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences remains central to our identity as a comprehensive university college,” Stanley said.

Fort Ontario refugee to speak

Doris Schechter, who came to Oswego’s Fort Ontario as a child refugee during World War II, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Campus Center auditorium, Room 118.

Part of Jewish Awareness Week at the college, her talk will be free and open to the public.

Schechter became the founder of a famous kosher restaurant in the heart of Broadway’s theatre district and author of two cookbooks.

She then Dorrit Blumenkranz was only a baby when she fled from the Nazis from her home in Vienna. She lived in Italy with her family until they were chosen, among 982 refugees, to come to America on the Army troop transport ship Henry Gibbons, led by Ruth Gruber. They found a “safe haven” in Oswego.

Her appearance in Oswego is sponsored by the college’s Jewish Student Union/Hillel in cooperation with the SUNY Oswego Student Association.

Quest speaker

Continued from page 1 development and coordinator of Quest, said Autschul will share stories from other races and put the issue into perspective.

“Every day that goes by, the topic becomes more relevant, especially with the Michigan and Florida primaries being up in the air,” Gelfand said.

Autschul’s influential books include Keeping a Finger on the Public Pulse: Private Polling and Presidential Elections, LBI and the Polls Running in Place: A Campaign Journal. He also coauthored, with Celisa Sgroi of Oswego’s public justice department, the widely used textbook Understanding Law in a Changing Society.

His many scholarly articles appeared in such prominent journals as American Review of Politics and White House Studies.

Autschul is in demand with media sources because of his depth and breadth of knowledge and reputation as a clear communicator. He has served as a political analyst for public radio station WRVO since 1994 and is a regular commentator for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and Wisconsin Public Radio. He has been quoted in many U.S. dailies, wire services and international media.

An Oswego faculty member since 1976, Autschul received a 2007 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Activity.

Police report

Since March 14, University Police have investigate several cases of theft, harassment and vandalism and made six arrests.

Police charged a 20-year-old Onondaga Hall resident with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance (hydrocodone), unlawful possession of marijuana, fireworks and alcohol. They were responding to a complaint of an odor of marijuana.

Officers charged a 24-year-old Sterling woman with driving while intoxicated, aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle and failure to keep right.

They charged a 21-year-old Red Creek man with driving while intoxicated and driving with a blood alcohol content above .08.

Police charged two Oneida Hall roommates with unlawful possession of marijuana after being called to investigate an odor of marijuana in their room.

They charged a 21-year-old Geneva man with fourth-degree criminal mischief in Riggs Hall. He was the guest of a resident and is accused of urinating on things in the room, including clothing and books.

Calendar highlights

• Concert by Billy Childs and American Brass Quintet, today
• Tyler Art Gallery opening, April 4
• “Collage” concert, April 4
• “New Voices,” April 5 and 6
• Open House, April 7
• Rice Creek Ramble, April 12
• Concert by Gamelan Lila Muni, April 16

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

Spotlight

Holynski enjoys people, programs, progress at OBCR

This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Dane Holynski, secretary I in the Office of Business and Community Relations. She has worked on campus since November 2001.

Q. How would you describe your job and responsibilities?
A. In layman’s terms, I would say I’m the office manager. I supervise two keyboard specialists. I’m the secretary for the executive director, Nancy Bellow, which means I make appointments for her, schedule meetings, do what she needs. For the associate director, Nick Della Penna, I’m the support staff.

I’m a member of the Workforce Development Board, notifying board members, scheduling meetings, organizing information for those meetings. I also assist Jeff Grimshaw, the assistant director, with Leadership Oswego County. Right now, I’m gathering information, typing and formatting their yearbook. I also do all the little things that need to get done for our events, such as the annual Connections event.

Q. What is your favorite part of working at Oswego?
A. There are two parts. I like the work I do. I plan my day and there are always one or two things that come up unexpectedly every day to make it interesting and challenging. The second part clearly is the people I work with. You spend about a third of your day away from home, so you’d better enjoy your work and the people you’re with, and I truly do.

Q. What is your impression of Oswego’s students?
A. We generally have about three or four students here, some of them international students. I love them. It’s great to see them progress, to hear about their classes, to get to know them personally. I think I pretty much remember all the students who came through here. It’s a great experience for all of them, and also for me.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?
A. Professionally, I can’t think of a particular one, other than leaving here every day knowing I’ve done the best I could with the information I have been given. That’s really all I strive to do. I think we produce a good product from this office. Personally, I would say receiving the Oswego County School Board Association leadership award in 2006. I served on the PTOs. It covered for 10 years. It is an honor to have some influence on the programs available for students to be successful.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?
A. I’ve been married to my husband, Joseph, for 31 years. I have two boys. Adam graduated from SUNY Morrisville with a bachelor’s degree and is looking for work in his field of technology and natural resources. Andrew is attending SUNY Canton. We live in Farmwood, just south of Palaski.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?
A. I like to travel. Mostly, I just enjoy being with friends and family.