$69.5 million to fund completion of revitalized science facilities

The 2008-09 state budget approved last week includes $69.5 million for a new science building at Oswego. The strategic initiative funding supports the third and final phase of improvements to the college’s 1960s-era science facilities.

In addition to the “strategic initiative” funding, the new state budget includes more than $20 million in “critical maintenance” funding for the rehabilitation of Piez Hall itself, phase two of the overall project as originally envisioned.

The entire project will essentially reconstruct Piez Hall and add new construction around it to transform the 46-year-old building into a 262,000-square-foot state-of-the-art science facility that would house the college’s existing biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, earth sciences, physics and math departments, plus new programs in engineering.

“arget funds to complete this project makes us ecstatic,” said Casey Raymond of the chemistry faculty soon after hearing the news last week. He chairs the science planning committee, which has been working toward upgraded facilities since 2000.

With initial site work for the first phase scheduled to begin in summer 2009, Raymond noted, the new space will be coming online around the time of the college’s sesquicentennial in 2011.

The facility will be built to the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver standard in line with SUNY Oswego’s commitment to sustainable environmental practices.

“To get this chunk of money to complete this project makes us ecstatic.” — Casey Raymond

The $69.5 million allocation will support construction of 132,000 square feet of the final project. This new laboratory space is expected to front the existing Piez Hall and sit on what is now Takamine Street.

“The final, consolidated science, math and engineering facility will showcase these disciplines on our campus,” SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley said. “It will allow us to attract more high-performing students, recruit top-notch faculty members and produce well-prepared graduates who can perform at the highest level.”

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Honors Convocation moves across quad to Campus Center

Honors Convocation, Oswego’s annual ceremony recognizing students’ outstanding academic achievements, will move to the convocation hall of the Campus Center this year for the first time.

Scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, the ceremony will take place in the southern half of the convocation hall, said Michael Flaherty, chair of the Public Ceremonies Committee.

It will feature marketing executive Victoria Vitarelli, a 1992 Oswego graduate, as guest speaker.

Vitarelli earned her bachelor’s degree in marketing from Oswego and now sits on the board of directors of the New York chapter of the American Marketing Association.

About 100 students will receive awards for academic excellence during the formal ceremony, which features a procession of robed faculty and administrators. The State Singers will perform the Johnny Mercer/Hoagy Carmichael song “Skyline” under the direction of Mary Lou Carpenter Bjorkman, an adjunct music instructor.

A reception will follow in the Campus Center activity court. “We encourage faculty, staff and students to come to the ceremony and to the reception to congratulate our award winners,” Flaherty said.

Vitarelli developed branding ads for leading consumer brands as a member of agencies that included Publicis-Bloom, Bozell Worldwide and Ogilvy & Mather before joining MasterCard International as vice president for brand building.

For the past five years, she has worked for the New York Jets, currently as senior director of marketing. Her duties include oversight of the Jets’ Web site and integrated brand management.

Vitarelli will also speak in classes April 24 and 25 as part of the Oswego Alumni Association’s Alumni-in-Residence program, said Betty Oberst, director of alumni relations.

The college’s annual Honors Convocation is presented by Vega, the junior and senior women’s honor society. Vega initiated the first Honors Convocation nearly 40 years ago.

The week of April 21 is Honors Week at SUNY Oswego. In addition to Honors Convocation, the college will mark the week with Quest, its annual symposium where faculty and students share their scholarly and creative endeavors; the annual induction ceremonies of the various disciplinary honor societies as well as Phi Kappa Phi, the all-discipline honor society; and other occasions recognizing students’ achievements, including listing in the national directory Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

Oswego Jazz Project to host album-release party April 23

The Oswego Jazz Project will celebrate the release of its new album, “And the Time Is Now,” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, in the second floor banquet room of King Arthur’s Steakhouse in downtown Oswego.

OJP was the brainchild of Oswego faculty music faculty member Trevor Jorgensen on saxophone and bassist Max McKee, an Oswego graduate.

The album was recorded and mixed on campus in Tyler Hall’s music studio by Dan Wood of the music department, with student Mike Fadel assisting.

Campus Update

April 16, 2008

People in action

College visit — Annie Hidley (center), an accepted student considering majoring in English and creative writing, was accompanied by Steven Granelli of the communication studies faculty while her mother Laurie looks on during the spring campus-wide Open House last week. A busy season will continue with about 350 prospective students and their families expected to attend an Admitted Student Day program on Saturday.

The documentary “River of Ruses,” produced by Assistant Provost Michael S. Ameigh, aired Saturday statewide on the PBS ThinkBright channel, operated by WNEP-PBS Buffalo/Toronto and programmed by a consortium of Upstate PBS stations. WCNY scheduled the documentary again the next day. The nature show, which included plants and a close-up video of a large waterspout that appeared on Lake Ontario near Oswego, was an honorable-mention All-America winner at the 2008 New York State Telecommunications Educator Award. Ameigh received the award at the annual state educational technology department, with its College Technology Educator Award.

More than 120 students and faculty members attended.

Guest Speaker and Seinfeld Expert Tim Delaney.

Four Lakers achieved All-American status at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III men’s swimming and diving championships held at Miami University of Ohio. The quartet combined for six All-American finishes, including three first-team honors. Swimmer Greg Doyle, a senior, earned first-team All-American status in the 200-yard freestyle with a fourth-place finish. He was also an All-American in the 100-meter and 50-meter backstroke.

The most decorated diver in Oswego’s history, Hutchins holds all four SUNY Athletic Conference diving record scores and earned All-American six times in four years. Freshman Shawn Merlin was an honorable-mention All-American on both the 1-meter and 3-meter boards. Diver Chris Poton, a senior, earned honorable mention on the 1-meter board for the second year in a row.

Armand Duncan, a graduating senior majoring in philosophy and history, has been awarded a teaching assistantship and granted a tuition waiver at Colorado State University, where he will pursue a master’s degree in philosophy beginning in the fall.

The New York State Technology Education Association has honored Philip W. Gaines, chair of the technology department, with its College Technology Educator Award. Gaines received the award at NYSTEA’s annual conference earlier this month in Syracuse. During his 34 years at Oswego, he has specialized in technological areas of metals and polymer production processes. He also has expertise in supervision of student teachers and interns. He has participated and presented in many courses, seminars and workshops across the country. He also participated in the Rotary International group study exchange as a team member in Australia. He has authored and coauthored several scholarly articles. He is active in his Oswego community including Rotary Club (past president), Oswego Safe Haven Museum Committee.

The SUNY Oswego Geology Field Program was represented at the exhibit hall at the 43rd annual Northeastern section of the Geological Society of America meeting in Buffalo, held March 26 to 29. Student presentations from Oswego included “Three Dimensional Electrical Resistivity Analysis of the Rice Creek Region, Oswego New York” by Stephen Solderly, Josh Valentin and Ben Valentin; “Syntactic Fracture Analysis Using High-Resolution Imagery: Examples from the Hudson Highlands and the Lake Ontario Shore, New York” by Josh Valentin, Regina Cuevas and Dave Valentin; “Domains of L.S and L.S-Tectonics and Evidence for Sinistral Shear in the Picacho Lake Zone, Southern Adirondacks, New York” by Rob Peterson, Dave Valentin and Jeff Chiarenzelli of St. Lawrence University; “Three Dimensional Modeling of the Groundwater Distribution Within the Cornhill Hill Drumlin Using Electrical Resistivity, Oswego New York” by Elise Hewitt, Dan Paccione, Bridge Scully, Peterson and Elise Conte; and “Mapping Surface and Groundwater Interaction in the Wetland to Upland Transition Within Glacial Deposits Using High-Resolution Electrical Resistivity Techniques, Oswego County, New York” by Conte, Tom Walker, Josh Valentin and Ben Valentin. Faculty presentations from Oswego included “Magnetic Mapping of Adirondack Lakes” and “Diachronous Taconian Ductile Deformation and Metamorphism in the Western Piedmont of Pennsylvania,” both by Dave Valentin and Chiarenzelli; and “Isotopic Heterogeneity and Potential Variable Sources of Granite Rocks of the Sebago Migmatic Domain, Southern Maine” by Paul Tomascak.

Campus Update

April 16, 2008
Quest presentation, performance to tackle historical musical mystery

Aaron Reece’s Quest performance/presentation “Unresolved Mystery: The Search for Bach’s Keyboard Temperament” will probe a historical musical puzzle. Reece’s session, at 2:30 p.m. April 23 in the Campus Center auditorium, will include playing Bach selections on an authentic harpsichord while incorporating music theory, mathematics, physics and history.

Reece, a member of Oswego’s music department, will give brief readings and/or performances of his work, the annual celebration of the campus community’s scholarly and creative pursuits.

“One of the things that most attracted me to this topic is the way it connects so many different academic and creative fields,” said Reece, a member of Oswego’s music department.

Singing and playing, the space between different notes in the scale are based on mathematically rational ratios,” Reece said. Unfortunately, he added, it is mathematically impossible to space all the notes over the scale and make them absolutely true.

“We can try to make certain intervals more pure than others, but that’s going to make some intervals more impure,” Reece said. “The system by which we choose which interval to favor when tuning is called a temperament. There are a great variety of temperaments.”

Much like trying to tweak the calendar by adding a day every leap year, tuning temperaments seek to solve a mathematical problem that can never be perfectly reconciled. Tuning instruments involves tradeoffs to account for this mathematical imperfection.

Until Johann Sebastian Bach’s time, composers tended to write in keys calling for purer sounds at their intervals to the detriment of more remote, less-used keys — thus it was rare to hear keys like C minor used, Reece noted.

Bach decided to create a challenging conundrum by composing the first single song cycle to use all 24 major and minor keys, “The Well-Tempered Clavier.”

“Bach is the kind of composer who enjoyed intellectual challenges,” Reece said.

But the exact temperament that Bach used for “The Well-Tempered Clavier” has never been solved, as he left no specific instructions on how to tune a harpsichord or other instrument for that piece, Reece said.

“My presentation will touch on the mathematical foundations of temperament, the physics of musical instruments and how these issues directly affected the compositional choices made by Bach,” he said.

Oswego will celebrate 40 years of creative writing with student readings and an appearance by emeritus Professor Lewis Turco at Quest at 2:30 p.m. April 23 in Room C114 of the Campus Center.

“In celebration of our past graduates, and of our future graduates, the Quest day program will offer visitors some speculative readings by students and a look at our history through the eyes of our founder, Lewis Turco,” said program organizer Leigh Wilson of the English and creative writing faculty.

Student winners in writing contests for poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, playwriting and screenwriting will give brief readings and/or performances of their work. They continue a line of talented and successful graduates in creative writing, Wilson said.

“Recent graduates are entering elite MFA programs and are publishing novels, stories, poems and essays in major publishing houses (Penguin) as well as top-flight literary journals and magazines (Crab Orchard Review, Esquire, Mississippi Review),” Wilson said.

Notable alumni of Oswego’s writing program include novelist Alice McDermott, who won the National Book Award for “Charming Billy;” Robert O’Connor, author of the acclaimed Buffalo Soldier and member of the creative writing faculty; Diana Abu-Jaber, the PEN Faulkner-nominated author of novels Arabian Jazz and Crescent; Andrew Manos, producer of films that include “The Golden Compass,” “American Dreams” and “In Good Company;” and screenwriter Kaye Garrett, who has worked with Paramount and Lakeshore Pictures and developed a half-hour comedy, “Central,” for the CW Network. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the first publication of Turco’s influential work “The Book of Forms,” a definitive compilation of poetic forms. But when Turco joined Oswego’s faculty in 1965, he recalled obstacles to founding a creative writing program, from a lack of teachers who were published writers to the sheer novelty of the idea.

“We were one of the first undergraduate writing programs in the United States,” Turco said.

The program started with basic writing courses focused on the craft of writing, later building up to advanced classes that were based on a major project. “It worked like gangbusters when we started it, and it hasn’t really changed since,” he said.

“When all the basic classes filled every semester, it became obvious it was going to work,” Turco said. “Then when the middle classes filled up, and the advanced classes filled up, we knew it worked.”

Within three years, Turco established concentrations in genres — fiction, poetry and playwriting — before adding other genres such as creative nonfiction, writing for children and journalism.

“Over time, he spearheaded the hiring of published writers in the various genres,” Wilson said.

In addition to helping aspiring writers hone their craft, those classes proved helpful and popular to a wide variety of students, Turco said.

“Some of our best students were non-majors,” Turco recalled. “Just because you’re interested in science or something else doesn’t mean you’re not interested in writing.” — Tim Nekritz

Download talk, sportscasting competition to be part of Quest activities

Oswego’s broadcasting program will contribute two panels to the college’s Quest activities April 23: “Look Mom! I’m Going to Jail! The Myths and Realities of Illegally Downloading Music and Video” and “Do You Have What It Takes to Be a Sportscaster?”

Starting at 10:30 a.m. in Room C114 of the Campus Center, “Look Mom! I’m Going to Jail!” is a panel presentation probing such topics as digital rights management, the economics of the music industry, legal aspects of downloading music, the morality of illegally sharing music and the Recording Industry Association of America’s prosecution of students for file sharing. The panel is sponsored by the Lewis B. O’Donnell Media Summit and previews this year’s topic, “Media Revolution,” set for Oct. 1.

“We chose this topic because it’s something that actually pertains to students,” said Amy Bukolt, one of the student interns coordinating the session.

“Do you Have What It Takes to Be a Sportscaster?” will be a friendly competition where students interested in joining famous Oswego sportscasting alumni like Linda Cohn and Steve Levy will give their announcing skills a workout at 3 p.m. in Room 120 of the Campus Center.

Participants will be presented with a clip of an Oswego State hockey game and perform the play-by-play duties. Panelists will be critiqued and given advice on their performance.

For more information, visit www.oswego.edu/quest.

— Christopher Hill
Library announces book sale
Penfield Library and Penfield Library Associates will hold their annual book sale in the basement of the library Monday, April 21, to Wednesday, April 23. Hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, April 21, and Tuesday, April 22, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 23.

Items for sale include hardcover and paperback fiction and non-fiction, old books, encyclopedias, reference books and a large selection of videos.

‘Cabaret’ offers musical take on events before World War II
In addition to being a Broadway hit and longtime musical staple, “Cabaret” — Oswego’s spring production — offers a look at a tense, telling time in pre-World War II Europe.
The play “works on multiple levels,” said Todd Graber, musical director for the Oswego adaptation opening April 25. “It works as simple entertainment reflecting the entertainment styles and social mores of Berlin in the 1920s. It works as a character study about four different people and how they individually choose to deal with adversity and each other. Most importantly, it asks questions.”

Those questions involve the Nazi party’s rise to power in Germany, and how many people stood by as events rolled toward the war, misery and the Holocaust. Graber noted. But despite tackling such heavy themes, “Cabaret” has remained popular because of its outstanding score by John Kander and Fred Ebb plus its gripping story-line, he said.
The student cast includes Sara Weiler as Sally Bowles, Samuel Austin as Cliff (see below) and Mike Raciotta in the emcee role famously played by Joel Grey on Broadway and on film.

Spotlight
Austen capitalizing on acting opportunities at Oswego
This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Sam Austin, a freshman theatre major and physics minor from Minetto. He has a lead role in the upcoming theatre production of “Cabaret,” playing Cliff Bradshaw.
Q. What do you think when you learned you earned a lead role?
A. I was flabbergasted. I thought it was some kind of joke at first. I had told my parents I’ll probably get a three- or four-line role, and I get one with a large amount of dialogue in the play.
Q. What made you attend SUNY Oswego?
A. I have two older siblings who went to different places, and my parents realized it cost a lot. They said I was going to Oswego, I didn’t really have a choice, it was less expensive, and I could live at home. And I really didn’t mind — how could I?
Q. How did you end up studying theatre and physics?
A. I always liked my physics classes with Dr. Altman at Oswego High School. I always liked knowing how stuff works. I was in two of the high school musicals, and my parents decided to give it a shot. I decided on theatre because I’m drawn toward some musicals, had fun and decided to give that a shot. I was in two of the high school musicals, and my parents decided to give it a shot. I decided on theatre because I’m drawn toward some musicals, I was in two of the high school musicals, and my parents decided to give it a shot. I decided on theatre because I’m drawn toward some musicals, occasional. I love theatre, it’s more dialogue. Occasionally, I’ll have time to do homework.
Q. What’s your favorite role so far while being a freshman, which is almost unheard of.
Q. Do you have any hobbies?
A. I have a share of TV shows that I watch religiously. I play baseball when I can. I enjoy sports in general. I like singing, even just humming a tune. I also admit that I am a movie-holic. If I haven’t done something, I’ll try it at least once.

Directed by Jonel Langenfeld-Rial of the theatre department, “Cabaret” will have a preview performance at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 24, with all seats priced at $6. Additional eight p.m. curtain performances are slated April 25 and 26 and May 3 with a final performance at 2 p.m. May 4. Tickets for the regular run cost $14 for adults (with discounts for seniors and students). For more information, contact the Tyler box office at 312-2141 or tickets@oswego.edu.

Clean Sweep set for Saturday
Oswego’s Campus-City Relations Committee is sponsoring the annual Clean Sweep from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, with Sunday as a rain date. All are invited to join this spring cleaning which will help to beautify Oswego’s canal and lakefront.

Individuals and teams ready to pick up trash along Oswego’s waterfront will meet at the pavilion in Breitbeck Park at 1 p.m., said organizer Martha Hammill. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. The first 100 volunteers will receive a free T-shirt. Refreshments will be provided and free raffle give-aways will be drawn at the conclusion of the event.

Canal Clean Sweep is a statewide event organized through the New York State Canal Corp. in partnership with the Parks & Trails New York. Last year, the efforts of SUNY Oswego students and employees and city residents were recognized as being the largest community participation in this Earth Day event.

For more information, contact Martha Hammill at 342-3074.

‘Understanding Islam’ next week
The Muslim Student Association will sponsor “Understanding Islam” with three speakers who will address the stereotypes and misconceptions regarding Islam at 7 p.m. April 24 in Room 105 of Lanigan Hall. For more information, call faculty adviser Ashraf Attia at 312-5741 or MSA President Abraham Alshnashishwish at 917-502-7599.

Money Smart earns recognition
An Oswego-based financial wellness program, Money Smart, has garnered national recognition, with an honorable mention at the Community Bank Awards, sponsored by America’s Community Bankers Association. The seven-week program is a collaborative effort between Pathfinder Bank, SUNY Oswego and the Oswego Public Library.

Chancellor’s Award
Continued from page 1

Among the diverse topics he has investigated in his empirical and descriptive research are alternative dispute resolution in the workplace, the motivation of employees to join and leave unions, total quality management and Canadian labor law.

His past honors include a Citation of Excellence, the highest quality rating, from Anbar Electric Intelligence for one of his articles and the SUNY Os- wego President’s Award for Scholarly and Creative Activity.

Abraham has a doctorate in industrial relations from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a juris doctor degree from New York University.

In addition to his scholarship and teaching, Abra- ham has been extremely active in the campus com- munity and the Oswego community.

Just some of his current roles on campus include serving as pre-law adviser, a member of Faculty Assembly, academic vice president for United Uni- versity Professions, assessment coordinator for the School of Business, and faculty adviser for the men’s basketball team, Chabad and Phi Beta Lambda. He is a member of many committees and councils.

In town, he is currently on the board of directors of the Oswego Little League and contributes articles to Oswego County Business magazine.

Julie Harrison Blissett

Police report
Since March 28, University Police have investigat- ed several cases of theft and vandalism and arrested three students and one visitor to campus.

Police charged a 27-year-old Mexico man with second-degree assault and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. He is accused of hitting another man over the head with a lead pipe outside Seneca Hall. Already on parole for a felony convic- tion, he was arraigned in Oswego Town Court and remanded to the county jail without bail.

Officers charged an 18-year-old Oneida Hall resi- dent with third-degree assault. He is accused of at- tacking her roommate.

Police charged two 18-year-old Cayuga Hall resi- dents with unlawful possession of marijuana outside Seneca Hall.

Calendar highlights
• Concert by Gamalan Lila Muni, today
• Asian Student Association dinner, April 18
• Rice Creek Reflections, April 20
• Penfield Library book sale, April 21 to 23
• Quest, April 23
• “Understanding Islam” presentation, April 24
• Honors Convocation, April 25
• “Cabaret” opens, April 25
• Rice Creek Ramble, April 26
• Concert by Third Eye Blind, April 27

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