Oswego students learn lessons from involvement in elections

For freshman Christopher Cook, that moment at the University of Pittsburgh campus last Tuesday made it all worth it.

About 2,000 people crowded into a Democratic celebration, including around two dozen members of SUNY Oswego Students for Barack Obama who went to Pennsylvania to turn out the vote. As the second hand moved toward 11, and polls closed in Western states, “everyone started chanting 3 . . . 2 . . . 1,” and then it popped on the screen that Obama won,” Cook recalled. “The place just exploded. People were cheering, screaming, jumping up and down.”

Students across the political spectrum were involved in this year’s election process. Some advocated for candidates and causes, others registered new voters and many students went to the polls for the first time.

Members of Oswego’s College Republicans focused on voter registration, raising awareness and helping local candidates. They canvassed Volney for State Senate challenger David Renzi and went door-to-door in DeWitt for Congressional candidate Dale Sweetland. The weekend before the election, they went around Oswego County campaigning for Renzi, meeting the candidate himself and state Supreme Court candidate Tom Certo.

Even with many Democratic wins, Becky Urzt, chair of the College Republicans, thought students benefited from participating. “You get to network with a lot of different people you normally would not get to meet,” Urzt said. “Plus, they’re a lot of fun! Every time we went out, everyone had a great time.”

Senior Abby Jenkins worked the polls for the Madison County Board of Elections from 5 a.m. until past 9 p.m. She had a summer internship there that involved making a manual to train workers to use the new Sequoia ImageCast voting machines and, when told her hometown of Lincoln needed another poll worker, made the trip.

She learned many people were under the impression, created by media reports, that it would take a long time to vote and the machines may be confusing. “Those that I talked to felt a little more comfortable after, so it was a little less scary for them,” Jenkins said.

Many students voted for the first time, hundreds signing up through various on-campus registration drives. “Not only is it a right that we all have but it is one of the biggest ways that we can exercise our political power,” said senior Rocco Fragomeni, who cast his first vote this year. “If we do not vote, we leave it up to someone else to decide our future.”

The Political Science Club hosted an election night party with about 150 people gathering in the Campus Center activity court, adviser Helen Knowles said.

“I actually think most people realized the enormity of the occasion, regardless of the candidate they were rooting for,” said Knowles. “Those of us who stayed to the end for Obama’s acceptance speech all did the same thing when he gave his speech — sat there in awed silence. Many of us were in tears.”

A special edition of “Project Nation” ran from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. on WNYO, and later on WTOP, with faculty guests, live streams of the concession and faculty guests, live streams of the concession.

See ‘Political lessons,’ page 4

Grant to help Oswego’s engineering program teach communication skills

Rachid Manseur has a mandate to develop a new program in electrical and computer engineering that is to be approved by the faculty and the state. The $25,000 grant will fund a multidisciplinary team of Oswego faculty members to work on the new program.

The team includes participants in Oswego’s Center for Communication and Information Technology: Cara Brewer Thompson of the graphic design program, Kristen Eichhorn of the communication studies and faculty and David Vampola, director of the information science program. Fritz Messere, interim dean of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, “was the driving force behind this grant,” Manseur noted.

The team will do much of the work in next summer. Manseur said he hopes to begin offering courses in electrical and computer engineering by next fall and for the new degree program to receive all approvals by fall 2010. As the program develops, “it will become a full-fledged department on its own,” he said.

The new program, projected to enroll about 120 students, will help meet a clear need, Manseur said.

“There is a high demand for electrical and computer engineers,” he said, including in Central New York with such companies as Novelis, Welch Allyn and Lockheed Martin. “Engineering is everywhere — agriculture, medicine . . . You can’t find an area where electrical and computer engineering does not have a significant impact.”

And engineering is important to the economy, he added. “Engineering is now the subject of a lot of discussion and investment,” he said. “The reason engineers are so important to the economy is that they are the creators of wealth. They create the new products. They stimulate the economy. Many of them end up creating new companies in the high technology area.”

Noting that China graduates about 10 times as many engineers as the United States does, he said, “It becomes almost a matter of national security. We need to graduate more qualified engineers.”

— Julie Harrison Blissett

Engineering advances — Rachid Manseur is developing a new program in electrical and computer engineering at Oswego. A grant from the Engineering Information Foundation funds a multidisciplinary team that will help incorporate training in communications into the curriculum.
College trends

Higher ed polling

"With the economy in a downward spiral, vot- ers in states across the country still showed some tolerance Tuesday for funding higher education projects. Higher education officials in Massa- chusetts breathed a collective sigh of relief . . . to find that their state will maintain its income tax... While several ballot measures supported by higher education officials were rejected, vot- ers approved bond referendums, state lottery and gambling measures that promise to fund capital projects, scholarships and other programs. . . . - Inside Higher Ed, Nov. 5, 2008

Part-time effect

"At a time when colleges are under increasing fi- nancial pressure to rely more on part-time faculty, three new studies suggest that doing so erodes the quality of education many students receive. Part- timers' inability or unwillingness to devote more time to students outside the classroom, the re- search suggests, results in the denial of important support services to many students—including, often, those who need the most help. And in a finding that breaks new ground, one of the studies concludes that heavy reliance on part-timers can actually hurt the performance of full-time, tenure- track faculty members. . . . About 46 percent of the nation's college faculty members are part time, up from 22 percent back in 1970, according to the most recent Education Department data on them, from 2003."


Upheaval in admissions

"A storm is brewing in college admissions: a major demographic shift looms, public financing lapses, the examination for higher education continue to soar. This poses a major challenge for admissions professionals, who face 'new realities' in helping American high-school students reach college, according to a report released . . . by the College Board's Task Force on Admissions in the 21st Century. The report describes admissions as an increasingly complex (and confusing) process, warrants public misperceptions, a dearth of pro- fessional development, and unequal access to high- er education. . . . The report warns of a possible 'new Gilded Age,' in which Americans are either affluent and educated, or poor and underprepared."


Price and aid

"The College Board announced . . . that college prices in 2008-09 rose just slightly faster than the Consumer Price Index. While more financial aid is available for students than ever before, the number of private loans for higher educa- tion began to shrink even before the current credit crisis. Two new College Board reports . . . document a wide variation in prices in a diverse higher education system. 'Trends in College Pricing 2008' found that after adjusting for the 5.6 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index, average published tuition and fees . . . increased 2 percent after adjusting for inflation, according to the College Board's recent Education Department data on them, from 2003."

- Bruce Altschuler, professor of political science, is the author of "A Look Back at the Steel Seizure Case" in the current issue of the Journal of Supreme Court History. In the journal's introduction, Melvin Urofsky of Virginia Commonwealth University describes the article as follows: "Bruce Altschuler takes a new look at the classic case, the famous Steel Seizure Case. This decision is often cited as evidence that the judiciary — the 'least dangerous branch' — can, when neces- sary, rein in the efforts of a President to overreach his constitutional authority. In his article, Altschuler asks whether, after more than a half-century, the case still retains the vitality attributed to it."

- Laurene Buckley of Tyler Art Gallery chaired a panel on Oct. 27 at the New Museum of Contempo- rary Art in Manhattan. The session was part of the Directors Forum Conference and the topic was "Mu- seum Publishing: Opportunities and Pitfalls, Print and Electronic Media." Attendees were directors of small and medium-sized museums around the country. Oth- er participants included the co-directors of Humani- ties E-Book, the director of collection development for AKTistor, the president of the Kress Foundation and the director of publications for the College Art Association.

- Ana Djkic-Cocks, assistant professor of German, led students on a field trip to a bilingual poetry performance (German and English) sponsored by Syracuse University and the Point of Contact Gallery. The evening featured the poetry and performances of Laura Winter and Ute Kaiser. Students who partici- pated in the trip included Michael Engler, Trevlond Myrie, Elena Schermernhoorn and Meredith Wilbe. On an outing organized by John Lalande, a prof- essor of German, German students and faculty at- tended the Syracuse Opera's performance of Mozart's "Magic Flute" last month. The group ate at Danzer's German restaurant in Syracuse. Participating were faculty member Johanna Henry and students Kevin Prince, Patrick Manno, Gail Slater, Engler, Myrie and Schermernhoorn.

- Lalande participated in a videoconference last month between Cicer-Hal Xreworth High School's advanced-level German program and students of the Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium in Gundelfingen, Germany. The two-hour videoconference involved a number of students enrolled in SUNY Oswego's col- lege credit-bearing program for advanced students of German. Chris Solan, teacher of German and an Oswego alumnus, joined with Mary Ann Nemescura, Lalande and 40 Cicero-North Syracuse students on the U.S. side of the conference.

- Carolina Ilie, an assistant professor of physics, is the co-author of a review paper just published in Zetschrift Fur Physikalische Chemie (International Journal of Research in Physical Chemistry and Chemical Physics) with Peter A. Dowben and Luis G. Rosa. The paper is "Water Interactions with Crystal- line Polymers of Large Dipoles." Also, the guest speaker last month in the Condensed Matter and Biological Physics Seminar at Syracuse Uni- versity's physics department spoke. She talked on "Interactions with Crystaline Polymers with Large Dipoles." She will give a presentation at the Materi- als Research Conference fall meeting in Boston, ac- companied with a paper, "Halofrom Adsortion on Crystalline Copolymers of Vinylidene Fluoride with Trifluoroethylene" that she co-authored with Jie Xiao and Dowben.

- Four students — Robin Dienhoffer, Lillie Ghob- rial, Stephanie Magin and Frank Ripple — from Shashi Kanbur's "Astronomical Methods" class ac- companied him to a conference last week at Harvard University, a centennial celebration of the Cepheid period-luminosity relation discovery by Henrietta Leavitt. "At the conference they met a number of very well-known astronomers," Kanbur said, including John Huchra, president of the American Astronomical So- ciety, and Wendy Freedman, director of the Carnegie Observatories. The College of Liberal Arts and Sci- ences and the women's studies program helped support their travel. Before the conference, they worked on a small project, a test for equality of the Large Magel- lanic Cloud/Small Magellanic Cloud period-luminosity relation slopes indicating whether the Cepheid period- luminosity relation is universal or not. Leavitt was a minimum wage "computer" at Harvard in the early years of the 20th century, and she also analyzed photo- graphic plates for astronomers there. In the course of her work, she discovered the period-luminosity relation. "This is what modern cosmology is based on," Kanbur said. "She has never really been given her due, and actually people at the conference suggested a movement to change the name from the Period- Luminosity Law to the Leavitt Law."

- Jodi Mullen, an assistant professor of counseling and psychological services, received the Play Therapy Professional Education and Training Award during the Association for Play Therapy reference last month in Texas. Mullen is a licensed mental health counselor and a registered play therapist-supervisor. The award acknowledges outstanding professional education and training that significantly develops, promotes or advances the value of play, play therapy and credentialed play therapists. Mullen earned the

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Professor pens how-to for women seeking educational leadership

Suzanne Gilmour of Oswego’s educational administration department hopes a new book she co-authored, *Succeeding as a Female Superintendent: How to Get There and Stay There*, helps shatter a glass ceiling at the top of the educational hierarchy.

While much of the training of administrators focuses on what not to do, Gilmour and co-author Mary Kinella, chair of SUNY Cortland’s educational leadership department, saw a need to show women and minorities aspiring to top levels of administration — in education and elsewhere — how to reach their goals.

Statistics show room for improvement. “In New York state, we’re still around the high 20s (percent) for women and unfortunately only around 3 percent for minorities,” Gilmour said. “We added a screen to myOswego that requested information if they desire.”

“Since the release of the campus directory last week, in decades past, students’ local landline phone numbers appeared in the directory unless they asked to be excluded from the directory entirely. In recent years, as a continuation of this practice, the phone numbers appeared in the directory even during the time the information is pulled for the directory. In recent past, students’ local landline phone numbers appeared in the directory unless they asked to be excluded from the directory entirely. In recent years, as a continuation of this practice, the phone numbers appeared in the directory even during the time the information is pulled for the directory.

Students’ cell phone numbers in new campus directory, sometimes

Reaching students by telephone has been challenging since the drift to cell phones in recent years. This year for the first time the Office of Residence Life and Housing asked students to provide their cell phone numbers for the campus directory. More than 2,500 did so.

When given the choice of providing the information to the college and asking that it not be listed in the directory, said Chuck Weeks, director of residence life and housing. About 500 students chose that option, he noted.

“College communication has been significantly hindered by the switch to cell phones and the absence of accurate complete directory information,” he said. “We added a screen to myOswego that requested contact information including emergency contact, permanent home address, local address and telephone including cell. Students are also told what information will appear in the directory and how to restrict that information if they desire.”

Since the release of the campus directory last week, Weeks said, a few students have complained that they did not know that their cell phone numbers would appear there.

He said that his office, which prints the directory, will try to make it clearer in the future that students can choose to have an unlisted cell phone number.

This information can be communicated both on the multimedia Web functions, the added bandwidth keeps Web servers from getting overloaded and crashing.

With a total of 500 Mbps of bandwidth, college Web traffic can stay safely within range even during the long peak hours of 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., Pisa said. “That gives us the increased bandwidth for the increased campus use of audio and video,” he added. It also better supports research requiring large amounts of data transfer.

Having two different routes — Verizon is underground, Time Warner cable, both to provide more traffic and to allow a second route in case one provider’s service went down, said Mike Pisa, director of administrative technology.

With 4,100 students on campus, more than 1,000 computers in labs around campus and another 1,100 employees, coupled with the increased demand for campus bandwidth expansion

Picture the difference between a one-lane road and a pair of two-lane superhighways. That approximates the expansion of Web bandwidth and backup SUNY Oswego developed this year.

The campus started the year in January with 150 megabits per second of bandwidth — the maximum traffic allowed — on one provider, Verizon. Campus Technology Services added a second provider, Time Warner Cable, both to provide for more traffic and to allow a second route in case one provider’s service went down, said Mike Pisa, director of administrative technology.

Then, since, Oswego and the state’s Office of General Services renegotiated with Time Warner to provide 300 Mbps of bandwidth. This will be on a lower cost than the previous contract at half the bandwidth, and similarly obtained a deal for Verizon to provide 200 Mbps for less than the college paid for 150 Mbps.

With 4,100 students on campus, more than 1,000 computers in labs around campus and another 1,100 employees, coupled with the increased demand for online services networking, how to build and use contacts to learn more, and group supervision, and supervising a student play practicum. She also authored a monthly Min¬

Success stories — Suzanne Gilmour of the educational administration department co-authored *Succeeding as a Female Superintendent: How to Get There and Stay There*, mentoring and running superintendent searches.

One thing that the authors was how many different routes women took to the administrator’s office. The traditional method of teacher to assistant principal to superintendent still happens, but they also found people who came from different teaching or counseling backgrounds or outside of education.

“One woman had been a secretary to a superintendent and realized ‘I can do this,’ and went back and followed all the steps to becoming a superintendent,” Gilmour noted.

“Succeeding as a Female Superintendent also covers networking, how to build and use contacts to learn about openings and gain support for winning the job. Gilmour’s writing tapped the considerable expertise built in Oswego’s educational administration program, which offers a widely recognized superin¬

tendent development certificate of advanced studies. “It’s specifically designed to provide skills, contacts and whatever else you need to become a superintendent and succeed in the role,” Gilmour said. “For the past several years, we’ve seen more women in the program.”

Despite the low percentages, Gilmour sees a lot of support for increasing diversity in leadership posi¬
tions through bodies like the New York State As¬
sociation for Superintendents and New York School Boards Association. She said the authors recently gave a ”well-received” book presentation at the American Association of School Administrators’ annual conference in Las Vegas.

Preparing more good candidates helps the whole education system because the superintendent job “is a tough one,” Gilmour acknowledged. “Sometimes it’s a challenge to be sure we find many candidates who are highly qualified.” Encouraging more women and minorities to pursue this path makes the candidate pool that much more robust, she said.

— Tim Nekritz

People in action

Continued from page 2

award by teaching two play therapy graduate courses, introducing students to play therapy as a guest speaker in two other classes, designing a continuing education test for which play therapists can earn non-contact credit, providing substantial individual and group supervision, and supervising a student play therapy practicum. She also authored a monthly Min¬

Recording Consort to perform

“Bella Italia” is the theme of the fall concert by the SUNY Oswego Recording Consort at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Church of the Resurrection, corner of West Fifth and Cayuga streets in Oswego. Admission will be free.

Pieces by such masters as Antonio Vivaldi, Ar¬


tangione of science and technology studies. Schilz has published a paper titled “The Argument from Defence.” It was published in *The American Journal of Political Science.*

Other presenters on the panel were from Cornell University, Ithaca College, Molloy College, SUNY Brockport and SUNY Stony Brook.

Lawrence Spizman of the economics department co-authored “A Note on Utilizing the Geometric Mean: When, Why and How the Forensic Economist Should Employ the Geometric Mean” that was re¬


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“Succeeding as a Female Superintendent also cov¬


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tions through bodies like the New York State As¬
sociation for Superintendents and New York School Boards Association. She said the authors recently gave a “well-received” book presentation at the American Association of School Administrators’ annual conference in Las Vegas. The presentation was “Proven Models and New Ideas for Intergenera-
Food for Fines supports pantry
Giving non-perishable food items to support a local food pantry will provide forgiveness for fines at Pen- field Library through Nov. 26.
“[The Food for Fines program began 11 years ago as an idea from one of the library’s staff members who wanted to contribute something to the Oswego community],” said Shannon Pritting of Penfield Library. “They wanted to create a program in which paying library fines could be made a positive experience.”
Donations for the annual Food for Fines activity will benefit Oswego’s Human Concerns Food Pantry. Each $1 food will cancel $1 for any fine. The ex- ception is for ramen-type noodles, where four pack- ages would offer $1 of forgiven fines.
Only unopened, pre-packaged food will be ac- cepted. No glass or food in damaged packaging will be accepted. The actual cost of food will not be con- sidered in canceling fines.
Food will be accepted for fines only, not for lost book charges. Additional donations of non-perishable food items, even by those who do not have fines, are welcome as well.
For more information, e-mail circdesk@oswego. edu, stop at Penfield Library’s Circulation Desk or call 312-2560. — Julie-Jo Stanton

Compass students organizing food drive for Salvation Army
Student navigators from the Compass in the Cam- pus Center will work with the campus and commu- nity for a food drive Nov. 14 and 15 to benefit the Salvation Army.
Students will collect non-perishable food items in compartments in the Campus Center Monday evening to begin the 7 p.m. men’s ice hockey game against Morrisville.
The drive will continue in two Oswego locations — Paul’s Big M and P&C Foods — from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.
Navigators work in the Compass offering a vari- ety of student and career services, including helping other students look for internships, offering critiques on resumes, providing tips for writing cover letters and other tasks.
For more information, call 312-3142 or e-mail compass@oswego.edu.

Orchestra, chorus to join forces
SUNY Oswego’s College-Community Orchestra and Festival Chorus will present a joint concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, at St. Paul’s Church, 50 E. Mohawk St. in Oswego.
Pieces performed will include Mike McFerron’s “On the Edge,” a suite from Leonard Bernstein’s “West Side Story,” Franz Schubert’s “Unfinished Symphony” and “Mass in G,” and Gabriel Faure’s “Cantique.”
Admission is a $5 suggested donation to support the Music Department Excellence Fund. SUNY Os- wego students are admitted free. For more informa- tion, call 312-2130.

Concert of ‘Greatest Hits’ Nov. 19
SUNY Oswego will present “Chamber Music Greatest Hits,” for lovers of the genre or those new to it, on Wednesday, Nov. 19.
The concert, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Sheldon Hall ballroom, is the next show in the college’s Ke- Nekt Chamber Music Series. A pre-concert talk with the musicians will begin at 7 p.m.
Pianist Robert Auler of Oswego’s music faculty will host the concert and perform with violinist Ti- gran Vardanyan and horn player Stephanie Blaha of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, SUNY Os- wego oboist Aaron Reece, Syracuse University clarin- netist Jill Coggiola and bassoonist John Hunt of the University of Rochester’s Eastman School of Music.
The greatest hits will include Faure’s Violin and Piano Sonata, Opus 13; Mozart’s Quintet for Piano and Winds; and Brahms’ Horn Trio.
“Our audience is usually very patient with us as we explore new, different, and sometimes strange pieces,” Auler said. “So this is a chance to give the audience a concert of beloved, time-tested works that I think they will really love.”
Auler also will perform and discuss great moments in chamber music, including the works of Brahms, Faure and Mozart, at 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, in Room 41 of Tyler Hall. That College Hour inform- ation will be free.
Tickets to the full-length Nov. 19 concert cost $15 ($10 for senior citizens and students, $5 for SUNY Oswego students).
For information or reservations, call 312-2141, e- mail tickets@oswego.edu or visit www.oswego.edu/ ke-nekt.

Political lessons
Continued from page 2
acceptance speeches and many more callers than the weekly show has ever had, said co-host Tim Farns-
worth.
The goal “is to create a dialogue on politics on several levels,” from the campus level up through in- ternational, Farnsworth said. This semester, “Project Nation” hosted both local State Senate candidates and sought to increase student knowledge and participa-
tion. “Just the fact that so many students responded, were passionate about the election and following it way into the night was encouraging,” he added.
Cook — who shares experiences through his blog at www.oswego.edu/student/oswegoblogs — said he and other students learned firsthand about campaign-
ing and, when sent out alone in big Pennsylvania cities, about self-reliance. “It was a bit of a culture shock to be in a big city alone,” Cook said. “I hoped I didn’t get lost.”
Instead, Cook and other students involved in this election found out about themselves. “I’ve never been so passionate about something outside of myself,” he said.
“It was great not only to see something happen I’d been hoping for, but also to know that I made a difference.” — Tim Nekritz and Julie-Jo Stanton

Police report
Since Oct. 24, University Police have investigated several cases of theft, vandalism and harassment and made five arrests.
Police charged a 20-year-old Ontario, N.Y., man with driving while intoxicated, operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content above .08, unsafe lane change, failure to stop at stop sign and speeding.
Officers charged a Funnelle Hall resident with ag- gravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle, posses- sion of marijuana and speeding.
A Oswego woman was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle and failure to stop at stop sign. Also charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle was a Moreland Hall resident. And another student was charged with facilitated ag- gravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle.

Calendar highlights
• Indian singers and dancers, Nov. 13
• Student flu clinic, Nov. 14
• Rice Creek Ramble, Nov. 15
• Recorder concert, Nov. 16
• “Honor and the River” opens, Nov. 19
• Chamber music concert, Nov. 19
• Wind Ensemble concert, Nov. 19
• Women’s basketball tournament, Nov. 22
• Orchestra and choir concert, Nov. 23
• Comedian Owen Benjamin, Nov. 24 and 25
• Thanksgiving recess, Nov. 26 to 30
For a more complete calendar, see SUNY Oswego Events online at www.oswego.edu/news/calendar.

Perkins promotes opportunities for student involvement
This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Kelly Perkins, marketing and communications coor- dinator for Campus Life. She has worked on campus since spring 2005.
Q. How would you describe your job and re- sponsibilities?
A. I am responsible for the marketing and commu- nication efforts for the department of Campus Life. I coordinate Family and Friends Weekend. I am the department representative for promoting the clubs and organizations during Admissions’ Open Houses and Summer Orientation. I oversee the digital signage in the Campus Center, Poucher and Culkin halls. My other responsibility is to maintain the department’s Web site and in general promote the wonderful op- portunities students have to get involved on this cam- pus.
Many people do not realize there are over 140 active clubs and organizations on campus.
Q. What is your favorite part of working at Os- wego?
A. I enjoy working with the various people on campus, especially the individuals in my department, and interacting with the student employees.
Q. What is your impression of Oswego’s stu- dents?
A. They are friendly and outgoing and they seem to enjoy their time at the college whether it is in the classroom, working on campus or at an event.
Q. What achievement are you most proud of?
A. As of recent, it is being able to balance my job and family life. I am finding the need to stick to a schedule in my daily life in order for everything to remain intact.
Q. What is your educational background?
A. I received a bachelor of arts degree in commu- nication/journalism from St. John Fisher College in Rochester.
Q. Do you have any hobbies?
A. I like to spend my time with family and friends. I enjoy traveling, going to the movies and dining out. I also like going to kickboxing when I get the chance.
Q. What can you tell us about your family?
A. I live in Granby with my husband Frank, who has a chiropractic office in Hannibal, and our two daugh- ters, Elissa, 2-1/2, and Megan, 11 months old.

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