College to aim for gold certification for green science facility

Oswego’s science and associated disciplines will go green with the transformation of Piez Hall as home to them all.

The expanded and renovated building will be constructed to the U.S. Green Building Council gold standard for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, said Tom Simmonds, associate vice president for facilities. He said the college will seek LEED certification at that high standard.

LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. It recognizes performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

“This will be our first gold-certified building,” Simmonds said. The Campus Center was built to the LEED silver standard, but the college did not seek certification.

Certification for Piez will be a notable achievement because science buildings typically use four times the energy of regular buildings, Simmonds said.

Renovation of the 47-year-old Piez Hall and construction of an addition that will more than triple its present 80,000 square feet are now scheduled to begin in spring 2010 in parallel with renovation of Park and Wilber halls as the School of Education complex.

New architectural renderings envisioning the science facility were on display in Piez Hall before spring break and have been displayed at various campus meetings (see photo, page 3).

Among the building’s environmentally friendly aspects, the exterior will feature “a terra cotta material . . . made from recycled and reclaimed materials,” Simmonds said, and natural light will infuse the building.

The new connector to the School of Education’s Wilber Hall east of Piez is planned as “a model of a totally green building,” said Casey Raymond of the chemistry faculty, chair of the science planning committee.

This atrium-like space, he said, is planned to include a cafe, a planetarium, and social space with open access computing capability.

It will be adjacent to new lab space in the School of Education’s science department that may find joint use by that department and engineering or other science programs, said Dean of Education Linda Rae Markert.

The concept of multiple use lab space began with the science planning committee, which has worked to reintegrate disciplines in the new facility to emphasize their commonalities as well as the possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The committee is also contemplating the puzzle of where to relocate faculty and teaching laboratories programs in them continue to operate and how and when necessary.

The committee is now hammering out a floor plan for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The science planning committee, which has worked to size their commonalities as well as the possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The concept of multiple use lab space began with the science planning committee, which has worked to reintegrate disciplines in the new facility to emphasize their commonalities as well as the possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The committee is also contemplating the puzzle of where to relocate faculty and teaching laboratories programs in them continue to operate and how and when necessary. — Julie Harrison Blissert

Applications to Oswego up amid stormy economic climate

While the economic downturn has caused challenges everywhere, it also continued an uptick for applications to SUNY Oswego.

Applications here rose 7 percent for freshmen — topping 10,000 — and, as of last week, a steep 25 percent for transfers. Interest in Oswego also involves an increasing number of students from families whose conditions have changed, generally from a job loss or drop in income. With the current economic slump, she’s hearing from a lot more people.

But the requests can open up some doors. Additional help is especially available if a family’s income has dropped to a level where they become eligible for Pell Grants or other program-specific grants such as ACG and SMART awards.

"From a campus-based perspective, if we have funding, we may be able to help with Perkins loans or work study," Pagano said. "If the family contribution has dropped enough, we may be able to switch eligi-

Changing family circumstances cause more students to seek aid

The special-consideration requests are piling up on Kathy Pagano’s desk like never before.

An associate director of financial aid, Pagano fields requests from families whose conditions have dropped to a level where they become eligible for Pell Grants or other program-specific grants such as ACG and SMART awards.

"From a campus-based perspective, if we have funding, we may be able to help with Perkins loans or work study," Pagano said. "If the family contribution has dropped enough, we may be able to switch eligi-
Free summer course offer expanded at Metro Center

SUNY Oswego offers an opportunity for any Central New York resident with a bachelor’s degree to take a first graduate course, tuition-free, this summer at the Metro Center in Syracuse.

Oswego has slated more than 30 graduate summer courses at the Metro Center in the Atrium, 2 Clinton Square. They include classes in business, chemistry, computer science, education, marketing, psychology and other fields.

The Course to Connect initiative aims to take the intellectual capital available at Central New York’s college-educated students, grow additional capital through post-baccalaureate certificate or advanced degree programs, and channel it into a long-term economic development strategy for the region, said SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley.

Originally designed for just 2009 graduates, the course decided to expand the program’s benefits to the region by extending availability, providing a free master’s-level class at the Metro Center to anyone in Central New York with a bachelor’s degree who has never taken a graduate course before.

For this program, Central New York residents are defined as those living in Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego or Tompkins counties.

If applicants meet requirements, they may take one first graduate course during the 2009 summer session at the Metro Center, on a first-come, first-served and space-available basis. For more information, visit www.oswego.edu/metro.

Dean finalists interview on campus

Four candidates for dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are interviewing on campus this week and next. All who meet them can complete an evaluation form for the search committee.

The candidates in order of their interviews are:

• Anne L. Hiskes, director of the program on science and human rights and associate professor of philosophy at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. She earned her Ph.D. from Indiana University at Bloomington. She previously served as associate dean of the university’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and currently serves as director of research ethics and education for stem cell research.

• Mikhail M. Bouniaev, founding dean of Southern Utah University’s College of Computing, Integrated Engineering and Technology and a professor of mathematics there. He holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from Moscow Institute of Electrical Engineering and a post-doctoral doctor of science degree from Moscow Pedagogical State University, where he served as a professor and dean.

• Christopher P. Cirmo, chair and professor of geological sciences and coordinator of environmental science programs at SUNY Cortland. He received his Ph.D. in environmental science and engineering from Syracuse University.

• Rhonda G. Mandel, interim dean of Oswego’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and an associate professor, the College of Arts and Sciences, and professor of psychology there. She earned her Ph.D. in psychology at SUNY Buffalo. She previously served as associate provost and dean of general education, assessment and special programs at Oswego.

Open meetings

There are three open sessions in the Campus Center for each candidate. All the chairs and directors sessions are in Room 201, all the students in Room 134 and all the open forums in Room 120.

Hiskes met with chairs and directors at 2 p.m. and students at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and with members of the campus community at 9 a.m. today.

Bouniaev will meet with chairs and directors at 2 p.m. Thursday. An open forum with him is set for 9 a.m. Friday and a student meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Cirmo will meet with chairs and directors at 2 p.m. and with students at 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 23. His open forum will be at 9 a.m. the next day.

Mandel will meet with chairs and directors at 2 p.m. and with students at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, with an open forum at 9 a.m. the next day.

SUNY Oswego begins internal control online training

Once again, the campus internal control office is asking all employees to update their knowledge of internal controls. Enhanced prizes this time include pizza and $100 gas cards.

According to Byron Smith, campus internal control officer, New York state law requires all agencies to have a formal internal control program that includes education and training. Rather than gather small groups into classrooms for formal instruction, Oswego has developed a short online PowerPoint presentation and quiz.

E-mail invitations were sent to employees March 4 and 5 with links to the presentation. All full-time state employees are being asked to participate. Deadline for this training session is April 30. A reminder invitation will be sent out on March 25.

“Those who complete the quiz that follows the presentation will receive a coupon for a free beverage or slice of pizza from Auxiliary Services,” Smith explained.

“If they desire, they will be entered into a drawing for one of $100 gas cards. Drawings will be held once we attain 75 percent participation,” he said.

This is the second time Oswego State has used the online training approach. Two years ago, a quiz was mailed to 1,246 employees, with a free cup of coffee as incentive. About half completed the quiz.

SUNY System Administration praised Oswego’s initiative as a “best practice.”

This year the Division of Budget expanded its training criteria to address three employee “tiers”—upper management, middle management and line staff—and Oswego developed a quiz for each.

A creative team coordinated by Diana Forbes began developing them last fall. Nicole Decker and Daniel Laird of Campus Technology Services helped program the quizzes and test the scoring mechanism. Appropriate quizzes were e-mailed to 1,034 full-time employees according to a table of job titles.

“We realized right away that ramping up the prizes would be fun and encourage more participation,” Smith stated.

“Assuming each tier or group reaches 75 percent participation, we’ll hold the gas card drawings on May 1.”

Pizza and beverage coupons will be mailed out to each person completing the quiz and may be redeemed at the Campus Center or at satellite kiosks in Long Island, Rich, Pentfield and Snygg operated by Auxiliary Services.

For more information, e-mail icontrol@oswego.edu or call Diana Forbes of the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance at 312-3322.

Rewards — Campus workers are required to complete an online internal control survey, and the reward is a voucher for a pizza or a drink, demonstrated here by Darlene Abrantes of the Provost’s Office and Diana Forbes of the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance. Participants may also win one of three $100 gas cards in a drawing.
John Gerry of Delmar, whose daughter Grace was accepted to Oswego, takes a pic

cal and computer engineering. See story, page 1.

Rent pause in the Piez Hall lobby to look at early conceptual renderings and illustrations envisioning the future —

On the flip side, Oswego and other state schools added. Also helps draw because students and their families further away tend to live in residence halls to add diversity to the college, while students from Grant said this geographic trend stems from a rise from more populous areas, up 9 percent from the applications from further afield. Applications continue to rise from more populous areas, up 9 percent from the Lower Hudson Valley and 7 percent each from Long Island and New York City, while out-of-state applications also rose, Griffin noted.

Grant said this geographic trend stems from a concerted effort to bring students from those areas to add diversity to the college, while students from further away tend to live in residence halls to add sought-after vibrancy to campus. That 4,100 of Oswe-go’s around 6,700 undergraduates live on campus also helps draw because students and their families are looking for that kind of residential experience, he added.

On the flip side, Oswego and other state schools are dealing with budget challenges, but “we were prepared for it,” Grant said. “Hopefully, the state budget will get back on track and we can continue to be an asset for the people of the state.”

Need for aid increases

Continued from page 1

bility from unsubsidized loans, where interest accrues while they are in school, to subsidized loans, where interest does not accrue until after they graduate. That can save them hundreds of dollars over their college careers.” Federal legislation increasing Pell Grants is good news for many students as well. A person eligible for the maximum grant will see the amount increase to $5,350 this year, from $4,731. Accelerated students — those trying to graduate early or catch up may have an opportunity to earn up to 200 percent ($10,700) in the academic year for the first time, though colleges are waiting for more information and guidelines.

“We’re also supposed to be receiving a significant increase in our federal work-study budget for the upcoming academic year,” Pagano said. “Ideally, we’re hoping to fund 75 more students, which would really help them with their day-to-day needs.”

Students raise ‘green’ to endow eco-fund

The Class of 2009 has an ambitious — and timely — goal for its senior class gift. Class members will strive to raise $10,000 to endow an Eco-Fund. Proceeds from the endowed fund will be used to support students’ innovative green initiatives and environmental projects on campus.

Projects may include initiating campus use of renewable resources such as solar and wind power, improving campus recycling efforts, funding conferences on sustainability for students to attend, and supporting student and faculty research, according to Michelle Tackett-Spinner, associate director of alumni relations and senior class adviser.

More than 250 students voted on the options for the senior gift. The fact that there is a lot of interest in preserving the environment was a big reason behind the success of the Eco-Fund idea, said Latasha Jackson, senior gift coordinator.

“Over the past year, a lot of things have been more green,” said Jackson. “You can see how by altering one part of your life you are saving the planet, saving energy and saving money, too.”

Before putting the ideas up for a vote, Jackson and Jamie Burgess, senior class coordinator, sought feedback from classmates, as well as faculty and staff.

“We got great feedback and brought it to the attention of Senior Class Planning Committee,” a group of 20 students who meet monthly to plan for the gift as well as Senior Week events in May, she said.

Ambitious goal

The goal is a nearly 50 percent increase over the $7,000 raised by the Class of 2008. “This will be a stretch goal for them,” Tackett-Spinner said of the class.

But Jackson said the class is confident they will succeed. Their innovative methods include having the Telefund callers reach out to students and parents, and using Facebook to get students excited about the fund. The sale of senior T-shirts and a booth in the Campus Center will raise awareness and funds, Jack-son added.

Anyone interested in contributing to the fund can do so at www.oswego.edu/alumni/seniors/gift.

Community invited to discuss sustainable living at town hall

Residents and elected representatives are invited to a town hall meeting titled “Global Climate Change and the Energy Future of Our Community” at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in Sheldon Hall ballroom.

The second installment of the college-supported Science Café series will feature guest speaker Bob Bechtold, president of Harbec Plastics, discussing how he has developed a sustainable green business.

“Bob Bechtold is a leader in the business community implementing low-carbon emission practices,” said organizer Kestas Bendinskas of Oswego’s chemistry department. “His experience shows that it is feasible. It is inspirational to see that someone can run a plastics business on solar, wind and biofuels.”

The event also aims “to decide what we can do in this county practically to address our energy issues and our carbon footprint,” Bendinskas said. Elected officials will attend and interact with the community in related roundtable discussions, he added.

“The list of suggestions generated at the last meeting and several very definite questions will be dis-cussed, and our community leaders will report, in the town hall meeting format, what they have decided to do or have done,” Bendinskas said.

The American Chemical Society, SUNY Oswego and the college’s Auxiliary Services sponsor the meeting. It is also part of SUNY Oswego’s Focus the Nation programs focusing on sustainable living.

For more information, call 312-3677.
**Announcements**

**Women Aloud** next Wednesday

The 20th annual “Women Aloud” performance fundraiser will take place Wednesday, March 25, in the Campus Center auditorium. The event will begin with light refreshments at 5:30 p.m., followed at 6 p.m. by poetry, songs and dance presentations.

The theme is “Still Loud and Proud.” Faculty, staff and student performers will include Lizette Alvarado, Karol Cooper, Jamie Hayden, Lili Jiang, Jonel Langenfeld-Rial, Peggy Lynn, Cleanie Medeoto, Beatrice Salcedo-Strumpf, Gudrun Sketnik and Cheryl Wilkins-Mitchell. Participating from the community will be Denise Knight and Janet Becker.

Tickets cost $5 for the general public and $3 for students, with a $10 special donation level. Proceeds support the women’s studies scholarship program.

For more information, call 312-3234.

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**All-star musical trio to present ‘Hudson River Quadricentennial’**

Grammy-winning fiddler master Mark O’Connor, jazz clarinetist Don Byron and violist Daniel Bernard Roumain will honor an influential body during the “Hudson River Quadricentennial Concert” March 21. During the multimedia show, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre, the musicians will explore the past, present and future of the Hudson River 400 years after Henry Hudson’s journey of discovery. WRVO’s Mark Lavonier will serve as narrator.

The Los Angeles Times called O’Connor “one of the most talented and imaginative artists working in music — any music — today.”

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**Spotlight**

**For Tomascak, teaching geology, geochemistry totally rocks**

This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Paul Tomascak, associate professor of geology and geochemistry. He has taught at Oswego since January 2004.

Q. What courses do you teach?

A. I teach mineralogy, igneous petrology, two geochemistry courses, physical geology (GEO 100) and an intellectual issues course called “Science, Pseudoscience and Fraud.”

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I have my bachelor’s from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, an MSc from the University of Manitoba in tropical Winnipeg and my Ph.D. is from the University of Maryland.

Q. What are your research interests?

A. My research is theoretical. I’m currently working on a National Science Foundation-funded project on granites in Maine, but I have ongoing research on the geochemistry of salt lakes in the western United States, particularly Mono Lake. Salt lakes are great because they record small fluctuations in climate, providing a continuous record of global conditions.

Q. What is your favorite part of working at Oswego?

A. I enjoy teaching on all levels. I really enjoy teaching the 100-level course because it’s the chance to get students interested in the field who may not have considered geology before. I also enjoy teaching the General Education course because it’s so far out from what I normally do: I get to study the paranormal, and you really have people express their opinions. I like the intellectual focus of the major courses and how you can re-evaluate what you’re doing as you go along. I’ve taught mineralogy five times and I don’t think I’ve taught it the same way twice.

Q. What is your impression of Oswego’s students?

A. My impression of our students is good. They compare very favorably with other campuses where I’ve been. With our majors, I’m very impressed with their willingness to tackle very difficult things.

Q. What can you tell us about coordinating the Science Today lecture series?

A. The series was put together before I got here and it’s something I’m very happy to take part in. I enjoy how it puts me in touch with a lot of people with whom I wouldn’t otherwise communicate. I can look at regional colleges’ Web sites and see who is up-and-coming and doing interesting things, and ask them to come and give our students and community a chance to see some really good science. It’s also nice to see how impressed visitors are with our institution and some of the things we do.

Q. What can you tell us about coordinating the Science Today lecture series?

A. I have a wife, Anita, and a 5-year-old daughter, Mary. We live with two dogs and a cat in Baldwins Village. My wife and I are both very interested in nature. We are members of the Audubon Society and Sarah and I have been able to organize all kinds of field trips for the students. We are also involved in the Hermit Crab Project and the Hermit Crab Project office.

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**Donations welcome for book sale**

Penfield Library Associates and Penfield Library are accepting donations for the annual book sale, to be held in the library on April 13, 14 and 15. The sale is the library’s major fundraising effort.

Donations of books, videos, CDs and children’s books are especially needed, said Jim Nichols, chair of the book sale committee. “Donated materials should be clean and in good condition,” he added. The library does not accept donations of magazines, old encyclopedias, Reader’s Digest condensed books or paperback romance novels.

More information on donating is available at: www.oswego.edu/library/booksale/donate.html.

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**Police report**

Since Feb. 27, University Police investigated several cases of theft, disorderly conduct and vandalism and made four arrests. A teenager from Oneida was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unlawful possession of marijuana and speeding. A 26-year-old man from Oswego was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding. Two campus residents were charged with unlawful possession of marijuana in unrelated incidents.

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**Calendar highlights**

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences dean candidate forums, today, March 20, 23, 24, 26, 27
- “The Vagina Monologues,” March 20 to 22
- Rice Creek Rambles, March 21 and 28
- Hudson River Quadricentennial Concert, March 21
- Faculty piano recital, March 23
- “Women Aloud,” March 25
- International Day celebration, March 26
- Tyler Art Gallery reception, March 27
- Collage Concert, March 27

For a more complete calendar — including ArtsWestgo, College Hour and athletic events — see SUNY Oswego Events online at www.oswego.edu/calendar.