



Science exploration — About 170 visitors braved a snowstorm Friday to attend the college's annual Sciences Information Program. Prospective students and their families toured science facilities — including visitors shown here seeing a mass spectrometer demonstration with Martha Bruch of the chemistry department — and talked to professors and current Oswego students.

CPS faculty members lend their expertise to Smaller Learning Communities initiative

James McDougal and Michael LeBlanc of the counseling and psychological services department are helping the Syracuse City School District serve students better through the Smaller Learning Communities initiative.

A \$60,000 grant over three years from the U.S. Department of Education, part of a nationwide \$1.2 million allocation, supports their work.

"Really what the Smaller Learning Communities project is designed to do is increase the achievement, attendance and performance of high schoolers," McDougal said. It includes a focus on supporting high-needs students. Only about half of such students who start ninth grade make it to their senior year of high school, he said.

The two bring experience and expertise to the project. McDougal has performed staff development, program design and evaluation, plus field experience that includes time as the Syracuse City School District's mental health coordinator. LeBlanc has a background

in and teaches research design, statistics and assessment. He will lead data development and analysis.

McDougal and LeBlanc will develop a comprehensive evaluation model, monitor the process, solicit feedback and provide input to the four high schools they work with so that participants know how to continually improve the process. For instance, one enhancement McDougal said he already would suggest is finding a range of ways to communicate the Smaller Learning Communities initiatives to all stakeholders. They are about half-way through the first year of the process.

The program's comprehensive approach involves analyzing and improving such factors as graduation, retention, grade promotion, test scores and attendance. Smaller Learning Communities projects involve a diverse group of stakeholders that includes students, parents, teachers, guidance counselors, administrators and sometimes business partners.

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Students to spend break building homes

While their classmates head south for fun and frivolity in the sun, about 20 Oswego students will spend their spring break working with Habitat for Humanity to revitalize an inner-city Baltimore neighborhood.

This will be the fifth year students, through the campus Center for Service Learning and Community Service, will participate in an Alternative Spring Break, the fourth working with Habitat for Humanity to build and renovate homes for families in need.

From March 14 to 20, Oswego students will help rehabilitate multiple row houses as part of an effort to re-establish a Baltimore neighborhood in tandem with the Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity program, said Christy Huynh, coordinator of the Oswego center. They will live in the neighborhood for that week to feel even more a part of the community, she added.

Huynh said \$2,000 in Student Association funding supports the project, as well as around \$500 that students raised. In addition, each student contributes \$100 for travel, lodging, insurance and food. But participating students expect to receive invaluable experience even as they give their time.

"I hope to gain a few new friends and a respect for myself knowing that I have done at least a little part to help someone realize their dream," said freshman Alexander Lyndaker. "Possibly learn a few more things about construction and be able to spend my spring break not just partying but helping someone."

Anticipating a growth experience

Sophomore Andrea Brandl looks at the project as an opportunity to lend a new perspective to her life while helping others. "I hope that through this experience I will gain an even greater appreciation for everything I have," Brandl said. "I also hope to make a difference in the life of someone who needs it."

Tristan Foster, a senior, views the trip as a unique learning opportunity. "From this experience I hope to learn more about what can and is being done to help those in need," he said. "I hope to learn from the people around me, as well as give them any knowledge that I may be able to contribute."

Students will have a special opportunity to see how their work helps when a house is dedicated and turned over to a family on March 19, the day before they wrap up their break. □

Three college presidents to speak on 'changing face of higher education'

As part of the celebration of Women's History Month, three Central New York college presidents, will offer their views on the current state of colleges and universities in "The Changing Face of Higher Education: Challenges and Promises" at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, in the ballroom of Sheldon Hall on campus.



Debbie L. Sydow

Speaking will be Lisa Marsh Ryerson, president of Wells College in Aurora; Debbie L. Sydow, president of Onondaga Community College in Syracuse; and Deborah F. Stanley, president of SUNY Oswego. Susan Coultrap-McQuin, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Oswego, will moderate.

The panel discussion, followed by questions and answers from the audience, will be free and open to the public.

Ryerson said she expects to talk about the Central

New York Brain Trust, the complex of public and private, two-year and four-year schools in the region, including their positive impact on the economy and culture. She will talk about the need for community partnerships and the importance of providing students with access to quality higher education.



Deborah F. Stanley

economic needs of the community it serves. Despite the challenge of decreased public funding, which jeopardizes student access, she believes this mission remains critical as the Central New York economy continues to evolve.

Stanley plans to discuss the national trend of in-

creasing student engagement in their communities and society at large through such programs as the American Democracy Project and Campus Compact. She will consider how fostering engagement enhances the educational experience of students while stimulating the communities where campuses reside and encouraging collaborative town-gown relationships.



Lisa Marsh Ryerson

largest fund-raising effort in the college's history. She is currently leading Wells' transition from a women's

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College trends

Impact of higher education

“State investment in higher education yields significant benefits to both the state and its citizens, according to a new report by the Institute for Higher Education Policy. The study found that states whose citizens have higher education levels have higher voting rates, increased volunteerism and lower reliance on public assistance. Individuals also have lower unemployment, higher salaries and better health. In ‘The Investment Payoff — A 50-State Analysis of Public and Private Benefits of Higher Education,’ researchers noted that unemployment, volunteer participation and public assistance levels varied considerably among different educational levels. For example, welfare program participation rates in 2003 was less than one-half percent among those with a bachelor’s degree, compared to 1 percent of those with a high school diploma and 2.1 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.”

— *Edlines*, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Feb. 18, 2005

Women advance

“Female students have gone from being a minority to a majority of undergraduate enrollments in the United States over the last generation, and have increased their preparedness for college work and their graduation rates, in many cases besting their male counterparts, according to a report released [Feb. 25] by the National Center for Education Statistics. The report . . . also says that the trends are more apparent among some racial and socioeconomic groups than others. For example, while women made up 56 percent of all undergraduates in 2001 (up from 42 percent in 1970), women accounted for 63 percent of black students, 62 percent of students over the age of 39, and 70 percent of single-parent students. In terms of academic preparedness, the report says, the number of women who took high-school courses of a high ‘academic intensity’ lagged behind men as recently as the 1980s. By the 1990s the gap had closed. That degree of preparedness paid off. Until the early 1990s a higher proportion of men than women in their late 20s possessed bachelor’s degrees. Around 1991 or 1992, however, more women than men held degrees in that age group, and the gender gap has only widened since then. In 2003 women led men, 31 percent to 26 percent, in this category.”

— *Academe Today*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Feb. 28, 2005

Girls outperform boys

“Female high school students have consistently outperformed males in reading and writing, have higher educational aspirations than their male peers, and are more likely than males to enroll in college the fall immediately following graduation from high school, according to the recent report Trends in Educational Equity of Girls and Women: 2004 from the U.S. Department of Education. The report analyzes data compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics’ National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for grades 4, 8, and 12 for the years 1992, 2002, and 2003. . . . According to the report, while girls’ performance in mathematics is often perceived to be lower than that of boys, the 12th grade NAEP assessments in mathematics and science show no significant gender differences in achievement scores. However, girls were less likely to report liking math or science. This is true despite the fact that young women take equally or more challenging mathematics and science coursework than their male peers in high school (with the exception of physics).”

— *BriefCASE*, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, February 2005

People in action



Here to help — Jodi Fiorini (left) of the counseling and psychological services department and Carol Carter of Penfield Library are the new co-coordinators of the Employee Assistance Program. EAP is a voluntary service that provides wellness programs as well as professional and confidential assistance to employees and family members with personal problems and concerns. For more information on the Employee Assistance Program, call 312-5546.

Winners of the Oswego Reading Initiative essay competition were honored at a dinner last month. A panel of faculty, staff and administrators judged essays that freshmen submitted on Sherman Alexie’s short story collection *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven*. **Katie Blanding**, who is majoring in teaching English as a second language, won first place, which paid for all her textbooks this semester. **Stephanie King** won second place and a \$200 gift certificate to the College Book Store. **Megan Myerov**, a theatre and broadcasting major, took third place and a \$100 gift certificate. Honorable mention and \$50 gift certificates went to adolescent education major **Kevalin Rudd** and English major **Erin Wilcox**.

David Horacek, an adjunct professor in the philosophy department, gave a talk called “A Decent Chance of the Impossible” at the sixth annual Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, held Feb. 26 and 27 at Rutgers University. Horacek has taught courses in ethics, critical thinking, valid reasoning and the theory of knowledge at Oswego and is a graduate student at Syracuse University. His research area is the philosophy of time. The main idea of his talk is that a time traveler into the past would have the same chance of accomplishing a goal as his or her intrinsic duplicate who is not a time traveler.

Kimberly Ayn Reed, assistant professor of sociology, has been invited to be a visiting lecturer next week, March 17 and 18, at Grossmont College in San Diego, where she will take part in classroom visits and give a version of a paper presented to the Oxford Round Table at Oxford University’s Lincoln College last August. The paper is titled “Women and Small Business in a Global Age: Government Policies and Employment Conditions.”

Lawrence Spizman of the economics department was recently elected vice president east of the National Association of Forensic Economists. His term will run for three years. The association has members worldwide and is the largest professional organization for forensic economists. It publishes the *Journal of Forensic Economics*. The journal’s target audiences are economists, finance and business professionals, accountants, lawyers, actuaries and vocational counselors. Most of these professionals are engaged in fields as varied as business valuation, commercial litigation, employment litigation and personal injury and wrongful death torts. As part of the educational advancement process, the association sponsors programs at regional and national economic conferences. Spizman’s many refereed published articles

include 12 in the area of forensic economics. His research includes a seminal work, co-authored with **John Kane** (also of the economics department), on estimating parental influence on a child’s future earnings. This study is widely used in both state and federal courts and has been reprinted in three books. His other research has been cited in state court decisions. Spizman said he believes that there is an important integration between the applied use of economics in the legal system and the academic study of law and economics. He said his goal as vice president is to further research between these two areas.

Barbara Streets, a counselor in the Counseling Services Center, passed the national licensure examination for professional practice in psychology, completing requirements for a licensed psychologist in the state of New York.

Alicia E. Vadillo of the modern languages department has published her essay “La Lagrima de Ahab: Trilogía Poética de José María Alvarez” (“The Tear of Ahab: Poetic Trilogy by José María Alvarez”) in the bilingual book *Profiles and Shadows*, published by the University of Turabo Press in Puerto Rico and Ediciones Baquiana in Miami. The book is composed of three main critical analyses regarding the poetry of the contemporary Spanish poet José María Alvarez.

K. Brad Wray, assistant professor in philosophy, has published a paper titled “Rethinking Scientific Specialization” in the February issue of *Social Studies of Science*. He presented an earlier version of the paper in Oviedo, Spain, and the Office of International Education supported his travel to that conference. □

Nominations open for top senior

The Oswego Alumni Association is seeking nominations for a new Outstanding Senior Award to be presented on Commencement Eve. The deadline is March 18.

The award will recognize a senior student who has excelled in academic performance and campus involvement. The recipient will be recognized in front of classmates, family, faculty and staff on the Friday night before graduation with an engraved keepsake.

Alice Massimi, a 2002 graduate who was active in student and alumni activities, sponsors this new award. The broadcasting and mass communications graduate is a television news producer and reporter in Savannah, Ga.

All students graduating in 2005 are eligible for nomination. Forms are available online at <http://oswegoalumni.oswego.edu/senioraward> or by calling the Alumni Relations Office at 312-2258. □

Historian's book tells how cosmetic industry came to be regulated

As women began buying more cosmetics instead of using homemade concoctions in the early 20th century, the dangers of unregulated mass production gradually became apparent. Women and their advocates raised the alarm, and an act of Congress was the result.

Gwen Kay, assistant professor of history, tells the story of the grassroots activism that helped change public policy in her book *Dying to Be Beautiful: The Fight for Safe Cosmetics*. Published in February, it is the newest volume in The Ohio State University Press series Women, Gender and Health.

By the 1930s, women were buying beauty products that contained such harmful ingredients as lead, mercury and arsenic, Kay said. No law regulated their manufacture, and ingredients were not listed on labels.

"People were really dying to be beautiful," Kay said.

Women who used Koremlu, a depilatory that contained a chemical common in rat poison, suffered nerve disorders that sometimes led to paralysis and death. Women went blind using a popular mascara called Lash Lure, and at least one died.

"These dramatic incidents were caused by seemingly innocuous products used by millions of women on a daily basis," Kay wrote in her book.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, created by the Pure Food and Drugs Act of 1906, was powerless when it came to cosmetics. The corrective was the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act of 1938.

As a graduate student in medical history at Yale University, Kay found that no one had studied the genesis of the 1938 law. She combed the FDA records in the National Archives and found long-

forgotten letters, documents and even a public health radio series.

"No one had done anything on the history of cosmetics," Kay said. "I got to discover all this."

In her book, which is a revision of her doctoral dissertation, she recounts the personal tragedies that made activists out of women, beauticians, local health officials and physicians who were trying to cure the hapless victims.

"It was grassroots political activism by people who didn't think of themselves as activists," Kay said.

One was a 10-year-old writing to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. "My mother has been trying to put a new law so that no more poison will be put in this dye," the girl wrote. "My mother is totally blind and we want you to help us get the law across."

Kay argues in her book that years of lobbying by ordinary citizens laid the groundwork for the 1938 law, and she shows how the FDA put its new power to good use immediately — killing Lash Lure that June — and taking other steps to restore public confidence in reputable beauty products.

She concludes her book with the caution that the FDA can act only on complaints and that the responsibility for safety and health continues to fall on the consumer. And she notes that the dangerous dye in the 1930s' Lash Lure turns up today in some temporary tattoos.

Dying to Be Beautiful is available in paperback (\$22.95) and cloth-bound hard cover (\$64.95) as well as in electronic format on CD-ROM (\$9.95) from The Ohio State University Press. □

— Julie Harrison Blissert



Gwen Kay

President's panel

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college to a coeducational institution, which has resulted in a dramatic increase in student applications.

She was instrumental in establishing the Aurora Foundation, a partnership between Wells and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation, which is contributing to economic development in and around Aurora. She chairs the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities of New York State and holds a number of other state and national positions.

Sydow has served as a community college educator and administrator for nearly 20 years. In her roles as president, vice president, dean, and faculty member at community colleges, she has worked with college stakeholders to ensure curricular quality and program alignment with community need.

Serving as president of Onondaga Community College since 2000, Sydow has led record enrollment growth, as well as significant increases in grants and gifts, expanded access through distance education and flexible program offerings, and enhanced campus-community relations.

Now in her 10th year leading SUNY Oswego, Stanley has launched academic initiatives that have led to innovative learning programs for first-year students, capstone experiences for seniors, and coveted accreditation for both the School of Business and School of Education. She is a founding board member of the New York State Campus Compact, among other state and national positions.

Under her leadership, Oswego has undergone massive capital improvements and upgrades of campus technological capabilities, externally funded research and programs have doubled, and the college has embarked on its first comprehensive fund-raising campaign. □

Children's Center project results in publications

Sixteen childhood education majors worked with curriculum and instruction Professor Audrey Rule on a special project with the Oswego Children's Center on campus that will result in three publications.

Working in three groups — one each on insects, marine life and geoscience (minerals, rocks and dinosaurs) — the students made sets of teaching materials for preschoolers that integrated science content, early mathematics skills and fine motor skills, Rule said.

For example, Rule said, David Danisa painted each of six cardboard egg carton cups to match the colors and textures of different small rocks. The preschooler then used a spoon to place each rock in its matching compartment, thereby practicing fine motor skills in manipulating the rock with a spoon, learning science content that geologists classify many rocks by color and texture, and practicing the foundational math skill of matching color and texture, she explained.

Other student projects called for transfer of small items using tongs, tweezers or clip-type clothespins, she said.

Another set, made by Lesley Chase, contained two boards, each with four plastic sea animals (sharks, seals, whales) securely attached. The child used a small fishnet to capture an identical sea animal and place it in a square next to its duplicate.

"All of the activities practiced skills that real scientists use, such as entomologists sorting insects ac-

ording to characteristics, geologists counting grains . . . or marine scientists placing one fish in each tank for observation," Rule said.

In late December, students visited the preschool in small groups and helped the young children use their materials, gaining valuable feedback in how children responded to their work. The preschoolers were able to use the materials for about a month after the visit.

The students collaborated with Rule on three articles about the project. All three have been accepted and will be published sometime in the next year, Rule said. The articles are:

- "Preschoolers Dive in for Authentic Learning of Marine Science" by Allison Chetney, Lindsey Faulkner, Bridget Smithers, Stephanie Rubas, Sara Schwartz, Chase and Rule, to appear in the *Journal of Authentic Learning*
- "Geoscience for Preschoolers" by Jason Gentile, Kate McNamara, Monica Pinney, Sarah Ross, Danisa and Rule, to appear in *Science and Children*
- "'Bee' an Entomologist" by D. J. Barnhardt, Heather Howard, Valerie Kahn, Tara Kempf, Jessica Leo and Rule, to appear in *Early Childhood Education Journal*

Rule also put together a bulletin board on the lower level of Swetman Hall and a display on the second floor of Penfield Library to chronicle the project. □



First-place tech team

Patrick Foley, Eric Cohoon and Jason Dewey were on Oswego's first-place team and among 16 students in the Oswego Technology Education Association competing last month in the Technology Education Collegiate Association Eastern Regional Conference at Virginia Beach.

Contending with 14 other schools, Oswego's team placed first in the elementary technology education event, second in the manufacturing event and third in the secondary teaching lesson event.

It was Oswego's first time in the regional competition, and the team entered six events. The Student Association supported the team's participation.

The team also included Zachary Carrico, Casey Cowell, Barry Cummings, Jeffrey Decker, Ryan Falise, Gregory Garrison, Jonathan Kavanagh, Kristy Rhodes, James Roland, Anthony Schepis, Jonathan Shelley, Preston Sweeney and Ryan Theiss.

Faculty advisers Thomas Kubicki and Daniel Tryon, assistant professors of technology, accompanied them.

Announcements

Elements Quartet to offer music, advice during campus residency

The chamber music group Elements Quartet has been meeting with college classes and will hold an interactive performance session and present its new production "Snapshots" during its residency on campus this week.

The quartet will hold a public performance of "Snapshots," a multimedia show featuring music and the 16 photos that inspired them, at 7 p.m. Thursday in Tyler Hall's Waterman Theatre.

Consisting of Edward Arron, Danielle Farina, Jeffrey Multer and Xiao-Dong Wang, the quartet represents a cross-section of classically trained musicians who strive to bring chamber music to new audiences.

After seeing "Snapshots" in New York City's Merkin Hall, Wall Street Journal drama critic Terry Teachout said, "I've never seen so large and enthusiastic a crowd at a program consisting entirely of new music for string quartet."

Innovative, interdisciplinary

The Artswego Performing Arts Series co-sponsors the group's appearance with the music department. "Since Elements Quartet was so popular the last time they played here, and they have such an innovative and creative new program, this presented the perfect opportunity to bring them back to campus," said Mary Avrakotos, Artswego coordinator.

The interdisciplinary nature of that performance lends itself well to related educational opportunities, she added.

The public is invited to an informal, interactive performance at 3 p.m. today at the Lake Effect Café in Penfield Library. The group will preview a few selections and answer audience questions at the admission-free session.

Funds for residency work in conjunction with this performance have been provided by Chamber Music America with support from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation and the Chamber Music America Residency Endowment Fund.

For ticket information or reservations for the full-length evening "Snapshots" concert, call Tyler Hall box office at 312-2141. □



Artist at work — Dillon Powell, a senior studio art major, works in the Tyler Hall wood shop in preparation for the 42nd annual Juried Student Art Exhibition in Tyler Art Gallery. The juried exhibition and the Master of Arts Thesis Exhibition opened Friday and will continue to April 3, though they will close for spring break.

Police report

Since Feb. 18, University Police have investigated several cases of theft, harassment and vandalism and arrested 12 people.

Police charged a 19-year-old Oneida Hall resident with stalking, menacing and two counts of harassment regarding his conduct toward a female student over several days on campus.

A 19-year-old Carthage man was charged with driving while intoxicated and with a blood alcohol content above .08 on Sweet Road and Route 104.

Police charged a 19-year-old Cayuga Hall resident with assault. He is accused of hitting an Oneida Hall resident in the back of the head, causing a concussion.

Officers charged a 20-year-old Waterbury Hall resident with petit larceny. He is accused of stealing a cookie from the Hewitt Union food court.

They charged an 18-year-old Funnelle Hall resident with petit larceny. She is accused of stealing clothing from her hall mates' rooms and laundry.

Police charged six students with unlawful possession of marijuana in separate incidents. A seventh student was charged with obstructing government administration and disorderly conduct. Police said he tried to block their entrance into a room where they found marijuana. □

Learning communities

Continued from page 1

The faculty members' evaluation will measure how much stakeholders find they benefit from the project, feel an increased sense of achievement, and understand the Smaller Learning Communities goals and involvement.

The program teams teachers from different disciplines to work with a specific cohort of students. "They will have a greater chance to connect with students," McDougal said. "The idea is to connect with students individually so they don't get lost in the shuffle of 1,500 other kids."

There is a focus both on current student performance and post-graduation success, including working with businesses to show career opportunities and how skills learned in the classroom translate to real life.

In addition to the opportunity to use their skills and knowledge to benefit a school district in the area, McDougal and LeBlanc said that any successes can become models to help school systems anywhere. □

— Tim Nekritz

Spotlight

Riley plugs utility services into campus

The Campus Update Spotlight shines on Pat Riley this week. She has been the college's assistant director of utilities since February 2003.

Q. How would you describe your job and responsibilities?

A. Complex. I'm in charge of plumbing, HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning), electrical and the central heating plant. It involves coordinating and maintaining these services to the entire campus. We do corrective maintenance, preventative maintenance, projects, and a lot of the work orders go through us for these systems.

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

A. I think it's being on the forefront of the renovations going on around campus and seeing the multitude of improvements that are happening and being planned for the future of this campus. It's nice to be a part of that.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

A. Probably completion of my schooling through the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Michigan. Everybody finds it unique that I went through a maritime academy. I enjoyed it quite a bit.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I have a maritime engineering degree with a minor in business. I'm currently matriculated in the engineering program at Syracuse University as well as getting a management degree there.



Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. Outside of work and kids and "life," there's not a lot of time for hobbies. I like to go camping, traveling and do home-improvement projects.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. I have three children and two stepchildren. Robert is 21, Ben is 16, Brittany is 15, Brandon is 14 and Julie is 13. With my husband, Mike, we live in Onondaga. □

Calendar highlights

- Student elections, today
- "Snapshots" with Elements Quartet, March 10
- Spring break, March 12 to 20
- Rice Creek Ramble, March 19
- General faculty meeting, March 21
- College presidents' panel, March 22
- Good Friday, no classes, March 25

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