

New cinema studies major could offer script for success

The college's new cinema and screen studies major will offer lessons far beyond making films, said Bennet Schaber and Amy Shore, the new major's co-coordinators.

They point to a 2005 New York Times article headlined "Is a Cinema Studies Degree the New M.B.A.?" The skills students develop in these courses translate into many areas of business, Schaber noted.

"Being a film major is not a bad way to get a job," Schaber said. He said the major, which received final approval in December, teaches such in-demand traits as organizational skills, resource management, tech-

nological know-how, problem-solving experience and communication ability.

"There is recognition in several business sectors that the skills of film majors involve similar tasks" to what successful businesses need, Shore said. For instance, the program emphasizes collaboration and creativity, which are increasingly in demand in the business world, she added.

"These are practical skills," Schaber said of the interdisciplinary humanities-based curriculum, which allows students to practice writing, critical thinking and synthesizing information. Students not only learn

how to think creatively, but how to guide their ideas into completion, he said.

Majors take eight core courses in English and creative writing and broadcasting to learn literary, critical and technological aspects of filmmaking. This foundation is complemented by four three-credit electives in anthropology, broadcasting, communication and/or English and creative writing. The major culminates with a one-credit capstone class in which they make their own film.

One of the program's first majors, Ed Bosak, had a longtime interest in film and took many of the component courses while waiting for the major to become official. "All the classes I've taken have helped me in different ways," the senior from Long Island said.

Scriptwriting honor

Those courses reaped rewards when Doug Smart, who taught Bosak in a broadcast scriptwriting class, submitted one of Bosak's scripts to the Broadcast Education Association's national student scriptwriting competition. "It placed second, and I went to Las Vegas in April to receive my award," said Bosak.

Another first major, Jill Matyjasik, said the cinema and screen studies program caught her interest at a time she was unsure what to pursue, and it has paid off both with President's List grades and a wider worldview. "What it's done is given me an outlet to a really broad field of careers," said Matyjasik.

"These courses are very much discussion-based rather than relying on what's written in a textbook," the junior from Liverpool said.

The classes teach film as part of a greater context, she said. "You learn that film as a medium has its own place in history as a tool to actually capture a moment in time," Matyjasik said. "Anyone can learn what a close-up shot is, but the classes also give you theory behind what you're watching." □

— Tim Nekritz



Screen dialogue — Professor Bennet Schaber looks over some work with Jill Matyjasik, one of the first students to major in the new cinema and screen studies program. Schaber and Amy Shore of the English and creative writing department co-coordinate the new program.

College Hour to provide diverse events throughout spring semester

Oswego's College Hour will debut this semester with a schedule that includes lectures, performances, dance workshops, comedy, films and more at 12:40 p.m. every Wednesday.

College Hour activities are dedicated to student involvement, topical issues and personal enrichment during a time that will not conflict with classes.

Rhonda Mandel, interim dean of arts and sciences, said a major goal is to enhance the college's sense of community at a time of maximum convenience. "A lot of these events are traditionally things we really want our students to attend, but they may be unable because of scheduling conflicts," said Mandel, a member of the College Hour Committee. "And having the events in the middle of the day helps commuter students who may want to attend between classes."

The series will begin Jan. 31 with "College Hour Kickoff: Carnival on Ice" at the Campus Center, which will feature entertainment, open skating, games, music and prizes.

Headliners during the semester will include author and National Public Radio music critic Tim Riley discussing "Censorship and Free Press" Feb. 7, Muslim stand-up comic Tissa Hami presenting "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Mosque" March 28, human-rights activist Arn Chorn-Pond exploring "Peace, Healing, Redemption and Activism" April 25, and comedian and eating-disorder survivor Stacey Prussman talking about "Looking Through Broken Mirrors: Understanding Eating Disorders" May 2.

Under the theme of Arts and Music Across the

College Hour will be interactive informances preceding evening performances in the Ke-Nekt Chamber Music Series: "Devils, Soldiers and Souls," Feb. 14; Eastman Jazz Trio, March 7; and Miró Quartet, April 11. Other cultural activities will include student recitals, arts presentations, dramatic readings and West African dance classes.

The Science Today lecture series will move to the College Hour, as well as "Conversations on Learning and Teaching," sponsored by the Center for Learning and Teaching and the Committee on Learning and Teaching. Other new and existing programming series slated for the College Hour include ones featuring women's studies speakers, philosophy department colloquia, faculty and student presentations by the psychology and human-computer interaction departments, and films related to cognitive science.

In addition, *Haven* author Ruth Gruber will return to campus April 11, the Counseling Center will offer stress and anxiety screening March 7, and the college's Oswego Reading Initiative Kickoff for the 2007 selection, Anthony Grooms' *Bombingham* (see related article, page 3), will take place May 9.

Activities were spearheaded by the College Hour Committee, with support and input from a wide range of faculty, staff and students, Mandel said. Major sponsors include the Student Association, Artswego, Office of the President, Hart Global Living and Learning Center, Office of International Education and Programs and other sources.

A brochure with a comprehensive schedule will be

available by the start of the spring semester. Many activities are listed on the college's events calendar at www.oswego.edu/news/calendar. □ — Tim Nekritz



Hour highlight — The Miró Quartet will present an interactive infomance on April 11, one of many highlights of College Hour this spring.

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College trends

Freshmen evolve

“College freshmen are discussing politics more than they have in 40 years, and fewer describe their views as middle-of-the-road, according to an annual survey. . . . A record proportion — 23.9 percent — call themselves conservative, and not since 1975 has the proportion of liberals, now 28.4 percent, been higher. The Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles has conducted the national survey of freshmen since 1966, and its most recent findings are based on responses from more than 270,000 freshmen at the beginning of the fall semester. . . . More than one-third of those students, who entered college in the run-up to last fall’s contentious elections, said they talked about politics regularly. In 2004, the last presidential-election year, just a quarter of freshmen said they had frequent political discussions. ‘Students are increasingly seeing that major public-policy issues affect their lives,’ said Thomas Ehrlich, co-director of the Political Engagement Project at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. ‘. . . Health care, energy, the war in Iraq — these issues have direct impact on their lives, and they know it.’ . . . This year’s survey showed increased interest in community service, beyond even the high levels last year, measured just after Hurricane Katrina. Two-thirds of all freshmen classified ‘helping others in difficulty’ as a very important or essential personal goal.”

— *Academe Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Jan. 19, 2007

Merit aid goes to richer students

“Merit scholarships are disproportionately awarded to students from high-income families, and the percentage of merit aid colleges give out, compared to need-based aid, has increased significantly since 1994. . . . From 1994 to 2004, students from families in the top-income quartile (\$111,170 or higher annually) received three times as much merit aid as students in the lowest income quartile (\$37,745 or less). Families in the lowest quartile spend 58 percent of their income on the net price of college, compared with 12 percent of income for families in the highest income group, according to [a] report, which was issued by Eduventures, an education-consulting company. During the same 10-year span, the proportion of merit aid to total grant aid distributed increased from 6 percent to 16 percent.”

— *Academe Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Jan. 17, 2007

Four-year advantage

“Say you’re a student, trying to save some money, and you’re trying to figure out which local institution to attend. Do you go for the least expensive or the best quality? According to new research, your best investment is to spend the money, which many times would lead someone to a four-year institution. ‘The benefits are clear and significant,’ said one co-author of the study, Rey Hernandez-Julian, an assistant professor of economics at Metropolitan State College of Denver. The study — which comes at a time of increased attention to transfer issues, because so many students attend multiple institutions — was published by the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute. ‘The students from four-year institutions are better prepared than the transfer students from a community college,’ he said. . . . The researchers examined the grades of students who transferred to Clemson University. The students were divided into those who came from less selective versus more selective institutions. (The less selective institutions were generally, but not exclusively, community colleges.) Tim Sass, a professor of economics at Florida State University whose research explores similar issues, said that the study provides good, convincing evidence that lower division classes at selective colleges are better.”

— *Inside Higher Ed*, Dec. 4, 2006

Students present posters at astronomy conference

Five students accompanied Shashi Kanbur of the physics department to the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Seattle earlier this month and presented five posters.

“It was my first professional conference, which made it all the more exciting,” Greg Feiden said by e-mail last week. “The opportunity was great. I was surrounded by some of the most brilliant minds in astrophysics and cosmology, and to be presenting my research on the same level as people who receive millions of dollars in grants was phenomenal.”

Jim Young added, “It was an amazing opportunity that I never thought I would have, especially in my undergrad (years). I had the opportunity to talk with countless people involved in astronomy and astrophysics. Among these researchers included many people who currently work for NASA.”

Young and Feiden are both junior physics majors with astronomy minors. Also attending were physics students Daniel Crain and Sean Scott and math major Rick Stevens.

Kanbur said more than 2,500 people attended the conference from all over the world, “giving a good snapshot of current research in all of astronomy.”

He noted that Oswego had the most posters in the session on “Variable Stars and the Distance Scale.” “The other posters were all by authors from research-driven universities,” he said.

The Oswego presentations were “The Use of a High School Observatory to Study the Metallicity Dependence of the Cepheid Period-Luminosity Relation” by Young, Scott, Kanbur and Alan Ominsky of the Southern Cayuga Central School Observatory; “An Empirical Investigation of the Effect of Metallicity on Linear vs. Non-Linear Cepheid Period-Luminosity Relations” by Daniel Crain, Greg Feiden, Dylan Wallace, Scott, Michelle Schoonmaker, Sam McCabe, Rick Stevens, Kanbur and C. Ngeow of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; “An Investigation into the Properties of RR Lyraes at Maximum and Minimum Light” by Feiden, Kanbur, Ngeow, R. Szabó and R. Buchler of the University of Florida, and Z. Kolláth of the Konkoly Observatory in Hungary; “A Theoretical Investigation into Period-Color Relations for Cepheids in the Small Magellanic Cloud” by Kanbur, Feiden and Ngeow; and “A Testimator Based Approach to Investigate the Non-linearity of the LMC Cepheid Period-Luminosity Relation” by Stevens, Kanbur, Ngeow and Ampalavanar Nanthakumar of SUNY Oswego.

“Working with Dr. Kanbur has been a once in a lifetime experience,” Feiden said. “He has really made it possible for students here to make a name for themselves so that other programs recognize Oswego as a place with intelligent and hard-working students.” □

— Julie Harrison Blissert



“*Amazing opportunity*” — Oswego physics majors Sean Scott, left, and Jim Young, explain their project to Theresa Moody, a Project Astro coordinator in New Jersey, earlier this month at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Seattle. They were among five Oswego students who accompanied Shashi Kanbur of the physics faculty to the meeting. Scott and Young plan to use a charge-coupled device (CCD) camera with a telescope at Southern Cayuga High School to analyze Cepheid stars in the Milky Way with the aim of getting high school students involved. “We didn’t have the right piece to connect it to the telescope at first,” Scott said, but Kanbur and Alan Ominsky, who runs the observatory, “figured out how to make a part, and (we) just picked up from there,” he said.

People in action

Mark Baum, a 1981 Oswego graduate in political science, and **Louis A. Borrelli Jr.**, a 1977 graduate in communication studies, joined the Oswego College Foundation board of directors at the group’s annual business meeting. Baum is a partner in Diamond-Cluster International, DiamondCluster’s Enterprise practice, focusing on clients in the consumer packaged-goods industry. He is national chair of the Fund for Oswego. Borrelli is chief executive officer of NEP Broadcasting, the leading international provider of outsourced teleproduction services critical to the delivery of live sports and entertainment events. In 2005, he established the Louis A. Borrelli Jr. Media Summit at Oswego.

Kestas Bendinskas of the chemistry department has been appointed editor of the biochemistry section for the *American Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

Twelve Oswego alumni, including four working at the college, and one student were named to the Oswego County “Forty Under 40” honor roll of young achievers at the end of 2006. They are **Kevin Broderick**, who received his master’s degree in 1992 and is the men’s basketball coach; **Christy Harrison**

Huynh, a 1998 graduate who directs the Center for Community Service and Service Learning; **Jonathan Peck**, a 2003 graduate who works in Campus Technology Services and the Center for Business and Community Development; **Jamie Stack-Leszczynski**, a 2004 graduate who works in the Office of Development; **Daniel Tascarella**, president of the Student Association; and nine alumni: **Eric Bresee** ’01; **Brian Chetney** ’91; **Meredith Shanley Furlong** M’97; **Christy Brower Johnson** ’99, M’02; **Robin Philips** ’92; **Jason Rinoldo** ’95; **William Ruby** ’97; and **Heidi Strong** ’04.

Tyrone Johnson-Neuland of Campus Technology Services has work included in the annual national juried exhibition “Works on Paper” on view from Jan. 31 to Feb. 25 at MUSE Gallery in Philadelphia. An artists’ reception will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 2.

Doug Lea of the computer science department has received a one-year, \$60,000 grant from Google to provide scalable usable concurrency support. He also has an eight-year, \$150,000 project through this year with Sun and two \$20,000, two-year projects under way, funded by Intel and IBM. □

\$95,000 grant will develop world-premiere production on Darwin

The Artswego Performing Arts Series at SUNY Oswego has received a \$95,000 grant from the New York State Music Fund to support collaboration between composer Richard Einhorn and the college to create a multimedia production based on the life and work of Charles Darwin.

Julie Pretzat, professor and chair of music, is taking a sabbatical this spring to work with Einhorn on the early stages of the choral work, tentatively titled "The Origin of the Origin," slated to debut at Oswego in March 2008.

Einhorn first collaborated with Pretzat when he brought his multimedia masterwork "Voices of Light" to SUNY Oswego in 2004. "Voices of Light" mixed live music as the "voices" to accompany Carl Dreyer's 1928 silent film "The Passion of Joan of Arc."

"Of all the masterworks of science, none is more readable than Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*," Einhorn said. "It is remarkable that no influential composer in the nearly 150 years since its publication has produced a major work based upon it, as it is filled with literary beauties and profound insights."

Just as boards of education have debated the teach-

ing of evolution and "intelligent design," Darwin encountered internal conflict as he formulated his groundbreaking theory, Einhorn said.

"During his own journey of scientific discovery, Darwin raised the same objections to his theory that are heard today," Einhorn explained. "Darwin himself is the most qualified person to confront the weaknesses of Darwin's theory; his own opposition to where his science was heading will form the musical/dramatic core of the work."

Pretzat said Einhorn will visit classrooms to share creativity insights, research strategies and other thoughts with students.

"He does so much background work before he puts pen to paper," Pretzat said. "He becomes an expert on whatever he works on. He also creates very accessible music."

Einhorn plans to work with a wide variety of musicians and scholars to develop the multimedia piece. Between members of Oswego's College Choir, Festival Chorus and College-Community Orchestra, technicians and others working behind the scenes, organizers estimate nearly 200 people will provide input.

A key component would be visiting artists Kitka,

a Bulgarian women's vocal ensemble, who will help vocalize Darwin's thoughts in the production. "Kitka's extended presence in Oswego will also broaden the intercultural experience of Central New York audiences," said Mary Avrakotos, Artswego coordinator.

"The goal of this project is to make learning more intentional and connected," Avrakotos said, noting the production is both an opportunity for students to be part of a creative work and perform a deeper exploration of the origin of scientific principles.

The Oswego premiere would precede an expected increase in interest in Darwin's life and work with the 200th anniversary of the scientist's birth in 2009.

"I hope to produce a work of musical excellence and thematic substance," Einhorn said. "This one-time opportunity presented by the New York State Music Fund is truly extraordinary."

The New York State Music Fund was established by the New York State Attorney General at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. Oswego's funding is part of \$19 million in a second round of grants resulting from record-company settlements against "payola" or pay-for-play charges in past years. □

— Tim Nekritz

Announcements

Bombingham targeted for ORI '07

The novel *Bombingham* by Anthony Grooms has been selected for campuswide reading this summer — and activities in the next academic year — under the Oswego Reading Initiative.

The book touches on two pivotal historic events and offers a personal, identifiable narrative through fictional protagonist Walter Burke, said Rhonda Mandel, interim dean of arts and sciences.

"The main character is fighting in Vietnam, but he's also reminiscing about growing up in Birmingham, Ala., during the Civil Rights movement," Mandel said. "It's also a juxtaposition to Vietnam, in how what happened in Birmingham affected how he functions in Vietnam."

The action finds Burke trying to compose a letter to the parents of a fallen compatriot, inspiring flashbacks to an upbringing when he was faced with the choice of joining the fight for equality or sitting on the sidelines. Between bearing the indignity of Jim Crow laws and having to deal with a dying mother and alcoholic father, Burke faces plenty of conflict and upheaval within and around him.

"Grooms confronts this suffering head-on, showing that hope and dignity sometimes can be reclaimed in the process," *Publishers Weekly* said of the novel. "This is a powerful, important debut."

As usual, the ORI selection will adjoin a range of

programming, and the book's themes tie into many different academic areas, including history, psychology and literary studies, Mandel said.

An ORI kickoff event is slated for 12:40 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in the last College Hour of the spring semester. □

Clemo named president's assistant

President Deborah F. Stanley has appointed Lorrie Clemo as assistant to the president for special projects and campus communications.

Clemo, a member of the political science faculty since 1988, has most recently served Stanley's administration as a Faculty Fellow, a part-time position, while she continued teaching as associate professor of political science.

As Clemo moved into the President's Office last week, she said she expected to be working on extra projects as needed by the president, including preparation of the college's next strategic plan.

She has taught classes on American national, state and local governments; public policy and administration; and race and gender. She was named director of the public administration minor program when it began. Her research interests include health policy and issues of race and gender.

She is a longtime member of the college's Intercollegiate Athletic Board and currently its chair. She has

served as adviser to the college's Political Science Club and political science honor society.

She received both her doctorate in political science and her master's degree in public administration and policy from SUNY Binghamton. □

Wilson's story to air Jan. 28, 29

Leigh Allison Wilson's short story "Bullhead" will air nationally on the National Public Radio series "Selected Shorts" this weekend. Local listeners can hear her piece on WRVO at 2 p.m. Sunday and again at 9 p.m. Monday. Wilson is a member of Oswego's English and creative writing faculty.

The story, which originally appeared in the W. W. Norton anthology *Flash Forward Fiction: 80 Very Short Stories*, concerns how flooding caused by the Tennessee Valley Authority dam inexorably alters the lives and memories of a town washed away in the process. (See story, Nov. 15, 2006, *Campus Update*.)

The WRVO Stations, headquartered in Penfield Library, include 89.9 FM in Oswego and online Webcasting at wrvo.fm. □

Two exhibitions to open in Tyler

Tyler Art Gallery will open two new exhibitions, "The Unbroken Circle: Recent Work By Mary Giehl" and the Art Faculty Exhibition, on Friday, Feb. 2.

The public is invited to a reception to meet the artists from 6 to 8 p.m. that day in Tyler Hall. Both exhibitions will run through March 11.

Sculptor Mary Giehl extracts themes encountered through her past work experience as a registered nurse in the pediatrics intensive care unit at SUNY Upstate Medical University Hospital in Syracuse. Currently she is a part-time assistant professor of sculpture and fiber arts/material studies at Syracuse University.

"The Unbroken Circle" focuses on the everyday occurrences of children in the United States and invites visitors to interact with these pieces.

"I had often cared for children after they had been abused," Giehl said. "Much of my art focuses around this theme. There are hints of darkness and confinement in my installations along with a mixture and balance of playfulness and seriousness."

Current faculty members of Oswego's art department will showcase their most recent work in the Art Faculty Exhibition. "Always an eclectic gathering of art, this exhibition is one of the most popular events of the season," said Mindy Ostrow, assistant director of Tyler Art Gallery.

The faculty exhibition will include paintings, drawings, ceramics, computer-generated images, mixed media, sculpture, photographs and prints.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. weekends. □



Under renovation — Work continues on Riggs Hall, the lakeside residence hall receiving a renovation and upgrade that will make it resemble neighboring Johnson Hall. It is expected to come back online in fall 2007.

'Men-Jaro' performers to take part in residency

Dancers and musicians staging the African-flavored "Men-Jaro: Friendship" next Wednesday at SUNY Oswego will give workshops and presentations for classes and the community Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Artswego production, showcasing music with roots in traditional styles joining the work of South African choreographer Vincent Mantsoe, will unfold at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, in Tyler Hall's Waterman Theatre.

"Mantsoe dances as though he is in a state of possession, during which he opens himself up to huge, turbulent visions," The Guardian said of the native of Soweto, South Africa. The 34-year-old has earned several international awards for his choreography and dancing.

"Men-Jaro" is South African township slang for friendship. For the work, Mantsoe recruited an international roster of Lesole Maine (South Africa-U.S.), Meri Otoshi (Japan), and Aude Arago and Cecile Maubert-Mantsoe (France). "In my work, I combine influences rooted in African culture with Asian dance and philosophy," Mantsoe said.

The production also features the Traditional African Orchestra, South Africa's first professional orchestra playing indigenous instruments. Members of TAO will perform an original score by South African composer Anthony Caplan, who will also be in residence on campus.

Artswego and the college's Office of International Education and Programs sponsor the residency program where the visiting artists share their expertise and thoughts on the creative field.

Residency presentations

At 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Lee Hall Dance Studio, Mantsoe will conduct a master dance class for intermediate to advanced students on how he integrates African movement, ritual and music with contemporary forms of dance. For more information or to register, contact Cheryl Wilkins-Mitchell at cmitchel@oswego.edu or 312-2339. There is a fee of \$15; SUNY Oswego students participate free.

A panel discussion, "Global Arts Expression," will

focus on the increasing globalization of the arts at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 102 of Tyler Hall. Panelists will include Mantsoe, Caplan, Neelika Jayawardane of Oswego's English and creative writing department and Wilkens-Mitchell, an Oswego dance faculty member and director of the Onondaga Dance Institute. Steve Rosow, director of Oswego's global and international studies program, will moderate.

Caplan will lead a discussion on composing contemporary music for traditional instruments at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday in Room 208 in Tyler Hall. He has co-written a book documenting the traditional music of South Africa. The master percussionist has broad experience playing and making instruments indigenous to South Africa. Attendance will be open to the public but requires advance permission from class instructor Rob Auler by e-mailing auler@oswego.edu.

For the Jan. 31 evening performance, tickets cost \$22 with discounts for seniors and students. For reservations, call Tyler box office at 312-2141.

The performance is made possible by a grant from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program. It is also funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The Ford Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provided additional funding. □

Rice Creek group to offer grants

Scholars, scientists, educators and students are invited to submit proposals for the Rice Creek Associates Small Grants Program by March 15.

This program is intended to support and encourage research, education and public service projects at the college's Rice Creek Field Station.

An original and five copies of a proposal should be mailed to Rice Creek Associates, Small Grant Review Committee, Rice Creek Field Station, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126.

For more information, call Peter A. Rosenbaum at 312-2775 or e-mail par@oswego.edu. □

Announcements

Graduating seniors face deadlines

Seniors who expect to graduate in May and August 2007 and who have not yet filed to graduate should do so no later than Feb. 15 in order for their names to be listed in the May commencement program.

Degree forms are filed online via myOswego or in the Registrar's Office, Room 307 of Culklin Hall.

Seniors who have filed to graduate but who have not yet met with their advisers to do the senior check forms (which are generated by filing to graduate) should meet with their advisers soon. Senior check forms for students graduating in May are due back in the Registrar's Office by March 1. For students graduating in August, forms are due back in the Registrar's Office by July 1. Senior check forms are mandatory for graduation. □

Preview of campus production part of Warm Up Oswego activities

Stilt walkers, jugglers and grocery-cart ballet dancers involved in the upcoming SUNY Oswego production "Lost in a Viral Paradise" plan to entertain visitors at the second annual Warm Up Oswego festival Saturday, Feb. 3, appearing at the Oswego Armory.

Students from the music and theatre departments will perform a preview of scenes at 11:30 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. at the armory, corner of West First and Utica streets in downtown Oswego.

Original music composed for "Lost in a Viral Paradise" will be played during the preview performances. The original score is coming together under the leadership of Eric Schmitz of the music department.

"Lost in a Viral Paradise" is a collaborative world-premiere piece written and conceived by students and faculty from the college's theatre, music and graphic design departments. Inspiration and guidance for the project were drawn from the internationally known Squonk Opera troupe. "I think the public will be interested to see the non-traditional theatre scenes we've been working on, and it will help our cast to build excitement in the community for this special project," said the show's director, Jonel Langenfeld-Rial of the theatre department.

"Lost in a Viral Paradise" will open in Waterman Theatre on March 1, with shows through March 11. For more information, contact the Tyler box office at 312-2141 or tickets@oswego.edu. □

Grant, award deadlines approach

The deadline for this year's second round of faculty Scholarly and Creative Activity Grants is Feb. 5. That date is also the deadline for the 2007 awards of campus Challenge Grants for projects involving collaboration between a faculty member and an undergraduate student.

See www.oswego.edu/administration/provost/grants_and_awards.html for information on these and other extracurricular funding opportunities.

The deadline for the President's Award and Provost's Award for Scholarly and Creative Activities is Jan. 31. See www.oswego.edu/administration/provost/faculty_awards.html.

Information is also available online from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs: www.oswego.edu/administration/ORSP/campus_grants_and_awards/faculty_grants/.

For more information, contact Assistant Provost Michael Ameigh at ameigh@oswego.edu. □

Calendar highlights

- Spring semester begins, Thursday
- Rice Creek Rambles, Saturday and Feb. 10
- "Men-Jaro: Friendship" Artswego performance, Jan. 31
- Tyler Art Gallery opening, Feb. 2
- General faculty meeting, Feb. 5

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

Spotlight

Economic history always timely passion for Dighe

This week's Campus Update Spotlight shines on Ranjit Dighe, an associate professor of economics. He has taught at Oswego since fall 1997.

Q. What classes do you teach?

A. I teach "American Economic History," "Money and Banking" and "The Economics of Baseball."

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I went to Oberlin College and graduated in '87 with a degree in economics. I spent two years working as a research assistant in Washington, D.C., then went to Yale, which is where I got my Ph.D. in economics.

Q. What are your research interests?

A. Right now I'm looking at business support for Prohibition and for the repeal of Prohibition. It's a wide-open field, and it's a lot of fun.

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

A. Probably being able to teach in my field, which is American economic history, and being able to teach one of my hobbies, in "The Economics of Baseball."

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

A. Academically diverse. Also good-humored, friendly, easy-going.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

A. I guess just finishing my Ph.D. It was a long time coming. The book I wrote while at Oswego, *The Historian's Wizard of Oz*, might be a better choice. It felt more like a fun side project, and from when I thought of it to when I finished it was a really short time. And, unlike my dissertation, many people have bought the book and read it.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. Fantasy baseball, otherwise known as male scrapbooking; music — listening to it, playing the



guitar, listening to jazz night at King Arthur's on Wednesdays; movies; pub trivia; running; and pretty much anything that makes me laugh out loud. Historic preservation is also an interest.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. My wife Anne and I have been married since 1995. She is very active with the Oswego Public Library's capital campaign. My daughter Julia is 10. She likes playing the clarinet and wants to pick up the saxophone. She plays soccer and she's very interested in this thing at school called "Battle of the Books." We live in Oswego. □