

Experiences inside, outside classes preparing students for future plans

Around 600 students will take steps toward their futures at December commencement at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, in the Campus Center Arena and Convocation Hall.

Lacey Kimpland's years at Oswego included success in the classroom, on the basketball court and through community service. Kimpland was part of the Laker women's basketball program's transformation from cellar dwellers to Division III NCAA tournament contenders in back-to-back years.

"Being a part of this special team meant more than just a bunch of girls breaking school records," the education major from Fulton said. "It was an opportunity for me to make lifelong friends while fulfilling my dream of playing college basketball."

Kimpland's determination brought Mark Sterner to explain his tragic experience with drinking and driving to around 350 student-athletes and community members last fall. "His story was powerful and inspirational and I truly believe it had a positive impact on all who attended that night," Kimpland said.

For that and other efforts, she earned the Outstanding Senior Award from the Oswego Alumni Association in May. "Outside of the classroom I always felt that it was important to be involved in the community and display good character while continuously being a role model for younger children," she said.

"In the classroom during my four years at Oswego

State, I viewed my school work as a 'practice' for life after college," added Kimpland, who will substitute teach and look into full-time opportunities for the fall. "I always tried to display the quality of work that I will expect someday soon from my own students."

Brittany Horine's path will lead to ESPN as production manager for baseball, basketball and golf. The marketing major and arts management minor from Vestal explained the key behind-the-scenes position involves events coordination, assembling

components such as a marching band or guest talent, special set pieces and other elements viewers see on-screen.

Horine said a summer ESPN internship prepared her for this nine-month maternity-leave replacement job that positions her for other opportunities at the network. Her internship provided experience with events ranging from Monday Night Football games to the Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

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Faculty, staff can sign up for campus alert messages

Faculty and staff can now sign up online to receive campus alerts by e-mail, phone and text messaging through NY-Alert. At SUNY Oswego, such alerts will include notice of campuswide class cancellations due to poor weather.

SUNY System Administration manages the sign-up Web page, www.suny.edu/sunyalertsec.

This system will enable authorized college officials to reach members of the campus community en masse in an emergency. The new system can transmit short notifications by e-mail to any e-mail address, by text message to a cell phone, or by voice message to an off-campus telephone.

The information in the emergency notification system will be used only to contact people in case of emergency, massive class cancellation or some other event that requires rapid, wide-scale notification of the community.

Options available

Faculty and staff may choose to receive alerts or not. If they choose to receive them, they must provide at least one e-mail address. They may also provide a cell phone number and provider to receive text message alerts and a phone number (cell or land line) to receive voice alerts.

Up to three phone numbers can be listed for each of these options, but the automated system will attempt to contact every number. NY-Alert officials advise that people list their most-used number for text messaging and/or their most-used number for voice messages.

Students have been able to sign up to receive messages since late September, and so far nearly 5,000 have done so, according to Mike Pisa, interim chief technology officer.

For more information about Oswego's adoption of the NY-Alert system for campus emergencies, see www.oswego.edu/administration/public_affairs/emergency/nyalert.html. □



ESPN-bound — December graduate Brittany Horine, shown in Lanigan Hall's Studio A, will step into a job as production manager for baseball, basketball and golf at ESPN when she leaves campus. She is one of around 600 students eligible to participate in the Dec. 15 commencement in the Campus Center.

New CTO brings sunny outlook to SUNY Oswego

Ask Oswego's new chief technology officer, Joseph Moreau, about moving from Southern California to work in a place known for its snow — in December, no less — and he'll likely offer a genial laugh. It's neither the first nor last time he'll hear that question.

But other than the change in climate, Moreau sees many similarities between his job as dean of academic information services at MiraCosta College and his responsibilities at Oswego.

"The organization I work with is remarkably similar to the Campus Technology Services department at Oswego in terms of the size of the organization. The support to the campus we provide is similar," Moreau said in a telephone interview earlier this month.

"One big difference is that the team at Oswego provides much more in services to students," he added. "That's one of the things I'm really looking forward to about working at Oswego."

In his seven years as technology chief at MiraCosta, a community college in California's state system, Moreau provided leadership to programs and groups including the institution's libraries, administrative computing, instructional computing, media services, distance education, Internet and multimedia technology.

He also spent three years as dean of learning resources at West Hills College and seven as instructional resources supervisor at Pasadena City College. Moreau previously worked in media production and design, including a stint as assistant to the director of advertising and promotion for CBS in Hollywood.

He holds a master's in educational/instructional technology from California State University at Los

Angeles and a bachelor's in visual arts/media production from the University of California at San Diego.

Moreau's honors in education include earning the California Community Colleges Excellence in Technology Leadership 2004 Award, similar to a chancellor's award in SUNY. "There are 109 community colleges in the state, so I was very honored to be selected," he said.

He is also active on boards, including the Oracle/PeopleSoft Higher Education User Group, where he is past president and has worked with the computing giant on issues concerning colleges and universities.

"I think one of the things that was very interesting to me at Oswego is the ongoing commitment to campus revitalization," Moreau said. "That's very exciting to me. There are some great opportunities for everyone in all parts of the institution to grow and do outstanding work."

He cited planned renovations and upgrades to the sciences as among the most promising projects on the horizon.

And about that move from the San Diego area, known for its year-round sun and warmth, to upstate New York? Moreau said he was born in New Jersey and wouldn't mind getting to enjoy the change of seasons again. His eldest daughter is looking at colleges in New York and the move would allow his family to remain closer.

"Central New York is one of the most beautiful places in the country," Moreau said. "And we're certainly adventurous folks. We look at this as an adventure for us." □

— Tim Nekritz

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College trends

Declining literacy

“Americans aren’t just reading fewer books, but are reading less and less of everything, in any medium. That’s the doleful conclusion of ‘To Read or Not to Read,’ a report . . . by the National Endowment for the Arts. . . . ‘To Read or Not to Read’ examined not just literary reading but all kinds of reading, including online. . . . The share of college graduates who could reliably find their way through a piece of prose declined by 23 percent. If you think your master’s or doctorate renders you immune to the national decline, think again: Even Americans who have studied at the graduate level saw their reading skills atrophy: 51 percent were rated proficient readers in 1992, but only 41 percent made that grade in 2003. . . . The report confirms that poor readers tend to make poor students, who become poorly paid workers.”

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

Languages make comeback

“Overall enrollments in languages other than English continue their steady climb, increasing by 12.9 percent from 2002 to 2006, with the most dramatic growth seen in the study of Arabic (up 126.5 percent) and Chinese (up 51 percent), according to the Modern Language Association’s survey. . . . Against the backdrop of increasing government support for language programs post-September 11, the MLA, which has conducted its survey periodically (every four years, of late) since 1958, found gains in all of the 15 most widely taught languages save Biblical Hebrew. . . . Enrollments in the less commonly taught languages also increased by 31.2 percent from 2002, fueled largely by a 55.9 percent growth in Middle Eastern and African languages. In all, 204 of the less commonly taught languages were in fact taught in 2006, an increase of 42 languages over 2002. Enrollments in language courses have been steadily climbing since 1998 and language enrollments, in raw numbers, are at their highest since the MLA’s 1960 survey. Yet, the report notes that the number of language course enrollments per 100 student enrollments is, at 8.6, about half the ratio in 1960 and 1965 (16.1 and 16.5, respectively). Also, enrollments in language courses beyond the introductory level drop off dramatically. . . . Among the most widely taught languages, Spanish remains the most popular by far with more than 50 percent of all language enrollments.”

— *Inside Higher Ed*, Nov. 14, 2007

Hiring looks up

“Large companies have a ‘voracious appetite for labor’ and plan to hire more graduates in 2008 than they did last year, according to a report released [Nov. 15] by the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University. Companies with more than 3,900 employees expect to increase their hiring of bachelor’s-degree recipients by 9 percent over 2007. Graduates with degrees in engineering, business, and the social sciences or humanities will fare well with those employers, according to the report. Computer geeks should also enjoy a good labor market: Companies of all sizes said they planned to hire more information-technology majors next year. The market for MBA graduates should increase by 7 percent over last year. Over all, the total hiring of new graduates will increase by a modest 2 percent, the report says. Small to midsize companies plan to limit hiring because of worries about the economy. One exception: Companies with fewer than 100 employees plan to increase hiring by 12 percent. Employers plan to raise starting salaries by as much as 5 percent — double the increase in each of the last two years.”

— *Academe Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Nov. 16, 2007



Basket catches — Junior public justice major Lisa Fraser (left) and her stepdaughter Tonya, a junior anthropology major, look over some of the themed Baskets of Caring during a fundraiser for the United Way/State Employees Federated Appeal campaign. The event in the Campus Center arena, where people could vote for their favorite basket or baskets for \$1 apiece with a chance to win them, raised \$2,249.

Business dean finalists on campus for interviews

Two finalists for the position of dean of the School of Business will be on campus for interviews this week. A third candidate will have campus interviews next week, and a fourth candidate may be scheduled, according to the search committee.

All open sessions will be in Room 118 of Rich Hall. Students can meet the candidates at 12:35 p.m. on the Tuesday or Thursday of the visit. An open forum with the candidates will be held at 1:15 p.m. on the Tuesday or Thursday of the visit.

The finalist candidates so far are Charles R.B. Stowe of Sam Houston State University, whose interviews were scheduled for this Tuesday; Richard S. Lapidus of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Thursday; and Richard J. Skolnik of SUNY Oswego, next Tuesday.

Stowe is professor of entrepreneurship and director of the Entrepreneurship Institute at his university. Previously, he served as director of international programs and assistant to the president there. He holds a doctorate from the University of Warsaw in Poland, a juris doctor degree from the University of Houston, a master’s in business administration from the University of Dallas and a bachelor’s degree from Vanderbilt University. In addition, he has 30 years experience as a U.S. Navy public affairs officer, worked as an accountant for Arthur Andersen & Co., served as a corporate officer of a paper company, worked in public relations and has 15 years experience in venture capital.

Lapidus is associate dean of administration at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas College of Business. He formerly chaired the marketing department. He serves on the board of directors of the Marketing Educators’ Association. Lapidus received a doctorate from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, master’s degree from California State University at Long Beach and bachelor’s degree from Indiana University at Bloomington, all in marketing. Many of his scholarly publications and presentations concern marketing, sales and consumer behavior.

Health Center offers AED training

American Heart Association certified instructors from Mary Walker Health Center will offer AHA Heartsaver cardiopulmonary respiration and automatic external defibrillator training Monday, Dec. 17, for interested members of the SUNY Oswego community.

The classes will be 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. in Room 114 of the Campus Center. Release time has been requested.

Classes are limited to 15 people in each. The cost is \$17 per student (checks can be made out to SUNY Oswego). Sign-up can be secured by calling 312-4100. □

Skolnik has been interim dean of Oswego’s School of Business since July. Previously, he served as chair of the accounting, finance and law department and as director of the MBA program. He is a chartered financial analyst and has been involved with the CFA Institute in numerous areas. He has published research articles on investments, higher education pedagogy, and financial economics. He has a doctorate in managerial economics and a master’s in operations research and statistics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and bachelor’s degrees in both electrical and computer engineering from the University of Michigan.

The curricula vitae for the three candidates and their letters of application are online at www.oswego.edu/administration/provost/candidate_vitaes.html. □

December grads

Continued from page 1

Involvement on Oswego’s campus also honed the skills she will need. “I worked public relations for intramurals and recreation one semester, and this semester I’m their special-events intern,” Horine said. “I’m an RA and president of Onondaga Hall, so I’ve done a lot of events planning in that way.”

Jeffrey Kimball started his career while still in college as a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Watertown, where he will work full time after graduation. He is currently in first place in the company among eastern-region college agents, Kimball noted.

“The business classes really challenged your ability to work with diverse groups of people through team projects that really helped you analyze your personal strengths and weaknesses along with your interpersonal communication skills,” Kimball said. “The small-class environment allowed everyone to feel comfortable with one another and it really helped the learning experience. The business classes also really challenged your critical thinking skills.”

The soon-to-be MBA graduate took growth opportunities throughout his college experience, like becoming a teaching assistant in the “Gateway to Business” class, taking group leader positions in classroom projects and studying abroad in London. “The time management skills established from freshman year on really help for real-world work when it comes to planning your schedule,” he said.

The graduating students agreed that taking chances and following dreams were important. “My advice is to apply for everything, even if you don’t think you have the slightest shot in the dark,” Horine said. “I think a lot of people look at competing with big colleges and think they don’t have a chance. But you can go to Oswego and have some real opportunities.” □

— **Tim Nekritz**

Campuswide toy drive now in its 20th year of giving holiday cheer

Anyone who wonders how SUNY Oswego's Holiday Toy Drive makes a difference can ask Marion Greene about a yellow dump truck.

Greene, who coordinates the 20th annual campus effort, recalled meeting someone who benefited from the effort where faculty, staff and students brighten the holidays of needy families.

"I was shopping at Ames and went up to the counter to ask if the toy I had chosen was acceptable for a 6-year-old," Greene said. "She asked me what it was for and after I told her it was for the toy drive, she began to tell me a story."

The woman said she had a son in kindergarten who received a gift from the toy drive. "It was a case of either they bought a toy for their son or they pay the rent. It's a tough situation," said Greene.

That case was just one of many identified by the Oswego County Department of Social Services, which provides names and coordinates getting the donated toys to children. "There are over 1,000 children in need in Oswego County," Greene said.

Members of the campus community can help fill that need by looking for the toy drive's trees or wreaths in locations including Culkin Hall, Hewitt Union, Laker Hall, Mahar Hall, the Parking Office, Penfield Library and Rich Hall. Participants select a paper ornament that bears a child's name, gender and age, and then purchase a toy appropriate to that child and leave it, unwrapped, in a toy drive box.

Students support

"SUNY Oswego's Beta Alpha Psi has been a big part of the program," Greene said of the accounting and finance honor society. "They go to hall council meetings as well as help with putting up the trees."

Many students find various ways to help the cause. "In the past we have had students take up collections and go to Wal-Mart," she said. "Others just get together and go out on shopping sprees. Without the generosity of the students, this program wouldn't be successful. It really is a collaborative effort."

First campus toy pickup is Dec. 6, with final pickup Dec. 19.

People can also donate money via check by sending it to Casey Walpole, Room 301 of Culkin Hall.

Now in its 20th year of spreading cheer, the toy drive also provides an opportunity for members of the campus community to give back. Greene would attest that giving really can make the holidays happier.

"The boy took his yellow dump truck into show and tell the week after," Greene remembered the mother telling her. "And if it hadn't been for the toy drive, he would have been empty-handed. It's a heart-warming story." □ — Christopher Hill



Chipping in — Sophomore Debbie Sands (left) of the Blue Chip club discusses fundraising bracelets supporting the renovations of the Oswego Public Library with Thomas VanEpps and his daughter Natalie during a recent men's ice hockey game in the Campus Center arena.

Students raise funds, cement community bonds

As the season of giving approaches, five students at SUNY Oswego are giving back to the community by selling gel bracelets to raise money supporting the multimillion-dollar campaign to renovate the Oswego Public Library.

"We wanted to help the community in a big way and the library is the most important thing in the community," said Laura Loomis, a business administration major and a member of Blue Chip. "When it gets renovated it will bring more people in the community out."

Blue Chip's primary goal is to invest in the community by doing small projects that will help close the division between the campus and the community, said another Blue Chip member, junior marketing major Rob Enfield.

Members of the organization will sell the bracelets, which come in different colors and bear the Oswego imprint, at men's ice hockey games until Dec. 1.

The bracelets are priced at \$3, or two for \$5. Bracelets will also be sold at the Oswego Public Library, Pathfinder Bank and P&C Foods.

Enfield said the group hopes to sell all the bracelets and make its donation at the end of the year, with a goal of \$6,000 to \$7,000.

"I think it's wonderful that the college thinks it's important to help fund these several million dollars worth of renovations," said Carol Ferlito, director of Oswego Public Library. She said that the three-year reconstruction of the library will restore the historic area while adding new space to the building.

Blue Chip was formed by Kevin Randall, a junior who derived the idea from a fundraising project from a management class. He said after the project ended, he wanted to continue raising money for different causes, and he wanted to do so locally. He handpicked four peers to help orchestrate the idea.

Building team

Along with Enfield, Loomis, senior Josie Maroney and sophomore business administration major Debbie Sands, Randall approached Ann Edwards-Giumarra, assistant professor of management at Oswego, for assistance.

"The students took the initiative. It was their effort. I just provided the guidance and the network," said Edwards-Giumarra.

With her suggestions, the students approached Pathfinder Bank President Tom Schneider with a proposal. Schneider agreed to sponsor the students with \$1,000 to buy the bracelets.

Randall said that once the bank decided to sponsor the group, five other sponsors joined. "Staples, Dunkin Donuts, P&C Foods, Ontario Orchards and Valti Graphics all jumped on board," he said.

"At this point we are looking for student and community support," he said. "We are recruiting students who can help us sell the bracelets."

Randall said that Blue Chip will continue to do other projects that entail helping the community once they complete this one. □

— Kadisha Gordon

Announcements

'Glass Coffin' to premiere Sunday

"The Glass Coffin," an original play by Professor Mark Cole partially inspired by a local legend, will premiere at 3 p.m. Sunday in Waterman Theatre.

Cole, chair of Oswego's theatre department, wrote and directed the play, which features music direction by Julie Pretzat, professor and chair of music at the college.

"The play is based on two sources," Cole explained. "One is an old Oswego story, circa 1900, and the other is a Grimm fairy tale."

The cast includes Ariel Marcus, Sara Weiler, Jason Martin, Amanda Acobes, Erika Morrisette, Michael Racioppa, Lucaya Luckey-Bethany, Sarah Sterling, Nathaniel Angstrom, Charlie Smith, Stephen Green, Fredrica Germany, Dan Williams, Katherine Boswell and Ben Amey.

Period music performed by the State Singers will be an integral part. State Singers members include Devin Gruner, Sara Loiacono, Gina Mazzoli, Jenn Andrade, Laura Pavlus, Emily Sorriento, Ben Waterstraat, Dan Williams, Tim Casler and Tim Lanigan.

Cole drew inspiration from an intriguing Oswego tale about a girl laid out by her parents in a glass coffin. "It speaks of loss and grief and a human longing to hold back the inevitable. It's tender and rather chilling at the same time," he said.

"Julie Pretzat and I have collaborated on many projects and when we linked this local story to an existing fairy tale — titled, appropriately enough, 'The Glass Coffin' — we felt we had the ingredients for an original entertainment that could engage a group of actors and singers," Cole said.

He credited Ana Djukic-Cocks of SUNY Oswego's modern languages and literatures department for translating the Grimm fairy tale, which is the basis for a extravagant story that the two lead characters, 10-year-old children, use to entertain themselves.

The one-performance-only play is recommended for age 12 and above.

Tickets cost \$5 (\$3 for seniors and students, \$2 for SUNY Oswego students).

For information or reservations, contact Tyler box office at 312-2141 or tickets@oswego.edu. □

Student to premiere documentary on studying in, experiencing Japan

Senior graphic design major Ashley Rath will host a free world-premiere screening of her documentary *Unbounded: What It's Like to Study Abroad (It's Awesome)* at 7 p.m. tonight in Cherrywood Studio.

Filmed while Rath studied at the University of Tsukuba in Japan, *Unbounded* details a year in the life of studying overseas. The project is made possible by Rath earning three very competitive scholarships — Bridging Scholarship for Japan, the Freeman-Asia Scholars Program and a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship — to support her journey and documentary. (See Sept. 20, 2006, edition of *Campus Update*.)

"I believe this video will educate students on Asia, interest students in studying abroad and perhaps inspire them to do the same," Rath said.

Cherrywood Studio is located at 20 Cemetery Road, just west of campus in the town of Oswego.

For more information, visit www.ashleyrath.com or e-mail rath@oswego.edu. □

Announcements

SCAC prepares for Quest 2008

Faculty, staff and students may submit proposals for next spring's Quest — Oswego's signature symposium dedicated to scholarly and creative pursuits — between Jan. 21 and Feb. 22.

Quest will take place April 23, with most if not all presentations and activities in the Campus Center.

All types of activities are encouraged, including talks, panels, discussions, artistic presentations, demonstrations and competitions. Again this year, an evening session will allow participation by graduate students who cannot attend the daytime activities.

Quest is organized by the Scholarly and Creative Activities Committee through a subcommittee. Jack Gelfand, director of research administration and development, will chair Quest again this year.

The subcommittee welcomes suggestions for keynote speaker (contact Scott Steiger at steiger@oswego.edu) and is planning more prizes this year for best presentations in many areas.

In January, members of the campus community will be able to keep updated on the preparations for Quest by visiting <http://www.oswego.edu/quest>. □

Classic supports scholarships

The 18th annual Oswego State Fall Classic in September raised more than \$137,310 to support the Presidential Scholars Program at Oswego.

"We are extremely grateful to our Presidential Sponsors — Constellation Energy and the New York State Laborers' Employers' Cooperation and Education Trust Fund — as well as our local sponsors and golfers, who support scholarships at the college," said President Deborah F. Stanley. "Your support makes it possible for our students to realize their dreams of a college education." □

Since its inception in 1990, the Fall Classic has raised more than \$3.2 million to help support students, especially through the Presidential Scholars Program. □

Oswego a *Hispanic Outlook* 'pick'

The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine has listed SUNY Oswego among its "2007 Publisher's Picks."

The list includes around 500 "colleges and universities at which, in our judgment, many Hispanic students have shown they can thrive and persist," wrote publisher José López-Isa. "The sheer number of Hispanics persisting to graduation and earning degrees is rising and very heartening, especially when graduation represents a family first."

Of Oswego's full-time undergraduates, 4 percent are identified as Hispanic. □

College ensembles to perform

Faculty and students from Oswego's music department have several upcoming performances, including:

- The Oswego State Jazz Ensemble performing "A Tribute to 1940s Jazz" at 7 p.m. Friday in Waterman Theatre
- The College-Community Orchestra presenting a classical music concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Church of the Resurrection, corner of West Fifth and Cayuga streets in Oswego
- "The Feast of Carols: A Holiday Collage" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7 in Waterman Theatre, featuring the Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, College Choir, State Singers, Recorder Consort and Oswego Jazz Project

All shows have a suggested admission donation of \$5 to support the Music Department Excellence Fund. SUNY Oswego students may attend free. □

SSO string quartet to play Dec. 4

The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra's Seneca String Quartet will present a free concert from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, in the Campus Center activity court.

The selection of holiday tunes will preview the SSO's annual holiday show, sponsored by Oswego Health, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, in the Ralph M. Faust Theatre at Oswego High School. □



Student showcases — A Master of Arts Thesis Exhibition featuring the work of Kacie Haynes will open Friday in Tyler Art Gallery concurrently with the fall semester's Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition. Haynes' exhibition will feature print pieces, advertising images, theatre posters, identity systems, product packaging and Web designs. An opening reception for both exhibitions will run from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday in Tyler Hall. For more information, call 312-2113.

Police report

Since Nov. 9, University Police have investigated several cases of disorderly conduct, criminal mischief and theft and made five arrests.

Officers charged three SUNY Oswego residents with marijuana-related crimes: one for criminal possession, two with unlawful possession. They are accused of smoking marijuana in a vehicle in Lot 11.

Police charged two Scales Hall residents with unlawful possession of alcohol by persons under 21 years of age. They are accused of drinking in their room. □

Calendar highlights

- Tyler Art Gallery opening, Nov. 30
- "A Night at the Ellington," Nov. 30
- Sweet Honey in the Rock concert, Dec. 1
- "The Glass Coffin," Dec. 2
- College-Community Orchestra concert, Dec. 2
- Seneca String Quartet concert, Dec. 4
- Display to Archives reception, Dec. 5
- "Feast of Carols" concert, Dec. 7
- Rice Creek Ramble, Dec. 8
- Oswego Festival Chorus concert, Dec. 9
- Finals week, Dec. 10 to 14
- December graduation, Dec. 15

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

Spotlight

Ravindran enjoys friendly campus, helping others



This week's *Campus Update* Spotlight shines on Priya Ravindran, a junior from Pune, India. She is a double major in international politics and journalism.

Q. What made you want to attend SUNY Oswego?

A. I wanted to go to the United States to do a bachelor's degree in general. I went to a college fair in my area, and Oswego was represented. And Oswego gave me the most financial aid. Plus it was in New York — and while I know it's not really that close to New York City, at least it was something I knew.

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

A. The people! In general, for all the traveling I've done, the people here are the most friendly. And, of

course, living on my own.

Q. What is your impression of other Oswego students?

A. I think most of them are very friendly. Most people don't have a problem with striking up a conversation with just anyone. And while there are some students who want to go out and party, there are students here who want to work hard if you want to find them.

Q. Is there anything about the U.S. that has particularly surprised you?

A. I think people's political opinions. When you watch the news or follow the media, you have a different opinion of what people think in general. When you come here, you see that students have differing opinions from what you see on TV.

Q. What kinds of activities have you been involved with here?

A. I work as a desk attendant at Hart. I've done a lot of community service — campus cleanup, raising money for Hurricane Katrina victims, helping clean the lakeside and working at Camp Hollis for a while with children. I'm part of the Asian Student Association and take part in their events.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

A. I think when I got called to the World Leadership Conference in 2002. We went to Washington, D.C., and got to meet the Senate, make up treaties and meet students from every state of the U.S. and 25 other countries. That was really nice.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. I like reading fiction, watching TV, dancing. I also like just sitting and talking to my friends. This semester, I'm taking 22 credits, so I sleep during my spare time. Next semester will be way better.

Q. Have you thought about your plans after college yet?

A. I know, career-wise, I want to be a news reporter. After graduating, I want to take a one- or two-year break and do something in the news — an internship or a job — and then go back to school. □