

Students take part in community service for Month of Action

SUNY Oswego students are helping literacy efforts, fighting hunger, giving blood, raising awareness and more as part of Month of Action activities.

The student initiative "Raise Your Voice: A Month of Action" began on Feb. 15 with a goal to improve the community through civil service.

Students have participated in events including a softball game in the snow to raise funds for the Special Olympics, a political awareness day to have an open discussion about current issues and a movie day at a local nursing home.

"A Month of Action was started by Campus Compact and the purpose is to promote, celebrate and increase civic engagement amongst college students," said Alyssa Amyotte, coordinator of the college's Center for Service Learning and Community Service. "Colleges across the country take part in various ways, with a wide range of events that theme around civic engagement."

Bailey Feldman, a student co-coordinating the Adopt-a-Grandparent program, saw an opportunity to pitch in. "Alyssa Amyotte informed us about the Month of Action events at the beginning of the semester, and I thought it would be a good chance for us to continue our activities and hold an extra program," Feldman said.



Taking action — Sophomore zoology major Kenny Eng, a first-time blood donor, talks to Sarah Taylor of the American Red Cross during a recent campus blood drive, one of the Month of Action events.

Students held a movie day at the Pontiac Nursing Home on Feb. 23. "We all watched the movie 'Hairspray' and enjoyed each other's company while having popcorn and soda," Feldman said. "This was a worthwhile program because some residents may not have been feeling very well, but they still wanted to

spend time with our students. Making a difference in the lives of the residents makes me feel awesome and very grateful that I have an opportunity to help out in my community."

Amyotte saw the same response from students and

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SUNY Oswego recognized for community service efforts

SUNY Oswego has again earned national recognition on the Presidential Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, released in February.

The new honor roll acknowledges community service activities by colleges in the 2006-07 academic year. Oswego was also listed on the inaugural honor roll for its service in 2005-06.

Civic engagement is an important part of the college's mission, a pillar of the current strategic plan "Engaging Challenge." SUNY Oswego is a founding member of the New York Campus Compact, a commitment to civic engagement, student involvement and community service.

Criteria for selection for the national Community Service Honor Roll included scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers service-learning courses.

Among the 528 colleges honored nationwide this year, 15 were SUNY campuses.

Studies show that students who become involved have higher grades, are more likely to stay in school and develop a habit of engagement.

The honor roll is a federal program jointly sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, USA Freedom Corps, Campus Compact and President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

"Americans rely on our higher education system to prepare students for citizenship and the workforce," said U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings in congratulating the honorees. "We look to institutions like these to provide leadership in partnering with local schools to shape the civic, democratic and economic future of our country." □

Oswego administrator named to head up SUNY professional science master's initiative

The State University of New York has a two-year \$455,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to establish a number of new professional science master's degree programs, and Oswego's Dean of Graduate Studies and Research David King is coordinating the effort.

King is now director of the SUNY/Sloan Foundation Professional Science Master's Program. In January, the program awarded \$15,000 to each of six campuses and \$10,000 each to three additional campuses to begin developing PSM degree programs. Another round of proposals will be considered in April.

Professional science master's degrees fill a need for science-trained professionals to work in business and industry. The degree provides students with supplemental education in such areas as business, project management and communications.

"It's a full master's in science integrated with nine to 12 hours of business or communication courses," King said. "It's a professional degree, an applied degree."

One of the \$15,000 campus awards went to Oswego to develop new PSM degrees from existing master's programs in chemistry and human-computer interaction, King said. Students pursuing graduate study in these two disciplines will be able to choose from two tracks, with the PSM option providing a professional track.

Bridging the gap

King has been party to SUNY Oswego's discussions with senior management in Central New York business and industry in recent years aimed at developing academic programs relevant to workforce needs.

"They felt almost across the board that they couldn't find qualified people," he said. "There's this incredible disconnect" between academic preparation and the world of work in certain fields, he said. The PSM degree "identifies a niche area in the job market

which higher education typically hasn't addressed."

The Sloan Foundation has supported development of the innovative professional science master's degree to bridge this gap for more than a decade at colleges and universities around the nation. In recent years, it has focused more on public university systems, with the University of North Carolina and California State University systems now providing models for PSM development.

The national Council of Graduate Schools and the new Professional Science Master's Association also share the goal of making the degree a regular feature of American graduate education.

Integrating academe, business

At the campus level, each PSM degree program will have an advisory committee jointly made up of faculty members and representatives of business. "It's a way of getting the higher education community more integrated with the business community," King said.

In the systemwide approach to degree development, SUNY is divided into three regional clusters, with campuses in each cluster supporting each other's program delivery. "It promotes not only collaboration between SUNY and business but within SUNY," King said. "It's really sharing assets."

The SUNY University at Buffalo is the only campus in the system that already offers professional science master's degrees. Campuses funded through the Sloan grant to develop new degrees include UB, Albany, Binghamton, Brockport, Buffalo State, Institute of Technology, Oswego, Plattsburgh and Potsdam.

Through June 2009, King will devote half of his time to the SUNY/Sloan Foundation Professional Science Master's Program. Picking up his workload in Oswego's Graduate Studies Office is Joyce Smith, professor of curriculum and instruction, who is now part-time associate dean for graduate studies. □

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College trends

Campus safety

“Not only are college campuses safer than they used to be but they also have less crime than the country at large does, according to a report released . . . by the U.S. Department of Justice. The report, ‘Campus Law Enforcement 2004-5,’ updates one that the department’s Bureau of Justice Statistics published more than a decade ago, using data from the 1994-95 academic year. Over the 10-year span, the new report says, violent crimes on college campuses decreased by 9 percent, to 62 per 100,000 students in 2004. Private campuses reported twice as many violent crimes per student as public institutions did. But nationally, the rate was far higher: 466 violent crimes per 100,000 residents. Property crimes on college campuses also declined—by 30 percent, to 1,625 per 100,000 students in 2004—according to the report. Private colleges also reported a higher rate of property crimes than their public counterparts did, but the levels at both fell short of the national rate, 3,517 per 100,000 residents, the report says. Its campus crime statistics come from the Education Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the Justice Department’s own survey data. That department polled 750 four-year institutions with enrollments of at least 2,500 students and 163 two-year institutions with enrollments of more than 10,000, yielding data from more than 80 percent of each group. Campus law-enforcement agencies are better prepared and equipped now than they were a decade ago, according to the report, which focuses more on those agencies than it does on crime data. Its findings reflect a continuing trend toward the professionalization of campus officers.”

— *Academe Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Feb. 26, 2008

Spirituality on campus

“‘Spirituality in Higher Education,’ a project conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California Los Angeles, finds that a higher percentage of juniors surveyed this year (50.4 percent) believed that ‘integrating spirituality’ into their lives was very important or essential, compared with 41.8 percent in a 2004 survey of freshmen. Students also moved left politically during that period, with 34.3 percent of juniors identifying themselves as liberal/far left, compared to 28.6 percent of the freshmen group.”

— *NEA Higher Education Advocate*, National Education Association, February 2008

High school to college

“A report issued [Feb. 20] says states have made substantial progress in raising the graduation requirements of their high schools and aligning their high schools’ academic standards with college and career expectations. But the report, by the nonprofit group Achieve Inc., says relatively few states put in place key mechanisms for ensuring that high schools adequately prepare students for colleges, such as tests of college readiness. . . . The report found, among other things, that: * Eighteen states and the District of Columbia now make the awarding of high-school diplomas contingent on students’ completing a college and career-ready curriculum that includes four years of challenging mathematics . . . and four years of rigorous English courses. . . . As of three years ago, just two states had such requirements in place. * Nineteen states report that their high-school standards are aligned with the expectations of colleges and workplaces, and 26 are in the process of such a standards alignment. * Nine states administer college-readiness tests to all high-school students; 23 plan to administer such tests to all of their high schoolers. . . . The three states that [the] report described as making the most progress in adopting the recommended policies [are] Louisiana, New York, and Texas.”

— *The Chronicle of Higher Education, News Blog*, Feb. 20, 2008

Finding Fans — SUNY Oswego’s recently launched fans site is currently the second-most popular official Facebook site among SUNY’s 64 campuses. Fans range from prospective students considering Oswego to alumni such as Louis A. Borrelli Jr., founding sponsor of the college’s annual media summit.

Oswego building fan base through Facebook

Oswego is now collecting a community in cyberspace with the recent launch of its Facebook Fans page.

The SUNY Oswego Fans page keeps well over 200 members — and growing, every day — current with an RSS feed of the most recent campus news, current events and athletics articles, as well as pictures and announcements.

With just a small amount of niche marketing so far, SUNY Oswego now has the second most-popular official fans site in the SUNY system, said Tim Nekritz, associate director of public affairs.

Founded at Harvard University in 2004, and for a long time focused on the educational community, Facebook currently boasts more than 66 million users worldwide with an average of 250,000 new users creating free accounts daily. The site’s popularity owes much to its clean look, clever ways of connecting users’ interests, consistent content management system and constant generation of new applications and features, Nekritz said.

One feature added in December were Fans pages for institutions to develop an official presence. Nekritz created Oswego’s page and works with a team of administrators that includes Web/New Media Coordinator Pat MacNeill, Web Support Specialist Richard Buck and Sports Information Director Joe Gladziszewski.

Fans flock in

After the team spent some initial time exploring Facebook capabilities, the Office of Public Affairs announced the Fans page in its Feb. 20 SUNY Oswego News e-newsletter — and the number of SUNY Oswego Fans ballooned from 44 to 186 in one week.

Unique content includes photos of the Feb. 20 lunar eclipse by Shashi Kanbur’s astronomy students, posted Feb. 21.

Many newer fans came through viral marketing: When someone signs up as a fan of SUNY Oswego, their Facebook friends can see it in a news feed of what their contacts are doing, and may choose to join as well, Nekritz explained.

The team doesn’t see Facebook replacing existing efforts, but instead serving as a complement — one more area where recently accepted students and current students, faculty and staff can go to make connections, find information, and keep pace with what’s happening at Oswego. Alumni from around the world — including Louis A. Borrelli Jr., founder of the college’s media summit — are now fans who use the page to stay connected with their alma mater.

“You can find more than 10,400 members in the greater SUNY Oswego Facebook network, with people joining every day, and millions more users on the whole of Facebook,” Nekritz said. “In today’s fragmented media landscape, that Oswego network has

more subscribers than many local newspapers. With all those potential eyes looking for information about the college, we think having an official presence with reliable information is worth the effort.”

A selling point

Administrators expect more fans as Oswego’s Office of Admissions makes admitted students aware of the page and other publicity efforts increase. The most-popular fans page among SUNY schools, at New Paltz, now serves as a conduit for prospective students, “and this can benefit Oswego as a less formal space where potential students are comfortable asking quick questions,” Nekritz noted.

Sue Borden of the Financial Aid Office heard recently from a family whose daughter chose SUNY Oswego based on things she found on Facebook.

“She said she was impressed with the academic activities at Oswego she saw on Facebook,” Borden said. “We were aware that more students were checking Oswego out through Facebook, but this was a first.”

Users can find the SUNY Oswego Fans page by going to Facebook and searching for “SUNY Oswego” or directly by visiting www.facebook.com/pages/Oswego-NY/SUNY-Oswego/19148818048. □

People in action

James N. Jerosé has been named the first director of the SUNY Oswego Metro Center in downtown Syracuse. The center is now scheduled to open in May. Jerosé has served as senior vice president for marketing for PHP/Univera Healthcare, as senior director at RMSCO and in senior staff and volunteer roles at the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Board of Regents of Le Moyne College among many other community involvements. Jerosé is an alumnus of Onondaga Community College, SUNY Oswego and Syracuse University’s Newhouse School of Public Communications.

Paul Roodin, director of experienced-based education, made several presentations at the Feb. 21 to 24 conference of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education in Baltimore. He presented two workshops: a pre-conference workshop on intergenerational service learning and a workshop titled “Second Generation Service-Learning in Gerontology: What Works?” He made presentations at two symposia: “Service-Learning: New Directions and Innovations in the Field” and “Intergenerational Experiences: Promoting a Nexus Between Gerontology and Geriatric Medical Education.” Roodin is a member of the national academic program committee for the association and attended the annual committee meeting at the conference. □

Professor's study on teen relationships gets media love

A recently published study by Andrew Smiler of Oswego's psychology department has drawn attention because it confounds decades of pop culture stereotypes of teenage boys.

Published in the February issue of the *Journal of Adolescence*, Smiler's "'I Wanted to Get to Know Her Better': Adolescent Boys' Dating Motives, Masculinity Ideology and Sexual Behavior" found that the top reasons for boys wanting to date revolved around relational and emotional, not sexual, reasons.

The study of 105 racially and economically diverse 10th-grade boys did not surprise Smiler but appears to run counter to conventional belief about the motives of teenagers, he said.

When it came to reasons for dating, boys ranked "I liked the person" first, "Really attracted to the person" second, "Wanted to get to know the person" third. "This really speaks against the stereotype we have of boys as sex-driven," Smiler noted.

When rating reasons for having intercourse, "Wanted to know what it was like" and "I felt desire" tied for first, but barely in front of "Because I liked/loved the person" and "My partner wanted to." (In both questions, participants could endorse more than one reason.) "There's a lot of relational stuff going on there," Smiler noted.

A New York Times reporter, Tara Parker-Pope, saw the study, wrote a blog item on it on Feb. 15, and the story took off from there.

"Her blog had more than 50 comments by the middle of that day and more than 170 comments by Feb. 21," Smiler said. "It was among the Times' 20 most-e-mailed stories, and it's very unusual for an article that is just online to get that kind of reaction."

Media head over heels

The response convinced Parker-Pope to write a follow-up story, which appeared on page 2 in the Sunday Times' Week in Review section on Feb. 24.

Parker-Pope's blog was noted and analyzed by other sources ranging from the Baltimore Sun's Balt-Amour blog to Salon.com to the Feministe Web site. Smiler was quickly contacted for interviews by radio stations in Pittsburgh and Montreal.

While the idea of boys wanting to lose their virginity has become an American pop culture staple from the 1982 movie "Porky's" to the recent "Superbad," that this response rated very low seems to indicate this is more fantasy than fact.

Talks, more slated for Women's History Month

Talks by an artist, professors, a filmmaker and a writer along with a film, dramatic performances, a concert and workshops are on the Women's Center schedule for March in observance of Women's History Month.

The student-run center's annual production of "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler will be part of V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and girls. The play presents real women's stories of intimacy, vulnerability and sexual self-discovery. Performances are set for 7 p.m. Thursday to Saturday in the food court of Hewitt Union.

Tickets are \$9 (\$7 for SUNY Oswego students) at the Campus Center box office, 312-3073. Ninety percent of the funds raised will benefit Services to Aid Families in Oswego County, and 10 percent will benefit the 2008 V-Day Spotlight on the Women of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

Another highlight of the month is "Women Aloud: The Feminine Voice in Our Lives," a series of readings and performances by members of the campus and greater Oswego community. The 19th annual edition will begin at 7 p.m. tonight in the auditorium of the Campus Center, Room 118. This year's theme will be "Women and Decision-Making."

Participants are scheduled to include Provost Susan Coultrap-McQuin, Connie Cosemento, Peggy Lynn, Jing Li-Kole, Beatriz Salcedo-Strump, Otilia Cortez, Kristine Bushey, Susan Wenyi Guan, Cecilia Ana Tafur, Cathy Santos, Gurdeep Skolnik and Jody Longeill.

The event supports the college's women's studies scholarship fund. Tickets are \$5 (\$3 for students, \$10



Study sensation — A recently published study by Andrew Smiler of Oswego's psychology department is causing a mini-media sensation after being picked up by the New York Times. Smiler's study found that teenage boys are most likely to pursue girls because they want companionship or like the person, as opposed to just being interested in sex.

"We have this 25-year history of movies about teenage boys striving to have sex," Smiler said. "We didn't have that in the '50s or '60s — you had Frankie and Annette on the beach."

The study also found that peer pressure had little influence on boys' behavior. The need to not be the only single one or to fit in with friends were the least endorsed reasons for dating and sex, respectively.

Some male commenters on the Times blog scoffed at the notion, which Smiler and other experts noted may be self-protection. For example, grown men may want to minimize memories of that teenage girl who broke their heart.

Other questions about drug use, depression and other behaviors matched national data found elsewhere. "If they match all the other data, why would they lie about this part?" Smiler asked.

The continuing stereotype of sex-crazed boys doesn't benefit teens, Smiler said, as it may make them feel a need to assume a certain macho role.

"It also impacts the development of girls, as they think all that boys want is sex," he added. "If we don't teach them about relationships when they're teenagers, how do they learn these necessary skills?"

He said this was not the first study to report these kinds of findings, but they generally tend not to be picked up in the media, "and if it doesn't get widely published, it doesn't pervade our national consciousness or stereotypes," Smiler said.

Smiler will discuss his findings during the College Hour program "Gender and Young Men's Sex Lives" at 12:40 p.m. March 12 in Room 107 of Lanigan Hall. □

— Tim Nekritz

Arts briefs

Maus creator to speak March 11

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and comics pioneer Art Spiegelman will discuss "Comix 101" in a free talk at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Hewitt Union ballroom.

Best known as the author of *Maus* and *Maus II*, Spiegelman is considered one of the most influential authors in the graphic novel genre.

Tickets are free but reservations are required through Tyler box office at 312-2141 or tickets@oswego.edu. □

Kitka brings East European sound

Kitka, an all-female vocal ensemble, will perform music with Eastern European roots at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15, in Waterman Theatre.

The group's distinctive sound has earned exposure through National Public Radio shows and soundtracks to movies, including "Braveheart" and "Jacob's Ladder."

For ticket information, call 312-2141 or e-mail tickets@oswego.edu. □

'Origin' to preview next week

A free preview of the music and development of "The Origin," Richard Einhorn's oratorio-in-progress about the life of Charles Darwin, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 14, in Waterman Theatre.

Kitka, soloist Jacqueline Horner (of Anonymous 4) and the College Choir and Oswego Festival Chorus will perform selections from the production. □

Tyler openings rescheduled

The opening reception for exhibitions in Tyler Art Gallery — "Retrospective Reflections" and "A Visual Exploration of Memory" — have been rescheduled to 5 to 7 p.m. Friday in the gallery. The original opening reception was postponed due to inclement weather. Both exhibitions will run through March 12. □

special donation) at the Campus Center box office.

Ariel Levy, a journalist for New York magazine and author of the book *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*, will discuss the current state of womanhood and feminism in modern commodified culture at 7 p.m. March 13 in the Campus Center auditorium.

Among other guest speakers for Women's History Month on campus will be feminist filmmaker Lynn Stopkewich of Vancouver, Canada, during College Hour on March 12 in Room 228 of the Campus Center and graffiti artist Gwen Reyes on March 31, details to be announced.

Patricia Clark of the English department and African-American studies program will examine anti-intellectualism and black women's work at 6 p.m. March 17 in Room 220 of the Campus Center.

Other events will include today's College Hour roundtable discussion of global issues in feminism for International Women's Day and the photography project "Unseenamerica" at 7 p.m. Friday, both in Room 220 of the Campus Center; a human rights concert with The Feverfew and Jenny Owen Youngs at 6:30 p.m. March 12 in the Hewitt Union ballroom; and a screening of the documentary "Mohawk Girls" about teenagers on a reservation at 7 p.m. March 18 in Room 137 of the Campus Center.

For a complete listing online, go to www.oswego.edu/news/calendar/ and search for the word "history." More information is also available by calling the student-run Women's Center at 312-2967 or Lisa Langlois, director of women's studies, at 312-3234 or langlois@oswego.edu. □

Announcements

Faculty, staff callers needed to connect with future students

Members of the campus community can reach out to Oswego's class of 2012 by volunteering for a few hours of the annual Oswego Calling phonathon March 17 and 18.

Volunteer callers speak with students who have been admitted to Oswego but have not yet enrolled, said Luke Nadzadi of the Admissions Office, who coordinates the annual project.

"We regularly hear that students and parents really appreciate having someone from Oswego take the time and are impressed that our callers volunteer to support the college," he noted. "It's a great way for faculty to reach out to students with an interest in their discipline and help them with their college decision."

The drive will run 5 to 9 p.m. both nights. Participants will receive dinner in Sheldon Hall at 5 p.m. before taking up calling duties from 6 to 9 p.m. in Room 322 of Sheldon Hall or, if they prefer, their own offices. Questions can be sent to lnadzadi@oswego.edu.

Student volunteers will call prospective students on March 10 and 11. □

Space usage calendar provides tool for campus event scheduling

SUNY Oswego has a new Web-based tool to help members of the campus community schedule events. The space usage calendar showing room reservations

and location availability is a joint project of the offices of Campus Life, Campus Technology Services and Registrar.

"This Web site will allow you to know which events are occurring in which locations. It should be very helpful to individuals and groups who are looking at planning an event and would like to know which spaces are tentatively available," said Registrar Andrew Westfall.

The Web site address is events.oswego.edu. Users can search by location or date. The site also provides a link to a form to formally request space for an event or class-related activity. A "Help" link on the site provides additional information on how to use it.

At this stage, several campus locations are not yet included in the site. Among them are Waterman Theatre, Lab Theatre, Tyler Art Gallery, Laker's Ziel Gymnasium and athletic fields.

Westfall cautioned that academic departments should not use the site when creating their initial list of course offerings for a semester.

For more information about the calendar, contact Westfall at westfall@oswego.edu. □

WSJ honors alumnus as innovator

SUNY Oswego alumnus and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor Joseph Coughlin was recently featured as one of "12 People Who Are Changing Your Retirement" in the Wall Street Journal.

The article published Feb. 16 outlined a dozen influential thinkers and business people working to improve the quality of post-retirement life for the on-

slaught of aging baby boomers. As director of MIT's AgeLab Engineering Systems Division, Coughlin was included for his work integrating technology into the senior lifestyle and advocating for its use. □

Month of Action

Continued from page 1

faculty participating in other events. "Softball in the Snow" was a great event because it was a fundraiser for the Special Olympics," she said. "It not only allowed participants to better understand the organization, but students as well as community members participated. It was a wonderful collaborative effort."

Other activities have included an Adopt-a-Platoon and Cellphones for Soldiers drive, a Political Awareness Day, Literacy Volunteers training sessions, Red Cross bloodmobiles, an activity with children of migrant workers and a faculty panel on service learning.

While most events have already taken place, opportunities remain for student involvement, including the Hunger Banquet at 6 p.m. March 12 at The Forum in Hewitt Union.

"The Hunger Banquet, sponsored by Center for Service Learning and Community Services, is an interactive meal that teaches students about world hunger," Amyotte said. Admission is \$3 or three canned food items. Tickets can be purchased at the Campus Center box office or at the door, with all proceeds going to a local organization working to alleviate hunger.

"The Month of Action is very worthwhile because it highlights service and involvement opportunities for our students," said Molly McGriff, the Student Association director of civic engagement. "Community involvement is an admirable quality for our students to possess."

The goal of the program was to make a difference in the community, and Amyotte said she believes that should be a goal for everyone.

"I feel like that's what we are here to do," she said, "I have received help throughout my life and have been very fortunate. I feel like it's my responsibility to help out in any way I can. Being involved in community service, engaging in the political process, or just expanding one's knowledge of the issues facing us today is invaluable." □ — Christopher Hill

Police report

Since Feb. 15, University Police have investigated several cases and made four arrests.

Police charged a 19-year-old Fulton resident with driving while intoxicated, driving with a blood alcohol content above .08 and speeding. Officers charged a 20-year-old Albany resident with third-degree assault. He is accused of initiating an altercation after a minor traffic tangle.

Police charged two Waterbury Hall residents — a 19-year-old and an 18-year-old — with unlawful possession of alcohol. They are accused of attempting to smuggle alcohol into a hockey game. □

Calendar highlights

- Concert by Due East, today
- "Women Aloud," today
- "The Vagina Monologues," March 6 to 8
- Concert by Oswego State Jazz Ensemble, March 7
- "A Doll's House," March 7 to 9
- Rice Creek Ramble, March 8
- Faculty recital, March 9
- Art Spiegelman talk, March 11
- Human Rights Concert, March 12
- Hunger Banquet, March 12
- "The Origin" preview, March 14
- Concert by Kitka, March 15

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

Spotlight

Russo enjoys being part of college's educational tradition

This week's Campus Update Spotlight shines on Pat Russo. The professor of curriculum and instruction and director of Oswego's Center for Urban Education has taught here since 1993.

Q. What classes do you teach?

A. I teach foundations courses and courses about teaching for social justice. They are mostly undergraduate courses, with some graduates in them, and mostly for preteachers, people working toward certification.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I earned my bachelor's in childhood education, master's in reading education and education administration degree from SUNY Oswego. I have my Ph.D. from Syracuse University in foundations of education.

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

A. It's hard to pick a favorite. I love teaching. If I'm sick, I can walk into a class and not feel sick for that hour or so I'm teaching. Working with students in the first semester of the program gives me the opportunity to get them aligned with what we have going. But I also really enjoy advising, working on numerous initiatives in our department, and the opportunity to regularly learn and grow through my own studies.

Q. Can you tell us about your work with the Center for Urban Education?

A. The center has two key purposes. The first is to broaden the horizons of the students who come to Oswego. Many of them are not from urban backgrounds, so when we place them in urban schools, they are gaining valuable experience. The second purpose is to try to recruit more students from urban backgrounds. It's a circular thing in that when our students are placed there, they serve as role models or recruiters. I'm also a supporter of our institution bringing urban kids in to see our campus. The program is working really well. Several of our graduates are working in New York City schools, and we have a presence in every building in the Syracuse City School District.

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

A. This is hard to do because I feel such a close connection to the students. Our students are often



ones who can't afford to go other places, so they are down-to-earth, real, honest. I started here as a student in 1968, and I feel like I, and our current students, are all part of the heritage going back to 1861 when Edward Austin Sheldon started a college for teacher education.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

A. Being a successful professor, making it this far professionally in my life, feeling like I am making a contribution to this campus.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. I have two teenage daughters — that keeps me very busy. Also, I love to read. I love to watch sports, especially women's sports. I love Oswego women's ice hockey.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. I have two teenage daughters. Nikki, who is 18, will be attending the University of New Haven on a basketball scholarship. My 16-year-old daughter Desa is a junior in high school and just started her first job working part-time at Wendy's. We live in Minetto with a dog and two kittens. □