

Oswego student experiencing Japan on prestigious Gilman scholarship

An interest in Japanese culture and encouraging other students to explore the world led to Liz Kalisiak becoming the first-ever SUNY Oswego student to earn a prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad.

Of the 1,276 applications last year to the Gilman program, administered by the Institute of International Education, only 392 received scholarships. The \$5,000 award assists Kalisiak in her current studies at the University of Tsukuba in Japan.

"Since Japan is a very expensive country, I felt that I would need all the financial assistance I could get," said Kalisiak, a senior double major in biology and

anthropology from North Tonawanda. "The Gilman scholarship seemed like one of the more promising awards available for students traveling to Japan."

The Gilman program "is very selective and awards are partly based on a proposal that students make for a project they will complete upon returning to the U.S.," said Katherine Quinn, program specialist for the Asia-Pacific region in Oswego's Office of International Education and Programs.

In her proposal, Kalisiak explained that her experience could help other anthropology majors and that biology (and other science) majors were underrepresented in this program. She promised to develop

promotional materials and mentoring opportunities to encourage other students to pursue Gilman and Tsukuba study-abroad opportunities.

"This has allowed me to experience the culture not only by sight and sound, but by taste, touch, and smell as well," Kalisiak said in a recent e-mail interview. "My adventures over here, even in the short two months that I've been here, have really taught me to try everything possible, and try it while you can."

The experience has gone "wonderfully so far," she said. "The Japanese are very friendly and welcoming people, and I immediately felt at home here."

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New mission summary nearing completion

SUNY Oswego will submit its mission summary report to SUNY's System Administration by the end of this month. A draft is available to members of the campus community on the Web.

Mission review is the SUNY-wide process by which the campuses examine their programs, facilities and practices with an eye to raising academic quality. The mission summary consists of answers to 49 questions that SUNY has asked about Oswego's plans for 2005 to 2010. This is SUNY's second mission review.

An Oct. 14 draft of Oswego's mission summary has been online for people with a campus account to review. The mission review steering committee is scheduled to meet today to approve a revised draft for posting on the Web.

A draft of the document can be downloaded by clicking a link on the Faculty and Staff gateway page (www.oswego.edu/faculty_and_staff/) under "Official Information."

"I encourage faculty and staff to review the draft and get any comments or factual corrections to Howard Gordon by Nov. 22," said President Deborah F. Stanley.

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Celebrating democracy — Caitlin Hankinson was one of hundreds of Oswego students to vote for the first time on Election Day, which was also the sophomore English major's 19th birthday. Election officials said a record turnout for the campus included some students waiting in line nearly two hours. Oswego Town election inspector Dan VanBuren (right) explained the procedure to new voters. After the Oswego County Board of Election briefly discontinued the on-campus polling location, student protests and an offer from the Student Association to fund the machines brought the polling center back this year.

Students learn while staging comedy '[sic]'

For nearly a month, a small but dedicated group of students have toiled on the lower level of Tyler Hall. The fruits of their labor come to light this week when the annual student honors theatre production, "[sic]," opens in Tyler Hall's lab theatre.

With only a four-week production schedule, every minute counted. Director Ryan Oliver and his cast and crew have been up to the challenge. This represents the fulfillment of a longtime dream for Oliver, who knew he wanted to direct this production from the time he started taking theatre courses at the college.

"I directed a couple of shows in high school, and when I got here I discovered there was a real opportunity with the student honors show," said Oliver, a senior theatre major from Rome. He worked up to the challenge by serving as assistant director for previous campus productions "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "1940s Radio Hour."

One challenge is that the script for "[sic]" has no punctuation for any dialogue, so Oliver and his actors experimented with readings to see what worked best.

See 'Student production,' page 4



Exploring options — Sarah Fedigan (right) and her mother Debbie, both from East Greenbush, speak to Patrick Conaway, representing the Office of International Education and Programs, at last week's Veterans' Day Open House. More than 350 prospective students looked into attending Oswego during the campus-wide event. Including parents, friends and family members, around 1,000 visitors attended.

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College trends

Fewer cuts for technology

“Fewer colleges are putting information-technology programs on the chopping block in their budgets for the current academic year than in the recent past, but a fourth of colleges still have made cuts, according to a survey. . . . The 2004 Campus Computing Survey, conducted by the Campus Computing Project, found that 24.3 percent of institutions made cuts in academic-computing budgets for this year. That compares with 41.3 percent of colleges in 2003 and 32.6 percent in 2002. The survey also found that more colleges are adopting policies to ban illegal trading of copyright-protected music and movie files on their campus networks. . . . And more colleges are planning to deploy wireless networks, according to the survey, with 55.5 percent of colleges reporting that they plan to install them, compared with 45.5 percent last year. . . . The survey also found that colleges are cautiously embracing the idea of using open-source software, which is developed by volunteers rather than by companies so that programmers can alter the software code as they see fit.”

— *Academe Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Oct. 20, 2004

32-year trend reversed

“The number of foreign students on American campuses declined last year by 2.4 percent — the first drop in foreign enrollments since the 1971-72 academic year. The figures, which confirm widespread predictions, appear in the latest edition of ‘Open Doors,’ an authoritative annual report on academic mobility. . . . The report, ‘Open Doors 2004,’ examines the 2003-4 academic year, the latest for which complete data are available. But two less-comprehensive surveys, released this month, indicate that the decline in foreign enrollments is continuing this year. . . . Officials tended to agree on the reasons for the decline, chiefly the real and perceived difficulties in obtaining student visas, especially in scientific and technical fields. Widely acknowledged government efforts to reduce delays in issuing visas appear to have mostly come too late to affect this year’s enrollments.”

— *Academe Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Nov. 10, 2004

Tuition, aid increase

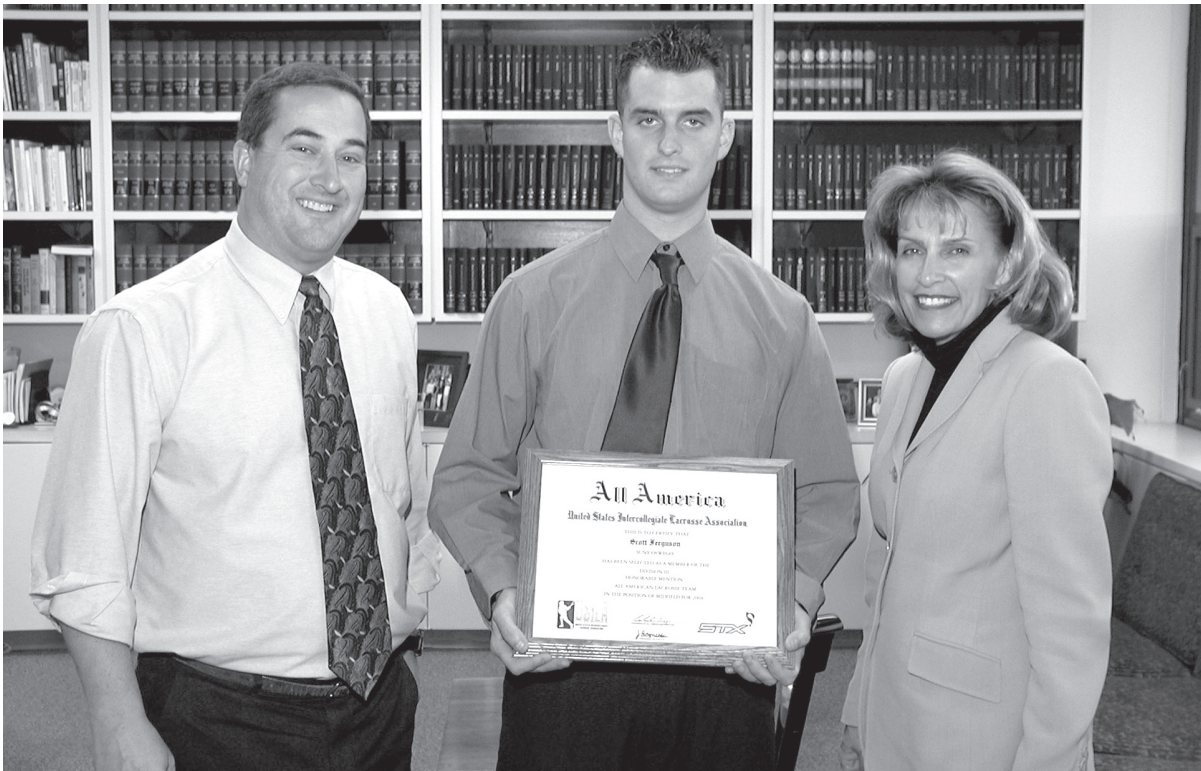
“Tuition at public four-year institutions grew to \$5,132 in 2004-05, up 10.5 percent from the previous year, according to a new report by the College Board. The organization’s annual reports on tuition and financial aid found that after factoring in grant aid and educational tax benefits, students actually paid about \$1,300 to attend a public four-year institution in 2003-04. Tuition at two-year public institutions reached \$2,076 this fall and \$20,082 at private four-year institutions. As tuition increased, so did student aid, which grew 11 percent after adjusting for inflation, in 2003-04 from the previous year. ”

— *Edlines*, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Oct. 21, 2004

Enrollment rises globally

“More students around the world are completing university-level courses and other forms of postsecondary education, such as high-level vocational programs, according to 2004 Education at a Glance, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development’s annual summary of educational statistics. The OECD has 30 member countries, including Australia, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the United Kingdom, the United States, and several European nations. On average across OECD countries in 2002, 32 percent — as compared to 26 percent in 2000 — of the age groups studied (25-34, 44-45, 45-55, and 55-64) completed a first university-level degree.”

— *BriefCASE*, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, October 2004



All-American for lacrosse —Senior Scott Ferguson was named an All-American in men’s lacrosse for his excellence in the spring sport. President Deborah F. Stanley (right) congratulates Ferguson (center) and Coach Dan Witmer. Ferguson was one of a school record number of 10 individual student-athlete All-American honors during the 2003-04 academic year.

People in action

Ivan Brady, distinguished teaching professor and chair of anthropology, has an article titled “In Defense of the Sensual: Meaning Construction in Ethnography and Poetics” in the August issue of the interdisciplinary journal *Qualitative Inquiry*. It is the published version of Brady’s inaugural Ruth Harrington Chair of Educational Leadership Lecture, “Cluttered Space and the Made World,” given at Texas A & M University in 2002. Brady argues that doing ethnography is less a problem of unknowables than it is one of many ways of knowing and the frustrations of choosing among them. Carving science or poetry out of this “made” universe requires heightened sensitivity to its properties, including attention to the fact that all humans are sensual and intellectual creatures. But he finds that it is mostly only the poets who write about experience consistently from a sensual perspective. The article is part of Brady’s continuing experiments with forms of ethnographic writing, especially those that attempt to give prominence to multiple voices in their representations of ethnographic fieldwork and related experiences.

Freshman **Claudia Espinosa** of White Plains was one of six women honored this morning by the Westchester Fund for Women and Girls at its annual Grant Awards Breakfast. Six years ago, Espinosa and her parents emigrated to the United States from Columbia. She graduated from White Plains High School last spring as an honor student and enrolled at Oswego this fall. She has worked with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Centro Hispano Inc., the Arts Council, the Entrepreneurship Program, SER of Westchester and Pace Centro Hispano Outreach Program. She aspires to be a physical therapist. Susan Zirinsky, executive producer for CBS television, delivered the keynote address at the breakfast. Tickets cost \$100 each.

Drew Hill, the college’s Web coordinator, gave a presentation titled “Web Site Redesign with Content Management” at the Higher Education Web Development annual conference, Oct. 10 to 13 at the Rochester Institute of Technology Conference Center in Rochester. Hill’s presentation described the recent campus-wide site redesign and implementation of a content management system for the first time. He detailed the step-by-step process and considerations of an exhaustive Web redesign, from what to put into a request for proposals and selecting a vendor to assembling a creative team and collaborative project management to site launch and post-launch adjustments. Conference attendees represented all types and sizes of institutions of higher education and regions of the United States.

Lawrence Spizman and **Elizabeth Dunne Schmitt** of the economics department and Frederick Floss of Buffalo State had their paper “Final Comment: Unintended Consequences of New York Structured Settlement Laws” published in the current issue of the *Journal of Forensic Economics*. Floss is a 1978 economics Oswego graduate who received his doctorate in economics from the University at Buffalo. This paper is the third paper by the authors dealing with issues of tort reform in New York state that takes into consideration structured settlements. Previous research by Spizman and Dunne Schmitt has been cited in a recent decision by the highest state court. This new paper responds to criticism by authors in an article about the original Spizman-Dunne Schmitt paper and the Spizman-Dunne Schmitt-Floss paper. The legislative branch has recently changed the statutes dealing with medical malpractice which further supported the two Oswego professors’ hypothesis that New York’s structured settlement provisions, in the vast majority of cases, favor the plaintiff even though the statute was essentially written by the insurance industry in 1986. Spizman is currently doing research that is critical of other economists who attempt to use “junk science” to meet the “Daubert Standard” for expert testimony in federal courts. A copy of the paper can be viewed at <http://www.oswego.edu/~spizman/papers.html>. □

Mission summary

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Comments should reference the question that they relate to, noted Gordon, who is executive assistant to the president.

He and Doug Deal, professor of history and faculty fellow in the President’s Office this year, are coordinating the mission review process with the steering committee.

The committee includes elected faculty representatives of each school and college and presidential appointees including the provost, deans, United University Professions chapter president, Faculty Assembly chair and Student Association president.

In the next step of mission review next semester, representatives from individual campuses and from System Administration (“interlocutors”) will engage in a dialogue guided by questions that System Administration representatives develop after reviewing the mission summaries.

Later in 2005, a memorandum of understanding between the college and System Administration is scheduled to be in place to guide campus development over the next five years. □

Professor’s new book looks at past, present, possible future of sociology

Tim Delaney, assistant professor of sociology, looks at where ideas about society have been — as well as where they may be going — in his new book *Contemporary Social Theory: Investigation and Application*.

When Delaney first pitched the idea of a book covering 500 years of social theory, publisher Prentice Hall “thought I was trying to do too much, so they offered me tentative approval for a two-book deal,” he recalled. The first book, *Classical Social Theory: Investigation and Application*, came out in June 2003.

“Whereas *Classical Social Theory* primarily talked about specific theorists, by the time we get to contemporary times there are so many theorists that we organize them by schools of thought,” he said.

Contemporary Social Theory covers such prominent concepts as postmodernism, feminism, functionalism, conflict theory and social biology. But the author emphasized that one of his book’s real aims is to put these theories in context.

“What makes my book stand out from the competition is the focus on the application of the specific terms,” Delaney said. “I can show the students the relevance of these ideas to the everyday world.”

General interest

Delaney thinks this approach means that anyone — professional, student or just an interested reader — can get “a good basic knowledge of social theory” from reading the book. “Even if you’re not a sociologist, you’ll find it interesting, especially the final chapter,” he said.

In that chapter, “Applying Social Theory to Future Society,” Delaney looks at the evolution of his field and transposes it to the days ahead. “I’ve identified a number of key trends over the past 500 years of social thought and applied it to the future,” he said.



Social work — Tim Delaney, an assistant professor of sociology at SUNY Oswego, recently had his book *Contemporary Social Theory: Investigation and Application* published by Prentice Hall. The publication looks at several prominent schools of thought and how these social theories influence today’s world — and may impact the future.

“Basically, I’m predicting future society in this chapter.”

One new idea he injects is that of an “enviromare,” a sort of metaphorical “fifth horseman” that may threaten mankind in the future. Social theorists like

Herbert Spenser and Thomas Malthus adapted the Biblical idea of the four horsemen of the apocalypse and translated those elements — famine, pestilence, war and death — as natural factors that keep population in check, he said.

With the addition of the enviromare, a term he coined for “environmentally induced nightmares,” Delaney said this new team of “five horrorists” serve as challenges to future society.

“My point is that these are as much man-made as they are forces of nature,” Delaney explained. “If the original four horsemen don’t lead to the end of humanity, the fifth horseman could. If we don’t take care of things and clean up the environment, we’re going down the wrong path.”

It may appear a dark vision of the future, but Delaney remains optimistic that human beings can once again adapt to stave off disaster. “Like most social theorists, I believe progress and cultural evolution will save us,” he said. □

— Tim Nekritz

Spotlight

Maina enjoys helping teachers learn research

This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Faith Maina, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction. She began teaching at Oswego in 2000.

Q. What classes do you teach?

A. I teach “Research Methods in Education” for graduate students.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I went for my master’s at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. I received my Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. My first degree is from Kenyatta University in Kenya. They are all in education.

Q. What are your research interests?

A. I’m all over the place. Right now I’m working on a program in which we are trying to include students of color in teaching. We realize that only 4 percent of students of color are going into the education field. We are doing research to see why they are not coming (into the field). I’m also doing research into pedagogy and online teaching to see how we can make it more active, interactive and collaborative.

Q. You are also a co-editor of the college’s Journal of Authentic Learning. What can you tell us about that project?

A. It comes from how we are shaping our master’s of science in education. We’re trying to get students to publish in a journal or present at one of the conferences that we have on campus. But we didn’t have a place to publish, so we decided to put the journal out there and, surprise surprise, we get more from outside than from our students in the first issue.

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

A. I think my favorite part is working with the faculty. We have a great group of people in curriculum and instruction. I guess that’s what keeps me going. I think I came here at a great time, because there is a real emphasis on teachers doing research. My students have been great, too.

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

A. Mainly I’m teaching graduate students, so they

are already good. I give them a bit of a push to get them into being researchers as well as teachers.

Q. What achievement or achievements are you most proud of?

A. I’m really excited about the journal. I feel good when students produce good research and enjoy just thinking that they come out of here as better teachers.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. Between my teaching and raising two teenagers, that doesn’t give me much time. I do enjoy going to the movies. Sometimes I go bowling. Most of the time it seems like I’m looking over homework and seeing who is doing teen-age stuff.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. I have a son, Muragri Gichane, in grade 11, and a daughter, Waruguru Gichane, in grade 9, at Oswego High School. We live in Oswego. □



Gilman scholar

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Tsukuba “is a very international university, with many international students and faculty,” Quinn said. Oswego usually sends four or five students every year, but Kalisiak is the first woman from the college in eight years.

Oswego’s educational ties with Japan date back nearly 130 years. In the 1870s, the Japanese government sent Hideo Takamine to the Oswego Normal School to learn and import the “Oswego Method” of object teaching. The insights he brought back transformed and modernized Japanese education, and Takamine Drive on campus honors his legacy.

“I am most interested in learning about Japanese culture while I am here, as well as the Japanese language,” Kalisiak said. “I have done extensive research on the culture over the past four or five years, and I am very anxious to apply my knowledge to a real-life situation.”

Kalisiak said she plans to return to the United States to study microbiology in graduate school, but she said the experience is providing lessons she will never forget.

“I have surprised myself on so many occasions by liking something I never thought I would — and this applies to every aspect about Japan,” she said. “Just try everything while you can — you never know when you’ll get another chance!” □

— Tim Nekritz



Something funny — Ryan Oliver (center), director of the upcoming SUNY Oswego theatre presentation “[sic],” laughs during an early production meeting for the contemporary comedy. Flanking him are assistant director Ryan Sprague (left) and stage manager Maya Pacio. Oliver, a senior theatre major from Rome, helms the student cast and crew staging the production on campus today through Sunday.

Membership snowballing for campus ski club

The Downhill Ski and Snowboarding Club plans to hit some big peaks this year.

The club plans a ski trip to Killington, Vt., Dec. 3 to 5. The Mont Tremblant Resort in Quebec is on the club’s schedule for Jan. 9 to 14. More trips are being planned for spring.

Club President Tim Bishop, a senior majoring in psychology and business administration, calls skiing an exciting sport. “You’re fighting with yourself to build your ability to ski better, to conquer the mountain and to push your limits,” he said.

The club started about 10 years ago and its popularity has recently snowballed. In 2001, only eight students participated in its ski trips. Last year that number grew to 54 students, and the club expects 60 to 75 students to join this year.

The club is hoping to become a tier-3 organization next semester in order to get additional funding for trips through Student Association. Bishop attributes club growth to the annual SA Involvement Fair and word of mouth.

Teresa Roohan, a junior majoring in psychology, said Mont Tremblant “was an amazing experience. I had a wonderful time. I recommend the club to others.”

The Downhill Ski and Snowboarding Club offers

students the opportunity to ski at top resorts their parents may have trouble affording. The average rate for the Oswego club’s ski trips is \$355 per person. This includes a large condo housing four to six students (with a kitchen and balcony) for five nights, lift and ski pass. Bishop said he realizes it can be expensive but students are receiving huge discounts for Disneyland-like accommodations.

“I want them to have gained friendships, to have met more people, and to walk away from this college experience telling themselves, ‘I have skied at one of the major resorts in the Northeast,’” Bishop said.

Bishop called skiing a social activity, which is better enjoyed among the company of friends. He said that a lot of time is spent on the ski lift and on the trail, so it is a great opportunity to meet new people.

Students can go out to clubs, movie theatres, restaurants and even indoor rock climbing. “We would ski hard and party hard,” said Kelly Ruben, who graduated in May. “Most of us got a pool pass and got to sit in the hot tubs and pools after skiing.”

The club meets monthly. It is currently looking for members who are interested in becoming officers.

For more information, contact Bishop at rufus101@aol.com or 529-6680. □

— John Hong

Announcements

Phone scam targets students

Callers pretending to offer grants or scholarships from the U.S. Department of Education or other official-sounding agency in exchange for a bank account or credit card number are victimizing college students nationwide. Students at Oswego reported receiving such calls last week.

After being alerted by one of these students, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Joseph Grant e-mailed all students to warn them and to direct them to federal investigators for help if they’ve been taken in.

More information can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/misused/>. □

‘Big: The Musical’ auditions set

The theatre department will hold open auditions for community youngsters and teen-agers for its spring production of “Big: The Musical.” Auditions will take place in Tyler Hall from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, and 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3.

The audition process is two-fold, with Thursday focusing on vocal talents and Friday emphasizing the

dance component. Candidates are should prepare a one-minute dramatic monologue and sing eight to 16 bars that show vocal range for the Dec. 2 audition. The Dec. 3 audition will test dancing abilities. Call-backs are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4.

Those looking to audition are asked to sign up for an audition time in the theatre department office.

For more information, call the SUNY Oswego theatre department at 312-2140 or visit <http://www.oswego.edu/theatre>. □

Police report

Since Oct.29, University Police have investigated several cases of theft, vandalism and harassment and made six arrests.

University Police arrested three teen-age students on charges of criminal mischief. They are accused of damaging cars in parking lot 4. One of the suspects was remanded to the Oswego County Public Safety Center in lieu of bail.

In another incident, officers charged two Funnelle Hall residents and a 19-year-old Cicero man with possession of marijuana. □

Student production

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“The people I cast were people I knew would be able to do certain things in a certain period of time because I’d seen them before,” Oliver said. “It’s partly going on trust.”

That trust extends to crew members like stage manager Maya Pacio, a senior theatre major from Elbridge. This is the first time Pacio has stage managed since high school, and she is learning a lot about co-ordinating the work of designers and budgets to stage a whole production in such a short time frame.

“Things are coming together really nicely. There are a few bugs to work out here and there, but it’s coming along as expected,” Pacio said. “You just have to take deep breaths a couple of times and chug along.”

For sound designer Matt Boudreau, the production is part of a learning experience this semester that included serving as assistant sound designer for “Infinity’s House” and running sound for folk dance troupe Quetzalli. “Whenever I had a free moment, I was knee-deep into ‘[sic],’ getting things done,” said Boudreau, a senior double major in theatre and English writing arts from Auburn.

“I’ve worked in sound before, but I’ve never put together a whole show on my own,” Boudreau said. “Ryan lets the designers take the ball and run with it. Because of the nature of this the show, you have to allow this creativity, and he’s been doing a great job with it.”

The production has 8 p.m. curtain times tonight through Saturday, wrapping with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee. Tickets cost \$10 (\$9 for senior citizens and students, \$7 for SUNY Oswego students).

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

Announcements

Beethoven work slated Sunday

The SUNY Oswego music department will present a performance of Ludwig van Beethoven’s Mass in C major at 3 p.m. Sunday at St. Paul’s Church on East Mohawk Street in Oswego.

The combined forces of the College Choir and Oswego Festival Chorus, 140 singers, will join the 45-piece College-Community Orchestra under the baton of Juan Francisco LaManna of the music department. Soloists are Amanda Carnie, Stephanie Nixdorf, Todd Graber and Micah Graber.

Tickets are \$5, available at the door. SUNY Oswego students with a current ID may attend free. □

Rock, hip-hop concert Saturday

The Student Association Programming Board will present Something Corporate, Stroke 9 and Slum Village on Saturday in the Laker Hall gymnasium.

Modern-rock band Something Corporate scored hits with “Space” and “Down” from their 2003 album, “North.” Rockers Stroke 9 tour in support of “Rip It Off,” which hit stores Nov. 9. Hip-hop act Slum Village brings material from such albums as the June release “Detroit Deli.”

Tickets cost \$18, \$12 for SUNY Oswego students. All day-of-show tickets cost \$23. Doors will open at 7 p.m., with the show starting around 8 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Hewitt Union box office or by calling 312-2939. □

Calendar highlights

- **Jazz vocalist Dominique Eade in concert**, today
- “[sic]” **opens**, today
- **Concert Band concert**, Nov. 19
- **Rice Creek Ramble**, Nov. 20
- **Beethoven’s Mass**, Nov. 21
- **Thanksgiving recess**, Nov. 24 to 28

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