



Letter perfect — Al Roker of the NBC-TV “Today” show helped well over 1,000 students spell out “Oswego” Friday as part of the day’s events celebrating the college’s kickoff of the public phase of its first-ever major fundraising campaign, “Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego.” Roker is honorary chair of the campaign. The 1,000 free T-shirts allotted for the Oswego Family Portrait were all taken by around 3:30 p.m., and organizers added an underline to the word to accommodate the huge crowd on the field next to Lee Hall.

ESPN’s Steve Levy and Chris Brandolino of WSTM-3, both Oswego alumni, helped host the event. The group picture will become a mainstay image in the final two years of the five-year campaign. Campaign co-chair Hal Morse, a 1961 graduate of Oswego and a founder of the Learning Channel, announced at a dinner celebration Friday night that the campaign had raised \$12.8 million in its nearly three-year quiet phase, well on the way to the \$17 million goal.
Photo by Robert Clark, class of 1978

College focuses on keeping, graduating students

Faculty and staff throughout campus have begun considering new strategies they might implement to help students to stay enrolled at Oswego through graduation.

While the rate at which freshmen return to enroll as sophomores is up this year, to about 77 percent, “institutionally, we are still not at the 80 percent where we would like to be,” said Provost Susan Coultrap-McQuin in a meeting last week, where members of Provost’s Council discussed with President Deborah F. Stanley what they were doing to improve student retention.

Stanley said that the freshmen retention rate tends to fluctuate and may be up because of particular institution-wide initiatives, such as the FirstChoice small class initiative. But initial results of a study that three administrators began last year indicate that personal connections are what lead students to commit to four years at college, she said, and personal connections

are best fostered at the grassroots level. “I think that we will find many strategies that will do what we need to do, and that is to make the connection with students,” she said.

Last year, Joe Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment; Howard Gordon, executive assistant to the president; and Mehran Nojan, director of institutional research and assessment, began a study of student retention here. Grant, who took part in a national study of best practices in student retention last year, noted that Oswego’s retention and graduation rates are above the average for public four-year colleges.

The three reviewed the best practices and assembled data on the first-year students who entered Oswego in fall 2003, about 140 of whom left Oswego before fall 2004.

“We said, let’s take a look at what we knew about
See ‘Personal connections,’ page 2

First offering of Arabic courses proves popular

When SUNY Oswego’s modern languages and literatures department announced its first section of Arabic 101 last spring, “it was amazing how well (students) responded,” said Ahmed Ould-Mohamed, the adjunct instructor. “The course was full in the first two weeks after we opened registration.”

The course began meeting this semester. Its 25 students can continue with Arabic 102 next semester. Others who want to jump into the language in time for next semester’s course can take an intensive version of Arabic 101 during Winter Session.

Arabic is in high demand as the United States engages the Muslim world — militarily, diplomatically, commercially and intellectually. Ould-Mohamed said that even students from other upstate colleges called trying to get into Oswego’s class.

Arabic is the principal language of 22 countries, he said, and because Arabic is to Islam as Latin used to be to Christianity, 1.2 billion people worldwide use the language liturgically.

Nationally, the number of college students studying Arabic in 2002, the most recent year for which

statistics are available, was double the number of four years earlier but still less than 1 percent of total U.S. foreign language enrollment, according to a report last week by the Newhouse News Service.

For the future at Oswego, “we would like to think about offering more sections and move into 201 and 202 level courses,” said Tracy Lewis, professor of modern languages and literatures.

Ould-Mohamed lives in Oswego with his family and also teaches Spanish at Oswego. A native of Mauritania, he speaks several languages and has taught Arabic, the language of his country, both in Spain and in Mauritania to businesspeople and diplomats visiting that North African country. He has a master’s degree in linguistics and translation from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain.

“I was really surprised how dedicated my students are,” he said after teaching Arabic 101 here for two weeks. Among his students’ majors are journalism, public justice, international relations, computer science, French, anthropology and history. “They’re
See ‘Arabic, Portuguese courses,’ page 4

More diversity on campuses

Enrollment of minority students is at record levels for both SUNY Oswego and the SUNY system.

At 799, according to preliminary data, the number of students of color who enrolled at SUNY Oswego this fall is 40 or 50 more than expected, said Howard Gordon, executive assistant to the president and a member of the college’s minority recruitment and retention committee.

“That’s the highest ever,” he said, an increase of 13.5 percent over last fall’s final enrollment figures.

All under-represented groups are up, he said, including African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American students. Together, they make up nearly 10 percent of the student body.

“We have an Admissions Office staff that works very hard at meeting our diversity goals,” Gordon said, making special note of Monico Soto and Elizabeth Bridges. “I also believe that our current students do a good job encouraging new students to seriously consider Oswego.”

In the State University, minority students account for 19.2 percent of the overall enrollment, according to preliminary enrollment data from SUNY. That totals 79,307 students, up 1.5 percent from last fall. □

Classic aids Presidential Scholars

The Oswego State Fall Classic on Sept. 9 raised a gross total of \$174,188 to support scholarships at SUNY Oswego.

“We are grateful to all our generous supporters, especially our three Presidential Level sponsors: Sithe, Constellation Energy and LECET,” said college President Deborah F. Stanley. “We had a beautiful day, a wonderful turnout by our friends and supporters, and a lot of fun for a worthy cause.”

All proceeds of the Fall Classic go toward the Presidential Scholars program, which attracts highly qualified and motivated students to attend Oswego. Since 1997, the Classic has raised over \$1.1 million to support the scholarship program. □

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ORI author Moon to speak

Science fiction and fantasy writer Elizabeth Moon, author of the award-winning novel *The Speed of Dark*, will speak at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in the Hewitt Union ballroom. Tickets, while free, are required to attend, and the event was booked up at press time.

Moon’s appearance on campus highlights activities tying into her book’s selection for campus-wide reading under the Oswego Reading Initiative. It is also part of the Arts and Psychology series.

The Speed of Dark is a futuristic examination of what it means to be “normal.” The Washington Post Book World called her book “splendid and graceful. . . . A lot of novels promise to change the way a reader sees the world; *The Speed of Dark* actually does.” The novel won the 2003 Nebula Award for Best Novel and was an Arthur C. Clarke Award finalist.

Moon is the author of 18 books in all. Her written work often tackles issues related to the clashing of politics and personal relationships, and she based much of *The Speed of Dark* on her experiences as the mother of an autistic son.

She was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and has two bachelor’s degrees, one in biology and one in history. She has also worked as a paramedic, a sign painter and a draftsman.

In addition to her evening lecture, Moon will speak in several classes. Moon’s Web site, www.sff.net/people/Elizabeth.Moon/, features an essay on autism as well as a list of related books.

For more information on the Oswego Reading Initiative, or to download a sample chapter from *The Speed of Dark*, visit www.oswego.edu/ori. □

Public justice department hosts fraud investigator as speaker

Stephen A. Morreale of Massachusetts, formerly assistant special agent in charge in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Investigations, will give a public lecture on Medicaid and health care fraud at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, in Room 104 of Lanigan Hall. He will also speak in public justice classes the next day.

Morreale investigated Medicaid and health care fraud as a federal official before he retired in January and is now a private contractor engaged in similar investigations.

His appearance on campus is made possible by the public justice department’s excellence fund, which was created in 2004 by a gift from an alumni couple. David Cutler, who graduated from Oswego in 1974, and his wife Catherine Lovell, who graduated in 1976, donated \$100,000 through their foundation.

For more information on Morreale’s appearance on campus, call the public justice department at 312-4121. □

Geological group meets at Oswego

Several members of Oswego’s geology faculty worked for the past year on organizing the 77th annual field conference of the New York State Geological Association, which was held on campus Sept. 23 to 25. David Valentino, associate professor of geology, is the association’s president this year and was principal organizer of the conference.

The conference consisted of eight geology field excursions around upstate New York as well as a dinner featuring New York State Geologist William Kelly as speaker.

David Thomas, professor of geology, was one of the leaders of two field trips to the Black River Valley. Andrew Nelson of the biology department led a trip to the Sloperville Bog in eastern Oswego County.

Valentino and Sabrina Stilwell of the earth sciences department together with Josh Valentino took a group to along the shore of Lake Ontario and the Salmon River gorge to the Salmon River Falls to examine bedrock fractures.

Valentino and Damian Piaschyk of the earth sciences department were among the leaders of a field trip to the Piseco Lake shear zone in the western Adirondack Mountains. Sharon Gabel, associate professor of geology, and Robert Venczel of the earth sciences department took a group to the beach-dune ecosystem on the eastern Lake Ontario shoreline. □

People in action

Bruce Altschuler’s review of *The Money Primary: The New Politics of the Early Presidential Nomination Process* by Michael Goff was published in the September issue of *Perspectives on Politics*. The American Political Science Association publishes this journal. Altschuler is professor and chair of the political science department.

Ivan Brady, distinguished teaching professor and chair of anthropology, has published a chapter, “Poetics for a Planet: Discourse on Some Problems of Being-in-Place,” in the third edition of *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, edited by Norman K. Denzin and Yvonna S. Lincoln. In the interest of developing a conscientious poetics of place, including sources of information on experiences at “home” and in ancient and modern landscapes that might best be described as “wild” and “sacred,” Brady asks what exactly environmentally concerned critics such as poet Gary Snyder, nature writer Barry Lopez, mountain climber Jack Turner and art historian Simon Schama have in mind when they exhort us to relearn respect for the land we inhabit as a countermeasure to the thoughtless destruction of it brought on by modern life. Brady argues for the importance of sensuous and intellectual information that can be gained from “being there” (present in the landscape to be studied), of accounting for how the observer “gets there” (including one’s cultural orientations), and of studying tribal poetries and myths in their oral forms and in written texts. He cautions that a variety of perceptual complications for knowing this material have occurred since the development of writing and mass production printing and that language itself is sometimes inadequate to the task of conveying experience. Brady also compares the relative merits of the distancing techniques of scientific approaches to the immersion techniques of artisan frameworks as paths for studying this material. He gives poetry a special place in the mix, both because of and despite its composition beyond the requirements of basic information and because it is body-grounded and can be a powerful source for communicating at both a sensuous and an intellectual level. This study has implications for social science research methods, for formal education processes and content and for a variety of concerns about the quality of life on the planet.

A group from SUNY Oswego, including students **Heather Darsie**, **Melissa Sierson** and **Jeanine Kramer** and Professor **Ana Djukic-Cocks**, attended the annual New York conference of the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) Sept. 24 and 25 at Cornell University. This year’s theme was “Made in Germany: Kinematics, Culture, Politics.” Darsie was quoted in the Cornell Daily Sun about a lecture she attended on Martin Luther’s political doctrine.

In July, **Willow Eyres**, a May Oswego graduate from biology and the Honors Program, and **Jim Seago**, professor of biology, participated in the XVII International Botanical Congress in Vienna, Austria. Eyres started a project on the structure of plants adapted to life in wetland habitats in 2004 that she expanded in the spring 2005 into an honors project. Her work led her to join Seago in the long-term project on the kinds of structural adaptations that plants show in aquatic and wetland habitats. Because of her work, she together with Seago; **Kamal Mohamed**, associate professor of biology; and Danilo Fernando, associate professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, authored an abstract that was submitted to and accepted by the International Botanical Congress for a poster presentation. She prepared the poster, “A Survey of Root and Shoot Adaptations of Aquatic and Amphibious Angiosperms.” The poster was displayed from July 18 to 20 at the Austria Center, and she presented it formally on July 20. Seago also had a poster, co-authored by Emeritus Professor **Leland Marsh**, that was displayed from July 20 to 22 and presented on July 21. The title was “Adaptive Strategies of Aquatic Basal Angiosperms and Monocots.” The International Botanical Congress is the major conference of the world’s botanists held every six years. In 2005, the 100th anniversary of its previous hosting by Vienna, there were over 3,800 botanists from 97 countries in attendance. While hundreds of people saw the poster, Eyres personally met and discussed the substance of the poster and project with dozens of professionals, ranging from students to the world’s leading experts. After the congress, Eyres, with Seago and Ichirou Karahara of Toyama, Japan, was given a tour of the Danube River and its adjacent wetlands in southern Slovakia near Bratislava, that was hosted by Alexander Lux of Comenius University in Bratislava. Here they saw typical wetland and riverine plants of central Europe. The European trip ended with a few days in Prague, where Eyres had an opportunity to work in the lab of Olga Votrubová of Charles University. She learned improved techniques for handling wetland plants, and she and Seago added information about one species of European plant to their overall project.

James Pagano, director of Oswego’s Environmental Research Center in the chemistry department, presented a paper, “Utilization of Salmonid Eggs as Bioindicators of Organohalogen Pollutants in Lake Ontario” at the 230th national meeting of the American Chemical Society, held Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 in Washington, D.C. The results of this study indicate that spawning-run salmonid eggs provide a practical and inexpensive bioindicator of critical and emerging chemical contaminants found in the Lake Ontario ecosystem. □

Personal connections

Continued from page 1
them while they were here,” Gordon said. “What can we learn about them?”

They assembled information on each student — gender, race, ethnicity, parents’ educational background, high school grades, SAT scores, major, athletic involvement, involvement in student clubs, where they lived while enrolled, whether they had been charged with violating the code of conduct, and, finally, whether they returned as sophomores and, if not, why they left: academic disqualification, transfer or withdrawal.

Then they began to make correlations among the categories of information. “We found, for example, that the majority of people who were involved in athletics did very well,” he said. “Of course, athletes make a connection early on, often before they come here. They have mentoring, they have academic support, etc. etc.”

They found that “students who decide to leave decide to leave very early,” Gordon said, often within the first three weeks of the semester. “Making an early connection with students is very important,” he emphasized.

“That’s part of the philosophy behind ORI [the

Oswego Reading Initiative]. . . . If the faculty help students feel engaged, that helps retention and graduation rates,” he said. Students need to hear, “We feel that you have the goods to do this. We believe in you, and we’re going to help you,” he added.

Gordon, Grant and Nojan will continue to gather and analyze data. “This was only one year,” Gordon noted. And they plan to add factors, such as socioeconomic background and campus employment.

Meanwhile, the president has charged the deans and heads of other areas of the college to come up with retention strategies.

At the Provost’s Council meeting last week, deans said they had begun discussing it with chairs. The group discussed the difference between retaining students in a major and retaining them at the institution and the importance of General Education courses, where most students first start out, regardless of major.

They discussed faculty development programs that would help professors make effective connections with students. And they noted that faculty are not the only people who can make those connections. Staff can also be the ones who make students “feel comfortable and at home and welcome,” noted Mary Beth Bell, director of Penfield Library. □

— **Julie Harrison Blissert**

‘Our Town’ encourages appreciation of time

Thornton Wilder’s tale “Our Town” reflects the enduring idea that humans never take enough time to appreciate the beauty of everyday life, said Mark Cole, who will direct the first production of the college’s theatre season, opening Oct. 19 in Waterman Theatre.

“When the character of Emily Webb wishes for more time, she is making a wish each of us makes regularly in today’s world,” Cole said.

“Our Town” chronicles everyday happenings at the beginning of the 20th century in Grover’s Corners, N.H., where milk is delivered, children walk to school and the church choir rehearses. A Stage Manager character guides the story with, according to Wilder’s instructions, minimal scenery.

“The lyrical language of the play eloquently works on the audience’s imagination so that it creates the visual details of time and place,” said Cole, professor and chair of theatre at Oswego. “The Stage Manager orchestrates the action on stage and addresses the audience directly, asking it to remember the past, consider what is important or eternal about human existence and witness the cycle of life in one specific place.”

Its celebration of the small town and praise for humanity helped earn the play a Pulitzer Prize in 1938. □



‘Town’ people — The college’s theatre season will begin with a production of Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town,” opening Oct. 19 in Waterman Theatre. Cast members include, from left, Ryan Sprague, Deva Holub, Nathaniel Ansgtrom (the narrating Stage Manager), Greg Salmon, Megan McGarvey and Nicole Arbes. For reservations, contact the Tyler Hall box office at 312-2141 or tickets@oswego.edu.

Communications scholarship to honor Manjula Shah

The children of two prominent local physicians who perished in a plane crash two years ago have established an endowed scholarship at Oswego in memory of their mother, Dr. Manjula R. Shah.

Neelesh Shah and Dr. Monica Shah have donated \$25,000 from the family’s Tarandi Foundation to the Oswego College Foundation to establish the Dr. Manjula Ravindra Shah Memorial Scholarship. It will go to students majoring in communication studies.

Manjula Shah and her husband, Dr. Ravindra F. Shah, died in a plane crash outside of Boston. She was an anesthesiologist who practiced in Fulton and Oswego. He was a urologist and associate professor of surgery at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. He was also a retired brigadier general in the United States Air National Guard.

Neelesh Shah said his mother, while already an anesthesiologist, began taking classes in Oswego’s communication studies department “to round out her language skills and become a better public speaker.”

“She thought communication was key to success in this country as an immigrant,” Monica Shah added. “We thought, she loved this area so much it is an area we should endow.”

When seeking to honor their mother’s memory, SUNY Oswego was a logical choice, the donors said. “Mom and Dad were always big supporters of the community,” Neelesh Shah said. “And they had a great attachment to Oswego State.”

Both siblings also have an attachment to the college, having spent time on campus and in Penfield Library during their own schooling. “When you’re from Oswego, Oswego State is part of you,” Neelesh Shah said.

The elder Shahs began their charitable foundation over two decades ago, naming it for their mothers, Tara and Anandi.

“They felt that the reason they were able to succeed in this country was education,” Monica Shah said. “It opened so many doors for them, they felt they wanted to give that to as many people as possible.” □

Announcements

Panel to discuss Katrina reactions

Oswego faculty members will examine issues related to Hurricane Katrina in two panel discussions this semester that will be open to the public. The first at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in the basement lounge of Hart Hall will focus on the psychological, political and international reactions to the disaster.

Panelists will be Dustin Howes of the political science department on “The Politics of Disaster,” John Lalande of the modern languages department on “International Perspectives and Responses” and Karen Wolford of the psychology department on “Psychological Effects of Natural Disasters.”

The second panel later in the semester will deal with the scientific context of the hurricane.

For more information, call SUNY Oswego’s Interdisciplinary Programs and Activities Center at 312-3236. □

Student project grants available

The deadline for students to apply for Student Scholarly and Creative Activity Grants of up to \$1,000 is Nov. 14. To prepare a proposal, students first need to secure a faculty sponsor who will assist in designing and carrying out an appropriate project.

To access the online application form from SUNY Oswego’s Web site, click on the A-Z Index at the top of the homepage and go to “Research grants, student.”

For more information, contact Linda Cook in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs in the basement of Penfield Library, by e-mail at lcook@oswego.edu or phone at 312-33561. □

Denim Day returns Friday

The college will take part in Lee National Denim Day activities Friday to help in the fight against breast cancer. This marks the sixth year the Oswego campus has participated in the fundraiser, sponsored nationally by and benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

For a \$5 donation, employees can wear denim to work on Friday. Pink wristbands are available for \$2. A \$1 donation adds a ribbon with a name or message to the event’s memory tree.

Participants can gather for a group photo at 8:35 a.m. behind Culkin Hall (or in the Hewitt Union food court in case of inclement weather). A walk around the quad will follow at 8:45 a.m., with a small reception slated in Room 601 of Culkin Hall at 9 a.m.

For more information, call Debbie Arduini at 312-2225. □



Fountain farewell — Dan Schlegel, a junior computer science major, and Stacey Moscicki, a sophomore math major, chat last week at the fountain next to the bend in Washington Boulevard. The need for bus and handicapped access to the new Campus Center will require the removal of the fountain this month to facilitate what will become the new “front door” to the campus. This was the only option that worked with the ground elevation and plans. The fountain was made possible by donations from the class of 1987, and the college is working with class representatives to find a new area to recognize this alumni support. The plaque will be saved and crews hope to locate a time capsule buried in the area. Campus Center construction continues. The first new-from-the-ground-up building on campus in more than 30 years is slated to become the college’s new social hub in fall 2006.

Announcements

Maxeys to perform klezmer, more

Linda and Larry Maxey will perform in SUNY Oswego’s Ke-Nekt Chamber Music Series on Tuesday, Oct. 11, and again with the College-Community Orchestra on Wednesday, Oct. 12. Both performances will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Sheldon Hall ballroom.

Their Tuesday concert is titled “Klezmer and More.” The Maxeys — Linda on marimba and Larry on clarinet — bring a novel instrumental combination to their interpretation of klezmer, an energetic traditional Jewish folk music. Linda Maxey will showcase her skills in an arrangement of George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” on marimba. Tickets for “Klezmer and More” cost \$15, \$10 for seniors and students, \$5 for SUNY Oswego students.

Wednesday’s program will include the second movement from Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto and the Concerto for Marimba by Brazilian composer Ney Rosauro.

Linda Maxey was the first marimbist on the roster of Columbia Artists Management. Now a professor of music at the University of Kansas, Larry Maxey is a former principal clarinetist of several Rochester groups, including and the Eastman Wind Ensemble, with which he recorded five albums.

A \$5 donation to benefit the Orchestral Scholarship Fund is suggested for admission on Oct. 12.

For more information, call Tyler Hall box office at 312-2141 or e-mail tickets@oswego.edu. □

ORI essay contest slated

All freshmen may enter a first-year student essay contest tying in with Oswego Reading Initiative selection *The Speed of Dark* by Elizabeth Moon.

The contest requires students to answer, in 1,000

to 1,500 words, one of three questions based on the decision weighed by protagonist Lou Arrendale on whether to remain a well-adjusted autistic man or undergo a procedure that would make him more “normal.” Entries will be judged for depth, complexity, originality and writing ability.

The winner will receive a free semester’s worth of textbooks at the College Store, with runner-ups receiving other prizes.

Deadline for submissions is Nov. 1. For more information or to receive entry details, contact Mandel via e-mail at mandel@oswego.edu or at 312-2232. □

Wellness fair debuts Oct. 11

Members of the campus community can learn more about benefits, health and wellness at the first Harvesting Your Benefits and Wellness Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, in the Hewitt Union ballroom.

Participants can ask questions and learn more about services from more than 60 vendors representing health care providers, retirement plans, unions, local agencies, campus organizations and other entities. The college’s Employee Assistance Program and the Office of Human Resources co-sponsor the fair.

The event is the brainchild of Karen Sawyer in the Office of Human Resources and Brenda Seymour of Facilities Design and Construction to provide one location where employees can receive answers to common questions and meet representatives of agencies providing these kinds of services.

Door prizes and pumpkin-decorating contests will take place throughout the four-hour activity.

Employees who attend can receive release time with supervisory approval.

“We’re very excited about it,” said Marta Santiago,

human resources director. “This is the first time we’ve tried this on campus and we’re hoping for a good turnout. We also welcome feedback from the people who attend.”

For more information, call 312-2230. □

Screening for depression Oct. 12

Mental health professionals from the Counseling Services Center will offer the opportunity to learn about the signs and symptoms of depression and to participate in a free screening as part of National Depression Screening Day, Oct. 12.

The free program will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hewitt Union formal lounge. For more information, call 312-4416. □

Arabic, Portuguese courses

Continued from page 1

very enthusiastic. They want to learn. That helps a lot.”

The Office of International Education and Programs put up the funds that makes offering the Arabic courses possible, Lewis said.

The office does the same for Portuguese, which Lewis began teaching in 2002.

Oswego has a new study-abroad program in São Paulo, Brazil, and Brazilian students are coming here to study every year now, Lewis noted. Another draw for the Portuguese classes is the college’s active Capoeira Club, he said. Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art like kick boxing.

Lewis said that Portuguese is the fifth most widely spoken language in the world, the language not only of Portugal and Brazil but of several countries in Africa. □

— Julie Harrison Blissert

Spotlight

Campus safety, environment focus of Foertch

The Campus Update Spotlight shines on Eric Foertch this week. He has been the college’s director of environmental health and safety since September 2004.

Q. How would you describe your job and responsibilities?

A. My job can be broken down into two parts. In the safety component, I interface with agencies like the Department of Labor and the New York State Office of Fire Protection to protect worker safety. I also have an environmental constituent, working with the (state) Department of Environmental Conservation and (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency to protect our surroundings. The position is like being an umpire. You don’t make the rules, you execute them. All of the environmental and safety regulations were written for general industry. Our department’s challenge is to continually interpret the intent of the regulation and apply it to our campus.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. My undergraduate degree is in physics from LeMoyne College and my master’s is in environmental resource management from SUNY ESF. I’ve always been in the environmental field and have worked in the private sector for a few years, but have found my home in academia.

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



A. I enjoy the variety of preparing for next year’s campus-wide EPA audit. Our department is tasked with developing programs for hazardous materials management, oil storage, air emissions and wastewater discharges. In the course of a day, I could be training, writing reports, creating policy or managing hazardous waste. I like the balance of being in the office and out on campus.

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

A. I don’t interact routinely with students. From what I have seen, the campus community is very active in providing opportunities for the students to grow outside the classroom. I’m very impressed with the number of choices students have to participate in intramurals, clubs and events. It makes me want to be a student again.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

A. Getting my wife to say “yes.” I would be lost without her.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. I play in golf and basketball leagues. I try to spend as much time as I can outdoors with my family. My children are active in youth sports, and we enjoy hiking and camping. I also appreciate solving puzzles and have recently been hooked on the Sudoku craze.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. I’ve grown up in Central New York and now live in Liverpool. My wife Cathy stays at home with my 4-year-old son Stephen, who is going to preschool. My daughter Rachel is in first grade. They are my heroes. □

Police report

Since Sept. 16, University Police have investigated several reports of theft, rape, trespassing, disorderly conduct and harassment and made eight arrests.

A 19-year-old visitor from Hicksville was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with blood alcohol content of .09, impersonation, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and failure to stop at a stop sign.

Five people were charged with possessing marijuana in three separate incidents. Two Funnelle roommates were charged at the misdemeanor level. Police said they found 14 bags of marijuana in their room.

A 19-year-old visitor from Watertown was charged at the violation level during a traffic stop. Two Johnson Hall residents, both 19, were charged at the violation level along the lake behind Johnson Hall.

Police charged two 20-year-old visitors from Watertown with possessing alcohol. One was also charged with harassment and disorderly conduct as a result of behavior during interaction with police. □

Calendar highlights

- Hurricane Katrina panel, Oct. 6
 - Benefits and Wellness Fair, Oct. 11
 - Klezmer concert, Oct. 11
 - Depression screening, Oct. 12
 - College-Community Orchestra concert, Oct. 12
 - No classes, Oct. 13 and 14
 - Rice Creek Ramble, Oct. 15
 - Alumni Awards Dinner, Oct. 15
 - Men’s ice hockey vs. Carleton University, Oct. 15
 - Public justice lecture, Oct. 17
 - Oswego Reading Initiative author speaks, Oct. 18
 - Career and Internship Fair, Oct. 19
 - “Our Town,” Oct. 19 to 23
- For a more complete calendar, see SUNY Oswego Events online at www.oswego.edu/news/calendar/. □