

## Oswego student chosen among national ‘academic all-stars’

USA Today last week named Nadia Dropkin, a senior double major in studio art and women’s studies, to its prestigious All-USA College Academic Team, honorable mention. Dropkin is the first SUNY Oswego student to be named to the highly selective list of outstanding undergraduates across the nation.



*Nadia Dropkin*

The annual USA Today list includes 80 high-achieving undergraduates in all, 20 each on the first, second, third and honorable-mention teams. Students were selected from about 600 students nominated by their schools.

The 20 making honorable mention this year come from such institutions as Johns Hopkins and Tulane universities, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the University of California at Los Angeles, in addition to Oswego.

Dropkin, from Westbury on Long Island, is co-

director of the student Women’s Center. She based her application essay on her public service, including organizing a campuswide meeting on preventing sexual assault and violence on campus and, from that, becoming a principal collaborator on a U.S. Department of Justice grant proposal toward the same end.

“Nadia has a strong commitment to social justice that is coupled with intellectual curiosity and self-confidence,” said Lisa Langlois of the art department, who first proposed Dropkin for the honor.

“When I read about the competition, I immediately thought of Nadia Dropkin,” Langlois said. “The broad range of skills, talents, and qualities called for, coupled with excellent academic work, would mean that, [among] the few who qualified for the honor, the competition would be fierce.”

Dropkin’s accomplishments are many. A member of Oswego’s Honors Program, she spent a year abroad at Australian National University studying ceramics. She has been a teaching assistant in three disciplines at Oswego, served as treasurer of the Student Art Exhibition committee and the Rainbow Alliance, made the Deans’ List, and presented at the college’s Quest symposium last year (and plans to this year).

Among her formal recognitions, besides the latest honor, are five awards, a scholarly and creative activity grant, and two scholarships from SUNY Oswego; two articles accepted for publication, one in a book from Greenwood Press and one in an international journal; three upcoming presentations at confer-

ences around in the country including the National Women’s Studies Association conference; and photography and ceramics by her included in seven exhibitions at venues ranging from campus to China and Australia.

Maureen Curtin, director of women’s studies, who wrote Dropkin’s nomination letter for the All-USA honor, added that “she has traveled extensively . . . largely on her own initiative and almost entirely independently.” Dropkin’s honors thesis and capstone project in women’s studies has grown out of her travels in Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Israel and Egypt over two summers.

She said she now plans to pursue her research at the graduate level. For next fall, she is applying to Tel Aviv University’s master’s program in Middle East history and to the master’s program in Middle East studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, both in Israel.

Dropkin said that when Langlois approached her about entering the competition for the All-USA College Academic Team, she was a bit intimidated by the kinds of students who received the honor last year — many with 4.0 grade averages from Ivy League schools and big research universities. But she told herself, “You’re not going to know unless you try,” and completed her application in the final hours before the deadline.

Last week, she said, “I’m glad that I went for it.” □

— Julie Harrison Blissert

## Applications flood in as student quality rises

Applications to SUNY Oswego for next fall have been consistently ahead of last year — up 15 percent according to the most recent report from the State University system’s processing center.

The increase in applications this year comes after “a very good year last year,” said Joseph Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment. For fall 2006, freshman applications were up about 10 percent, resulting in about six applicants for every available opening in the freshman class.

“Now it looks like we may be up that amount again,” Grant said. “We may be pushing seven applications for every opening, which would be good. We’re already denying people that look like people we’ve accepted in the past.”

As entry becomes more competitive, the academic profile (standardized test scores and grade averages) of new incoming classes rises. As the trend toward higher academic achievement continues, “people who may not have thought about attending Oswego are beginning to think about us,” he said. “It’s clear that interest on the part of the public is up.”

Grant noted that the revitalization of the campus and new academic programs make the college exciting to prospective students, and Oswego’s generous merit programs help attract the best-prepared students.

### Online ad campaign

The only significant change in campus recruiting tactics has been an online campaign through Google, to help increase awareness of Oswego’s strengths among students, their parents and high school counselors, Grant said.

The online campaign began in December and has already generated more than 25,500 “hits,” he said. Two programs alone — earth sciences and teaching English as a second language — generated more than a couple thousand each.

“We have been ahead on applications right from the get go this year, sometimes as much as 35 to 40 percent,” Grant said. More rapid than usual processing of the applications by SUNY accounted for the very high apparent increases at times, he said, but Oswego still runs ahead of its sister campuses. “Compared to other SUNYs, we’re substantially ahead of the colleges all the way through,” he said. □

## Strong snow brings flurry of media attention

The significant snow that fell on Oswego during a weeklong storm brought its share of unusual sights and sounds to the Oswego campus.

Including a CNN crew broadcasting live from the lakeshore. Or a reporter from the New York Times sitting in a meteorology class. Or National Public Radio interviewing WRVO staff about the storm that made news around the world.

And while the campus did not receive the nearly 12 feet that fell in rural parts of Oswego County, the snow wreaked enough havoc to cancel classes three times in one week for the first time anyone can recall.

About six feet of snow fell on Oswego in six days, from Feb. 5 to 10, said Scott Steiger of Oswego’s meteorology program. “The biggest snowfall was about a 12-hour period from Monday night to Tuesday morning when about 30 inches fell,” he said.

He said the storm was “a rare event” in terms of duration because it had all the perfect ingredients: cold air over a warm lake and strong winds from the northwest, west and southwest.

Steiger and some of his students appeared on a top CNN story Feb. 9, when CNN meteorologist Rob See ‘Snow coverage,’ page 3



**Snow day** — Six feet of snow in six days couldn’t bury the enthusiasm of SUNY Oswego students. Onondaga Hall residents had a snow sculpture contest. From left, junior zoology major Caitlin Stabler, junior public relations major Christie Torruella and senior business major Andrea Bahl team up on a snowman.

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College trends

Greek consequences

“Membership in a fraternity or a sorority can impair academic performance, according to Farley Grubb, an economics professor at the University of Delaware. In a study of students on his campus, he found that fraternity and sorority members had grade-point averages that were up to 10 percent lower than those of students not in the Greek system. Men in fraternities were found to have GPA’s that were 2.2 percent lower than those of men who were not in a fraternity, according to Mr. Grubb. His results controlled for factors that included college major, SAT scores, and whether the student was in-state or out-of-state. The findings also indicate that the smaller the fraternity, the larger the disparity. For bigger fraternities, the difference in GPA’s grew to 9.6 percent. For smaller ones, it shrank to 1.4 percent. Findings among women were less pronounced. Women who belonged to a sorority had an average GPA that was just 1 percent lower than those who did not belong to one. Unlike fraternities, Mr. Grubb says, ‘sorority size had no effect on GPA.’ . . . [Greek] students may . . . be in a better position to graduate on time, according to Mr. Grubb, ‘because relatively more had GPA’s above the minimum 2.00 requirement’ at Delaware, ‘and relatively more had declared majors, compared with their non-Greek counterparts.’”

— *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology* via *Academe Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Feb. 1, 2007

Accreditation shakeup

“The Education Department’s top staff official on accreditation has abruptly left his job, at a time when the department’s political leaders are engaged in an aggressive campaign to ramp up the government’s oversight of accrediting agencies. Exactly what led to the transfer of John W. Barth, director of accreditation and state liaison, to a position in the Federal Student Aid Ombudsman’s office remains hazy. . . . It is impossible to say for sure that Barth lost his job because he was perceived as not pushing hard enough for the changes the department’s political leaders want to make. But that is clearly how his situation is being viewed by higher education officials who follow accreditation. . . . The suddenness of his departure — and the fact that it came about so quietly — is widely seen as evidence that the department’s political leaders are moving as aggressively as they can, through any and all avenues available to them, to bring about the changes they want in accreditation, and in higher education generally.”

— *Inside Higher Ed*, Jan. 29, 2007

High schoolers crave e-recruiting

“If colleges really want to win the affection of prospective students, they ought to rip a page from the playbook used by Facebook and MySpace, says a new report. The study, ‘Engaging the Social Networking Generation,’ found that 43 percent of 1,000 collegebound juniors have created Facebook-esque personal profiles on college Web sites. And of the students who hadn’t done so, nearly half said they wished they could. The report was sponsored by the National Research Center for College and University Admissions, along with Noel-Levitz, a consulting firm, and James Tower, a marketing company. According to Diverse, the survey respondents seem excited about nearly any college recruitment scheme, as long as it is high-tech. Fifty-four percent of the students said they would gladly download college podcasts, 63 percent said they would read a blog written by a professor, and 82 percent said they would consider responding to an instant message from a college admissions officer.”

— *The Wired Campus, The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Jan. 4, 2007

People in action



**White city** — Spectators clad in white and waving white towels take part in the new White Out tradition in the first Campus Center men’s ice hockey game against Plattsburgh, the program’s archrivals. The strong fan support couldn’t prevent the Lakers from losing to the Cardinals 4-1 — their first loss in the Campus Center — but Oswego had already earned the regular-season SUNY Athletic Conference title and remained near the top of the national rankings with an overall 20-2-3 record. The team begins its postseason push with a 7 p.m. Saturday home game in the second round of the SUNYAC playoffs. The semifinal contest will pit the Lakers against the lowest team remaining after Tuesday night’s first-round games. Tickets cost \$6 (\$3 for students) and are available from the Laker box office, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Friday and 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday in Laker Hall.

**Zoltan Bedy**, assistant professor of public relations, has been elected president of the Central New York chapter of Public Relations Society of America

Three articles by **Tom Bertonneau** of the English faculty appear or have appeared in journals this winter. They are “Red Mist and Ruins: The Symbolist Prose of Leigh Brackett” in *The New York Review of Science Fiction* last November; “Henry James, ‘the Death of God,’ and ‘Theory’” in the winter issue of *Anthropoetics*; and “Karen Blixen and the Apocalypse of Man: A Voegelinian Meditation” in the winter issue of *Modern Age*. In addition, his review of Nicholas Capaldi’s *John Stuart Mill* appeared in the belated summer edition of *The University Bookman* under the title “Eminent Victorian.”

Six students and **Jerry Oberst**, an Admissions Office staffer and an adjunct teaching “Introduction to Public Administration and Policy” this semester, attended the New York State Counseling, Admissions, and Financial Aid Legislative Consortium’s Legislative Forum in Albany Feb. 5 and 6. The students were **Mike Mullen, Ben Patterson, Alysia Santo, Fawn Scrano, Mallory A. Virts** and **Melissa Ward**, all political science majors, according to Oberst. The Oswego students received conference scholarships covering all costs through grants from the College Board and from SUNY. In addition to the various workshop sessions attended regarding education issues, state politics and the advocacy process, students also made personal visits to elected officials in their home districts to support education issues.

**Tina Pieraccini** of the communication studies department is the author of “Janette Dates: Research Pioneer” in the spring issue of the *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*, the leading national journal in the area of broadcasting published by the Broadcast Education Association.

Earth sciences students and faculty will present research at the 42nd annual meeting of the Northeastern section of the Geological Society of America, which will take place from March 12 to 14 at the University of New Hampshire. **Noah Mantaro** and **David W. Valentino** will present “Magnetic Modeling of the Snowy Mountain Dome and the Indian Fault Zone.” Valentino and **Joshua D. Valentino** of the earth sciences department along with Benjamin R. Valentino

of New Haven Homeschool will present “Mapping the Surface Water-Groundwater Interaction in Glacial Till: Electrical Resistivity in My Backyard.” **Paul Tomascak** will present “The Plutonic Record of the Late Paleozoic in Maine.”

Oswego’s Future Alumni Network won several District II Awards from the Association of Student Advancement Programs during the regional conference Feb. 9 to 11 in Philadelphia. The Oswego chapter was named outstanding organization; senior **Marybeth McMenemon**, outstanding student leader; Oswego Challenge, which took place during opening weekend in the fall, best external program; and **Michelle Tackett-Spinner** of the Office of Alumni Affairs, outstanding adviser. There are 44 colleges in Region II of ASAP, the student affiliate to the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

**K. Brad Wray**, associate professor in philosophy, will present a paper at the Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in San Francisco in April. His paper is titled “The Real Value of Prediction.” □

Professors’ co-authored work honored as ‘book of the year’

A book co-authored by Jody Fiorini and Jodi Mullen of the counseling and psychological services department, *Counseling Children and Adolescents Through Grief and Loss*, has been selected as a book of year by the *American Journal of Nursing*. The journal describes the books selected for this honor by its panel of judges as the most valuable texts of 2006. The 2006 list was published in the January issue of the journal.

The journal describes the book, published by Research Press in 2006, as a thoughtful discussion of the myths that surround a child’s experience of loss and explores the effect of factors such as religion, family and a person’s gender on grief. The book examines different types of losses, including interpersonal, developmental and stigmatizing losses that children may experience.

For more on the book, see the Feb. 8, 2006, issue of *Campus Update* or the news release from the Office of Public Affairs at [http://www.oswego.edu/news/news\\_story.html?id=P1435\\_0\\_2\\_0\\_C](http://www.oswego.edu/news/news_story.html?id=P1435_0_2_0_C). □



# Students learning, taking chances to create ‘Paradise’

The upcoming original production of “Lost in a Viral Paradise” has involved months of work fusing education and entertainment.

Written by students in Oswego’s art, music and theatre classes, the production is a satirical comedy that takes an imaginative look at many zany aspects of modern life. The multimedia production will have its world premiere March 2 in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre.

Since last fall, students in several classes have been brainstorming, writing and working collaboratively. Cast and crew have learned new skills ranging from stilt-walking to juggling to video production.

This has often involved students stepping out of their comfort zone — whether engaging in a shopping-cart ballet while wearing tutus, creating an original musical score or learning how to walk on stilts high above the stage with the help of guest artist Gabriel Q.

“Working with Gabriel Q was really awesome,” student performer Mickennon Wilson said. “He gave our group very straightforward yet careful instruction on stilt-walking which made developing the skill much easier.”

**Previewed downtown**

Students provided a preview and honed their performance chops by showcasing selected scenes during the downtown Warm Up Oswego festival in early February.

Inspiration and guidance for the project were drawn from Steve O’Hearn and Jackie Dempsey of the internationally known Squonk Opera troupe, with theatre faculty member Jonel Langenfeld-Rial coordinating the various elements.

Some vignettes drew from the Oswego experi-



**Offbeat ballet** — SUNY Oswego students Caitlin Hankinson and Dan Williams rehearse the grocery-cart ballet that is part of the upcoming college production “Lost in a Viral Paradise.” The “Ballet of the Grocery Carts” scene is performed to original music titled “Smooth Grocery.” The multimedia production written by SUNY Oswego students in the art, music and theatre departments will open March 2 in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre.

ence, such as the “White Out” scene inspired by the region’s famous lake-effect snow. “We imitate snowflakes in different formations during the scene,” performer Dan Williams said, noting audiences will also receive an aerial view of the dancers projected on the backdrop, creating a kaleidoscope effect of swirling and falling snow.

Local National Public Radio affiliate WRVO has offered listeners audio peeks behind the curtain during the collaborative process. The broadcast project, with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts decentralization program administered locally by the Cultural Resources Council, features WRVO Producer Mark Lavonier interviewing students, fac-

ulty and Squonk representatives creating the piece.

Lavonier’s pieces have aired to WRVO’s audience of 100,000 weekly listeners and are available as audio links at [www.wrvo.fm/squonk](http://www.wrvo.fm/squonk).

A preview of “Lost in a Viral Paradise” will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 1, with all tickets \$5. The run will include 8 p.m. performances March 2, 3, 9 and 10, with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, March 11. Tickets for the regular run cost \$12 (\$10 for senior citizens and students, \$7 for SUNY Oswego students).

Tickets are available through Tyler box office by calling 312-2141 or e-mailing [tickets@oswego.edu](mailto:tickets@oswego.edu). □

## Snow coverage

*Continued from page 1*

Marciano also did live reports from the lakeshore on campus. Marciano said Steiger and his students “know lake-effect snow. They’re trying to figure out who’s getting it and how much. . . . They’re also trying to determine how long the area will have to deal with this marathon-like event.”

New York Times reporter David Staba sat in on Steiger’s “Weather Disasters” class Friday morning to learn more about why the region received so much lake-effect snow. SUNY Oswego appeared in front section New York Times stories on Sunday and Monday because of Staba’s visit to campus.

The visiting meteorologists and news crews “were definitely impressed” with the large snowfall, Steiger said.

NPR interviewed staffers at local affiliate WRVO twice. On Feb. 6, Program Manager Fred Vigeant, about the only person able to make it to studios in Penfield Library, talked of the extreme conditions with Neal Conan on “Talk of the Nation.” The following Monday, News Director Chris Ulanowski was interviewed on “Morning Edition.”

### National network news

NBC’s “Nightly News” Feb. 10 quoted freshman Alex Turin saying this weather was not in any of the college’s promotional materials. But many students accepted the snow and found ways to make the best of it.

Residents of Onondaga Hall started a spontaneous snowman-making contest, with plenty of material available to get creative (see photo, page 1). Other students went sledding, built snow forts or just enjoyed a few unexpected days off.

“I was just in awe,” senior Natasha Mapes of Irondequoit told her hometown daily, Rochester’s Democrat and Chronicle. “Imagine bubbles of snow where the cars are parked.” The Student Association vice president and off-campus resident even told of a Good Samaritan who helped free her car during a

grocery run, noting: “This is a great community.”

The Democrat and Chronicle also presented an online gallery of photos taken by Laura Bianchi, a junior geology major from Spencerport, and later interviewed Rochester-area student-athletes Jessica Collins and Jake Taylor.

### Hometown reports

Student-athletes Kelly Bootier and Alaina Hannahs kept score of the storm for readers back home in the Albany Times-Union. “I can honestly say I’ve never seen snow like this in my life,” Bootier said.

Christopher Hufnagel, a public justice major from Napanoch, told the Kingston Daily Freeman he and his roommates enjoyed making tunnels through the snow, which was “piled up outside the house now a lot taller than me, and I’m 6 foot.”

Journalism instructor Bruce Frassinelli filed articles for several newspapers in Pennsylvania. “Through it all, Oswegonians are philosophical because of where they live,” he wrote for the Pocono Journal. “Lake Ontario can be a fickle friend. It brings great pleasure and recreation, but, during the winter, when the lake-effect machine gets cranking, it can be absolutely brutal.”

But even after a battering week with snow “of epic proportions,” in Steiger’s words, the storms weren’t over. Old Man Winter brought an unwelcome Valentine in the form of a nor’easter that canceled that evening’s classes.

As the nor’easter raged outside Steiger’s office, his phone continued to ring off the hook. First the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, then the Oswego City School District — everyone everywhere wanted to talk about the weather.

And while many will welcome the end of extreme conditions, it benefited meteorology students working on funded research to help fine-tune forecasting of lake-effect snow. Even during the Monday-night blizzard, “we went up to Redfield to collect samples to see the snow’s moisture content,” Steiger said.

“They’re getting experience going out to see it and measure it,” he noted. “The best way to learn anything is to get your hands dirty. This kind of

event is why many of them came here to study meteorology.” □ — **Tim Nekritz**

## Bandwidth expanding by leaps and bounds

To improve slow connection speeds that some of the campus community was experiencing last semester, SUNY Oswego has more than doubled the size of its connection to the Internet and will triple it later this semester, according to Mike Pisa of Campus Technology Services.

The connection, or bandwidth, has gone from a capacity of 45 megabytes per second to 95 megabytes per second. Soon it will be 150 megabytes per second, he said.

He explained, “All of the network traffic generated on campus from network-based applications such as a Web browser, Instant Messenger, or e-mail, destined to the Internet has to be ‘funneled’ to an Internet service provider. In our case, this is Verizon. The size of the ‘pipe’ or the funnel, in addition to some other variables, determines connection speeds. In other words, the bigger the pipe the faster traffic can be funneled to and from Verizon. When the amount of traffic exceeds the size of the pipe, traffic has to wait its turn down the pipe and response times can slow.”

Pisa said that certain network applications — from Kazaa to video services like YouTube to games like World of Warcraft — can still interfere with smooth-flowing network traffic on campus, despite the additional bandwidth.

CTS is using a network control device called a packet shaper that “will allow us to control how much of the pipe certain applications can use, making sure there is enough of the pipe left for other applications,” Pisa explained. E-mail and Web browsers have higher priority, he said.

“We hope that the additional bandwidth and the packet shaping device will create a better experience for our users,” he said. □



Announcements

Callers to make connections with tomorrow’s students

Members of the campus community can reach out to Oswego’s class of 2011 by volunteering for a few hours of the annual Oswego Calling phonathon, set for March 12 to 15.

“Callers will be connecting with students who have been admitted but haven’t 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.”

Online chats have been added as a new wrinkle to better connect with today’s technologically savvy students, Nadzadi said. Select Oswego students will volunteer their time for two nights of online support to share real experiences with prospective students to supplement the four nights of calling. “We hope this will be a nice addition for the students who just don’t feel comfortable speaking with a faculty or staff member at this time,” Nadzadi noted.

The drive will run 5 to 9 p.m. March 12 to 15. Participants will receive dinner in the East Conference Room of Sheldon Hall at 5 p.m. before taking up calling duties from 6 to 9 p.m. in Room 322 of Sheldon Hall. Questions can be sent to lnadzadi@oswego.edu. □

Donated books support library

Penfield Library Associates and Penfield Library are accepting donations for the annual book sale, to be held in the library April 23, 24 and 25. The sale is the library’s major fundraising effort.

Donations of books — especially nonfiction along with videos, CDs and children’s books — are needed.

Both hard-cover and paperback books are welcome. Donated materials should be clean and in good condition.

Interested donors should contact librarians Brian McDonald at 312-3553 or Emily Hart 312-3544 for more information or to make arrangements for delivery of large donations. □

Quest deadline extended

Because of bad weather, the deadline for submitting proposals for Quest has been extended to Friday, Feb. 23, at 5 p.m. Instructions and forms can be found at <http://www.oswego.edu/quest/>. □

Eastman Jazz Trio to connect

The Eastman Jazz Trio will showcase years of experience in performing and improvising at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, in the Sheldon Hall ballroom, part of the Ke-Nekt Chamber Music Series.

The Eastman Jazz Trio consists of Harold Danko, Jeffrey Campbell and Rick Thompson, all of the University of Rochester’s Eastman School of Music.

Bandleader Danko, a pianist and composer, chairs Eastman’s jazz and contemporary media department. He has shared the stage with Chet Baker, Gerry Mulligan and Woody Herman. Bassist Campbell, a professor of jazz studies and contemporary media at Eastman, has performed with Marian McPartland, Gene Bertoncini and Rich Perry, and appeared on McPartland’s “Piano Jazz” program on National Public Radio.

Drummer Thompson is an associate professor of jazz studies and contemporary media at Eastman. He has toured with such artists as Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Nelson Riddle

Orchestra and the Count Basie Orchestra. Thompson has recorded with Latin music legend Tito Puente and singer Bobby McFerrin.

Oswego music faculty member Eric Schmitz will host the show and perform with the trio.

Members of the group will perform selections and answer audience questions at an admission-free performance during the March 7 College Hour at 12:40 p.m. in Room 41 of Tyler Hall.

Tickets to the evening performance cost \$15 (\$10 for seniors and students, \$5 for SUNY Oswego students). For information or reservations, contact Tyler box office at 312-2141 or e-mail tickets@oswego.edu. □

New online consortium features college jobs in Upstate region

Bringing together colleges and universities across the state to provide the best information, technology, networking and outreach programs, the new Upstate New York Higher Education Consortium (UNY-HERC) is now available as a resource to effectively recruit and retain diverse and qualified faculty and staff, and assist the spouses and partners of faculty and staff in securing area employment.

UNY-HERC’s Web site — [www.unyharc.org](http://www.unyharc.org) — features the collaboration of 23 Upstate New York colleges and universities that are working together to cohesively provide employment listings at each of their respective higher education institutions and address dual career needs in higher education.

In addition to providing a free, comprehensive search engine for career opportunities at colleges and universities throughout Upstate New York, UNY-HERC also provides online information on local real estate, healthcare, arts and cultural resources and childcare, along with other helpful centralized links that can assist individuals and families new to a particular area.

Online users can also sign up for e-mail alerts for the latest jobs in their field and desired location.

“The strength of the Upstate New York HERC comes from the collaboration of the provosts, vice provosts and human resources professionals at our member institutions,” says Syracuse University’s Camille Donabella, UNY-HERC’s acting director.

UNY-HERC is co-led by Syracuse University and Cornell University. For more information about UNY-HERC, contact Donabella at [cmbersan@syr.edu](mailto:cmbersan@syr.edu). □

Police report

Since Feb. 2, University Police investigated several cases of theft, trespass and criminal mischief and made six arrests.

In separate incidents, police charged a 21-year-old Baldwinsville man and a 19-year-old Onondaga Hall resident with driving while intoxicated, driving with a blood alcohol content above .08 and violations.

University Police also arrested four 18-year-olds. Officers charged two Oneida Hall residents with unlawful possession of alcohol in the Campus Center men’s room. An Oneida Hall resident was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. Police charged a Scales Hall resident with unlawful possession of fireworks. □

Spotlight

Pagano happy helping students over financial hurdles

*The Campus Update Spotlight shines on Kathy Pagano this week. The associate director of financial aid has worked on campus professionally since 1974. She first worked in the Financial Aid Office as a work-study student in 1972.*

**Q. How would you describe your job and responsibilities?**

A. I’m responsible for the more challenging sides of financial aid — including students who don’t have their parents’ financial support, parents with special circumstances, things that fall outside the norm. I try to help them work through their difficulties so the student can find a way to go to school. General work includes meeting with families coming in to find out how they can pay for college. I try to find creative ways to fill the gap between what they have and what they need. When you can help someone do that, it’s a very good feeling. I also manage the staff, or maybe it’s that they manage me.

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

A. When you find that you’ve made a difference, being able to find the positive pieces that will enable someone to go to school or being able to take that stress away from students and families, that’s a great feeling. I very much enjoy working with the people here.

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

A. I think our students are really upbeat. They aren’t that angry and demanding student from years past. Because of the world they live in, students expect immediate service, but they’re also more likely to have a smile on their face. Our students tend to be fun to work with, easy to get along with. It’s enjoyable to come in and work with them.

**Q. What is your educational background?**

A. I have a bachelor’s in English from Oswego.

**Q. What achievement are you most proud of?**

A. My father died very young and I basically raised my siblings. That was pretty powerful. It has always



been very special to see that they’ve all done fine.

**Q. Do you have any hobbies?**

A. My kids! Actually, they have always played sports and been involved in other activities, so we’ve followed them around to all of their events like true groupies! Being with family is very important for us. I enjoy collecting vintage and antique pins and brooches. I also love reading and traveling.

**Q. What can you tell us about your family?**

A. My husband, Joe, is an attorney. We’ve been married for 33 years and live in Oswego. My son Nicholas went to (SUNY) Plattsburgh and is now teaching in Florida. He also coaches junior high boys’ basketball and middle school girls’ volleyball. My daughter Shannon is a senior at Gannon University and plays lacrosse. We also have a Yorkshire terrier and two cats. They actually run our household! □

Calendar highlights

- Arts & Technology speaker James Burke, Feb. 21
- Rice Creek Rambles, Feb. 24 and March 10
- “Lost in a Viral Paradise” opens, March 2
- “The Vagina Monologues,” March 2 to 4
- Stress and Anxiety Screening, March 7
- International Women’s Day, March 7 and 8
- Concert by the Eastman Jazz Trio, March 7

For a more complete calendar, see SUNY Oswego Events online at [www.oswego.edu/news/calendar/](http://www.oswego.edu/news/calendar/). □