



In store — Students Aimee Kelly (left) and Mindy Hoftender browse sweatshirts at the new College Store on the Campus Center upper concourse. The satellite retail location, specializing in logoed merchandise and clothing, has done brisk business since opening this fall.

Quarter course to France, Benin proves popular

When developing Oswego's first short study-abroad foray into Africa, curriculum and instruction faculty members Marcia Burrell and Barb Garii hoped they could convince at least eight students to join the quarter course to Paris and Benin. Instead, they reached the maximum of 15 — with a waiting list.

They were impressed with what attracted students to EDU 301/501 "Schooling, Pedagogy and Social Justice in Paris/Benin." "When we first started talking about the class, we thought the draw would be Paris," Garii recalled. "We've learned the draw is Benin."

The course builds on the School of Education's Project CLIMB (Collaborative Link for Instructor Mentoring in Benin) partnership, which evolved from Professor Alfred Frederick's research as a Fulbright scholar and Fulbright senior specialist in Benin (see story, page 2). Frederick "has been phenomenal with his expertise, his help and his knowledge," Garii said.

Burrell and Garii worked with Joshua McKeown in the Office of International Education and Programs to craft a hands-on experience comparing education in the United States, France and Benin. They structured an intellectual issues course, hoping to draw education majors as well as students in the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Business.

A developing country

The course immediately appealed to junior global and international studies major Jason DeMauro. "Because Benin is a developing country, I was very interested in how they use education to address labor, gender and other issues," he said. "How do they address globalization and how that's affecting their decisions to make themselves more attractive to investors or building a more attractive labor force?"

Such questions of education, culture, economics and geopolitics are hot discussion topics in the course, which first met Oct. 28 and combines classroom time with online discussions through Angel. The class will leave Jan. 5 for a week in Paris, followed by a week in Benin.

Students will teach American English to a range

of classes in Versailles, France, and gain classroom experience in both public and international private schools in Benin. They will also work with Peace Corps volunteers in Benin and learn more about issues that developing nations face.

Senior business administration major Yves-Laure Medidor said he sees parallels between Benin and her home country of Haiti, where those who can afford private schools take this advantage over underfunded public schools. "The public schools are run by the government, and if it's not a good government, teachers don't get paid," Medidor explained.

School system evolves

She said she was first attracted to the course from a cultural standpoint, but has found the educational component increasingly interesting.

With Oswego's input, Benin is engaging in massive education reforms, modernizing from a country where 80 percent of teachers were untrained. The new course joins an emerging field of solutions-based study abroad, McKeown noted.

"Oswego has identified solutions as one of its five strategic directions," McKeown said. "We want our students not only to learn about the world, but to do what we can to expose students to some of the critically important global challenges and forces, as well as to do what we can to learn about ways to make changes and contribute to solutions to these problems on a global scale."

Students appear unfazed that this will be no tourist jaunt. "I wanted to gain firsthand knowledge from their perspective," said adolescence education master's student Matt Williams. "I'm a firm believer that if you have an opportunity to travel and experience something different from your day-to-day life, you should. We're going to carry this experience with us the rest of our lives."

Burrell previously visited Benin for three weeks. She said she was amazed how, despite being a developing country, "people would give you the shirt off their backs" and remained upbeat in the face of what Westerners would consider challenging conditions.

See 'Paris-Benin course,' page 3

English professor to direct NEH institute on Yeats in Ireland

Edward O'Shea, professor of English, will direct a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Teachers on the eminent Irish poet William Butler Yeats next summer.

The NEH has awarded him a grant of \$175,693 to run the four-week program in Ireland, which features a distinguished international faculty of Yeats scholars. It is one of just 12 NEH summer institutes for college faculty funded for 2008.

O'Shea has previously conducted six NEH summer seminars on Yeats for high school teachers. The 2008 program will be his first institute, a larger program aimed at fellow professors and focusing on the latest scholarship.



Edward O'Shea

Titled "W.B. Yeats: A Reassessment," the institute will draw on new resources available only in the last 20 years, such as new biographies of Yeats and his family and new editions of the poet's vast writings, which include plays, criticism and letters in addition to poetry.

Distinguished faculty

Participants will study with eight Yeats scholars from the United States, Ireland, Canada and Great Britain. In addition to O'Shea, author of two books on Yeats, they are Daniel Albright of Harvard University, author of *The Myth Against Myth: A Study of Yeats's Imagination in Old Age*; Brian Arkins of the National University of Ireland, Galway, author of a book on Greek and Roman themes in Yeats; Terence Brown of Trinity College, Dublin, author of a critical biography of Yeats; Margaret Mills Harper of Georgia State University, Atlanta, author of a book on the literary and spiritual collaboration of Yeats and his wife; William O'Donnell of the University of Memphis, editor of three volumes in the Collected Works of W.B. Yeats; James Pethica of Williams College who is writing the authorized biography of Yeats as associate Lady Gregory; and Ann Saddlemyer of the universities of Toronto and Victoria, author of the authorized biography of Yeats' wife.

'A sense of place is crucial for understanding Yeats, especially his

"Tower" poems.' — **Edward O'Shea**

The institute will be based at the National University of Ireland, Galway, with one week at the Yeats International Summer School in Sligo and a weekend in Dublin to see a major exhibition at the National Library of Ireland called "W.B. Yeats, Works and Days."

In addition, each week will include a field trip to relevant sites, such as Coole Park and Yeats' tower, Thoor Ballyee. "We will read and discuss informally selected Yeatsian texts at each of these sites," O'Shea said. "A sense of place is crucial for understanding Yeats, especially his 'Tower' poems."

Twenty-five college and university faculty members will be competitively selected for the institute. They will each receive a stipend of \$3,000 to cover basic expenses.

Complete information on the institute is available online at <http://www.yeatsinstitute.org/>. □

— **Julie Harrison Blissert**

Inside:

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College trends

Green giving

“Universities and colleges are embracing fund-raising goals usually identified with mainline environmental groups. . . . *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* . . . reports that higher education institutions are joining a wide range of charities in asking donors to help create green spaces, make buildings energy efficient and fight global warming. In some cases, their efforts have been spurred by donors’ interests or, in other instances, an institution’s own concern about the impact of global warming on those it serves.”
— *BriefCASE*, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, Nov. 6, 2007

Enough engineers

“Researchers who track the American labor market told Congress [Nov. 6] that, contrary to conventional wisdom, the United States has more than enough scientists and engineers and that federal agencies and universities should reform the way they train young scientists to better match the supply with the demand. . . . At a hearing of a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives science committee, Michael S. Teitelbaum, vice president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, told lawmakers that ‘although I know you routinely are told by corporate lobbyists that their R&D is being globalized in part due to shortages of scientists and engineers in the U.S., no one who has studied this matter with an open mind has been able to find any objective data of such general shortages.’ Federal policy encourages an overproduction of science professionals, he said, because when federal support for research goes up, universities use the extra money to subsidize more graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Yet the number of permanent jobs in academe and industry do not necessarily climb as a result of that spending, he said. . . . Harold Salzman, a sociologist and senior research associate at the Urban Institute, also challenged the conventional wisdom that the nation needs more scientists and engineers. In interviews with engineers and managers at technology firms, he found that many counsel their children not to go into engineering because of the poor job prospects. . . . Paul J. Kostek, an engineer at Boeing and vice-president for career activities of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, . . . also told the committee that the nation has a vast pool of available engineers. In fact, many midcareer engineers have given up and left the field.”
— *Academe Today*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Nov. 7, 2007

Institutional success

“Often in my role as a consultant I [Robert A. Sevier] ask administrators and faculty to define institutional quality and success. When I began asking this question 15 years ago, quality and success centered on students — helping them achieve academically, socially, and even spiritually. Over the past couple of years, however, definitions of quality and success have begun to emphasize financial stability (cash flow, endowment, fundraising, new sources of revenue) and building programs. There is a growing danger that student success is being squeezed out.”
— *QuickTakes*, *Stamats*, Oct. 25, 2007

Online growth

“More students than ever are taking courses online, but that doesn’t mean the growth will continue indefinitely. That’s the takeaway from the Sloan Foundation’s latest survey, conducted with the Babson Survey Research Group, of colleges’ online course offerings. . . . In fall 2006, nearly 3.5 million students — or 19.8 percent of total postsecondary enrollments — took at least one course online. That’s a 9.7-percent increase over the previous year, but growth has been slowing significantly: last year, the jump was 36.5 percent.”
— *Inside Higher Ed*, Oct. 23, 2007

Board awards professor sixth Fulbright grant

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and its partners recently awarded Alfred Frederick, a professor of curriculum and instruction at Oswego, the sixth Fulbright grant of his career.

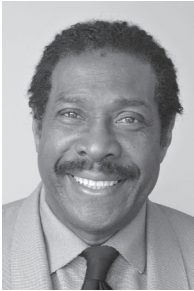
Frederick will spend six weeks next fall as a Fulbright senior specialist in education at the Université d’Abomey-Calavi in Benin. Since 1990, he has received three traditional Fulbright awards and three senior specialist grants to teach, conduct research and consult in Benin and Brazil.

His trip to Benin next fall will be his third in 2008, he said. He plans to travel to the West African nation to work with educators there in January and again in June at his own expense.

Under the Fulbright grant, Frederick’s hosts will be two units of the Université d’Abomey-Calavi, the teacher training school and the physical education and sports institute.

Frederick will conduct workshops for students and faculty there on curriculum development and evaluation, multicultural education, teaching methods, and assessing student performance.

The workshops will promote the effective implementation of the curriculum reform proposals that



Alfred Frederick

were the focus of Frederick’s first two stays in Benin under the Fulbright Scholar Program. He coordinated a research team that produced an evaluation of the schooling process in Benin.

Last year, Benin’s Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education published the result of that work, *The Integration of Language, School and Community: Bridging the Gap Between Home and School (A Paradigm for Monitoring, Assessing and Improving the Schooling Process)*, in both French and English. The book has been distributed to 7,500 teachers in Benin.

Frederick has attracted many educators to the cause of developing Benin’s educational system, both in that country and in the United States. At SUNY Oswego, Project CLIMB (Collaborative Link for Instructor Mentoring in Benin) sent six School of Education faculty members to Benin in 2006 and brought 10 school inspectors from Benin to Oswego for professional development last summer. The latest spinoff of his work is a study-abroad quarter course (see page 1).

Frederick’s credentials include having taught at the primary, secondary and university levels in English, French and Portuguese; having conducted research on culturally relevant teaching in the United States, Belgium, France, Brazil, Nigeria and Benin; and having published two books on his findings. □

— Julie Harrison Blissert

People in action

Tyler Art Gallery will feature original student work in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition on display from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12. Participation in the exhibition fulfills graduation requirements for the BFA degree. Students have the option of the studio art or graphic design program. Participating artists include **Venance Akissi, Steven Bisbikos, Rachel Borowski, Laura Brenon, Alisha Giacona, Matt Hunt, Thomas Kotcher, Jessica Morgan, Melinda Oeschger, Robert Ramos, Sara Renfrew, Luanne Redeye, Dan Truax, Maggie Vescio and Jenilee Ward.** Concurrently, **Kacie Haynes** will conclude her master of arts program with a thesis exhibition, a requirement for the degree. Haynes will present more recent design techniques for her exhibition. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. weekends.

“The High Hills: Frederick Delius and the Secular Sublime” by **Thomas F. Bertonneau** of the English department appears in the current issue of *Praesidium* (vol. 7, no. 4). The article explores intersections of

literature and music in the work of the British composer Frederick Delius.

A revised version of Bertonneau’s article on the composer Hector Berlioz — “The ‘New’ Berlioz: Musical High Romanticism in an Age of Technical and Ideological Correctness,” which appeared in an earlier fall issue of *Praesidium* (vol. 7, no. 3) — has been solicited by Monir Tayeb, editor of the Hector Berlioz Web site (www.hberlioz.com), where it will appear this month under the rubric “Original Contributions.”

French majors **Samantha Decker, Carolyn Delles, Magdalini Georgiadis and Stacy Williams** along with graduate student **Tierra Glover** recently attended the annual conference of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers in Rochester. The students participated in workshops on pedagogy, spoke with educators and visited book exhibits. **Susan Bertonneau** of the French faculty accompanied them. □

Announcements

Finalists for dean to be named

Finalist candidates for the position of dean of the School of Business will be determined shortly, and tentative dates for campus interviews are being set for the last week of November and the first week of December.

“The search committee is making great progress,” said Yvonne Petrella, director of continuing education and administrative liaison to the search committee.

Tentative dates for up to four candidates are Nov. 27 and 28, Nov. 29 and 30, Dec. 3 and 4, and Dec. 5 and 6, she said.

Open sessions will be listed in the college’s online calendar, <http://www.oswego.edu/news/calendar/>. □

Baskets highlight SEFA campaign

The campus State Employees Federated Appeal/United Way campaign is under way, with a goal of both raising \$30,000 and increasing the number of donors whose generosity can support more than 350 participating charitable agencies.

In addition to personal donations, one of the campaign’s major fundraisers — Baskets of Caring — takes place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Thursday in the Campus Center upper concourse near the arena. Employees from various buildings and floors create themed gift baskets that people can vote for via a \$1

donation. Those who vote for a basket have a chance to win it.

Drawings will take place at 3 p.m. Thursday, though one need not be present to win. □

Trustees schedule meeting

The board of trustees of the State University of New York will hold a public hearing Nov. 27 in conjunction with the November board of trustees meeting in Albany. It will be held at 3 p.m. in the Federal Court Room on the third floor of the State University Plaza in Albany.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony and statements from concerned individuals about university-wide issues.

People wishing to present prepared testimony are asked to get a letter to John J. O’Connor, vice chancellor and secretary of the university, State University Plaza, Albany, New York 12246 no later than noon Monday, Nov. 19. Letters should identify the subject of testimony and provide a telephone number and an address. Such testimony will be limited to five minutes, and the speakers are asked to provide six copies of their written testimony on the day of the hearing.

People who wish to make extemporaneous comments of no more than three minutes are asked to file their names with the hearing registration officer on the day of the hearing. □

Student organizations get The Point, new space in Campus Center

Oswego’s student organizations have a new place to call home. Room 101 in the Campus Center, named The Point, is the new hub for the Student Association and many clubs and organizations.

“The Point contains SA clubs and organizations, the senate, judicial branch, executive branch, easy access and is a gathering place for most meetings,” said Christina Ballesteros, SA director of communications. “It’s a bigger space, with greater student involvement, more passion as well as compassion.”

The SA and Student Organization Services offices were previously located on the second floor of Hewitt Union and offered little in the way of extra space. “In Hewitt, our offices were way out of the way on the second floor, and the services we provided were very limited,” said Mike Paestella, assistant director of campus life and SOS coordinator.

While The Point’s new main office is more modern than previous spaces, many questions preceded the move, such as whether it would be able to effectively house as many organizations as hoped. Ballesteros said she believes it achieved its goal. “It’s not just another room, it’s an opportunity for all to come together and grow,” she said.

Unifying, community space

Paestella echoed those sentiments, saying, “The Point offers a wonderful chance for collaboration.”

The Point was built with the idea of accommodating many student organizations while still being an open and inviting space. It offers three types of office accommodations. Type A is a true office with locking doors assigned to specific organizations. Type B offices are modern workstation cubicles assigned to organizations. Type C spaces are first-come, first-served computer workstations available to those who do not have assigned offices.

“The open space helps with communication,” Ballesteros said. “You’re in a more intimate setting where you’re encouraged to have face-to-face communication. Being able to turn around and have SA clubs

and organizations right there with you is uplifting.”

Groups operating in The Point include the Asian Student Association, Latino Student Union, African Student Organization, Caribbean Student Association, Black Student Union, Women’s Center, Student Association Programming Board, National Broadcast Society, Jewish Student Union, Biology Club, Mentor Oswego, Del Sarte, Storyteller’s Guild, fraternities and sororities and dozens of other organizations of varying sizes and missions.

The Point has allowed SA and its organizations to better understand each other and their needs. “I feel as though I have become closer with each individual in this area,” Ballesteros said.

Paestella said he sees a gelling of the student community. “SA officers, directors, senators all now have

a space to engage with and interact with the officers and members of student organizations who utilize The Point,” he said. “The old office complex in Hewitt did not lend itself to these types of interactions.”

Everyone involved said The Point has allowed Oswego students to effectively participate in their organizations while creating positive communication bonds among each other groups.

“The Point is a wonderful facility and you will not find such a well-thought-out, student-centered space to meet the needs of student organizations on many campuses at this time,” Paestella said. “SUNY Oswego has set an example for other campuses to follow as they develop student organization spaces on their campuses.” □

— Christopher Hill



‘Point’ work — Senior psychology major Durrell Queen of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and senior public relations major Amanda Rosa, president of the Latino Student Union, talk last week at The Point, the new student organizations space in the Campus Center.

NSF grant to support environmental research

A National Science Foundation grant will bring two new high-tech instruments to campus for work researchers say is of incalculable value to environmental projects and undergraduate opportunities.

Nearly \$69,000 from the major research instrumentation grant allowed the college’s Environmental Research Center to purchase two Agilent 7890A gas chromatographs, as well as related computers and technology that will upgrade research on air and water contaminants in the Great Lakes region, said Jim Pagano, director of the center and a member of the college’s chemistry faculty. Oswego and SUNY Fredonia collaboratively applied for, and received, three brand-new machines in all.

The increased reliability of new state-of-the-art equipment — Oswego’s existing machines are 12 years old — and greater sensitivity are key to work on measuring and tracking bioaccumulated, persistent and toxic chemicals that collect in wildlife, and in humans who consume those animals, and that potentially harm an ecosystem, Pagano explained.

‘The awareness of these kinds of chemicals in the environment is critical, so we don’t make the same mistakes.’
— Jim Pagano

“Most of what this lab does is track legacy pollutants, used in the 1960s and 1970s but since banned, but persistent in that they stick around a long time,” Pagano said. There are newer, emerging chemicals of the past 15 years, though many of them are tested more before use, but there are hundreds in all worth tracking for their prevalence and effects, he added.

“The gross pollution of the 1960s is not there any more, but the effects are much more subtle,” Pagano said. “We’re making progress, there’s no doubt about it, but we have to keep working. The awareness of

these kinds of chemicals in the environment is critical, so we don’t make the same mistakes.”

The gas chromatographs will support the ongoing Great Lakes Fish Monitoring Program, a collaboration with Clarkson University and Fredonia measuring chemicals in fish, with an eye toward effects on their hosts and humans who eat them. The far-reaching project, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, involves analyzing fish tissue samples for more than 30 contaminants.

More precision, accuracy

Because the newer gas chromatographs have greater sensitivity, “you can sense chemicals in the environment at a lower concentration,” he noted. “Having the newer software and computers will allow us to integrate data better and faster. We will be able to do things at a higher level of precision and accuracy.”

A main thrust of the grant involves ensuring undergraduates have the opportunity to use the new equipment, something Pagano said the college has long made a priority.

“Students are an important part of what we do,” Pagano said. “We’ve had undergraduate environmental fellowships since the early ’90s that allow students to really understand what’s going on. They learn that preparing a sample is quite an involved process, and they learn to be dedicated and focused.”

Many students work with researchers for a couple years and gain experience that can help them with graduate school or into an environmental career. “The end projects for students can be manuscripts with other authors and presentations at conferences, which really give a boost to further work in the field,” he said.

The old gas chromatographs will not go to waste, either. Freeing up this equipment from constant project use will allow many more students to gain experience with them and better understand the research process, Pagano said. □

— Tim Nekritz

Announcements

‘Sing! Sing! Sing!’ Nov. 18

Eclectic music from around the world will infuse the music department concert “Sing! Sing! Sing!” at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at St. Paul’s Church, 50 E. Mohawk St. in Oswego. The College Choir, State Singers and students from music classes will present a varied program.

A group of percussionists from a new “African Music in the Americas” course will accompany the College Choir on an African piece sung in Zulu and a Calypso selection from Puerto Rico, sung in Spanish. The choir’s other works will include a part song by Johannes Brahms, an African-American spiritual and an American folk song by Kirke Mechem.

The State Singers will perform a South American piece and an African piece created by American composer Joan Szymko.

The State Singers also will sing several Victorian part songs and parlor songs by composers such as Amy Beach, Charles Villiers Stanford, Carl Marie von Weber, Dudley Buck and others. The Victorian pieces will be featured again in the theatre department production of “A Glass Coffin” Dec. 2 in Waterman Theatre.

“Sing! Sing! Sing!” will also feature emeritus Professor Leon Carapetyan and pianist Rebecca Horning. □

Paris-Benin course

Continued from page 1

Participating students plan to speak during Quest or College Hour in the spring. “I’d be happy to share my experience, maybe create that spark in somebody else,” DeMauro said.

“We can hopefully show the campus community this was an incredible, rewarding experience that can be continued on a deeper level,” Williams added. □

— Tim Nekritz

Announcements

Residents get more parking

The Parking Committee has re-designated Lot 17 off Centennial Drive north of Poucher Hall for resident students. The lot was formerly designated for employees.

“The re-designation was made to provide sufficient parking for resident students on the lakefront who required additional parking spaces due to the re-opening of Riggs Hall and the increased number of resident students living in that area,” University Police Chief Cindy Adam said.

Motorists who park there inappropriately will be warned until Monday, when tickets will be issued, she said.

Lakefront resident students are encouraged to park in Lots 3, 4, 23R and, now, 17. “Resident students are reminded not to drive to class but to use the shuttle service or to walk to the academic areas of campus,” Adam added.

Sweet Honey in the Rock to sing

The Grammy-winning gospel-flavored Sweet Honey in the Rock will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Hewitt Union ballroom.

The all-woman a cappella ensemble combines the sounds of traditional gospel hymns, blues spirituals, rap, reggae, African chants, hip hop, lullabies and jazz improvisation. It mixes the sacred music of the black church with songs of struggle for justice.

Sweet Honey’s Oswego appearance is presented by SUNY Oswego’s Artswego Performing Arts Series and Student Association Programming Board, with additional support from the college’s Office of International Education and Programs. Support comes from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation’s American Masterpieces Artistry and Influence Tour.

The SUNY Oswego Gospel Choir will make a special appearance for the evening.

For tickets — \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students, \$7 for SUNY Oswego students) — contact Tyler box office at 312-2141 or tickets@oswego.edu.

Concert Band to present ‘Solace and Wonder’ of wind music

The SUNY Oswego Concert Band, directed by Trevor Jorgensen, will perform a variety of wind music invoking “Solace and Wonder” at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Tyler Hall’s Waterman Theatre.

The program will include John Philip Sousa’s “Easter Monday on the White House Lawn,” Franz von Suppe’s “Poet and Peasant Overture,” Gustav Holst’s “In the Bleak Midwinter” and First Suite in E flat, Ralph Vaughn Williams’ “Sea Songs,” David Holsinger’s “On a Hymnson of Philip Bliss,” Eric Whitacre’s “October” and Frank Ticheli’s “Sanctuary.”

Admission is a suggested \$5 donation, benefiting the SUNY Oswego Music Department Excellence Fund. SUNY Oswego students are admitted free.

Rice Creek Field Station to host program on ‘feathered friends’

Bird enthusiasts can learn more about winter habits of their feathered friends at SUNY Oswego’s Rice Creek Field Station on Saturday, Dec. 1.

“Feeding Feathered Friends” at 12:30 p.m. will feature a slide presentation and nature hike led by Pat Carney. The hike will focus on local songbirds and how they deal with the rigors of winter. The songbirds’ foraging habitat and bird-feeding preferences will be discussed.

Pre-registration is required before Nov. 20, with a \$6 fee. Binoculars will be provided for those who need them. The program size is limited

Rice Creek Field Station features 26-acre Rice Pond surrounded by 400 acres ranging from open fields to forests. The research building is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

The field station serves the general public and as a center for college courses and related research. It is on Thompson Road, a quarter-mile south of Route 104, just west of the main SUNY Oswego entrance.

For additional information or to make reservations, call 312-7961.

Children invited to audition

The theatre department will host an open audition for children ages 7 to 10 for the spring production of Henrik Ibsen’s “A Doll’s House.” Audition slots may be reserved by e-mailing director Kevin Kennison at kennison@oswego.edu. Today is the deadline.

Three outgoing, energetic, focused children are needed. The audition, from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday in Tyler Hall’s lab theatre, will consist of theatre games, improvisation and/or storytelling.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at the audition, but parents do not have to be present for rehearsals or performances. A child wrangler will be in charge of the children during rehearsals and performances.

Kennison, a visiting professor of theatre from New York City, is a 1982 graduate of Oswego. He has spent his career as a producer, director, independent casting director and acting teacher. He has cast for Broadway, national and international tours including “The Lion King,” film and television.

Police report

Since Oct. 26, University Police have investigated several cases of vandalism, graffiti and theft and made six arrests.

Officers arrested a 30-year-old Martville man on charges of driving while intoxicated, operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08 or above and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

A 21-year-old Seneca Hall resident was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated, operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08 or above.

Police charged four 19-year-old Seneca Hall residents with disorderly conduct. They are accused of urinating on another resident’s vehicle.

Calendar highlights

- Flu shot clinic for students, Nov. 14
- “The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek” opens, Nov. 14
- Baskets of Caring SEFA fundraiser, Nov. 14 and 15
- Concert Band concert, Nov. 16
- Rice Creek Ramble, Nov. 17
- “Sing! Sing! Sing!” concert, Nov. 18
- Thanksgiving recess, Nov. 21 to 25

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

Spotlight

Teaching, conducting, performing strike right notes for La Manna

This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Juan Francisco La Manna. The associate professor of music started teaching at Oswego in 1997.

Q. What classes do you teach?

A. In the fall, I teach a big music appreciation class for freshmen. In the spring, I usually teach classes such as conducting or orchestration. I conduct the College-Community Orchestra, and I teach private piano classes.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I earned my bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Indiana University. I worked for 10 years, then I got my doctorate from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Q. What are your research interests?

A. I’ve always had a passion for ethnomusicology, especially Eastern European and Indonesian music. Through a dear friend, I got involved in the college’s Cuba program through the Office of International Education and Programs. I’ve been going down to Cuba regularly to act as a liaison with the students. When I had my sabbatical, I did some research there that led to a new class I teach with Eric Schmitz titled “African Music in the Americas.” I want to continue studying in that field — I’m especially attracted to musical mixtures of all kinds, and the Americas are where all kinds of great music came together.

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

A. It’s a combination of many different things. I love to conduct the orchestra. I also love teaching music appreciation to freshman. I love giving recitals when I have the time. As a person, I don’t like doing any one thing. I like doing many different things.

Q. Can you tell us about other musical activities?

A. When I came to Oswego, the late Jim Soluri asked me to conduct the Oswego Opera Theatre. When he retired, he asked me to take over as artistic director. It has been rewarding but challenging because it involves functions like administration and fundraising I’d never done before.

I’m also the conductor for the Miami City Ballet. This is an exciting season because we are doing a world premiere of a ballet by Twyla Tharp with music by Elvis Costello in March. When the New York Times did a spread of what was happening in dance, this piece was right at the top.



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

A. I have some wonderful students. They are interested, interesting and very motivated. With the class for freshmen, the goal is to motivate them to have passion for the music.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

A. One time, after the program that was my audition for the Miami City Ballet, the stage manager ordered a curtain call for me, and after that the whole company applauded me for minutes on end. That was very moving. Another wonderful performance was doing Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony at SUNY Oswego in 2001.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. I love the outdoors. I love to fish and hunt. We have a mini-farm with chickens. In the summer, I like to spend time studying and cutting up wood. That’s my therapy.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. I’ve been married to Elizabeth, who also teaches here, for 24 years. Our three children are all doing very well. The oldest is working in New York City, the middle is a junior at Pomona College, the youngest is in high school. We live in the Town of Oswego.