



**Visual tour** — Admissions tour guide Rachel Newport, right, leads families through the Lake Effect Café during a recent program for prospective students. Admissions applications continue to climb in part because more than \$250 million in construction and renovations, including the café in Penfield Library, have shown visitors that Oswego is a college on the move and has greater “curb appeal,” said Joe Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

## Admissions show more competitive campus

If Oswego’s admissions trends could be described in one word, it would be “up.”

The number of applicants, new undergraduate students, students living on campus and newcomers’ academic credentials are all on the upswing, said Joe Grant, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

Preliminary figures show 1,425 freshmen and 680 transfers enrolled this fall.

One of the biggest spikes comes in undergraduate applications, with first-time full-time students applying to Oswego surging to 9,985 for fall 2008. This is nearly 650 more than last year and represents a 34.2 percent increase since 2003, Grant said.

On the flip side is one area with a number pointing down: acceptance rate. Only 48 percent of the applicants were accepted this fall, down from 57 percent five years ago, which means the college is able to be increasingly selective when it comes to qualifications of those admitted, Grant noted.

The incoming class is a talented one, he said. Some 560 freshmen received some level of merit scholarship, including 175 Presidential Scholars with a mean high school average of 94 and 1240 SAT score. Os-

wego was able to award over 50 more merit scholarships than last year, part of more than \$66 million in merit and need-based grants, work-study, loans and other financial aid the college provides.

The overall academic rank for incoming students rose to an average high school average of 89.5 and 1,100 SAT score.

The new enrollment figure, combined with a greater percentage of returning students choosing to live on campus, leads to a higher campus population of around 4,100 students. To meet demand for residence hall rooms, the college opened Sheldon Hall as a residence for around 65 upperclassmen and transfers.

“I’ve talked with the students in Sheldon, and they are excited about it,” Grant said of the converted conference facilities that include large rooms with individual bathrooms.

“We expect this kind of arrangement until the townhouse project opens in fall 2010,” he added. “But we’re happy to have a large number. Housing a robust, diverse student population makes for a vibrant campus.”

The overall enrollment projects at around 8,200

*See ‘Applications strong,’ page 2*

## Emissions assessed, college plans reductions

Members of the campus community and their campus-related activities were responsible for an estimated 31,629 tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2007, or 4.3 metric tons per full-time equivalent student.

Those are key numbers in Oswego’s baseline inventory submitted Sept. 15 for the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment — numbers that the campus has committed to reduce.

President Deborah F. Stanley signed the Climate Commitment in 2007 to develop a long-range plan to reduce and ultimately neutralize carbon emissions on campus. Jerry DeSantis, associate vice president for facilities and campus sustainability coordinator, over-



sees Oswego’s progress on living up to the agreement as well as achieving larger sustainability goals.

SUNY Oswego was in the minority of charter signatories to the agreement that filed the report by the deadline, thus meeting a significant milestone set forth in the Climate Commitment.

The next milestone will be an action plan with strategies to reduce the college’s carbon emissions.

The baseline assessment of emissions, conducted at Oswego by graduate students reporting to DeSantis, rests on assumptions that vary from campus to campus. Still, initial comparisons show Oswego’s numbers in the same ballpark with comparable campuses, DeSantis said.

The online database of baseline inventories at colleges nationwide is at [www.aashe.org/pcc/reports/](http://www.aashe.org/pcc/reports/).

“You make some assumptions. You collect the best

*See ‘Carbon emissions plans,’ page 4*

## Major NSF grant serves many science projects, students

A new piece of equipment that can measure concentrations in the smallest amounts could have a very large impact on Oswego’s research, ability to attract top-quality students and chances of recruiting the best science faculty.

A \$246,414 National Science Foundation major research instrumentation grant will allow the college to purchase an inductively coupled plasma source quadrupole mass spectrometer, or ICP-MS. Simply put, it’s a major piece of equipment that will allow scientists in several disciplines to measure minute amounts of elements with great accuracy and small samples required, said Paul Tomascak, the grant’s project director.

“In one analysis, you can measure 40 elements on the periodic table in a matter of seconds,” said Tomascak of the earth sciences faculty. “You have higher sensitivity yet with higher precision for essentially every element.”

An ICP-MS measures ions of elements dissolved in acid solutions. The ICP torch is an argon plasma “as hot as the outside of the sun,” Tomascak said. The plasma instantly ionizes dissolved elements, allowing the mass spectrometer to measure them.

This is cutting-edge technology that will impress potential faculty yet is user-friendly enough that undergraduates will gain experience with it in classes or research projects, Tomascak said.

“With this equipment, studying lead concentrations in drinking water is falling-off-a-log easy,” he noted.

The work of Karen Sime of the biological sciences department is an example, studying metal levels in a wasp’s ovipositor — an organ that lays eggs inside a host entity — requiring small samples and precise measures.

“Imagine a small-sized wasp, how small the stinger is, and you know you’re talking about a minute object,” Tomascak said. “This allows you to use a very

*See ‘Mass spectrometer,’ page 2*

### Campus-wide alert test Friday

The emergency messaging system adopted by SUNY Oswego in January will be tested Friday, with messages sent to everyone in the campus community who has signed up for the service.

SUNY System Administration advises campuses to test the system for all users once a semester.

Oswego scheduled a campus-wide test last semester, but plans were overtaken by events when a real storm compelled the college to cancel classes. The community was alerted through NY-Alert messages as well as the Web site, the SUNY Oswego Information Line (312-3333) and mass media.

Those who sign up for NY-Alert must provide an e-mail address and may also opt to provide cell and land-line telephone numbers.

For Friday’s test, the test e-mail message will automatically include a header and footer stating that “this is an actual event” but it will actually be a test. The header and footer are controlled by the State Emergency Management Office, which operates NY-Alert and allows SUNY campuses to use it.

To learn how to subscribe to or unsubscribe from the NY-Alert emergency messaging service, see [www.oswego.edu/newyorkalert](http://www.oswego.edu/newyorkalert). □

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College trends

Demand soars

“A new study reports that governments around the world will need to invest more than money to meet the soaring demand for higher education. The 2008 Education at a Glance report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development shows that entry rates to university-level education have risen by nearly one-half on average during the last 10 years in countries that are OECD members, including the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States and 27 others. However, funding for higher education in many countries is barely keeping up with increased student numbers. The study reports that governments face tough decisions on funding and quality standards to ensure that their education systems respond adequately to the demand for degrees. Angel Gurria, OECD secretary general, says governments must significantly expand their educational resources. ‘Money alone will not do the trick,’ Gurria said, adding that investments in education will need to become much more efficient.”  
— *BriefCASE*, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, Sept. 16, 2008

More seek aid

“Across the U.S., 8.9 million students filed federal financial aid forms in the first half of 2008, marking a 16 percent increase over the same period last year, according to federal data. And significant enough numbers of those applicants are qualifying for federal aid that the federal government appears headed for a major shortfall in Pell Grant funding, The New York Times reported [Sept. 18]. The Times cited government data showing that 800,000 more students had applied for Pell Grants through July than had done so by that point in 2007, and that that could result in a shortfall of up to \$6 billion. Numerous factors are believed to be in play in the Pell Grant increase and the upturn in financial aid requests, including some that are positive, such as more students from low-income families opting for college. But there is widespread concern among financial aid officers interviewed for this article that layoffs and declining home values, coupled with rising prices of food and gas, have led more people to seek aid either out of true need or understandable anxiety about the future.”  
— *Inside Higher Ed*, Sept. 18, 2008

Green parking

“Short of converting to telecommuting or online learning operations, colleges may have limited leverage in controlling their employees’ or students’ commuting habits — but what leverage they do have may lie partly in their parking policies. While changes haven’t been drastic, a number of colleges have put in place small numbers of ‘car pool only’ or ‘hybrid only’ parking spots to encourage greener driving habits (and, in the car-pooling case, also cut demand for parking at colleges with too few spaces). . . . Many might have characterized commuting issues as being outside a college’s domain. But parking policies like these could become especially popular among signatories of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which requires colleges to factor emissions from faculty, staff and student commuting into their plans to go ‘carbon neutral.’ At some signatory colleges, those commuting emissions are their primary source of emissions. Centralia College, a two-year institution in Washington State, reported in its recent inventory that 88 percent of all college emissions are commuting-related. . . . Centralia has a new policy in place to create reserved spaces for car-poolers, as well as those driving hybrid or electric cars. . . . Colleges’ policies on parking, of course, have been just a small piece of their overall efforts to encourage more eco-friendly habits, by moving to four-day work weeks, running bicycle-sharing programs, and subsidizing mass transit.”  
— *Inside Higher Ed*, Sept. 26, 2008

People in action



**Connecting with alumni** — Junior psychology major Brittany Riesbeck shares a smile with other students working Telefund recently. Throughout the year, current students contact alumni to let them know of the college’s successes and to secure future support.

**Ana Djukic-Cocks**, assistant professor of German, led an Oswego contingent of faculty and students to the German Cultural Studies Conference at Cornell University on Sept. 13 and 14. The topic of the conference was “Got Art? Intersections of Art and Politics in German Culture.” Among the Oswego participants were **Jonel Langenfeld-Rial** of the theatre faculty and the following students of German: **Nicholas Massaro, Suzanne Catharine, Zachary Tartell, Elena Schermerhorn, Sarah Olear, Rebecca Currie, Rachel Herson** and **Jeane Spencer**. Students from colleges and universities throughout the middle Atlantic states participate in this annual fall conference, which is co-sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service and Cornell University.

**Robert Auler** of the music department will per-

form in the first of a series of piano concerts at 3 p.m., Sunday Oct. 5, in the G. Ray Bodley High School auditorium in Fulton. The Fulton Music Association is sponsoring the series of Sunday afternoon concerts through January. Auler will perform works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Chopin and Kapustin.

**Lewis Turco**, emeritus professor of English and creative writing, is the author of *The Museum of Ordinary People and Other Stories*, published in September by Star Cloud Press.

In Memoriam

**Robert L. Salisbury**, 79, emeritus professor of biology, died Sept. 18 at his home in Fulton after a long illness. □

Mass spectrometer

*Continued from page 1*  
small sample to measure trace metals in the parts per trillion range.”  
Also remarkable, Tomascak said, is the wide range of science faculty who will use the ICP-MS for research and teaching. They include Richard Back and Eric Hellquist of biological sciences with water toxins and plant ecology, respectively; chemistry faculty members Webe Kadima with metals in insulin, Casey Raymond with inorganic chemical clusters, and Jeffrey Schneider with soil contamination; and geology projects on the earth’s formation by Tomascak and Diana Boyer of the earth sciences faculty.

**‘We’ve gone four for four in our most recent proposals from this campus, which says a lot about our collected level of expertise and the quality of research.’ — Paul Tomascak**

Tomascak believes the new mass spectrometer could help with other projects such as studying air pollution, archeological categorization and the Oswego Children’s Study on the effects of toxic pollutants upon humans.  
By any measure, Tomascak said Oswego’s success in landing NSF major instrument grants the past two years is outstanding. “Each campus is only allowed two proposals per year, and it’s a very competitive process,” he explained. “We’ve gone four for four in our most recent proposals from this campus, which says a lot about our collected level of expertise and the quality of research.”  
Jack Gelfand, Oswego’s director of research administration and development, attributed this impressive feat to collaboration and opportunities for undergraduates.

“In order to build a strong proposal, you have to group enough people together so there are enough activities to compete with major universities. We’ve had the directors of these projects go around and talk to enough people to develop a good enough story that makes the case,” Gelfand said.  
“One of the most attractive features of this campus is that we always use the instruments for undergraduate research and classes,” Gelfand added. Obtaining major instruments provides a ripple effect, making it possible to develop compelling projects that can attract more research funding, more teaching scientists and aspiring student scientists. □ — **Tim Nekritz**

Applications strong

*Continued from page 1*  
— 7,100 of them full-time. The figure does not count around 600 high school students taking modern language credit classes.  
Grant said he thinks that Oswego’s broad academic offerings and strong merit scholarship programs are two factors powering increased applications. But Oswego’s reputation as a campus on the move also has led to the rise in interest, he noted.  
“People see the more than \$250 million in facility investments we’ve made so far, and the increased curb appeal,” Grant said. “They know that we’re willing to invest, and we’re continuing with \$110 million for the science facilities, \$40 million for the residential village, and another \$20 million for School of Education renovations. Academically, we’ve added a software engineering major and launched the School of Communication, Media and the Arts.”  
The effort to recruit the class of 2013 is already under way, including the Columbus Day Open House on Oct. 13 and a new Saturday open house Oct. 25. □  
— **Tim Nekritz**



# O'Donnell Media Summit looks at post-Napster media landscape

The Lewis B. O'Donnell Media Summit will take on digital media when top communications professionals converge on campus to explore the "Media Revolution" Oct. 22.

The fourth annual edition of the summit will feature class visits and commentary by Sony BMG executive J. Scott Dinsdale, radio trade magazine publisher Erica Farber, ESPN.com chief Rob King, media guru Jack Myers and Oswego graduate Steve Leblang of FX Networks.

The day's highlight is a panel discussion featuring all five visitors at 3 p.m. in the Sheldon Hall ballroom. Joining the media experts on stage will be student reactor Candace J. Dunkley.

As executive vice president of digital operations and new technology for Sony BMG, Dinsdale is on the forefront of the media revolution, helping connect international music artists with various distribution partners. He previously worked as executive vice president of digital strategy for the Motion Picture Association of America, where his primary responsibility was to protect the industry's interests in the digital age.

Farber has consistently been recognized as one of the top executives in the radio industry. The president and publisher of respected trade publication Radio

& Records, Farber is the driving force behind the delivery of news reflecting trends and growth in the industry.

King manages an award-winning team of more than 200 editors, writers and designers across ESPN.com and its network of related sites. The vice president and editor-in-chief of the leading sports Web site brings extensive experience in print, television and new media to this year's summit panel.

Leblang handles research and strategic development for FX and Fox Movie Channel as senior vice president at FX Networks. The 1981 Oswego graduate has spent a majority of his professional career in the television industry.

Moderating the panel will be Myers, editor and publisher of more than 30 publications and Web sites targeting media, advertising and entertainment professionals. More than 30,000 senior executives read the JackMyers Media Business Report and visit the JackMyers.com network of media industry Web sites.

Student reactor Candace J. Dunkley is a senior broadcasting and mass communication major with a minor in Spanish. She works at student-run television station WTOP and interned at News 12 Westchester and the NV Innovations Management Program.

Following the panel discussion and question-and-

answer session, a group of six recent Oswego graduates will offer tips on how to launch a communications career at 5 p.m. in the Sheldon Hall lower lobby.

They are Jeremy Ambers, a 2000 graduate, senior editor and post-production supervisor at Rooftop Edit/Fort Group in New York City; Emil Calcano of the class of 2007, manager of corporate sales and sponsorships for the New York Yankees; Michael Gewirtzman of the class of 2005, owner of New York-based Vinyl Artist Management and one of Billboard magazine's "30 Power Players in Music Under 30"; Natasha Johnson, a 2002 graduate, account executive at WROC and WUHF television in Rochester; Phil Rankin of the class of 2006, Web site editor at 9WSYR.com in Syracuse; and Matt Romano of the class of 2005, broadband coordinator for the Sci-Fi Network, part of NBC Universal. Junior Christa Leader will moderate the session.

Alumnus Louis A. Borrelli Jr. of the class of 1977 founded the summit in 2005 with a leadership gift. Last year, he and Al Roker, a 1976 graduate, provided funding to name it in honor of O'Donnell, longtime chair of Oswego's communication studies department, who passed away in 2007.

For more information, visit [www.oswego.edu/mediasummit](http://www.oswego.edu/mediasummit). □ — **Shane Liebler**

# Global, service missions going strong in Hart Hall after 10 years

In its 10th year, Hart Global Living and Learning Center offered its first Global Awareness Conference, mounted with revenue from an endowment of nearly \$700,000. More than four times as many faculty members applied to live in the residence hall — with nearly 300 students, mind you — as could be accepted.

As one of Oswego's early experiments in living and learning communities, Hart has proved an enduring success. Now, as it embarks on its second decade, it remains a rare entity on the nation's university scene.

"I'd never heard of anything like it before," said Nina Monte, Hart's new hall director.

She completed her master's degree at Canisius College in college student personnel administration, writing her thesis on cultural immersion and study abroad. She wanted to go into residence life, she said, and Hart was a perfect fit.

While Hart is home to 50 to 75 international students a year, it is not conceived on the international house model focused on those students, or even the model that houses half international students and half Americans studying their languages.

Rather, its mission is developing global awareness and social responsibility among a significant slice of the student body — all classes, all majors — by melding educational programs — and real, live professors — into its residential and social environment.

## Nine faculty in residence

Monte, the hall director, has a staff of eight graduate resident mentors, instead of the undergraduate resident assistants who work in other halls. They all in turn support the learning mission of the building guided by the faculty director, Greg Parsons of the history faculty, and eight faculty resident mentors.

Faculty resident mentors can call Hart home for one to four years. "The ones who really flourish are the ones who connect with students," Parsons said.

A prime example currently is Rebecca Burch of

the psychology faculty, who is now busy organizing the second Global Awareness Conference, set for Nov. 7 and 8.

The theme of the conference concerns doing good in the world, capturing the global and service missions of the Hart community. People outside of Hart are welcome to make presentations, she noted. The deadline for proposals is Oct. 10.

Burch moved into Hart three years ago. "I thought it would be interesting to spend more time with students and now I'm completely hooked on it," she said. "My whole life has swung into this international vein because I moved into Hart."

Students apply to live in Hart and commit to performing 10 hours of community service a semester and taking a one-credit international studies course that requires attendance at internationally themed campus programs plus a regular three-credit course a semester related to a global issue.

**‘There are just so many things I learned that I would not have otherwise because it’s an involving atmosphere for (everyone) to share their culture and traditions.’ — Fred Vigeant, Hart alumnus**

"Students are enthusiastic," Parsons said. "They're a self-selecting group. We have a lot of students who come as freshmen and stay for four years."

Many of the activities are "IST approved," helping to fulfill the students' obligations in the one-credit course. "I have really fallen in love with the IST program," Burch said. "I do 20 to 30 presentations a semester because I enjoy it so much."

Students are motivated to learn about other countries both in class and in the extracurricular programs because of their close interaction with students from other countries. International students make up around a quarter of the residents.

Most international students room with American

students. "It's amazing to watch. You put people from two different countries together in a room and they find ways to connect," Monte said. "They learn so much from each other and they want to learn about each others' cultures."

Hart makes it easy, said Fred Vigeant, one of the first students to live there in 1998-99 after the hall's renovation and reopening as the global living and learning center. "There are just so many things I learned that I would not have otherwise because it's an involving atmosphere for (everyone) to share their culture and traditions," he said.

The Hart experience can be lifelong, as Vigeant attested. He stays in touch with friends made there 10 years ago, he said. Now program director at the WRVO Stations, based in Penfield, he returned to Hart for the past two years as a faculty (staff) resident mentor. "I just love being involved on campus," he said. "Hart was another way to get involved and to mentor students." □ — **Julie Harrison Blissert**

## Six nominated for next ORI book

Six books, ranging from investigative journalism to self-help to graphic novel, have been nominated for the Oswego Reading Initiative selection for 2009-10. The campus community is invited to provide input toward the book slated for campus-wide reading and related programs, similar to this year's selection of Elizabeth Kolbert's *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*.

Nominees for 2009-10 are:

- *What Should I Do with My Life?* by Po Bronson, a book about career advice told through 50 profiles of people looking for their true calling
- *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz, a novel about a man who tries to escape real life and a family curse through writing fantasy fiction
- *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich, an account of trying to survive in the United States while earning below the living wage
- *Mending Skins* by Eric Gansworth, a novel about the trials and tribulations, hope and wisdom of modern-day Native Americans
- *In Defense of Food* by Michael Pollan, which looks at how food gets to American tables, as well as the cultural and economic forces influencing what people eat
- *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, a graphic novel about the author's coming of age in Iran during the Islamic Revolution and ensuing upheavals

More information about the books with additional links will be found from [www.oswego.edu/ori](http://www.oswego.edu/ori). The ORI committee hopes for feedback on the contenders by Oct. 17. □

# Scholar to offer inside view on Russia-Georgia conflict

Author and former Georgian independence activist Irakli Kakabadze will discuss "Russia and Georgia at War: Understanding the August 2008 Conflict" at 7 p.m. Oct. 14 in Room C114 of the Campus Center.

Currently a visiting scholar in Cornell University's peace studies program, Kakabadze was a key leader of the student opposition to the Soviet government in the 1980s, becoming the youngest member of the National Forum of Georgia, the prominent national liberation movement, at age 20.

In the years since, he has worked for Voice of America, the Foreign Service Institute and the National Peace Foundation. In 2007, he received a Hell-

man/Hammett prize from Human Rights Watch for his work against authoritarianism.

His five books include *Allegro or the Chronicle of One Year*, named Tsiskari magazine's best literary debut by a young author (in 1990, when he was 21), and his most recent *Inside the Revolution of the Roses*.

In 2005 and 2006, Kakabadze was arrested four times and beaten while working for private TV Channel 202 covering the Georgia-Russia conflict.

The free talk is sponsored by Hart Hall and the history department.

For more information, call 312-3249 or e-mail [forbes@oswego.edu](mailto:forbes@oswego.edu). □



Announcements

Course bulletins to be online only

Oswego’s fall 2008 course bulletin is the last one to appear in print on paper. Henceforth, the information will be available online, Registrar Andrew Westfall announced last week.

All the information that previously appeared in the paper course bulletin will now be found on the Registrar’s Web site — [www.oswego.edu/registrar](http://www.oswego.edu/registrar) — and myOswego. This includes course schedules as well as the final exam schedule, listing of General Education courses, registration eligibility table and more, he said.

- Westfall noted the advantages of the online format:
- Online information will always be accurate with up-to-date information. The paper version could not reflect the many changes that took place after the publication date.
  - Online information supports the college’s sustainability initiatives by replacing the 22,000 paper copies of the 64-page course bulletin.
  - The college will also save the substantial costs of printing the paper course bulletin.

He added that people who need information on paper will be able to print as much information as they need from the Registrar’s site and myOswego. Information about spring 2009 course offerings and registration will appear in mid-October. □

‘Astro-rama’ reaches out to aliens

Visitors to “Astro-rama,” a free outdoor performance this week on campus, may be watching the skies as well as the production. Starting at 8 p.m. Thursday to Sunday (weather permitting) outside the Campus Center, the Squonk Opera production concerns a UFO crash and responses to apparently alien intelligence. The performance and installation piece are sponsored by Artswego and the Student Association Programming Board.

“Music is the universal language, and this intergalactic call and response will show the indomitable human spirit,” said Steve O’Hearn, co-artistic director of Squonk Opera with Jackie Dempsey. “To help them send their message to the cosmos, the Squonkers will build a 40’ radio telescope dish mounted to scaffold towers, tuned to the galactic

frequency of B-flat,” the troupe notes on its Web site, [www.squonkopera.org](http://www.squonkopera.org). Squonk Opera’s most recent collaboration with the college was the 2007 show “Lost in a Viral Paradise,” a satirical multimedia world-premiere production written by Oswego art, music and theatre students. Ben Brantley of the New York Times has called Squonk Opera “ingenious, hypnotic, hallucinatory.” For more information or to check how weather may affect the performance on the day of a specific show, visit [www.oswego.edu/arts](http://www.oswego.edu/arts). □

Downtown opens new exhibition

“Equine Photography by Carien Schippers,” an exhibition of images of horse drives in America and England, will open Thursday, Oct. 9, at Oswego State Downtown. An opening reception, featuring a talk by Schippers, will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. Oct. 9 at Oswego State Downtown, corner of West First and Bridge streets in Oswego. Admission is free, and Auxiliary Services will provide refreshments.

The exhibition is the first of the Art on the Wall series organized by SUNY Oswego’s Tyler Art Gallery in partnership with the Art Association of Oswego and the Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse. It will be on view through Nov. 30. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 216-4985. □

Carbon emissions plans

*Continued from page 1*  
information you have and see where the weaknesses are,” DeSantis said. Oswego and many other institutions are finding that the most glaring weakness is in the area of energy expended for transportation of students, faculty and staff to and from campus. While transportation accounts for just under half of all the energy expended in connection with campus activity, it is responsible for 62 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions, according to Oswego’s report.

DeSantis’ team of students used zip codes in student, faculty and staff home addresses, plotted them on a map, used emissions calculations available for fleets of vehicles and made assumptions about the number of trips to campus per week, he said. The Office of Institutional Research will conduct a more precise study surveying campus community members by e-mail later this month, he added. “Commuting energy is the significant part of our greenhouse gas emissions,” DeSantis said. “It’s high for everyone . . . and it’s the one we have the least control of. These are choices that people make individually, and they’re limited by the availability of public transportation, where they live, housing availability and a lot more factors.”

Planning emission reductions

DeSantis met with the Campus Concept Committee and the Campus Environmental Advisory Committee last week to begin consideration of strategies the college community can take to tackle these issues. He is scheduled to meet with the Climate Academic Steering Committee on Thursday.

- He identified three categories of actions to include in the plan, which is due in September 2009:
- Strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - A timeline for integrating less-polluting energy sources into the college’s energy stream, such as wind, solar, geothermal and more efficient carbon power
  - Strategies to increase awareness and understanding of the issues and develop a “sustainability culture”

The last category goes beyond the Climate Commitment to wider sustainability goals. The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education on its Web site “defines sustainability in an inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations.” “The Climate Commitment is a part of the sustainability effort. Sustainability is the bigger issue here,” DeSantis said. “I’m looking at the Climate Commitment as a way to draw attention to the sustainability issue.”

The Climate Commitment is one AASHE project. Another is the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), which Oswego’s Climate Academic Steering Committee will look at applying to assess and develop curricular and research programs, DeSantis said. □ — Julie Harrison Blissert

Police report

Since Sept. 12, University Police have investigated several cases of theft, disorderly conduct and vandalism and made five arrests. Police charged a 19-year-old Fulton man with driving while intoxicated, driving with a blood alcohol content about .08, and several traffic infractions. In separate incidents, a St. James man and an Onondaga Hall resident were charged with unlawful possession of marijuana (a violation), and two Seneca Hall residents were charged with criminal possession of marijuana (a misdemeanor). □

Calendar highlights

- Vice Presidential DebateWatch, Oct. 2
- “Astro-rama,” Oct. 2 to 5
- Steinkraus Lecture on Human Ideals, Oct. 4
- Rice Creek Rambles, Oct. 4 and 18
- “Connections” conference, Oct. 7
- Second Presidential DebateWatch, Oct. 7
- Fall break, Oct. 9 and 10
- Career and Internship Fair, Oct. 15
- “Torch Bearers” opens, Oct. 15
- Third Presidential DebateWatch, Oct. 15

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

Spotlight

Law-Folds enjoys, registers with students

*This week’s Campus Update Spotlight shines on Gale Law-Folds, a keyboard specialist II in the Registrar’s Office. She has worked on campus since January 2005.*

**Q. How would you describe your job and responsibilities?**  
A. Varying, depending on the time of year. A lot of phone work — we help students navigate myOswego, answer specific questions, sometimes route them to another office that can answer their questions. The phones and the walk-ins can be very busy, especially during registration and add/drop times. We always seem to be working on two semesters, the current one and the next one. This is a busy office but it’s a good one for learning a lot about the college.

**Q. What is your favorite part of working at Oswego?**  
A. Working with the students. Listening to their problems and directing them to the correct offices for help.

**Q. What is your impression of Oswego’s students?**  
A. They are very intelligent and have so much potential. I’ve had the opportunity to work with quite a few student workers and several grad assistants here.

**Q. What achievement are you most proud of?**  
A. The things that mean the most to me are my family, being a good wife, mother and grandmother.  
**Q. What can you tell us about your family?**  
A. I’m married with two daughters and two beautiful grandchildren. My husband Bill is a truck driver and works in Syracuse. My oldest daughter is a massage therapist who owns her own business in



Florida. My youngest is Tammy Reitz, who works here at the college. I’m very proud of them. I’ve lived in Oswego all my life.  
**Q. Do you have any hobbies?**  
A. I love golf. We like to travel and do some camping. In the winter we watch a lot of my grandson’s hockey games. My granddaughter dances and figure skates, so I see a lot of her shows, too. And we have season tickets for Laker hockey. □