

# Sweet Sounds

## Scholarship Strikes the Right Note with

By Michele Reed

**M**ost Wednesday nights during the school year, you'll know where to find **Tim Lanigan '10**.

He'll be down at Patz on the River, pounding out a jazz riff on the piano or maybe taking a solo on the trombone. He's part of the Oswego Jazz Project, a student-faculty collaboration that began two years ago.

Music Professors Rob Auler on piano, Trevor Jorgensen on saxophone and Eric Schmitz on drums with alumnus **Max McKee '07** on electric bass get together at the local restaurant to get the community involved in the SUNY Oswego music program and showcase student talent.

They've put out two CDs and produced several songs that feature student input. Their latest album, "And the Time is Now," features one track — "Tug" — which was performed and mixed entirely by Oswego students.

Lanigan is a regular with the group, but that's not the only place he showcases his considerable musical talent.

One Wednesday night last spring semester he was at the keyboard on "Straight, No Chaser" with the OJP and the next evening he was on stage at Tyler Hall's Waterman Theatre singing in "Tin Pan Alley," a production featuring the songs of the 1930s and '40s.

At Oswego's longest standing tradition, Torchlight, Lanigan can be found among the StateSingers, reprising the songs that formed the soundtrack to the senior class's experience.

His rich baritone is as at home with popular standards as it is with a classical cantata.

The junior music major plays classical piano and studies



JIM RUSSELL '83

**Tim Lanigan '10** and music professor Rob Auler explore a composition on piano. "We had to compete with some prestigious places to get him," Auler says, adding the Presidential Scholarship program "leveled the playing field." At right, Lanigan (second from left) performs with Oswego's StateSingers during this fall's Welcoming Torchlight.

JIM RUSSELL '83

vocal music, performing with such groups as the College Choir and College Chorus in addition to StateSingers, while also playing in the college jazz band.

The opportunity to have that flexibility is part of what drew him to Oswego. "At other schools, you are in one track. It's not possible to have that involvement, to broaden your horizons," he says.

Lanigan could have chosen any number of top-notch universities, according to Auler, Lanigan's piano teacher.



# Lanigan



“Tim had dynamite grades. He’s the kind of student people fight over. We had to compete with some prestigious places to get him,” says Auler.

## Donor support helped

The music professor believes Lanigan’s Presidential Scholarship made all the difference in attracting him to Oswego.

“That Presidential Scholarship leveled the playing field so we could offer him the one-on-one support and the things that we do very well as a liberal arts school and as a very nurturing human-scale department,” Auler recalls.

Lanigan agrees that the scholarship helped lure him to Oswego.

Music — and Oswego — runs in Lanigan’s family. His grandfather is George Cuppernull, a former SUNY Oswego band director, who retired from the music department in 1987 after a 26-year association with the college.

Tim’s mother **Caren Cuppernull Lanigan ’77** also attended Oswego and his great uncle **James Lanigan ’66** served as chair of the College Council. Lanigan Hall is named in recognition of James’ strong support of the university.

But when he was searching for a college for his undergraduate career, the Watertown High School graduate admits that finances were a consideration.

“Some of the other universities I was looking at were a bit more costly and this scholarship takes a good chunk out of the total cost my parents and I would have to pay for all four years,” he says.

He has to keep his grades at a certain level, and participate in special Presidential Scholar programs to renew his scholarship each year. But it’s been worth it, he says.

“The opportunity to keep receiving the scholarship takes a bit of a burden off my family,” Lanigan says.

It has another positive effect as well. “It influences me to work harder, to keep doing good things around campus.”

The Presidential Scholarship isn’t the only donor-supported aspect of Lanigan’s Oswego career. Last year, he was the first recipient of the Emeriti Association scholarship, supported by the Oswego Emeriti Scholarship Fund and the Emeriti Life Membership account. 🎵

Lanigan performs with the Oswego Jazz Project most Wednesday nights (above).

