

OSWEGO Parents

A Publication of the
Office of Alumni and
Parent Relations

FALL 2008

Challenge Grants Grow Research • Welcome from the President

In the learner-centered environment of Oswego State, the student-professor dynamic is the essence of the college experience. The annual Collaborative Challenge Grants established by **Timothy Murphy '74** are a premier promoter of this important Oswego tradition.

For the fourth year, students and faculty received up to \$2,500 for collaborative projects in various college programs.

Meteorology's **Scott Steiger '99** earned a Challenge Grant for a second time to help further a study of lake effect lightning.

"It's thought that lightning intensity is related to the strength of the storm," said **Ted Letcher '09**, who spent a majority of his spring semester analyzing lightning frequency and intensity as well as precipitation data.

A better understanding of that correlation could help meteorologists issue earlier and more precise warnings for areas prone to lake effect weather like Oswego.

"Really, this is a great place to study it because this is one of the largest databases of lake effect events you'll ever find," said Letcher, a Maryland native who came to Oswego because of its unique weather and exemplary meteorology program.



Jim Russell '83

Scott Steiger '99 spends some time with students and weather equipment on the roof of Piez Hall in this 2006 photo.

"I'm exploring all the facets of the field," he said. "Research I'm liking so far. You get to find things out before other people know about them."

Letcher will use the grant money to take his show on the road this semester, giving presentations at conferences and getting the research published.

The publishing and networking are a big part of the meteorology program's success at Oswego, in addition to the region's unique weather, Steiger said.

His former student, **Jason Keeler '07**, used a prior Challenge Grant to lay the groundwork for Letcher's analysis.

The collaboration grant for lake effect lightning study may prove to be a crucial springboard for a larger joint study with the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Steiger is working on a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation that will bring University of Alabama equipment to Oswego.

"A lot of what (Keeler and Letcher) did will go into that proposal and strengthen it," Steiger said.

— *Shane M. Liebler*

When *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego* concluded on June 30, 2008, it was beyond expectations. We exceeded our campaign goal and raised \$23,857,114, making the college's first comprehensive campaign an overwhelming success. I am honored to congratulate the Oswego community on this tremendous accomplishment. This is truly one of our proudest moments.

The campaign brought unprecedented support and new opportunities for current and future generations of students, faculty and scholars. It is particularly impressive to know that more than 22,000 alumni, parents and friends made gifts to the campaign over the past six years. This speaks volumes to the loyalty and generosity of our alumni and friends and serves as a categorical endorsement of our educational mission.

The campaign's impact is significant. Through the generosity of our donors we have strategically advanced our academic goals, expanded undergraduate and graduate student support, and enhanced our competitiveness in research and education. As a result of the campaign, we have strengthened the foundations of Oswego and we have positioned SUNY Oswego to better serve the needs of a new generation of students.

The compelling vision of a more powerful future for SUNY Oswego has united alumni, faculty, staff, students and the community from the start of the campaign and created a culture of giving and a new optimism on campus that ensures our continued drive for unparalleled excellence for generations to come. On behalf of the entire college community, I offer you our sincere appreciation for your support. We are extremely grateful to the thousands of donors whose contributions, both large and small, made *Inspiring Horizons* a shining success!

I hope you will visit the campus on Family and Friends Weekend – or any time – to see how transformative your gifts have been to the college community. Our future has never looked better.

Deborah F. Stanley
President

Other Challenge Grants awarded this year:

"Ambient Levels of Persistent and Emerging Air Toxics in Acadia National Park" **Colleen Alexander '09** with **James Pagano '74** of the chemistry faculty.

"An Investigation of the Phonological and Syntactic Structures of Luo" by **Allegra M. Anka '09** with Jean Ann and Bruce Long Peng of the curriculum and instruction faculty.

"Wind Power Generation at SUNY Oswego" **Francis Carlevatti '09** with Al Stamm of the earth sciences faculty.

"Global Feminisms: Ecuador" **Melanie Schaffer-Cuttillo '09** with Lisa Glidden of the political science faculty.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

- Important Dates
- Strong Connections
- Family and Friends Weekend
- Up for the Challenge

IN THIS EDITION:

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations
King Alumni Hall
SUNY Oswego
Oswego, NY 13126

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OSWEGO Parents

Family Values

Alumni Enjoy Supporting Their Daughter's Oswego Experience

Robert Pett checked out of Seneca Hall for the last time as a student in 1983. More than 20 years later, he was moving in again.

This time he and his wife, **Lisa Trickey Pett '81**, were helping their daughter, **Jessica '10**, get settled.

The Oswego roots run deep for the Petts. Lisa met Robert while they were students.

Their first meetings were in a dining hall where Robert worked.

"I made some very good friends and had great professors," Lisa said.

Today Lisa, an English major, works in sales for Burst Media, an advertising network with offices near Albany. Robert used his computer science degree to launch a career that eventually earned him his current position with Microsoft.

"The school gave us a lot; it gave us our start," Robert said. "It was a good place to go to school, and we got a lot out of it."

Robert's internship at Alcan eventually became his first full-time job. Since then the family has taken residence in Virginia, Washington state and Long Island.

When the family moved back to the Albany area a few years ago, the SUNY system – and Robert and Lisa's alma mater — became a



From left, Alexander, Robert '83, Lisa '81 and Jessica Pett '10

viable option for their children.

Jessica's brother, Alexander, is also considering attending a SUNY school after he graduates from high school next year.

The Petts have been making annual donations to Oswego State for several years. They were able to

double their gifts through matching gift programs at work. Jessica's enrollment at

the school only added motivation to give, Lisa said. The Oswego Parents Fund helps support programming, scholarships and more.

Both Lisa and Robert believe that SUNY Oswego offers one of the best values for college education anywhere. That's just as true today as it was more than 20 years ago, Lisa said.

"It's definitely improved and become more competitive," she said. "I think a lot of people recognize that more."

— *Shane M. Liebler*

**"The school gave us a lot; it gave us our start."
– Robert Pett '83**

KUDOS

★ To **Nora Abdelnabi '09** and **Corey Lemon '08**, who emerged from a pool of 900 entries as finalists in the *PRWeek* "Student of the Year" 2008 competition.

★ To **Shashi Kanbur** of SUNY Oswego's physics department, who used a \$132,346 grant from the National Science Foundation to take a group of Upstate physics and computer science students to Brazil this summer.

★ To longtime Oswego Residence Life and Housing Director **Chuck Weeks**, who received the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

★ To men's hockey forward **Ryan Ellis '09**, who was named SUNY Athletic Conference Player of the Year and All-American by the American Hockey Coaches Association.

★ To **Elizabeth Dunne Schmitt** of the economics department and **Barry Friedman** of the marketing and management department, co-winners of the President's Award for Teaching Excellence for 2007-08. **Donna Steiner** of the English and creative writing department won the Provost's Award for part-time faculty.

★ To men's swimming and diving team members **Shawn Merlin '11**, **Chris Dotson '08**, **Greg Doyle '08** and **Kevin Morgan '08**, who all earned recognition as All-American student-athletes.

★ To **Brooks Gump** of the psychology department, who earned the SUNY Oswego President's Award for Scholarly and Creative Activity and Research for 2007-08.

★ To **Steven E. Abraham**, a professor of marketing and management, who received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities for his research bridging law and business.

★ To the School of Business for inclusion in *The Princeton Review* "Best 290 Business Schools" list. SUNY Oswego was also included in the publication's "Best Northeastern Colleges" guide for the fourth time.

★ To **Sarah Lombard '08** and **Samantha Driscoll '08**, who became the seventh and eighth women's basketball players in program history to reach the 1,000 career points milestone.

★ To **Rebecca Burch** of the psychology department, winner of SUNY Oswego's 2008 President's Award for Excellence in Academic Advisement.

Family and Friends Welcome!

Visit Oswego on a weekend especially for you! The annual Family and Friends Weekend is set for Oct. 17 to 19. Many activities are scheduled to showcase the academic, athletic and creative talents of Oswego students. Experience the excitement of our men's and women's hockey teams in the Campus Center Arena or take advantage of the open skate yourself. Take in "The Torch Bearers" in a theatre department production or enjoy a concert by Oswego's musical ensembles. Meet Oswego faculty, staff and administrators at the Faculty-Staff Coffee Hour Saturday morning, sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association. Look for your Family and Friends Weekend registration form in the mail. Be sure and make your hotel reservations early as accommodations fill up quickly.

For more information, call Campus Life at 315-312-2301 or visit www.oswego.edu/student/services/campus_life/mainoffice/familyandfriends.html.

OSWEGO PARENTS

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Shane M. Liebler, Editor

*Michele Reed, Director of Alumni and
Development Communications*

Midstate Litho, Production and Printing

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations
King Alumni Hall
SUNY Oswego
Oswego, NY 13126

*Betsy Oberst, Associate Vice President of
Alumni Relations and Stewardship*

Phone: 315-312-2258
FAX: 315-312-5570

E-mail: alumni@oswego.edu
www.oswego.edu/alumni/

Linked In

New Grad Made Career Connections in NYC

New York City is a great place to look for jobs in many post-college fields. A great place to find a job is among SUNY Oswego's network of Big Apple alumni. The Oswego Alumni Association and the college's Career Services Office co-hosted the annual NYC Career Connections event in January. A few months later, **Kyle Bome '08**, walked off campus with his degree and a job in midtown Manhattan.

"I was interested in every opportunity – there are very few places I wouldn't go," said Bome, whose father, John, graduated from Oswego in 1968.

A business administration major, Kyle had been on the job hunt for a few months and interested in the New York City event since his junior year. However, Bome's wrestling schedule created a conflict.

This past January, Bome recruited the team's captain, **Ron Williams '08**, to come along and help convince the coach it would be a worthwhile break from wrestling. The two ended up racing to the city and back between practices.

In New York, Bome began talking to **Charles Carter '93**, a former Laker lacrosse player and hedge fund administrator at International Fund Services at the time.

"He wanted to keep in contact," said Bome, who worked with Carter on his resumé. After a few months of trading e-mails and resumé critiques, Bome got a request to interview with International Fund Services when an entry-level position opened up.

"I one-hundred-percent owe this opportunity and this job to the alumni networking event," Bome said. He started as an operations management trainee on June 2.

"I get to deal with people on a one-to-one basis," Bome said. "I didn't want to just sit in front of a computer all day." The position essentially makes Bome a middleman between hedge funds and the stock market.

"We help the funds with whatever they might need," Bome said, adding his experience at Oswego prepared him well on both the personal and professional level. "The degree and the program are phenomenal."



Kyle Bome '08, right, and Ron Williams '08 compare notes at the New York City Career Connections event in January.

Michelle Tackett-Spinner '98

He also used the term to describe the college's deep network of alumni and resources available to connect with them, like the Career Connections event.

"It actually has an impact," said Carter, who has participated in the event since its inception in 2003. "I go back and I see the same qualities in the students as when I went there.

"It's a student body of real people who are hard-working and ready to make a difference," he said.

The event is a great opportunity for students to make meaningful connections with alumni who are willing to help them with their job search, Carter said.

"It's a great way on their winter break to sit down with people who are genuinely willing to help them," he said.

This year's Career Connections for current juniors and seniors is slated for Jan. 6 in New York City. Look for information in the mail this fall.

— Shane M. Liebler



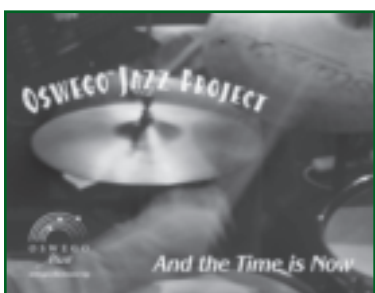
Kyle Bome '08 started a new job in midtown Manhattan in June with the help of the Oswego Alumni Association's New York City Career Connections event.

Shane M. Liebler

OJP Releases New Album

The Oswego Jazz Project, which includes music professors Rob Auler on piano, Trevor Jorgensen on saxophone and Eric Schmitz on drums with alumnus **Max McKee '07** on bass, this spring released their second album of original compositions and jazz standards in the style of their weekly public jams. "And the Time is Now" received favorable reviews in the *Syracuse Post-Standard*.

Critic Mark Bialczak wrote, "Their work is hip enough for the students to hold an allure, and the fact they invited a batch to perform on the CD is cool, too. And the whole gang really swings on 'Oswego State Alma Mater.' Boo-yah!"



OJP began in 2006 to increase jazz activity in the Oswego community and provide experience for students, especially during Wednesday night jam sessions at King Arthur's in Oswego.

"We are especially happy with the large number of our students who now play with us regularly and are pleased to feature a track on this album which was performed and mixed entirely by our students ('Tug')," said group leader Schmitz.

To hear clips from the album, go to <http://cdbaby.com/cd/ojp2>.

Dance, Music Highlight Fall ARTSwego Lineup

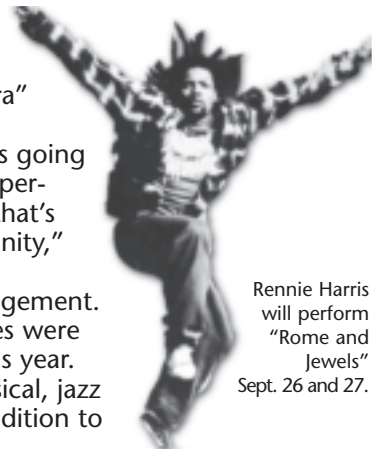
ARTSwego will again bring an array of performing arts to campus this fall.

Nationally recognized choreographer Rennie Harris will perform the hip-hop opera, "Rome and Jewels" Sept. 26 and 27. Astro-Rama will offer the sights and sounds of its outdoor "squonk opera" Oct. 1 through 5.

"It's going to be great fun and it's going to be great to have an outdoor art performance at the center of campus that's free and open to the entire community," ARTSwego Program Director Mary Avrakotos said of the four-day engagement.

A second day and numerous styles were added to the Guitar Symposium this year. World-class musicians will give classical, jazz and funk fusion performances in addition to hosting workshops Nov. 8 and 9.

A full slate of events, including performances by the Oswego Theatre Department, is available on the Web at www.oswego.edu/arts.



Rennie Harris will perform "Rome and Jewels" Sept. 26 and 27.



Tina Ruth

College President Deborah F. Stanley and her husband, Michael J. Stanley, invited the Class of 2008 to their lakeside residence, Shady Shore, May 10. About 200 May and August graduates attended this capstone event of Senior Week.

Campus Clips



FILE TO GRADUATE!

The Registrar's Office has sent letters to prospective graduates with instructions and information on how to file online for graduation. Once the student has signed in, the graduation application form is linked to the student's account at <http://myoswego.oswego.edu/>. Deadline dates for filing are Sept. 30 for December 2008 graduation and Feb. 15 for May and August 2009 graduation. Students are not automatically placed on a graduation list; it is the student's responsibility to make sure he or she files online by the appropriate deadline or contacts the Registrar's Graduation Area for help. Please note: Students must file by the deadline dates in order to be sure that their names will be printed in the commencement program.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

It's not too early to begin thinking about scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year. More than 140 are available through the Oswego College Foundation. Copies of the scholarship newspaper will be available late November in most academic departments, the Penfield Library and from the Office of University Development. The listings will also be posted online at www.oswego.edu/giving/scholarships/. Many have deadlines in February and April. To request a scholarship newspaper be sent to your home, send your full name and mailing address to Betsy Oberst at scholar@oswego.edu.



SHOP FROM HOME

If you'd like to surprise your student with a little bit of Oswego at holiday gift-giving time, you can order from the College Store online. Just surf to www.oswego.edu/student/services/college_store/ and check out the books, computers, clothing and gift items available there.



DECEMBER GRADS FETED

The Oswego Alumni Association will host a Commencement Eve Dessert Reception and Senior Toast for all December graduates and their families at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. Join us and celebrate the Class of 2008's passage from students to alumni, complete with an elegant dessert buffet, coffee, tea and a champagne toast. Call 315-312-2258 or go online to www.oswego.edu/alumni/seniors/ for information about this and other programs for seniors by the Oswego Alumni Association.



WINTERSESSION

The next WinterSession is slated for Jan. 5 through 21. The intensive three-week courses give upperclassmen a chance to catch up or get ahead. About 35 courses from across the college's programs will be available at Oswego as well as Metro Center in Syracuse, Education Center in Phoenix and on the Web. For a listing of available courses, visit www.oswego.edu/extendedlearning on the Web or call the Division of Extended Learning at 315-312-2270.



CAREER HELP? JUST A.S.K.!

If your student is looking for help in exploring a career, the Oswego Alumni Association has help. Our A.S.K. (Alumni Sharing Knowledge) program links current students with alumni mentors who can answer questions about a career, offer a job-shadowing experience or help make connections. Your student can be part of Oswego's powerful alumni network. Call the Alumni Office at 315-312-2258 or visit www.oswego.edu/alumni/ask.html.



DINING DELIGHTS

To send your student a sweet surprise, get a Plus Plan for snacks and other dining, check out menus in the dining halls or a host of other services, go online to www.oswego.edu/auxserv/.

Calendar

FALL 2008

Aug. 24	Welcoming Torchlight Ceremony
Aug. 27	Classes begin
Sept. 1	Labor Day, no classes
Sept. 20	Sonia Sanchez, Hewitt Union Ballroom
Sept. 26-27	"Rome and Jewels," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
Sept. 30	Rosh Hashanah, no classes
Oct. 1-5	"Astro-Rama: Squonk Opera," outdoors near the Campus Center
Oct. 9-10	Yom Kippur and Fall Break Day, no classes
Oct. 17-19	Family and Friends Weekend
Oct. 18-19	"The Torch Bearers," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
Oct. 22	Dr. Lewis B. O'Donnell Media Summit
Oct. 30, Nov. 2	"Carmen," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
Nov. 8-9	"Guitar Symposium," ARTSwego
Nov. 10-11	School of Business Alumni Symposium
Nov. 22-23	"Honor and the River," Lab Theatre, Tyler Hall
Nov. 24	Owen Benjamin, Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
Nov. 26-30	Thanksgiving recess
Dec. 5	"An Evening with Alan and Laurence," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
Dec. 7	"Feast of Carols," Waterman Theatre
Dec. 12	Last day of classes
Dec. 15-19	Final exams
Dec. 19	Commencement Eve Dessert Reception
Dec. 20	December Graduation

SPRING 2009

Jan. 22	Classes Begin
March 9-13	Spring Recess
May 15	Torchlight Ceremony and Dinner
May 16	Commencement

More than two dozen members of the Class of 2008 made their way to Alexandria Bay in the Thousand Islands region as part of a class trip sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association.



Ailee J. Logan '09