

OSWEGO Parents

A Publication of the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations

SPRING 2008

Compass, Point at Hub of Student Life

Ed. Note: Oswego's new Campus Center has become a hub of campus life. Jessica Skeldon '08 and Meagan Smith '07 describe two magnets for students.

The Compass

Whether it be the spectacular sunsets, thought-provoking coursework or active student life, more and more students are drawn to SUNY Oswego each year. But once undergraduates take the "college plunge," navigating the uncharted waters of personal and career development can be quite a challenge.

Where can students find someone who can steer them in the right direction? At the newly-formed Compass.

Centrally located in Oswego's new state-of-the-art Campus Center, the Compass is home to what once were six separate student service offices — Student Advisement, Career Services, Experience-Based Education, Community Service and Service Learning, First-Year Programs and Transfer Services.

"We wanted to position ourselves as a comprehensive educational and career planning center," said Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Student Advisement Center Kathy Smits Evans '84. "We expect that we are going to develop new programs and new initiatives as a



Peer navigator Katherine Harrington '09 helps Alma I. Hidalgo '10 chart her college career, at the Compass.

result of [the offices] being all together."

The Compass also offers a resource room equipped with computer stations, reference guides and writing tips. A team of 15 trained student "navigators" assist their peers in using available resources effectively and the Compass Web site will offer text instant messaging and blog capabilities.

With comfortable and contemporary furniture, the Compass' open set-up is welcoming and transparent. From internships to interest surveys, resumes to residential experiences, there is something for every student at the Compass.

"Now we have a collaborative location dedicated to student success — entering, going through college and leaving," said Bob Casper, director of career services at SUNY Oswego. "The one thing that resonated with everyone is how students could get help here every step of their college experience." — Meagan Smith '07

The Point

The Point is an area of the Campus Center where students can explore campus life outside of class. It houses all Student Association organizations and the executive board of Student Association as well as faculty advisers and staff.

Previously, in Hewitt Union, only 22 organizations had office space. There was also a big divide between Student Association offices and club offices. With the introduction of The Point, both of these things have come together and with 50 spaces reserved for organizations, more groups than ever before have offices and meeting places. Assistant Director of Campus Life and Administrator for The Point Michael Paestella said that the new space is a definite improvement. "We're all together in this one hub, which is really cool," he said.



Meeting at The Point are Christina Ballesteros '10, Student Association director of communications; Erin Reff '09, student assistant at The Point; Nichole Magnuson '08, S.A. director of public relations; and Tafari Powis '09, S.A. director of student affairs.

Different organizations may share one space, and Paestella said the interaction has a positive effect. "There's a neat synergy that's taking place," he said.

Student Association President Josh Miller '08 agrees that the space has really helped bring groups together.

"The increased interaction and cross promotion of groups is astronomical," he said.

Along with being in the office simultaneously, club members may meet among the organizations' mailboxes, located at the center of The Point. Faculty advisers are close by and the executive board is right down the hall.

"By having our new offices right along the walkway, it makes us a million times more accessible," Miller said.

Also, with The Point's location at the heart of the Campus Center, any student can wander in and discover how he or she can increase campus involvement.

"It's definitely a warmer, more student-friendly approach," Paestella said.

— Jessica Skeldon '09

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

- Dates to Remember
- Seniors Go from "Backpack to Briefcase"
- Honor Your Student
- Compass, Point Serve Students

IN THIS EDITION:

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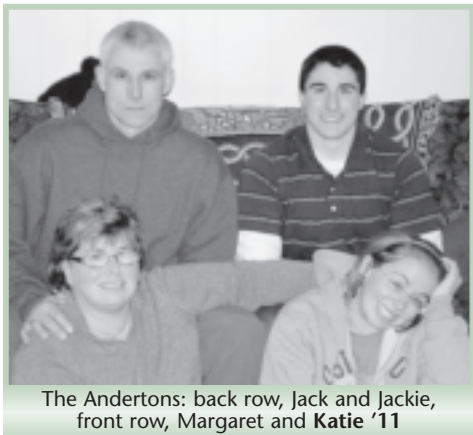
OSWEGO Parents

Andertons Respect the Power of Education

Margaret Anderton's job is helping people who have grown up in poverty — sometimes generations of a family with little or nothing. It has made her a believer in education.

"If people are educated, they can see other worlds and see a way out of the one they are in," said Anderton, the executive director of Bethesda House, which provides housing as well as a free medical clinic for folks who are homeless and mentally ill in Schenectady.

Anderton believes strongly in the power of education to make life better for people, and she, husband Jack and



The Andertons: back row, Jack and Jackie, front row, Margaret and Katie '11

their extended families are steadfast supporters, giving to their alma maters faithfully.

When the Andertons' daughter, Katie, chose Oswego, they were only too happy to pitch in and help their daughter's new home.

Katie decided on Oswego as soon as she finished her tour of campus. Now a resident of Johnson Hall, the undeclared freshman is doing well, with good grades, her mom says. When classes are done, Katie finds plenty more to love about Oswego. "She can lie in bed and look at the lake," Margaret Anderton said. "Or hang out on the beach, on the rocks."

Katie earned a merit scholarship to Oswego, something her mom said helped boost her daughter's confidence, even though they could afford college costs.

Although the Andertons give their donation as an unrestricted gift, allowing the college to use it wherever the need is greatest, Margaret Anderton said she'd feel good if it went to support scholarships or the first-year orientation program.

"The ability of the college to continue

offering merit scholarships for kids who come in with decent grades and may need help, can make it possible for people who might not be able to consider college to go there," she said.

As for orientation, she'd like to "Keep those programs at a high level for parents and students coming in. It helps."

Margaret Anderton graduated from SUNY Albany, and several of her siblings are SUNY grads as well. She hopes Katie's brother, Jack, now a high school senior, will consider a state university school. "It's a great education," she said. "It compares favorably to private schools." — Michele Reed

Honor Your Student

Parent donors can make a gift in honor of their students. It's a nice way to say "Good job" or "I'm proud of you." It also helps our students realize the importance of philanthropy. Contact the Office of University Development at 315-312-3003 or e-mail give2@oswego.edu

Matching Gifts

Does your company offer a matching gift program? If so, you may be able to double or triple your gift to Oswego. To find out if your company has a matching gift program, go to www.oswego.edu/giving and follow the Matching Gift link.

Be a Part of Inspiring Horizons

The end of *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego* is fast approaching. The campaign officially ends June 30. But there's still time for you to be part of this historic first campaign for Oswego.

Every day, we see evidence of how *Inspiring Horizons* has helped to change the face of campus — and the lives of our students. Whether a donor-sponsored fellowship program provided the opportunity of a lifetime or lectures paid for with a departmental excellence fund sparked an abiding passion, whether their education was made possible with a scholarship or they participated in student organizations at the new Campus Center, students' lives were touched by donors to the campaign. To those generous supporters, thank you! If you have not yet made a gift, there's still time to make a difference. *Inspiring Horizons* has raised more than \$21 million toward its \$23 million goal. But there's still much more to be done. Contact the Office of University Development at 315-312-3003 or e-mail give2@oswego.edu today.

Oswego Joins NY-Alert

SUNY Oswego is taking advantage of the latest communication technologies to bolster security for students and faculty. As a new member of the NY-Alert system, Oswego now provides members of the campus community the option of receiving emergency alerts via e-mail, a phone call or text message.

"This is an additional safety measure for the campus," said Julie Harrison Blissert, director of public affairs. "We encourage everyone to participate."

Students have had the opportunity to sign up since September, and more than 5,000 have responded as of press time, according to interim Chief Technology Officer Mike Pisa. Registration can be completed through a student's myOswego account, where participants may include up to three contact numbers.

Although the Virginia Tech tragedy in April 2007 brought the issue of campus security to national attention, Oswego had been preparing an emergency contact system months earlier. Blissert said that college officials are currently developing population segments such as specific hall residents and commuters to improve communication with the appropriate group.

Notices will be sent sparingly and will give specific instructions for optimal safety. Blissert anticipates that the most common use of the system will be for weather-related class cancellation notices.

For more information regarding the NY-Alert emergency notification system at Oswego, visit www.oswego.edu/administration/public_affairs/emergency/nyalert.html. — Meagan Smith '07

OSWEGO PARENTS

Published each semester by the
SUNY Oswego
Office of Alumni and Parent Relations

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Seniors Go from “Backpack to Briefcase”

Spring 2008 graduates will prepare for their last days at SUNY Oswego before commencement May 17 by participating in the planning committee and Senior Week, donating to the Senior Gift Campaign, and attending the Torchlight Ceremony. Throughout the spring semester, seniors can attend the “Backpack to Briefcase” senior seminar series to map out their futures and learn how to adapt to the real world. “The series will have a lot of info on life after college, so they can literally go from backpack to briefcase,” said Michelle Tackett Spinner ’98, associate director for alumni and parent relations, and adviser of the Senior Class Planning Committee.

Seniors who get involved with the Senior Class Planning Committee help decide what exciting activities to arrange for their class’s final days.

Seniors will celebrate their last week of classes as undergrads with activities to have fun and plan for life after graduation. They can attend a barbecue, invite faculty and staff out to lunch, and attend a networking evening with alumni.

The Senior Gift Campaign is an Oswego tradition in which the graduating class raises money to donate to the college in the form of a gift. The class of 2007 voted to sponsor a garden in front of the Campus Center, and this year’s class will decide how to honor their alma mater in their own way. Seniors who donate a certain amount can make the gift in honor of a friend, professor or parent, who will receive a letter recognizing them and a personal message on the class Web site.

Senior class T-shirt sales will also go toward funding the gift. For more information on the Senior Gift or to order a shirt for your student, go to http://www.oswego.edu/alumni/events_and_programs/senior_class/.

The traditional Torchlight Ceremony will take place May 16, the evening before graduation. The night starts off with a dinner, a catered event held on campus, and features a toast to the graduates as they are welcomed into the Oswego Alumni Association. Here, seniors present their gift to the college and the Outstanding Senior awards are bestowed. A musical performance leads into the ceremony, where the light of knowledge is passed on to the graduates.

Commencement ceremonies will be held in the Campus Center Saturday, May 17. Parents of the graduates are invited to attend both the Torchlight Ceremony and Commencement.

—Jessica Skeldon ’09



Liz Austin ’08 (left), business administration major from Massena, and Christie Torruella ’08, public relations major from Geneva, illustrate the “Backpack to Briefcase” program now offered by the Oswego Alumni Association.

Dills’ D.C. Dream Delivered



Danielle Dills ’07 interned in Washington and landed a job after graduation.

When Danielle Dills ’07 was accepted into a Congressional internship program, it was a dream come true for a girl from the small town of Alexander, N.Y. The story of her experience is one that all college students should take to heart.

In high school, Dills became involved with Student Council and went on a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., for a Presidential Classroom leadership program. In D.C., she met Congressman Thomas Reynolds (R-N.Y.-26), from her hometown district.

Once Dills began taking political science courses at SUNY Oswego, she was determined to do an internship, either in Albany or Washington. She first heard about the Congressional internship program her sophomore year. During her junior year, Dills began the process of making her dream a reality, applying to the Washington internship program, then applying directly to the office of Congressman Reynolds.

Dills also registered her internship through SUNY Oswego’s Office of Experience-Based Education for academic credit.

Reynolds’ office accepted Dills and from there she was off to Washington for a semester. Dills called the transition from rural to metropolitan living a shock. She learned to use public transportation, and lived in a city apartment with three strangers from the Washington Program.

The real challenge for Dills came when she began her internship. Being the only intern assigned to Reynolds’ office, she had to take on far more responsibility than most interns typically do. Each day, she was the first one to arrive at the Congressional office, performing tasks to make the day run as smoothly as possible for the rest of the staff.

The rest of her day included giving tours of Capitol Hill, working on special projects with the legislative staff, transporting documents to the House floor and Republican cloak room, taking notes at committee meetings, sorting constituent mail and answering constituent phone calls.

While attending meetings and giving tours, Dills met several members of Congress, including former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and entertainers Richard Gere and Richard Simmons.

Dills also gained some valuable knowledge about the working world. “As an intern you get stuck doing all the stuff no one else wants to do. You have to pay your dues before you can work your way up the ladder and that’s the attitude I learned to have and be positive about it,” she said.

What would she tell someone who was considering doing an internship? “I would tell them you’re stupid not to! It was hands down the best experience of my life and set in stone what I want to do,” Dills said. “I feel so fortunate to know what I want to do with my future.”

Dills graduated in December and was hired to work in Reynolds’ district office in Buffalo as an executive assistant.

For more information about internships, visit the Office of Experience-Based Education, in Room 142 in the Compass at the Campus Center, call 315-312-2151 or e-mail ebe@oswego.edu.

—Kristin Quinn ’08



“Big success will take time, small steps,” was the advice new graduates heard from Kevin Sutherland ’05, former Student Association president and now working in donor relations at Cornell University, who was the guest speaker at a dessert reception for December graduates and their families, sponsored by the Oswego Alumni Association. “This place will always be a part of me and I am sure you will feel the same as well.”

The December graduates were welcomed into the Oswego Alumni Association with a champagne toast by Elizabeth Oberst, executive director of the alumni association. “Tomorrow you join the ranks of Oswego’s 70,000 alumni,” she told the graduates. Oberst announced that the class will leave a legacy with the 2007 class gift, a garden at the Campus Center.

Campus Clips



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The deadline is fast approaching to apply for scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year! More than 140 scholarships are available through the Oswego College Foundation. Find the listing of scholarships and awards, along with instructions for applying and application forms online at <http://www.oswego.edu/giving/scholarships>. Only a portion of scholarships have an online application, so it is beneficial to obtain a scholarship newspaper, which contains a full listing of awards and application forms. Scholarship newspapers are available in most academic departments, the Campus Center, Penfield Library or the Office of University Development, 219 Sheldon Hall. For more information, call 315-312-3003 or e-mail your full name and address to Joy Knopp at knopp@oswego.edu.



PLAN NOW FOR GRADUATION

It's not too early to make reservations if you are traveling to Oswego for Commencement May 17. Plan to attend the longest-standing tradition on campus at the annual Torchlight Ceremony the evening of May 16. The ceremony allows the graduating class to come together one last time as they are welcomed into the Oswego Alumni Association. The event includes a reception and dinner, along with passing on the light of knowledge to the new alumni. For more information or to make reservations for the dinner call 315-312-2258 or e-mail seniors@oswego.edu. Commencement ceremonies will be held in the new Campus Center May 17 at 9 a.m. for graduates of the School of Education and School of Business, and 1:30 p.m. for those from the College of Arts and Sciences. Find more information at www.oswego.edu. Look under the A-Z Index, under the letter C, and click on Commencement.



GET CONNECTED, STAY CONNECTED

Visit the Oswego Alumni Association Web site at www.oswego.edu/alumni to find out about association services and activities. Also you can receive current information about SUNY Oswego by signing up for the news and events e-mail lists at <http://www.oswego.edu/news/maillinglists/subscribe.php>.



FILE TO GRADUATE!

The Registrar's Graduation Office sends letters in the spring semester to all prospective graduates, (all students with junior or senior standing who have not yet filed to graduate) with instructions and information on how and when to file online for graduation. The deadline for filing for this year's May and August 2008 graduation class is Feb. 15. Students expecting to graduate in December 2008 may file online from April 1 to Sept. 30. Students expecting to graduate in May or August 2009 will also be able to file online from April 1, 2008, to Feb. 15, 2009. Students are not automatically placed on a graduation list. It is the student's responsibility to make sure he or she initially applies to graduate online by the appropriate deadline date, or contacts the Registrar's Graduation Office for help in doing so. Students must file by the deadline dates listed above to ensure that their name will be printed in the commencement program. Information regarding the graduation process and all deadlines are also available and linked from the Registrar's Web site at www.oswego.edu.



VISIT OSWEGO ONLINE!

Oswego's new Web site has a place just for you! Go to www.oswego.edu and click on Information for Parents. It will link you to pages about academics, entertainment, sending a treat to your student, campus events and much more.

Calendar SPRING 2008

Jan. 24	Spring semester begins
Feb. 1- March 12	"A Visual Exploration of Memory" and "Retrospective Reflections," Tyler Art Gallery
Feb. 5-6	"Notes to the Motherland," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 28- March 9	"A Doll's House," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
March 11	"Art Spiegelman: Comix 101.1," Hewitt Union Ballroom, 8 p.m.
March 14-15	The Origin: World Premiere, Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall, 7:30 p.m.
March 20-28	Spring Recess
April 2	Billy Childs and the American Brass Quintet, Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall, 7:30 p.m.
April 4-27	45th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition and Master of Arts Thesis Exhibition, Tyler Art Gallery
April 4	"Collage Concert," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall, 7:30 p.m.
April 7	College Admissions Open House
April 23	Quest Day '08, no classes
April 24- May 4	"Cabaret," Waterman Theatre, Tyler Hall
April 25	Honors Convocation, 3 p.m.
May 2-16	Spring Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition, Tyler Art Gallery
May 9	Last Day of Classes
May 12-16	Finals
May 16	Torchlight Ceremony
May 17	Commencement

Fresh Facts

- Oswego had 9,400 applicants for the 2007 freshman class, accepted 4,700 and 1,375 enrolled.
- Fifty-nine percent of freshman students received financial aid this year.
- Freshmen were awarded more than \$3.65 million in renewable scholarships over a four-year period, this year.
- Incoming freshmen received 160 Presidential Scholarships (\$17,600 over 4 years). Other merit scholarships awarded to freshmen included 80 awards of \$5,000 over 4 years and 220 awards of \$2,000 over 4 years.
- Ninety-five percent of freshmen (1,300 first-year students) lived on campus for fall 2007.