

Alumni Couple Supports New School

When they were receiving their educations, **Joseph Alexander Yacura '74** and **Sharon Wilcox Yacura '74** both received financial help: Sharon was a Regents Scholarship winner while attending Oswego, and Joe was the beneficiary of a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship when he was pursuing his master's degree in business administration at Binghamton University.



LORENZO ONIGLIO

Sharon Wilcox Yacura '74 and Joseph A. Yacura '74

Today, the successful couple is passing on the help. They have already established a scholarship for two students in the School of Business and this spring, they donated \$25,000 to set up the first scholarship for students in the new School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

“Overall we think it’s important to give back,” says Joe. “My wife and I met there. We met in the student picture ID line when we were freshmen — she cut in front of me,” he says with a laugh.

“We’ve been fortunate in our lives. People gave us opportunities. We thought if we could afford to give back a little, we would.”

In addition to their scholarship, the Yacuras try to help their scholarship winners in their careers. Joe offers them the opportunity for internships in his business, Supply Chain Management LLC, which has offices in New York City, Atlanta and Miami.

“It’s all based on the concept of mentoring,” he says. “I was fortunate in the early days of my career to have great mentors. They help you build skills, views, and offer another perspective.”

Joe remembers Shelly Goodman, who ran a hi-fi store in Oswego and taught at the college. A liberal arts/music major, Joe was also influenced by Dr. Joseph Henry, who taught music theory and composition, and Paul Rogers, the organ instructor. “I was amazed how fast he could play with his feet — coordinating the keyboard and pedals.”

After earning his MBA in financing/arts management at Binghamton, Joe went on to run the Binghamton area arena and arts complex, and then to earn two more master’s degrees. He was senior vice president at American Express and Bank of America before he founded his own business in 2003.

Sharon went on to earn her master’s in occupational therapy at the Medical College of Virginia and had a successful career in that field before devoting herself to raising the couple’s three daughters.

The Yacuras are still involved with the arts and several community organizations in Ridgewood, N.J., where they live.

A member of the Oswego College Foundation Board of Directors, Joe is enthusiastic about the new School of Communication, Media and the Arts, which spurred the couple to found their third Oswego scholarship.

“When you create a new school, you want to attract students. What better way than an incentive?” says Joe. He hopes other alumni will follow their lead and support the new school. “Sometimes you have to jump in and be the trigger, and other people will start to follow.” ●

— Michele Reed

Taylor Offers Challenge



Errol Taylor '77 speaks to a class last autumn at Oswego.

AS THE COLLEGE WRAPS UP *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego* June 30, a prominent alumnus will be finishing up a special challenge.

During the Return to Oz III alumni of color reunion last fall, **Errol Taylor '77** announced he would match any gifts to Oswego totaling up to \$15,000 by Return to Oz participants or those eligible to participate.

"I did this because I wanted to help jumpstart others to rekindle their association with Oswego as I did when I came to my first reunion for alumni of color," said Taylor, who was the keynote speaker at the second Return to Oz in 2002.

Taylor is a partner in the New York City law firm of Milbank, Tweed,

Hadley & McCloy, where he specializes in intellectual property law. The Jamaica native was named by the National Law Journal as one of the top 10 litigators in the country in 2003, and in 2006, he received an honorary doctorate from SUNY at Oswego's Commencement.

He attributes a lot of his own success to his experience and education at Oswego. Taylor hopes his challenge will extend similar opportunity to future classes. "It's an opportunity to help the school make that kind of success for the generations that come after us," he said.

To participate in Taylor's challenge, contact **Kimberly Waters McGann '95**, director of annual giving, at 315-312-3003 or mcgann@oswego.edu by June 30. ●

— Shane M. Liebler

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 to join in 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.

Inspiring Horizons has met its initial goal of \$17 million and now has raised more than \$22 million toward its enhanced \$23 million goal. There's still time to make a difference. Contact the Office of University Development at 315-312-3003 or e-mail give2@oswego.edu. ●



Scholarship winner **Timothy Lanigan '09** and his grandfather, Professor Emeritus of Music George Cuppernull

Emeriti Scholarship Awarded

The Emeriti Association awarded its first scholarship to **Timothy Lanigan '09**.

Tim is the grandson of George and Sue Cuppernull and a music major at Oswego. A presidential scholarship recipient and Honors Program student, Tim is active with the StateSingers and the Jazz Ensemble Chorus.

George Cuppernull, former SUNY Oswego band director, 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 served as chair of the College Council. Lanigan Hall is named in recognition of James' strong support of the university.

The \$1,000 Emeriti Association scholarship is funded with interest accrued by the Oswego Emeriti Scholarship Fund and the Emeriti Life Membership account.

Tim expressed his appreciation at the Emeriti Luncheon in August. "Ever since I can remember, my grandfather was telling me about music," Tim wrote in a letter to association members. "SUNY Oswego and the music school is a great place for me . . . having already established great relationships with peers as well as professors that I know will continue for the rest of my life." ●

— Meagan Smith '07

Student Connections Inspire Gift



Matthew A. Jenal '78

When he first came to Oswego, **Matthew A. Jenal '78** was impressed with the variety of options open to him. Now his gift to the Campus Center will welcome students coming to the Compass, where the range of options is gathered in one hub: advisement, internships, career services, all in one convenient place.

The lounge area outside the Compass will be named in honor of his generous donation of \$50,000 to *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego*.

Jenal's gift was made through a special connection with Oswego students. When he received his annual call from the Telefund, Jenal had a nice conversation with **Rasheda Oakman '09**, student Telefund manager.

"I love talking with the alumni," Oakman said. "I asked him about his career, his family."

Jenal has a special respect for the student callers.

"I give them a lot of credit for doing that," he said. "Hitting the phones and asking anybody for money. It hits your soft spot."

In response, Jenal upped his pledge to \$500. When he sent in his check, it was for \$5,000. A little while later, he would make his gift of \$50,000 to the Campus Center.

"I wanted to give where the need was greatest," he said. "And I always worked at the Book Store and the Sweet Shoppe. I miss the comings and goings in the Union."

Career Began at Oswego

At Oswego, Jenal majored in business and minored in computer science, when that discipline was just in its infancy.

"You had to wait for your turn at the key-punch machine on the first floor of Culkin, with your deck of computer cards," he remembered. "It seems laughable now; it was so quaint."

In the business department, Professor Chuck Spector inspired him. "He was a great instructor and he had that magical balance of great knowledge and genuine interest in the students and

their welfare — plus he was funny as all get out," Jenal said.

After Oswego, Jenal went to work at advertising giant Young and Rubicam in New York City. In nine years with the company, his duties ran the gamut of financial management, including the purchase of the headquarters building in Manhattan.

He earned a master's of business administration degree at Pace University in New York City, going back to school nights after his work day at Y&R.

When another opportunity came knocking, Jenal was ready. In 1987 he was recruited to work for a hedge fund. His first day of work was Black Monday, when the stock market took a quick dive.

"That's when hedge funds were specks on the investment landscape," he said. "Nevertheless, it was a way of getting more involved in investments."

Jenal joined his current firm, Cadogan Management, in 2001 as chief financial officer. In that span, he helped grow the firm multi-fold, devoting much of 2007 as point person for the ultimate sale of a majority stake of Cadogan to Fortis Investments, a Belgium-based financial institution. ●

— Michele Reed



Rasheda Oakman '09, student Telefund manager, relaxes in the lounge area outside the Compass. The lounge was named for **Matthew A. Jenal '78**, in honor of his generous donation to the Campus Center. The artwork on the wall was the gift of the artist, Albert Contreras, who donated his geometric abstractions in honor of a special friendship he had with a former Oswego student.