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# Pomp

## AND INNOVATION



**T**he herald trumpets sounded, the ceremonial mace led the academic procession of faculty in colorful robes, and the gold gowns of the summa cum laudes shimmered in the May sunshine.

It was Commencement 2007, the same as dozens of Oswego Commencements before it — with one big difference. The college's 146th Commencement May 19 was also the first held in the new Campus Center.

Commencements are by definition a beginning, but this year's event marked the start of a new era for Oswego. The convocation center in the new building was bright and open, its floor-to-ceiling windows offering a vista onto Lake Ontario to the north.

The jumbo scoreboard suspended from the ceiling showed slides of the last four years — graduates playing hockey, studying in class, lounging by Glimmerglass Lagoon. Images of snowstorms, sunny afternoons and Oswego's famous sunsets greeted family and friends as they filed into the arena. Lines of crisp green chairs, row after row, stretched on, seemingly forever.





For days, Oswego staff were getting ready for the big day — hanging draperies; fitting the “Congratulations Graduates” sign on the scoreboard; sweeping, shining and generally spiffing up the arena.

Nearly 1,400 Oswego seniors graduated that day, walking across the stage as their names were called, just as thousands had done before them. The College of Arts and Sciences graduation took place at the morning ceremony; in the afternoon,

candidates for degrees from the School of Education and School of Business had their celebration.

It was a day steeped in centuries-old tradition. It was also a day like no other.

But when the last strains of the recession echoed in the empty arena, one immutable fact remained. Another class of Oswego graduates — our alumni — had made their way out into the world. ●

— Michele Reed



# And Where Did You Graduate?

The first Commencement in the new Campus Center sparked a flurry of memories about past graduations. Over the years, Oswego alumni have received their diplomas at Sheldon Hall, Laker Hall, Romney Field House, and even the Oswego Theatre downtown. Here is a smattering of remembrances of Commencements past.

**Armond Magnarelli '50** fondly recalls his Oswego Commencement day. "One thing I do remember is that we had Governor Dewey as our guest speaker and it was held at the theatre in downtown Oswego. Me being the youngest member of my family, I was the only one that ever graduated college, so it was a big deal for my family. And I loved Oswego. I spent four and a half great years there," he said, "Graduating was just one big day for us. In those days, graduations were big, big deals. And I always thought it was a big deal, too." While at Oswego, Magnarelli received a degree in elemen-

tary education and played basketball and baseball. He went on to teach school for five years before becoming an insurance investigator. Recently, he was inducted into the Oswego State Athletic Hall of Fame.

"Our 1989 graduation was one of mixed emotions," said **Karen Collucci Coia '89**. "We were celebrating our graduation and still mourning our friends who died in Pan Am Flight 103." Coia spoke at Commencement and presented the college with the class gift: the entrance monument that is dedicated in memory of **Lynn Hartunian '89** and **Colleen Brunner '90**, who perished when their plane crashed in a terrorist attack.

The 1942 Commencement was one of firsts: It was the first class to graduate from Oswego State Teachers College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and the first to have a student speaker, **Doris Brown Allen '42**. She spoke on "Education for



Life," contrasting it with Hitler's education for death. Also speaking were Class President **Mary Sheeley '42** and **Tom Morrison '42**, representing the IA graduates. Allen, the first woman editor of the *Oswegonian*, remembers the day President Ralph Swetman called her and **Bill Haessig '42**, president of the student council, into his office for the announcement that officially made Oswego a college.

