

## Oswego State Fall Classic Supports Scholarships

The 18th annual Oswego State Fall Classic Sept. 14 raised more than \$137,310 to support the Presidential Scholars Program at Oswego.

“We are extremely grateful to our Presidential Sponsors — Constellation Energy and the New York State Laborers’ Employers’ Cooperation and Education Trust Fund — as well as our local sponsors and golfers, who support scholarships at the college,” said President Deborah F. Stanley. “Your support makes it possible for our students to realize their dreams of a college education.”

At the Fall Classic finale, Stanley presented a framed “Oswego Family Portrait” to representatives of LECET in honor of their 10 years of supporting the annual fundraising event.

Stanley praised the New York State Laborers for their loyalty and support of the college and thanked Constellation Energy for their six years of support.

William Shannon, business manager of the Upstate New York Laborers’ District Council, in accepting the recognition, reiterated the

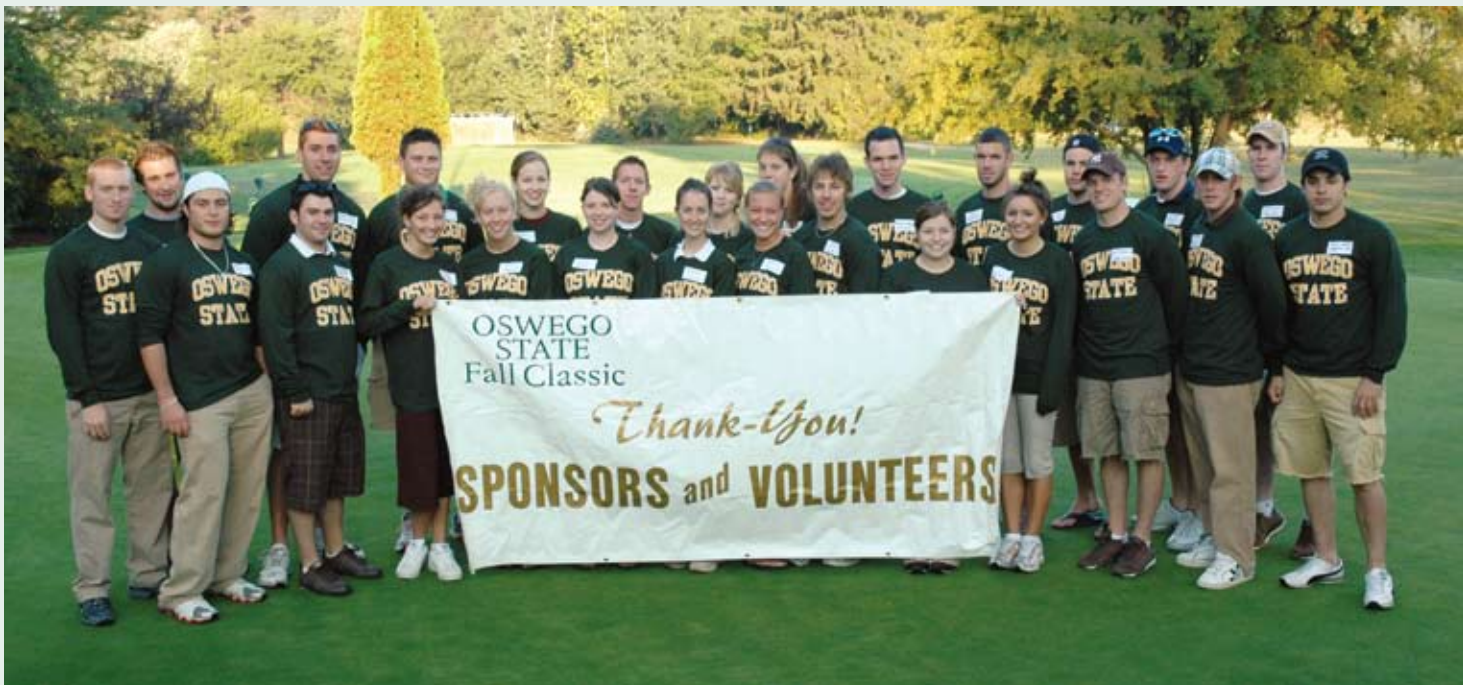
Laborers’ commitment to higher education and SUNY Oswego.

Presidential Scholar **Ryan Mott ’08** thanked the donors present. He shared that he participated in an Oswego program, Hollywood POV, and has aspirations to work in the television and film industry as a stunt coordinator and screenwriter.

“I believe I will reach my goals, thanks to the education I received here at Oswego, made possible by my Presidential Scholarship,” Mott said. “And I am just one of more than a thousand Presidential Scholars who have studied here at Oswego during the past 10 years. If your support has meant this much to me, think of the difference it has made in hundreds of other lives. And as we graduate and go on to careers in education, business, communications, and many, many other fields, your gift is in turn affecting the lives of all the people we touch.”

Since its inception in 1990, the Fall Classic has raised more than \$3.2 million to help support students, especially through the Presidential Scholars Program. ●

— Michele Reed



Oswego State Presidential Scholars and athletes gathered to thank supporters of the Fall Classic.

## Festa Fellowships Foster Leadership

Six SUNY Oswego graduate students were given extraordinary opportunities during the summer of 2007, made possible by the new Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship. The fellowship was founded by President and CEO of W.R. Grace & Co. **Fred Festa '81** and his wife, **MaryLynn Barbero Festa '82**.

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide graduate students with unique experiences in their field of interest that would not be possible without the fellowship stipend of \$5,000 to \$10,000. The fellowship goes beyond what an internship would entail, allowing students to gain leadership experience. In order to apply for a fellowship, students propose a site and mentor, as well as formulate a plan of study and a budget. They then undergo a review process to be selected.

Dean of Graduate Studies and Research David King said the fellowship program is “a very unique opportunity to work directly with leaders of businesses, educational and non-profit organizations. These placements are not entry-level internships, but rather positions of considerable responsibility mentored by someone in senior management in the organization.”

Three fellows were mentored by Executive Director of the Central New York Biotechnology Research Center Dr. John Fieschko. Graphic design student **Kacie Haynes '04 M '07** created Web site and promotional materials for CNY-BRC. **Jonathan Bentley M '07**, an MBA student, worked on financial planning at the center, while **Sagar Adik M '07**, also an MBA student, formulated a marketing plan and campaign.

“The Festa Fellowship at the CNY-BRC has proven to be extremely beneficial to my career as it has provided an out of the classroom opportunity to practically implement, demonstrate and test the acquired knowledge in my MBA program,” said Adik.

Human computer interaction student **Benjamin Hance '04 M '07** was mentored by Heather Erickson, president of Med Tech, where he helped to improve communication systems.

History major **Michael Lipton M '08** worked with Manager Paul Lear at Fort Ontario, learning the operations of a government histori-



**Michael Lipton M '08** (right), who was a Festa Fellow last summer at Fort Ontario, looks over some artifacts on the deck of the enlisted men's barracks with Historic Site Manager Paul Lear.

cal site. “The Festa Fellowship was a tremendous opportunity, allowing me to devote a summer to the study of local history, and providing experience in the practical world of the public historical trust. I truly enjoyed my time at Fort Ontario, and had the chance to involve myself in the many aspects of the site’s daily management,” Lipton said.

Educational administration student **Christine Walsh '04, M '07** had the opportunity to work with Dean DeSantis from The Frazer School in Syracuse, where she observed and even had a chance to take part in the routine of an urban school administrator. “The Festa Fellowship gave me the ultimate gift: It confirmed my life-long passion for building relationships and empowering people in educational settings,” Walsh wrote in the *Sheldon Sphere*.

Fellowships can be for the duration of one semester or summer, combined over the course of two semesters or a semester and a summer.

“This program will offer unique learning experiences for additional graduate students in the years ahead and will help us recruit more outstanding applicants for our graduate programs,” said King. ●

— Kristin Quinn '08

## Oswego's Endowment Doubles

Oswego State's endowment has more than doubled in the past five years, growing from \$4 million on July 1, 2002, to \$8.66 million on June 30, 2007.

The growth is due to the generosity of donors during *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego* and an excellent return on investment, 17.5 percent during the fiscal year ended June 30, according to Director of Finance for Alumni and Development Mark R. Slayton.

During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Foundation deposited nearly \$1 million in new gifts to the endowment, including a bequest of \$685,000, and \$250,000 from the first installment of a \$1 million donation by **Marcia Belmar Willock '50** to endow a professorship in finance, as well as several endowed scholarship donations by individuals.

Careful stewardship of the endowment by the Foundation's Investment Committee contributed to the substantial growth, Slayton added.

"The growth of our endowment is a testament to the loyalty and generosity of Oswego's supporters, including alumni, faculty and staff, and friends of the college," said Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations **Kerry Casey Dorsey '81**. "It will continue to make a difference in the lives of Oswego students for generations, as it grows and produces income to support scholarships, research and student life at Oswego." ●

## New Web Site Helps Gift Planning

OSWEGO'S PLANNED GIVING WEB SITE, LAUNCHED THIS FALL, gives donors a new tool for meeting their philanthropic goals.

"Our goal is to make it easy for those who love Oswego to support the college while still making sure their families are cared for," said Mark R. Slayton, director of finance for alumni and development.

The Web site offers an explanation of planned giving, options for giving and a calculator, so that visitors to the site can figure out the tax benefits of their planned gifts.

Alumni who have chosen to make planned gifts to Oswego share their stories of why they chose to leave a legacy to their alma mater.

Planned gifts, including bequests, trusts or annuities, are eligible for membership in the Sheldon Legacy Society. They also count toward *Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego*.

To access the planned giving site, go to [www.oswego.edu/giving](http://www.oswego.edu/giving) and click on Gift Planning. ●



Alumni and Development staffers gathered on the steps of the new Campus Center to wish the Foundation a happy birthday.

## Foundation Turns 60

The Oswego College Foundation Inc. is officially a senior citizen, having celebrated its 60th birthday. On June 23, 1947, a group of local people incorporated with three goals: to promote interaction among students and alumni; to aid students "in their work, student living and extracurricular activities"; and to establish a memorial to founder Edward Austin Sheldon.

Today the Foundation does all these things and more. It supports programs like Alumni Sharing Knowledge and Alumni in Residence; funds scholarships, library acquisitions and student-faculty research projects; and carries on the work of the founder through the Sheldon Legacy Society. ●

## Alumni Legacy Scholarship Offered

The Oswego Alumni Association announces the Alumni Legacy Scholarship. Three or four scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded each year to children, step-children or parents of SUNY Oswego alumni/alumnae. Candidates must be current SUNY Oswego students and demonstrate a commitment to the excellence of the college and the community through academic achievements, leadership and involvement in campus clubs and organizations. Complete the scholarship application and essay at <http://www.oswego.edu/giving/scholarships/index.html>.

The deadline is April 11. ●