

2009 Awards for Excellence

One- to Three-color Newsletters

O S W E G O Parents

A Publication of the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations
FALL 2008

Challenge Grants Grow Research

In the learner-centered environment of Oswego State, the student-teacher dynamic is the essence of the college experience. The annual Collaborative Challenge Grants established by Treasurer Marjorie '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 Scott Stajger '09 earned a Challenge Grant for a second time to help further a study of lake-effect lightning.

"It is thought that lightning frequency 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 bodies of lake-effect storms you'll ever find," said Letcher, a Maryland native who came to Oswego because of its unique weather and excellent meteorology program.

Other Challenge Grants awarded this year:

"Ambient Levels of Persistent and Emergent Air Toxins in Acadia National Park," Colleen Alenkyer '08 with James Pagano '74 of the chemistry faculty.

"An Investigation of the Phenological and Dynamic Processes of *El Limbo*," by Alberto M. Zela '09 with Juan Ari and Bruce Lang Ping of the curriculum and instruction faculty.

"Mid Power Generation at SUNY Oswego," Francis Carlen '05 with Al Darrin of the earth sciences faculty.

"Global Feminism Studies," Melissa Schaffer-Catalio '08 with Lisa Giddens of the political science faculty.



Scott Stajger '09 spends some time with students and weather equipment on the roof of the wall in his study photo.

"In exploring all the facets of the field," he said. "Research is exciting as far as the gifts to find things out before other people know about them."

Letcher will use the grant money to take his show on the road this summer, giving presentations at conferences and giving 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, Stajger said.

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

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

"A lot of what Kiefer and Letcher did will go into that proposal and strengthen it," Stajger said.

—Steve H. Letcher

Welcome from the President

When Inspiring Horizons: The Campaign for Oswego concluded on June 10, 2008, I was beyond expectations. We exceeded our campaign goal and raised \$21,857,114, making that college's first comprehensive campaign an overwhelming success. I am humbled 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 school. 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 laudatory endorsement of our educational mission.

The campaign's impact is significant. Through the generosity of our donors we have strategically advanced our academic goals, equipped 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 hard optimism on campus that defines 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 brighter.

—Doreen F. Stanby
President

Best of Category

SUNY Oswego Oswego Parents