

A look back at the schools within the college

by Ginny Campbell

School of Arts and Performance



"As enrollment continues to rise (a total 51 percent increase in the past decade), the School of Arts and Performance continues to showcase the talents of hundreds of students each year."

— Dean Sharon Vasquez

Arts and Performance kicked off 2001-02 with the Bill Stewart Exhibition and Bill Stewart Selects (an alumni invitational). Tim Massey, SUNY Brockport's new art gallery director, helped make the event and the exhibition catalog a huge success. Equally important for the Department of Art was the debut of **Chris Burnett** as the new director of Visual Studies Workshop, taking over the reins from the recently retired **Nathan Lyons**. The School enjoyed another highly productive year thanks to a small (53 faculty) but vibrant faculty.



Bill Stewart stands proudly beside his work of art. The exhibitor kicked off the 2001-02 season.

Contributions to the field included two books, 27 juried articles and book chapters, 15 new works of choreography, 20 art exhibitions (including solos and national shows), performance in or production of 12 plays off campus, two completed video projects, hosting a PBS-syndicated show and production of another, and many other professional contributions to the field by way of consulting, coaching, master classes and lecturing.

The School forged a partnership with BSG in an effort to provide students with discounted tickets to arts events. Student season passes increased by more than 300

percent! Campus and community audiences of more than 11,000 attended 100+ dance concerts, theatre performances, art exhibitions and music concerts as well as guest lectures, lecture-demonstrations and workshops.

The School's faculty generated dozens of grant applications. Many faculty in the arts disciplines successfully garnered funding for various projects. Significant grants were awarded to Physical Education and Sport (Joe Winnick, multi-year \$750,000) and Visual Studies Workshop (\$250,000 challenge grant). ■

School of Letters and Sciences



*"The 2001-02 academic year was one of continued growth and accomplishment."
— Michael Maggiotto
Dean of the School of Letters and Sciences*

The Lennon Hall Science Center, home to the Departments of Biological Sciences, Environmental Science and Biology, and The Earth Sciences, was opened with much fanfare and rave reviews following a two-year \$12.5-million head-to-toe renovation. Women's Studies grew from a minor to a major. Distinguished graduates from the School of Letters and Sciences such as **John S. Tritak '85**, director of the federal Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office, who gave the first William C. Rock Endowment lecture, returned to share their experiences with the campus community. Faculty and students were recognized for outstanding achievement. Some include **Arden Buholtz**, professor of history, who was named distinguished teaching professor by SUNY, bringing to 25 the number of "distinguished professors" at the College. In addition, **Robert Strayer**, professor of history, received the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities; and **T. Gregory Garvey**, assistant professor of English, and **Carolyn Greene**, lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, received a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. And **Sanford Miller**,

professor of mathematics, received an honorary doctoral degree from Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania. Writers from the School of Letters and Sciences won their share of accolades in 2001-02. **Judith Kitchen** won the Gable Award from Greywolf Press for her book *The House on Eccles Road*. Penguin Putnam Books picked up paperback rights to the book. **Sonja Livingston**, a graduate student in the Department of English, won a prestigious Intro Award from the Associated Writing Programs organization. **Anne Panning**, assistant professor of English, won The Hackney Literary Award. And Michael Maggiotto, dean of the School of Letters and Sciences, received the V. O. Key Jr. Award for the Best Book on Southern Politics from the Southern Political Science Association. The Writers Forum, in conjunction with M&T Bank, awarded the third Art of Fact Award to author/public television essayist **Richard Rodriguez**. SUNY Brockport even made national television as **David Holtzman**, assistant professor of psychology, was featured on the National Geographic Channel's *Reptile Wild* with **Brady Barr**. ■



*"The primary goal of the School of Professions is quality."
Dean Joseph Mason
How true in 2001-02.*

School of Professions

The centerpieces of activity in the School of Professions during 2001-02 were the many accreditation processes. Counselor education, nursing and social work received accreditation; while business administration and economics, the master's degree in social work and the professional education unit geared up for accreditation visits. The School also had significant additions to its faculty with 14 new members accepting positions.

The Institute for Public Safety Policy Studies, developed by Department of Criminal Justice faculty, received Presidential Staff approval. The Institute will provide research, program development and evaluation, and professional development services to public safety and criminal justice organizations nationwide. The Institute, co-directed by Professors **Gary Metz** and **Richard Lumb**,



Gary Metz

Richard Lumb

chair of the department, is staffed by several faculty partners and offers diverse and broad-based expertise germane to a variety of public safety needs. ■

Volunteers & Donors Campaigns

Eight people with a lot to give

by Megan White '02

A winning combination

Richard Fenton and **Anne Parsons '82** teamed up to chair SUNY Brockport's most successful Faculty & Staff Campaign ever. Backed by the slogan, "Because we know you believe in student success," Fenton and Parsons led a volunteer-driven effort that surpassed its goal by 35.6 percent. In addition, the participation rate rose from 15 percent to 19.4 percent. The grand total raised a whopping \$98,971.75.

The annual Faculty & Staff Campaign gives employees of the College the opportunity to weave themselves more fully into the fabric of student success through their

philanthropy. The majority of gifts to last year's campaign support Brockport's Extraordinary Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to the top-achieving students who apply to the College. The scholarships are instrumental in attracting "the best and brightest" and raising the College's standard of excellence.

"Both Rich and I are delighted with the amount that was raised and hope the pattern continues in the future," said Parsons. They thanked the nearly 50 volunteers who drove the fund-raising campaign. It was truly a team effort. ■



Anne Parsons '82 and Richard Fenton

"Because we know you believe in student success," led a volunteer-driven effort that surpassed its goal by 35.6 percent.

Planning for Brockport's future

Thelma Quicke '36 has worked from the time she was 14 years old. At age 86, she still conducts workshops. After graduating from Brockport, she studied at some of the best colleges and universities in the country: Carnegie Mellon, Cornell and Duke. She was a social worker, specifically with children, in New York state, Connecticut and Ohio. She holds a PhD and she gives all of the credit for her very successful career to her Alma Mater. "Brockport gave me the start," she said. "If Brockport hadn't seen

something in me to give me the start, I would never have made it—and I consider that I have made it."

To give something back to the school, she has chosen to name the College in her will with an irrevocable trust. She is one of the newest members of SUNY Brockport's Gloria Mattera Heritage Society.

She has had a great life, growing up in a happy home, working hard and fulfilling a passion by singing in nightclubs. Once out of school, she never lived at home, always

going to where she could find the best job and the best opportunity. She had several of each.

Of her many credos, two stand out: "You have to be good; you have to be the smartest you can be because you have to make it on your own," and "What you're left with is your own belief in yourself."

Thelma Quicke—an independent woman who credits the College with the start of her remarkable career. ■

Caring about Brockport



Beal, a retired instructor of reading and volunteer leader, stresses the importance of staying involved and participating in College and community events.

Brenda Beal '60 is a Brockport alumna who chose to stay active in the College community even after graduation. Beal serves as treasurer and has been a member of the Brockport Alumni Association Board of Directors for the past seven years; she also is a member of the Brockport College Foundation Board.

“Brockport gave me a solid foundation for my teaching career, which led to my becoming a college professor, and I feel that it is now my turn to give something back,”

she said. In addition, staying connected to the College through the Alumni Association has allowed her to rekindle past friendships and create strong relationships with people she otherwise would not have come to know.

Beal also believes in the importance of alumni supporting the College through annual contributions. “There are many ways to show that you care about Brockport. But, to me, it’s one of the most important ways of showing that you care about the past, present and future of your Alma Mater.” ■

Former adult student stays active to help SUNY Brockport

James H. Keeler '85 is the chair of the College Council, a board made up of representatives from the community who are appointed to serve by the governor. The members of the Council hold leadership positions in the community, serve as ambassadors for the College and have an advisory, regulatory and advocacy role in College affairs.

Keeler, who has pursued a career in construction, is president of Keeler Construction Company, a heavy and highway contractor based in Albion, NY. He also is a member of the Board of Directors of the Associated General Contractors of America and the National Asphalt Pavement Association, which gives him a national perspective for his business and his work on the Council.

“Five years ago I was given the opportunity to serve on the College Council and later appointed chairman. I am pleased to serve and support SUNY Brockport because the educational opportunities it offers are outstanding,” said Keeler. “About 20 years ago I decided to take some college courses to enhance and diversify my interests and improve my business skills. Brockport offered the convenience of course offerings at a time and location that fit my work schedule. I was especially impressed with the first class quality of the faculty members who provided instruction and guidance in these courses. ‘Expect the Extraordinary’ truly is emblematic of a level of excellence that continues to make Brockport a shining star.” ■



James Keeler '85 attended SUNY Brockport as an adult student. The experience left such an impact on his life, he decided to stay involved with the College community after completing his degree.

Helping make Brockport extraordinary!



“As the father of Brockport football, Bob was very deserving of this honor,” said Joseph Bellanca. “He built the program from scratch and laid the foundation for where it is today. And, he’s a great man.”

Joseph Bellanca '59 and the members of the College’s football teams back in the late 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s wanted to do something special for the program’s first coach, **Bob Boozer**. It had to have something to do with the program that he founded. It had to do with football.

In the spring of 2001, Bellanca and several of his former teammates began discussing a fund-raising project to name the field where the Golden Eagles play in honor of their mentor. “Bob Boozer Field” at Special Olympics Field was their dream; they needed \$100,000 to make it a reality.

And so Bellanca and his teammates got right to work. He served as the unofficial chairman for planning and fund raising for the project, working hand-in-hand with former teammate **Frank “Pinkie” Marino '58**. Using the creative idea of “selling” yard lines at \$1,000 each, and working closely with alumni of the track and field program (Boozer coached that sport from 1948 to 1968), the group met its goal just hours before the actual ceremony announcing the naming of the field on Homecoming and Family Weekend. An extraordinary effort for an extraordinary man. ■

Bettering the lives of Brockport students



Dawn and Jacques Lipson have made a generous, multi-year pledge to support Brockport student scholarships. Over the next several years they will endow a new scholarship with gifts totaling \$20,000.

Jacques and Dawn Lipson have a serious interest in helping to improve the quality of life for SUNY Brockport students. Both serve as members of the Brockport College Foundation. Jacques Lipson, a practitioner of internal medicine, has been on the Board since 2001. Dawn Lipson, who is active

with the Alliance of Monroe County Medical Society, joined the Board last June.

In addition to creating a new scholarship, the Lipson's are making annual contributions to assist students in immediate need, rather than waiting for the scholarship endowment to generate the funds

needed for the scholarship to be awarded.

Last year, the Lipsons pledged \$1,000 to support a student in the performing arts. However, when the couple met the three finalists who were selected by the Department of Dance, they were so impressed with each of the students that they increased their contribution to \$3,000, supporting all three students.

While the Lipsons are interested in supporting the performing arts, they also are interested in supporting the Department of Nursing because of their own personal involvement in the medical profession. They plan to alternate the scholarship yearly to benefit an arts and performance student one year, a nursing student the next. By regularly contributing to the College now and setting up a scholarship for the future, the Lipsons are accomplishing both their short- and long-term objectives—supporting student success. ■



This piece of equipment provides a safer way for students to weigh noxious chemicals accurately. A balance, or scale, is placed inside the enclosure, and air is drawn into the enclosure and away from the person weighing the material.

Equipped for success

What may seem like a small amount of money to Wyeth-Lederle Vaccines has made a big difference to the students in the Department of Chemistry. The company donated a like-new vented balance safety enclosure, which was recently installed in one of the College's chemistry laboratories. The cost of purchasing one of these baffled, plexiglass balance enclosures is approximately \$1,500. Before Wyeth-Lederle Vaccines donated the balance enclosure, weighing strong-smelling or toxic materials presented a challenge for chemistry students and faculty. Fortunately, Wyeth-Lederle Vaccines found that it had accumulated pieces of scientific equipment that it no longer needed and requested their Community Education Committee to provide a list of the surplus equipment to area colleges to see whether this equipment could be put to good use in the educational environment.

When Department of Chemistry Assistant Professor **Maggie Logan** saw the balance enclosure on the equipment list, she knew that it would be a useful addition to the department, one that would improve safety in teaching and in undergraduate research. Fortunately, Logan was successful in the NFL draft-style "bidding" for the equipment that took place at Wyeth-Lederle's labs, and she was awarded the balance enclosure as her first-round draft choice! ■

SUNY Brockport alumnus fights for homeland security

by Nicholas Mascari



John Tritak

Everyone's lives were turned upside down by the events of September 11, 2001.

But for **John S. Tritak** '85 the terrible loss of life and destruction came as "a shock but not as a surprise." As director of the federal Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office (CIAO) since 1998, Tritak has been keenly aware of the range of threats to US citizens, its property and its systems.

Tritak made his comments during a two-day visit to the SUNY Brockport campus last April, during which time the Churchville, NY, native met with students and faculty. He spoke with students in Assistant Professor of Political Science **Dena Levy's** "American Presidency" class where he discussed the role of presidential advisors as well as infrastructure security issues.

"He was very helpful," said Levy. "He gave students the living, working reality that books and classroom discussion can't convey. I think he also got students motivated because they see someone in that position who only a short time ago was in their position as a student. I'm sure some of them said, 'if he can do it, maybe I can do it.'"

Tritak also presented the first annual William C. Rock Endowment Lecture. His message was clear. To prevent further attacks on the US, both government and the private sector will have to work closely to plug the security gaps that terrorists seek to exploit.

"Weapons of mass disruption" is how

Tritak refers to terror tactics that threaten Americans' infrastructure...an infrastructure made up of a range of fields that make the American economy and society function, spanning agriculture, to food and water supply, to public health, to banking, finance and transportation, and everything in between. The threats, said Tritak, are real and varied. They can be as obvious as bombs and bullets, or more subtle yet potentially more devastating forms of cyber-terrorism that, if successful, could cripple the US's ability to carry on commerce and government. "And one does not have to be a cyber-terrorist or an information warrior to obtain and use these new weapons of mass disruption," he added.

"Our society, economy, and government are increasingly linked together into an ever-expanding national digital nervous system. Disruptions to that system, however and wherever they arise, can cascade well beyond the vicinity of the initial occurrence and can cause regional and, potentially, national disturbances," Tritak said in testimony presented recently at a Congressional hearing on infrastructure security.

"To complicate matters further," he added, "each of the critical infrastructure sectors is becoming increasingly interdependent and interconnected. Disruptions in one sector are increasingly likely to affect adversely the operations of others. There can be no e-commerce without "e," electricity. There can be no e-commerce without e-communications."

What is the CIAO and why is it important?

CIAO is part of the Department of Commerce. It was created in May 1998 by presidential directive to serve as an inter-agency office coordinating federal initiatives to assure the integrity of America's critical infrastructure. Tritak describes his agency as the intersection of national security with business affairs, since much of his time is spent raising awareness of the need for

higher levels of security and encouraging government-business partnerships to increase infrastructure security.

Liberal arts program pointed the way

Tritak's self-proclaimed goal following high school was "to become a body builder." His SUNY Brockport experience changed that. He credits much of his career success to his years at SUNY Brockport and in particular to the members of the faculty who helped develop his interests and talents. "I didn't know I was doing it when I did it, but the liberal arts education I received at Brockport gave me the critical thinking tools to go into the public policy area," he said. "The Washington Semester Program was particularly important for me," he added. After graduating, Tritak earned a Master's in War Studies from the University of London, King's College, and a JD from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Peter Marchant, professor of English emeritus, was a mentor to Tritak during his undergraduate days. He's kept in close contact with him over the years, "John is one of the most extraordinary students I've ever known. He is highly intelligent and has an enormous curiosity and desire to learn. He was always full of questions."

Marchant says he will never forget his first meeting with college junior Tritak. "He burst into my office and I thought I was looking at the Incredible Hulk. At the time he was a computer science major but he said, 'I want to learn more about the liberal arts. I hear you help people do that,'" Marchant recalled. "And he's been driving himself to learn ever since," he added. ■

Editor's Note: To learn more about the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office, go to: www.ciao.gov. To learn more about political science and the SUNY Brockport Washington Semester Program, go to www.brockport.edu.