Moments matter. A 7-year-old learns a new Korean word. The audience applauds on opening night of a student-directed play. A mathematics major tells her peers about an independent research project. The moments captured in this booklet illustrate a typical fall week at SUNY Oneonta. Taken together, they show how the themes of our strategic plan—Teaching, Learning and Scholarship, Student Engagement, Global Connectedness, Community Partnership, Sustainability and Diversity — are making a difference on our campus, day by day.
STUDENTS DANCE AT A GREAT GATSBY-THEMED DRAG BALL IN THE HUNT COLLEGE UNION BALLROOM DURING THE 2ND ANNUAL SUNY PRIDE CONFERENCE, ORGANIZED BY THE COLLEGE’S GENDER AND SEXUALITY ALLIANCE AND THE GENDER & SEXUALITY RESOURCE CENTER.

THE DRAG BALL WAS THE CULMINATION OF A DAY OF 14 WORKSHOPS GIVEN BY FACULTY AND STAFF FROM SEVERAL SUNY CAMPUSES, INCLUDING A PRESENTATION ON LGBTQ COMMUNITIES OF COLOR BY SUNY ONEONTA FACULTY EDDY ALVAREZ, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AFRICANA AND LATINO STUDIES, AND JORGE ESTRADA, VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES. THIS YEAR’S CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON DEVELOPING STUDENT LEADERSHIP WITHIN DIVERSE GENDER AND SEXUALITY COMMUNITIES.

SUNDAY

11:33 AM
Freshman Jaclynn LoGatto and her mom, Cindy, walk their first lap at the seventh Oneonta Walk for Kidneys, with Jaclynn’s marketing professor, Dr. Steve Walsh. Cindy was visiting from Long Island for Homecoming & Family Weekend. The kidney walk, coordinated by the college’s Center for Social Responsibility and Community, has raised more than $90,000 for the Northeast Kidney Foundation over the past seven years.

4:41 PM
Sophomore JD Gardner meets with friends interested in forming LAUGH, a new student club dedicated to comedy writing, improvisation and production.

5:45 PM
Senior Tim Greene shares a 15-word description of a novel he’s been working on since 2006—“Abandoned misfit teen is dragged to his father’s world to pay for his father’s crimes”—during a Creative Writing Club workshop with Shannon Kauderer, municipal liaison of the Albany National Novel Writing Month organization. Greene envisions his novel as the first in a six-book children’s fantasy adventure series about a boy who is kidnapped and hunted by an evil lord from another world.
DURING A STAGED READING OF THE LARAMIE PROJECT, SUNY ONEONTA SENIOR KEVIN SUTTON PORTRAYS AARON MCKINNEY, ONE OF TWO MEN ACCUSED OF BEATING GAY COLLEGE STUDENT MATTHEW SHEPARD AND LEAVING HIM TO DIE IN 1998 IN LARAMIE, WYOMING.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT draws on hundreds of interviews with people who lived in Laramie, journal entries and published news reports about Shepard’s murder, which was denounced as a hate crime and brought attention to the lack of hate crime laws in various states. Directed by senior Charlene Beckwith, the reading was part of Suny Oneonta’s identity play reading series, which features plays about diversity, inclusion and individuality.
12:40 PM
In the atrium of the renovated Fitzelle Hall, SUNY Oneonta’s largest academic building, Brooke Gamils tutors Stephanie Peña for Math 108 at one table (left). Meanwhile, John Rein prepares for a personal training seminar, sitting with friends Nicole LaRusso and Sierra Earle as they eat lunch.

6:01 PM
After watching a clip from a Japanese game show where contestants must answer questions within 60 seconds to avoid being turned into a human mummy, pairs of students wrap one another in toilet paper during a mummy race. Students at the Halloween-themed “J Party,” hosted by the Japanese Society for All, also learned the Japanese words for cute (kawaii) and scary (kowai). The JSA club hosts weekly events to celebrate and spread knowledge of Japanese culture.

6:26 PM
Seniors Luke Nilsson and Tyler O’Neil practice using a sound-editing software program in recording Studio A of the Fine Arts building during Audio Arts 4, a music industry class taught by Lecturer Andres Balins.

7:36 PM
Economics major Mike Coleman answers a question about why it’s difficult to pinpoint the natural rate of unemployment during a dress rehearsal for the 2014 College Fed Challenge competition. Three days later, Coleman and 12 other students on the SUNY Oneonta Fed Challenge team traveled to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City for the competition, where they advanced to the semifinal round.

SAKI YOSHIHARA, AN EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM SEINAN GAKUIN UNIVERSITY IN JAPAN, CROSSES A CREEK AT SUNY ONEONTA’S COLLEGE CAMP DURING A HIKE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

Wednesday

11:52 AM

Employee Assistance Program Coordinator Melissa Nicosia ties a knot joining two pieces of blue fleece together to form a warm blanket ringed with fringe. More than a dozen student and staff volunteers worked together over a two-day period to assemble 45 colorful fleece blankets for local cancer and hospice patients. No sewing was required, just cutting, stretching and tying. (It takes about 140 knots to complete each blanket.) A fundraiser held on campus earlier in the month raised $450 to purchase the materials.

2:35 PM

Members of the wrestling team rake leaves at the Lutheran church on West Street in Oneonta as part of the annual Athletics Department leaf raking community service project, which dates back to 2005. Throughout the week, student athletes from 13 teams raked more than 50 lawns for the elderly and others in need of assistance in Oneonta and surrounding communities.

3:40 PM

Dressed as a kangaroo, Brenna Geib sells Halloween candygrams with friends on the quad to raise money for the Terpsichorean Dance Company, one of more than 100 student organizations on campus.

4:53 PM

Iranian-born author, illustrator and film director Marjane Satrapi answers a question during an informal Q&A with students, faculty and staff before delivering the college's annual Mills Distinguished Lecture.

Satrapi is the author of the critically acclaimed, comic-style book *Persepolis*, which incoming SUNY Oneonta freshmen read and discussed in fall courses as part of the annual common read. Set in Tehran in the 1970s and 1980s, the book chronicles Satrapi’s childhood against the background of the Islamic revolution and Iran-Iraq War. Initiated in 2013, SUNY Oneonta’s common read encourages students to examine and better understand topics such as equity, inclusion and personal history through many lenses.
ELEVENARY EDUCATION MAJOR TYLER ITZKOWITZ SHARES A BOOK WITH TWO FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS VISITING SUNY ONEONTA ON A FIELD TRIP TO LEARN ABOUT COLLEGE LIFE.

ABOUT TWO DOZEN FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS FROM TWO MAGNET SCHOOLS IN AMSTERDAM, NY, TOURED CLASSROOMS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES AND A RESIDENCE HALL, AND HAD A SNACK AT MILLS DINING HALL.

TWO OF THE STUDENTS’ TEACHERS ARE ALUMNI OF THE COLLEGE’S EDUCATION PROGRAM. “A LOT OF THESE KIDS’ FAMILIES HAVE NEVER BEEN TO COLLEGE,” SAID DALE COMLEY, A 2013 GRADUATE WHO TEACHES AT THE WILLIAM B. TECLER ARTS IN EDUCATION MAGNET SCHOOL. “THESE KIDS DON’T EVEN REALIZE THEY COULD GO TO COLLEGE, SO IT’S BEEN A GOOD PARTNERSHIP.”

Freezing rain doesn’t deter lake management master’s program students Jenna Leskovec, Maxine Vertetamo and Luke Gervase from canoeing on Arnold Lake in Hartwick, NY. The students were doing water-quality profiling and data collection, including measuring pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and conductivity at each meter of water depth, as part of developing a management plan for the watershed.

Cast members Kyle Brown, Eve Ruddy and Victoria Shure wait backstage during opening night of the student-directed play 9 Circles in SUNY Oneonta’s Hamblin Theatre. “Students say the student-directed shows are most important for them, because they do everything themselves,” says Patrice Macaluso, theatre professor and department chair.

SUNY Oneonta senior Colton Cox walks beneath the Bridge of Sighs in London on his way to the library. An aspiring academic with an obsession for old books, strong coffee and Modernist poetry, Cox spent the fall semester studying abroad at the University of Oxford.

3:30 pm GMT

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10:41 AM

Faculty members from the departments of art, marketing, mathematics, music and philosophy discuss “The Ugliness of Aesthetics” during a Center for Social Science Research Diversity Series program.

12:32 pm

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History Professor Bill Simons discusses presidential politics and the elections of the 1820s during a class in Fitzelle 205, one of 23 new classrooms in the college’s largest academic building, which re-opened in August 2014 after undergoing a complete renovation.

Philosophy Lecturer Jean-Paul Orgeron teaches about René Descartes and his Meditations on First Philosophy during a Philosophy 101 class in Fitzelle.

Wearing gray and pink T-shirts with the message “choose hope, not fear,” the Oneonta women’s volleyball team warms up for the annual Dig Pink invitational in the Dewar Arena of the Alumni Field House. Sophomore Kassidy Kievit designed the T-shirt for the two-day event, which raised more than $1,200 for breast cancer research and patient support through the sale of shirts, pink ribbons and bracelets.

Hana Chae, a criminal justice and psychology major from Korea, teaches 7-year-old Ian Brissette-King how to say and write the word “orange” in Korean during the weekly Korean Kids Café, where international students share their language and culture with community children.
SUNY ONEONTA ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR ERIKA CLERC TESTS A BOTTLE ROCKET SHE MADE WITH STUDENTS IN A “MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS” ENRICHMENT SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY THE CATSKILL AREA SCHOOL STUDY COUNCIL.

IN ANOTHER SEMINAR, CALLED “COOL SCIENCE,” BIOLOGY MAJOR MADELINE GENCO SHOWED FIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS HOW TO EXTRACT DNA FROM A STRAWBERRY DURING A LESSON ON CELL OSMOSIS AND DIFFUSION. A TOTAL OF 20 SUNY ONEONTA STUDENT VOLUNTEERS TAUGHT OR ASSISTED WITH THE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR SERIES FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. OTHER TOPICS INCLUDED BABYSITTING, ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY CRAFTS AND GAMES, AND DANCE.

11:13 AM

11:55 AM

12:44 pm

Ten students in a hiking and backpacking course trek three miles carrying 40-pound packs at SUNY Oneonta’s 284-acre College Camp. Accompanied by Health and Fitness Department Lecturers Joel Skinner and Libby Bernard, the students learned about knot tying, water purification, group dynamics and leadership during the overnight trip.

12:58 pm

Senior Gabrielle Neroda and freshman Sarah Sypher wipe down tables after the weekly Saturday’s Bread free lunch at the First United Methodist Church. It was their first time volunteering at the Oneonta soup kitchen, which has student volunteers coordinated by the college’s Center for Social Responsibility and Community every week of the school year.

2:30 pm

Four students in a newly formed environmental conservation club check Eastern bluebird nest boxes at Glimmerglass State Park in Cooperstown. Environmental science major Brandon Panensky, who did an internship at the park, also received a grant to buy and install 20 nest boxes on campus and at the College Camp to help protect the endangered state bird.

Food Service and Restaurant Administration students Brooke McCullen and Kim Demeo serve dishes featuring golden beets, carnival squash and sweet potatoes at the Oneonta Farmers’ Market on Main Street. Lecturer Sean Taylor initiated the weekly service project to educate community members about the concept of “farm to table,” demonstrate how to prepare unfamiliar foods, and help local farmers sell their produce.