All,

As you have already heard from Ed, this year’s IDS Summer Conference, August 5th & 6th will be held at SUNY Oswego. The Oswego staff are delighted to welcome members of the IDS project to our campus, which is definitely at its best during summer months.

For those of you who may not be aware of it the Oswego campus is situated right on the sparkling southern shoreline of Lake Ontario.

Winters can be disagreeable but summers are a delight.

We are planning a particularly fun time on Tuesday evening August 5th starting with cocktails and dinner at a restaurant on the lake in Oswego harbor. Following our meal, we will bus the group back to Penfield Library’s cozy Lake Effect Café for an evening of live jazz, wine, beer, and birthday cake. We will be celebrating the 5th anniversary of the inception of IDS as well as honoring our wonderful mentor group and their home libraries.

Attendees at this year’s conference will have a variety of on and off campus housing choices, ranging from very inexpensive dorm lodgings on the Lake (air-conditioned) to rooms for one or two in two different hotels, both facing out on the Oswego River and Lake Ontario.

The hotel farthest out toward the Lake, Best Western Captain’s Quarters, (all rooms have a river view) is definitely more expensive ($120./night for singles and $130. for doubles),
but it’s a great location and very scenic. If you would like to make your reservation you may call 315-342-4040. Be sure to mention you are attending the IDS Conference. Reservations need to be made before July 14, 2008 to receive the reduced Conference rate.

The second hotel, Econo Lodge, just to the south of the Captain’s Quarters, also is on the river and less pricey at $85.50/night for singles or doubles. If you would like to make your reservation at Econo Lodge, call 315-343-1600. Again, be sure to mention you are attending the IDS Conference. Reservations need to be made before July 4, 2008 to receive the reduced rate at this hotel.

Both hotels are within easy walking distance of Patz Restaurant where we are gathering for dinner on Tuesday evening. They are about 2 miles from campus.

Your best buy is a dorm room, with singles going for just $35, and doubles for $23/person. To arrange for a dorm room, call Nancy Louis at 315-312-2938. Nancy is available Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The dorm we will be staying in, Johnson Hall, was redecorated last summer and is in good shape.

For those of you who are traveling a distance and attending the Monday afternoon mentors meeting, dorm rooms are available on Sunday night, as well as Monday and Tuesday. Staying in the dorms has the benefit of keeping you within easy walking distance of the Campus Center and the Library, and, unlike Geneseo, we have no hills.

We have a new Campus Center building at Oswego where most of the Tuesday/ Wednesday meetings will take place. Monday’s meeting will be in the Library. We will be posting maps to the campus, of the campus and of the interior of the campus center (it’s big) on the Conference web-site soon. One of the two major bridges over the Oswego River is closed this summer for repairs, but never fear, our directions will include detour information leading you safely to campus.

By the way, the deadline for conference registration is July 20th.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our campus come August. Please don’t hesitate to be in touch if we can do anything to make your travel and/or your stay with us easier. Those coming into Syracuse by train or plane will need to let us know your arrival time so that we can have someone there to pick you up. The airport is about 40 miles south of Oswego, as is the train station. The run to Oswego is very direct, however, on excellent roads.

Any questions that you might have can be directed to either me at 315-312-2724 (mbell@oswego.edu); Connie Fowler at 315-312-4233 (fowler@oswego.edu); Deb Graham at 315-312-4232 (dgraham@oswego.edu) or Shannon Pritting at 315-312-3567 (pritting@oswego.edu).

We have some of the most spectacular sunsets over the Lake that you have seen anywhere. I’ll leave you with a look at a recent one. The Lake is literally across the street from the Library and the Campus Center and our conference planners are working to try to secure a lake view for all of us bunking in the dorms. This is a view that we see almost every evening during the summer months. We are looking forward to sharing it with you come August!
Sunset over Lake Ontario – taken from SUNY Oswego campus

See you soon.

Mary Beth Bell
Library Director
SUNY Oswego