

ALUMNI REUNIONS WILL BE A SUCCESS

SUNY Cortland graduates

see friends, view campus

By **ROBERT CRENNAN**
Staff Reporter

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Ronald Jones couldn't get over how much SUNY Cortland has changed.

When he was a student 53 years ago, only 2,000 classmates dotted the campus; today, more than 7,000 fill it. His companion at Alumni Weekend, Sandee Pratt of the class of '66, appreciated all the options for women since Title IX in 1972 required schools to offer equitable opportunities to women students.

The two came from Aiken, South Carolina, to reunite — and in some cases meet for the first time — their brothers and sisters at Gamma Tau Sigma fraternity and Sigma Rho Sigma mena sorority. They joined several generations of SUNY Cortland alumni.

Jones, class of '64, majored in recreation and education. Pratt majored in physical education.

They return periodically, the last time in 2014 — Jones' 50th year class reunion.

The best part for Jones and Pratt was seeing all the new opportunities available for students now that were not available when they attended.

"The size of the campus is huge," Pratt said. "It's a major college now."

The Red Dragon Network, SUNY Cortland's alumni group, hosted the reunion day, which included a barbecue at

Alumni House on Tompkins Street and tours of the Student Life Center, which opened in 2015. Julian Wright, the director of Recreation Sports, conducted tours of the facility for about 100 alumni. Roughly 450 alumni registered for the weekend alumni weekend, the same as the previous year, according to the event organizers.

Alumni can use the facility, something Wright wanted to make sure was available.

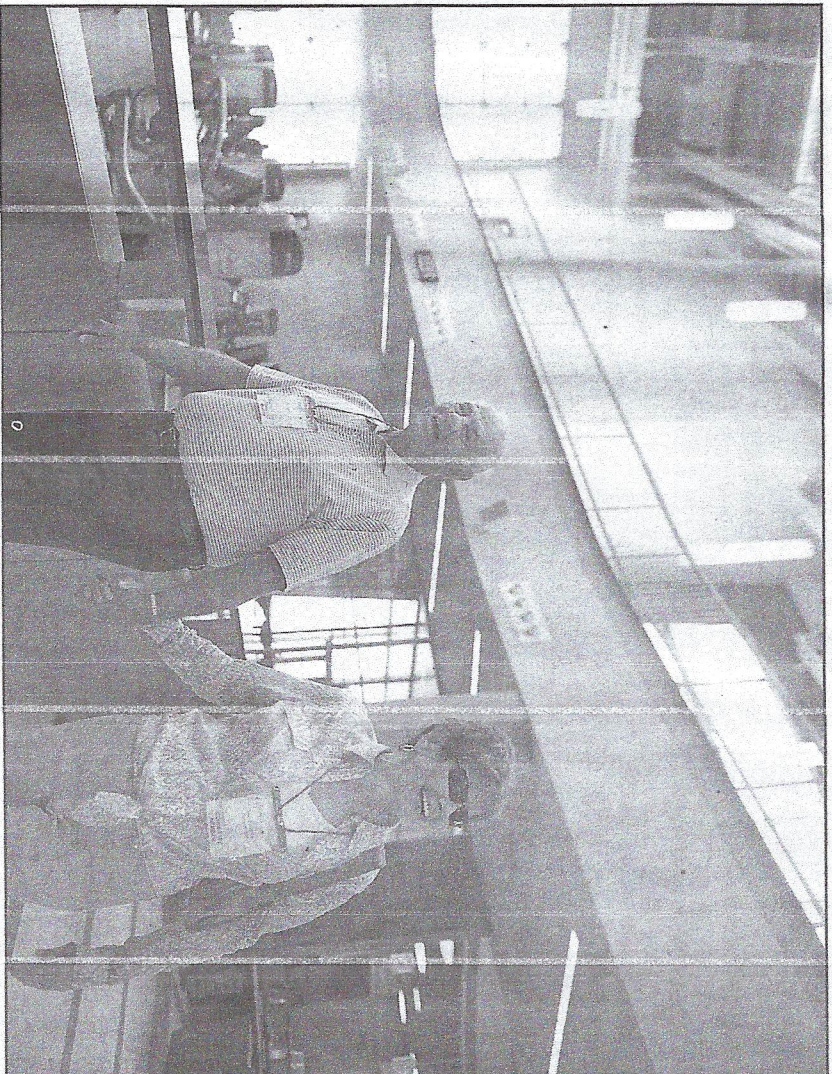
"It's always great to have them back," Wright said. "The best SUNY Cortland is, the better value their degree has."

Lou Saltrelli, a physical education major, and Joan Piscrotta, an elementary education major, both of the class of '62, come to Cortland every five years for a class reunion from their home in New Hope, Pennsylvania. They met their freshman year and got married after graduating.

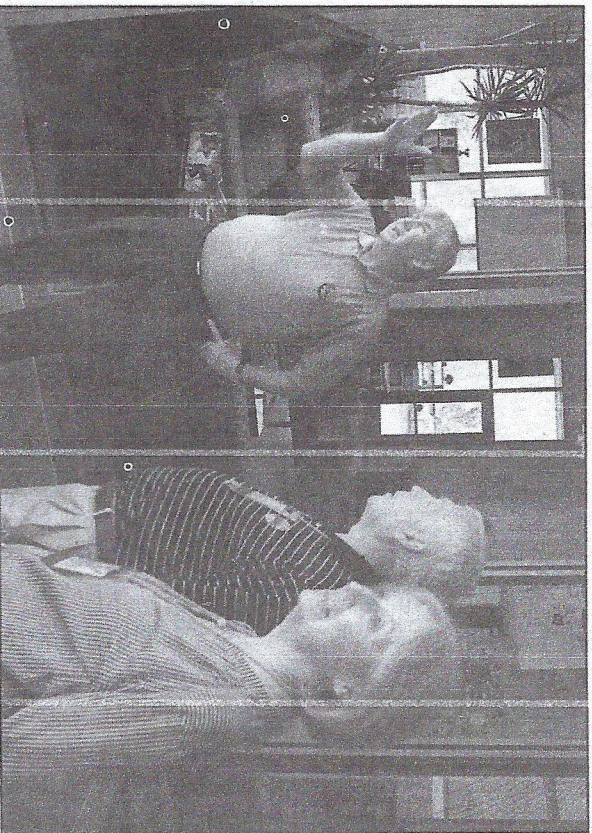
"The best part is getting re-acquainted with old friends, and seeing how the college has grown," Saltrelli said.

Like Jones and Pratt, Saltrelli and Piscrotta found the campus dramatically different from their time here. Saltrelli played for the school's football team, whose field used to be behind the Old Main building. The freshman men had to live off-campus while the women had on-campus housing — with a 10 p.m. weekday curfew, mid-night on weekends.

"We both had a good time here," Piscrotta said.



Photos by Joe McInthy/staff photographer



SUNY Cortland class of '62 alumni Lou Saltrelli and Joan Piscrotta tour the Student Life Center during a class reunion Saturday. **BELOW:** SUNY Cortland Student Center Director of Recreation and Sports Julian Wright, left, gives a tour to alumni Ronald Jones, '64, and his wife, Sandee Pratt, '66, Saturday during class reunions.

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