

## OCC Swim Teams Win NJCAA Swimming Non-Scholarship Championships

Ocean County College's Men's and Women's Swim Teams each won the Non-Scholarship Division of the 2009 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Swimming and Diving National Championships. The event was held at Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York, from Wednesday, March 4 to Saturday, March 7, 2009.

While OCC's swimmers have consistently placed in the top ten nationally under Head Coach Steve Stout, this is the first time in school history that either team has placed first among non-

scholarship colleges.

In the final overall national results, the OCC women captured fourth, while the men took sixth.

The OCC Swim Teams, comprised of athletes throughout Ocean County as well as statewide, compete against a variety of Division I, II, III, and Junior College swim teams during the competitive season, which runs from November through March.

This past season, many of the OCC swimmers, both men and women, broke school records, and then capped off the



Members of the OCC Men's and Women's Swim Teams at the NJCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, where both teams finished first in the Non-Scholarship Division.

impressive season with their dual triumphs at the National Championships.

**See P.3 for more swimming news!**

## Athletic Department Wins First-Ever Region XIX "Champions of Character" Award

The Champions of Character Award is given to a Region XIX Athletic Department which exhibits outstanding results in character development of its student-athletes and coaches by embracing the true spirit of competition through five core values of respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership, and sportsmanship.



Assistant Athletic Director A.J. Trump and Athletic Director Ilene Cohen

The athletic program selected demonstrates outstanding involvement in the community, which results in positive character development through sports. The first ever Region XIX Athletic Department selected for this award is Ocean County College, based on their student-athlete and team academic success as well as their success in competition and numerous ways the teams have given back to the community.

## OCC Athletic Department Earns National and Regional Recognition

The National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) which was established in 1987, is the professional organization of two year college athletics administrators. Membership is open to all two year institutions throughout the country. Now in its 22nd year, NATYCAA is the only professional organization that represents all two year institutions of higher education in the US. The organization is dedicated to the continuing growth and development of two year college athletics and the individuals involved through exchange of information, monitoring of legislation, promotion of academic excellence, increasing communication between organizations, recognizing athletic department excellence and encouraging a high degree of integrity in all endeavors.

The recognition of outstanding overall program excellence is rewarded in the NATYCAA Cup point system which began in 2004. This program recognizes excellence in two-year college athletics based on success in championship competition.

In the 2007-08 academic year Ocean

### NATYCAA CUP STANDINGS 2008-09 (non-scholarship division)

NON SCHOLARSHIP COLLEGES GRAND TOTALS BY SCORE			
COLLEGE	Men's Total	Women's Total	Grand Total
College of DuPage	70	70	140
Mohawk Valley CC	79.5	58	137.5
Gloucester CC	58	49	107
Harper College	67.5	32	99.5
Herkimer CCC	52	47	99
Rochester CC, MN	40.5	55	95.5
Nassau CCC	54	35.5	89.5
SUNY Delhi	51	36	87
<b>OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>80</b>
Hudson Valley CC	44.5	31	75.5

County College was ranked among the top twenty (#17) in the country for this award. Now in 2008-09 our OCC athletes have excelled and taken our program to the top ten in the country (#9).

**ATHLETICS FACT:**  
 37% of Student-Athletes this year are NJSTARS recipients.



## DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

**45+ CREDITS 3.8+ GPA**

Allison Bankos --- 4.0 GPA  
 Kyrill Petrosyan --- 4.0 GPA  
 Stephen Kennelly  
 Jeffrey Capone  
 Mallory Garbaravage  
 Margaret DeBenedictis  
 Jason Gordon  
 Kristen DeMuth  
 Kiel O'Donnell  
 Courtney Olsen



(Left to Right) Kyril Petrosyan, Men's Soccer, and Allison Bankos, Softball, will have their pictures in the NJCAA Review.

## ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN 45+ CREDITS 3.6-3.79 GPA

### Men's Soccer

Clayton Gashlin, *Central Regional*

### Men's Soccer

Kiel O'Donnell, *Toms River North*  
 Kyrill Petrosyan, *Lakewood*

### Women's Soccer

Ashley Bechtle, *Brick Memorial*  
 Kristen DeMuth, *Jackson Memorial*  
 Catherine Dyciewski, *Brick Memorial*  
 Rebecca Hodnicky, *Lacey*

### Women's Tennis

Margaret DeBenedictis, *Pt Pleasant Boro*  
 Mallory Garbaravage, *Pinelands Reg.*

### Men's Basketball

Scott Packen, *Central Regional*

### Men's Swimming

Jeffrey Capone, *Toms River South*  
 Christopher Lombardo, *Toms River East*

### Women's Swimming

Sarah Gallini, *N/A*  
 Courtney Guadagno, *Central Reg.*  
 Jenny Lo, *Toms River East*  
 Bethany Wozniak, *Central Regional*

### Baseball

Peter Dacenko, *Toms River East*  
 Jason Gordon, *Brick Memorial*

### Golf

Stephen Kennelly, *Toms River North*

### Softball

Allison Bankos, *Monsignor Donovan*  
 Ashley DeBlasi, *Toms River South*  
 Courtney Olsen, *Toms River East*

# Academic Teams Of The Year

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), Region XIX and the Garden State Athletic Conference recognize each student-athlete who participates in at least 1 sport program and earns a 3.0+ GPA for the semester. OCC has earned numerous honors for both their teams and student-athletes:

- (126) Academic All-GSAC for the 2008–09 academic year (3.0+ GPA)
- (107) Academic All Region XIX for the 2008–09 academic year (3.25+ GPA)
- (21) NJCAA Academic All-Americans (Minimum of 45 credits and 3.6+ GPA)
- (10) NJCAA Distinguished Academic All-Americans (Min.45credits and 3.8+GPA), including 2 with 4.0 GPA's.

NJCAA honors teams with a GPA of 3.0 or higher:

Men's Swim	Nationally ranked #1
Women's Tennis	Nationally ranked #2
Women's Swim	Nationally ranked #2
Men's Soccer	Nationally ranked #3
Men's Tennis	Nationally ranked #6
Men's Golf	Nationally ranked #15



OCC Men's Swimming ranked #1 with the highest Team GPA in the country.

Additional teams ranked with a GPA of 3.0 or higher were OCC's Women's Basketball and Women's Softball.

In 2008-09 OCC had numerous student-athletes recognized for their skills in their respective sport as an All-Conference, All-Region or All-American Athlete:

(22) All-Conference Athletes ; (23) All-Region Athletes ; (25) All-Americans

## Spring Teams 2009 All Region/All Conference

### ACADEMIC ALL-REGION

#### Softball

Allison Bankos  
 Ashley DeBlasi  
 Robynn Frank  
 Krystal Kmiecick  
 Jillian Meyer  
 Courtney Olsen  
 Melanie Sutter

#### Men's Tennis

Kevin Amos  
 Nick Cittadino  
 Anthony Funicelli  
 Jeffrey Page  
 Dan Yarbrough

#### Women's Swimming

Lauren Ashman  
 Marion Burke  
 Nicole Crimmins  
 Sarah Gallini  
 Courtney Guadagno  
 Jaimie Hinshelwood  
 Alyssa Kriegstein  
 Jenny Lo  
 Brittany Nycz  
 Erine O'Connor  
 Jessica Odell  
 Bethany Wozniak

#### Baseball

Pete Dacenko  
 Jason Gordon  
 Robert Miranda  
 Mike Muth  
 Vito Salvanto

#### Women's Basketball

Melissa Berkheiser  
 Robynn Frank  
 Courtney Kroeze  
 Kristie Martino  
 Ria Zanetich

#### Men's Basketball

Ray Bickel  
 Nick Cittadino  
 Nathan Gray  
 Dara McKeon  
 Scott Packen

#### Women's Tennis

Jaclyn Britton  
 Larissa Burgdorfer  
 Maggie DeBenedictis  
 Mallory Garbaravage  
 Allison Huggan  
 Joelle Kisthardt

#### Men's Swimming

Jeffrey Capone  
 Ryan Connolly  
 Jason Jennings  
 Christopher Lombardo  
 Brian Mahoney  
 Richard Maier  
 Marc Syslo

#### Golf

Evan Hernandez  
 Stephen Kennelly  
 Stephen Kezel  
 Juan Ruiz

### ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE

#### Softball

Allison Bankos  
 Ashley DeBlasi  
 Robynn Frank  
 Krystal Kmiecick  
 Jillian Meyer  
 Courtney Olsen  
 Amy Renken  
 Melanie Sutter

#### Men's Tennis

Kevin Amos  
 Nick Cittadino  
 Anthony Funicelli  
 Jeffrey Page  
 Tyler Reich  
 Dan Yarbrough

#### Women's Swimming

Lauren Ashman  
 Marion Burke  
 Nicole Crimmins  
 Sarah Gallini  
 Courtney Guadagno  
 Jaimie Hinshelwood  
 Alyssa Kriegstein  
 Jenny Lo  
 Brittany Nycz  
 Erine O'Connor  
 Jessica Odell  
 Samantha Stutler  
 Bethany Wozniak

#### Baseball

Pete Dacenko  
 Ryan Dolan  
 Jason Gordon  
 Craig Gourley  
 Andrew Holt  
 Robert Miranda  
 Mike Muth  
 Vito Salvanto

#### Women's Basketball

Melissa Berkheiser  
 Robynn Frank  
 Courtney Kroeze  
 Kristie Martino  
 Ria Zanetich  
 Nicole Nelson

#### Men's Basketball

Ray Bickel  
 Nick Cittadino  
 Nathan Gray  
 Michael Martinez  
 Dara McKeon  
 Scott Packen

#### Women's Tennis

Jaclyn Britton  
 Larissa Burgdorfer  
 Maggie DeBenedictis  
 Mallory Garbaravage  
 Allison Huggan  
 Joelle Kisthardt

#### Men's Swimming

Jeffrey Capone  
 Ryan Connolly  
 Jason Jennings  
 Christopher Lombardo  
 Brian Mahoney  
 Richard Maier  
 John O'Keefe  
 Anthony Porzio  
 Joseph Soto  
 Marc Syslo

#### Golf

Evan Hernandez  
 Stephen Kennelly  
 Stephen Kezel  
 Juan Ruiz



## Student Athlete Earns Regional Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award

Each year Region XIX selects a male student athlete for the Robert Zifchak Scholar Athlete of the Year Award.



**Peter Dacenko**

The Robert Zifchak award is voted on and given each year to one male athlete in Region XIX who stands out both as a student and as an athlete. This 2008-2009 selection is OCC baseball player Peter Dacenko. As a NJSTARS scholar-athlete at OCC, Pete has been honored for his academic success at the Conference, Regional, and National levels:

- All Garden State Athletic Conference Baseball Team 2009
- NJCAA Academic All-American 2009
- Academic All-Region XIX 2008, 2009
- Academic All-Conference 2008, 2009
- All-Region XIX Baseball Team 2009
- OCC Baseball Team MVP 2009

## Baseball Team Ends 2009 Season 4th in Region XIX



*(Left to Right) Pitcher Andrew Holt, Infielder Ryan Dolan, and Catcher Pete Dacenko of the OCC Baseball Team were named to both the All-Region and All-Conference Teams.*



*The OCC Mens and Womens basketball teams donned these pink shirts to promote breast cancer awareness.*

## OCC Swimmers Set New School Records



*The OCC Men's 200-yard and 400-yard Freestyle Relay Team of (left to right) Chris Lombardo, Brian Mahoney, Jason Jennings, and Jordan Centofanti, with Head Coach Steve Stout.*

This past season the Ocean County College Men's and Women's Swim Teams set a number of school records, placing the bar high for future OCC swimmers.

The Men's 200-yard and 400-yard Freestyle Relay Team of Chris Lombardo, Brian Mahoney, Jason Jennings, and Jordan Centofanti broke the OCC school records in these events with times of 1:29.06 and 3:19.64, respectively. (The team broke their own previous record of 1:30.03 in the 200-yard Freestyle Relay, set earlier in the season.)

Prior to this year, the records for these two events were set in 1982 and 1997.

## Softball Players Earn All-Conference and All-Region Recognition



The Softball Team finished the season on a high note with four players earning recognition. Named to the All-Conference team: First Baseman Brittany MacNeil, Infielder Courtney Olsen, and Outfielders Melanie Sutter and Robynn Frank.

In addition, MacNeil, Olsen, and Sutter were selected to the All Region XIX Team, and Frank was named the Most Valuable Player.



*OCC Swimmer Jenny Lo set a school and pool record in the 200-yard Backstroke with a time of 2:16.92. OCC Swimmer Jordan Centofanti set a new School Record in the 50-yard Freestyle with a time of 22.25.*



*The OCC Men's 200-yard Medley Relay Team of (left to right) Chris Lombardo, Brian Mahoney, Rich Maier, and Jordan Centofanti, with Head Coach Steve Stout.*

The OCC Men's 200-yard Medley Relay Team of Lombardo, Mahoney, Maier, and Centofanti broke the OCC school record with a time of 1:39.09 which was previously set in 1997.

Centofanti also set a new school record in the 50-yard Freestyle with a time of 22.25 which was previously set in 1977.

Finally, Jenny Lo set a school and pool record in the 200-yard Backstroke with a time of 2:16.92, almost two seconds better than the previous record set in 1997.

### Swimming: Final Women's Scores

1. Indian River State College..... 938
2. Darton College..... 670
3. Monroe Community College ..... 423
4. **OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE..... 284**  
*OCC 1st Non Scholarship, 4th Overall!*
5. Genesee Community College ..... 279
6. Lincoln College..... 264

### Swimming: Final Men's Scores

1. Indian River State College..... 1026.5
2. Lincoln College..... 651.5
3. Darton College..... 521
4. Monroe Community College ..... 272
5. Iowa Central Community College ..... 250
6. **Ocean County College..... 226**  
*OCC 1st Non Scholarship, 6th Overall!*

## Athletic Facilities Construction Update



New athletic facilities construction began this summer. A new parking lot will be completed for classes that begin this September, and new tennis courts are expected to be completed this fall. The next stage of construction will include a lighted, multi-purpose, turf field for soccer and lacrosse as well as a concession stand and outdoor restrooms. These facilities will enable the college to host high school, regional, and national tournaments.



Athletic Director • **Ilene Cohen**  
 Asst. Athletic Director/W.Soccer • **A.J. Trump**  
 Athletic Office Manager • **Darlene LaMonica**  
 Trainer • **Mike Klecan**  
 Men's Basketball • **Rory Caswell**  
 Asst. Men's Basketball • **Taurean Fisher**  
 Women's Basketball • **Dana Kovich**  
 Asst. Women's Basketball • **Nicole Ciocher**  
 Swimming • **Steve Stout**  
 Asst. Swimming • **Lauren Stoltzfus**  
 Baseball • **Ernie Leta**  
 Asst. Baseball • **Jason Leta**  
 Men's Soccer • **TBA**  
 Asst. Men's Soccer • **TBA**  
 Women's Soccer • **Karen Trump**  
 Softball • **Robert Mazanec**  
 Asst. Softball • **Jill Romanovsky**  
 Tennis • **Stan Friedman**  
 Golf • **Kevin Beirne**  
 Cross Country • **Ed Baynes**  
 Club Sailing • **Roy Wilkins**  
 Intramurals • **Ellen Eagan**

### Information

- Athletic Department 732.255.0345
- [www.ocean.edu](http://www.ocean.edu)  
(click "Athletics" in the Quick-link area)
- OceanTV20 on Comcast
- [www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org)
- [www.region19.org](http://www.region19.org)

## Men's Tennis Clinches Third in Region XIX Tournament



*OCC Men's Tennis Team*

This season the Ocean County College Men's Tennis Team finished 3rd in the Region XIX Tournament hosted by Mercer County College on April 24 and 25.

Coached by Stan Friedman, the team also finished 7th at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championships hosted by Collin County Community College in Plano, Texas.

Some notable finishes at the Regional Tournament include Nick Cittadino as the Region Runner-Up for 1st Singles, Zeke Smith as the Region Runner-Up for 6th Singles, and the Region 19 Championship 1st Doubles Team of Cittadino and Anthony Funicelli.

## Women's Tennis Finishes Sixth in Nation



The Ocean County College Women's Tennis Team participated in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III National Championships held in Tucson, Arizona, from May 3 to May 6. Led by Head Coach Stan Friedman, the team had a strong showing and capped off their outstanding season by finishing 6th in the nation.

## Jenny Lo Honored at NGWS Day at Seton Hall University



On February 1, 2009, Seton Hall University was the host site for the state recognition of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, honoring female athletes from high schools, two year colleges, and four year institutions throughout New Jersey.

Ocean County College selected Jenny Lo as their 2008 "Woman Athlete of the Year." Lo excels in the classroom and as a member of the OCC swim team. Jenny also volunteers within the community.

## Top Golfer Competes in 2009 NJCAA Golf Championships

Ocean County College golfer Steven Kennelly qualified for the Division III NJCAA Golf National Championships, held in June, by posting the best score (72/71) at the Region XIX Championships at Cape May National Golf Course.



*Steven Kennelly*

Kennelly finished 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation at the NJCAA National Championships in upstate New York.

This was the second time Kennelly qualified for the NJCAA National Championships in his two years at OCC – first as a member of the Region XIX Championship Team that finished 13th in the nation in 2008, and then this year when he was the number one golfer at the Region XIX Tournament (where the team, coached by Kevin Beirne, finished third).

Kennelly was also named to the 2009 All-Region Team for the second time in his career at Ocean County College.