

OCEAN VIEWS

A Newsletter for Ocean County College Alumni, Our College Family, and the Community
Winter-Spring 2018 ■ Vol. XII : No. 1

**Performing Arts Academy
Comes to OCC Campus** p.4

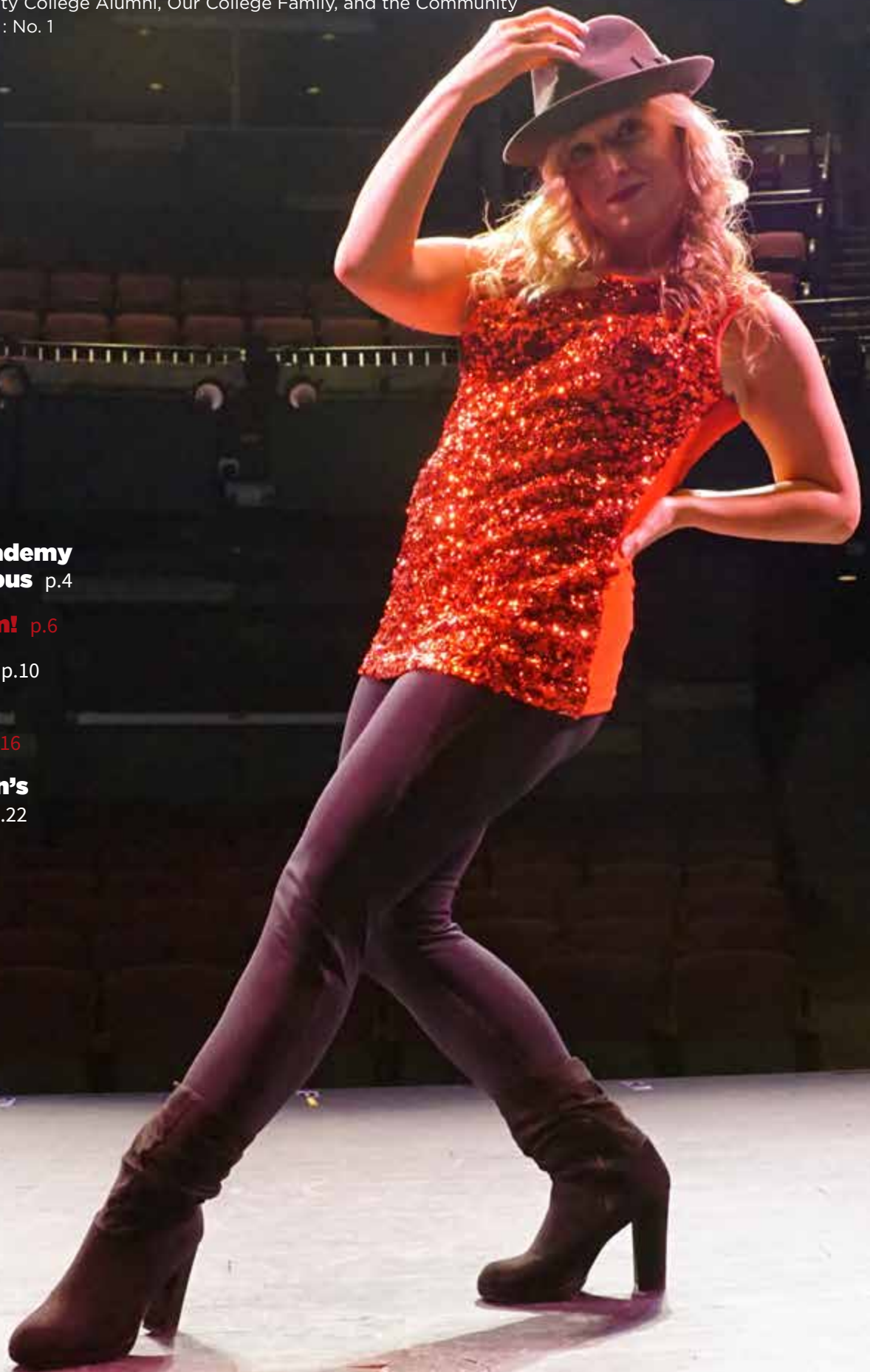
Dancing Up a Storm! p.6

He Said She Said p.10

**Siblings and
Thrill Seekers** p.16

**Meet Foundation's
Ken Malagiere** p.22

Athletics p.28



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WHAT WE'RE PROUD OF



That's no blarney

OCC hosted its first Ireland Study Abroad Trip, focusing on the history and culture of Ireland, with stays in the Republic and Northern Ireland. Participants learned about the influences of the Celts, Vikings, Normans, and English, and the long history of resistance, rebellion, and revolution, with insight into the cultural traditions that exist today. The trip featured prehistoric art and burial practices at Knowth, the transformation of Dublin from ancient Viking seaport to thriving city, the Book of Kells and Trinity College, and Giant's Causeway and the walled city of Derry.



Read all about it

The OCC Military History Institute is officially open and located in the Main Campus Library. Richard Trimble, former Associate Professor of History, built a collection of books and artifacts during his tenure and donated his collection to the Library, establishing the Military History Collection.

Hands tell the story

The Sign Language Society serves as a bridge between American Sign Language (ASL) students and the Deaf community. The club organizes Deaf events to help students become involved within the community, learn more about the culture, and practice their ASL skills. Students and alumni teamed up to offer a pilot mentoring program for those enrolled in basic ASL courses. With a majority of students participating, the program was deemed a great success!



Training the community

OCC's Customized Training/Workforce Development offered Urgent Care of Toms River professional development classes in customer service to every employee. Elsewhere, Rampson Foods Inc., owner of 15 Dunkin' Donut franchises, will provide professional development/customer service training at various locations. In addition, Civil Service worked with OCC to have 300 officers take the Police Sergeant Test on campus, while 150 firefighters took the First-Level Fire Supervisor Test.

Everything that's fit to print

Sara Winchester, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration, was interviewed for two articles touting the College's successes. The National Association of College and University Business Officers' magazine, *The Business Officer*, featured OCC in the article "New Models in the Making" (July/August 2017). The sub-article was entitled "Correcting Course at Ocean County College." In addition, Academic Impressions, a higher education training company, featured Winchester's interview in "How One College Used the Business Model Canvas to Boost Enrollment and Develop New Academic Programs Quickly" for its October 6, 2017, newsletter. —RAD

THINGS WE LOVE!



Just chatting away

OCC is the first community college in the nation to launch a “chatbot” – a virtual assistant that uses augmented intelligence to serve students. Reginald, known to his friends as Reggie, will converse with students via text messages. With Reggie’s knowledge growing every day, students will build a relationship with the College through questions and answers using human-like conversations.

Ring the opening bell

In FY2018, the Carl D. Perkins Grant provided OCC with \$392,000 to support its Perkins-approved programs. To name just a few, the grant is funding a virtual reality police-shooting simulator for the Criminal Justice program; a second broadcasting studio for the Digital Broadcast program; and a Bloomberg Business lab with Bloomberg software, stock market ticker, and status display for the Business program.



Going paperless

Registration and Records has implemented a new paperless process. All documents, emails, and faxes are imaged and processed in the Perceptive Content system. This new process increases records accuracy, decreases processing time, reduces the risk of lost documents, ensures records are disposed of in a timely manner, and promotes a sustainable environment.



First Year Experience Classes Learn Reality of Financial Success

The popular and growing New Jersey Credit Union League’s Financial Reality Fair program made its seventh trip to the Main Campus in December 2017 to bring the hands-on financial literacy experience to 19 “First Year Experience” classes. This was the fourth year that OCC made the Financial Reality Fair a course component for the College’s transitional first year course. Over 350 students participated in this activity.

The Fair is a fun, hands-on experience where students learn about managing personal finances. After identifying their career choices and hypothetical starting salaries by completing a pre-survey, students were provided a budget worksheet requiring them to live within their monthly salary while paying for basics such as housing, utilities, transportation, clothing, and food. Of course, there were many temptations for additional spending as students try to learn to balance their wants and needs to live on their own. After they had visited all the booths, students balanced their budgets, then sat down with a Financial Counselor to review their standing.

The Fair is a unique opportunity for each student to experience some of the financial challenges they will face when they start life on their own.

Lending support

During the fall semester, Phi Theta Kappa’s Tau Iota Chapter raised money for Hurricane Harvey Relief, while the Music Club held a Halloween Karaoke Charity Fundraiser. In support of Breast Cancer Awareness, the Student Nurses Organization and Nursing lecturers participated in the annual Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk, and the Men’s and Women’s Soccer teams held a “Mums for Mom” plant sale. In addition, an OCC team of administrators and students participated in the Hope Sheds Light Walk-a-Thon to raise awareness of the opioid epidemic.



Interning pays off

Isaac Anderson needed a job... but his lack of experience prevented him from landing one. He was about to give up when Rutgers T.E.E.M. Gateway Youth Success Network of Ocean County set up an interview with OCC’s Facilities Department. Anderson was offered a three-month internship to provide him with much needed training. His on-the-job performance was so impressive he is now a full-time employee working as a General Maintenance Mechanic. Internships work!

Thanks for your service

Ocean Medical Center honored Nursing student Ryan Smith for a program he created for the unit where he works. He recognized Veterans by placing small American flags on their wheelchairs and beds. When these patients are transferred or transported in the hospital, people thank them for their service. The hospital liked the program so much it intends to make it system wide throughout other Meridian hospitals.

– RAD

New Performing Arts Academy Takes Center Stage

A special Performing Arts Academy (PAA) Partnership Celebration of the Arts was held at the Grunin Center Main Theatre on September 28, 2017.

PAA partners cosponsored the event including Ocean County College, Ocean County Vocational Technical School (OCVTS), Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation, and Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

“We are breaking new ground in an associational innovation by partnering with OCVTS to construct a Performing Arts Academy on the OCC campus. This will be the first-in-the-nation organically grown example of an entire early college high school that allows a student to graduate with a high school diploma and OCC’s associate in arts degree at the same time. Only through the generous support of the Grunin Foundation, the County Freeholders,

and the State of New Jersey is this project becoming a reality,” explained Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President.

In May 2017, Dr. Larson announced an \$8 million donation to the College, a gift from the Grunin Foundation to be used to help construct a new building to house the PAA. This new facility will be shared between OCVTS and OCC, allowing expansion of College programs in the performing arts.

The theme of the Celebration of the Arts event was “Motivated to Challenge. Motivated to Perform.” The event featured OCVTS student vocal and dance performances and a viewing

of the OCVTS video “Endless Possibilities.” During the program, the Grunin Foundation challenged OCC to raise additional funds to support academic offerings and cultural programs at the Grunin Center. If \$5 million is raised through this Challenge Grant before December 2020, the Grunins will waive their naming rights to the PAA.

Funding opportunities through the Grunin Foundation Challenge Grant include: (1) a sponsor and/or corporation will receive name recognition on the PAA for a minimum \$2.5 million donation; and (2) the remaining balance to reach \$5 million from one or multiple sources may receive naming rights on any of



various areas in the Grunin Complex (black box, arts display cases, dance and recording studios, classrooms, or performing arts labs).

The Grunin Foundation is a major supporter of the arts in Ocean County. It recognizes the importance of engaging residents in the arts for their communities to become vibrant beacons of economic development. Funds received from the Challenge Grant will provide the resources for OCC to be established as a premier provider of the arts and creative learning by offering first class artistic and cultural experiences to the residents of Ocean County and beyond.

“Helping to bring the Performing Arts Academy to the campus of Ocean County College is a reaffirmation of our commitment to the arts at the Jersey Shore. This partnership will allow our young people, who have a real passion for the Arts, to receive a first-class education in a beautiful college setting, at a state-of-the-art facility. We know that one of the drivers of a strong economy is a thriving arts culture, and with this Academy we will see graduates for generations to come who will continue to uplift our community,” said Jay Grunin, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman, Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts.

“The Performing Arts Academy on the Ocean County College campus will provide students with an outstanding education using both existing college buildings and state-of-the-art new facilities. Here, our creatively gifted young people will find a place where their talents will truly blossom,” said Joseph H. Vicari, Ocean County Freeholder / Liaison to OCVTS.

– RAD

DANCING UP A STORM!

Catherine Mancuso Brings Experience & Enthusiasm to OCC Dance

In the immortal words of Gene Kelly, “Gotta Dance! Gotta Dance! Gotta Dance!”

Those words might just be Catherine Mancuso’s mantra. Ocean County College’s only full-time dance instructor began her position in fall 2017 but her passion for dance and training started much earlier.

Putting On Her Dancing Shoes

Mancuso started taking dance classes when she was just ten years old in Staten Island. But, believe it or not, ten is usually considered a little too “old” to start training for a professional career in classical ballet, so Mancuso was drawn to jazz and tap dance, the kind one might see on Broadway.

From a young age, Mancuso received performance experience from participation in numerous competitions. She studied at a local dance academy and made the commute into New York City for drop-in classes at Broadway Dance Center, along with dance workshops and competitions with Dance Educators of America. She trained in multiple jazz techniques, including the legendary Luigi, Jack Cole, and Bob Fosse styles.

Giving It a Whirl

When the time came to head off to college, Mancuso studied the unlikely combination of Musical Theatre and Mathematics, earning a Bachelor of Arts from American University in Washington, DC. To appease her mother’s concerns about a dance career, one that would actually pay the bills, Mancuso chose to study math as her “fall back.” But it seems the only calculation that Mancuso had to do was figure out a way to earn a living in dance.

Dancing On Air... Land... and Sea!

As a college student, Mancuso continued performing with plumb gigs, including spring galas for the Kennedy Center and the opening of the Smithsonian Institution’s Space Museum. After graduation, she spent three

years performing regularly on Disney Cruise Line®. That is until she “got sidelined with health issues,” which prevented her from performing.

At first, doctors thought that perhaps Mancuso was reacting to the motion of the ocean – life as a cruise ship dancer can be grueling. However, it would be several years later when she was finally diagnosed with celiac disease and some time before she was healthy once more.

In the meantime, she needed to change gears and keep the money coming in.

Landing on Her Feet

“I got into dance education in my mid-20s,” Mancuso said. “Performers struggle to make ends meet. I knew it was something I never wanted to do.”

She made the transition from performer to educator, heading off to New York University to earn a Master of Arts in Dance Education. There she came in contact with a “different group of dancers” – not starving artists but dedicated dancers striving to pass on their knowledge to the next generation.

According to Mancuso, the number of jobs available for the number of dancers simply is not there, so “Dance education gives you the skills to have multiple streams of income.”

Mancuso transitioned nicely from performer to educator. She taught at dance studios, including the 92nd Street Y and Broadway Bodies in New York City and then at Monmouth University before accepting her position as College Dance Lecturer at OCC.

Care to Dance?

At OCC, Mancuso teaches all dance classes, including Ballet, Modern, and Jazz, along with the lecture-based Dance Appreciation. Classes are multi-level incorporating basic, intermediate, and advanced technique. She gives options for beginners to the aspiring-professional so no one feels overwhelmed or under-utilized.

While some students will go on to become performers or teachers, others will intentionally become nurses, engineers, and even mathematicians. So why study dance?

Mancuso explained that as a dance educator she has the opportunity to “shape individuals” – helping to “build a sense of self confidence.” Dance class helps non-dancers “feel comfortable in their bodies ... makes social situations easier” and gets them accustomed to “special surroundings.”

“I want my students to be fearless in their quest of self, voice, and information. I believe that fearlessness in the classroom will lead students to fearlessness in life, a quality that will take them leaps and bounds beyond what they thought they could accomplish,” she said.

For example, after taking dance class with Mancuso, OCC students have reported positive results in areas of their lives outside of class. According to Mancuso, students have told her that because of dance they start “raising a hand in other classes that they wouldn’t have done otherwise.”

Strutting Her Stuff

From student to performer to teacher, Mancuso is the real deal. She brings her experience to OCC students with rhythm, syncopation, and style.

Soon she’ll expand her repertoire to include high school students from the Performing Arts Academy when it moves onto the OCC campus. Mancuso explained that “this is a great opportunity” not only for herself but for high school students, “giving them a leg up” on the competition along with “better options available” to them when applying to four-year schools.

Mancuso is definitely a positive influence on all her students. It seems that her dance card is full. Now that’s a “Broadway Melody!”

– RAD



Dance Like No One is Watching

“When working in the entertainment business ... you face rejection on a daily basis and may find yourself staring at every flaw and imperfection you can find in the mirror. During my first year of college, I felt like I was not growing at all and instead was shrinking into the background. I happened to run across this quote by Bob Fosse: ‘Don’t dance for the audience, dance for yourself.’ ... that is when I made the connection: if I danced for myself and loved it, it did not matter what anyone else was saying or thinking. Dancing for yourself allows you to be your true authentic self on stage and is the most freeing feeling in the world. It is this freedom that I hope everyone who dances gets to experience.”

– Catherine Mancuso

For Your
Consideration:
Jason Molloy

UPRIGHT
CITIZENS
BRIGADE



The Premiere

Molloy was hired as an adjunct professor at OCC in the spring of 2012.

On Location

This school year marks his first semester as a College Lecturer II in English.

Character Study

Molloy teaches a variety of classes, including English I, Understanding Film, Screenwriting, From Literature to Film, Introduction to Film Genres, World Cinema, and Public Speaking.

Behind the Scenes

As Molloy noted, “The first film class I ever took was Understanding Film right here at Ocean County College. I remember how the class discussed films such as *Psycho*, *The Godfather*, and *Bonnie and Clyde*. The class opened my eyes as to how films were made, shots were composed, and characters were created. I found it fascinating how films were more than just mere forms of entertainment but rather texts that could be deconstructed and analyzed.

“I studied film as an undergraduate and later obtained my master’s in screenwriting,” he added.

Reviews

Comedies are probably Molloy’s favorite genre of film. “My all-time favorite film is *The Goonies*,” he stated. “Please note that there’s a difference between ‘best’ and ‘favorite.’”

Red Carpet

“As a lecturer in film, I’m obliged to say *Citizen Kane* is the ‘best’ all-time film. However, if I had to be honest, I would say the best films I’ve ever seen include *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Goodfellas*, and *The Dark Knight*.

Ambiance

When it comes to teaching, Molloy said, “I love the intellectual challenge each class brings. Not only does each class have its own material, but I’ve found that no two sections are alike, and each class brings forth its own energy. It’s a creative puzzle trying to figure out what approach works for each class. I thrive on connecting with students and opening their mindsets about films and writing in general.

“At OCC in particular, I appreciate the wide diversity of students who come from a variety of backgrounds.”

Lead Role

“I am co-advisor to the Improv & Theater Club and advisor to the Motion Picture Club,” Molloy stated. “The Motion Picture Club takes a trip to the movies once or twice a semester where students can see a movie together for free!”

Animated

The Improv Club meets at the Grunin Center. “We mainly play short form improv games and learn a bit regarding long-form improv as well,” Molloy stated. “It’s a fun and goofy time, playing with a bunch of students. All are welcome!”

And Scene

“I did not do improv in college, but I have taken several courses at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York City where I am part of their Advanced Study program,” Molloy explained. “I’m also a part of two indie improv teams — one team is called Bearglove and the other is Stranger Friends. We perform at clubs and bars all over NYC.”

That’s a Wrap!

—JKH

“he said, she said. he said, she said. she said, he said. she s

They’ve Got It Down To A Science

Dr. Mary-Ellen Rada and Vijay Ramdeen Discuss Women and Minorities in STEM

Studies show that the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are not thick with women and minorities.

As the National Science Foundation reported earlier this year, “The representation of certain groups of people in science and engineering education and employment differs from their representation in the U.S. population.

Women, persons with disabilities, and three racial and ethnic groups – blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians or Alaska Natives – are underrepresented. . . . Variations in the representation of these groups are rooted in differences in precollege course taking, participation in S&E (science and engineering) higher education, and overall educational attainment.”

Dr. Mary-Ellen Rada, College Lecturer, and Vijay Ramdeen, College Lecturer and STEM Academy Program Chair, are among the diversified teaching staff at OCC. The pair have been friends and colleagues for several years. According to Ramdeen, he and Rada have a “great working relationship” presenting workshops together and conducting outreach to high schools.

In this edition of “He Said, She Said,” Rada and Ramdeen share some of their own educational backgrounds and their thoughts on women and minorities in STEM.

From the Beginning

He Said: “As a child of minority parents, I was always encouraged to appreciate science and mathematics because of the myriad of opportunities that exist with a STEM degree,” said Ramdeen, who was born in Neptune, NJ, to immigrant parents from Jamaica, of East Indian descent. The family moved to Ocean County when Ramdeen was two years old, and he grew up in Brick Township. “Thanks to my parents, I am now the first in my family to receive a graduate degree in chemistry!”

Ramdeen completed a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics from Lafayette College in Easton, PA, and a Master of Science in Chemistry from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA.

She Said: Rada, who grew up in North Jersey and now lives in Ocean County, said it is difficult for women to balance the demands of family and their professional goals. “It takes an extraordinary amount of planning and sacrifices. My children have watched me grow through that process and have become more understanding of the dedication and effort a career can require. Females in science are under the clock. If they put off their career for family, the career suffers. If they put off family, the biological clock ticks louder each year. These are hard, life-altering choices.”

She added, “I’ve always been a trailblazer for women in any field I ventured.” Rada completed a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Stockton University then went on to Sherman College of Chiropractic in Spartanburg, SC, for a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. She was valedictorian of her class at Sherman, served as the first female President of the New Jersey State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, and was the third female board member on the Board of Directors of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners. She began her professional career in 1988, and repeatedly experienced gender bias from potential patients. “As the years progressed, those biases have become muted,” she noted. “You still happen upon them, but it is less pronounced.”

aid, he said.”



OCC Roots Run Deep

He Said: “My roots to OCC began when I started taking classes at OCC as a Jump Start student in high school,” Ramdeen notes. “Then, as a junior at Lafayette College, I started teaching and continued to teach throughout my time at the University of Virginia. After completing my graduate degree, I moved back to the area because I missed living by the ocean and submitted my application to OCC to teach. From there, the rest is history...” He started as an adjunct in 2013 and became a full-time lecturer in 2014.

Ramdeen teaches all levels of chemistry. “I’ve taught Introductory Chemistry, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry,” he explained. “In August 2018, I will also be teaching our first STEM course to be offered in the study abroad program that will focus on a scientific survey of Ireland.”

She Said: Rada, meanwhile, began as an adjunct in the spring of 2012 and was hired as a 12-month lecturer two years later. Prior to that, she taught at Stockton University and Georgian Court University, all while maintaining her chiropractic practice and her family. “I love community college teaching because it is a challenge,” she remarked. “The demands of the students are different from four-year schools. The material must be taught across a wide array of academic backgrounds. When you connect with a student, you can truly change their life.”

Rada’s courses include Anatomy and Physiology as well as Introduction to Chemistry and General Chemistry I. She also authored and teaches a Holistic Health and Wellness concentration. “The hard sciences are necessary for many pre-professional programs so I try to make sure those students are well prepared for their future endeavors,” she pointed out. “The holistic courses are a great deal of fun and very inspiring.”

Reaching out to Women and Minorities

He Said: “As an academic advisor, I can say that (at OCC) every effort is made to encourage students to pursue STEM courses and careers. Also, as part of our STEM academy, I have been working with high school students to promote STEM pursuits through activities and workshops,” Ramdeen explained. “There has definitely been a larger population of women in the STEM classes. But, unfortunately, I would say that the number of minority students has not increased.”

She Said: “We have been regularly encouraging and reaching out to all students interested in science careers. The students have to be interested in a career to pursue it. They hear stories that the courses are hard, which they are.” Rada continued, “Since most of the courses [I teach] are pre-nursing, there have always been a number of women in them. It is more encouraging that there are more men interested in nursing these days. Ocean County has a lower minority level than other areas. I wish we could encourage more high school minority students to take up the challenge. I do notice that there is still a shortage of both in engineering. Those classes are extremely rigorous, and I think it is more of a personality than gender or race issue.”

“I ask (my students) what would they like to do and then offer encouragement or advice or even research some career paths to get them where they want to be. Sometimes I have gotten them to change career paths entirely to a career in STEM.”

– JKH

“All people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.”

– Harvey Milk (1930-1978), *American politician and activist*

Ocean Pride

IS A PLACE FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS AND THEIR ALLIES* TO:

- Feel Safe
- Be Validated
- Advocate
- Find Support
- Learn
- Have Fun!

What Does LGBTQ+ Mean?

- LGBTQ is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer.
- The + sign includes the many other identities included within the community.

“Queer?”

No longer considered a pejorative term, but rather reclaimed and defined with power and strength.

Do's and Don'ts of Supporting LGBTQ+ People

DO...

- Listen
- Ask questions
- Be open and approachable
- Use affirming language
- Be confidential
- Get trained to become an ALLY*

DON'T:

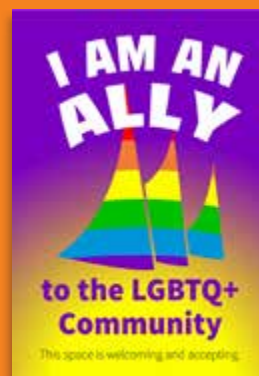
- Make assumptions
- Pass judgements
- Use generalizations
- Say, “My best friend is...”
- Interject your opinions or experiences
- “Out” anyone; just because they told you doesn't mean they told anyone else

OCEAN
PRIDE



I Gotta Go!

At OCC, all are welcome to use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity.



*Ally

Ally describes someone who supports LGBTQ+ people. This term includes non-LGBTQ allies as well as those in the community who support each other.

2015 National School Climate Survey

- 95%** of LGBTQ students have heard homophobic remarks
- 57%** of LGBTQ students feel unsafe in school because of sexual orientation
- 48%** of LGBTQ students have been harassed via social media, text, other postings

Wait, what?

Have questions? Not LGBTQ+ but want to support the community? Contact Vijay Ramdeen, Club Co-Advisor, vramdeen@ocean.edu, or Megan Miskin, Club Co-Advisor, mmiskin@ocean.edu.





Melanie Fernandez '17

OCC Board of Trustees Alumni Representative

Melanie Fernandez, 21, graduated from Ocean County College in May 2017 and is now a student at Kean Ocean. A "Proud Raider!" Fernandez, currently a resident of Lakewood, attended Toms River High School East.

MELANIE, IN FIVE WORDS

GOAL-ORIENTED

POSITIVE

RESPONSIBLE

CHEERFUL

TRUSTWORTHY

All Signs Point to ASL

At OCC, Fernandez's academic focus was A.A. Liberal Arts, A.A.S. American Sign Language-English Interpreting. "ASL was the most interesting class [at OCC]," she noted, "and I ultimately added that degree on as soon as I started it. I had Prof. Kathy Basilotto and Prof. Sandra Piscitelli for these classes and they were so passionate, helpful, and incredible teachers who instilled their love of ASL in me."

An Able Guide

"What I liked most about my time at OCC was probably being involved in so many different things. During my time here, I worked on campus as an Orientation Leader, Peer Mentor, and Peer Tutor. I was also the President of the Sign Language Society and participated in the Trailblazers leadership development program twice. My biggest triumph was probably a pilot ASL Mentor Program that I helped to set up this past summer."

Sign Her Up

"I am technically a student at Thomas Edison State University. I am looking for a school to transfer to in order to (hopefully) get my bachelor's in something ASL-related. I am a freelance ASL Interpreter and also a Supplemental Instruction Leader for ASL at OCC."

On Hand

"As Alumni Representative (to the OCC Board of Trustees), it is my responsibility to provide a student perspective on various things discussed at meetings. I am trying to fill some very big shoes as my best friend, Danielle Robleski, was my predecessor."

Engaged in the Community

"I enjoy spending a lot of my free time at local Deaf events or with my family. We have a pretty large local Deaf community and have events frequently. I still attend OCC Sign Club events on a regular basis. ... I am engaged (to fiancé Sam) and we have a four-year-old (Bella)."

An Interpretation

"Starting at OCC, I was bummed that I wasn't going away and had a bad perspective of OCC – which was quickly halted and reversed. From my first semester on campus, I loved it here. OCC provided everything I needed to be a well-rounded student. I started here with very little awareness of my opinions, interests, and values, and left knowing myself a whole lot more and am starting out in the career of my dreams. Now I wish I could stay and get a bachelor's and master's degree here!"

– JKH

Siblings & Thrill-Seekers

Brandon and Carissa Krapf share more in common than just their love for travel and adventure... and the fact that they're brother and sister. This dynamic duo are also proud OCC alumni with their own unique success stories.

BRANDON KRAPF

Age: 35

High School: Jackson Memorial

OCC Graduation Year: 2007

Brandon in One Word: Intense

Current Location: Somewhere in North Africa

OH, THE PLACES I'VE BEEN

"I served nearly six years in the U.S. Army, in South Korea, the U.S., Germany, Bosnia, and Iraq," Brandon Krapf explained. "Later in college, I served three years in the Army Reserves. While at OCC I did not serve in the military; it was part of a 2.5-year gap after active duty and before the Reserves.

"Coming to school as a non-traditional student veteran after getting out of the Army was a culture shock," he added. "OCC was full of non-traditional students so this helped with the transition. Additionally, I had a lot of community support via my local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post in Jackson."

Krapf, who focused on psychology at OCC, participated in the College's Leadership Retreat, served as President of the Arabic Club, and received the President's Service Award and scholarship when he graduated. He then transferred to American University (AU) via a Semester at Sea summer program.

"I definitely used some of the lessons from the OCC Leadership Retreat experience later at AU when I was President of the Delta Chi Fraternity chapter and when I founded and became the first President of AU Vets," Krapf remarked.

OCC, ARABIC, AND TATTOOS

"OCC is where I began to study Arabic," said Krapf. "I have continued studying Arabic since, including moving to Yemen on my own to study. I also took Arabic Literature with Maysa Hayward, who was awesome, and I fell in love with [Persian poet] Rumi.

"At AU, I got a tattoo of a Rumi quote in English. 'We are pieces of chess engaged

in victory and defeat,' which I perceive to mean two things. One, we are all pawns in a greater game, be it politics,

life, god. And that we all are strategizing with and against each other in a Machiavellian way to achieve something we want.

"Just last month I was traveling around the Mediterranean, and I spent a week in Tunisia. While there, I got my first tattoo in Arabic. 'Today is a good day to die,' which was something I would half-jokingly say to my teammates when I was a soldier in Iraq. The thought was if you address the fear of the worst possible outcome of a challenge up front – like going out on patrol or a raid – you can move forward. Instead of being afraid that you may die, you embrace it and assume that today is a good day to die.

"In a way, both tattoos are about war. But any wisdom from war can be applied to life. And putting life in those terms often makes it easier to understand."

VIKING PROFESSORS

"I took a cool cross-cultural psychology class with Susan Mrazek, which I loved. Despite hating the rigors of David Bordelon's English courses, I learned a ton in them. As a writer, it was refreshing to have my works edited to a professional level.

"I had a great three-week-long statistics course that really turned me on to stats. Since then, I've used Excel to work out stats of some of the most absurd qualitative things ever. It taught me that anything that seems like it is not mathematical can be broken down into statistics.

"Also, Marilyn Kralik's art history course was awesome. Later, when I spent much more time in the Islamic world, I would see these things in art and architecture and think back to that class."

POST TOMS RIVER

During his Semester at Sea program at AU, Krapf studied Latin American affairs, then concentrated on the Middle East and Africa, with focus on global security and conflict resolution, and "a good amount of Islamic studies and Arabic mixed in," he noted. "I took a 3.5-year leave of absence at AU with only two requirements left: micro-econ and Arabic. I knocked out the econ course while in Afghanistan on a military base while working as a contractor. It was an amazing experience because I technically studied abroad in Afghanistan according to my documents."

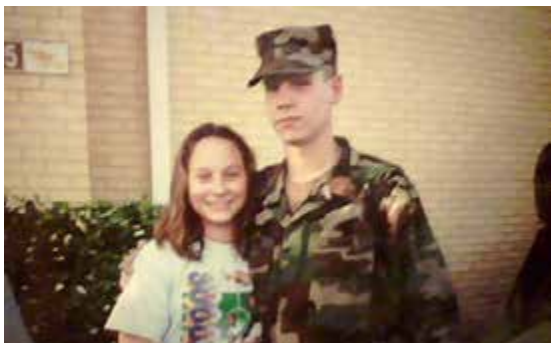
"After that 21-month long deployment at Bagram, Afghanistan, I left to Yemen to study Arabic in order to finish my Arabic requirement. I showed up right as the embassies were evacuating in 2013 from the terrorist threat. I spent a semester there studying Arabic, and it was one of the most amazing times of my life. I even spent a week in Socotra, which was like a dream. I then went back to AU for my final semester."

Since 2010, Krapf worked various jobs in international security, primarily as an overseas contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan, and was most recently the program manager of a state department contract in Kabul, Afghanistan, before taking some time off to write.

He's taken lots of helicopter rides along the Pakistani border, witnessed many notable events in the Middle East, was on The Diplomat's "Top 99 Under 33" list of most influential people in Foreign Affairs in 2013, and has had dinner with the Prince of Afghanistan. "He is wicked smart and charismatic, and we stay in touch today," said Krapf.

WRITE IT DOWN

"I have been a writer my entire life. It is in my blood. It is an addiction. I have tons of journals from traveling the world when I was in the Army and as a teen in New Jersey in the '90s engaging in some nefarious behavior.



Nearly 20 years after I began keeping journals, I realized I was living an absurd life and began to break down my life in books. I realized I could write a book about living in Yemen, about Afghanistan – about all of these intense events I have lived through. Additionally, I have a number of articles published online, mostly at FairObserver.com.”

WORDS OF WISDOM

“I think when we are young we view the world in a very black and white manner. So, we think, ‘If I do not get into such-and-such school, my life is over.’ When I was getting out of the Army and stationed in Germany, I applied to Rutgers and they rejected me ... as I had little to no proof of academic experience. I had been out of high school for nearly six years and never took the SAT. I was also a high school dropout for a while. Well, more of a high school kick-out. So, I hope my high school and Rutgers read this. Maybe it will show them to judge people off potential and not past.

“American University may be where my B.A. comes from, but I am damned proud to have gone to OCC. It gave me the chance to show my true self academically, and that opportunity is what got me into George Washington University, George Mason, and American. Getting into AU then gave me the opportunity to start AU Vets ... and it let me get involved with Delta Chi Fraternity,” for which he was recently inducted into the chapter’s Hall of Fame for his time as president.

“I consider myself fairly successful, and it was OCC I have to thank for being the first rung in the ladder or step to help me get there. I do not come from a well-off family and I was first-generation college, so OCC gave me the socio-economic bridge to compete with those who came from private schools and vacationed in Europe in their teens when I spent *my* teens at the Freehold Raceway Mall smoking cigarettes and getting yelled at by mall security.

“If you have any misgivings about a big four-year college, give a two-year school a shot. The education for the price cannot be beat. It will give you the opportunity to discover what you want to do. It will give you a foundational base for your future,” Krapf concluded.

Continued, next page: CARISSA KRAPF



Siblings & Thrill-Seekers continued

CARISSA KRAPF

Age: 29

High School: Jackson Memorial

OCC Graduation Year: 2009

Carissa In Five Words: Ambitious • Loving • Charismatic • Patient • Funny

Current Location: Somewhere in Pennsville, NJ

CALL ME DR. KRAPF

In January 2010, following her graduation from OCC, Carissa Krapf enrolled at Ramapo College of New Jersey. After two years, including a study abroad stint in Berlin, Germany, she graduated with a B.A. in Psychology. Now, at just 29, she also has an M.S. and a Psy.D., both from Antioch University New England, located in New Hampshire.

“My Psy.D. is a Doctor of Psychology versus a Ph.D., which would be a Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology,” Carissa explained. “A Psy.D. is focused on therapy and some research, whereas a Ph.D. is more focused on research with some therapy. I like the clinical side better; I enjoy doing therapy.”

After several years in New England, Jackson native Carissa and her boyfriend are back in New Jersey, in the town of Pennsville, as she begins her post-doc in the mobile outpatient program at Aquila of Delaware, Inc., providing “community-based services to teens and families who are really struggling to function in healthy ways.”

IN HER BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

The year her older brother graduated, Carissa enrolled at OCC. Her Intro to Sociology and General Psych classes gave momentum to her curiosity for psychology. “The professors were personable, funny, and skilled at applying the information to real world situations for easy learning,” she stated. “It all made sense and strengthened my interest in learning more about human behavior.”

While at OCC, Carissa was a member of the NJSTARS Club, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Leadership, and the Women’s Soccer Team. “I did a lot of volunteer work through those

two clubs and helped to organize events,” she said. “I really enjoyed working on the Harvest Festival, each fall, for families with children with cancer. I facilitated some donations from the restaurant where I worked and a friend who had her own business. It was always a really great event.”

She also participated in Student Leadership retreats and led new student orientations every summer, even after transferring to Ramapo. “I loved feeling like I could help new students figure some things out,” Carissa remarked.

BUILDING A PERSONAL VISION

Carissa also loves children: “Being around them, talking to them, watching them explore something new or try to solve a problem. I helped my mom in her daycare while growing up, I babysat and nannied, and I was a preschool teacher from 16 to 22 until I started grad school.” Carissa noted that she adores her nieces and nephews, and is “very much looking forward to being a mom one day.”

Outside of work, Carissa spends time with her boyfriend, who, she said, “means the world to me. We have been together for more than seven years and have stayed together with oceans and states between us. He supports my dreams just as I try to do for him. He’s my teammate for life.”

JUST FOR THE THRILL OF IT

An adventure seeker with a mellow side, Carissa likes to snowboard, hike, bike, go to the gym, and scrapbook. “Nature totally helps me keep my sanity. I’m a mild adrenaline junkie

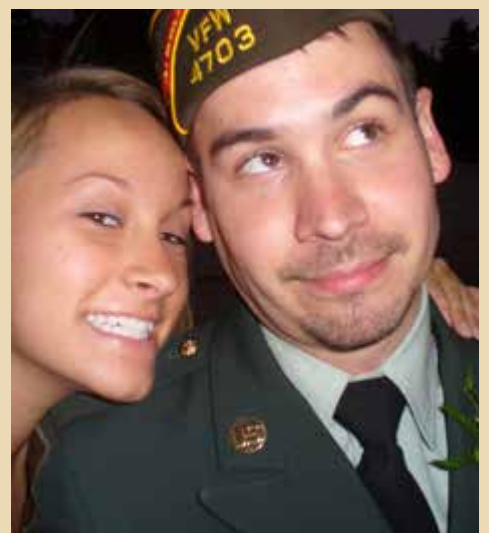
and love trying new things,” she explained. “Similar to my brother, Brandon, I love to travel. I’ve been to 10 countries and took a 32-day road trip around the country two summers ago. Upcoming pursuits include finishing my scuba diving certification and improving my German.”

WORDS OF ADVICE

For local high school students who might be considering OCC, but aren’t sure if a two-year school is right for them, Carissa encourages, “If it’s an option, then do it. I saved so much money by going to OCC and the first two years of college are basically the same everywhere anyway. Why pay more for it? The hardest part is feeling connected because it is a commuter school. It can happen though; you just have to make it happen.

“I felt very connected to OCC,” she added. “I was very involved and felt like I had friends in peers, faculty, and staff. It was comfortable and welcoming.”

– JKH







John Richards '04

Learning to Be a Student, and Then a Teacher

During his time at OCC John Richards (left) not only learned how to be a student, he learned how to be a friend, and eventually a husband. Richards met best friend, Lonnie (right) during his first year, then met his future wife, Jamie (center), the following year. The trio graduated from OCC together in 2004.

Alumnus John Richards found a great deal while a student at OCC, including scholastic confidence, a career path, a best friend, and his wife.

Following his graduation from the Lawrenceville School, Richards originally enrolled at Bucknell University. "I had a rocky start at Bucknell," he recalls. "I chose to attend the college for all the wrong

JOHN IN FIVE WORDS

...Determined
...Driven
...Helpful
...Reflective
...Friendly

reasons. One of the main reasons that I chose it was because my sister had just graduated from there. When I arrived, I knew that I was not academically ready to balance the newfound freedom with the extremely heavy workload. After my first year, I was asked to take a year off to refocus and reevaluate my life choices.

"In the interim I decided to attend OCC and really enjoyed my experience there. I enjoyed it so much so that I chose to stay at OCC the following year as opposed to returning to Bucknell."

At first though, said Richards, now 34, "I was very nervous to start at OCC. Since I had gone to boarding school for high school, I did not know anyone else in the area and was very apprehensive."

However, he added, "because of the relaxed and social climate at OCC, I was very quickly able to make friends. In fact, I met one of my best friends, Lonnie Tegen, my first year. He has become a lifelong friend and I was one of the groomsmen in his wedding.

"During my second year at OCC, I ended up meeting my future wife, Jamie, as well. We have been together for 13 years now and we have two children together," a three-year-old daughter, Amelia, and a five-month-old son, Johnny. The family resides in Brick Township, and Richards said he enjoys participating in adult sports leagues, going to the gym, fishing, and spending time with his wife and kids.

While at OCC, Richards noted, he learned proper study skills and found individuals willing to help him understand his auditory processing deficiency. "The staff at the Center for Academic Success was fantastic and worked extensively with me," he explained. "Dr. Maureen Reustle in particular was extremely supportive of me. In fact, I went on to join the Honors Program and I asked her to be my advisor for my independent study project.

"I remember presenting my independent study project at the Beacon Scholar Conference, and I was awarded the Presenter of the

Conference Award. I was really able to come out of my shell at OCC."

As the Class of 2004 graduate pointed out, "Many classes and professors at OCC had a tremendous impact on my life. Two classes in particular stand out in my mind. I remember I took Child Psychology with Prof. David Wolfe (now Assemblyman) my first year. I really enjoyed the class and his teaching style. He encouraged me to look into education.

"My first education class was with Dr. Alfred Longo. He was also an amazing teacher and I knew then that education was the correct path for me."

Richards also swam for the Vikings, to great success. He served as a team captain, qualified as an All-American, and was awarded the Pete Carroll Student Athlete of the Year Award.

"OCC is a fantastic place," he reflected. "If you are unsure if college is for you or what you want to do with your life, Ocean County College is the perfect place for you. The college is filled with knowledgeable staff members that are eager to assist you."

After earning his associate degree, Richards attended Kean Ocean. Through this program, he noted, "I was assigned to do my student teaching at Veterans Memorial Middle School. This student teaching experience led to a full-time job directly after graduation at Veterans," in Brick, where he currently works as a sixth grade mathematics teacher.

Richards, who recently earned a Master's degree from Georgian Court University, has applied for several grants on behalf of Veterans Memorial. "Ocean First Bank awarded me a local grant and the money was used to create a green space at the school," he explained. "The students weed, plant, and maintain the garden.

"I was also a state finalist in the national Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. Unfortunately, we did not win the grand prize, but as a runner-up, we were awarded two brand-new Samsung Galaxy Tablets to use in the classroom.

"I will certainly be applying for more grants in the future," he added.

Thanks in great part to OCC, Richards discovered a highly rewarding career. "I enjoy facilitating the learning experience," he stated. "There are times while I am teaching that you can actually see the precise moment when things start to make sense to the students. It is truly an awesome experience. There are many different teaching styles and different styles are effective in different settings. As a teacher, you must be fluid and receptive to the learning styles and interests of your students.

"Every day as a teacher presents a new challenge, as well as an opportunity to connect with the students," concluded Richards.

- JKH



Meet Ken Malagiere

New Executive Director Takes the Helm

“ While I’ve only been Executive Director for a few short months, I can honestly say that this is the best job I never knew I wanted! ”

The Ocean County College Foundation named Kenneth J. Malagiere (Toms River) as its new Executive Director. Malagiere assumed the position on October 9, 2017. Outgoing executive director Heather Barberi resigned one month earlier to take a position with the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation.

“I am so very humbled and excited to begin my new role as Executive Director for such an outstanding college foundation,” said Malagiere.

“The OCC Foundation’s dedication to the College’s students and the community has had a meaningful and tangible impact on the entire region. As Executive Director, I will continue to live the mission of the Foundation, working with its Board members and our staff to grant scholarships to OCC’s student body, encourage lifelong learning, and provide access to the tremendous opportunities offered on campus and abroad, proving Ocean County is a great place to live, work, and learn,” he added.

“I had the privilege of working alongside Heather Barberi for several years. Everyone at the OCC Foundation offers Heather good wishes on her new position with the Grunin Foundation,” Malagiere said.

Before assuming his duties as Executive Director, Malagiere served on the OCC Foundation Board of Trustees for seven years, 2011-2017. He served as the Foundation’s Vice Chair, along with working closely on many events, including acting as Chair of the annual Scholarship Celebration.

According to Virginia Haines, Chair, OCC Foundation Board of Trustees, Malagiere’s past experience with the Foundation and congenial spirit made him a natural fit.

“We are very fortunate to have Ken come on board as our new Executive Director. Ken is not new to the Foundation, having worked closely with staff and fellow board members on various projects. I am sure he will continue with the same energy, integrity, and dedication he did on the Board. I look forward to working with Ken in his new capacity,” Haines said.

A lifelong resident of New Jersey, Malagiere attended Wroxton College in Oxfordshire, England, in 2003, and graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2005 with a degree in Political Science and International Studies. Upon graduation, he departed from his field of study, forming the James Joseph Group, Inc. Malagiere quickly established a niche in the floral design industry on the Jersey Shore, leading the talented team at Narcissus Florals, an award-winning, premiere wedding and event florist in Toms River.

Malagiere is a collected artist and engaged citizen. He is an active member of Kiwanis Club of Greater Toms River and the Jersey Shore Business Network, Inc.; serves on The Wroxton College Advisory Council of Fairleigh Dickinson University; is Immediate Past-Chair of The Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce; and Immediate Past-President of the Garden State Philharmonic. Malagiere was an Honorary Commander of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, 2013-2016.

In November 2017, Malagiere and husband, Jonathan Z. Petro, Co-Managing Partner of the Law Firm of Carluccio, Leone, Dimon, Doyle, and Sacks (Toms River), were honored by the Ocean County YMCA with its highest award, “The Red Triangle,” for the couple’s dedication and contribution to the mission of the “Y.”

“The OCC Foundation is a dynamic foundation, ready to meet the challenges of the evolving needs of our students and the entire community we serve. While I’ve only been Executive Director for a few short months, I can honestly say that this is the best job I never knew I wanted!” concluded Malagiere with a smile.

— RAD

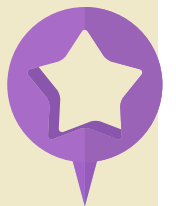


WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING



- 2017: Golf Outing netted nearly **\$48,000**
- 2017: Scholarship Celebration netted **\$200,171**
- 2016-2017: Total Dollars Raised: **\$524,206**
- 2016-2017: Total Number of Scholarships Awarded: **678**
- 2016-2017: Total Amount of Scholarships Awarded: **\$538,562**
- Over **\$12 million dollars** in Endowed Funds
- Over **\$15 Million distributed** in scholarships and special programming since 1965

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO



- **Tusk Benefit Concert**
Enjoy the music on April 7!
See back page for details.
- **Erin Brockovich**
Join us on April 12!
See page 24 for details.
- **Scholarship Celebration**
Party with us on June 15!
- **17th Annual Golf Outing**
Tee off on October 9!



Legal “Eagle” and Environmental Activist Erin Brockovich Headlines Blauvelt Lecture Series

Say the name Erin Brockovich and you think, strong, tough, stubborn, and sexy.

Brockovich is all that and definitely more. She is a modern-day “David” who loves a good brawl with today’s “Goliaths.” She thrives on being the voice for those who don’t know how to yell. She is a rebel. She is a fighter. She is a mother. She is a woman. She is you and me.

It has been 17 years since Julia Roberts starred in the Oscar-winning tour de force *Erin Brockovich*. The film turned an unknown legal researcher into a 20th century icon by showcasing how her dogged persistence was the impelling force behind the largest medical settlement lawsuit in history. Since then, Brockovich hasn’t been resting on her laurels... she continues to fight hard and win big!

Brockovich is one of the most requested speakers on the international lecture circuit and travels the world for personal appearances. She is a true American hero whose icon status and

“stick-to-it-iveness” only fuels her determination to expose injustice and lend her voice to those who do not have one.

As President of Brockovich Research & Consulting, she is involved in numerous environmental projects worldwide. She has requests for her help in ground water contamination complaints in every state of the United States, Australia, and other international hot spots. She is currently working on cases in California, Texas, Florida, Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri.

The Ocean County College Foundation’s Blauvelt Lecture Series proudly presents An Evening with Erin Brockovich on Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. on the Main Stage of the Grunin Center. Tickets are \$40 for the lecture. There will be a VIP Meet and Greet in the Grunin Center Gallery at 5:30 p.m. (limited to 50 guests), which can be added to your lecture seats for an additional \$35 (includes wine, beer, and gourmet hors d’oeuvres). For tickets, call the Grunin Center Box Office at 732-255-0500.

Check out these upcoming shows!

Songbook: POP/ROCK/R&B Steven Page and the Art of Time Ensemble

Friday, February 2, 2018

Page, founder and former-lead of the Barenaked Ladies, joins Toronto's Art of Time Ensemble in an evening of music for the modern era. 8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$45 - \$35



Goodnight Moon FAMILY and The Runaway Bunny

Saturday, February 3, 2018

11:00am ■ Main Stage ■ \$15 - \$10



Sierra Hull BLUEGRASS

Saturday, February 3, 2018

8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$25



The Birdland JAZZ All-Stars featuring Tommy Igoe-The Art of Jazz

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

7:30pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$45 - \$43



Michael Lynche: POP/ROCK/R&B R&B Legends

Saturday, February 17, 2018

"American Idol" finalist Lynche is a new breed of Soul singer with completely classic influences. 8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$25



Celtic WORLD MUSIC & DANCE Nights: Oceans of Hope

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

7:30pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$43 - \$33



An Intimate SINGER-SONGWRITER Evening with Rickie Lee Jones

Thursday, March 22, 2018

7:30 pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$59-\$45



Jay and Linda
GRUNIN CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

Artrageous ART & MUSIC

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Imagine an artist creating a masterpiece before your eyes, with a mix of captivating vocals, intricate choreography, and exciting audience interaction!

8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$39 - \$35

TUSK: A Salute TRIBUTE to Fleetwood Mac (A Benefit Concert)

Saturday, April 7, 2018

For one night only, enjoy an evening of incredible music and food as you support the mission of the OCC Foundation.

6:30pm ■ VIP Reception & Concert ■ \$100

8:00pm ■ Concert Only ■ \$45

The HillBenders BLUEGRASS present The Who's TOMMY: A Bluegrass Opry

Friday, April 13, 2018

8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$35

Tom Chapin SINGER-SONGWRITER & Chapin Sisters

Saturday, April 21, 2018

8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$35 - \$30

Peter SINGER-SONGWRITER Yarrow

Friday, May 11, 2018

8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$35 - \$30

Hotel California: TRIBUTE A Salute to the Eagles

Friday, May 18, 2018

8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$39 - \$35

The Jazz MIDWEEK JAZZ Lobsters Big Band

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

8:00pm ■ Main Stage ■ \$24-\$20

www.grunincenter.org | 732.255.0500



Justin Linton '14 Named Barnegeat Bay Watershed Ambassador

Linton will help educate residents in the watershed about ways to reduce water pollution as well as conduct stream assessments to monitor the health of New Jersey's waterways.

The Barnegeat Bay Partnership, host agency for the Barnegeat Bay Watershed Ambassador, welcomes Justin Linton as he begins his term of service with the NJ Watershed Ambassador Program, an AmeriCorps program designed to promote watershed stewardship through education and community outreach.

"As a kid, I used to spend hours exploring a stream at the end of my road, discovering all its mysteries. Now that I'm a Watershed Ambassador, I get to collect scientific data from streams throughout Ocean County. By chance, one of my assigned sites is my neighborhood stream, and it's great to learn even more about my favorite spot," explained Linton.

Linton received his Associate in Science degree in Biology from OCC (2014) and graduated from Juniata College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology (2016). He also recently completed training to become a New Jersey Registered Environmental Health Specialist. Linton is a resident of Jackson and spends his free time playing soccer, kayaking, and enjoying the great outdoors.

"My term of service with AmeriCorps has brought me back to Ocean County College and the Barnegeat Bay Partnership, an organization I was introduced to during an Environmental Science course I took at OCC," Linton said.

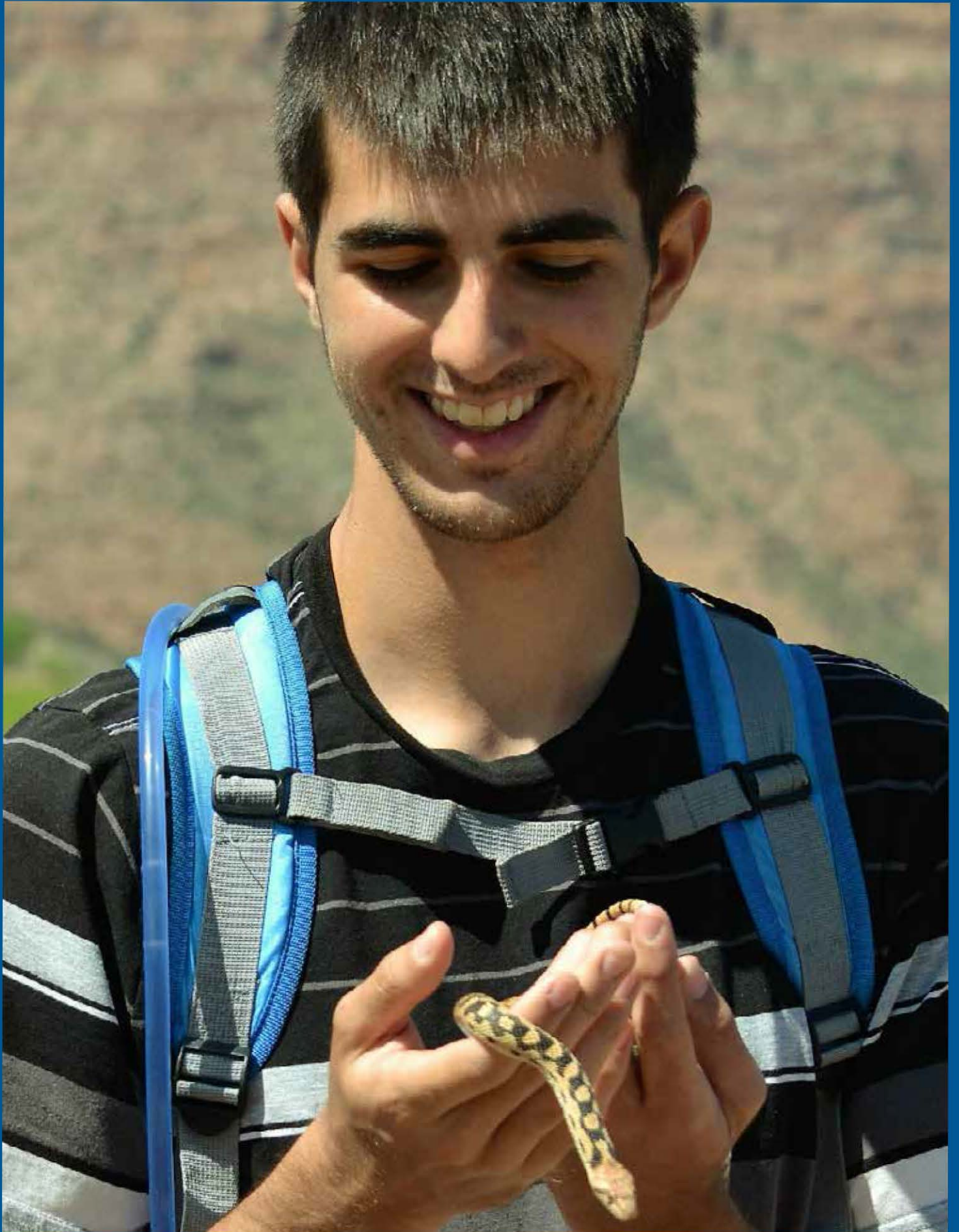
AmeriCorps is a national service initiative that engages more than 70,000 Americans each year in volunteer service that benefits education, public safety, health, homeland security, and the environment. Assigned to each of the state's 20 main watersheds, the Watershed Ambassadors educate people about how they can help reduce sources of water pollution. They also conduct stream assessments to monitor the health of New Jersey's waterways and train volunteers to become stream monitors.

"It's a privilege to host the Barnegeat Bay Watershed Ambassador each year. Through educational programs and stewardship projects, the ambassadors help raise awareness of how everyday actions impact clean water in the bay. We thank them for their many hours of service," said Dr. Stan Hales, Barnegeat Bay Program Director.

During Linton's term of service from September 2017 to July 2018, he is available to give presentations and organize community projects, such as park clean-ups, dune grass plantings, and rain barrel workshops. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation or collaborating on a project, contact Justin Linton at ambassadorwma13@gmail.com or 732-255-0472, ext. 7.

KW







Jen Nelson, Fall 2009

Jennifer Nelson '10

Head Coach, OCC Cross Country

Associate in Science Degree | Science, Ocean County College 2010

Accolades | NJSTARS Recipient | Team Captain Cross Country | National Champion | Female Athlete of the Year
| Most Valuable Player | All Academic | All American | All Conference | All Region

Bachelor of Science Degree | Biology, Monmouth University 2012

Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree | Stockton University 2015

Accolades | Graduated with Distinction

Research | Presented at the American College of Sports Medicine World Conference

Full-Time Job | Physical Therapist working in an outpatient orthopedic setting

Awards/Honors | OCC Athletic Hall of Fame 2016

Ocean Views asked Jennifer, “What has OCC sports meant to you and what impact has OCC made on your life as an alumna and now head coach of the Viking Cross Country Team?” The following is her heartfelt answer.

When I say that Ocean County College completely changed my life, I am not exaggerating. It was, hands down, one of the best decisions I have ever made. Academically, I received an excellent education that laid the foundation to eventually getting my doctoral degree and landing my dream job as a physical therapist. And financially, the decision was seemingly a no-brainer. What surprised me the most, however, was the huge impact that joining the Cross Country Team would have on my life.

I was always an athlete growing up. I was a state champion soccer player and ran track since I was in middle school. Out of high school, I was being recruited by a four-year university to run track but as soon as I got my first bill, my parents refused to let me take on so much debt and pushed for me to do the NJ STARS Program. With that, I found myself at OCC.

Going into my sophomore year, I was really starting to miss being a part of a sports team. It was then that I found out that OCC was starting up a cross country team and was looking for runners. I was not sure about it at first. I had never run cross country before and felt that I was so busy with my studies that there was no way I could balance everything. But my mom, who is always right about everything, convinced me to join the team.

Everything that season was new to me, and I learned as I went along. I had a great coach in Eddie Baynes and had some great teammates that I still talk to today. Once we started competing, I instantly fell in love with the sport. I was surprised that I was doing really well and was winning a bunch of races.

Before I knew it, I was the region and national champion and my team was winning the national title. That instantly opened the door of opportunity, and I was contacted by some great universities to transfer to and run for once I graduated. When I chose to attend and run for Monmouth University, it was an easy decision. I continued to receive a great education and accomplished more things with running, including winning multiple conference titles; making my way into their record book; being named captain, MVP, and Female Athlete of the Year; and earning a spot at the NAAs (National Collegiate Athletic Association).

Running became part of who I was as a person, and I continued with it even after college, with things such as representing the country in a race in Jamaica and running the Boston Marathon. Perhaps, the best thing I was able to do with running was come back to coach the team where I first got my start – Ocean County College. It is an absolute honor to coach for OCC, and it feels like I have finally come full circle. It is so special because I see myself in a lot of the athletes, and I want to help them all reach their full potentials and open up opportunities for their futures like it did for me.

Looking back at where I started and where I am now, I could not be more satisfied with the way everything panned out. I achieved a degree that I once thought to be impossible and now have a career that I love in physical therapy. On top of that, I get to continue following my passion in running by coaching young athletes at the collegiate level – something I always dreamed of doing. And, hey, not being in a ton of debt from my seven years of college is the cherry on top. I have Ocean County College to thank for all of that.

“*OCC helped me find my passion and prepared me for the life I had always dreamed of.*”
– Jen Nelson

– JN

CHECK ONE: ■ STUDENT ■ ATHLETE



Logan Squires '18

LOGAN THE ATHLETE

Team | Women's Tennis

High School | Toms River North

Honors or Awards | 2017 NJCAA Region XIX, Runner Up in the 5th Singles Flight
2017 NJCAA All Region 2nd Team

What athletic accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

I am most proud of my performance in the regional tournaments both this year and last. I played my heart [out] and can walk away from community college tennis saying I played my best.

Describe the OCC Women's Tennis Team in three words or less:

Caring, Fun, and Hardworking

LOGAN THE STUDENT

Major: A.A., Liberal Arts

Goal: I'd like to transfer to Fairleigh Dickinson University–Florham Campus and get my degree in Elementary Education so I can one day teach kindergarten.

What do you enjoy doing off the Tennis Court and out of the classroom?

I work two jobs, so that takes up most of my free time. I also am an avid reader, so I enjoy spending whatever free time I have left in bed with a good book.

What is your favorite OCC class and why?

My favorite class is History to 1877, because of the content and the professor. The class teaches so much about the ancient world/civilizations, and that is something that has interested me since I was a child. Anything to do with history is interesting.

Who is your favorite OCC professor and why?

So many professors at OCC have had such a positive impact on me. If I had to choose though, I would say Dr. Elizabeth Brierley. She is a tough teacher so you need to work hard for a good grade, but at the same time, she is helpful, kind, down to earth, and you can tell she truly cares about her students and their success.

Describe OCC students in three words or less:

Fun, Motivated, and Hardworking!



ETE ~~X~~ BOTH!



Matt Singh '18

MATT THE ATHLETE

Team | Men's Soccer
High School | Toms River East
Honors or Awards | 2nd Team A South
2nd Team All County
Offensive Player of the Year

What athletic accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

Playing at OCC and finishing our season 5th in the country at nationals.

Describe the OCC Men's Soccer Team in three words or less | "Some Beasts"



MATT THE STUDENT

Major | A.A., Liberal Arts

Goal | I'd like to transfer to Stockton University, major in Education, and become an athletic director.

What do you enjoy doing off the Soccer Field and out of the classroom?

I snowboard, paintball, and fish quite a bit.

What is your favorite OCC class and why?

My favorite class is Global Issues because of the constant updates of what's going on around the world.

Who is your favorite OCC professor and why? My favorite professor is Mr. Ghibesi because he keeps the class always engaged.

Describe OCC students in three words or less | Interesting

Honors Abound

The Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey (CAANJ) honors New Jersey's best and brightest with its Scholar Athlete of the Year Award. For the second consecutive year, two OCC graduates were honored in the Two Year College category: Emily Dancisin (Softball) and Kieran Murphy (Men's Soccer).

Former-first baseman Dancisin was a key factor in the Vikings winning the Region XIX Championship and advancing to the Nationals during her freshman year. She served as Captain in her sophomore year and was a positive, motivating force both on and off the field, graduating with a 4.0 GPA.

Murphy played a pivotal role in the Vikings advancing to the Region XIX play offs in 2016 and was named Captain in his sophomore year. Upon graduation, Murphy enlisted in the United States Navy to protect and serve his country.

Veteran Coach Retires

The conclusion of this season's Women's Tennis Tournament marked the end of an era in OCC Tennis as Stan Friedman announced his retirement. Friedman coached men's and women's teams for almost 12 years. "I feel blessed to have coached Ocean's men's and women's teams. The student-athletes' dedication has made my coaching experience something that I will never forget." OCC Athletics thanks Coach Friedman for his many years of dedicated service!

3 MORE THINGS WE'RE PROUD OF

Consecutive GSAC Championships in Volleyball



Hosted a Successful Region XIX Tennis Tournament



Men's Soccer Won NJCAA Region XIX Championship





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OCC FOUNDATION EVENTS



SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018



6:30pm ■ VIP Reception
Includes wine, beer, and gourmet
hors d'oeuvres
(Black Box Theatre) \$100

8:00pm ■ Concert only
(Main Stage) \$45

*Proceeds benefit the
OCC Foundation and the
OCC Rep Theatre Company*

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018



BLAUVELT LECTURE SERIES

Erin
Brockovich

5:30pm ■ VIP Meet and Greet
Includes wine, beer, and
gourmet hors d'oeuvres
(Grinin Center Gallery) \$75

7:00pm ■ Lecture only
(Main Stage) \$40

732-255-0492 | go.ocean.edu/foundation

Jay and Linda **GRUNIN CENTER** FOR THE ARTS