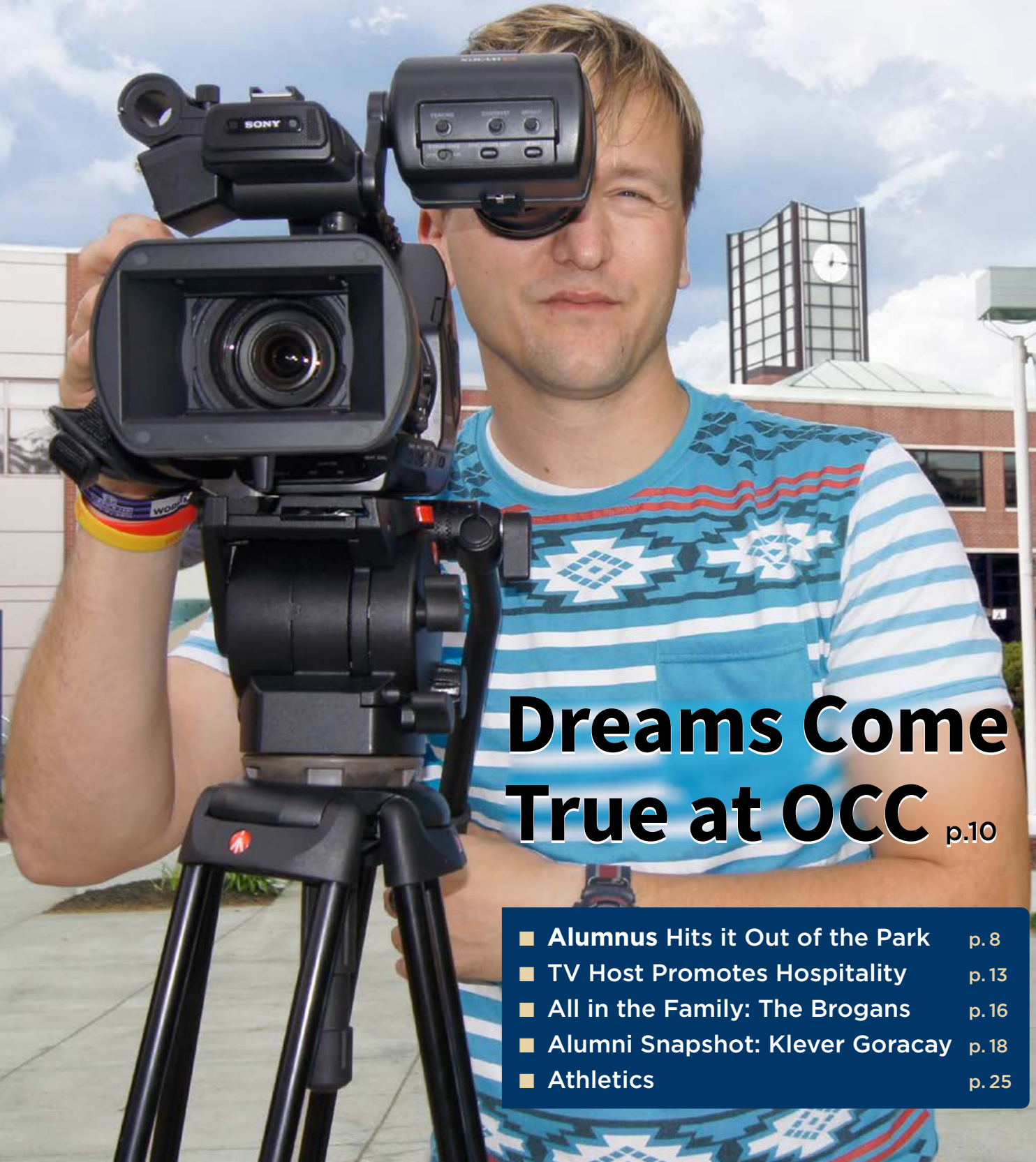


OCEAN VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE ALUMNI, OUR COLLEGE FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY
Summer-Fall 2016 ■ Vol. X : No. 2



Dreams Come True at OCC p.10

- **Alumnus Hits it Out of the Park** p. 8
- **TV Host Promotes Hospitality** p. 13
- **All in the Family: The Brogans** p. 16
- **Alumni Snapshot: Klever Goracay** p. 18
- **Athletics** p. 25

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR: **RoseAnn D'Urso**
Manager of Promotional Programming

LAYOUT: **Scott Bruinooge**
Manager of Graphic Design

STAFF WRITER: **Juliet Kaszas-Hoch**

CONTRIBUTORS: **Sherri Bray, Jennifer Evans, Rebecca Feiler White, John Fraterrigo, Mary Judge, Megan Miskin, Oleksandr "Alex" Podolyanchuk, AJ Trump**

www.ocean.edu



Please address comments and submissions to rurso@ocean.edu.

Board of Trustees

Carl V. Thulin, Jr., *Chair*
Linda L. Novak, *Vice Chair*
Jerry Dasti, *Treasurer*
Stephen R. Leone, *Secretary*
Frank J. Dupignac, Jr.
Dr. Judith DeStefano-Anen
Emil A. Kaunitz, Jr.
Thomas Monahan
Joanne Pehlivanian
Wilda Smithers, M.D.
Joseph E. Teichman
Danielle Robleski, *Student/Alumni Rep.*

Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders

John P. Kelly, *Director*
Gerry P. Little, *Deputy Director*
John C. Bartlett, Jr., *Liaison to OCC*
Joseph H. Vicari
Virginia E. Haines

© 2016 Ocean County College.
OceanViews is published bi-annually by the Office of College Relations, Ocean County College, College Drive, PO Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001.



Commencement Week Honors Graduates

One thousand four hundred and eighty-eight students received their associate degrees during Ocean County College's 49th Annual Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, May 26, at 6:00 p.m., on the Main Campus Mall. From the Class of 2016, Nicholas Leight delivered the "Student Remarks." Kevin Smith, OCC '72, Alumni Representative, gave the "Alumni Remarks." The Guest Speaker was U.S. Congressman Thomas MacArthur, 3rd District of New Jersey.

Two days earlier, 145 students from the OCC Nursing Class received their nursing pins at the Annual Nurses Pinning Ceremony on Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts. During the ceremony, special awards in Nursing were presented. "Dedications" from each of the Nursing graduates were printed in the program. Sarah Phipps, Manchester,

wrote: "I would like to dedicate my pin to my mother who uplifted, encouraged, and supported me through the process of obtaining my degree and she is the perfect example of the nurse I strive to be."

The 49th Annual Awards Ceremony took place on Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts. This annual ceremony recognizes OCC's outstanding student graduates. Ninety-five awards, totaling more than \$51,000 were presented to 62 students. In addition, Teaching Excellence Awards were presented to three outstanding faculty including Caitlyn Cook, Librarian, Reference Services (Full-time); Dr. Marilyn Kralik, College Lecturer of Humanities and Fine Arts (Professional Educator); and Wayne Petersen, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Social Science (Adjunct). ■

Retailer Brings Cost-Saving Options and Expanded Services to OCC



Ocean County College named Barnes & Noble College as the new operator of the OCC Bookstore. The Bookstore, located in the Jon and Judith Larson Student Center, transitioned to new management on July 1, 2016.

“The selection of Barnes & Noble College to serve Ocean County College will provide a wide range of previously unavailable Bookstore options that will be a major step up in quality and service for our students,” said Dr. Jon H. Larson, President of Ocean County College.

Barnes & Noble College is recognized for its ability to bring innovative programs and solutions to college and university campuses. The selection of Barnes & Noble College will allow the bookstore to offer students a variety of affordable choices for course materials, including a robust in-store and online rental textbook program, an extensive selection of used and new books, as well as digital content through its Yuzu® digital platform. The bookstore will also implement a new self-serve textbook department, ensuring a faster and more efficient checkout process.

In addition to a variety of cost-saving textbook options, OCC students will enjoy a campus bookstore that reflects the College’s unique brand, including an expanded selection of OCC Vikings logo apparel, laptops,

and other technology products, as well as gifts for alumni, friends, and family. The Bookstore will also carry school supplies and other educational and reading materials.

Barnes & Noble College will create and manage OCC’s online bookstore website, delivering an innovative, customized shopping experience, offering students, faculty, and alumni the choice and convenience to shop in-store or online. OCC faculty, also will gain access to a groundbreaking online community called FacultyEnlight (www.facultyenlight.com), a streamlined textbook adoption platform that combines advanced search capabilities with detailed information on course material formats, pricing and reviews by other faculty.

OCC students will also have the opportunity to apply for part-time and seasonal bookseller positions, as well as participate in a Retail Internship Program, where if accepted, can participate in an 18-24 month management development course that can result in placement in a management position in one of our campus bookstores across the country.

Retail internship opportunities and personal growth for OCC students will extend beyond graduation day. Barnes & Noble College’s partnerships with Kean University, Rowan University, and Rutgers University

provide a clear pathway for students to continue their vocational growth with Barnes & Noble College when they transfer to New Jersey’s top four-year universities. OCC’s proximity to Barnes & Noble College’s Home Office in Basking Ridge, NJ, also presents further opportunities for OCC student internships.

OCC is one of 21 higher education institutions with which Barnes & Noble College partners in the state of New Jersey, including Rutgers University, Salem Community College, Rowan University, Cumberland County College, and Kean University. Barnes & Noble College operates more than 748 campus stores nationwide.

“We’re very proud to partner with Ocean County College,” said Patrick Maloney, President of Barnes & Noble College. “We look forward to delivering a retail and digital learning experience that will support the College’s quality and affordable academic programs in a supportive environment that nurtures student success.”

For more information about Barnes & Noble College’s services and locations, visit www.bncollege.com. To learn more about Barnes & Noble College’s affordable textbook rental program, visit www.bnctextbookrental.com. ■

Going to the Dogs ... and Cats!

Continuing and Professional Education's Allied Health programs are continuing to provide professional development opportunities and contact hours required for maintaining credentials and licenses. Health care professionals who benefit include nurses, massage therapists, home health aides, social workers, and yoga instructors. In fact, all Allied Health fast-track training career programs showed strong enrollment for spring 2016.

According to Kathryn Caro, Administrator of Nursing and Allied Health, two new programs were successfully implemented during the spring semester including a new Veterinary Assistant Certificate and an evening Medical Assistant Certificate. Both programs provide an opportunity for students to continue working while attending evening and/or weekend classes to train for an exciting career in health care. Program completion can

lead to national certifications/credentials and immediate job opportunities.

The Veterinary Assistant program recently received national approval from NAVTA (National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America). The approval runs through June 30, 2018. This distinction positions OCC among the most competitive programs in the nation. Successful graduates of the Veterinary Assistant program will receive an OCC Certificate of Completion and will be given the opportunity to take the NAVTA National Approved Veterinary Assistant Exam. With successful completion of the exam, individuals will become an Approved Veterinary Assistant (AVA) and be recognized for their accomplishment with the AVA designation. Program graduates who completed training since June 2015 will also be eligible to sit for the national examination. ■



The Veterinary Assistant Certificate Program is led by Dr. Adam Christman, DVM, a veterinarian at Brick Town Veterinary Hospital. To help with enrollment, Dr. Christman, and his feline friend Buster, starred in a 60-second commercial promoting the new program.

To view the spot, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VAzrw3RPq8> or search "youtube ocean county college Dr. Christman"

Veterans Have a Friend Indeed

Ocean County College's division of e-Learning & Learning Enterprises established a new partnership with Mission United, a subdivision of United Way. Mission United is a critical program supporting U.S. military veterans and their families as they re-acclimate to civilian life. Mission United focuses on employment services, legal assistance, education, financial services, health, and housing, supporting veteran empowerment and promoting their self-sufficiency. Its services are free to veterans.

Through a partnership pathway, Mission United will direct veterans to OCC relative to the education component of its mission. OCC's Veterans Affairs Office will be instrumental in ensuring that these veteran-students are supported in pursuit of their education. Mission United will provide the mentorship aspect as both OCC and Mission United work together collaboratively to support our veterans.

And, for the third year in a row, OCC has been named to the 2016 Military Friendly schools list. This designation showcases

OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE KNOWS VETERANS

Ocean County is home to the largest population of veterans in the state of New Jersey; they are our students, our faculty, our staff, and our family members. We have been assisting veterans with their educational needs for over 45 years.

Veterans and their families can be assured that Ocean County College's main goal is to help them reach theirs – a quality education.

OCC's dedicated staff will assist you in maximizing your benefits with skilled academic planning. Our liberal transfer policy may allow you to turn your military training into college credits. Study towards a degree or certificate on OCC's beautiful Toms River campus, or take Online classes from anywhere in the world!

VETERANS SERVICES

College Drive • PO Box 2001 • Toms River, NJ 08754
www.ocean.edu

the top 20% of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that embraces America's military service members, veterans,

and spouses when they become students, ensuring their success on campus. Military service members, veterans, and student spouses can go to the Military Friendly website and not only select a listing of schools but also search employers, franchises, and cities that offer the most opportunities for the military.

In addition, through a promotional/recruitment campaign, an investment was made in GI Jobs, a Veterans online and print magazine; already this year, there have been 1,675,999 page views.

Through this campaign, OCC is able to reach veterans across the county and has an opportunity to highlight OCC's veteran students and their stories. The profile of OCC Criminal Justice student Joe Dai, who recently returned home from deployment in Afghanistan as part of a combat support sustainment battalion, can be read at www.gijobs.com/veteran-profile/ocean-county-college/joseph-dai/. ■



Short Takes

Construction on **the new Health Sciences Building** has begun, on the upper campus, and is anticipated to run through fall 2018.

The College received national Fire & Emergency Services Higher Education recognition for the newly revised **Fire Science program**.

As part of the **OCC Political Science Institute**, NJ Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno and Ocean County Freeholder (and OCC Foundation Chair) Ginny Haines spoke about their experiences as women in politics.

The Academy for Lifelong Learning held its third **Active Adult Sessions**, incorporating into the event's theme Global Education's "Irish Heritage Celebration," acknowledging the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Business Engagement is actively involved in **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst programs**, which allow for the dissemination of Customized Training/Workforce Development materials and provides the opportunity to strengthen relationships.

OCC held the **Sixth Annual Senior Living Expo**, which showcased over 70 community vendors from various industries across the county and attracted 600 attendees!

Customized Training is working with McDonald's Corporation in servicing its franchises with **English-as-a-Second Language** training through the New Jersey Business and Industry Association/Coalition 19 Grant.

The 2nd Annual **Women's Leadership Conference** featured guest speaker Sandy Levine who addressed the "inner elephant," a metaphor for women's strength and endurance during times when a crisis demands essential leadership skills for survival and success. Next year's conference will focus on "across gender lines."

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences was **reaccredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing** for eight years. The report identified an area of strength, the ability for faculty to earn a PhD in Nursing Education Leadership from Kean University on OCC's Toms River campus. Of note, they did not find any areas needing development. ■

Study Abroad Offers Students the World



During the 2016 January winter recess, OCC offered two exciting Study Abroad opportunities to promote cross-cultural understanding and awareness of global perspectives. Led by OCC faculty members, the travel seminars were open to students and community members.

Under the leadership of Gary Shaffer, Assistant Professor of Communications and Media Studies, participants were immersed in the 37th Annual Theater in London seminar. Twenty-three travelers took part in the London trip, attending ten plays at the Royal National, West End, Fringe, and other venues. They also had the opportunity to meet and talk with actors, directors, and technical staff.

Robert Marchie and Stephen Downey, both College Lecturers of History, led a group of 16 students on the "Battlefields of Europe" travel seminar where they visited France and Luxembourg to study the history of France during WWI and WWII. This nine-day historical and cultural adventure included visits to numerous cities, museums, and memorials, a cruise on the Seine River, and dinner at the Eiffel Tower. ■

Experts at InsideTrack to Provide Coaching

Ocean County College and InsideTrack have formed a partnership to provide coaching to prospective and enrolled students, helping them engage and succeed in programs that support their personal and career goals.

InsideTrack, a leading student success organization, works with colleges and universities to design and launch coaching programs. The partnership will provide one-on-one enrollment coaching for up to 7,000 prospective students, re-engagement of up to 750 prior students, an analytics-driven retention monitoring program, and success coaching for up to 500 currently enrolled students.

"OCC is committed to helping our students develop a clear roadmap to success so they can start and finish strong. Understanding each student's unique goals, motivation, and background is critical to making that happen,"

said Jeffrey Harmon, Associate Vice President of E-Learning and Learning Enterprises at Ocean County College.

"Community colleges like OCC provide a critical pathway to educational access and career opportunities in growing industries," said Chris Tilghman, Vice President of Program Development at InsideTrack.

"InsideTrack's unique expertise in student support, technology, and analytics will help many more students successfully transition to college, achieve their own goals, and focus on viable careers so they can enrich our community and lead fulfilling lives," Harmon said.

"We are excited to undertake this innovative student support project with the OCC team and help more students thrive," Tilghman added.



Jay and Linda
GRUNIN CENTER
FOR THE ARTS



Jay and Linda
GRUNIN CENTER
FOR THE ARTS

2016-17 SEASON

Fall-Winter



2016-2017
S E A S O N

September 2016

- 10** Shades of Bubl 
- 21** Bucky's Back/Better Than Ever!
- 24** Chris Collins and Boulder Canyon

October

- 1** Patti LuPone
- 9** New Jersey Tap Ensemble
- 13** Emel Mathlouthi
- 16** The Nat King Cole Tribute featuring Ramsey Lewis and John Pizzarelli
- 19** Bria Skonberg
- 20-29** Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead
- 21** Ethel's Blue Dress
- 22** Crystal Bowersox
- 27** Urban Bush Women
- 29** Pinkalicious, The Musical

November

- 4** Lez Zeppelin
- 10** Arlo Guthrie
- 20** Home Free

December

- 1** The King's Singers
- 1-10** Sylvia
- 2** Westminster Concert Bell Choir
- 3** A Christmas Carol
- 3** OCC Concert Band Presents: A Holiday Spectacular
- 7** Molly Ryan's Swingin' Christmas Ball
- 10** Culinary Adventures featuring Mary Ann Esposito & Joe Leone
- 11** Nutcracker
- 14** It's a Wonderful Life: Live From WVU Radio Theatre
- 15** The Celtic Tenors
- 16** Tom Wopat and Linda Purl

January 2017

- 11** The Midiri Brothers Salute to Benny Goodman and Friends
- 13** Doktor Kaboom
- 22** Vocalosity
- 26** One Man Lord of the Rings

Dates • Full Schedule • Tickets

www.grunincenter.org

UCEDA Institute Partners with OCC to Teach ESL

Through a partnership with the Department of Continuing & Professional Education at Ocean County College, UCEDA Institute is providing expanded, non-credit English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) program offerings on the OCC campus! If you are a non-native speaker of English and need to upgrade your speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills, Ocean County College and UCEDA can help. Whether your native language is Spanish, Chinese, or Russian, all non-native speakers of English will find assistance through UCEDA's comprehensive ESL program.

Since July 2015, UCEDA Institute has been bringing its unique form of English language learning to Ocean County College and students have been quickly taking advantage of this exciting opportunity! UCEDA's ESL program focuses on the needs of students rather than just on teaching a class. In other words, UCEDA teachers keep in mind what students need to learn in order to successfully deal with situations that arise in their daily lives.

With help from Ocean County College and UCEDA, everyone can learn English! With a student profile of 18 plus years old, from over 40 nations spanning all socioeconomic backgrounds, UCEDA offers quality instruction, for adult non-native speakers of English, with a proven method for over 25 years with a dynamic coaching style.

UCEDA's mission is to motivate and prepare students to achieve their goals by developing effective English communication skills. UCEDA has a demonstrated capacity to offer comprehensive and effective ESL programs and personalized support to students in Ocean County and beyond.

Whether you need basic, intermediate, or advanced classes, the ESL curriculum is focused on foundational grammar, plus reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills including pronunciation and conversation.

Kean Ocean Celebrates 10 Years!



Kean Ocean faculty, staff, and students gathered in front of the Gateway Building on Ocean County College's Toms River Campus in April for a special 10th anniversary commemorative group photo. Kean Ocean, an innovative partnership between Kean University and Ocean County College, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.



The first such partnership of its kind in New Jersey, Kean Ocean has become a model for the current trend in higher education toward cooperation and collaboration between community colleges and four-year institutions. Kean Ocean offers easy access and an affordable path for Ocean County College graduates and other students with an associate degree to Kean University's bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs.

Currently, 1,500 students are enrolled at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Since it was established in 2006, Kean Ocean has grown from 10 to 30 degree completion programs as well as

seven master's degrees, one Ph.D. program, and online options through Kean Online. Among the bachelor's degree programs at Kean Ocean are business

management, psychology, and nursing. The first Ph.D. program at Kean Ocean, in Nursing Educational Leadership, launched in spring 2016. It is a 59-credit program of study that prepares nurses to serve as nursing faculty at colleges and universities.

The five-story, 74,000 square foot Gateway Building housing Kean Ocean opened in 2013 and four more campus buildings are in the planning stages. Additionally, West College Drive, a one-mile road off Bay Avenue, opened in 2015 to provide improved accessibility to Kean Ocean for students and faculty and also function as an attractive entranceway that highlights the spectacular Gateway Building.

For more information about Kean Ocean, visit www.kean.edu/keanocean or join the celebration by using the tag #KeanOcean10. ■

Each level includes 12 weeks of instruction with 4.5 hours of class weekly; students can choose to study in the morning or evening. Monthly and weekly pay-as-you-go plans are available.

For millions of individuals throughout the world, English serves as a bridge to greater possibilities and success. UCEDA at Ocean County College can help you improve your life through education. ■

Alumnus Hits One Out of **the Ballpark!**



As Chris Tafrow '02 can attest, life is a series of hits and misses. There are errors and strikeouts, stretches of studying up, and the occasional homerun. Sometimes you're hit by a pitch, and sometimes you knock the ball out of the park. And you can never predict exactly when or how you'll end up on home plate.

On an overcast morning in early May, Tafrow, 35, was at FirstEnergy Park, ringed by trees in Lakewood Township, NJ. In September of last year, Tafrow stepped in to the role of General Manager for the Lakewood BlueClaws baseball team, a Philadelphia Phillies affiliate that plays in the Class A South Atlantic League. The ballpark – where Tafrow and staff spend about 15 hours a day when the team is at home – is a familiar place for the Ocean County College alumnus, who has walked its halls and turf since the state-of-the-art facility first opened in 2000, when the BlueClaws arrived in Lakewood from Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Although Tafrow did play baseball as a youngster, and for a few years of high school, he said he would never have guessed he'd end up the GM of a minor league baseball team, right here in his home state. "You just can't plan what you're going to do in life," he observed.

As a student at Toms River East High School, Tafrow played the drums, among other pursuits. (Dad Anthony Tafrow was a band director at the high school, and now works at OCC.) Although he didn't

have much of an idea of what he'd like to study after graduation, he had his sights set on The College of New Jersey. That plan fell through, and he decided to enroll at OCC – a decision he's happy he made.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do," said Tafrow, who lives in Hazlet with wife Christine, three-year-old daughter Skye and six-month-old son Ace. "OCC gave me the time to figure it out."

And, Tafrow added, he didn't have the added pressure of spending \$30,000-plus a year for higher education while still trying to determine the exact path forward.

At OCC, Tafrow studied music, then criminal justice, then business. "A marketing class I took really made me think about what I wanted to do," he remarked. After earning his associate degree, he transferred to Seton Hall, where he focused on finance. Tafrow attributes much of his success at the four-year school to his experience at OCC.

Tafrow explained, "OCC to an extent was harder than Seton Hall because you had to be disciplined. I spent a lot of time in the library, and I learned to study." He also discovered that he *liked* learning. "I really looked forward to going to school."

Tafrow juggled his classes at Seton Hall with a full-time job at the BlueClaws stadium – brand-new at the time, 16 years ago – as the concession stand manager, and other positions.

**“I didn’t know what I wanted to do.
OCC gave me the time to figure it out.”**

– Chris Tafrow ’02,
General Manager, Lakewood BlueClaws

Following Seton Hall, Tafrow, then 24, worked in finance for Bloomingdale’s. After six months, though, he returned to the BlueClaws; he spoke with the GM at the time, who gave him a job as the Assistant Director of Food and Beverage, a position he held for seven years. He was then promoted to Director of Food and Beverage, then Director of Sponsorship, which involved marketing, relationship building, and client interaction.

With hard work, charisma, and attention to detail, Tafrow moved up the ranks. “What made me who I am,” he pointed out, “is the food and beverage experience,” which taught him time management, customer service skills, and the importance of efficiency and cleanliness.

Now, as GM, Tafrow’s primary responsibility is marketing and business operations, along with community outreach, game entertainment, and promotions. He also executes any player trades, facilitating the picking up or dropping off of players when they’re joining the BlueClaws or heading elsewhere.

For Tafrow, the best part of his job is the camaraderie with the other employees, and how well they work together. (Tafrow is a lifelong Yankees fan, but he says of the Phillies: “I respect the organization 100 percent. We all work very well together.”)

He also likes to see the success of various special events and promotions at the ballpark, whether the fireworks after Friday home games, discounted beverages and live music on “Thirsty Thursday,” or the Monday Night Movie Series. On Tuesdays, seniors eat free. Every Sunday, fans can bring their dogs to the game with them.

Last year for Labor Day weekend, Tafrow explained, the staff scheduled an extravaganza, “and it worked. It’s fun to see it work.”

And each year, Tafrow laughed, the staff and fans attempt to entice Bruce Springsteen to attend Bruce Springsteen Night at the ballpark; last year the lures included a #willbruceshow and a funny, quirky video depicting what it would be like if he did show up. While Bruce has been to a game at FirstEnergy Park, he’s yet to appear on Bruce Springsteen Night.

Plenty of others do show up: The BlueClaws lead the South Atlantic



League in attendance nearly every year. In its first 14 seasons, the team drew more than six million fans and earned three titles.

And, since the stadium opened, 69 players have gone on to the majors, according to Greg Giombarrese, Director of Media Relations.

In fact, the 2008 World Series-winning Phillies included several former BlueClaws on the roster, including first baseman Ryan Howard, pitcher Cole Hamels, and catcher Carlos Ruiz.

As Giombarrese said of Tafrow: “It’s a tough job. He’s done a great job.”

Tafrow said this year is a rebuilding year for the BlueClaws team, which notched a 73-65 record last season. As of late June, the BlueClaws were 32-42. “Player development is really hopeful,” noted Tafrow, who spoke about the introduction of a nutritional program for the players, and new cameras to help the pitchers and batters develop.

The BlueClaws, said the GM, recently signed a 40-year lease extension at FirstEnergy Park, so they’re not going anywhere. That’s good news for fans, and for OCC alumni, who are invited to the third annual alumni picnic, on August 5, at the ballpark. ■

Juliet Kaszas-Hoch, *Staff Writer*





For Many Immigrants, Dreams Come True at OCC

Originally published in *Viking News*, May 13, 2016. Used with Permission.

Since I was a teenager, I craved to see America through its films. In my home country, Ukraine, one local TV station played an American blockbuster with Russian translation daily. Each day, I was glued to the screen. I saw an exciting world filled with action, drama, and amazing people. I wanted to be part of that world. I remember telling my parents that one day I would leave Ukraine and go to America. They thought it was a joke.

My name is Alex. I was 20 years old when I moved to the United States in 2004. Coming off that plane and seeing yellow cabs at the JFK Airport was captivating. The same yellow cabs I saw in the American films. For the first couple of days it felt like I was part of a movie. But then the reality of finding a job and trying to make it on my own hit me fast. It was much different than the movies.

Eleven years later, little did I know that my home country would be in the midst of civil war. For over two years now, my (former)

hometown, Donetsk, has been bombarded with mortar bombs and gun battles. My parents had to leave our house and move to the west of the country. My father has sent me videos of artillery bombs exploding right next to our house. Rebels, supported by Russia, tried to steal their car as they were fleeing the city. The situation turned horribly wrong, quickly and unexpectedly. My past has collapsed behind me like a broken bridge. There is no way back for me now.



A year ago I decided to go to college and get my degree in America. I discovered Ocean County College is a multicultural school. I have met several foreign students

from many countries and all of us share a similar story.

Tehmina Rehman came to America from Eastern Pakistan in 2013. She was already 19 and had a chance to attend local high school for one year before coming to OCC. She had a hard time adjusting. Rehman was called a “terrorist” by her high school classmates for wearing hijab, part of her native clothing.

“At that moment I had to lock myself in a bathroom and cry,” Rehman said. “People can be so cruel and uneducated.”

Rehman decided to start her education at OCC and become a lawyer, to help those in need. “I enjoy OCC. People are nice and everyone is so accepting,” she said.

Irina Lutsenko, a Visual Communication Computer Graphics Design major at OCC, emigrated from Kursk, Russia in 2008.

“I had a cultural shock maybe for a month,” Lutsenko said. “I was afraid to talk to people because of my language barrier.

“Sometimes I hear people say that immigrants come to this county taking their jobs,” she said. “My answer to them is that your ancestors came from somewhere. It’s a land of opportunity and everybody has a chance!”

Lutsenko hopes to work anywhere she can apply her love for visual arts.

Anh Nguyen came to the U.S. from Northern Vietnam. She was 17, a senior in high school, when her parents decided to move to America in 2010.

“It was the best time of my life (but) I was forced to say goodbye to all my friends,” Nguyen said.

Community college is great for immigrants who often don’t have a GPA, Nguyen said. OCC helped her learn English and adjust to the American educational system. Nguyen is taking a Painter Application Visual Design class and hopes to become a video editor or animator.

Chaya Eti Hayman emigrated from Jerusalem, Israel. She was only eight when she stepped off the plane on a cold November day in 2005. “I was never exposed to this level of coldness before,” she said. “I miss the warmth of Jerusalem.” Hayman is pursuing her business degree at OCC and hopes to become an independent businesswoman.

Maysa Hayward, Dean of Instructional Outreach and Director of Middle East Studies at OCC, originally came to the U.S. from Cairo, Egypt. “Foreign students from the Middle East often have difficulties. They are taught never to ask questions from their professors,” Hayward said. “I am here to help all foreign students adjust to a better life in America. We should all celebrate difference, because ‘other’ is a source of enrichment.”

So many different lives, yet we have so much in common. As for me, after trying different courses at OCC, I decided to become a Digital Mass Media Broadcast Production major. Something happened to me when I started filming projects for one of my television production classes. I touched a professional camera for the first time and something clicked within me.

I’ve come full circle since I was a teenager in Ukraine, inspired by watching American movies. Now I’m in America to make movies of my own. Thanks to Ocean County College, I discovered my passion. Dreams do come true! ■

Oleksandr “Alex” Podolyanchuk
OCC Student

And the Story Goes On...

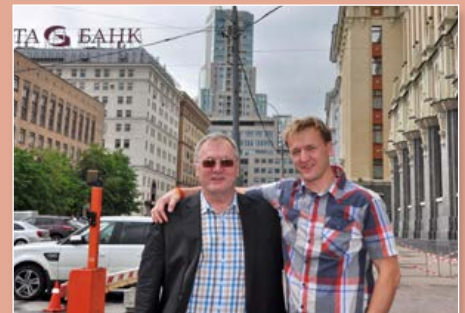
According to Alex, there is an unexpected happy ending to his story. First, he recently received his Permanent Resident status or Green Card. Next, the New Jersey Broadcasters Association selected Alex to receive the “Don Brooks Scholarship” in the amount of \$1,000. And, after more than a decade, Alex was finally able to be reunited with family and friends!

“Because of the war in Ukraine, I decided to go to Russia, the closest place to home. I went to Moscow this past May for the first time in my life, announcing my arrival to everyone I once knew in Ukraine,” Alex explained.

“A lot of my Ukrainian college friends came to see me, as well as two of my cousins. But the biggest surprise of all was the fact that my father showed up unannounced! I finally met my father after not seeing him for 11 ½ years. I was shocked to see him cry when we met. I also saw the man smile and laugh for the first time in my life during my visit! This was a true culmination of my decade-long travel history. My dad hasn’t changed a bit. Still a man of strong will.”

For such a long trip from Toms River to Moscow, 4,713 miles, Alex’s long awaited reunion lasted “only three short days” with Alex “savoring every second of being with my friends and relatives.” But now it was time for Alex to return to America – his new home. But before he left, there was a surprise – not only did his father smile and laugh, he shared a dream with his son.

“My father pulled out his phone and showed me a picture of his office in Donetsk, where he has been working for 30 years and continues working to this day. He showed me a poster that has been hanging on his office wall for many years. Someone told him it was a landscape from America and he asked me if I knew where it was? I told



continued on page 21

Final Exam Extends “Hospitality” to the Community

Instead of a final examination at the end of the fall 2015 semester, Jennifer Evans, College Lecturer II in Hospitality, Recreation, and Tourism Management, assigned a final call project to her students in “Conferences, Conventions, and Special Events.” The class was required to host a special event, assuming responsibility for every aspect of organization and management to ensure its success.

The students chose to host a Toy Drive to benefit Brandon’s Elves, a local nonprofit organization that honors the memory of six-year-old Brandon Holt, who died in a gun-related incident in 2013. The students set a goal to collect 50 gifts, however, because of their enthusiasm, passion, and determination, they collected 197 gifts and \$70 in gift cards, generously donated by faculty, staff, students, and the community!

“My students set the bar high for future classes,” Evans said.

After the month-long toy drive, the next portion of the assignment was to host a gift organization party in order to sort and divide the gifts

by age. “They organized a buffet, beverages, and décor; and invited faculty and fellow students. Their event was flawless,” Evans explained.

Brandon’s Elves, a nonprofit organization, honors the memory of Brandon Holt, a six-year-old boy who died in a gun-related incident in 2013, which took place in Toms River and made national news. Evans explained that one of the students is half-sister to Brandon.

“OCC students were truly generous and often donated much more than just their spare change,” said Evans. “The community also rallied around the project as three students were allowed to place collection boxes at their place of employment, which included a church, retail outlet, and the YMCA.”

By all measures, this assignment was a wonderful success! It not only benefitted many area children, but it became much more than a learning experience for the students.

“The students used the skills they learned during the semester to host a truly amazing event, which also benefited our local community. This ended up being much more than a final assignment as their enthusiasm and passion for this project brought a tear of joy to everyone’s eye,” said Evans. “It was amazing. The student feedback was phenomenal.” ■

RoseAnn D’Urso, *Editor*

Good news! OCC now offers Hospitality, Recreation, and Tourism Management (HRTM) as an official associate degree. Learn more by calling 732.255.0400, ext. 2821.





A Little Hospitality Goes a Long Way

TV host Anthony Melchiorri, Travel Channel's "Hotel Impossible," spoke to students about careers in the hotel and hospitality industry. The affable Melchiorri kept the students on the edge of their seats for the entire hour!

During the spring semester, OCC students enrolled in "Introduction to Hospitality" had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about the hospitality industry from industry-insider Melchiorri. The popular TV host nearly-filled the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts main theater with more than 300 OCC students, faculty, and administrators, along with invited distinguished community members and 30 students from Lacey High School's Hospitality Club.

Melchiorri's talk focused on his background and rise to success in the hotel industry. He spoke about the importance of customer service and brand management. At the end of his presentation, Melchiorri took several questions from the audience. Students were curious about the production of his show, the jobs available in the hotel industry, and successful traits of a hotel manager. Students were very impressed with Melchiorri's passion and drive. They were particularly excited to learn he hires staff members based on potential rather than experience.

"I was so inspired by Anthony's speech, I've started using some of his quotes as life mottos such as 'People don't change, they shift' and 'Passion changes

everything,' " said OCC student Amanda DeSombre.

Prof. Donald Hoover, International School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, Fairleigh Dickinson University, was in attendance to support OCC's hospitality students. Ocean County College is finalizing an articulation agreement with FDU.

"It was exciting to have a celebrity speak to students about the show and the basics of running a hotel," said Hoover. "It was especially meaningful when Anthony gave his honest opinion and advice about the ingredients for success in life."

OCC student Tyler Hamblin attended the event and was enlightened at how Melchiorri's advice transcended many businesses. "Something as simple as a wrong greeting or crooked tie on the front desk clerk could indicate an overall not-so-well run business. I thought about how this could apply to all businesses," he said.

At the end of the event, despite having to race off to "The Dr. Oz Show," Melchiorri stuck around to chat with students, take photos, and offer personal advice. It was a wonderful experience for students, faculty, and administrators, alike. ■

Jennifer Evans

*College Lecturer of Marketing
(Hospitality, Recreation, & Tourism)*





Re-living History

Students from Adjunct Professor of History John Fraterrigo's "U.S. Military History" class traveled to Fort Delaware, located on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River. The Delaware State Park is accessed by ferry from either Fort Mott State Park in New Jersey or Delaware City, Delaware. The reason for the trip was for the students to get a practical understanding of how a coastal defense system was constructed, maintained, and armed by visiting one of the largest forts built for that purpose.

The Civil War fortress features costumed guides and interactive exhibits. Interpreters gave an overview of the island fortress, how it was manned on and off during the late 19th

to mid-20th centuries, and an overview of how it was renovated over the course of time until it was deactivated and declared surplus property shortly after World War II.

Knowledgeable living historians strolled around the fort hosting demonstrations of loading and firing a cannon, cooking, and inviting the participation of one OCC student to exhibit the craft of the blacksmith.

After a full day of travel and touring, the students returned to the College and provided positive feedback on the trip, indicating they would like to re-visit the Fort and participate in similar military programs that OCC will be offering in the fall. ■

A Slice of History

Fort Delaware exemplifies a traditional mid-19th Century coastal defense architectural structure, having been constructed between 1848 and 1860 to protect nearby Philadelphia. After construction was completed in 1860, the Fort was garrisoned just before the start of the Civil War.

The only remaining structure left on Pea Patch Island – Fort Delaware's original buildings and infrastructure that comprised the village, formerly located on the north and west sides of the brick structure fort, were compromised by environmental factors over the course of time. A reproduction of a prisoner of war barracks, the only one of its kind in the U.S., was constructed to demonstrate the type of lodging that was used at the Fort to house close to 15,000 Confederate Prisoners of War.

The coastal system of forts stretched along the Atlantic seaboard and Gulf of Mexico and served as the primary line of defense to protect the United States from invasion. With the development of armor-plated and iron-hulled ships during the latter part of the 19th Century, the Fort quickly became obsolete requiring modifications for it to adapt to modern technology during the World War I and II eras. ■

John Fraterrigo, *Adjunct Professor of History and Computer Studies*



Students Take First Place!

In early March, three OCC students received awards at the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) New Jersey State Conference. HOSA is a nationally-recognized organization devoted to the education of students who are interested in health-related careers. At the conference, students competed in one of several competitive events. The top five winners in each event received an award and the top three are entered to compete at HOSA's International Conference. This was the first year that OCC had a HOSA chapter and six students competed at the conference.

OCC students competed against students from others schools across NJ, including four-year schools such as Rutgers University and NJIT.

Steven Jones won first place in Biomedical Laboratory Science and Christina Fichner won first place in Job Seeking Skills. Adrienne Merchant received the Barbara James Service Award for having over 160 hours of community service in the health field.

The International Conference was held in June at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. Jones competed in Biomedical Laboratory Science and succeeded in passing through the first round and making it into the second. Fichner competed in Job Seeking Skills and made it into the top ten. Merchant was recognized for the Barbara James Service Award. ■



Lobbying Day

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges led teams of students, presidents, and trustees from the 19 New Jersey community colleges to the Statehouse in Trenton in March 2016. Student Lobbying Day gave students the opportunity to meet one-on-one and talk with New Jersey legislators. In addition, the students visited and observed Senate and Assembly general sessions.

Jennifer Fazio, Director of Student Life, attended with the following OCC students Leticia Adames, Andrew Artiles, Evan Castle, Steven Jones, Daniel Moran, Elizabeth Reyes, and Samantha Toll. Moran is OCC Student Government President, Toll is President of the NJ STARS Club, and Castle is President of S.L.A.P. (Students Learning about Politics). ■

Student & Faculty Research

- **Alix Coughin** conducted research on the measuring rates of photosynthesis.
- **Fabrizio Galindo** completed his research project on Isolation of Antibiotic Producing Bacteria from Soil Samples.
- **Steven Jones** investigated fungi and glyphosate toxicity testing.
- College Lecturer of Anatomy **Dr. Mary Ellen Rada's** Honors students did research on water quality and environmental contaminants.
- **Eric Antonelli**, Assistant Professor of Science, submitted an abstract to the New Jersey Academy of Science on *Substrate Colonization Preferences by Fungi*. This included work from two OCC students, **Steven Jones** and **Shivani Patel**, along with **Dr. Angel Camilo**, College Lecturer of Biology.

Three Times a Charm

OCC's gifted 17-piece jazz band, directed by Dave Marowitz, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Humanities, recorded its third music CD live at the historic Strand Theatre in Lakewood on May 4 as part of the *Backstage Pass* Series. The band performed music ranging from vocal styles and repertoire of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nat King Cole; urban blues of Jimmy Bassett; soul jazz and jazz-rock/fusion; and a contemporary rendition of music by Dave Brubeck. According to Marowitz, OCC's student jazz band is "creative and entertaining" with "wonderfully-talented" student-musicians on guitar, drums, horn, and vocals, exercising "the powerful ensemble sounds of a big band." ■



First Row (left to right): Jack Murray, Jazmine-Kate Talag, Tyler Ricker, Ryan Letts, and Nick Marketta. **Second Row:** Julianna Mascia, Katie Morris, William "BJ" Beidebach, Jonathan Episcopo, Holden Swindell, and Austin Scott. **Third Row:** Ben Burnham, Brandon Cooper, and Tim Lynch. **Fourth Row:** Michael Nagele, Aaron Bialoglow, and Connor Wagner. Photo by Janelle George.

A Zen-sational Art Show!

OCC's Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kapa, national honor society, held an art show during the early spring semester. Each year, PTK chapters must complete a college project in order to maintain "five star" status. According to Kasia Wac, OCC Chapter President, the project must benefit the students and the campus.

The theme of the art contest was "zen" to give the campus conference rooms a "peaceful" feeling. There were five winners: four students and one staff/student. The winners were awarded a cash prize and their pieces will be hung in five different buildings on campus along with plaques to identify the artwork and artist.

Among the winners was student/employee Cynthia Fleureton, Principal Bookkeeper (artwork above right), and student Alexandra Kern, a Tau Iota executive board officer.

"These are the types of events that bring students and staff together and help make learning fun!" said Lisa Hussain, Accounting Associate, who attended the event.

Wac explained that "the project could not have been accomplished if it was not for our amazing advisors, executive board, Matthew Kennedy (Assistant Vice President of Facilities), Dr. Jon H. Larson (OCC



President), and our three art judges from the art department: Nathaniel Bard (Instructor of Humanities), Dr. Marilyn Kralik (College Lecturer of Humanities/Fine Arts), and Molly Johnson (Adjunct Assistant Professor of Humanities).

According to Dr. William Rickert, Professor of Mathematics, Tau Iota was recognized as a "Five Star Chapter" and the executive board was named the "Outstanding Chapter Officer Leadership Team in the Middle States Regional" at the International Convention in April. Wac and Brianna Badami were inducted into the Regional Chapter Officers Hall of Honor, and Steven Jones was inducted into the Regional Members Hall of Honor and named Distinguished Chapter Member for the Middle States Region. In addition, Dr. Rickert received a Recognition Award for serving 40 years as a PTK Chapter Advisor. ■

All in the Family

Family traditions are the basis for transferring knowledge, culture, and rituals. For many families, attending Ocean County College has become a shared tradition that provided a pathway to meaningful accomplishments and long-lasting relations.

The Brogans

Ocean County College opened in the late 1960s, and from its early years, and throughout the decades since, the name Brogan has flecked many a class roster and faculty list. OCC was, as the family will readily attest, a boon for the Brogans!

“It was really a treasure chest for us,” remarked John (Jack) Brogan, 65, one of six boys born to Rita and Leo. “It was a great education. It was the epitome of a community college.”

Four of the brothers – Jack, Jim, Mike, and Ron – graduated from OCC, at various points in the 1960s and 1970s. Mom Rita did as well; she and Mike even attended concurrently. And a few of the next generation, children of the brothers, took classes at the college in later years.

Dad Leo, who worked at a factory, and later as a machinist instructor at Ocean County Vocational Technical School; oldest brother Leo, a Catholic priest; and second oldest George were the only members of the immediate family who did not attend OCC, although George did teach at the College as an adjunct, as did Rita, after attaining her degree.

The sextet of boys have personality parallels – all are Type A, with “more confidence than we should have,” quipped Mike Brogan, 62. As Jack’s daughter Leah Brogan pointed out, “The Brogans are proficient in talking. Their art is conversation.” As for educational similitude, they have all earned master’s degrees, and a couple of the brothers hold doctorates.

For the former Vikings, “It really all began at Ocean County College,” said Jack. “All of us give the most credit to OCC.”

“All of us are very proud alumni.”

In the present day, Jack teaches “Introduction to Sociology,” on the Toms River campus and at the Southern Education Center in Manahawkin. And his sometimes

“They treated veterans like gold at OCC... It gave you the ability to believe in yourself as a student.”

– Jack Brogan, one of four brothers to graduate from OCC, at various points in the 1960s and 1970s

guest lecturer? Leah, 29, who has happily taken time out from her clinical psychology doctoral studies at Drexel University to present research methodology to his students – yet another Brogan stamp on OCC.

“There’s a strong emphasis on higher education in our family,” said Leah, who is headed to Brown University for an internship, “and I think that’s rooted in my dad and my uncles’ time at OCC.”

Ron Brogan, 70, was the first of the family to enroll at OCC. “I’m proud to be the initiator,” he laughed, adding, of the college, “It’s part of the Brogan psyche.”

After a stint overseas in the Army, Ron returned stateside in 1968. “I was back from Vietnam, I was assigned to Texas, and I hated it,” he recalled. He took the 90-day early-out offered by the Army if a soldier received a college commitment.

Soon after, he began taking classes at OCC – a campus of just four or five buildings

at the time – during the day, and he worked the night shift at the Ocean County Juvenile Detention Center.

As Ron remembers, one of his instructors, Ed Small, a retired New York City police lieutenant, took him under his wing, and suggested he check out the John Jay College of Criminal Justice post-OCC. He did, and earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degree at the NYC school.

After about 25 years, Ron retired from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and now serves as a D.A.R.E. regional director. He resides in New Canaan, Connecticut, but works often in Ocean County.

Though he was initially apprehensive about college in general, OCC “was really a very nurturing environment,” he commented. “It was a great entrance to my education, and I have great memories.”

“It was the school of second chances,” with a culture of empathy and support for veterans, said Jack. “I didn’t think I was worthy of college when I came out of the Army,” which he joined after graduating from St. Joseph High School, and left, after 2 ½ years, as part of a troop cutback.

“They treated veterans like gold at OCC.”

“It gave you the ability to believe in yourself as a student,” he added. “It made you believe you could do it.”

“It was a great opportunity for someone who had such a difficult time learning,” said Jim Brogan, 72, who worked for the Lakewood Police Department, and now lives in Thailand.

“Grammar school and high school were difficult for me; I preferred playing as opposed to learning. But once I got out of the Marine Corps my mother talked me into attempting furthering my education. (OCC) was a wonderful experience and I’ll never forget how much I enjoyed being in class.”

In addition to encouraging her sons to pursue a degree, Rita was cultivating on her own education; she attended OCC in the early 1970s while also running the Seaside Heights Motel and working at the Ocean County Juvenile Detention Center.

Rita and Mike overlapped at the College, at which Mike enrolled “a little reluctantly,” he explained. After high school at St. Joe’s, he was bound for Seton Hall on a wrestling scholarship, until the scholarships for that year were rescinded. “I was a bit distraught, but it all worked out for the best.”

“It was really, really good for me,” Mike, 62, commented. “Ocean County College made us all aware of college,” and the benefits of higher education.

“I learned to study while I was there,” he added.

In high school, said Mike, he was not an A student, but he did extremely well at OCC, and after, at John Jay.

“Success breeds success,” he remarked: When he started to net A’s, his diligence only increased.

He partly attributes his success to influential professors, among them Small and Richard Strada.

Strada, Jack concurred, “was one of the most wonderful humans I’ve ever had the pleasure of meeting. He was an exciting personality.”

And John Bartlett, he also remembers, “used to stay after and talk to us ... about local politics and more.”



Top Photo: Five of six Brogan brothers pose with their parents in 1974. (L to R) Front Row – Dad Leo and Mom Rita. Middle Row – Jack, George, and Michael. Top Row – Jim and Ron. Bottom Photo: All six Brogan brothers pose in 1996. (L to R) Front Row – Fr. Leo and George, the only two brothers who did not attend OCC. Back Row – Jim, Jack, Michael, and Ron.



As Jack pointed out, he showed up for his first day of classes at OCC with his “knees knocking.” By the end of the semester, he’d earned an A and a B+, and “It just put me on fire,” he remarked.

Jack later transferred to Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey), and subsequently earned a master’s degree from Seton Hall University.

“OCC,” he said, “was the place that challenged me the most.”

“My dad would not be doing what he’s doing now if he didn’t have OCC as a Foundation,” Leah observed.

As she explained further, her dad and her uncles came home from overseas after serving their country, and had the opportunity to develop skills and point their intelligence in a direction. “OCC gave them a path,” she

observed.

Rita, who had dropped out of high school, started taking college classes a bit before Mike, and found her path as well. “She was very nervous, but very intelligent,” he remembers of his mom. At OCC, she earned nearly all A’s.

“I was quite proud of her,” said Mike, who won the top law enforcement award his second year at college. His mom, though, was not far behind him.

Mike, who now lives in Silver Beach and Manalapan, worked as a police officer in Seaside Heights, then Port Authority. In his retirement, he volunteers for the Make a Wish Foundation and Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for seriously ill kids, he is on the board of Catholic Charities for Monmouth County, and he takes public speaking engagements.

Jack, a Toms River resident, is also retired from law enforcement – from his position as a lieutenant in the Ocean County Sheriff’s Department – but has a private practice as a drug and alcohol abuse counselor, and his adjunct position at OCC.

“I think the administration treats the faculty very, very well,” Jack remarked, from the other side of the institution, “and the availability of the faculty to the students is great. The adjuncts I met are really excited to work with the kids. I think that makes it such a dynamic place.”

“We have such a vibrant campus.”

Leah, who last guest lectured for her dad the night of her rehearsal dinner, in September 2015, was also struck by OCC’s campus, as well as the sense of pride in the school, and the students’ professional aspirations.

Her dad, she added, has taught other veterans, working parents, individuals a few years out of high school, and recent high school graduates. “It enriches the learning

continued on page 18

EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight: Klever Goracy



Each year, the State recognizes the highest achieving Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) students across New Jersey. This year more than 1,000 students were nominated as top performing students. Sixteen EOF students from Ocean County College were recognized at the 2016 Graduate Achievement Awards at Monmouth University. New alumnus Klever Goracy '16 received an Academic Achievement Award, graduating with a 3.2 grade point average.

Despite never finishing high school, family turbulence, housing issues, balancing employment and school, and even the birth of his son, Klever

Goracy defied odds and expectations in every way. Klever

is truly remarkable. He is both humble and kind; always working hard, always willing to help. He is resilient, bright, determined, and focused, and most deserving of Ocean County College's EOF Spotlight Student nomination.

While his first semester was challenging, Klever's intellect and grit propelled him forward, and each semester was met with success. On top of his family and work responsibilities, Klever achieved stellar grades, always maintained excellent progress in our program, and never missed an appointment or event, despite his busy schedule. A business major with a 3.33 GPA, Klever is a member of Phi Beta Lambda, OCC's business honor society, and made the President's List for academic honors for three semesters.

Klever made terrific connections during his time at OCC. He built a professional rapport with his accounting and business professors, evident in his glowing progress reports. He was a constant figure in EOF, volunteering his time to assist the office weekly while we were without administrative support. Since the birth of his son in February 2013, Klever has worked full-time to support the needs of his child. His energy and passion to work hard to complete his degree are inspirational.

Klever is destined to do great things in life, and, while it is bittersweet to see him graduate and leave our campus, we know he will make strides to reach his goals and continue improving his life and the lives of his loved ones. ■

Megan Miskin, *Assistant Director*

Educational Opportunity Fund and Center for Access & Equality



BROGANS, *continued from p.17*

environment” to have a range of ages and backgrounds, she noted.

When he first started teaching at OCC, Jack was inspired by a speech given by President Dr. Jon H. Larson, in which he said, “The measure of any good college or university is the degree to which its students are involved in the community.”

Jack, who is also involved in charity work, including Homes for All in Toms River, asks his students to perform community service as well. “We are very much a *community college*,” he noted, and he believes part of his job as a teacher is to have his students think about, and give back to, the larger community.

One of his students, he recalled, visited a soup kitchen in Freehold, and told him afterwards that at first, she found she was judging the people there. Then she met a young woman from Mexico, the same age as her, with four children. The woman told her she was working hard to get to the point where she didn't have to bring her kids to the soup kitchen to eat. The student later said to him, “I cried because I needed to be more grateful for what I have.”

For the Brogans, today, gratefulness comes easy. They are filled with it: Gratitude for family, for health, for interesting and fulfilling work, for Ocean County College.

“Growing up in Toms River, OCC was always so visible,” said Leah.

“It holds a special place in my heart and my memory. My dad would always tell stories, and for me the stories always reflected the opportunities for my family.”

“For them, OCC was really a doorway.” ■

Juliet Kaszas-Hoch, *Staff Writer*

Bridget Everett '09 was selected as a



Fellow in the 2016 Lead New Jersey class. Everett's outstanding contributions in her professional and community activities distinguished her inclusion to this group of state leaders working to achieve their goals of making New Jersey a better place to live and work.

Courtney Nelson '00, was promoted



to Senior Director of Community Health for New Jersey at the American Heart Association | American Stroke Association. In this new role, Nelson develops, plans, and implements campaigns that directly impact the health of the community through systematic change such as reaching the American Heart Association's 2020 goal of improving the health of all Americans by 20% while reducing death and disability from heart disease and stroke by 20%. Nelson has been with the American Heart Association | American Stroke Association for over eight years and was previously the Regional Director of Communications.

Angel Roman '09 graduated from a

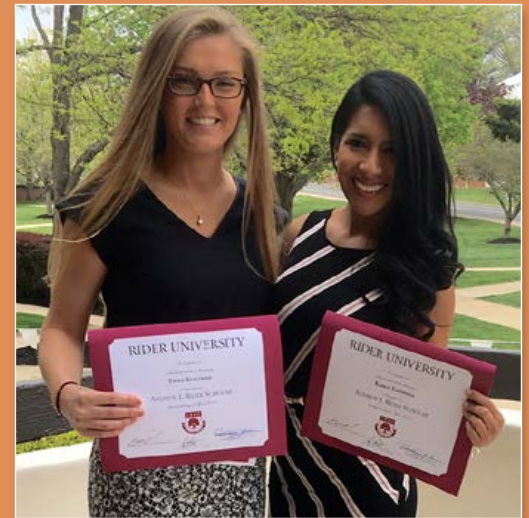


22-week intensive training course for the Barnegat Police Department. He received a perfect score during handgun qualifications and is proudly serving Barnegat as a Police Officer. Roman also holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Stockton University. Additionally, he was recently married and has a beautiful boy.

Paul Whitehead '16 accepted a job at



the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office as an Agent in the Community Relations Unit. He assists the Office with technical issues that involve preparing digital media (video, audio, and documents) for court. Additionally, Whitehead serves as the Media Management Assistant to the Public Information Officer and assists the PIO with preparing pre-written releases to be sent out to the public. ■



Emily Kunzman '14 and Karen Espinoza '14 received the Andrew J. Rider Scholars Award.

A namesake for Rider's founding father, this award is given only to the top one percent of seniors, juniors, and sophomores in each of Rider's six academic colleges and schools: Business Administration, Education, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Continuing Studies, Westminster Choir College, and Fine & Performing Arts. Both Kunzman and Espinoza graduated with honors from Rider University in May 2016. Kunzman will continue at Rider in the Masters of Accountancy program with a concentration in fraud and forensics. Espinoza is also pursuing a Masters in Accountancy at Rider with a concentration in taxation. Both ladies plan to take the CPA Exam. This summer the pair had the opportunity to complete a Tax Client Service Internship at Ernst & Young.

EXPRESS UPDATE The Alumni Office is eager to update our records to ensure we have your accurate contact information and communication preferences. Please complete this form online at www.ocean.edu/alumni.htm or fill out this "Express Update" form and mail it back to the Alumni Office, Ocean County College, College Drive, P.O. Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001.

Your time and participation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Name (first) _____ (middle) _____ (last) _____

Name at Graduation (if different) _____ Birthday _____

Preferred Mailing Address: Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES:

- Paperless (electronic communications via email ONLY – including *Ocean Views*)
- Keep As Is (electronic communication via email AND paper mailings via post office)
- Traditional (paper mailings via post office ONLY)
- Unsubscribe from All Mailings



Georgene Byrum, P/T Financial Aid Specialist, was honored by the New Jersey Society of Radiologic Technologists (NJSRT). This year, the NJSRT introduced a new award to honor longtime member Byrum. She received the inaugural “Georgene Byrum Technologist of the Year Award,” which honors those who have displayed an exceptional work ethic, a passion for helping others, and demonstrated great skill in their area of expertise. After five decades of service to radiologic technology at the state, regional, and national levels, she encourages other RTs to commit themselves fully to their profession. Byrum’s dedication to her career has had a positive effect on her relationships with patients, employers, students, and family. Byrum joined the NJSRT in 1966 and will complete 50 years as an officer and/or board member this year. The NJSRT stated in an article in the June/July 2016 edition of *ASRT Scanner* magazine, “She’s always been a proponent of professional standards and licensure, and she’s a great role model. She always puts the patient first.”



Amelia (Amy) Giles, Senior Financial Aid Specialist, and **Ann Lohrey**, Supervisor of e-Learning/Financial Aid, earned their National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrator’s (NASFAA) credentials; Giles in the area of Federal Methodology and Lohrey in the area of Verification. These credentials indicate that they have demonstrated mastery in their respective credential’s concepts and skills. Giles and Lohrey are two of only 16 financial aid professionals in New Jersey who have earned at least one NASFAA credential, which are becoming the industry standard in certified skills sought by colleges.

Jason Ghibesi, College Lecturer of Political Science/History, participated in a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Political Science Association at Rutgers University’s Eagleton Institute of Politics. The panel was titled “New Jersey Strong: Building

a Bridge between Two- and Four-Year Programs.” Ghibesi discussed the study of political science from a community college perspective and touched on themes that included the rigor of course work, open-enrollment student access, transferability, OCC’s political science offerings and the Global Studies degree program.

Duane Grembowicz, Associate Professor of Science, received a Life-Time Achievement recognition for 30 years of service as a Commissioner on the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission. Recognitions from U.S. Congressman Thomas MacArthur, New Jersey State Legislators, and the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders were presented at the annual Salute to Ocean County event.

Jeffrey Kurz, Supervisor of Student Services at the Southern Education Center, was recognized for excellence in academic advising at the regional conference of the National Academic Advising Association. Kurz is one of only two Mid-Atlantic region recipients of the “Certificate of Merit” award in the new advisor category. He joins award recipients in other categories from Virginia Commonwealth University, Old Dominion University, Temple University, Penn State, and Rowan University, and is proudly the only regional award recipient in any category from a community college!



Jayanti Tamm, Assistant Professor of English, wrote a short play *Black Friday*, which was selected to be staged by the Luna Stage Company, West Orange, NJ. A professional Equity theatre, Luna featured *Black Friday* during its 4th Annual New Moon Short Play Festival. A black comedy that explores the uniquely American tradition of waiting in line to shop the day after Thanksgiving, *Black Friday* is set outside a Walmart at 5:00 a.m. and makes light of the extremes that people go to for a bargain! Tamm was a co-leader on OCC’s Theatre in London trip in January and was inspired to write the play. ■

In Memoriam

J. Barry Kolb, former Instructor of Computer Studies, passed on March 22, 2016. A dedicated faculty member, he worked at OCC from September 1, 1983 until his retirement on July 1, 2014.

Patricia McNally, former Assistant Professor of Computer Studies, passed on February 2, 2016. She was hired as an adjunct on September 6, 2000, became an Instructor on January 22, 2001, and was promoted to Assistant Professor on September 1, 2004. She was on disability retirement since 2011.

Charles E. Read, former Associate Professor of Humanities & Fine Arts, passed on March 21, 2016. A dedicated musician, he taught at the College from September 1, 1966 until he retired on July 1, 2000. Mr. Read was also the Director of the OCC Community Chorus.

Our deepest condolence go out to their family and friends. These three outstanding professors will be missed by faculty, staff, and students, alike. ■

ALEX, continued from page 21

him, sure, I was there myself and the place is called Big Sur – a mountainous landscape with the pacific coast highway that runs from San Francisco to Los Angeles in California,” Alex explained.

His father then said that “it was his dream to go there and see it himself.”

Alex was shocked. “For years my father has been telling me he had no interest in coming to America. Now, I’m planning a trip for us to meet again in California. Mysteries and wonders of life.”

It seems both father and son have a lot in common – strong wills, fervent in their convictions, and highly motivated. Perhaps, both have even “softened” over the decade’s long separation – bringing them closer together.

At the end of our brief chat, Alex added a bit of encouragement for other foreign students who may not be able to go back to their home countries and see their families. “Don’t despair. Keep dreaming and use the opportunity to get your degree in America by studying at Ocean County College,” he said. “Once you get your education, a lot of doors will open. You will be able to travel one day and you will see (your family and friends) again. Just be patient and it will pay off in the long run. Be strong and good luck.” ■

RoseAnn D’Urso, *Editor*



KEAN OCEAN

Earn credits toward your bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree on the OCC campus with the Ocean County College/Kean University degree program. Kean University and Ocean County College have established a partnership, which enables area residents to complete upper division courses required for certain Kean University undergraduate degree programs and specific graduate programs on the campus of OCC.

BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Accounting
- Biology
- Biology, Teacher Certification*
- Criminal Justice
- Elementary Education*
- English, Standard Option
- English, Teacher Certification*
- Finance
- Graphic Design
- History
- History, Teacher Certification*
- Management
- Marketing
- Nursing
- Physical Education and Health K-12, Teacher Certification*
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Sociology
- Special Education*

* (Teacher Dual Certification Options Available in Special Ed, K-6, or 5-8 Subjects. For details visit www.kean.edu/KU/Kean-Ocean.

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Counselor Education
(State certification for School Counseling)
- Nursing (with options in Clinical Management and School Nursing)

DOCTORATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Nursing

INFORMATION

732.255.0356 • KeanOCC@kean.edu

Grants & Donations

Recent Awards

On the Board: \$13,493 was awarded by the Ocean County Office of Emergency Management to purchase a portable message board that will be used to direct students and the public during emergency situations.

Dancing Away: \$8,000 was awarded from the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission to support the OCC Repertory Theatre’s production of *Dancing at Lughnasa* in March 2016.

Future Performances: \$5,700 was awarded by the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation to support the performances of Ethel’s Blue Dress and the Sierra Leone Refugee All Stars for the 2016-17 season at the Grunin Center.

Study that Philosophy: \$4,000 was awarded by the University of Washington’s Global Competencies in 21st Century Asian Studies initiative to create a course titled, “Traditional Philosophy of East Asia.” ■



Scholarship Celebration Raises over \$230,000!

The Ocean County College Foundation netted over \$230,000 at its 2016 Annual Scholarship Celebration on June 11. The annual event was held in the new Jon and Judith Larson Student Center on the OCC Main Campus in Toms River. Scholarship Celebration proceeds will benefit the students of Ocean County College.

This year, the OCC Foundation honored **Investors Bank** and **Richard Spengler**, Executive Vice President & Chief Lending Officer, with the **Humanitarian of the Year Award**. Investors Bank was also the evening's major sponsor.

"Sincere appreciation is expressed to Investors Bank for its role in ensuring the success of our Scholarship Celebration. We are so thankful for their commitment to education and philanthropy, not only in Ocean County but throughout their service area. I'd like to also express my gratitude to the many other donors and supporters of this event – who allow us to continue to enrich the lives of our students," said Heather S. Barberi, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation.

"We are proud to acknowledge Investors Bank and Mr. Spengler with this year's Humanitarian of the Year Award," continued Barberi. "Investors Bank has been an incredible and longstanding supporter of the Ocean County College Foundation, and more specifically our annual Scholarship Celebration. Investors Bank recognizes the importance of giving back to the areas that they serve."

According to Barberi, Investors Bank has a longstanding history of supporting students and programs at Ocean County College. Recently, the Investors Bank Foundation provided critical funding to launch the first initiative of Ocean County College's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Academy. This program

increases access and engagement for local K-12 students and teachers in innovative, hands-on educational activities to strengthen interest in the STEM fields and grow the talent pipeline to meet the increasing demand for a qualified STEM workforce in New Jersey.

Spengler is involved in countless charities and dedicates his time and talents to a number of organizations in New Jersey. He has served as a Board of Director of New Jersey Thrift Institutions Community Investment Corporation and Monmouth Medical Center. Currently, Spengler serves on the Board of the Rutgers Center for Real Estate, and on the Foundation Boards of Count Basie Theater and Holiday Express. He also supports Collier Youth Services and the Foundation to Save the Jersey Shore.

The evening's festivities included a gourmet buffet, live entertainment, dancing, and a silent auction. With nearly 250 people in attendance, guests enjoyed live music provided by The ASAP Band. Food, for the seventh consecutive year, was prepared by Kessler's Catering. Individuals and businesses lent support by purchasing tickets, becoming sponsors, or donating auction items.

The Scholarship Celebration was co-hosted by Victoria Magliacane (Toms River), Investors Bank Senior Vice President and a member of the OCC Foundation Board of Trustees, along with Kenneth J. Malagiere (Toms River), owner of Narcissus Florals and Vice Chair of the OCC Foundation Board of Trustees.

The Ocean County College Foundation is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to the growth and development of the College through scholarships, endowments, and capital and special projects. ■

RoseAnn D'Urso, *Editor*



Hotel California: A Salute to the Eagles

A Concert to Benefit the Students of OCC

The Ocean County College Foundation and The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts are partnering to host a benefit concert to support the students of OCC. (A portion of the proceeds will also benefit the OCC Repertory Theatre Company.) For one night only, enjoy an evening of incredible music as you support the mission of the OCC Foundation. Despite the College's best efforts to contain costs and maintain an affordable education, many students still have a tremendous need for financial assistance. Scholarships make the difference. Your support of this event can turn the dream of a college education into a reality for many Ocean County students!

For more than two decades, Hotel California has touched the hearts of fans all over the world, by faithfully and accurately reproducing the Grammy award winning sounds of the Eagles. See how a spirited blend of originality and the pursuit of excellence have taken the group to a level of international recognition normally reserved only for gold and platinum recording artists. Each concert presents an exciting, showcase of The Eagles megahits such as "Take it Easy" "Heartache Tonight" and of course "Hotel California" as well as selected titles from the solo works of Don Henley, Glen Frey, and Joe Walsh.

Black Box ■ 6:00pm ■ VIP Reception & Concert (includes wine, beer, and gourmet hors d'oeuvres): \$100

Main Stage ■ 8:00pm
Orchestra & Mezzanine (concert only): \$45

For more information about upcoming events, contact the Foundation Office at 732-255-0492.



100 Women Campaign leadHERship Symposium



The Ocean County College Foundation's 100 Women Campaign held its first leadHERship Symposium in May, celebrating the one-year anniversary of this exciting new program. The Women's Leadership Panel was moderated by Noelle Lotano, CEO, Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce, and the audience included both campaign members and OCC students. Participants enjoyed an informative panel discussion featuring Virginia E. "Ginny" Haines, Ocean County Freeholder; Dr. Teri Kubiel, Assistant Vice President of Community Medical Center; Jean Mikle, Staff Writer, *Asbury Park Press*; and Melissa Ann McCooley, Superintendent, Little Egg Harbor School District. The event was sponsored by Provident Bank.

"The OCC Foundation is thrilled that the 100 Women Campaign has had so much success in its first year," said Heather Barberi, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation. "One hundred incredible community leaders were recruited, nearly \$10,000 in direct scholarship support was provided to OCC students, and over 50 students participated in the mentoring program. We are ecstatic with the results, and can't wait to build on the program in year two."

The 100 Women Campaign's mission is to bring together dynamic, innovative, and accomplished women who will support each other's life and career goals, share their insights and experiences, and encourage education through Ocean County College.

To learn more or to get involved, visit www.ocean.edu/100women, or call Heather Barberi, Executive Director of the Ocean County College Foundation, at 732-255-0400, ext. 2534. ■

Sherri Bray
Manager Special Events & Development
OCC Foundation

Making a Difference in your Watershed

Every five years, all 28 congressionally-designated National Estuary Programs are evaluated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to assess whether they are making adequate progress toward implementing their Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). This past year, the Barnegat Bay Partnership was evaluated by a team of representatives from EPA Headquarters and Region 2 in New York, together with Dr. Alison Branco, Director of the Peconic Estuary Program on Long Island, and Tom Borden (Esq.), Director of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The Directors' participation provides important perspectives in the review process and also helps promote the sharing of successful approaches and technologies around the country. The team toured several project sites throughout the watershed, and met with more than 30 representatives from BBP partners during their 3-day visit.

After reviewing the evaluation materials summarizing the BBP's work over the past five years and the team's interaction with partners during the visit, the Program Evaluation Team was pleased to report that it found the BBP making significant progress in implementing its CCMP and consequently would remain eligible for NEP funding authorized by the Clean Water Act.

The team noted a number of highlights in the BBP's performance: (1) Identifying and Acquiring Diverse Grant and Other Funding, (2) Implementing the BBP's Public Outreach Strategy, (3) Focusing on On-the-Ground Implementation Around the Watershed, (4) Promoting Ocean County College as a Showcase for Sustainable Development, and (5) Ensuring Productive Committee Meetings.

The team also noted that the BBP was providing substantial support of two of EPA's Core Water Programs, specifically (1) Water Quality Monitoring as part of the NJDEP's

Barnegat Bay Initiative, and (2) Controlling Nonpoint Source Pollution on a Watershed Basis through its wide-ranging and important work to improve soil health and lawn care practices in the watershed.

BBP Director Dr. Stan Hales said, "We thank EPA and the Review Team for helping us reflect on our recent efforts. Our successes to date would not have been possible without the support of our many partners. We thank our many federal, state, county, municipal, and nongovernmental partners for their incredible commitment to the bay's protection and restoration. We especially thank Ocean County College and the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders for their support of our many projection efforts, and also the Barnegat Bay Foundation for its fundraising in support of our activities."

The BBP is sponsored by the USEPA, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Ocean County College. ■

Mary Judge, *Program Assistant for the BBP*



Hall of Fame Inducts New Athletes



Ocean County College honored seven outstanding alumni-athletes at the OCC Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Dinner on June 29 at the Health & Human Performance Center on the Main Campus. The Master of Ceremonies was Kevin Williams, Sports Director at WOBBM Radio.



The Athletic Hall of Fame honors distinguished OCC alumni-athletes, former coaches, and others whose achievements have had a significant impact on the College's athletic program. The 2016 inductees are:

Kevin Waldron (Lanoka Harbor) '07. He played for the Men's Basketball Team ('05-'07). While a student at OCC, Waldron maintained a 4.0 GPA and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina. He went on to complete a Master's in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton. Waldron is Vice Principal of H&M Potter Elementary School in Bayville, NJ.

Maggie Chussler McDuffee (Brick) played on the Women's Soccer Team ('04-'05) being named a Captain in her second year, receiving an Athletic Scholarship, earning All American, All Region, and All Conference honors, along with being a nationally ranked leading goal scorer. McDuffee graduated in '08 from The College of New Jersey with a Bachelor of Science in Social Psychology and Criminal Justice. She is a Broker at Carolina One Real Estate in Charleston, SC.

Beth Root Ganley (Toms River) played for the Women's Soccer Team ('04-'05) being named Captain in her second year, along with All Region and All Conference honors, Most Valuable Player, as well as receiving an Athletic Scholarship. Ganley attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing in '09. She is Director of Marketing for Ocean Orthopedic Associates in Toms River.

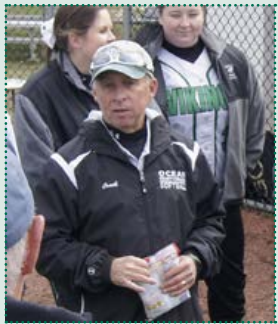
Jennifer Nelson (Barnegat) '10. As Captain, she ran with the Cross Country Team earning All American, All Region, All Conference, All Academic, Female Athlete of the Year, Most Valuable Player, and Individual National Champion honors. Nelson earned a Bachelor's degree from Monmouth University and a Doctor of Physical Therapy with Distinction from Stockton University. She presented research at the American College of

Sports Medicine World Conference. Nelson is a Physical Therapist working in an outpatient orthopedic setting.

Craig Bessinger (Point Pleasant) '75. He participated on the Wrestling and Cross Country teams ('74-'75), leading the Wrestling team to the Westchester Tournament Championship in 1974 by pinning his opponent in the finals and earning a 12-4 individual record that year. Bessinger also came in 4th in the nation in sales of Cutco Cutlery winning Alcoa \$1,000 scholarships both years at OCC. He operates Bessinger Management Group based out of West Virginia, owning income property in five states.

Andrew Hawtin (Lanoka Harbor) played on the Men's Soccer Team ('03-'04) earning All Region and All Conference honors. Hawtin went on to play and graduate from Division I Syracuse University in '07 with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography. He works as a Business Development Manager for Juniper Networks.

Brian Waldron (Lanoka Harbor) '05. He played on the Men's Soccer Team ('03-'04). Waldron graduated in '07 from Coastal Carolina University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance with a minor in Accounting, and in '10, he completed a second Bachelor's degree in Accountancy from Villanova University. Waldron is a Certified Public Accountant and works as an Audit Manager for Holman Frenia Allison, PC. ■



Individual Victories!

Hickman Awarded “Woman of the Year”: OCC honored Adelle Hickman as “Woman of the Year” at the National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebration. Only one woman-athlete from each college is selected. Hickman is a standout Volleyball and Softball player, being named to the All-Garden State Athletic Conference team. As a standout student she earned numerous Academic All-Conference and All-Region honors, as well as the President’s Honor Roll.

Hussey Named “Pitcher of the Year”: Ashley Hussey was voted the Region XIX Softball “Pitcher of the Year” for her excellence during the 2016 NJCAA Region XIX Softball campaign. *(see Team Victories!)*

Lamastra Named Region XIX “Coach of the Year”: In only her second season as a head coach, Kathryn Lamastra led the Women’s Basketball Team to a stellar 24-4 record, a Region XIX championship, and a chance to compete for a national title. These accomplishments were recognized when she was named Region XIX and District E “Coach of the Year.”

Mazanec Wins His 200th Game: On March 24, the Viking Softball Team defeated Columbia-Green CC 14-8, earning Head Coach Bob Mazanec his 200th victory. Congratulations coach on this milestone!

McRae Wins 500th Game: On April 23, the Viking Baseball Team defeated Lehigh Carbon CC, earning Head Coach Ed McRae his 500th victory!! Congratulations coach on this milestone!

Minnitti, Weinberger, and Mazanec are “Coaches of the Year”: Women’s Softball Head Coach Bob Mazanec and Assistant Coaches Elise Weinberger and Mickey Minnitti were named NJCAA Region XIX “Coaches of the Year” for leading their team to victory during the Region Tournament. *(see Team Victories!)*

Stadtmauer Named Most Valuable Player: Marissa Stadtmauer was named MVP for her contributions during the NJCAA Region XIX Tournament. *(see Team Victories!)* ■

Community Victories!

Softball Breakfast a Big Success: The Viking Women hosted a fundraiser breakfast at Applebee’s in the Ocean County Mall in February. The event was a big success, raising nearly \$2,000 to help subsidize the cost of the team’s spring training trip to Myrtle Beach, SC. A special thanks to the families, friends, and OCC staff who attended, and especially to the players and coaches for all their hard work and dedication to the program. Great job!

Purses with a Purpose: October 2015 was “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month” and the OCC Athletics Department made several donations to “Purses with a Purpose.” Purses were filled with items aimed to make a women’s stay at a shelter more comfortable and were donated to Providence House and Dottie’s House.

Athletic Training for Youth: The Men’s and Women’s Soccer teams visited the Lakewood Youth Soccer program to help provide instruction to the young players. The teams participated in drills and provided the youngsters with tips on how to succeed on the field.

Volunteers Really Clean Up: Members of the Baseball team volunteered at a fall yard clean up to help raise money for OCC Foundation scholarships.

Walking it Out: The Cross Country and Women's Basketball teams participated in the "Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk" in Point Pleasant Beach.

Athletic Corporate Sponsorship Program: OCC Athletics launched a new sponsorship campaign that aims to assist the department with continuing to provide experiences and life preparation skills to the 14 Intercollegiate Athletic Teams and over 250 local student-athletes. Businesses have the opportunity to increase their brand-recognition and visibility through a variety of sponsorship opportunities. The sponsorship brochures can be found under the "marketplace" link at www.occvikings.com or by calling 732-255-0345. ■



Team Victories!

Viking Women's Softball Team: For the first time since the program began in 1977, the Softball Team won the Region XIX Championship and traveled to Rochester, MN, to compete for the NJCAA National Championship! The Viking Women qualified by defeating the Cumberland CC Dukes in a dramatic best of three series, two games to one! The team finished 6th in the National Championships!

Women's BB Region XIX Champs: The Viking Women's Basketball team beat rival and top ranked Middlesex CC to claim the Region XIX Championship at Northampton CC. The Vikings shot "lights out" and made the big plays leading them to a 96-80 victory! The team went on to the NJCAA Nationals and finished 7th.

Volleyball Repeat Champions: The Women's Volleyball team compiled an 11-1 Garden State Athletic Conference record, which earned the team its second straight GSAC title.

OCC Finishes 2nd in CAANJ Cup: The Viking Athletics program was recognized by the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey, finishing second in the CAANJ Cup standings, which recognize overall athletic program excellence.

Women's X-Country 3rd at Nationals: For the sixth time in seven years, the Women's Cross Country Team made the podium at the NJCAA National Championships! This year, the team finished 3rd. The women also tore it up earlier in the season at the Region XIX Championship 5K, placing three runners in the top six to earn the title. ■

Victories on the Water!

Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame: The Sailing Program and Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame are sponsoring the 6th Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on October 1, 2016, in the Health & Human Performance Center, Main Campus. The Sailing Hall of Fame promotes the area's maritime heritage by recognizing individuals whose accomplishments on the water and/or shore have significantly enhanced the Barnegat Bay's character and strengthened its status as a maritime center. For more information, contact Student Life at 732-255-0348. ■





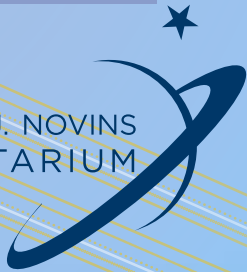
College Drive, PO Box 2001
Toms River, NJ 08754-2001
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
TOMS RIVER NJ 08754
PERMIT NO 27

Planetarium



ROBERT J. NOVINS
PLANETARIUM



Enjoy a celestial experience!

Kids Shows

- Birthday Party Packages
- Kaluoka'hina: The Enchanted Reef
- One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure
- Pajama Night
- Secret of the Cardboard Rocket
- The Stars from My Backyard

General Admission Shows

- Back to the Moon for Good
- Bad Astronomy: Myths & Misconceptions
- Cosmic Colors
- Cosmic Journey
- Dawn of the Space Age
- Mission to Pluto: The Voyage of New Horizons
- Touching the Edge of the Universe
- Season of Light
- Wonders of the Seasonal Sky

Laser Light Shows

- Laser Beatles
- Laser Bon Jovi
- Laser Country
- Laser Fun I & II
- Laser Hynotica
- Laser iPOP
- Laser Magic
- Laser Mania
- Laser Metallica
- LaserOpolis
- Laser Pop
- Laser Retro
- Laser Spirit
- Laser U2
- Laser X: The Alternative Experience
- Laser Zeppelin
- Laser Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon
- Laser Pink Floyd: The Wall
- Laser Rock

Holiday Shows

- Laser Holidays
- Let It Snow
- Season of Light



For recorded show information, call 732-255-0342.

For the latest news, events, trailers, and schedules, visit www.ocean.edu or like us on Facebook or follow us Twitter.