



OCEAN VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE ALUMNI, OUR COLLEGE FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY
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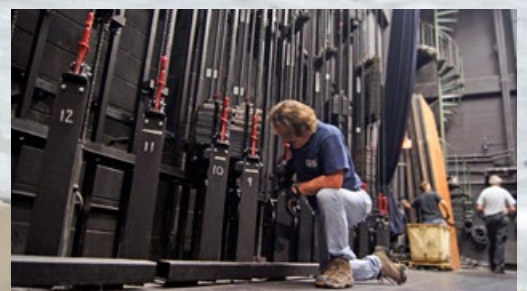


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Vision Statement

The OCC Alumni Office develops relationships and establishes lifelong connections between Ocean County College and its alumni, family, and friends, leading to increased support for the institution's mission and goals.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the OCC Alumni Office is to create and sustain meaningful connections with alumni that foster a mutually beneficial relationship of support and advancement for graduates, the institution, and the Ocean County community.

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Luck of the Irish

From March 10 to April 25, OCC is hosting an "Irish Heritage Commemoration" to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising that ultimately led to the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Free State. The Global Education Committee has organized more than 50 lectures, performances, readings, and film screenings celebrating various aspects of Irish and Irish-American culture.

Events include the OCC Repertory Theatre Company's performance of *Dancing at Lughnasa* and the one-man show, *I Am Ireland*; Gaelic lessons; staged readings of Irish playwrights; lectures on Irish writers; and presentations on Irish rock music, Celtic knot work, the IRA, Irish folklore, genocide history, humor and, Irish immigrant labor in the U.S.; among many others.

Most events are free and open to the public. Seating for some events will be limited, so reservations are suggested! For a complete schedule, contact Erica Carboy, Chair of the Global Education Committee, at ecarboy@ocean.edu, or Dr. Marilyn Kralik, Global Education Committee Events Coordinator, at mkralik@ocean.edu. ■



Ahoy Matey!

Fund raising for Phase II of the J. Philip Citta Center for Sailing & Maritime Arts & Sciences, is underway. Phase I of this 1,400 square foot sailing boat house located at Mill Creek County Park in Bayville has been completed including an ADA compliant dock and floating boat launch (with wheelchair accessibility and lift), along with landscaping and lighting. The OCC Sailing Club started to use the dock facilities during the fall semester. ■

Academic Partnership

A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed with the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, a first step in creating a partnership that allows for new programs in the health sciences. This partnership is aligned to the development of OCC's new Health Sciences Building and will establish a physical presence for University of the Sciences on OCC's Toms River campus to deliver select academic programs. ■

Water, Water Everywhere

The water basin behind the Security Welcome Center has been landscaped to make OCC's front entryway more attractive. In addition, the College in conjunction with Ocean County and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, has been planting 1,000 new trees on campus to augment the campus's inviting and environmentally-friendly atmosphere. ■



Rolling Up Their Sleeves

OCC's School of Nursing was awarded a flag and certificate by the New York Blood Center for having the largest percentage increase in blood donations, 78.3%. The Blood Center had a ceremony at Citi Field and sent OCC the flag, which hangs on a bulletin board in the Nursing Building. In the future, the flag will be used to "promote" blood drives. ■

Ain Shams University

This past summer, Dr. Hussein Mohammed Ahmed Eissa, President, and Dr. Sayed El-Sayed Elkouly, Chair of the Department of Management, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, visited OCC to discuss partnership opportunities. Dr. Eissa, Dr. El-Sayed, and Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President, visited with Dr. Dawood Farahi, President of Kean University, and Dr. Joel Bloom, President, New Jersey Institute of Technology. Plans were discussed to form an exclusive partnership to provide joint degrees at the bachelor's and graduate levels, including a single source delivery of distance learning. ■



Smile for the Camera

Ocean TV20 began a pilot program with Lacey Township, Point Pleasant Borough, Jackson Liberty, and Manchester high schools to broadcast OCC promotional spots as part of their daily morning announcements. The OCC spots highlight events such as open houses, financial aid workshops, information sessions, registration, and a new performing arts degree video.

In addition, studio tours, workshops, and a high school shadow program are underway. Donovan Catholic High School is already onboard to participate in the "shadow" program that allows high school students to shadow OCC students and learn more about the Digital Mass Media program and the College's TV production facilities.

Elsewhere, the TV Studio and Jackson Liberty High School worked together to cover the NJCAA National Soccer Championship Tournament in November. Jackson Liberty's production truck was used to live stream and record the games.



In other news, the College signed an agreement with NJTV to become a partner/southern bureau of NJTV. This collaboration will provide OCC with an increased presence in the state and afford our students the opportunity to observe a professional news operation in action on our campus. NJTV

will be taping its "Newsmakers" show in the TV Studio six times during the year, which will provide invaluable experience for the students. Comcast will also provide OCC with the opportunity to appear on "Newsmakers" to promote the College and its programs. ■



Just Ask for Directions

In September, the County of Ocean held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of West College Drive. The new road provides the Main Campus with improved traffic flow during peak hours and in the event of emergencies. With the influx of Kean University students on campus, this long awaited third access road is a much needed improvement. OCC is grateful for the time, effort, and funding extended by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the County of Ocean to support a number of infrastructure improvements. ■

Step into My Laboratory

The medical office and medical assistant fall programs were filled to capacity, providing fast-track training for 32 students who are benefiting from partnerships with area health care facilities that offer outstanding clinical externships and job shadowing experiences.

These health care facilities include Health South, Lab Corp, Meridian Physician Offices, Monmouth Medical South, Quest Diagnostics, Preferred Home Care, and the Southern Ocean Medical Center. Other programs benefitting from these externship and job shadowing experiences include phlebotomy and patient care technician. ■

Grants & Donations

Recent Awards

Self-Sufficient: The Displaced Homemakers Program grant was renewed from the NJ Department of Children and Families. The \$71,700 grant provides comprehensive services to women who must become economically self-sufficient due to separation, divorce, death, or disability of the primary wage earner. The program also received an extension of the Social Services Block Grant Hurricane Sandy funds in the amount of \$50,662.53, which were targeted for training. The total amount of funding is \$122,362.53.

Canadian Pride: The Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation granted OCC \$1,000 to support the De Temps Antan presentation at the Grunin Center on March 4, 2016. De Temps Antan is a musical trio using fiddle, accordion, harmonica, guitar, and other instruments to perform time-honored melodies of Quebec's musical past.

Ready, Set, Go! OCC received a second year of funding through the College Readiness Now Grant from the NJ Council of Community Colleges. The program sustains and helps to expand the collaboration between high schools and community colleges, and targets 11th and 12th grades as the single best opportunity to help more students be college ready by the time they graduate high school.

Donations and Ongoing Support



Check & Mate: E. Steven Doyle, '79, has graciously donated his rare and extensive chess book collection to the OCC Library. Doyle has been civically dedicated to local, national, and global chess communities for decades. In addition to being a loyal supporter of the OCC Chess Club, he has served as the President of Toms River Chess Club, President of the U.S. Chess Federation, held the position of Vice President of the World Chess Federation, and is presently a trustee of the U.S. Chess Trust. (Photo L to R): Donna Rosinski-Kauz, Director of Library Services, James Marshall, Library College Lecturer II - Information and Digital Services, Caitlyn Cook, Librarian Reference Services, and Doyle strike a pose with a small selection of books in the Library. OCC is grateful for Doyle's support and is honored to have him as a member of the alumni constituency. The College is excited to share this collection with students, alumni, and the entire Ocean County community.

The Happening Place!

Congratulations to the Robert J. Novins Planetarium – voted *Ocean Happening Magazine's* “Best Children’s Entertainment in Ocean County.” Winners from over 200 categories in the “2015 Happening List” walked a red carpet and received their awards at the 3rd Annual Happening List Red Carpet Bash on October 22 at the Versailles Ballroom, Ramada Hotel & Suites, Toms River.

Ocean Happening Magazine, an online publication, provides an insider’s view of Ocean County. Written by locals, *Ocean Happening* shares insights about dining, culture, shopping, entertainment, and events. ■



Seeing Stars: The OCC Foundation received a generous contribution of \$10,800 from Phillip A. Zollner to support the Robert J. Novins Planetarium. Zollner’s gift enabled the College to procure two new and exciting Planetarium programs: “The Little Star That Could” and “300 Years of Astronomy.” Zollner has a longstanding history with the College and has been involved with the Planetarium since the 1970s. He is a Planetarium presenter and has taught astronomy through OCC’s Continuing & Professional Education Program.



Rare Reading: A collection of 550 theater books was donated to the OCC Library in memory of Jane Lynn Wiklund, '70, by her cousin Lorraine. Wiklund was actively involved in theater at OCC and loved the College. The donation was added to the Library’s performing arts collection and a plaque in honor of Wiklund’s memory will hang in the Library.

Walk Like an Egyptian: Jeffrey Harmon, Associate Vice President of E-Learning & Learning Enterprises, and Dr. Maysa Hayward, Dean of Instructional Outreach, made a donation of Egyptian and Moroccan art, artifacts, and rugs to OCC’s Middle East Studies Center.

Mr. John Murphy '90 donated an NCAA official backboard to the Athletics Department. This generous and thoughtful donation will support OCC’s basketball program.



It’s Snowing! Tara Murtha donated \$2,000, in the memory of her late husband, Robert Murtha, to the Robert J. Novins Planetarium. Through Murtha’s thoughtful and substantial donation, the Planetarium was able to lease the full dome movie *Let it Snow* and now has the right to present this delightful holiday movie for six weeks every year for the next 50 years!



OCC is grateful for the donations and ongoing support of these outstanding individuals. ■



Welcome to Viking Country!

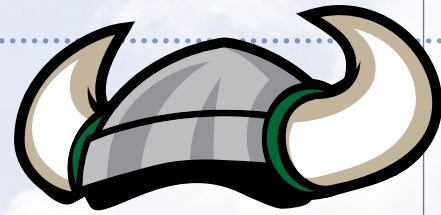
In 1010 C.E., 180 Viking explorers boarded three long ship vessels and set sail from Iceland, venturing out across the Atlantic Ocean to form a settlement somewhere in North America. Following the route of Leif Eriksson, the explorers settled off the coast of Canada, in the northern tip of Newfoundland; but disease, conflicts with native peoples, and chaos within their ranks, resulted in a failed expedition!

Then, in 1015 C.E., with just 51 men left, the explorers led by Saevarr, the mighty sea warrior, set out for another land but were blown far off course, more than 1,000 nautical miles south, to an exotic area known today as the Jersey Shore. Without enough settlers, the explorers couldn't stay – but so enthralled by the beauty of the area, Saevarr vowed to return to lead a great nation of people, 10,000 Vikings strong! But the arduous journey home proved too much for the mighty leader and he never made it back. Legend has it that the Vikings made a pledge to return in memory of their brave leader but that wasn't to be ...

Until 2015! 1,000 year later, Saevarr's wish was granted! A new Viking leader, Vidar, arrived at Ocean County College. In the tradition of his ancestor, this modern-day Viking sailed across a vast ocean to conquer the warm waters off the Jersey Shore and claim a piece of North American territory. Along with a throng of 10,000 men and women who have what it takes to be invincible, this new Viking took the helm and will lead his followers to academic and athletic success!

Lisa Kasper, *Director of Admissions*
RoseAnn D'Urso, *Editor*

VIKING MASCOT: ANSWERING QUESTIONS & TAKING NO PRISONERS!



Ocean Views sat down with OCC's resident Viking to get the scoop on his likes and dislikes and how he's faring at the Jersey Shore. Normally the strong and silent type, Vidar rarely, if ever, speaks – he is a Mascot, after all. However, he opened up to *Ocean Views* and gave thought-provoking and candid responses. His answers may surprise you! **RoseAnn D'Urso, Editor**

***Ocean Views:* Vidar, it's an honor and a privilege to be able to speak with you. I'd like to welcome you to Viking country! How did you travel to the Jersey Shore?**

VIDAR: Thank you for that warm welcome. I journeyed to OCC in a Viking long ship also known as a long boat.

Can you briefly tell us what a Viking, an OCC Viking, is?

V: An OCC Viking is part of a legion ... nearly 10,000 students are currently OCC Vikings and over 39,000 are proud Viking Alumni!

That's quite impressive. Tell me a little bit about the Vikings. I heard that there are nine virtues. Is that true?

V: We were an honorable people. Let's see if I remember all nine ... there was Courage, Discipline, Fidelity, Honor, Hospitality, Industriousness, Perseverance, Self-Reliance, and Truth. I've seen many of these traits in our students here at OCC.



Vidar – that's an interesting name. Did I pronounce that correctly? Vee-dar? Accent on the "vee"? What does it mean? Were you named after your father?

V: No, no, I wasn't named after my father ... his name was Rolf, which means honorable wolf, and my mother's name was Sigrid, which means beautiful victory. My given name was Ivar, a worrying coniferous tree. I hated that name!

When I came ashore in Toms River, I was very fortunate to be named by the students of Ocean County College who understood my true personality and worth. By vote, they chose the name Vidar ... that's "Vee-dar," accent on the "vee."

I was named after the Viking god Vidar. It's a wonderful name rich in meaning and history and is used in Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and, of course, Norse Mythology. Vidar is the second strongest god and is known for his silence. I'm so proud.

Since we're on the subject of history, when was the first Viking born?

V: A very long time ago.

Did you know Leif Eriksson?

V: Sure did.

Personally!? What was his nickname?

V: Leif the Lucky.

How about Thorvald Porvaldr Asvaldsson. Did you know him?

V: "Thor," as he was called locally, was the father of Erik the Red who colonized Greenland and the grandfather of Leif. I met him once but my grandfather and he were great friends.

Did the Viking king Harald Bluetooth invent the Bluetooth?

V: Of course not. Silly question. Please don't insult my intelligence.

My apologies. I meant no offense.

V: None taken.

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VIDAR THE VIKING *continued from p.8*

OV: I read that Vikings spoke Old Norse. Can you say something for us?

V: Gráðr.

Cool! What does that mean?

V: It means "hungry." I could really use some cheese fries. Maybe pizza. Or some Uncle Dood's! Yes, that's what I need.

Oh, come on, say something for us!

V: Usually I hate it when I'm asked that question, but, sure, I can give you some Old Norse ... *Viking vald eda matnadr!* It means, "Viking pride and power!"

Wow! Norse seems like such a hard language ...

V: No, no, no. That's a misconception! Did you know that many English words that you use today are from the Vikings? It's true. Words such as bread, cake, eggs, steak, crawled, and of course, ransacked.

Could Vikings read and write?

V: Of course!

What's your favorite quote?

V: "Our most important baggage on our journeys is wisdom."
That's from the *Hávamál*, a collection of Old Norse poems from the Viking age.

Poetry? I didn't know that Vikings read poetry! You're quite a Renaissance Man.

V: You could say that. Vikings are quite surprising. We did a lot more than just pillage and plunder ... although, that was fun!



It's common knowledge that Viking men were fierce warriors. How about Viking women?

V: Don't mess with a Viking woman! While traditional lady Vikings took care of hearth and home, many female Vikings fought alongside the men and were buried with their weapons. We

were very progressive. Viking women could inherit property, get a divorce, and reclaim their dowries. We were so much more civilized than the rest of Europe. Way ahead of our time.

Um ... this is a very delicate subject ... but with all your plundering and pillaging, Vikings probably had a "musty-fusty" odor.

V: That is another misconception that really irks me. We were not dirty and grungy – Vikings were actually very clean! We combed our hair every day, changed our clothes, and bathed every Saturday. In Scandinavian, the word for Saturday, means "bathing day"! Not to one up the Anglo-Saxons, but we bathed much more frequently than they did ... we also enjoyed our dips in local hot springs. Guess that's where you got your idea for hot tubs!



I don't mean to be so forward, but you have very attractive brown hair – I thought that Vikings were blonde.

V: Another misconception! Viking men who had brown hair used lye to bleach their hair blonde. However, I prefer a much more natural look.

That's a fancy horned helmet you're wearing.

V: Why, thank you. But to be perfectly honest, Vikings didn't wear horned helmets. The whole "horned helmet look" was started by someone in the 19th Century. However, I think it is most becoming and the horns can double as a megaphone – comes in handy at sporting events.

Speaking of sports ... what's your favorite?

V: Skiing! Skis are said to have been invented more than 6,000 years ago by my ancestors. We enjoyed cross-country skiing to "get around" and it was also a very popular form of fun and recreation. My parents taught me to ski as a child and it's been a favorite pastime ever since.



OCC student Michael Mastrianni, flanked by his parents, proudly poses with Vidar. Michael received a Microsoft Surface Tablet for giving Vidar his heroic name!

Vidar turns the tables on Ocean Views!

V: Now I have a question for you! What's the difference between a Norse trader and a Viking?

Is this a joke?

V: No, no. A Norse trader and a Viking are actually the same thing. Vikings traded and plundered... we also farmed and raised animals – but don't tell anyone.

Ocean Views regains control of the interview.

You've been at OCC since September. What are your most memorable moments, so far?

V: Well, let's see. Admissions took me on a tour of Ocean County – there was the donut shop, the beach, boardwalk, and trips to area high schools ... I received my official OCC ID card ... and I made a video with President Larson. I've had a great time already!

I heard you're on Social Media. It must be very exciting to have your very own Facebook page!

V: Oh, yes. I hope everyone friends me on Facebook. Just send me a friend request at Vidar-The Viking.

Vidar, you've been very generous with your time. If I may, I have one last question. In your personal opinion, do you think that Saevarr left buried treasure somewhere?

V: Who needs buried treasure?! I have found Ocean County College! OCC is a students' first step to a real college experience. While the Vikings have a rich history, so does OCC. For more than 50 years, the College has been offering affordable, quality degree and certificate programs. As our reach beyond the Jersey Shore has expanded, we have become a leader in online education and are proud to serve our students around the globe.

True to our Viking traditions, OCC values free thinkers, explorers, and innovators. We seek those who are fearless, dedicated to their craft, and possess a vision that allows them to see well beyond tomorrow.

If you're still thinking about college, your academic voyage begins right here at Ocean County College. I invite you to embark on an exciting educational journey!

Now it's my turn to welcome our readers to Viking Country! ■



Behind the Scenes:

The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts

There's some debate among staff about whether a ghost – *a friendly ghost* – inhabits the theatre at the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts on Ocean County College's (OCC) Main Campus in Toms River. But as for the revitalized spirit the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation has brought to the facility since its donation last spring, there is no doubt.

During OCC's 47th Annual Commencement Ceremony in May 2014, son Jeremy Grunin, the Executive Director of the Grunin Foundation, announced a \$5.75 million endowment to establish the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts, formerly known as the Arts and Community Center. Based in Toms River, the Grunin Foundation is a private family

philanthropic fund invested locally in health care, education, and the arts.

In essence, the generous donation to OCC brought together two families devoted to the arts: the Grunins, and the theatre workforce, many of whom have been behind the scenes for decades.

According to Bobbi Krantz, Director of Grunin Center, who spoke from her familiar spot in the Box Office, “We are a fabulous team, honestly. We all know our jobs, and the facility runs so very efficiently, and we’re very proud of that. We all have the Center at heart,” she said.

“It really is a family; we’re not just work acquaintances,” the theatre’s Technical Supervisor, Judy Madigan, said from a corner of the stage in late October as she oversaw set-up for the performance of the modern dance group The Seldoms. “We’ve seen the birth of children, the passing of parents. We celebrate Christmas together. And we have fun.

“I don’t have to worry about anything. They’re all theater professionals,” Madigan added.

“You’ve got to have a crew that’s happy,” remarked part-time Technical Supervisor Stephan Caldwell. “And they are.”

As Stagehand Keri Hall, who also works as the lead follow spot, noted, “I love the work that we do, and the camaraderie.”

“This *is* just family,” Master Electrician James Lockhart summarized. He had paused momentarily from adding dance lights to the stage for The Seldoms — “You want to see more 3D,” he explained. “What we have here now is more 2D.”

On-call Stagehand Gary Wilcockson deemed them “a great group.” They’re also a deeply experienced, proficient, and devoted group.

Both Krantz and Madigan have been at the facility for decades – Krantz started in 1974, and Madigan has been there 37 years – and they have been witness to the transformations over time.

“It’s been 41 years of a labor of love,” Krantz remarked. “It’s been like another child. I’ve seen the changes. I’ve seen the growth.”

Susan Towery, Madigan’s assistant, and the theatre’s light board operator, started at the facility in 1980. Towery met her husband – Sound Engineer John Tomasura – at the theatre in 1984, while working on the show *They’re Playing Our Song*.

“We are very tight-knit, and we’re always watching out for each other,” said Tomasura. “It’s like a second home for me.

“We all know our part. Judy puts down the list of what needs to get done, and we all work to make sure it gets done in a timely manner,” he said.

Towery concurred, “We work really well as a team. We’re a very cohesive unit.”

“When the Grunins came on, everything changed,” said Madigan, except for one thing: the team continued to operate like a well-oiled machine. “We took it all in stride.”

The funding, Krantz said, has been “a blessing,” allowing the theatre “to grow and augment programs.” She added, of the Grunin family: “They’re very hands-on, and we appreciate that.”

“The gift from them really increased our ability to have high-end artists in here, to bring that entertainment to this part of the state,” Madigan noted.

Now, she pointed out, “We have so much going on, and a variety, for all tastes.”

Big name performers and unique acts are being booked, and ticket sales are rising.

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“We all know our jobs, and the facility runs so very efficiently, and we’re very proud of that. We all have the Center at heart.”

– Bobbi Krantz, Director

SCENES *continued from p.11*

In early October, Art Garfunkel took to the stage at the Grunin Center.

“His performance was wonderful. I thought, ‘Ok, I’m really going back to high school,’” Madigan laughed.

“It was a real happening,” Krantz acknowledged. “He was very gracious. The audience loved him.”

Tickets for that performance sold out in three weeks, six weeks prior to the show — “That was exciting,” said Artistic Director Mark Wilson.

As Krantz commented, “Mark has been doing an amazing job in giving us the exposure and bringing in some novel ideas. The newness, the excitement, is really to Mark’s credit.”

Wilson began teaching music at OCC in 2013, and took on the role of artistic director – a new position created with the Grunin funding – in spring 2014, tasked with bringing in a wide range of programming and world class names, creating more donors and sponsors, and establishing greater engagement with the community, and awareness of arts and culture.

He pointed to the performance of guitarist Bernie Williams, who took to the stage in October 2014, as the show that best “emphasizes what I’m trying to do, which is broaden our reach.” Williams was a centerfielder for the Yankees, and now tours as a musician, and, Wilson added, “He’s a really, really nice guy.”

Madigan also mentioned Williams – and his All-Star Band – as among her favorite artists to appear at the theatre. “They were just wonderful, wonderful performers.”

“He was more than gracious and



was an absolute pleasure to work with,” commented Johanna McConnell, Artist & Patron Services Coordinator. “He was genuine, sincere, and most considerate.”

McConnell’s position, she explained, “entails primarily in dealing with the performers, management, and agents, along with our patrons. When a performer comes here there are numerous details that have to be looked after so they leave

wanting to come back.”

“Williams was phenomenal,” said Tomasura, “and an extreme, extreme pleasure to work with. It was a pleasure doing sound for him.”

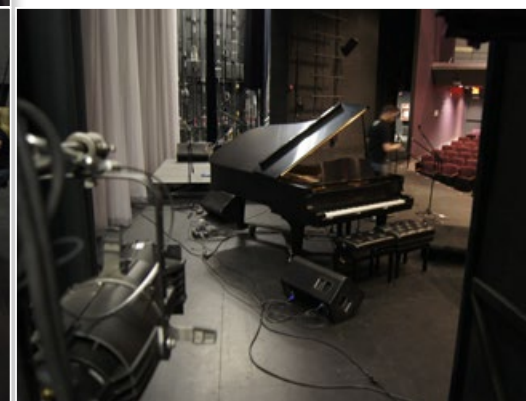
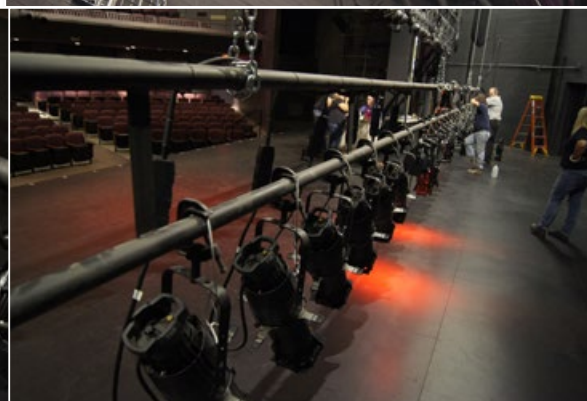
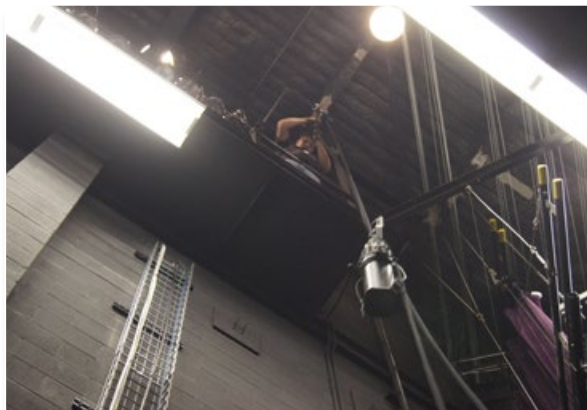
The Bernie Williams show was one of the first sponsored by the Grunin Foundation, and, Tomasura noted, “It went off without a hitch.”

Actor and singer Danny Aiello, who performed in early October, was also a standout for many of the theatre crew.

Hall, who was “bit by the theatre bug” at a young age – as many of the staff were – said she had the opportunity to tell Aiello that in the late 1980s she sat behind him during a performance of *Metamorphosis* in New York City, and, because of his height, she couldn’t see the stage — which got a big laugh from the performer.

According to the theatre employees, both Garfunkel and Aiello, among others, commented on how great a place the Grunin Center is to perform.

The facility, called the Fine Arts Center at its inception, was closed for approximately three years for a major renovation, opening back up in the fall of 2010 as the Arts & Community Center,



with a more intimate, redesigned space that many artists enjoy. In total, the theatre has 460 seats — 428 regular seats plus “companion seats” in the area that accommodates individuals with wheelchairs.

“Danny Aiello loved it,” said Caldwell. “Many performers say, ‘I wish every place was like this one.’”

Caldwell is another long-timer: He has been at the OCC facility on and off since the beginning, including as a performer. Now, he works closely with Madigan, and ensures the incoming acts have what they need, and tends to them backstage.

The day many of his colleagues were on the Main Stage preparing



for *The Seldoms*, Caldwell was setting up — an affair of ladders, faux trees, and painted paper on the floor — in the nearby, smaller Black Box Theatre, for the OCC Repertory Theatre Company’s production of *Twelfth Night*.

In addition to performance and his current supervisory work, Caldwell’s diverse arts background includes running a dinner theatre in Toms River

and jobs in Atlantic City, where names like Frank Sinatra and Diana Ross performed.

“I went into this business,” Caldwell remarked, “because it’s always different.”

With funding now in place, there’s a lot to look forward to at the Grunin Center.

Second-year student Tom Mellott spoke in October about his upcoming role as Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, and about his work in the Box Office. “I’m right in the hub of what’s going on,” he said of the latter. “It’s pretty cool.”

Mellott, who serves as the president of the College’s Speech & Theatre Club, has performed since elementary school, and even wrote and directed his own show at Central Regional High School. He plans to continue his studies in theatre and education at a four-year school, and would like to be a writer and director.

For OCC students interested in the arts, he stated, “There are a lot of cool opportunities here. It’s really nice to have the theatre.”

And, he added, “There’s a lot of diversity in shows” since the Grunin Foundation’s philanthropic gift.

Mellott expressed excitement for the Repertory Theatre Company’s performance of *Doubt: A Parable* in December 2015, as well as *Broadway’s Next Hit Musical* in February 2016 and *The Skivvies* — show tunes and rock songs by musicians in their undergarments — in April.

Krantz, whose responsibilities include the Box Office and some of the booking, mostly for children’s shows, Midweek Jazz, and



featured performers, mentioned the Golden Dragon Acrobats as among the most mesmerizing shows she’s seen in her many years at the facility. “Their last performance (*earlier in the fall*) was just extraordinary!”

The Duquesne University Tamburitians are also frequent and popular performers from over the years. “They practically sell themselves,” she remarked.

Wilson was excited about the Vienna Boys’ Choir, which performed a sellout show in December, noting, “I think a lot of people left happy.”

Madigan mentioned Indie folk band Paper Bird and ensemble Canadian Brass — “from porch rockin’ to the martini bar” — as two interesting and diverse groups.

Caldwell, meanwhile, pointed out that the Ailey II dancers, and the other dance companies slated to perform at the Grunin Center, are “a very cool thing for this area.” He himself likes to see, at OCC, “the things I wouldn’t typically go to the city to see,” such as more classical or avant garde fare.

The Ailey II dancers, along with performers such as Art Garfunkel and Bucky Pizzarella, Krantz remarked, are part of “our cultural history,” and important performers for the College.

continued on page 14

BEHIND THE SCENES *continued from p.13*



As for McConnell, she mentioned Garfunkel, Aiello, and The Bronx Wanderers as just a few of the performers that “have made this job more rewarding. I look forward to meeting Home Free and Adam Pascal & Daphne Rubin-Vega, who starred in *Rent* off-Broadway.”

For her position at the theatre, she explained, “I am available at all times for the performers, always willing to accommodate their needs, and if our patrons are happy, then we are happy. I feel that in most businesses word of mouth is the best marketing tool.

“The most rewarding (*part of the work*) would absolutely be the fact that I can meet and talk to people from all walks of life. I love meeting new people and pleasing people so this works out perfectly for me. I want the world to be happy and I always try to make that happen,” McConnell added.

Paula Bird, who has volunteered as an usher at the theatre for nearly a decade, is also “a people person,” and says of the work, “I absolutely love it. It’s a pleasure. There are a lot of regulars, and they like to see a friendly face,” she said.

Bird, who generally takes tickets, answers questions, and points out seats, especially enjoys MidWeek Jazz. As an usher, she noted, “I get to watch a lot of the shows, which is a great benefit,” she noted.

Rick DiMinno, owner of RDM Rigging, attends MidWeek Jazz with his 92-year-old father, who “knows more about jazz than anyone.”



DiMinno was also at the theatre to help set up for *The Seldoms* in October. A native of the area, he first worked at the theatre as a freshman at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. After college, he went on tour with rock ‘n’ roll bands like Kansas and The Eagles, then returned home and started his business, which occasionally brings him to OCC. When the theatre was redesigned, DiMinno served as the rigging consultant.

Lockhart, for his part, was an OCC student who showed up at the Box Office one day, was directed to Madigan’s office, and soon became a part of the team. During *The Seldoms* set-up, he stopped briefly to reminisce about past shows, including building the Brooklyn Bridge on stage once for *Brooklyn Boy*, and then he got back to work.

That same day, Towery pointed out the components of the lighting booth on the mezzanine, and spoke about the light board, pre-programming for shows, follow spots, down pools, and “the proverbial black hole of death” — certain areas on the stage that just can’t be lit well.

“People don’t realize what goes into preparing” for the various performances, she noted. Towery also pointed out the sound booth, where her husband works.

As Tomasura later explained, during a break from his full-time job as a security installer, he began working behind the scenes at OCC more than three decades ago, then switched to sound engineer about 25 years ago.

According to Tomasura, he does sound for about 98 percent of the shows at the Grunin Center, utilizing the Allen & Heath board that was purchased during the renovation. “I’ve been doing sound for many, many years here, and this board is by far the most superior, which makes my job easier.”

The most difficult shows for sound, he attests, are school musicals, because the orchestra needs to be miked in addition to the wireless microphones for the actors coming on and off stage. “The way things have to function” make it more complicated, he said.

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“*Fiddler on the Roof* was probably the biggest challenge in all my years,” he added. “They had a very big cast and a lot of wireless microphones.”

Similar to Towery, he can pre-program the board to some degree, and he typically has another person working with him, usually near the stage, or two people for bigger shows.

Tomasura particularly likes when the theatre hosts bands, but regardless, “I always enjoy the show whether I’m working and having to follow a script or not.”

Lately, everyone has been working a lot, happily. “It’s been crazy busy (*since the Grunin donation*),” said Hall. “It’s been great.”

“We want to make sure we keep arts and education available to people. We want to actively engage with our community, and bring world class artists to them.”

– Mark Wilson, Artistic Director

Wilson is already looking ahead to next fall at the Grunin Center. He spoke of an ongoing partnership with the Ocean County Heritage Commission to bring in students for workshops with artists. “Branford Marsalis did a master class with our jazz band,” he pointed out as an example.

“The great thing about the Grunins’ (*gift*) and their involvement is we’re able to leverage their funding to bring in high value artists,” and to plug up the price difference so that tickets are affordable for the community, said Wilson, who pointed out that tickets for Art Garfunkel were \$49 at OCC, whereas he played somewhere else a few days later for \$79.

“We want to make sure we keep arts and education available to people,” he affirmed. “We want to actively engage with our community, and bring world class artists to them.”

The facility, said Caldwell, “has such potential. I hope it continues the way it’s going now.”

“And it’s here right in our own little town!” Bird exclaimed.

“More and more of the community are taking advantage of the offerings,” and there is support from the OCC administration, Board of Trustees, and faculty and staff, noted Krantz, who will continue to help helm the facility for the foreseeable future.

“I’m a theater nut. I’m fortunate to be able to feel well, and I hope to be here as long as I’m able. I’d given my husband a five-year timeline, but that passed a while ago,” she laughed.

The work, Tomasura pointed out, isn’t much like work at all. “It is very enjoyable, and very rewarding.

“When the lights go out and the sound goes out and you hear people talking about how much they enjoyed the show, you get that mental high. You feel good,” he added.



As the set-up for *The Seldoms* continued on the stage, Towery mentioned the ghost.

“I mean, weird things sometimes happen,” she pointed out. Years ago, she continued, band director John Pillarella passed away prematurely, and she and Madigan claim he’s the jokester specter behind any otherwise unexplainable occurrences. If something strange happens, well, “John was here,” said Towery.

“He was a good friend, and a naturally funny guy,” she added.

“He’s a funny, friendly ghost,” Madigan agreed.

Caldwell, overhearing the discussion as he crossed the stage, shouted, cheerfully, “There’s no ghost!”

For a show schedule, visit www.grunincenter.org. ■

Juliet Kaszas-Hoch, *Staff Writer*



Jay and Linda
GRUNIN CENTER
 FOR THE ARTS

2016 Winter-Spring

January 2016

- 13** The Midiri Brothers
- 16** Remember Jones
- 30** John Pizzarelli

February

- 6** Peter Yarrow
- 12** *Broadway's Next Hit Musical*
- 17** Aaron Weinstein
- 20** Home Free
- 26** Renee Marie

March

- 2** Chelsea Wang
- 4** De Temps Antan
- 5** Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus
- 9** Dan Levinson & Molly Ryan
- 10|11|12|13|18|19**
Dancing at Lughnasa
- 12** *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*
- 16** Cameron Carpenter
- 18** Aaron Neville Duo
- 19** *RAVE ON! A Salute to Buddy Holly & Other Legends*

April

- 1** ABT Studio
- 2** The Skivvies
- 8** I am Ireland
- 9** Basement Musicians:
Men in Black
- 13** Glenn Crytzer's Savoy Seven
- 14|15|16|17|22|23**
Comic Shorts II
- 16** Salut Salon
- 20** Dominika Zamara
- 24** *Chicken Dance*

May

- 7** Bronx Wanderers
- 14** OCC Concert Band:
Marches & Overtures
- 15** National Players:
A Tale of Two Cities
- 25** Bria Skonberg

June

- 3** Adam Pascal &
Daphne Rubin-Vega
- 4** 1910 Fruitgum Company
- 8** Swingadelic Salutes
The Three Louis

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2016 Winter-Spring



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Living on the Hill

In May of 2015, OCC student Christopher Coon had the incredible opportunity to intern for former Speaker of the House John Boehner. Coon was introduced to the political process on Capitol Hill first hand and participated in an unforgettable experience.

As part of his internship duties, Coon had the opportunity to work with the Republican National Committee, as well as New Jersey Congressman Tom MacArthur, to promote the overall goals of the Republican Party. This opportunity allowed Coon to experience American politics first hand, as well as immerse himself in the culture of Washington D.C.

“Living on the Hill” and meeting prominent politicians, such as Jeb Bush and Paul Ryan, allowed Coon to experience a profound understanding of political science from a hands-on perspective beyond the classroom. Through his experience Coon, learned that his long term goal in life is to make it back to Washington, D.C. and back into the industry of politics, no matter what it takes. Coon believes that “this experience completely

altered the course of (his) life.”

Jason Ghibesi, Lecturer of Political Science, acted as his Faculty Mentor during the internship experience. Ghibesi commented that, “political science internships are extremely valuable to students who are considering pursuing political science programs. Opportunities such as Chris’s, provides students with career guidance and valuable work experience.”

Coon is majoring in political science and is expected to graduate in May 2016. He plans to attend Rutgers University with anticipation of going to law school in Washington, D.C. ■



First Year Accolades

Melanie Fernandez was awarded the 2015-16 New Jersey Association of New Student Advocates Community College Student Scholarship. She received \$500 in recognition of her outstanding work as a first-year college student.

Fernandez completed her first semester in December 2014, earning a 4.0 GPA. She successfully demonstrated her participation in and proficiency with activities associated with the first-year experience and college success, such as the first-year seminar, orientation,

peer mentoring, and other activities that are associated with first-year and transfer programs and events. In addition to volunteering as a Peer Mentor and Orientation Leader, Fernandez is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Gay Straight Alliance.

Fernandez is working toward an associate in applied science degree in American Sign Language and is also fulfilling the requirements for a Liberal Arts degree. She expects to graduate in May 2018. ■

Nothing Personal ... It's Just Business

Four student members of OCC's chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, Future Business Leaders of America, were among the winners of the 2015 National Leadership Conference in Chicago. OCC winners include Davina Resto, Nina Rogers, Danielle Wittman, and Chaya (Eti) Hayman. This is the first time OCC students have placed in the Small Business Management Plan event at the national level, and it is the second victory in the Integrated Marketing Campaign competition. OCC students also ranked in the top ten in the Social Media category. ■





Going the Distance:



Pictured above L to R: Helen Konz, Student Support Services Technician; Rosemarie H. Arace; and Diana Gatti, Student Support Services Project Director.

Grant Helps Transform Students with Benefits that Go Far Beyond Monetary Support

Ocean County College has been awarded a \$1.1 million TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant from the United States Department of Education. The grant was renewed for five years and will be disbursed at \$220,000 a year, totaling \$1,100,000.

According to Diana Gatti, SSS Project Director, the program provides academic support to 140 OCC students who are first generation, low-income, and/or disabled who also have academic need. “Student Support Services is a comprehensive program dedicated to increasing the academic success rate of students by providing support in an accessible and respectful environment,” she explained.

“We provide personal, academic, and career coaching that encourages excellence and promotes success through educational opportunities and the use of campus resources. This grant will provide much needed funding for the College to offer required services including tutoring, advice on course selection, information and assistance with financial aid, and financial literacy activities,” added Gatti.

Dr. Kate Pandolpho, Director of Career, Employment, and Personal Counseling said, “We are very pleased with this renewal grant. The College had the Student Support Services program from 2010-2015 and has had very positive results, increasing the persistence, retention, and graduation of students who have academic need. This \$1.1 million grant will go a long way in assisting these students.”

Among the 140 students who are being helped by the SSS grant, several expressed strong emotions about being part of the program. They tell *Ocean Views* in their own words why they chose the SSS program as their support system and how it has helped them ... and in the process, they tell us their unique stories of success.

Mary Poling, 35, is an exceptional student who came to the program with no direction. “Mary knew she needed to go to college to start making positive things happen in her life, but she had a lot of fears, concerns, and questions. But within one semester, she began to walk with confidence,” Gatti said.

Poling is working toward an associate in science degree in general education/science. “When I made the decision to start my journey in the spring of 2015, I had absolutely no idea what to do, where to go, or even how college was going to be. I was certainly a newcomer,” Poling said.

“When I was feeling so inadequate and scared, the student support team reached out to me and made me feel a part of (college). I realized that these positive and proactive people were part of my life support for my college journey. They have truly helped me every step of the way (including) just listening to me share my fears and concerns,” she continued.

“I am not your traditional college student. I am 35 and have two daughters (ages 15 and 10) that I am raising by myself. We work together as a team and at times it is very challenging (to balance) family, college, and work,” said Poling.

“A tragic accident happened and we lost my younger daughter’s father. I can remember looking at her and thinking this extraordinary little person has the courage and the heart I want. (I am) grateful for what I have today and remember that most people put their pants on one leg at a time. I stay positive and remain willing to do what it takes in achieving my goals. I knew (college) was not going to be easy, I just needed to believe it was possible,” she added.

At 58, Rosemarie H. Arace was ready to “throw in the towel.” According to Gatti, “she wanted to quit and was at her breaking point. Rosemarie felt if she couldn’t get through remedial English she would never get through the rest of her classes.”

“I became a widow when I was 45 and my son was 10. I am (now) a college student at the same time my son is a college student. My son is a graduate of OCC and went on to Monmouth University (graduating in December 2015),” Arace explained.

“My interest is in paralegal studies. I always have been interested in law, however, never had the chance to live my dream. Through this wonderful program and the dedicated people on staff, I have a chance to step into my dream,” she said.

Arace continued, “Starting college after being away from school for 40 years, and living in the world of technology, was very overwhelming. Just

trying to figure out how to get and submit assignments online confused me. I hope in the future to be able to help other non-traditional students overcome their challenges and fears as well.

“I never thought I would be able to attend and thrive in a college environment, but because of Student Support Services I am able to rise above my weak areas. I have a real chance of accomplishing my dream. I now have the support I need to overcome my fears. I would not be able to do this without (the) program,” she said.

To date, Arace is still attending OCC and believes in herself that she can accomplish her goals. As a non-traditional student, she is working toward an associate in applied science in business/legal studies.

At just 19, Alicia Dalia says that her “journey” with SSS “has been enlightening.” She started the program during the 2015 spring semester, and “gained even more confidence when it comes to learning.”

“My last two years of high school were spent (at) home. Due to personal reasons, I had to finish my high school education online. I was worried when I first started classes at OCC because I wasn’t used to learning in a classroom setting, so I knew it was going to be a huge adjustment. Having the (SSS) staff as a helping hand reassured me I was not alone in my academic concerns” she said. Dalia is working toward an associate in science degree in general education/science.

At 44, Eric Darnley explains that OCC provided him “with a platform to start over.”

“My life has been full of adversity but here at OCC I have become a success. My journey at OCC has been amazing. I feel as if my mind has been awakened. The exposure to different subjects has shown me what path my passions truly lie on. The most interesting thing about my journey so far has been discovering myself,” Darnley said.

Self-described as passionate and motivated, he is studying for an associate in science degree in general education/social science and says “when I get my degree I’m going to be able to help people.”

Luis Faragi, 20, thought OCC was going to be a breeze! According to Gatti, he always did well in high school and even took college classes while in high school so he was confident college wasn’t going to be that hard. After receiving low grades in his first semester he knew that he needed to find the resources necessary to succeed.

“I enlisted in the Army National Guard at the age of 17 and left for Basic Combat Training right after graduating high school.

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GRANT TRANSFORMS *continued from p.19*

While I was away for eight months I was out of school for two whole semesters and I had a hard time transitioning back into civilian life. I chose to use (SSS) to help me get back on track with my studies because I was struggling with juggling school, work, family, and my military career,” Faragi said.

Faragi is working toward an degree in general education/social science and is determined to move onto a four-year university to receive a Bachelor’s degree and pursue a career in law enforcement.

Fifty-four year old **Dorothy Knight** describes herself as a “vintage student” and is working toward an associate in science degree in general education/business. “My journey at OCC has been one of enlightenment and a constant balancing act of time management. I am part of the sandwich generation; (I have) children and parents who need (me), so learning to prioritize my time between working full-time, caring for daughters, husband, parents, and school has been a challenge,” she said.

“The most interesting part of the OCC journey for me, was attending classes and the interaction between the teachers and my fellow students. Each class had something that piqued my interest,” she added.

Knight’s original goal was to complete an associate degree, which she did in five years. Now, she is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree through Kean-Ocean. “I want to show my daughters, by example, that as long as you keep working toward your goal, you will achieve it.”

Thirty-five year old **Janice Sheridan** had been working the same job for 17 years. Sheridan started straight out of high school and worked her way up the chain, but one day, new management came in and Sheridan was let go. “A single mother who only had the skills her first job trained her for, she was either not qualified for anything else or did not have the education level needed for the new job requirements in her field. Desperate to provide for her daughter, she enrolled at OCC to get the necessary education for the requirements of today’s job market,” Gatti said.

With the support from SSS, Sheridan is studying for an associate in science degree in general education/business and is a straight “A” student.

“When I first started at OCC, I was filled with anxiety and stress. I didn’t think college was a choice for me. When I was in high school, I was a co-op student, which meant that I got out of school early to go work ... in the banking industry. Once I graduated, I already learned so much and a year later I was promoted to a Customer Service Manager,” Sheridan said.

“Since I already had a career I didn’t think I needed to further my education until I was let go. I applied for jobs but I wasn’t having any luck because all the businesses were looking for candidates with college degrees and I only had experience. Then one day my daughter reminded me that I made a promise that if anything would happen to my job or when she was old enough to drive that I would go to college, whichever came first. Well, since my daughter (was) 12, we (could) see which came first,” said Sheridan.

According to **Kayla Miller**, 21, SSS is an organization everyone should get involved in. Not only does it focus on student’s education and what’s in their best interest, helping them with registration, career and degree decisions, and checking in on how classes are going ... but the program also focuses on the “fun in life!” Miller is studying for an associate in science degree in general education/business.

“Having both parents and three older sisters who didn’t go to college, taking the first step by going to college was HUGE for me. I was not confident that I could do it just because no one in my family ever attended college so it was brand new to me with a million questions going through my mind. I did not know where to start, and once I heard about (SSS) at my orientation I knew it was just what I needed,” Miller explained.

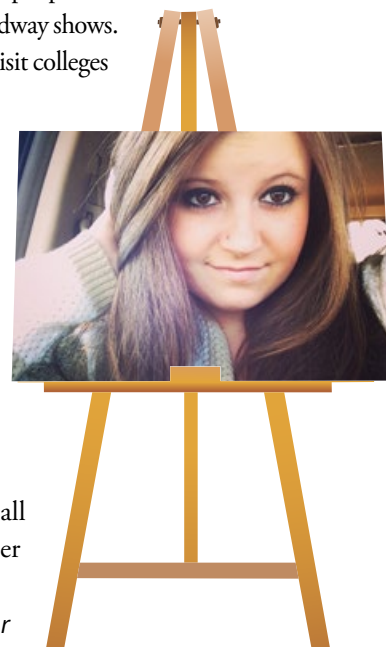
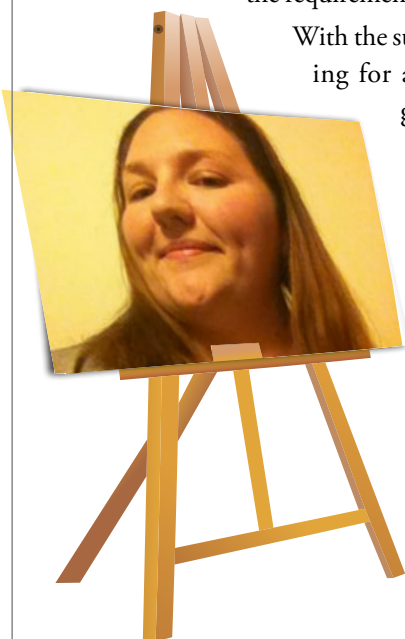
“Looking back, I don’t know what I would have done without (SSS). Anytime I had struggles in a class I would always attend tutoring sessions and created a strong bond with one of my tutors. My advisor knows me personally by name, and helped me with any and every situation I brought to her.

“After talking with friends who attend four-year colleges, they do not get half the help that I do, and their advisor knows nothing about them except what is in their transcript,” continued Miller.

But as they say, ‘all work and no play, makes SSS participants dull students.’ And that’s why SSS rounds out students’ college experiences with events to help them meet new people, fun bowling nights, and trips to see Broadway shows. The program also takes students to visit colleges and universities in New Jersey to help with transfer decisions.

“I am so glad I got involved with (SSS) because it was such a great experience. (SSS) honestly cares about you, your education, and your wellbeing. You are not just treated as a number or dollar sign, as some of my friends attending other colleges have described. I am so thankful for everyone in the (SSS) office, and all that they have done for me,” Miller concluded.

RoseAnn D’Urso, *Editor*



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.

For the Shermans and the Maiones, OCC is truly a family affair.

The matriarch of the Sherman family, Patricia (Triche) Sherman, graduated from OCC in 2005. Her son Corrie (Cory) S. Sherman, earned his associate degree one year later, in 2006, as did Cory's wife, Alaina M. Maione Sherman.

Meanwhile, Alaina's father, Philip Maione Sr., was in the OCC Class of 1976. And, Alaina's brother, Philip Maione Jr., is currently a Viking.

Philip Sr. cited budget and proximity as two reasons he attended OCC. "Having an affordable two-year college close to home ... helped in saving (tuition) over time ... to achieve the four-year degree started at OCC," he explained.

As Triche noted, similarly, "For me, the decision to choose OCC was easy. It was close, inexpensive, and not intimidating. For my son Cory, it was definitely that it was close to home and inexpensive."

"The cost per semester was more manageable than a big four-year school," Alaina remarked.

Cory and Alaina, however, also looked forward to the specific educational experience they knew OCC could provide. "The class sizes were smaller and professors were more accessible," Alaina pointed out.

"Small classes afforded more personal experiences with professors," Cory concurred.

When his daughter enrolled as a Viking,

Philip Sr. said, she had the advantage of a family member who had attended prior to her, who could describe "the expectation of the standard of education that will be provided."

Alaina was glad to have someone "to offer

school. College ... can be intimidating."

She added, "My first day of class I walked on campus by the Library and stopped. I almost turned around and went home, but I didn't. I walked across campus to the Fine

Arts building, up the ramp, down the hall to my first class. Someone said 'hello' and I knew I could do this. I didn't look back; I stayed, set my goals, and stuck to them."

Triche, Cory, and Alaina's time at OCC overlapped. The trio took some of the same classes, with some of the same professors, although usually in different semesters.

"I was able to share my experiences with these professors and explain their expectations, quirks, and rules of the classroom," Triche noted. "I think that gave Cory and Alaina a head start over the other students in the class."

When she first enrolled at OCC, Triche said she and

Cory made a pact that they wouldn't take any classes together. However, said Triche, "After I had registered for my final semester, Cory decided he wanted to take the same 'Introduction to Theater' class I was taking. Not only did we take the class together, we worked on projects together. I asked Cory why he would want to be my class partner when he clearly had friends in the class. He simply smiled and said he wanted an 'A.'

"I took my studies very seriously," she explained. "I studied voraciously for hours on end, always trying to set an example for

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guidance (as to) which classes to take."

In the Sherman family, Cory and his brother, Jason Crane, began their studies at OCC before Triche, and, as she commented, "I think the biggest benefit for me to have Cory and ... Jason attend OCC first was the paperwork and all that entailed. I knew what to expect and it was easier for me to do it. I also listened to the different problems my sons encountered.

"I think it's important for any potential college student to know what to expect when going to college for the first time. Unfortunately that is not taught in high

Mordechai Grubin

2015 – 2016 Alumni Board Representative



Ocean County College is happy to welcome Mordechai Grubin '15 to serve as the Alumni Representative on the Board of Trustees. Grubin brings many strengths to this position including a background in community service and a long list of accomplishments from his tenure as an OCC student. He has been an active volunteer with numerous organizations and causes, including spending time with children who have chronic illnesses and cancer. Grubin was an accomplished student in academics and took advantage of many of the student support services available.

“I started my education at Ocean County College because I felt I would receive quality attention and guidance I needed as a first generation college student.”

Grubin’s unique background reflects the evolving student body on the OCC campus. He grew up in Lakewood, NJ, in the Jewish Orthodox community and spent his high school years at an all-boys rabbinical boarding school in Bell Harbor, NY. Grubin graduated as Valedictorian of his class and his academic achievements continued at OCC where he maintained a 4.0 GPA.

“The only person giving me an ‘A’ is myself. I always make the effort to be unique and recognizable among my teachers.”

While an outstanding student – it was not easy. Grubin discussed some of his challenges. “I am a first generation student. I am bilingual, which takes a great effect on my education. Instead of letting these barriers take me down, I used them as a stepping (stone) to succeed. I can proudly say that not only have I persevered and overcome my challenges but I have also reached heights never imagined academically,” he said.

Grubin continued, “The only person giving me an ‘A’ is myself. I always make the effort to be unique and recognizable among my teachers.”

And he has definitely made his mark! Grubin was on the OCC President’s Honor List each semester, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, awarded the 2015 “Stellar Student Award” from Student Support Services, and was recognized in “Who’s Who” among Students at OCC.”

Grubin is enrolled at Kean-Ocean and working on his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and continues to maintain a 4.0.

“My goal is to build a solid resume, put 100% effort into my undergraduate classes, get as much field experience in psychology

continued on page 23

as possible, and enter a top graduate school in a fellowship program to ultimately receive a Psy.D in clinical psychology,” he said.

Mordechai’s accomplishments are a testament to the abundant opportunities available to OCC students. His continued service to the College is greatly appreciated and we look forward to being a part of his journey to success! ■

Rebecca Feiler White, *Director*
Alumni Relations, Development, & Grants

THE RANDOM 10

...is a set of questions for our new alumni Board Representative interviewed in “Alumni Spotlight.” Here is **Mordechai Grubin’s** “Random Ten.”

1 **How would you describe yourself in one word?**

A: Determined

2 **Where would you travel if you could go anywhere?**

A: Fiji

3 **Who was your favorite professor?**

A: Jane O’Brien for Psychology

4 **If you could meet a famous person who would it be?**

A: There’s a few people I’d like to meet: Warren Buffet, J.K. Rowling, Mark Zuckerberg, Mark Cuban

5 **What is something unique about you?**

A: I am currently working on an invention with a company called Invent Help. The invention will be revolutionary to our society but I cannot disclose the invention due to the patent pending status.

6 **Who inspires you?**

A: My mother and father. They are incredible parents and very hardworking.

7 **What’s your favorite food?**

A: Shawarma

(NOTE: Shawarma or Shawurma is a Levantine Arab meat preparation, where lamb, chicken, turkey, beef, veal, or mixed meats are placed on a spit, and may be grilled for as long as a day.)

8 **What was your favorite class at OCC?**

A: Homeland Security with Professor Paul Brady

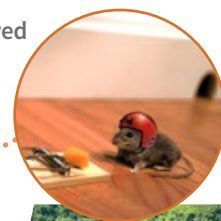
9 **Can you speak another language?**

A: Yes, Hebrew

10 **What advice do you have for OCC students?**

A: It doesn’t matter where you come from – Nothing is Impossible.

אפשר בלתי אינו דבר שום



SHERMANS/MAIONES *continued from p.23*
Cory to follow.

“He finally got it and worked hard on his classes to improve his GPA, eventually moving on to Kean University where he made the Dean’s List in his last semester.”

As an OCC student, Triche served as president of Phi Theta Kappa, and was inducted into Pi Lambda Theta. She was also a member of many campus clubs and organizations, some of which Cory and Alaina joined as well.

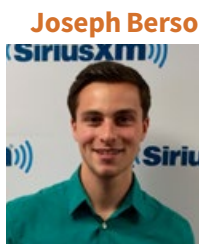
Triche, Cory, and Alaina all attended the Student Life Leadership program – Triche on three occasions. “It changed my life forever,” Triche remarked, “teaching me to successfully lead myself and giving me the tools to lead others.”

Overall, she added, “I feel OCC gave me a great start ... It not only taught me required academics but gave me a sense of value and purpose as well. I believe it made me a better, more well-rounded student, and that I could move on to Georgian Court (University) without any hesitation.

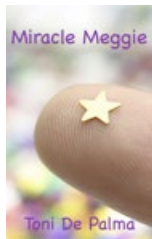
“I remember sitting in on a roundtable meeting with Dr. Larson when I first came to OCC. He said no one should have to pay to go to community college. There are ways to fund your college experience with grants, scholarships, and more. For me, this was true because I qualified for Pell grants, TAG grants, and, eventually, before I graduated, I received nine awards and scholarships.

“Although I came to college later in life, the fact remains that I did it, I achieved an associate degree in Social Science and later, at Georgian Court, I obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Studio Art and a minor/dual degree in Art History. Me, Triche Sherman, in my fifties going to college for the first time!” ■

Juliet Kaszas-Hoch, *Staff Writer*



Joseph Berson '13 was hired as an editor at the Howard Stern Show on XM satellite radio.



Toni DePalma '85 recently published a children's book titled *Miracle Maggie*. Miracle Maggie is meant to inspire and empower children, helping them understand how to create miracles in their lives by being proactive and hopeful.

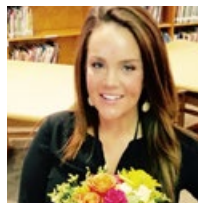


Kathi Frampton '06 recently completed the Certified Professional Career Coach program (CPCC) earning the CPCC credential, enhancing her professional expertise and contributions to the career coaching industry. Frampton established Frampton Coaching LLC, in Lacey Township, Frampton is well-equipped to help job seekers in today's competitive, challenging, and ever-changing employment market.



Mariel Harrison '15 has been busy since graduating from OCC last May. After her speech at the Commencement Ceremony, Dr. Dawood Farahi, President of Kean

University, offered her a full scholarship to attend the university! Harrison enrolled at Kean in the fall and is in the process of applying to Kean's five-year Public Administration Bachelor's/Master's degree program. She has also been traveling all over the country and gearing up to spend the month of January in India. Keeping active, she ran the Staten-Island Half Marathon in October and qualified for the 2016 New York City Marathon. Harrison continues to enjoy her work in addiction prevention, treatment, recovery, and advocacy on the local level with the National Council of Alcoholism & Drug Dependence – New Jersey (NCADD-NJ) and nationally with Young People in Recovery (YPR).

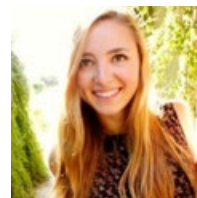


Shannon Jesequel '09 was recently recognized as the 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year at Timber Drive Elementary in Wake County, North Carolina. Shannon was in the NJ STARS program at OCC, and then completed her Bachelor degree at Kean at Ocean graduating with a B.A. in Elementary Education and Middle School Social Studies. After graduating from Kean in 2011, she moved outside of Raleigh, North Carolina and began teaching at Timber Drive Elementary in Garner, NC. In addition to teaching 3rd grade, Shannon is the president of the Literacy Committee, a Case manager for Tier III Interventions, and a 2nd year

graduate student at East Carolina University majoring in K-12 Reading Instruction.



Jamie Landsman '11 released her first book of series narrated by Alice the Rottweiler- *A Dog's Tail: Alice's hindsight of alcohol abuse in her family*. *A Dog's Tail* is a picture book story that explores the impact parental alcohol abuse had on Alice and her family. The story can be used to open up discussion with a child about substance abuse or to bring to light the possible consequences of it and can also be used to initiate discussions about death and loss. Jaime is a licensed social worker working in the field of child protection.



Madison Schaeffer '13 was hired by NBC Universal in NYC as an office production assistant.



Robert "RJ" Norcia '10 graduated from Rutgers Camden Law School in May. RJ was featured in the *Rutgers Today* article, "Capitalizing on Challenges: Law Grad Tackled Unprecedented Projects with Aplomb."

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 our office. 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

Building a Healthier New Jersey from the Ground Up!

With grant funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP) has developed Jersey-Friendly Yards, an online guide to beautiful, low-maintenance, and eco-friendly landscaping in New Jersey.

The website, www.jerseyyards.org, features a searchable Plant Database and an “Interactive Yard,” a fun tool for learning how to transform a conventional yard into a Jersey-Friendly yard. Users of JerseyYards.org will find information about planting native species, reducing use of fertilizers and pesticides, conserving water, attracting pollinators and other wildlife, and improving overall yard health. Not only are Jersey-Friendly yards healthier, they also save homeowners time and money!

Six Jersey-Friendly gardens have been planted in Ocean County through pilot

projects funded by the DEP grant and managed by the Ocean County Soil Conservation District. Five homeowner associations and the Visitation Relief Center used the website to plan and design new gardens on their properties, all located within the Metedeconk River watershed.

Jersey-Friendly landscaping is the key to improving water quality in the Barnegat Bay watershed and throughout New Jersey. Storm water runoff from yards washes lawn chemicals, pet waste, and other pollutants into our rivers, stream, and bays. By capturing and absorbing more rainwater and reducing pollution at the source, Jersey-Friendly yards help us towards the goal of cleaner water and a healthier environment for everyone in our state. ■

Karen Walzer

BBP Program Outreach Coordinator



The Shore's Future: Living with Storms and Sea Level Rise

Coastal flooding has become a fact of life for many residents of the Jersey Shore. From nor'easters to seasonal high tides, property owners are seeing an increase in flooding and are justifiably concerned.

We need everyone thinking about and planning for the challenges of living on the shore in the face of severe storms and rising seas. Our region's vulnerability to such climate change must be considered as we plan for the future. Now is the time to review the research, examine the evidence, and debate what to do about the projected impacts. There is a real desire in our community to discuss these issues in a proactive way, based on credible science, so that we can protect our lives, our property, and our quality of living. It's vital to the future health of the bay and the economies of shore communities.

Several organizations in Toms River collaborated with The Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP) to provide local communities with an opportunity to voice their

views on the challenges created by rising sea levels and coastal storms.

Last November, a two-day conference, “The Shore's Future: Living with Storms and Sea Level Rise,” was held in Toms River. This event brought together scientists, policymakers, and concerned citizens to discuss the personal, economic, and community-wide significance of rising seas and severe storms in the Toms River area and the Jersey Shore.

The conference did not lobby for any particular position or conclusion, but rather sought to provide members of the community with an opportunity to rationally and respectfully express their views, with the goal of reaching common ground on planning for a changing future.

The BBP is focusing attention on the economic, social, and environmental impacts of sea level rise and flooding as it revises its 2002 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). The Plan is a blueprint for the more than 30 government,



academic, business, and private stakeholders working together to protect and restore the Barnegat Bay and its watershed. Using the latest research findings and input from both experts and the public, the BBP will be revising the Plan over the next couple of years.

The conference was sponsored by The Institute for Science and Global Policy, Township of Toms River, BBP, Barnegat Bay Foundation, and Ocean County College, with financial support provided by the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation. ■

Dr. L. Stanton Hales, Jr., BBP Director

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Vice Chair

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John E. Walsh

Gale G. Wayman

David C. Winthrode

Harvey L. York

Michael B. York

Emeriti

Joseph E. Buckelew

Joseph A. Citta (1908-2009)

Jack Lamping (1915-2009)

Leonard G. Lomell (1920-2011)

Richard S. Sambol (1926-2015)

Sen. Robert W. Singer

Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.

College President

Franklin H. Berry, Jr.

Counsel

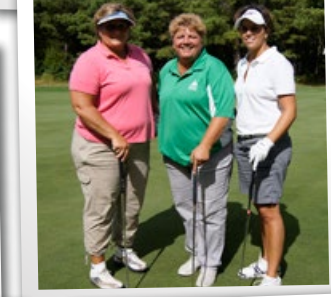
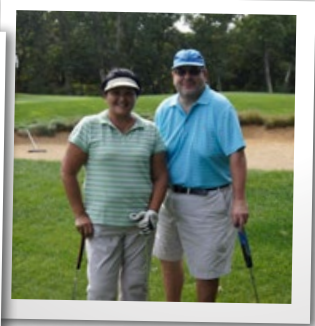
Heather S. Barberi

Executive Director

14th Annual Golf Outing a Sunny Success!

The Ocean County College Foundation's 14th Annual Golf Outing took place at Pine Barrens Golf Club in Jackson, NJ, on September 28. It was a wonderful day with perfect weather and an enthusiastic group of golfers. The event attracted approximately 100 golfers and raised nearly \$50,000! It is through the

support of sponsors, donors, and golfers that the Foundation is able to continue to provide assistance to OCC students through scholarships, special projects, and academic programs. The Foundation offers its sincere appreciation to all who played in the event, the Golf Committee, chaired by Michael B. York, and our OCC volunteers. ■



14th Annual Golf Outing Committee

Michael B. York, *Chair*

Nina Anuario

Ilene Cohen

Vincent D'Allesandro

Karen Escobedo

Louis Felicetta

Ginny Haines

Anne Kraljic

Dottie LaPosa

Dr. Jon H. Larson

Victoria Magliacane

Kathi Mead

Michael O'Brien

Richard Pallamary

Joel Perlmutter

Jared Rhine

Michael Ritacco

David Rosen

Ron Rosetto

Pauline Rota

Michael Schrader

Domenick Servodio

David York

Harvey York

Foundation Staff

Heather S. Barberi, *Executive Director*

Sherri A. Bray, *Manager, Special Events & Development*

Nancy A. Heroy, *OCC Foundation Program Assistant*

100 Women Mentoring Program Kicks Off

On Thursday, October 8, the 100 Women Campaign kicked off its mentoring program with a reception in the Gateway Building.



For its inaugural semester, nearly 50 students were matched with dynamic, innovative, and accomplished women from the Ocean County community.

The goal for the program is to foster a culture of mentoring at Ocean County College that connects students with mentors, encouraging productive conversations around

academic, professional, and life goals. The students will spend quality time with their mentors over the course of the academic year that will help to improve their self-confidence and self-esteem, broaden their horizons, build relationships, and encourage them to achieve their goals.

“Tonight’s event marked a tremendous milestone for the 100 Women Campaign,” said Heather S. Barberi, Executive Director of the Ocean County College Foundation. “In less than a year the campaign was launched, over 100 women from the community were recruited, over \$15,000 for scholarship support was raised, and the mentoring program was kicked off. A huge thank you to all involved!”



The 100 Women Campaign was launched in 2015 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. For more information on the campaign, please visit www.ocean.edu/100women. ■

OceanFirst Supports 50 Incoming Freshman at OCC

For the sixth consecutive year, the OceanFirst Foundation has generously donated \$50,000 to the Ocean County College Foundation to provide fifty incoming freshman with \$1,000 scholarships. All of this year’s recipients were graduates of schools in the OceanFirst Bank service areas of Ocean and Monmouth counties with grade point averages of 3.0 or higher.

Since the inception of the program, the OceanFirst Foundation has generously provided OCC with \$300,000 in scholarship support. “Ocean County College is grateful to the OceanFirst Foundation for its continued support of education and our local students,” said Heather S. Barberi, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation. “At a time when college costs across the country are on the rise, scholarship support is critical. The OceanFirst Foundation is not only supporting students on their educational journey, they are expanding their opportunities for success in the future.” ■



OCC student Heather Mentone (center), along with her mother Dana-Jo Amalfa (left), and grandmother Cindy Amalfa (right), at the June 30 scholarship reception hosted by the OceanFirst Foundation.

Save these 2016 Dates!

Annual Scholarship Celebration

Saturday, June 11, 2016

6:00 p.m. • OCC Main Campus • Toms River, NJ

Annual Golf Outing

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Pine Barrens Golf Club, Jackson, NJ

For more information, call the OCC Foundation Office
at 732-255-0492 or visit www.ocean.edu.



Faculty Retirement

Christine Kitchin, Professor of Anthropology/Social Science, has retired effective January 1, 2016, after 12 years of dedicated service to the College. Kitchin arrived at OCC in 2003 and has been a much-loved and admired faculty member. An inspiration to non-traditional students, Kitchin's remarkable story of starting college at 35 and becoming an anthropologist, working for 11 years in Mexico, studying the Maya people, was featured in the Fall-Winter 2005-2006 edition of *Ocean Views* in the cover article, "Christina's Poles."

Sandra Kearns, Associate Professor of Nursing, has retired effective February 1, 2016, after 25 years of dedicated service to the College. Kearns arrived at OCC in 1991 and as a former Director of Nursing Education, she was instrumental in helping to make the Nursing program a sought-after success. Well-liked by administrators and staff, admired by her fellow faculty, and loved by her students, Kearns will be missed.

Articles/Books

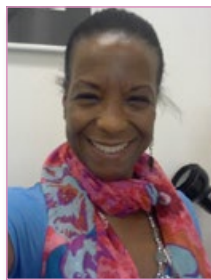


Pat Cicerone, Nursing Lab Reservist, was featured in the article "Personalized Doula Services Delivered to Parent at Home" in March 25, 2015 edition of *The SandPaper*. Cicerone is owner of Pat the Darling Doula and provides support to new mothers and fathers as they adjust to caring a newborn. She works in the Nursing Lab Annex at Southern Ocean Medical Center. *Photo courtesy of Jack Reynolds and The Sandpaper.*



Kathleen DiMario, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Social Science & Human Services, published the children's book *What Kind of Dog Am I?* The book tells the story of a rescued dog named Posha who is on a journey of self-discovery. Through Posha's story, children learn valuable life lessons of how they can find their own true identity and build self-esteem. DiMario is also CEO of Second Acts Career Services in Toms River. For more information on the book, visit www.poshatherescueddog.com.

Jeffrey Harmon, Associate Vice President of E-Learning & Learning Enterprises, interviewed by Center for Digital Education for the article "Community College Removes Barriers to Online Learning." The article discussed how OCC has implemented an online readiness test and a suit of remedial course modules with the capability for adaptive learning.



Laura F. Rickards, Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund and Center for Access & Equality, had an article, "Thriving: A Recipe for Success," published in the online *Lift Newsletter*. Following is a paraphrased excerpt. To read the whole article visit <http://tinyurl.com/oyvu97v>

"Face each day with the commitment to do the best that you are able.

Surround yourself with people who are supportive and honest.

When you look into the mirror each morning, be kind.

Value your most important commodity – you.

Listen. Wisdom never lies.

When you want to quit. Take a moment... get perspective, give it another push.

No regrets. You can only move forward.

You have to be brave enough to take risks.

You inherited some dysfunction and some gifts, embrace them both.

You are responsible for your actions, decisions, and consequences."

Degrees/Certifications

Jim Vasslides, Program Scientist, Barnegat Bay Partnership, received certification as a Fisheries Professional from the American Fisheries Society. He also had an article entitled "Fuzzy cognitive mapping in support of integrated ecosystem assessments: Developing a shared conceptual model among stakeholders" published in the *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Presentations

English faculty, **Dr. Sandra Brown**, Professor; and assistant professors **Heidi Sheridan**, **Jayanti Tamm**, and **Lynn Kraemer-Siracusa** presented "We, the Teachers: Upholding More Perfect Academic Liberty, or How to Move Toward the Light at the End of Textbook Tunnel Vision" at the Two-Year College English Association at 50: Reflection & Renewal Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Elsewhere, **Veronica Guevara-Lovegren**, Coordinator of Academic Support, **Erica Carboy**, College Lecturer of English, along with Sheridan and Kraemer-Siracusa, presented "Empowering Developmental Writing Students through a Non-Traditional Approach to Academic Assistance: An Inter-Institutional Collaborative" at the New Jersey Association of New Student Advocates 5th Biennial State Conference in Atlantic City, NJ. In addition, **Gina Zippo-Mazur**, Coordinator of Disability Services, along with students with disabilities in the First Year, presented "Supporting Students, Faculty, and Staff in Community College Settings through Universal Design."

Presentations *(continued)*

Ashley Carvagno, Technical Services Specialist, Library, is President of the New Jersey Library Association's Technical Services Section. She hosted a book repair demonstration, "Back from the Dead: Making Old Books Look New."

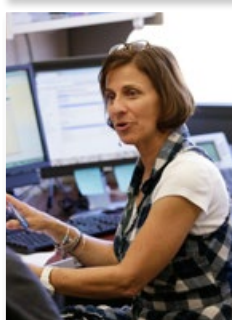
Caitlynn Cook, Librarian – Reference Services, is President of the Document Association of New Jersey. She presented a webinar, through the Federal Depository Library Program website, entitled, "Incorporating Federal Social Media Accounts into Reference and Instruction: Tips, Tricks, and Potential Pitfalls."

Pat Fenn, Assistant Vice President of Continuing & Professional Education (CPE), was a keynote speaker at the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship in Houston, TX. Her topic was "Best Practices in Generating Alternative Revenue on Your Campus." Elsewhere, OCC/CPE was invited to become a member of the new Economic-Development Committee of the Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce.

Karin Gargone (right), Instructor of Humanities, served as scholarly panelist for the *Music in the Mind Series*, presented by the Garden State Philharmonic in partnership with the Ocean County Library, the Ocean County Library Foundation, and OCC. Panel topics included discussion and debate on the character and purposes of music, genres and styles, composers' choices and assumptions, and their audiences to elevate understanding about Western music in historical and cultural contexts.

Elaine Schardien (right), NJ STARS Coordinator, hosted a Partners Workshop for high school counselors. This annual event brought Higher Education Student Assistance Authority representatives to campus to share information.

Sara Winchester, Executive Vice President of Finance & Administration, attended several meetings of the New Jersey Community College Joint Purchasing Committee, which focuses on broadening the opportunities for procurement savings among the 19 New Jersey community colleges. OCC is acting as lead institution for a new initiative to lower the hourly cost of Ellucian professional services for all colleges. OCC has taken advantage of several other joint procurement efforts, including Turn-It-In software, Accuplacer testing software, and gas and electric contracts. She also attended the annual meeting of the Eastern Association of College and University Business Officers in Philadelphia. Winchester, along with Dr. Don Norris and Dr. Tim Gilmour (Strategic Initiatives), co-presented "Building a Resilient and Higher Performing College: Preparing for Disruptive Themes."



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness we announce the death of **Pietro Cardiello**, Crafts Worker/ General Mechanic who worked for OCC from 1987 until his retirement in 2012. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and friends. ■



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

Garden State Award Presented to Executive Director of Athletics Ilene Cohen

Ocean County College's Executive Director of Athletics & Judicial Affairs Ilene Cohen was honored in October as the 2015 recipient of the College Athletic Administrators of New Jersey's highest honor, the Garden State Award. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made substantial and enduring contributions to the development of intercollegiate athletics in the state of New Jersey.



Cohen was recognized for her "roll up the sleeves and get things done attitude," and her dedication to OCC's student-athletes, whom she endeavors to help succeed in their athletic, academic, and career pursuits.

A standout softball player at Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey), Cohen later transitioned to a successful collegiate coaching career. Her 25 years of college athletics administration, meanwhile, began with a position as assistant athletic director at Middlesex County College. As the year 2001 concluded, Cohen began her tenure at OCC.

During her time at OCC, Cohen's leadership has facilitated, among other things, the addition of two new sports, women's volleyball and men's lacrosse; the construction of a multipurpose turf stadium, lighted tennis courts, a new softball field, and new scoreboards; the

implementation of an academic monitoring program for athletes; the development of the OCC Athletic Hall of Fame; and the creation of key positions within the Athletics Department.

Cohen has presided over numerous conference, regional, and national championships for Viking teams, and she has seen many OCC students named athletic and scholar All-Americans.

And now the OCC campus, in large part due to Cohen's work, plays host to exciting, large-scale athletic events such as the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Women's Soccer National Championship, with Cohen serving as Championship Director.

Outside of OCC, Cohen is an Executive Committee Member, and was a past President, of both the College Athletic Association of New Jersey and the Garden State Athletic Conference, and she also serves as a current Executive Committee Member for the National Girls and Women in Sports Day, helping to bring recognition and support to female athletes.

Both on campus and beyond, Cohen is a role model for women in sports, and an enthusiastic mentor for any student-athlete on her watch. ■

Craig Smith Earns Two Scholar Athlete of the Year Awards



During his time at OCC, Vikings soccer player Craig Smith proved himself an exemplary scholar athlete, and was duly recognized for his efforts on the field and in the classroom. The

National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators named Smith the 2015 Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year this past summer, and, in October, he was honored at the Region XIX Awards Dinner as the Robert Zifchak Male Scholar Athlete of the Year for 2015.

Prior to beginning college, Smith served two tours of duty in the Middle East. After returning from overseas he began his college career at OCC.



Smith served as captain of the soccer team, and helped lead the Vikings to deep runs in the Region XIX tournament. He was the number two ranked player in Region XIX as a defender/midfielder in the 2014

season, and was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-American, All-Region, and All-Garden State Athletic Conference Team. In addition, Smith was an Academic All-Region and All-Conference selection.

Off the field, Smith spearheaded a team community service effort to assist with a Habitat for Humanity project for a home damaged by Superstorm Sandy, and to raise funds for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

Smith earned a 3.65 GPA in his second year at OCC, and graduated cum laude with an associate degree in Liberal Arts. Following graduation, Smith continued his academic and athletic career at Georgian Court University. ■

Sport Shorts

New Viking Athletics Brand Released:

The OCC Athletics Department, in coordination with the Office of College Relations, recently announced the release of a new Vikings athletic brand. According to Athletic Director A.J. Trump, "This started as a project in the beginning of the summer and has been a longtime goal to be able to give our student-athletes an identity as the Ocean County College Viking athletics program," which has been consistently nationally ranked in the top ten of the NATYCAA Cup Standings. Viking fans will be able to view images of the new brand as it is integrated throughout the Athletics Department and across campus.

Tennis Player Emily Steinberg Wins Region XIX First Singles Title:

The Women's Tennis Team participated in the Region XIX Tournament in mid-October, finishing fourth with seven points overall. The Vikings' first singles player Emily Steinberg,

meanwhile, won the individual singles championship in a dramatic three-hour, three-set match against Valeria Ceron of Northampton Community College that ended 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, with Steinberg coming out on top.

Women's Volleyball Claims Back-to-Back GSAC Championships:

Women's Volleyball locked up the Garden State Athletic Conference Championship in October with a key victory over Union County College, taking the title for the second year in a row. The team later advanced to the Region XIX semifinals after a convincing round one win. In the semifinal contest, against Bergen Community College, the Vikings won the first match, then lost the second and third, won the fourth, and lost the fifth by a close 13-15 score. The team played remarkably well all season and finished with an 18-5 record.

Vikings Finish Second in CAANJ Cup Standings for 2014-2015:

In October, the OCC Athletic Program was recognized for finishing second in the College Athletic Administrators of New Jersey Cup standings. The CAANJ Cup recognizes overall athletic program excellence. The Viking



teams earned 83 points in the 2014-2015 academic year. With strong finishes by the 2015-2016 teams, the Vikings hope to take home the cup at next year's awards ceremony!

New Viking Website! The Athletics Department is pleased to announce its new website, www.occvikings.com. Faculty, staff, students, and the community can view team schedules, rosters, bios, statistics, box scores, live and archived video streams, and more. Plus, sign up for the mobile app for up-to-the-minute scores and news! ■



Women's Team Recognized with Champions of Character Award

In early October 2015, the members of the 2014 OCC Women's Soccer Team were awarded the Region XIX Champions of Character Team Award for their excellence on the field, in the classroom, and for the community.

The team finished with 17 wins, two losses, and one tie, winning the Region XIX B Championship and finishing fifth at NJCAA Nationals. OCC served as the host institution for the national tournament, and was awarded the National Tournament Team Sportsmanship Award.

Additionally, three players were named NJCAA All-Americans, and two were also chosen as NJCAA All-Americans. The team boasted six players on the NJCAA All-Region XIX Team. The team also set numerous school records in the 2014 season, including fewest goals against in a season (9), fewest goals against average per game (0.450),



and most shutouts (14). The team received no ejections and only two yellow cards all season.

The athletes also showed commitment to their studies, as the team finished with an overall 3.13 GPA. Three players were named to the NSCAA Scholar All-America Team – one of which was also named the Scholar Athlete Player of the

Year – and 10 of the team's 17 players were named to the Academic All-Conference or All-Region teams for the fall 2014 semester.

Off campus, the team was involved in causes such as the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge; Habitat for Humanity; Breast Cancer Awareness; the Love Your Melon Foundation, which provides hats for children with pediatric cancer; and a bake sale to raise funds for the family of a former OCC Women's Soccer player who passed away from cancer. ■



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Join Us For Alumni Events!

Take me out to the ball game

The 2nd Annual Alumni Picnic took place at the First Energy Park in Lakewood on August 28 when the Lakewood Blue Claws played the Hagerstown Suns. Alumni and guests enjoyed a picnic buffet before the game. The Blue Claws hit their first pitch out of the park and won 4-1. Afterwards, everyone was treated to an amazing fireworks display! Mark your calendars for next year's event scheduled for August 5, 2016 - we hope to see you there!



Alumni Give Back

Below: Student and alumni interview sessions at the Fall Profile Project



Out & About

Below: OCC Alumni Networking Night, October 2015

