

OCEAN VIEWS

A Newsletter for Ocean County College Alumni, Our College Family, and the Community
Winter-Spring 2017 ■ Vol. XI : No. 1



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NO. 1 in NJ!

In a 2016 study, Ocean County College (OCC) ranked number one out of 46 schools in the state of New Jersey that offer online classes or degree programs. The analysis was conducted by OnlineColleges.com, a website that provides reliable information about top online colleges and degree programs.

OCC offers 24 distance education programs, which is the second-highest number of online programs offered by any school in New Jersey. These fully online programs include associate and certificate programs in the fields of business, computer science, criminal justice, engineering, among others. Additionally, OCC earned its top ranking partly due to its affordable tuition. OCC ranks No. 1 for in-state tuition and No. 6 for out-of-state tuition. Not only was OCC recognized as the number one college in New Jersey, but on a national scale it ranks No. 65 out of the 2,868 schools in the study.

In the ranking, OCC also received a perfect score for flexibility, which is great news for students hoping to earn their degrees online. Some of those flexibility factors include academic/career counseling services, electronic library resources, and more.

To generate the ranking, OnlineColleges.com sourced data from the National Center for Education Statistics to evaluate schools on multiple criteria including: 1) Number of programs offered via distance education; 2) Percentage of students participating in distance education classes; 3) Average in-state tuition for undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate students; 4) Average out-of-state tuition for undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate students; 5) Total electronic library collections, including digital books, databases, and media; 6) Availability of academic/career counseling services; 7) Availability of job placement services for graduates; 8) Whether the school offers dual credit; 9) Whether the school offers credit for life experience; 10) Whether the school offers advanced placement (AP) credit; and 11) Whether the school offers credit for military training.

In addition to viewing the schools with the highest overall score, students can filter schools by tuition, school type, religious affiliation, military benefit, and more. With OnlineColleges.com's interactive ranking, students can produce a personalized list that ranks schools based on the qualities that are most important to them.

– RAD



All Politics are Local

The First Annual Mayors' Panel, sponsored through the OCC Governmental Affairs Institute (GAI) and led by Jennifer L. Barnes, Esq., College Lecturer of Political Science/GAI Coordinator, featured more than a dozen mayors from local communities to discuss the political process with students and the community.



Partnerships



International

OCC's e-Learning and Learning Enterprises team has partnered with Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, and Kean University to deliver a four-year degree to Egyptian students.

Science

New Jersey Institute of Technology and OCC have formed a partnership. NJIT

began offering classes on the OCC campus starting spring 2017.

Teacher Education

OCC and Stockton University are working on a State of New Jersey sponsored pilot program between community colleges and four-year institutions designed to develop model teacher education programs.



WHAT WE'RE PROUD OF

Helping the Environment One Step at a Time

Campus efficiency and sustainability are at the forefront at OCC with organic composting, a co-generation energy plant, water savings, and improved energy/costs.



Security & IT Partner to Keep Campus Safe

The Viking Alert system sends emergency notifications – via landline, text message, and email – which are critical to safety or to relay important information in a timely manner. Faculty, staff, and students can easily sign up for this free service online.

Working to Put Community Back to Work

Continuing & Professional Education received grant funding for the “Medical Coding Professional Certification” and “Certified Home Health Aide” training programs. Funding comes from Ready to Work New Jersey through the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Economic and Workforce Development.

Partners in Education Testing

The New Jersey Civil Service Commission and OCC’s Department of Continuing & Professional Education are working collaboratively to offer testing on campus for future police officers.

It’s Not How You Start... It’s How You Finish

The Commit to Complete Program, which encourages students to achieve their two-year associate degree at OCC, finished its third successful year!

Kids Helping Kids

OCC’s Summer Camps & Programs participated in The Foodbank of Monmouth & Ocean Counties’ Camp Kids Against Hunger Program. OCC Kids Camps donated 77 lbs. of food, which translates into 64 meals for children-in-need!

– RAD



THINGS WE LOVE!

Let’s Take This Outside

New live presentations outside of the Novins Planetarium dome have given school and camp groups more options. Up to 200 students can come to campus and enjoy a planetarium show plus a live interactive, educational presentation at another location on campus.

Quick Career Paths

Non-credit Fast Track Career Training prepares students to enter the workforce within three to six months.

Distance is no Barrier to Seniors

A pilot program with Harrogate Lifecare in Lakewood presented Continuing & Professional Educational offerings to residents of the retirement community via video conferencing.

Your Transcripts, Made Easier

Online transcripts through the National Student Clearinghouse allow students and alumni to easily place orders online and receive email and text updates.

– RAD

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Nursing & Health Sciences

VIRTUAL Becomes Reality

The School of Nursing and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) faculty are developing virtual reality technology as a learning strategy for students to experience the patient’s perspective of illness.

EIGHT More Years

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing granted The School of Nursing continuing accreditation through spring 2024.

PERFECT Together

OCC and LabCorp have partnered to provide clinical externship opportunities for Continuing & Professional Education health care students.

EMERGENCY Preparedness

The School of Nursing, Ocean County Health Department, and Community Medical Center/Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health Care System are providing disaster preparedness education to nursing students.

SIM LABS on the Rise

Using the Nursing Simulation Labs, scenarios are being created for nursing and patient care technician students to interact and practice clinical and communication skills along with situations they will encounter when caring for actual patients. – RAD



RN's Take On the Challenge of Becoming "Doctors"

For a registered nurse (RN) who may already hold an associate in applied science and a bachelor of science in nursing degree, holding advanced certifications and degrees can lead to a more enriching profession. For example, a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) allows an RN to specialize in fields such as anesthesia, critical care, gerontology, mental health, pain management, and pediatrics.

A doctorate in advanced nursing can lead to research positions, leadership and management opportunities, and it makes an RN a more highly skilled nurse. Many nurses who hold a doctorate go on to write books, lead health care organizations, and some may become Nurse Practitioners (NP) offering direct medical care to patients in much the same way as medical doctors.

Seven of 14 full-time faculty members within OCC's School of Nursing & Health Sciences are attending doctoral programs. This impressive number will make OCC nursing faculty standouts in their profession and the most highly skilled and professionally educated in their field of nursing education and clinical practice.

Dean of Nursing & Health Sciences Teresa Walsh is pursuing a PhD in Nursing Education Leadership from Kean University, as is Nursing Simulation, Skills & Student Retention Specialist MaryAnn Kaufmann; and College Lecturers Tamila Purpuro, and Elizabeth Stevenson. College Lecturer Denise VanSant-Smith is working on her PhD in Nursing from Duquesne University, while College Lecturers Erin Vitale is studying for a DNP in Educational Leadership from American Sentinel University, and Terri Ivory-Brown is working on her PhD in Education from University of Phoenix. — RAD

“Whether it is celebrating good news with a patient, or holding a hand as someone takes their last breath, every day brings an opportunity to make a difference to someone.”
Elizabeth Stevenson

“What I love about nursing, very simply, I touch people's lives. I simply hold the hand of someone dying because I refuse to let them die alone. I tell my students that they may not remember your name, but they will remember how you made them feel. And that makes it all worth it.”
Tamila Purpuro

“The more I learn, the more I realize I don't know. What I love most about being a nurse is having the privilege to be part of a patient's life. I've wanted to be a nurse since I was 10 years old.”
Erin Vitale

“

I want to relate the intimate, humanistic part of nursing.”

Tamila Purpuro

“

The PhD and my research is an effort to find a pathway toward improving the quality of life by improving daily management for those with diabetes.”

Denise VanSant-Smith

“

What I love most about being a nurse is the breadth and depth of the profession.”

MaryAnn Kaufmann

“

Education is a life-long standard of practice for professional nurses.”

Teresa Walsh

“

A caring and compassionate nurse is considered a guardian of people's lives.

A doctorate degree reminds me of the constant excitement and challenges nurses face every day.”

Terri Ivory-Brown

YOUR MOVE

OCC's Caitlyn Cook and Dr. Angel Camilo Talk Chess



"she said,

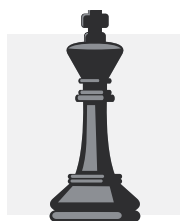
The objective of chess is simple enough: two players, each with 16 pieces – one king, one queen, two rooks, two knights, two bishops, and eight pawns – aim to capture their opponent's king, thereby achieving checkmate. High-level chess play, though, is tactical and complex. This is not a game of chance. After just a few moves, billions of positions on the board are possible, and players need to think ahead. OCC's Dr. Angel Camilo, College Lecturer of Biology, and Caitlyn Cook, Reference Librarian, discuss this strategic sport of the mind and the College's resurgent Chess Club.



HOW OFTEN DO THEY PLAY?

He Said: "Chess is my 14th hobby, out of 44," Dr. Camilo remarked. "Every year I add a hobby," such as woodworking, photography, cooking various world cuisines, and building guitars.

She Said: "I love the game, but I like logic games in general – particularly when joined by good company," said Cook. "I love how dynamic the game can be. The rules are simple and clearly defined, yet you can play the same person endlessly and never play the same game twice. There are always new ways to approach the problems you face and there is always something to learn from the experience."



THE CHESS CAPITAL OF OCEAN COUNTY

He Said: As Dr. Camilo was excited to note, Steven Doyle, a former OCC student who served as a past president of the New Jersey State Chess Federation and past president of the U.S. Chess Federation, recently donated his collection of chess books to the

College. "He approached me last year, and said he wanted to donate the books," Dr. Camilo explained. Doyle – who is the only living American to be an honorary member of FIDE: World Chess Federation – also provided a stipend to maintain the area in the Library, where many students go to play chess.



BEGINNINGS

He Said: "I started playing chess with my uncles when I was young," said Dr. Camilo, who is originally from the Dominican Republic. He regularly went head-to-head with one uncle in particular, against whom, he noted, "I lost 152 games before I won a game. That was the last game my uncle ever played with me, when I beat him." Dr. Camilo's father, his brothers, and his son also play. "My grandchildren are too young to play. But it'll be passed down."

She Said: "My dad started teaching me chess as a toddler. It was very important to him that I learn to play and think through situations, but we only ever played for fun. It was a great way for us to bond," explained Cook, a New Jersey native who grew up in Point Pleasant. "I love playing with my dad and with members of the OCC Chess Club, but I particularly love playing with my godfather, who trash talks throughout the game. He is always quick to remind me that if we're not having fun, it's not a good game."



She Said: “We were extremely lucky to receive around 300 chess books from Mr. Steven Doyle,” said Cook. “The collection includes resources for instruction and strategy, as well as books on the game’s history and biographies of chess masters. We’ve dedicated a room near the Library’s front entrance for not only the books, but game play. We’ve added several game boards, including chess-like games from around the world. Students can try their hand at games like Go, Shogi, 3-player chess, 4-player chess, 3-tiered chess, and a Viking game called Hnefatafl.”



GETTING INVOLVED

He Said: Dr. Camilo, who was a member of the Chess Club at Marlboro High School, has co-advised the OCC Chess Club with his wife, Krista Camilo, since it was revived about five or six years ago. “It has a long history,” he noted. “It used to be the Chess and Gaming Club. There’s been a resurgence. It was waning, but now it’s coming back.” And the members, he added, “are clamoring for competition.”

She Said: “Joining clubs is a fantastic way to meet people who share similar interests or even just to try something new,” Cook remarked. “It is a great way to add to your education and time here at OCC.”

he said.”



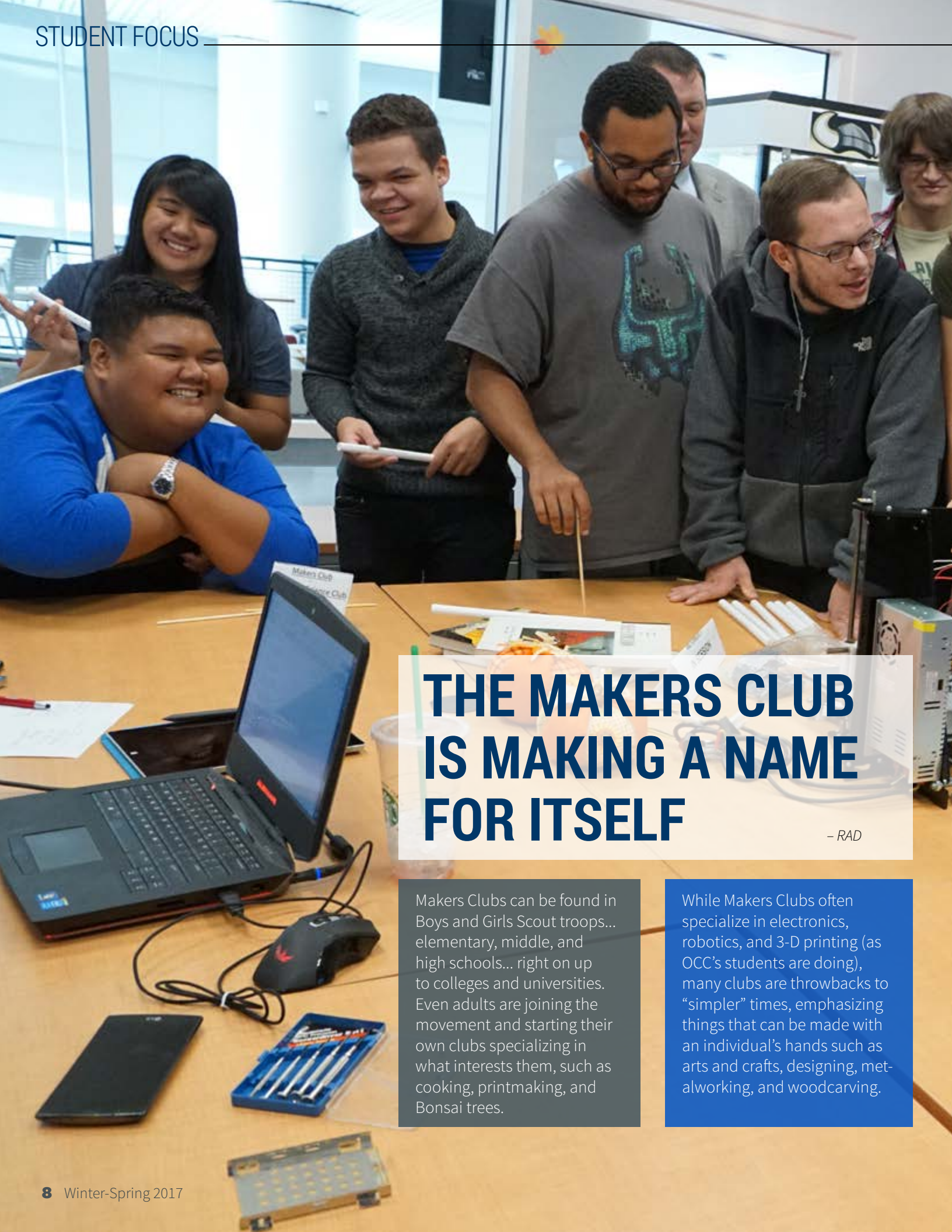
CHESS & LIFE

He Said: Chess links to life in various ways, Dr. Camilo stated, including “the strategic planning, and the ability to look forward, to look at all the options before you.” The game “really promotes learning. You have to keep learning all the time.

It’s a challenge, and you have to look at it as a challenge.” The pursuit also demands persistence, said Dr. Camilo, and, as any player knows, “it can be humbling.” But, he added, “Getting used to losing is important.”

She Said: “I agree with Dr. Camilo – chess has so much to teach us,” said Cook. “For me, it is about learning to think through a crisis. Rather than just reacting to the immediate problem in front of me, can I spot and address problems before they overwhelm me? Having said that, it is also about understanding other people. Not everyone will react to the same problem in the same way. Appreciating that and learning from it can help keep you open to new ideas and possibilities rather than getting trapped in the belief that you’re always right. Your opponent is not your enemy and you can learn a great deal from them if you’re willing.”

– JKH

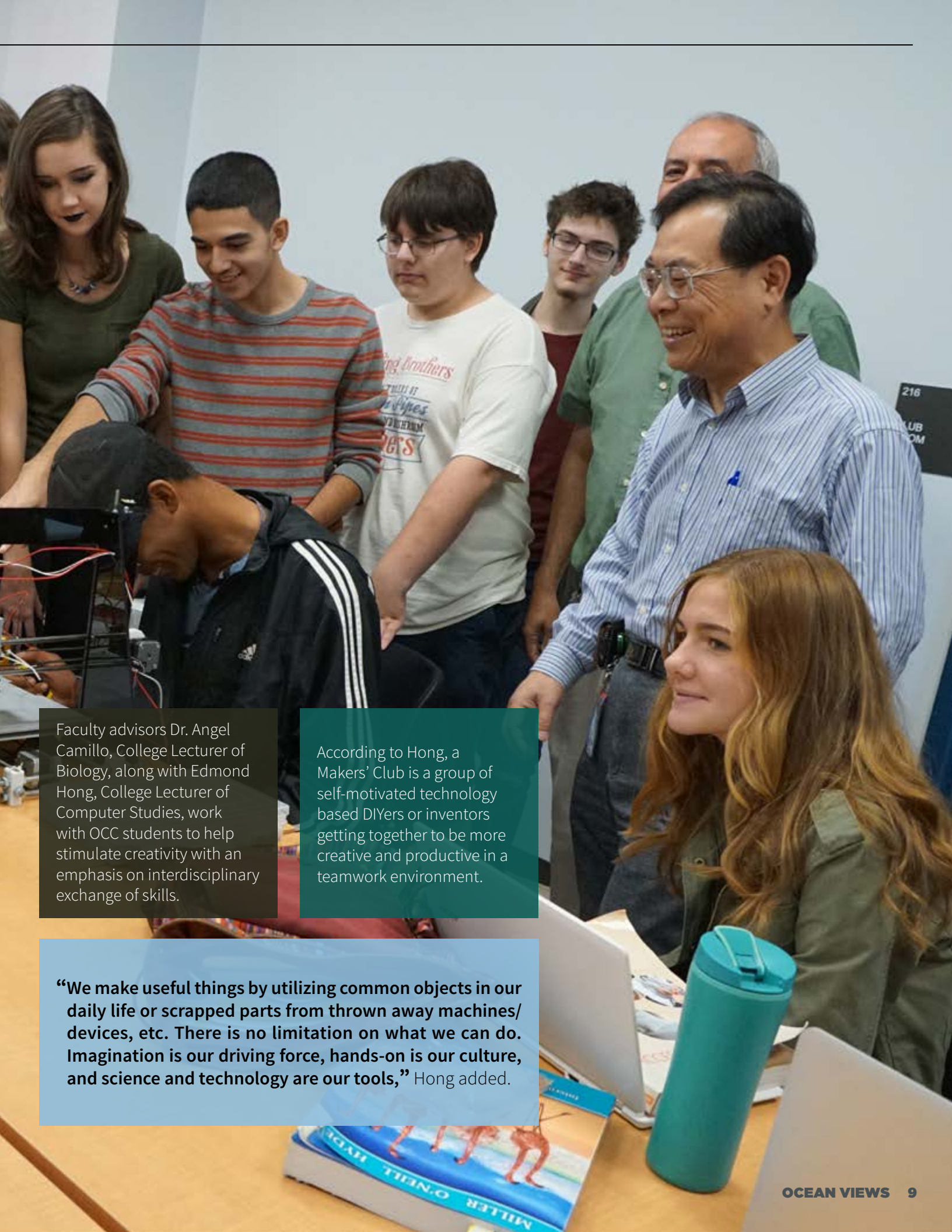


THE MAKERS CLUB IS MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF

— RAD

Makers Clubs can be found in Boys and Girls Scout troops... elementary, middle, and high schools... right on up to colleges and universities. Even adults are joining the movement and starting their own clubs specializing in what interests them, such as cooking, printmaking, and Bonsai trees.

While Makers Clubs often specialize in electronics, robotics, and 3-D printing (as OCC's students are doing), many clubs are throwbacks to "simpler" times, emphasizing things that can be made with an individual's hands such as arts and crafts, designing, metalworking, and woodcarving.



Faculty advisors Dr. Angel Camillo, College Lecturer of Biology, along with Edmond Hong, College Lecturer of Computer Studies, work with OCC students to help stimulate creativity with an emphasis on interdisciplinary exchange of skills.

According to Hong, a Makers' Club is a group of self-motivated technology based DIYers or inventors getting together to be more creative and productive in a teamwork environment.

“We make useful things by utilizing common objects in our daily life or scrapped parts from thrown away machines/ devices, etc. There is no limitation on what we can do. Imagination is our driving force, hands-on is our culture, and science and technology are our tools,” Hong added.



**"Always sisters, always friends.
Let's stay real close 'til the end." – Cece Winans**

LISA & GRACE EVANS

Sisters Lisa and Grace Evans, Toms River, have been in near lockstep for years. Lisa, 23, graduated from Ocean County College and is now a junior at Kean University, while Grace, 20, currently attends OCC. They are also active on campus and in the community, including church ministry, sports, art, singing, and dance — and much of it, they do together.

At OCC, the sisters are members of the Organization for Black Unity. "The club seeks to promote a feeling of cultural awareness for its members through programs of education, culture, and community relations," said Grace, the current organization president. "OBU has made me tap into skills that I didn't know that I was capable of."

For Lisa, who joined in 2013 and served as the 2014-15 president, the club facilitates "learning about who we are and where we come from, and getting to learn our culture and to accept it."

The sisters are also members of the King James Version Bible Study Club and the Dance Club, which, said Grace, "is one of the best things that I am in here at OCC. We dance to many styles of music and we (perform) every semester."

And, in January, both women attended a Student Life leadership trip, "Trailblazers: Your Path to Success."

Lisa is studying marketing, and hopes to secure a stable

job in that field. Reflecting on her time at OCC, she explained, "I would say it prepared me for a four-year college and also helped me figure out what path I wanted to take."

Speaking about her trials and successes in college, Lisa reflected, "The best things about the challenges and triumphs is that I have learned and have experienced, and I will be able to teach others ... the reality part about college, and help them on their path in life."

As for Grace, a liberal arts major, her experiences as an OCC student are "summarized in one word: change. It was a change for the better," she said. "You are given more responsibility. For instance, purchasing your own books, paying for classes, studying, and educating yourself in a way that you will retain and understand for the long term."

What Grace likes about OCC, she added, includes the diversity in students, staff, and faculty, as well as "the many options on campus to help you succeed as a student."

"After I graduate, I know that I will be successful in whatever I put my mind to or what God placed in my life according to His plans," Grace stated. "When you decide to succeed you must eliminate whatever is stopping you, commit to working hard towards that positive goal and sooner or later, those dreams will be brought to light with each step you take towards it."

And whatever their next steps, the Evans sisters have a solid support system: each other.

– JKH

"Lisa is my best friend, my comfort zone, and my encourager. She always makes me laugh."

Grace Evans

"What I love about Grace is her humor, patience, and kindness to others. She has a big heart."

Lisa Evans

DAN MORAN

President of OCC Student Government

On campus and off, sophomore Daniel Moran is busy, and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Among his duties as president of the OCC Student Government, Moran, 20, attends College Senate meetings, helping to serve as a channel of communication and cooperation between students, the administration, and faculty. However, Moran's involvement in campus life doesn't end there; the full-time student, who is focusing on Homeland Security, also played midfield and defense for the Viking Men's Soccer Team.

In 2016, Moran was named OCC Athlete of the Week for his efforts in helping to plan the 1st Annual Viking Day, and for the example he set as an OCC student-athlete. Moran "exemplifies everything a collegiate student-athlete should be," a spokesperson for the Athletic Department stated. "In an era when metrics and statistics rule the sporting world, it is important to remember that real success is defined not by the scoreboard, but by the character and sportsmanship displayed by those who take the field."

Outside of school, Moran, a resident of Little Egg Harbor, works 40 hours per week; spends time with his family, friends, and girlfriend; plays soccer with friends; and has coached youth teams, and refereed, at his local soccer club.

In addition, said Moran, "I work to become fluent with the German language. My friend had been so interested with learning many various languages that I had taken up his challenge of learning one myself," in addition to Spanish, which he took throughout high school.

Moran – who aims to continue his education at Stockton University or a military college, and then pursue a career with the Army or United States Marine Corps – will surely remember his time at OCC with great fondness. "There is much I found about OCC to be enjoyable," he remarked, "but above all things, the friends I've made are the greatest gift I was afforded; people I spend all my weekends with, and people whose friendships I will carry throughout my life.

"For any high school students uncertain of attending a two-year college, I must say it is one of the best decisions of my life," Moran said. "I could not imagine my life without many of the people I have met here and the experiences I have are far beyond what I had expected. As with anything, the time you spend at OCC will be what you make of it; be involved, leave your comfort zone, and see where things may take you."

– JKH

"I would definitely advise students to get involved with clubs and sports. My involvement has (given) me the opportunity to form relationships with my coaches, professors, teammates, and classmates, which has made my time here more enjoyable."

Danielle Robleski

OCC Board of Trustees Student Alumni Representative

Danielle Robleski, 19, graduated from Ocean County College in May 2016, and is now enrolled as a Kean Ocean student. Robleski, of Toms River, works as an Orientation Leader for OCC's Student Life Office, assisting with events such as Welcome Week and Open House. While a student at OCC, she also served as an Ambassador for the Admissions Office. Currently, Robleski is the Student-Alumni Representative for the OCC Board of Trustees.

Past, Present & Future Calculations

Robleski's academic focus at OCC was General Studies-Mathematics, and now, at Kean-Ocean, she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in math, with a teaching certification.

"I took so many interesting classes at OCC, mostly math classes," said Robleski. "All of the math professors I've had were great, especially Professor (Theodore) Gordon and Professor (Karen) Finberg," who, Robleski noted, endeavored, successfully, to relate the course material to real life.

At Kean, Robleski explained, "One really interesting problem we just learned in my differential equations class was how to find out a person's time of death at a crime scene. It has to do with if you can figure out how fast the body is losing heat; if you assume that it was 98.6 F when s/he died and you know the room temperature, then you can figure out how long (the body) has been lying there. Now of course, coroners have a machine where they just stick the thermometer in the liver and it tells them, but somebody needs to program those machines."

After graduating from Kean, Robleski hopes to work as a middle school math teacher. "I want to teach math at the middle school level because I went to a private Christian school in Woodbridge from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade where I received such a solid foundation in my basic math/algebra skills," she noted. "Also, I feel like middle school is when math becomes 'scary' and I hope I can ease the fear."

Taking Notes

Music and theater are among Robleski's hobbies. "I love to sing and am part of OCC's a cappella group," she remarked. "I love going to concerts and seeing Broadway productions as well as productions at community theaters or high schools."

DANIELLE IN FIVE WORDS

Driven. Hard-working. Caring. Honest. Friendly.

Right Up Her Alley

Robleski competed for the Toms River East High School Bowling Team, facing off against high school rivals such as Brick Township and Brick Memorial. "My highest score in bowling is a 214, out of a possible 300," she noted, adding, "I love bowling because even though you focus on your own individual score, the team together gets a score as well so it's a good balance."

Reflection & Advice

"My favorite part of OCC was the people I met along the way, not just my classmates but also staff members," said Robleski. "A big challenge I faced was my physics class, and I spent almost every day in the math tutoring center with my classmates. It really made us bond not only with each other but also with the tutors. The center really has become a second home for me."

As for high school students who might be considering OCC, Robleski stated, "I think there is a lot of stigma surrounding community colleges. I think what high school students need to realize is it is a really smart option. It is very affordable and most of the professors used to/also teach at big four-year institutions such as Penn State or Rowan. My best advice is take a Jump Start course at OCC (I took Basic ASL 1 and 2 while I was in high school) so that way you can see how you like it."

— JKH



FAVORITE ARTIST

Taylor Swift



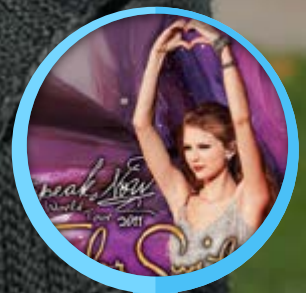
FAVORITE BAND

Blue October



BROADWAY SHOW

In the Heights



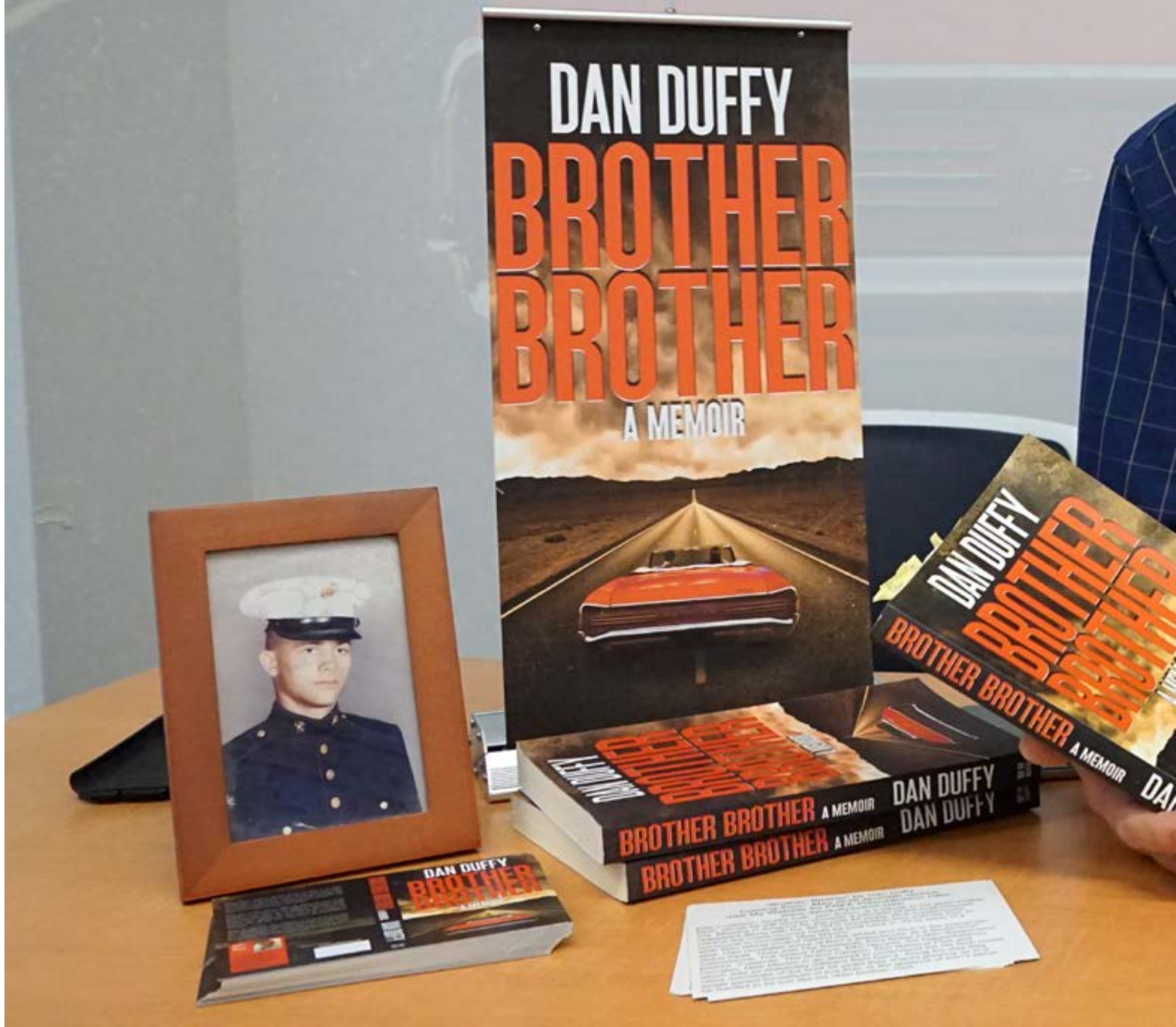
CONCERT

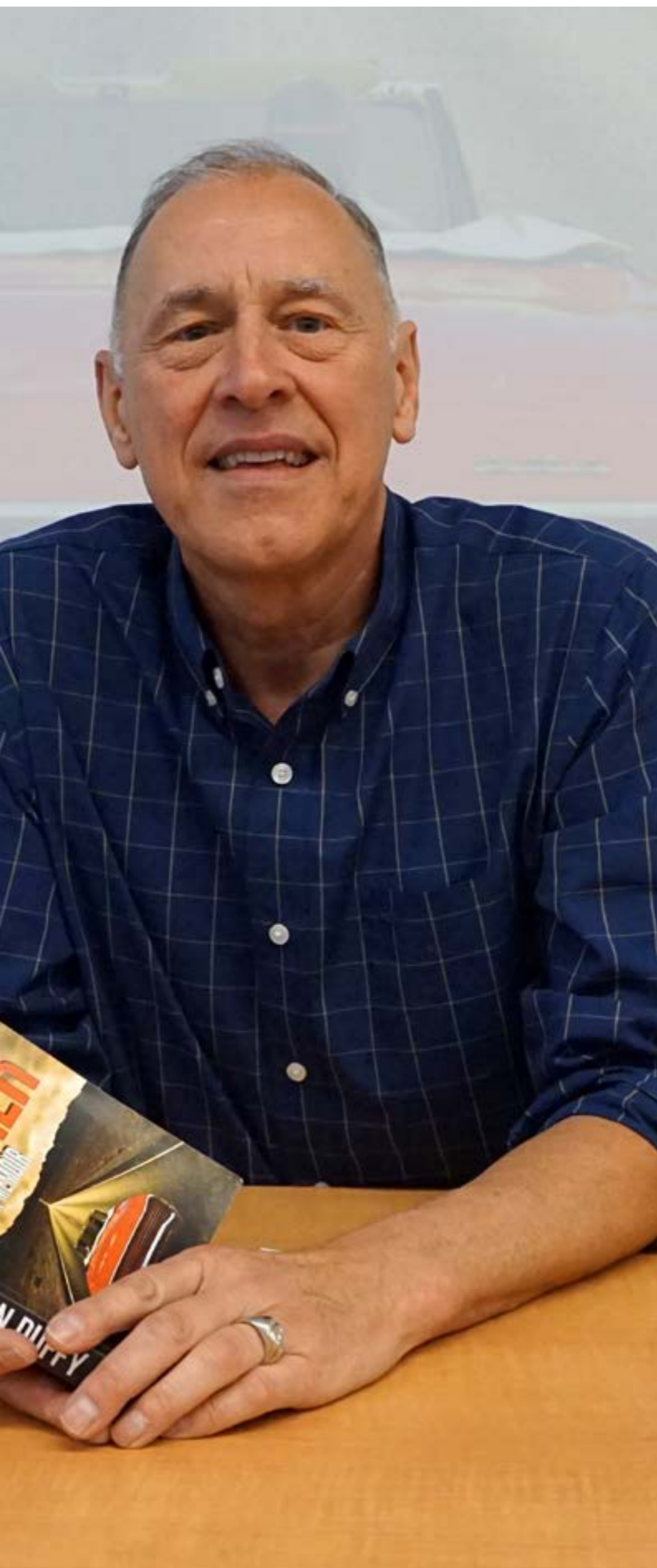
Taylor Swift's Speak Now Tour

Robleski's Favorites

DAN DUFFY COMES HOME

On November 15, Duffy held a reading and book signing in the Larson Student Center on the Toms River Campus to promote his new book entitled *Brother, Brother: A Memoir*





Alumnus Dan Duffy may never have imaged the life he would have lived growing up in a single parent household with his mother, older brother Rich, sister Sue, and two younger siblings, Ray and Eileen. But as things have turned out, Duffy came full circle with his long-lost brother bringing him back home to OCC.

Duffy graduated from OCC in 1971 and continued on to obtain his Bachelor's Degree in Social Psychology from Florida Atlantic University. He began his career in 1973 at OCC within the Student Life Office. Within five years he completed his M.Ed. degree from Rutgers University and was promoted to Director of Student Life. Throughout his tenure at OCC, Duffy was promoted several times, taught as an adjunct, and obtained an Ed.D. degree in Educational Leadership from Rowan University. He retired in 2006 as Vice President of Student Affairs. Some 35 years after he first stepped foot on campus, Duffy retired, and along with his wife Helene, is now a New England innkeeper at the Beech Tree B&B in Rockport, Massachusetts.

As everyone has a story to tell, Duffy decided to tell part of his in *Brother, Brother*. Mostly truth... but part fiction, Duffy's memoir is a tribute to his older brother Rich, whom he considers a casualty of the post-Vietnam era. Missing in America for the past 45 years, Rich "mysteriously reappears" along with his '66 GTO convertible and coerces brother Dan to retrace the cross-country route he took back in 1970 to settle in a commune in Corrales, New Mexico. In *Brother, Brother*, Duffy drives cross-country with the spirit of his older brother to relive the intersection of their lives and unravel the impact Rich's disappearance had on him.

A unique type of storytelling, *Brother, Brother* is part physical... part metaphysical... part reality... and part dream. Unable to actually have an encounter with his older brother, Duffy relives his memories of the brief 18 years they shared growing up. Duffy recalls that in the absence of his father, he wanted to be just like his older brother. Duffy explores their sibling relationship and confronts several personal issues surrounding the role Rich played in shaping who he became and the impact Rich's disappearance had on his life.

"Coming back to campus after ten years, has brought back so many memories. Until I wrote the book, I was not aware of the influence that OCC had on my life in helping me understand how the late '60s shaped both of our lives and affected the diverse paths we chose."

"I have so many wonderful memories of OCC as a student, administrator, and adjunct faculty member. It was a great place to learn, work, and foster lifelong relationships. I was thrilled to be asked back to promote my book – while many of the faces changed, my warm memories have remained the same," Duffy added.

Brother, Brother: A Memoir is available as an e-book, paperback, and audio version, and can be purchased at Amazon or through www.danduffyauthor.com.
– RAD

42 YEARS & COUNTING...

Bobbi Krantz Takes Her “Curtain Call”

After 42 years as an integral part of what was in 1974 the Fine Arts Center and is today the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts, Bobbi Krantz will soon see a show at the site from start to finish. Krantz, 75, is retiring this year from her post as part-time director of the Grunin Center. “It will be very interesting to actually sit there in a seat, with my husband, and not come in and out in the middle of a performance,” she said with a laugh.

When Krantz started at the facility, those four-plus decades ago, she served as the assistant to the director; currently, she works the box office and handles some bookings. In the years between she has forged familial relationships with colleagues, met innumerable performers, weathered renovation, and, recently, witnessed a transformation at the center attributable to the endowment from the Grunin Foundation, a private family philanthropic fund invested locally in health care, education, and the arts.

Shows and exposure have increased with the addition of the Grunin funds. “I’m glad I stayed to be in the forefront of this expansion,” Krantz remarked. “It’s been very exciting. The word is out now. The word is out that the Grunin Center has top echelon performers,” and at affordable prices.

Last fall, Art Garfunkel took the stage at the Grunin Center. “It was wonderful seeing him in person after admiring him for so many years,” said Krantz. Patti LuPone sang recently, with Arlo Guthrie, Rosanne Cash, a cappella group Home Free, and Tom Wopat and Linda Purl – among many other artists – on the schedule for the next few months, Krantz explained.

Multicultural song and dance company The Tamburitzans, meanwhile, are among the most memorable performers Krantz has seen over her many years behind the scenes at the arts center. “They’re an all-time Ocean County College favorite,” she pointed out.

Guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli and his father, guitar legend Bucky Pizzarelli, have wowed her as well, in separate shows at the facility. Bucky is a regular performer at MidWeek Jazz. “He’s such a wonderful, wonderful performer, and a lovely man. They’re both delightful,” said Krantz, who treasures a photo of both of them they each signed.

As Krantz noted, contemplatively, “This has been such a part of my life for so many years, so to give it up completely would be very traumatic.” The solution? “I plan on becoming a professional volunteer,” serving as an usher and with the gallery at OCC, as well as with other performing arts centers, she explained.

And while Krantz sees her three children and six grandchildren quite often already, retirement will mean more time in Florida, and, of course, taking in full shows at the Grunin Center, in the audience, with husband Bob by her side.

“It’s been a great ride, I have to say,” Krantz remarked. “It’s been very, very fulfilling. Would I have dreamed of this all those years ago? Maybe not. ... The College has really enhanced my life.”

– JKH

Photo by Eric Vitale Photography

A woman with short, styled blonde hair is smiling at the camera. She is wearing a black long-sleeved top with a wide neckline, black leather pants, a long necklace with blue and silver beads, a shorter black necklace, a silver bracelet on her right wrist, and earrings. She is standing in a theater with rows of red seats behind her.

"It's been a great ride,
I have to say. It's been very,
very fulfilling."

– *Bobbi Krantz*

Home Free Finds a Home Away from Home

On November 21 and 22, a cappella vocal group Home Free, winners of NBC's "The Sing Off" in 2013, returned to the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts for two sold-out performances. Fans from as far away as Florida, North Carolina, and California, as well as patrons from across the Tri-State area, traveled to Toms River to see the group's latest tour, *A Country Christmas*.

The shows kicked off the holiday lineup at the Grunin Center, and audience members young and old raucously cheered for the group, consisting of members Tim Faust, Austin Brown, Rob Lundquist, Adam Chance, and Adam Rupp as they took the stage. The sometimes whimsical, sometimes sentimental set list had audiences engaged from start to finish on both nights of performances.

Spotlight Central, a local live entertainment news and review outlet, was present at the Sunday show, and took some time to speak with members of the group about returning to Toms River.

Referring to the positive reception of the crowd, Tim Faust said, "It's always nice when you get to see this kind of response in an audience."

Beatboxer Adam Rupp agreed, uttering "Totes!" aka "totally."

Newest member baritone Adam Chance explained, "It's a blast to meet different crowds – like this Jersey crowd."

And Austin Brown went on to add, "It's a happy accident that we appeal to all different generations. It's so great that we have families of three generations who can come and enjoy our music together."

As far as the fans are concerned, many of whom returned to the Grunin Center to see Home Free after the group performed in February 2016, they love the intimacy of the venue and the welcome they've received. Spotlight Central spoke to Francesa and Robin, two friends from New York who made the trip back to Toms River together to see the group again, the girls expressed they "like the small, intimate venue of the Grunin Center" noting they can each "think of many other groups who would benefit from performing here."

Founded in 2000 during collegiate years, Home Free is a five-man a cappella band from Minnesota that has been perfecting its live show for nearly a decade, performing together for packed crowds at major fairs, colleges, and theatres. The group's experiences on the road helped carry it to "The Sing-Off" victory, build a loyal fan base, and bring its unique homegrown country style into the national spotlight. Home Free has gone on to embark on four major national tours and amass over 105 million YouTube views. The release of its third studio album *Country Evolution* hit No. 4 on the Billboard Country Albums chart. For tour dates and more information on Home Free, visit www.homefreemusic.com.

– JZ

Photo by Eric Vitale Photography



Congratulations to the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts, winner of TWO New Jersey Stage Awards!

GOLD: Best Place to See Live Dance Performances

Check out these Upcoming Shows!

MAR 24 Rhythm in the Night,
The Irish Dance Spectacular

APR 1 Tamburitzens

APR 20 Koresh Dance

APR 7 Immortal Chi



BRONZE: Best Place to See Emerging Artists

Check out these Upcoming Shows!

FEB 10 The Sons of Serendip

FEB 13 Sierra Leone Refugee All Stars

MAR 16 American Showstoppers

MAR 28 Switchback

For a full event listing visit grunincenter.org or call 732-255-0500.



CASEY ASTALOS

OCC Student/Scholarship Recipient

Casey Astalos decided in elementary school that she would become a forensic scientist. Now 19, and studying criminal justice at OCC, Astalos' aspirations haven't changed.

"When I was in the third grade, my mother allowed me to watch NCIS (a police procedural television series). When I was watching I instantly felt connected to the main character, Abby. This is what started my love for forensics," Astalos explained. "The thing that made forensics appeal to me is that they are able to bring justice to people who no longer have a voice. Being able to find evidence that can lead the police to catch the offender and bring justice to the victims is the only thing I want to do with my life."

At OCC, the Jackson resident added, "My most interesting class has got to be my forensics class because I am learning about what I love."

Following graduation from Jackson Memorial High School, Astalos enrolled at OCC "because it was a (less expensive) alternative to universities to get your general classes and any remedial classes. I had to take three remedial classes, so OCC just seemed like the best place to start off my college career."

Astalos recently received a scholarship from the OCC Foundation to help fund her education, and her pursuit of a career in forensic science.

"Casey is an exemplary student," said Heather Barberi, Executive Director of OCC Foundation. "I am so proud to work for an organization that helps students, like Casey, achieve their dreams. We want to break down the financial barriers, and help as many students as we can."

As Barberi pointed out, Astalos has always worked extremely hard and earned good grades, and the only thing standing in the way of her future success was the financial element of college.


"When I received the scholarship from the Foundation it meant a lot to me because I would have never been able to afford my classes any other way," Astalos stated. "I never would be able to achieve my dreams otherwise because I work two jobs, my father works three jobs, and my mother works two jobs, and we are still barely able to pay our bills. If we can barely pay our bills then there is no way that we could have come up with thousands of dollars for schooling."

Astalos has embraced, and excelled at, OCC, and points to her invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa earlier this year as a particular triumph.

And on campus, Astalos is as focused as ever on achieving her goal. After OCC, she plans to transfer to Stockton University, where she would major in science and minor in criminal justice, "because forensics is more science based. I plan on taking the next steps to become a forensic scientist."

– JKH





In her spare time, Astalos loves to read; she assists the Jackson Memorial High School marching band, as part of the equipment crew; and she helps her grandmother care for her great aunt, who resides in a nursing home.

“I go and talk to a few of the elderly about what they have lived through.”



NJ Chapter of AAPL

In September 2016, Frank McGinley, former-President of the New Jersey Chapter of The American Artists Professional League (AAPL), presented a \$20,000 donation to the OCC Foundation on behalf of the AAPL. The New Jersey Chapter of AAPL closed its doors after a long, successful history, and the group, headed by McGinley, donated its remaining funds to the Foundation: \$10,000 was donated to the Fine & Performing Arts Fund and the other \$10,000 will go towards scholarships for students studying fine arts.

“We are absolutely thrilled that the New Jersey Chapter of The American Artists Professional League, led by Mr. McGinley, decided to support the Ocean County College Foundation,” said Heather Barberi, Executive Director of OCC Foundation. “This gift will not only support the incredible fine arts programming at the College, but it will also provide direct scholarships to our students who are venturing into fine arts careers.”

OCC Foundation: WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING



June 2016 Gala raised over \$235,000, and the September 2016 Golf Outing raised over \$50,000

Scholarships Distributed to Students in 2015-2016 totaled over \$500,000

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO...



A Salute to the Eagles Concert Fundraiser
See back page for details!

Annual Scholarship Celebration Join us on June 16, 2017

Annual Golf Outing Tee off on Tuesday, October 10, 2017

To learn more, visit go.ocean.edu/foundation.

Citizen Scientists Paddle for the Edge



Land and water processes collide and interact along shorelines, sometimes dramatically (*think Superstorm Sandy*). The shorelines of the Barnegat Bay are dynamic habitats, sometimes growing and sometimes eroding, and the condition of these edges is an important indicator of the health of the bay and its watershed. Monitoring the many miles of bay shoreline is a daunting task, so the Barnegat Bay Partnership has enlisted the help of volunteer paddlers!

Paddle for the Edge, a Barnegat Bay Partnership “citizen science”

project, uses trained volunteers in kayaks, canoes, or stand-up paddle boards to collect data about the bay’s marsh shorelines. While enjoying a paddle on the Barnegat Bay, these “citizen scientists” use a cell phone app to record basic data about the shoreline including plant cover, presence of mussels or other animals, signs of erosion, built structures, and recreational use.

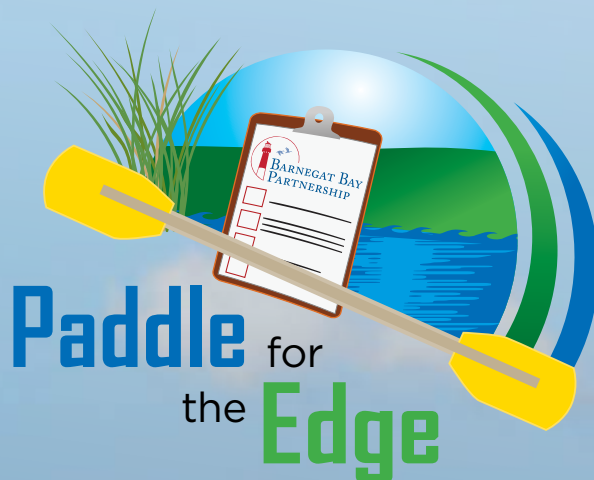
The Barnegat Bay Partnership is using this data to analyze current shoreline conditions and, as Paddle for the Edge continues, to examine changes in the bay’s shorelines over time.

During the first Paddle for the Edge survey in June 2015, volunteers collected data at more than 650 points from Point Pleasant



to Tuckerton. In 2016, paddlers recorded data at more than 1,000 points. During the first two years of the survey, more than 60 “citizen scientists” paddled approximately 50 miles of shoreline and collected a total of more than 1,650 data points.

The Barnegat Bay Partnership is looking for more volunteers to help with future surveys. If you are interested in becoming a “citizen scientist” in 2017 and helping to collect much needed data, email Paddle4TheEdge@gmail.com. To learn more about the Paddle for the Edge project, visit the Barnegat Bay Partnership at <http://bbp.ocean.edu/pages/380.asp>.
– KW





BEN VERGARA

Assistant Coach Men's Soccer

OCC Alumnus (2014)
Associate in Science, General Education

Transfer: Georgian Court University
Major: Business Administration
with a concentration in Sports Management

Full-time Job: Store Manager
The Soccer Post, Brick, NJ

“Ben knows and understands the Ocean way and carries on his leadership skills from his captain of the Vikings days into beginning his coaching career.” – Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics

What has OCC sports meant to you and what impact has OCC made on your life as an alumnus and coach?

Being a student-athlete at OCC opened possibilities not available to me previously. The OCC Men's Soccer Team is consistently at the top of Region 19 and even went to Nationals in 2012. The success of the program has opened many opportunities for players to move on to four-year schools.

OCC is a great place for student-athletes to develop both on the field and in the classroom. OCC also helped me financially, because it is so much more affordable than going to a four-year school. My experience at OCC allowed me to earn both athletic and

academic scholarships to attend Georgian Court University.

I have enjoyed my first year as a coach. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of the continuous success of the program. As I mentioned this program has done so much for me, and I would love nothing more than to give back in any way that I can. I hope to pass on what I have learned to my players. It has been a great learning experience for me as well. Coach Sal and Gerry are both very knowledgeable and have helped me improve significantly during the year. The

coaching staff all care about the program and are constantly thinking of how we can improve as a team.

We want what is best for our players. We want them to be successful and hope to provide them with opportunities to move on to four-year schools. Ocean County has many talented players. OCC brings in many of these players and hopes to continue doing so in the future. It is a very competitive and energetic environment, and I encourage players who want to continue their playing careers to attend Ocean County College.

A photograph of Kathryn Lamastra, a woman with long blonde hair, smiling and standing on a basketball court. She is wearing a dark green sleeveless polo shirt and light-colored pants with a black belt. Her arms are crossed. In the background, a basketball hoop and a green wall with the word "OCEAN" in large white letters are visible.

KATHRYN LAMAstra

Head Coach Women's Basketball

OCC Athletics Department Intern (2016)

Master's Degree (2016)

Administrative Studies & Sports
Management, Missouri State University

"As a coach, Kathryn has great passion to see the players strive to do their best and works hard to keep the winning tradition of the Vikings. She is an asset to our program." – Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics

What has OCC sports meant to you and what impact has OCC made on your life as a master's intern in the Athletics Department and as a coach?

OCC sports have provided me the opportunity to learn and grow, not only as the Head Women's Basketball Coach, but also as an individual. It has helped expand my coaching knowledge as well as teach me valuable life lessons. Learnings that I can build upon such as patience, resilience, and knowing when to make a change or an adjustment are just a few of those lessons. Creating relationships with student-athletes and genuinely seeing their progress as they look to me for guidance is extremely rewarding. Student-athletes look to me as a support system and seek my input beyond the topic of basketball. I strive

for the best in them and they can expect the same from me in return. Many of my student-athletes come back after graduating to thank me for what I have taught them and now use in their everyday lives; or sometimes just to visit and say they miss playing for me, which is very humbling.

As a student intern, pursuing my Master's degree, in the athletics department, I gained insight into what went on behind the scenes. I have been exposed to the paperwork aspect of NJCAA athletics and the hard work that needs to happen prior to a game, running different aspects of the athletics website, updating

player and game information, and creating a few issues of the *Viking Weekly*. I'm thankful for Ilene Cohen and Scott Royer, who have been incredible mentors. Both were instrumental in guiding my progress and creating a challenging, but rewarding, learning environment. I will continue to use the knowledge gained throughout my internship as a valuable foundation for success in the future.

My overall coaching and intern experience has been nothing short of extraordinary and I am very thankful for the opportunities I have had and proud to be a member of the OCC staff.

CHECK ONE: ■ STUDENT ■ ATHLETE

**ALYSSA THE ATHLETE****Team** | Women's Tennis**High School** | Brick Township**Honors** | Academic All-Conference
(3.0 GPA+ during season of participation)
| All-Team GSAC Division 3 Women's Tennis

What athletic accomplishment are you most proud of? I'm proud that I went undefeated during my regular season. I'm also very proud that my team placed second in regionals and that we were able to compete at nationals.

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

Committed and Motivated

WHAT THEY SAY...**Executive Director of Athletics Ilene Cohen:**

"Alyssa is a calm, cool, collected student athlete who gets the job done and represents OCC well."

Coach Stan Friedman: "Alyssa is everything that you would want a student/athlete at OCC to be. She is involved in clubs on campus, her grades are good, she balances all this with the work schedule at her job. To top it all off, she was undefeated during the regular season and was selected first team All Garden State Athletic Conference."

**ALYSSA
BRANTLEY '17/'18****ALYSSA THE STUDENT****Major:** A.A. Liberal Arts**Goal:** I am looking to transfer to Rutgers University and major in Public Health.

What do you enjoy doing off the Tennis court and out of the classroom? I really enjoy going to concerts and being able to see great artists do what they love.

What is your favorite OCC class? My favorite OCC class so far would have to be "Ethical Issues." We covered a lot of relevant topics that really matter in today's society and discuss ethical principles that we should all be aware of when making decisions in our jobs and everyday lives.

Who is your favorite OCC professor? My first and second semester here at OCC I had Professor Rada for "Anatomy & Physiology I Lab" and "Anatomy & Physiology II Lecture." She was always more than willing to help a student fully understand the material she was teaching.

Describe OCC students in three words or less. Ambitious.

ETE BOTH!



TED THELEMAQUE '17

TED THE STUDENT

Major: A.A. in Education

Goal: My goal is to transfer to a Division 1 or Division 2 program for basketball. In the classroom, I want to build a career focused on teaching so I can be a high school teacher and head basketball coach.

What do you enjoy doing off the basketball court ... and out of the classroom? I like going to the gym and lifting weights.

What is your favorite OCC class/professor? I wouldn't say I have a favorite. But there's a handful of very nice teachers here at OCC.

Describe OCC students in three words or less. Friendly, Unique, Sophisticated.

WHAT THEY SAY

Men's Basketball Head Coach Andy Smith: "Ted had proven himself his freshmen season to be a team leader. He is a focused competitor that is the total team player. We are looking forward to his leadership on and off the court toward our team goals of a championship!"

Executive Director of Athletics Ilene Cohen: "Teddy is one of the most dedicated student athletes to come through OCC – He is always looking to play and work on his skills even during breaks between classes."

TED THE ATHLETE

Team | Men's Basketball

High School | Toms River North

Honors | Academic All-Conference (3.0 GPA+ during season of participation)

What athletic accomplishment on the court are you most proud of? Honestly, the accomplishment I'm most proud of is when I had 38 points vs. Union County my freshman year.

Describe the OCC Men's Basketball Team in three words or less. Dream to Reality.

ATHLETICS: 3 MORE THINGS WE'RE PROUD OF



The Womens Volleyball Team

won the Garden State Athletic Conference for the 3rd year in a row!



The Womens Tennis Team

finished 6th in the nation!



OCC hosted

the Division III Championship for Soccer for the 3rd straight year!



2 THINGS WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO...



Mens & Womens Basketball

heading to the Region Playoffs with hopes of qualifying for Nationals!



Baseball and Softball teams

going to South Carolina for Spring Break to start their seasons!





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