

# OCEAN VIEWS

A Newsletter for Ocean County College Alumni, Our College Family, and the Community  
Summer-Fall 2017 ■ Vol. XI : No. 2

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

# Get Excited About Our Partnerships!



## Employing the Public

Continuing & Professional Education partnered with Brookdale Community College and the Ocean County Vocational-Technical School in a Welding Program. The program enabled more than 20 long-term unemployed individuals to secure employment.

## Going Global... Again

OCC is exploring the viability for partnerships and on-the-ground operational capacity of CiberPark in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as well as partnership opportunities with the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, Catolica Universidad, and Instituto Tecnico Superior Comunitario.

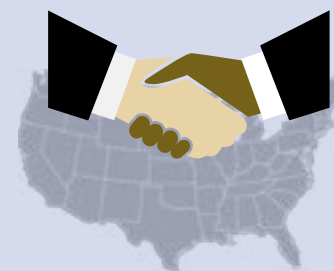


## Hometown Heroism

The TV Studio partnered with Townsquare Media to live broadcast "Hometown Heroism: A Townsquare Tonight Town Hall Event" on the radio, TV, and internet. The discussion, held at the Grunin Center, touched on advances in rehabilitation, the allure of opiates, and the public's role in stemming the tide of drug dependence.

## Mutual Reciprocity

OCC joined the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) via the regional compact New England Board of Higher Education, which grants OCC reciprocity to operating distance education in 47 states. OCC no longer needs to comply individually with each state's requirements for distance education authorization. Those states that are not a part of SARA do not have any restrictions.



## Start Here, Finish There!

OCC and Thomas Edison State University have a 90-credit transfer agreement that allows students to complete a quality Bachelor's degree for less than \$20,000! Under this 3 + 1 agreement, students can earn up to 90 credits at OCC and transfer all 90 to Thomas Edison. 3 + 1 model partnerships are also being forged with Colorado State University Global Campus and Northeastern University.





## WHAT WE'RE PROUD OF

### Reaching toward Success

Phi Theta Kappa's new program, REACH Rewards, is designed to recognize and reward PTK chapters that excel in membership development. OCC's Tau Iota Chapter was recently named a 2017 REACH Chapter!

### Stopping Addiction in its Tracks

OCC's Future Addiction Counselors of America Club conducted NARCAN training. NARCAN is a prescription medication used in drug overdose emergencies to temporarily reverse the potentially life-threatening effects of opioid overdose.

### Business Students Shine

OCC received 2nd Place at the NJ Community College Completion Challenge (NJC4). Six business students competed as a team against nine community colleges. Their task was to analyze a mock company and provide short- and long-term strategies to achieve stability, growth, and profitability.

### Helping Kids Succeed

OCC, with the New Jersey Department of Education, initiated The New Jersey Network for School Success. This new program will support student success across the K-12 education continuum through collaboration between community colleges and secondary schools, thus enhancing students' college and career readiness.

### Lending a Helping Hand

The sudden closing of Star Career Academy and ServFast Computers in Toms River left students in the lurch, some just shy of completing courses. The Department of Continuing & Professional Education quickly stepped in to place students in customized course options that provided competency-based skills training and the opportunity to test for a national credential.

### Patriotism & Justice

Political science and criminal justice students heard lectures by top military personnel. Maj. John Cayangyang, Judge Advocate General, US Army, spoke about service, patriotism, and military life, and Col. Martin Klein, Deputy Commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, discussed nationalism, patriotism, terrorism, and national defense. Criminal justice students took a tour of the Ocean County Justice Complex and met in chambers with Judge Wendel Daniels, where he explained the criminal process. And the Governmental Affairs Institute hosted Congressman Tom MacArthur to speak on "Government & Politics: What You Need to Know."

— RAD

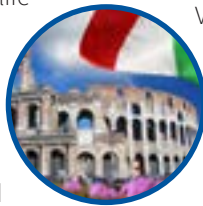


### Giving Peace a Chance

Sixteen students traveled to Washington, DC, to visit the United States Institute of Peace. While there, students attended seminars led by international experts. The goal of the Institute is to foster research, education, and training in the peaceful resolution of international conflict.

### When in Rome

An Italian-American Heritage Celebration took place in April. Events included Italy's contributions to art, cuisine, film, literature, music, and science. The month-long event featured topics such as "Michelangelo & The Pope's Ceiling," Dante, "The Trials of Sacco & Vanzetti," *La Dolce Vita*, and "Caravaggio & the Transformation of Painting."



### 'Tis a Puzzlement

Library's Tower Room has a table with books about logical, mathematical, and situational puzzles, along with rotating jigsaw puzzles to help students decompress from the stresses of their studies. These resources complement the giant chess set on the glass block section of the floor, where games of chess are played nearly every day.



### You Oughta Be In Pictures!

In 2008, the Novins Planetarium donated its 34-year old Minolta Series II B Projector to the Planetarium Projector & Space Museum in CA, where it was restored and put on display. OCC's former-projector made its TV debut on the Fox series "House," was featured in the Oscar-winning movie *La La Land*, and in a production number at the Academy Awards. Projector photos can be viewed at [www.planetariummuseum.org/](http://www.planetariummuseum.org/).



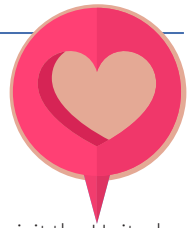
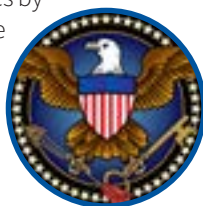
### Jazzing Things Up

An article about the OCC Jazz Band, written by noted jazz journalist Sanford Josephson, appeared in the June 2017 issue of the *Jersey Jazz Journal*. In addition, the 14-piece band, recorded a live concert at the Grunin Center for its fourth CD. These talented students perform jazz styles from swingin' Big Band Sinatra-style vocals, to contemporary swing, Latin, soul jazz, blues, reggae, and originals by band members.

### Bravo!

During the past school year, the History Club held two food can drives. Donations totaled over 800 pounds, which translates into approximately 5,000 meals! On-campus donations from faculty, staff, and students were delivered to the People's Pantry in Toms River. In addition, bake sales raised nearly \$700 with proceeds heading to Vetwork in Forked River and the People's Pantry. Established in November 2012 in the wake of Super Storm Sandy, the People's Pantry opened as a supermarket style "client choice" food pantry, the first of its kind. Vetwork assists veterans in coming home, getting situated, and readjusting to domestic life.

— RAD



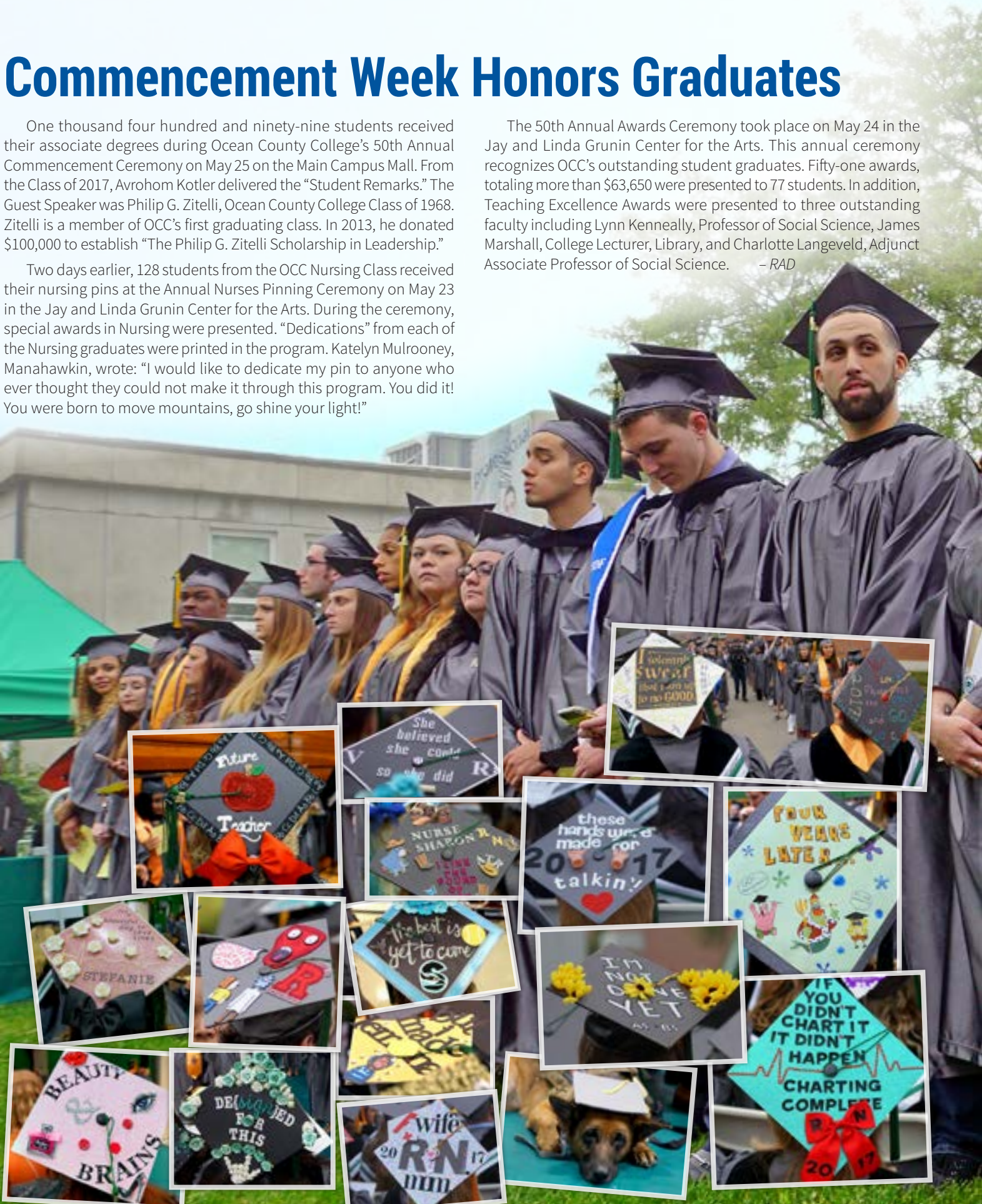


# Commencement Week Honors Graduates

One thousand four hundred and ninety-nine students received their associate degrees during Ocean County College's 50th Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 25 on the Main Campus Mall. From the Class of 2017, Avrohom Kotler delivered the "Student Remarks." The Guest Speaker was Philip G. Zitelli, Ocean County College Class of 1968. Zitelli is a member of OCC's first graduating class. In 2013, he donated \$100,000 to establish "The Philip G. Zitelli Scholarship in Leadership."

Two days earlier, 128 students from the OCC Nursing Class received their nursing pins at the Annual Nurses Pinning Ceremony on May 23 in the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts. During the ceremony, special awards in Nursing were presented. "Dedications" from each of the Nursing graduates were printed in the program. Katelyn Mulrooney, Manahawkin, wrote: "I would like to dedicate my pin to anyone who ever thought they could not make it through this program. You did it! You were born to move mountains, go shine your light!"

The 50th Annual Awards Ceremony took place on May 24 in the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts. This annual ceremony recognizes OCC's outstanding student graduates. Fifty-one awards, totaling more than \$63,650 were presented to 77 students. In addition, Teaching Excellence Awards were presented to three outstanding faculty including Lynn Kenneally, Professor of Social Science, James Marshall, College Lecturer, Library, and Charlotte Langeveld, Adjunct Associate Professor of Social Science. — RAD



The collage features a large background image of graduates in grey caps and gowns, some with blue and yellow stoles. Overlaid on this are numerous smaller images of decorated graduation caps. The decorations include pins, stickers, and hand-drawn messages. Some of the visible text on the caps includes: "Future Teacher", "She believed she could so she did", "NURSE SHARON", "these hands will make or break you", "FOUR YEARS LATER", "IT'S THE BEST is yet to come", "I'M NOT DONE YET", "IF YOU DIDN'T CHART IT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN CHARTING COMPLETE", "BEAUTY IN BRAINS", "DESIGNED FOR THIS", "wife RN", "I would like to dedicate my pin to anyone who ever thought they could not make it through this program. You did it! You were born to move mountains, go shine your light!", and "I would like to dedicate my pin to anyone who ever thought they could not make it through this program. You did it! You were born to move mountains, go shine your light!". There is also a photo of a dog wearing a graduation cap.

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- RAD

A collage featuring a large background photograph of several graduates in grey academic regalia and black mortarboards standing outdoors. Overlaid on this are numerous smaller, tilted photographs of individual graduation caps that have been creatively decorated. Some decorations include pins, stickers, paint, and small objects. The messages on the caps are humorous and personal, such as "Future Teacher" with a red apple sticker, "NURSE SHARON" with medical-themed pins, "these hands will make or break you" with a heart sticker, "FOUR YEARS LATER" with a musical note, "IF YOU DIDN'T CHART IT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN CHARTING COMPLETE" with a red bow, "BEAUTY & BRAINS" with eye stickers, and "DEIGNED FOR THIS" with a crown sticker. Other visible messages include "She believed she could so she did", "It's best is yet to come", "I'm not done yet", "wif RN mom", and "Sweet about a corny bit to no GOOD".

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A large photograph shows a line of graduates in grey gowns and black mortarboards standing outdoors. Overlaid on the bottom half of the page is a collage of many small photographs of decorated graduation caps. Each cap has unique decorations and handwritten or printed messages. Some visible messages include: "Future Teacher" with a red apple; "She believed she could so she did"; "NURSE SHARON"; "these hands will made for 2017 talkin'"; "FOUR YEARS LATER"; "IT'S THE BEST IS YET TO COME"; "I'M NOT DONE YET"; "IF YOU DIDN'T CHART IT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN CHARTING COMPLETE"; "BEAUTY IN BRAINS"; "DESIGNED FOR THIS"; "wife RN mom"; "I SWEAT about a year before I got my GOOD"; "LEADS"; and one featuring a dog wearing a cap.

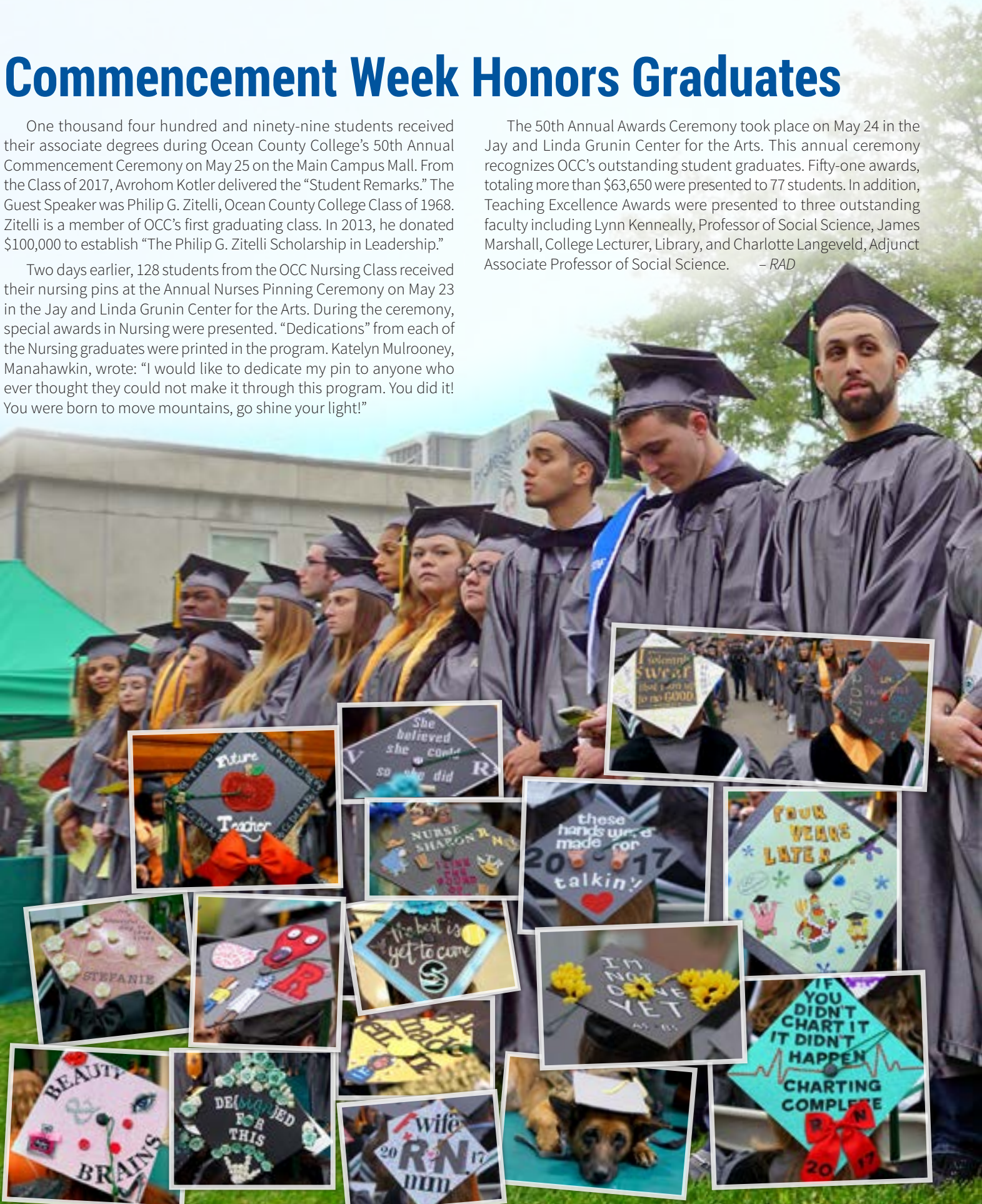
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A large photograph shows a line of graduates in grey gowns and black mortarboards standing outdoors. Overlaid on this are many small, tilted photographs of individual graduation caps. These caps are heavily decorated with stickers, ribbons, and handwritten notes. Some of the visible messages include: "Future Teacher" with a red apple sticker; "She believed she could so she did"; "NURSE SHARON"; "these hands will made for 2017 talkin'"; "FOUR YEARS LATER"; "IT'S THE BEST IS YET TO COME"; "I'M NOT DONE YET"; "IF YOU DIDN'T CHART IT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN CHARTING COMPLETE"; "BEAUTY IN BRAINS"; "DESIGNED FOR THIS"; "wife RN mom"; "I SWEPT about a girl up to no GOOD"; "LEADS"; "STEFANIE"; "the best is yet to come"; "made for 2017"; "I'm not done yet"; "If you didn't chart it it didn't happen charting complete"; "Beauty in Brains"; "Designed for this"; "Wife RN Mom"; "I swept about a girl up to no good"; "Leads"; "Stefanie"; "The best is yet to come"; "Made for 2017"; "I'm not done yet"; "If you didn't chart it it didn't happen charting complete"; "Beauty in Brains"; "Designed for this"; "Wife RN Mom". There is also a small photo of a dog wearing a graduation cap.









# Dianne & Jake Cottrell, Class of 2017

## Perseverance Pays Off for Mother and Son

Dianne Cottrell had dreamed of a college education. In 1994, she enrolled part-time at Ocean County College but withdrew two years later when she became pregnant with her third son, Jake.

Time passed and life for Cottrell changed dramatically. Breast cancer. Divorce. A low-paying job. Things looked bleak but Cottrell fought back hard. "I am a breast cancer survivor," Cottrell said. "I was diagnosed in 2003 and it was a pretty challenging time in my life."

Challenging for her young son, too. "I remember the day my dad told me," Jake said. "I was only in first grade. I remember it being hard."

Jake also remembers three years later, when his parents got divorced. While he understands the situation now, at the time as a young child, "It was difficult – sad to see."

The divorce was also difficult for Cottrell. It took away the family's main support. She knew that child support would help for a time, but one day it would stop; she needed to prepare for that day and find a stable, well-paying position.

In 2011, Cottrell found a steady job as a clerk working for Ocean County Social Services. Coworkers encouraged her to go back to school; an associate degree would open doors to promotions and better posts. Within a year, Cottrell re-enrolled at OCC and became part of the Displaced Homemakers program. Through career, employment, and life counseling, along with self-esteem and confidence building, and academic advising and educational and training opportunities, individuals enrolled in the program learn to become economically self-sufficient. "It was a good support for me – it's a good program," she added.

While neither Cottrell nor her son were particularly fond of high school, things changed once they enrolled at OCC.

"I hated high school," Cottrell said. However, once she finally got back to OCC, she "loved it. I was more focused. I was more interested than when I was in high school."

"I wasn't the best student in high school," Jake explained. "Once I hit college, I realized I wanted to strive to be the best in my field (acting and theatre). I saw how hard she (mother) worked; it motivated me."

And Cottrell and her ex-husband noticed Jake's interest from an early age and did whatever they could to provide artistic outlets for their son. We were "always a big supporter of his love of the theatre," she said.

"I love acting. I was raised by my mom and dad to do what I want," Jake added.

With his career choice firmly in place, Jake enrolled at OCC in 2014. "I thought it was great. I knew what I wanted to do but I also knew that I wasn't ready to go to a four-year school. I learned incredible information from incredible professors. I made great friends. I got into PTK. I felt more prepared. Now, I feel ready," Jake added.

For the past two years, Jake worked at the Novins Planetarium at OCC and helped out with summer theatre camps for kids. His supervisor Amanda Boyle, Planetarium Manager, said last May, "I wish that I could keep Jake from graduating! Jake is an amazing guy, and I know that he will be a great success."

During the 50th Commencement Ceremony in May 2017, at age 55, Cottrell and Jake, 21, graduated together.

Both members of Phi Theta Kappa, Cottrell earned an associate degree in general education concentrating in social science, and Jake received his associate in arts in performing arts. And for two students who "hated" high school, they certainly excelled in college. Jake graduated with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.65 and Cottrell, edged her son out with a GPA of 3.78.

It was a proud moment for mother and son who broke the education barrier in both their immediate families. Cottrell is the first of her siblings to go to college and Jake is the first of his two older brothers to go to college, as well.

Having finished her degree requirements in December 2016, Cottrell transferred this past spring to Kean Ocean where she is majoring in sociology. In fall 2017, Jake will begin his studies at Montclair State University with a major in theatre.

"It has been our pleasure to watch Dianne grow as a student, excelling academically; become a member of PTK; and graduate," said Tara M. Van Hest, Community Services Technician, Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County. "We are very excited that Dianne has successfully completed her first semester at Kean-Ocean! Dianne has worked hard to move ahead, getting past obstacles such as being a breast cancer survivor. We are very proud of her accomplishments!"

And, so is Jake. "I knew from a young age how strong my mother was. I gained more and more respect how she fought through those things. (It's) unreal how hard she works. She works to be the best she can be," he said.

Cottrell's advice on being a non-traditional student and attending OCC? "I recommend it."

Her advice on life in general? "Never give up. It's never too late."

– RAD

*"I knew from a young age how strong my mother was. I gained more and more respect how she fought through those things."*

– Jake Cottrell



# Michael Santos, Class of 2017

## Education in the Digital Age

### Name & Domain

Michael Santos, 21, matriculated at OCC in 2015, and earned his degree this spring, but he could be excused for not knowing his way around campus. Santos – who is originally from Union, and now lives in Barnegat – took each and every one of his classes online.

### Net-work

After graduating from Roselle Catholic School, Santos got a job, and began to save money for college. “I have been working at Walgreens for two years,” he noted. “I started as a cashier and a shelf stocker. I am now the photo tech and also work in the pharmacy.”







### Computing From Home

As Santos pointed out, online classes were the best fit for his busy schedule. “Having to work to pay for my education, online classes served me well,” he explained. “Online classes really helped me out by letting me receive an education while working.”

### Slick with the Clicks

Santos considers himself tech-savvy, which helped him become quickly accustomed to OCC’s e-learning platform. “I am very good with computers: navigating them, and setting them up. Usually, when my family has a problem with any type of technology they end up calling me.”

### Backup

“My family, and especially my girlfriend, were a huge support system during my time attending school and working,” Santos remarked. “They really encouraged me and also made sure I kept on track. As the time went by I became a lot better at time management and planning my week’s work ahead of time.”

### Virtual Victory

“The number one thing I liked about online classes is the challenge,” said Santos. “Online classes made me a better planner and taught me how to manage my time wisely. It’s easy to get sidetracked with other things. You need to have the willpower to log on every day and stay focused. There are times where you would rather click on to another tab to check your social media accounts, but you need to have the willpower to stay focused on the task at hand.”

### OCC Online

“I had great experiences with all my classes,” said Santos. “All the teachers were attentive and responded back as quick as possible to whatever questions I had. I was very pleased with the staff at OCC. One of my favorite classes was criminal justice, (which) has to do with the field I want to go into.”

### Keep Scrolling

Santos plans to work for another two years “to gather more work experience, and, while working, I want to start preparing for the Police Academy physically. The Academy is a hard thing to go through so I want to spend as much time as I can with family and prepare myself for the challenges ahead.”

“My plan is to become a police officer for the Barnegat Police Department,” he added. “I love the area I live in now and would love to keep working to make it an even better place. My dream is to become a K9 officer. I love dogs and my dream is to become an officer, so why not merge those two together?”

### Runtime & Bookmarks

In his free time, said Santos, “My girlfriend, Megan, and I love taking our dogs out for runs. We like to find dog parks and beaches that allow dogs. The beach is normally where we go to run and also take time to enjoy the ocean. What can beat the crisp air from the beach as you’re running? Megan and I own two dogs. Our Miniature Schnauzer named Luna is three years old. We also have a Yorkie named Toby and he’s 15 years old. He’s our little old man.”

Santos also likes to spend time with his family, play soccer with friends, and visit the boardwalks and arcades of various shore towns. And, he noted “I like to go to Barnes & Noble to read different books for hours,” as well as comics. “It’s soothing and a good way to pass time.”

– JKH

# Francis Miguel Bal, Class of 2017

## The Most Interesting Man on Campus?

Francis Miguel Bal is a man of many interests and talents. Make that many, *many* interests and talents, as his time as an OCC undergraduate revealed.

Bal, who sings and plays guitar, was a member of the Music Club and Phi Theta Kappa, and the photographer for the Jazz Band; he served as president of the Makers Club, the Asian Culture Club, and the Computer Science Club; he worked for Student Life, and was for two years straight a participant in the department's "Trailblazers" Leadership Program; and, he is currently in the cast of the OCC Repertory Theatre Company's summer musical *Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

And, as many College employees recount, Bal, who graduated this past May, is never without a smile and a kind word.

"He's very helpful – I can't say enough about him," noted Allison Irwin, Student Services Specialist. "Outgoing, friendly, helps anybody."

Bal, now 27, attended Little Angel Study Center High School in Olongapo City, located in the Zambales province of the Philippines, prior to relocating to the United States. "My family originally came here, and I followed suit in December of 2009," Bal explained.

"Coming here I realized that college was expensive, so I decided to work" before pursuing higher education, first at Six Flags Great Adventure, and then for the State of New Jersey New Lisbon Developmental Center.

After saving money for school, Bal enrolled at OCC, and soon took the College's many clubs and societies by storm.

"Francis Bal is a true Student Life success story!" said Alison Noone, Assistant Director of Student Life. "By taking a risk and stopping in on a random Halloween event all by himself, Francis opened the door to a multitude of opportunities. Not only did Francis serve as the Asian Club president, he built the organization from scratch. He researched cultural events and locations for the club to visit. He also organized workshops for the club to educate other students about Asian culture."

"Because of the growing confidence Francis was feeling on the heels of Asian Club's success," Noone added, "he began experimenting with singing and performing with the Music Club, and fell in love with it. His involvement continued to grow from there. He was elected president of both the Makers Club and Computer Science Club, as well."

"In addition to making friends and becoming a well-known smiling face on campus, Francis learned the importance of taking risks, being your own advocate, exploring your options, and relationship building. All of these skills are exactly what we hope students take away from our co-curricular program. We are going to miss him dearly, but know Francis will continue on his path to success while spreading joy everywhere he goes."

Bal, too, will surely miss OCC just as much as those at OCC will miss him. "The best thing about the OCC experience is that I met so many friends, faculty, and staff that shaped and guided me throughout the whole two years," said Bal. "I wouldn't be the person I am today

without them, especially the Student Life staff and my professors and club advisors. I am forever grateful for their guidance and support, and the opportunities they have shared with me."

He detailed his time on campus shooting candid photos for the Jazz Band, planning trips for his clubs, or just hanging out with friends, or completing homework. "The only time I was home was to get some sleep, and once I woke up, I'd do it all over again," and with joy, said Bal. "That is my OCC experience."

"My next adventure," Bal explained, "will be at Rowan University for Music Technology. I've always been a techie guy. I've built computers since high school, tinkered with my toys and saw how things worked. And as much as I am technically savvy, I also am passionate with music."

"When I was little I had a few guitar and piano classes, but sadly after a few years I slowly cast aside my music endeavors since I was so focused on the latest technological advancements. But, I took music classes at OCC and I met my friend

Diana McEntee, who is

a music major and a pianist. She introduced

me to a lot of music opportunities, like choir at a local church, and singing recitals for Music Club. Because of those exposures and opportunities you can say that I slowly got my inclination to music back."

"My ultimate goal is to be an audio engineer."

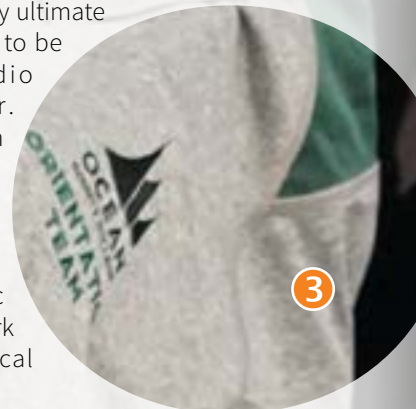
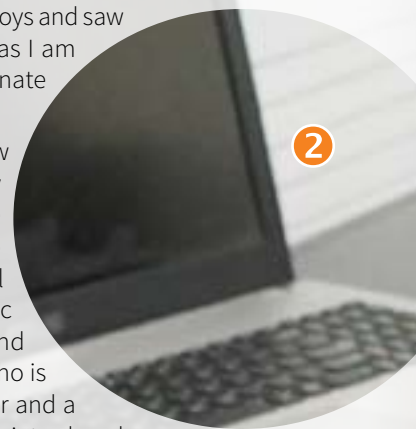
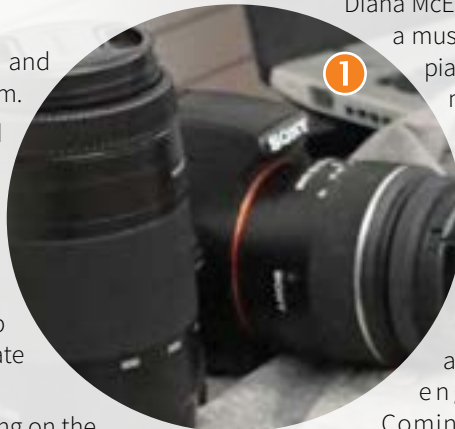
Coming from Asia, where the music scene is different from the western style, I want to collaborate and work with different artists and provide different genres of music from different countries, and work with different audio and musical instruments."

Karin Gargone, Instructor of Music for the School of Arts and Humanities, has no doubt Bal will succeed. "When I think of Francis Bal," she remarked, "I am struck by his diverse musical interests, which will serve him well as he pursues a degree and as he continues to savor life as fully as possible."

So is Francis the "most interesting man" on campus?

We think so.

– JKH







6

5

4

### Some Tools of the Trade

- 1 Digital Camera
- 2 State-of-the-art PC Laptop
- 3 Student Ambassador Apparel
- 4 Musical Instruments
- 5 Acting Skills
- 6 Positive Attitude

# “Theremin-y” Reasons to Admire Music Club

– KG & RAD



## What's in it for Me?

*IT'S A PLACE TO...*

- perform, all styles, all skill levels.
- “go solo” or collaborate.
- play informally at meetings.
- play formally at group/individual recitals.
- perform publicly for the very first time!
- play excerpts of pieces in the process of mastery.
- perform music for upcoming auditions.

*AND, IT'S A PLACE FOR...*

- students enrolled in Applied Music Instruction.
- students enrolled in a performing arts degree.
- any OCC student playing for their own enjoyment.

## Strange but True

- Club members played a **Theremin**, a physical musical instrument that is not touched, you just move your hands through thin air! The eerie tones produced were featured in the Beach Boys’ “Good Vibrations” and the theme from the TV series “Star Trek.”

## Gettin’ Crafty

- A Native American Indian Flute-Making Workshop saw the **Music Club** and **Makers Club** collaborate to make beautiful music together!
- **Makey-Makey Music Technology Workshops** saw the Music Club reaching out to high school students participating in Teen Arts.





### It's a Club Thing

- Music Club meets every week throughout the fall and spring semesters.
- Music Club is run by five student officers and five music faculty volunteer advisors.

### Music Improves

- Creativity
- Imagination
- Relaxation
- Self-Confidence
- Discipline
- Memorization

### Yeh, but I don't Play

- Some members don't play an instrument or sing, but enjoy listening to music and sharing their thoughts on musical topics.
- Other members are interested in exploring the music industry, where an understanding of music and musicianship is key.

### Just a Reminder

Music Club offers a wide array of musical opportunities at OCC – some “theremin-ute” and gone the next! 😊



# OCC Shines in Egypt



**Student Anan El-Boseily (front row center) is a Student Ambassador for the OCC-Kean-Ain Shams program.**

- Cairo resident
- English speaker
- Winston Churchill fan
- Interested in international business and management



# Anan El-Boseily

## Middle East Student Takes on Global Challenges

Imagine spending four years in college and graduating with a bachelor's degree. Now reimagine that same four years, which now translate into an associate degree and two bachelor's degrees! It really doesn't take all that imagination because with Ocean County College's partnership with Kean University and Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt, it's a reality!

Anan El-Boseily, 19, is one of 50 lucky students from Ain Shams University chosen to participate in this unique college experience.

El-Boseily lives in Masr El-Gedida, Cairo, with her 16-year-old sister, Farida; mother, Howaida; and father, Malek. Her mother is a psychologist at Ain Shams University and her father is an engineer in Saudi Arabia.

Education runs deep in her family and the country as a whole. El-Boseily's parents "planted the seed of education in our souls," she said. And, "from my point of view, education is the backbone of the state economy."

According to El-Boseily, holding a bachelor's degree from the United States is considered "prestigious" in Egypt and the Middle East and "will bring more opportunities" for her.

"I have been learning English since I was four, but I've been speaking (for the past) six years. I find (studying online) easy but it needs hard work in order to be fluent."

Considered a shining star, El-Boseily is a volunteer Student Ambassador for the program. "I'm the point of contact between students and the educational institutions from the American and Egyptian side; motivating them, helping others to succeed, and trying to find possible solutions to their obstacles and needs. I wanted to become a student ambassador to help others; it helps me to find (out) more about myself as 'we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give,'" (a favorite quote of El-Boseily's by Winston Churchill).

As part of her duties as Student Ambassador, El-Boseily gives speeches at other universities in Egypt (e.g. the American University in Cairo) as well as interviews on local TV channels talking about the Ocean

County College and Kean University programs. "I found it really exciting as it added a great value to my experiences and satisfies my passion for life coaching."

El-Boseily's ultimate interest lies in international business and management. After graduation, she would like to continue her studies in human resource management and economics, an important field that has its own ministries in the Egyptian government.

"On the other side, I'll work on human development through life coaching, because I believe in (every) human being's (potential)," El-Boseily continued. "From my point of view and according to my experience in 'Human Resource Management,' I learned how to deal with different groups of teams and how to lead them in order to achieve the required goals. I believe if we offer individuals a positive environment and a quality of education, they will be very successful."

With her positive attitude, a thirst for education, and a belief in the people she comes in contact with, El-Boseily is likely to continue her own success!  
— RAD



# Christopher Lorenzo

## A Life Reimagined: Helping Others to Recovery

“My father used to say, ‘One hand washes the other; both hands wash the face,’” student Christopher Lorenzo noted. Cooperation begets accomplishment. As a recovering addict, and President of the Future Addiction Counselors of America Club at OCC for a term, Lorenzo, 49, knows the importance of support in recovery. He speaks to groups about addiction, the power of compassion, and the strength in community; and he works with those ensnared in the disease, underscoring that “there’s a better way to live” – something he knows from experience.

“My biggest thing is: Allow someone to help you,” he said. “Get humble and ask for help. And allow help to help you. You’re never too young, or too old. Age, creed, color: it doesn’t matter. The disease of addiction doesn’t discriminate. Neither does recovery.”

Lorenzo’s father died when he was 17, and his mother when he was 21, both of complications from asbestosis; his dad worked as a carpenter, and brought the asbestos fibers home on his clothes. He therefore lived alone at a young age, without supervision or guidance, and, the addictions he cultivated at a young age intensified.

As Lorenzo explained, he started drinking beer at six years old: “I did that to kind of fit in” with a large, close-knit family that lived in the same area of South Philadelphia. “I have two older brothers, and I wanted to be like them,” he pointed out. He smoked cigarettes, and hung out in the streets and at bars at a very young age.

He started smoking marijuana around 12 years old, then gravitated to harder drugs. “High school was a blur,” he noted, though he did graduate, in 1986.

From age 15 until he was 39, Lorenzo battled a cocaine addiction. He got tattoos, developing a tough exterior that masked an inner vulnerability. For 30 years, Lorenzo worked as a glazier, and made good money. He got married, and had one daughter, Grace.

During his adulthood, though, because of the drugs, he said, “I lost myself. It was a number of moments” that led to him getting clean: losing jobs, divorce, not being the father he wanted to be.

In September 2005, he explained, “Crack cocaine was really beating me up, and I didn’t know where to turn.” He called one of his brothers, who pointed him to Narcotics Anonymous (NA). He then spent 25 months in nine different rehabs.

Lorenzo got clean in October 2007, and, as he noted, “I’ve never had a reason to use in the 9 ½ years since I got clean. There have been tough times, but that’s life. Life shows up.”

He moved to Ocean County in 2011, and is a very active member of NA of OC. He appreciates the emphasis on inclusiveness: “Together we can get through anything.” He has a sponsor, and he sponsors others.

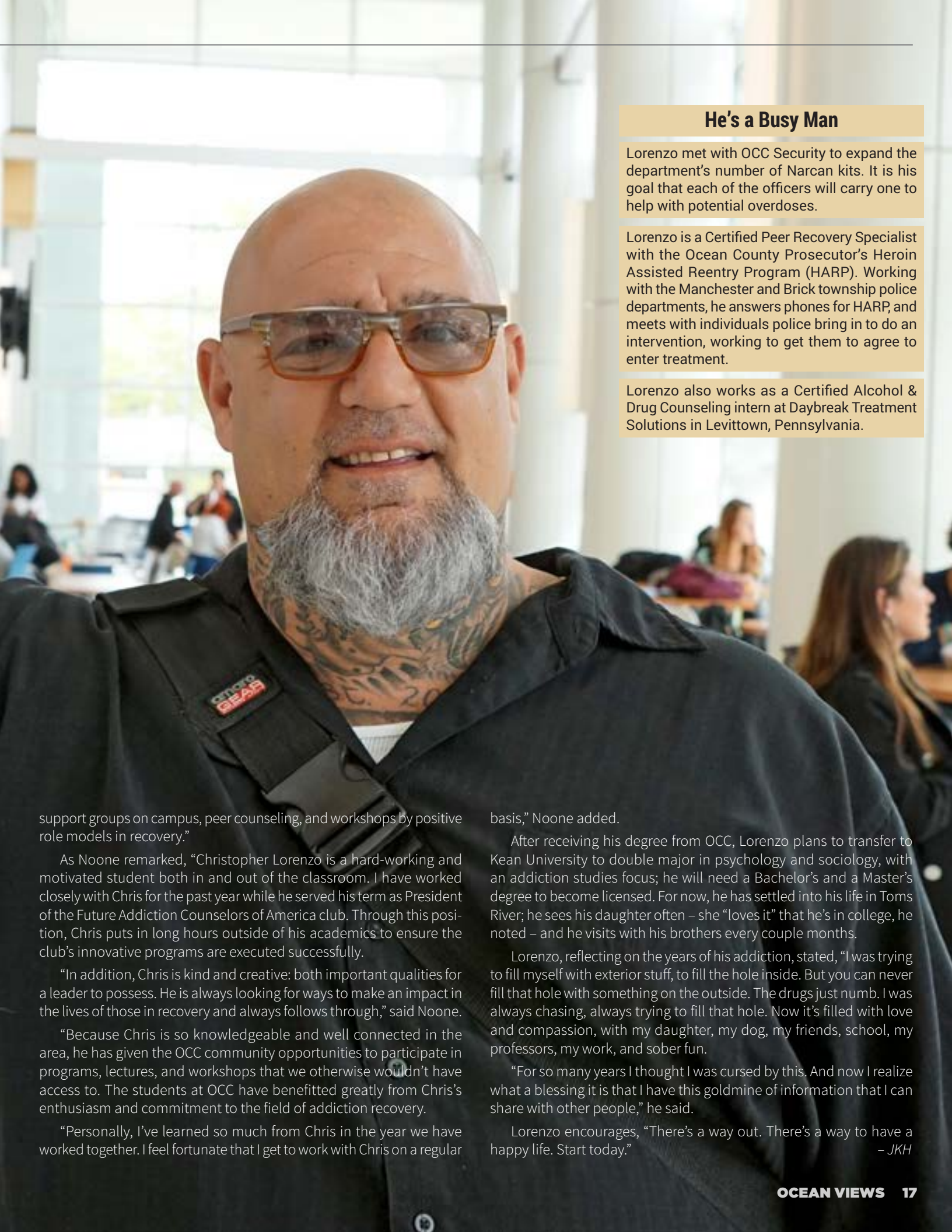
As Lorenzo explained, “One of my friends, a counselor, said to me

one day, ‘Why don’t you make a living out of (addiction counseling), since you do this every day anyway?’” Soon thereafter, Lorenzo took a trip to the OCC campus, just to gather information, “and the same day,” he said, “I registered.” He started classes in January 2016, in pursuit of an addictions counseling major, and will graduate spring 2018.

He credits professors Jeffrey Lang, Patricia Gianotti, and Patrick Roff – who all have backgrounds that link to recovery and counseling – with helping keep him “hooked” on this educational path.

As part of his work with the student organization Future Addiction Counselors of America (FOCOA) at OCC, Lorenzo “submitted a proposal to open a Student Recovery Resource Center on campus, which will provide addiction resources both to students in recovery or those seeking recovery,” said Alison Noone, Assistant Director of Student Life. “Services include sober social activities,





## He's a Busy Man

Lorenzo met with OCC Security to expand the department's number of Narcan kits. It is his goal that each of the officers will carry one to help with potential overdoses.

Lorenzo is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Heroin Assisted Reentry Program (HARP). Working with the Manchester and Brick township police departments, he answers phones for HARP, and meets with individuals police bring in to do an intervention, working to get them to agree to enter treatment.

Lorenzo also works as a Certified Alcohol & Drug Counseling intern at Daybreak Treatment Solutions in Levittown, Pennsylvania.

support groups on campus, peer counseling, and workshops by positive role models in recovery."

As Noone remarked, "Christopher Lorenzo is a hard-working and motivated student both in and out of the classroom. I have worked closely with Chris for the past year while he served his term as President of the Future Addiction Counselors of America club. Through this position, Chris puts in long hours outside of his academics to ensure the club's innovative programs are executed successfully.

"In addition, Chris is kind and creative: both important qualities for a leader to possess. He is always looking for ways to make an impact in the lives of those in recovery and always follows through," said Noone.

"Because Chris is so knowledgeable and well connected in the area, he has given the OCC community opportunities to participate in programs, lectures, and workshops that we otherwise wouldn't have access to. The students at OCC have benefitted greatly from Chris's enthusiasm and commitment to the field of addiction recovery.

"Personally, I've learned so much from Chris in the year we have worked together. I feel fortunate that I get to work with Chris on a regular

basis," Noone added.

After receiving his degree from OCC, Lorenzo plans to transfer to Kean University to double major in psychology and sociology, with an addiction studies focus; he will need a Bachelor's and a Master's degree to become licensed. For now, he has settled into his life in Toms River; he sees his daughter often – she "loves it" that he's in college, he noted – and he visits with his brothers every couple months.

Lorenzo, reflecting on the years of his addiction, stated, "I was trying to fill myself with exterior stuff, to fill the hole inside. But you can never fill that hole with something on the outside. The drugs just numb. I was always chasing, always trying to fill that hole. Now it's filled with love and compassion, with my daughter, my dog, my friends, school, my professors, my work, and sober fun.

"For so many years I thought I was cursed by this. And now I realize what a blessing it is that I have this goldmine of information that I can share with other people," he said.

Lorenzo encourages, "There's a way out. There's a way to have a happy life. Start today."

– JKH



# Dr. Henry A. Jackson, EdD

## The Definition of Success... Academic Success

**Age:** 49 years old

**Origins:** Born in Charlottesville, Virginia. Moved to Maryland where he attended elementary school and junior high. Attended high school in Washington, D.C.

**Team Player:** Recruited to play football after high school; suited up for a semester at a junior college in Arizona, until, at age 19, his son was born.

**Soldier On:** Joined the Marines during the first Gulf War. "In the military, I played eight-man football. We were 10-0. I won MVP, just like in high school," he said with a laugh.

**Future Tense:** Eventually went back to school for an associate degree at Prince George's Community College in Maryland; served as student trustee, wrote for the school paper, and twice gave the commencement speech.

**Up Next:** Planned to attend American University, to major in journalism, but a teacher at Prince George suggested he study English at Howard University. He applied and was accepted. At Howard, he worked for the multicultural alliance, and earned a bachelor's degree in English.

**In the Classroom:** While in college, worked as a student teacher at private school. "That's how I got into teaching," Jackson noted.

**The Big Apple:** On a trip to New York City with the private school's fourth graders, he suddenly thought, "I have to get to New York." The next day the new head of the multicultural alliance at Howard proposed Columbia University for graduate school – rather than Brown, where he was originally headed – and so he swapped one Ivy for another.

**NY, NY 10027:** Received two master's degrees from the Teachers College, Columbia University – a Master of Arts in English Education and Master of Education in English Education – and while there also met his wife, who now works as a professor at Georgian Court University.

**Coast to Coast:** Taught high school in NYC for a few years, then entered a doctoral program at San Diego State University. While in California, he taught and worked for the college's Educational Opportunity Program, gaining experience with high school education, transitional programs, and cohort structure. When he returned to the east coast, Jackson was involved with a similar program, the Educational Opportunity Fund.

**Vikings:** At OCC, he worked as an English professor and served as Dean of the English department. Now, as Executive Director of Academic Success, he oversees the grants for the College Readiness Now and College Credit Now programs.

**Family Man:** Jackson lives in Long Branch. He has two daughters, two sons, and one granddaughter, who, he pointed out, introduces him every day to new features of and ideas in the world.



# Helping Students Get Ready for College

In 2014, the NJ Council of County Colleges established College Readiness Now, a program partnering the Office of the NJ Secretary of Higher Education and the state's 19 community colleges, to improve the college readiness of graduating high school students. The College Access Challenge Grant, and a 50% match from participating colleges, funds the endeavor, with each institution providing program management.

As Dr. Jackson explained, the program targets high school juniors and seniors, particularly those who are "first generation, low income, and at risk."

Those students are given the OCC placement test for mathematics and English, "to establish a baseline," he said. Then students receive a learning plan, with the necessary guidance and support, and are tested again at the completion of the program.

The first cohort, in 2014, included high school students from Toms River North, South, and East. A year later, 11 Ocean County high schools were involved. Today, there are 17.

In step, the number of student participants also increased. The first year, 100 students took part. Cohort 2, in 2015-16, included 557 students; 317 of which later applied to OCC and were accepted. The program was funded again for 2016-17 and has tested approximately 700 students. Dr. Jackson assumes it will continue to be funded for the 2017-2018 academic year. For that cohort, the College hopes to test around 1,000 students.

According to Dr. Jackson, the College feels that "we achieved our goal because of the relationships we forged with the students and that we were able to help the 60 students we tested understand the importance of being college ready."

"OCC has found support like this, when given early in students' lives, ensures students have an opportunity to start college with advanced academic standing," Dr. Jackson noted.

He also pointed out that "College Readiness Now feeds College Credit Now and College Academy," two programs he also oversees.

College Credit Now is a joint effort of the NJ Council of County Colleges, The Prudential Foundation, and state colleges and high

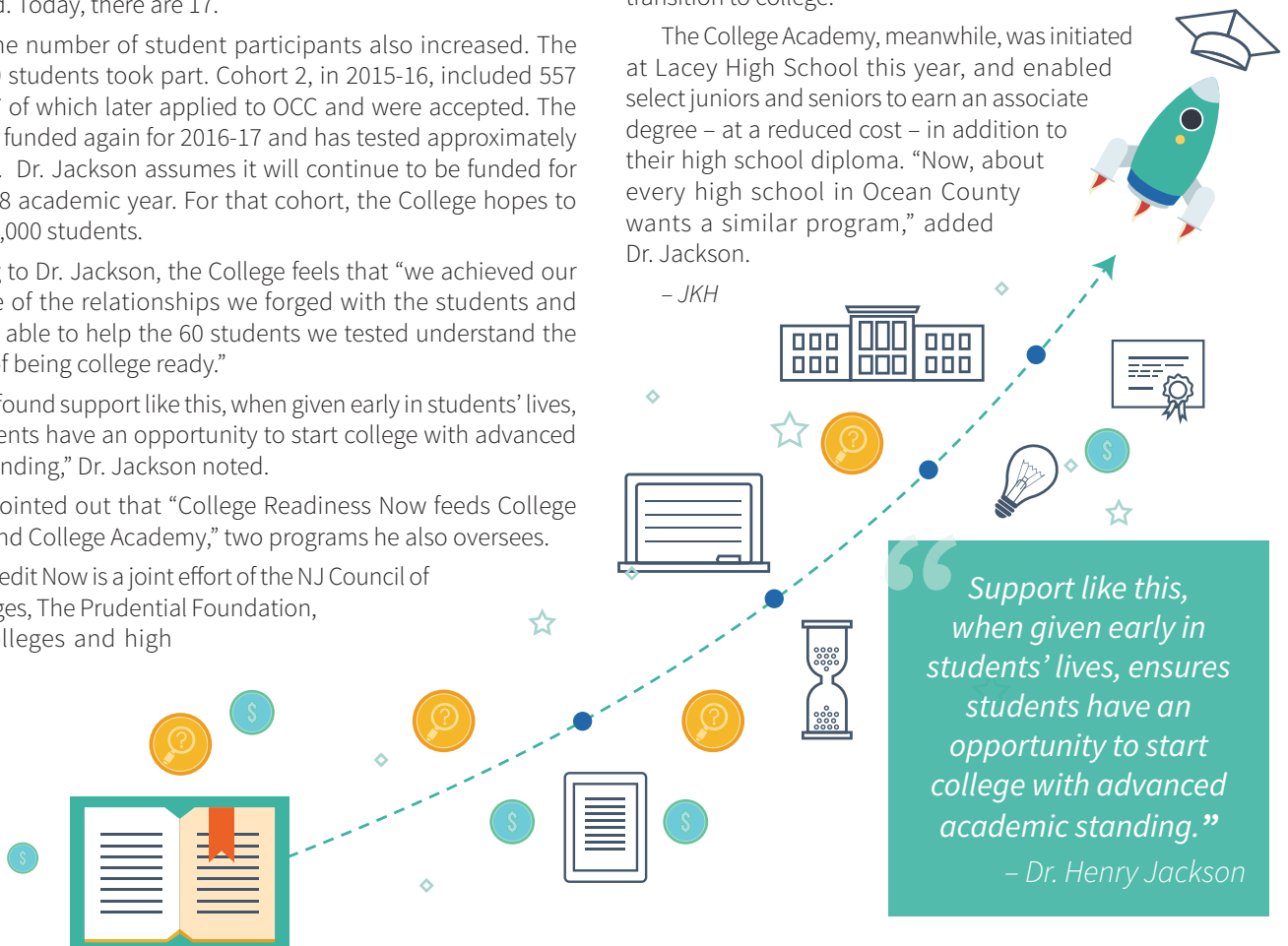
schools to support high-quality dual-enrollment programs. The grant delivers college-level courses to students, specifically 11th and 12th graders deemed college ready.

In 2016, Dr. Jackson received \$20,000 for College Credit Now, and OCC subsequently worked with 25 Toms River, Lacey, and Central high students, each of whom enrolled in six college credits. "The program offered high school students college classes for absolutely free," he said.

Dr. Jackson is now applying for additional grant monies, as College Credit Now is funded semester-by-semester. And, he intends to seek accreditation – likely next year – from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, which works to ensure that college courses offered in high schools are as rigorous as courses offered on the sponsoring college campuses. As the sole accrediting body for concurrent enrollment partnerships, NACEP helps these programs adhere to the highest standards so students experience a seamless transition to college.

The College Academy, meanwhile, was initiated at Lacey High School this year, and enabled select juniors and seniors to earn an associate degree – at a reduced cost – in addition to their high school diploma. "Now, about every high school in Ocean County wants a similar program," added Dr. Jackson.

– JKH





“he said, she said. he said,

# DEMOCRACY DISCOURSE

Jennifer Barnes &  
Jason Ghibisi Talk Politics



Karl Marx once wrote, “The human being is in the most literal sense a political animal.”  
Groucho Marx, meanwhile, pointed out, “All people are born alike – except Republicans and Democrats.”  
Politics, of course, is not so simply black and white, or red and blue.

Political Science Lecturer Jennifer L. Barnes, Esq. (Coordinator of the Governmental Affairs Institute) and Political Science/History Lecturer Jason Ghibisi (Program Chair for Global Studies and Chair of the Global Education Committee) can attest to all three statements.

## BEGINNINGS

**They Both Said:** “My interest in politics and government began when I was a child.”

**He Said:** “My parents were politically active and politics was a regular conversation around our dinner table,” noted Ghibisi, a graduate of Saint Rose High School in Belmar. “As a child, I was more interested in the Sunday morning political talk shows such as McLaughlin Group rather than video games.”

At Seton Hall University, Ghibisi majored in Political Science and minored in Asian Studies, then earned a Master’s in Public Administration from Kean University. He now lives in Howell, and has taught at OCC since 2007.

**She Said:** “My father was very interested in (political) topics and they were often the discussion at the dinner table,” said Barnes, who grew up in Jersey City and Bayonne before moving to Bay Head. “The first election I recall was in 1980 when Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter. I remember my father being very happy that the price of gasoline would drop!”

Barnes double majored in Political Science and History at St. Peter’s University, then attended New York Law School. Following a clerkship in the Superior Court of New Jersey, she went into private practice, specializing in employment and professional liability law. She began working at OCC in August 2015.

## GETTING POLITICALLY RESPONSIBLE

**He Said:** “I have never run for public office; however, I have quite a bit of experience working on various campaigns,” Ghibisi remarked. “I also provided political commentary for the *Asbury Park Press* throughout the 2016 presidential election season.”

**She Said:** Barnes joined the Bay Head Council in 2009, and currently serves as the Chair of the Legal & Planning Committee, and on the Public Safety Committee and Public Services Committee. “We all have a responsibility to use our time, energy, and talents to ensure that our hometown is a great place to reside,” she explained.

## PROCESSING INTERPRETATIONS

**He Said:** “My passions and research interests lie within the realm of international relations, in particular international law and organization and the politics of humanitarianism,” Ghibisi stated. “I also am extremely interested in politics surrounding the election process. I love to analyze the polls as well as the strategies that candidates use to attempt to win votes.”

**She Said:** “The relationship between elected officials and their constituents is a fascinating one,” said Barnes. “And it intrigues me how American politicians can view the very same issue so differently, and how people can have such opposing visions for our nation, when we can all agree that we should always do what is best for the United States. The hard part though, is defining what ‘best’ is — everyone has such different interpretations of what that word means.”





she said. he said, she said.”

## MAKING THE GRADE

**He Said:** In his international politics courses, Ghibesi aims to help his students gain “a better understanding of the United States’ role in the world. This includes an understanding of how different groups of people (i.e. states, NGOs, IGOs, and corporations) interact with each other and how these interactions impact the U.S.”

“Classes typically involve lectures, group activities, video clips, discussions, and guest speakers. My ‘Global Issues’ class was fortunate to be able to Skype with humanitarian Kevin Bales,” the author of *Disposable People*, which, Ghibesi said, is “a required reading for the course (from) the preeminent scholar on modern slavery.”

**She Said:** “I like to add humor to my lectures and engage the students with group discussions. When students are contributing in a conversational setting, they learn. They hear the viewpoints of other classmates and learn to be tolerant of people who may disagree with their ideological beliefs.”

“Another great tool for learning is by directly exposing students to individuals who work in government,” said Barnes, who has invited numerous elected officials to speak to her classes, including Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, Congressman Tom MacArthur, and Assemblyman David Wolfe.

## KEEPING IT CURRENT

**He Said:** “Each class involves a discussion of current events. I always advise students to use a diverse cross-section of news sources to ensure that they get a well-rounded perspective of the issues.” Ghibesi himself utilizes “a diverse collection of sources that range from the *New York Times* to the BBC. I also love my Politico App.”

**She Said:** “It’s teaching history as it is being made,” Barnes said of incorporating current events in her classes. “I follow the news from the local level to the international level. I mostly follow American federal government and politics, but I also pay attention to international news because that impacts America as well.”

## CIVIC DUTY

**He Said:** “One of the most important things I can do as a lecturer is educate students on the importance of voting and participating in politics,” said Ghibesi, who serves as faculty advisor for the student club S.L.A.P. (Students Learning about Politics), which coordinates an annual voter registration drive. “It is crucial for students to understand that they must have their voices heard, as the decisions made by elected officials will have long-lasting ramifications that will directly impact their lives and careers.”

**She Said:** Barnes commented, “I joke with my students that they have three civic responsibilities: voting, serving as a juror, and paying taxes! I am always encouraging my students to use their voices via the voting booth. I believe it is my responsibility to educate them about the history of government in America, the system that we utilize, and the roles each branch of government plays. If you understand the history and the process, you are better prepared to cast an educated vote.”

## KEEPING MUM

**He Said:** “Whenever my students ask for my personal opinion (on political issues and affiliation), I always refuse to tell them,” Ghibesi noted. “My job is to teach them about politics, government, political institutions, and the like. I pride myself on doing my best to teach politics from a non-biased perspective.”

**She Said:** Barnes agreed, stating, “I very strongly believe that it is my job to objectively educate students about American government and the political process, *not* to indoctrinate them with my own political views. I will present the students with the information — how they interpret that is up to them.”

– JKH

# Christina Fichner

## A Shining Light at the End of the Tunnel

Christina Fichner was on a business trip in Florida in December 2013 when she first felt “something was not quite right.” As the current OCC student explained, “My last night in Orlando, I found myself in the Emergency Room because I was short of breath and not feeling good. A plethora of tests were run, and they diagnosed me with the flu.”

Back in New Jersey, Fichner’s primary care physician confirmed she had the flu. She continued to travel for her job, but, after she developed a sinus infection prior to a business trip to Dallas in March 2014, her doctor requested bloodwork.

“I was walking the trade show floor before it opened to the public” when her doctor called with the results, Fichner explained. “He said he wasn’t sure if my numbers were skewed because I was sick, or maybe my blood sample sat too long, but he wanted me to repeat the test when I returned.”

Soon after Fichner saw a hematologist-oncologist. “The oncologist advised me that she was unable to see any white blood cells, the cells in charge of fighting off infection. She said the only way she could diagnose why the cells were not visible was with a bone marrow biopsy. I had it done same day in the office. I was sore, but I returned to work the next morning.”

The oncologist’s office called. “I remember it like it happened yesterday,” said Fichner. “I had just returned from my lunch break and sat down at my desk to answer some emails... and my desk phone rang. It was my doctor’s Nurse Practitioner (NP). She asked how soon I could get to the office.”

Fichner’s boss drove her to the hospital. “Two most awkward moments followed: My mom meeting my boss, and the doctor thinking my boss was my father! After getting the awkward introductions squared away, I was led to a consultation room where my mom and I sat across from the oncologist and her NP. The oncologist looked at me with tear-filled eyes and told me I had leukemia. I remember just sitting there blank and emotionless.”

“The first thought that came to mind, and I spoke, was, ‘Is it terminal?’ The NP said that it wasn’t; it was treatable.”

Fichner was directed to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick where an oncologist specialized in her type of cancer, Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). As Fichner noted, “I stepped foot into that ER later on that day, and didn’t leave for seven and a half weeks.”

“Because AML is typically seen in children or older adults, I

was an interesting diagnosis,” she explained. “Other than now having cancer, I was generally healthy. After a week of additional tests, I was faced with the decision on how I wanted to proceed with treatment. After research and discussions with my family, I chose to take on a pediatric trial regime, even though I was slightly older than a standard pediatric patient. Chemotherapy is chemotherapy.”

After a stem cell transplant in September 2014, Fichner remarked, “I had an epiphany... that I wanted to return to school to be a nurse. I can’t say enough about all the nurses, doctors, and hospital staff that took care and still take care of me. I want to give back. Thus, three years later, here I am at OCC.”

Fichner, 28, a Seaside Heights resident, started taking classes at OCC part-time in the summer of 2015. She finished the spring 2017 semester with a 4.0, and has an overall GPA of 3.439. Her studies were in part funded by the OCC Foundation. “Because I already have a Bachelor’s Degree (in Communication Studies, with a minor in Marketing), I am no longer eligible to receive

financial aid,” she stated. “Without the OCC Foundation’s help with scholarship award money, I’m not sure if I would have been able to pursue additional higher education. I am beyond thankful for all that I have received.”

In June, Christina received great news. “I got accepted and have committed to Seton Hall University’s accelerated BSN program!”

Heather S. Barberi, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation, commented, “The Foundation is thrilled to be able to support students like Christina who have financial barriers. She is such an inspiring young lady whose passion and determination will take her far in her career. We are fortunate to have been able to play a small part in helping her on her journey.”

Following nursing school, Fichner, would like to work in oncology, specifically hematology, and specialize in bone marrow/stem cell transplant. She hopes to seek employment at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey – where her oncology team is based – but will keep her options open. “I would like to continue to reside in Ocean County regardless of where I work,” she said.

Fichner is in remission, and most days, she feels great, with the occasional off day. “I’ve had numerous bumps in the road along the way... but, I’m here to share my story, so that just goes to show you that even through the darkest days, there was light.”

– JKH

“The Foundation is thrilled to be able to support students like Christina who have financial barriers... We are fortunate to have been able to play a small part in helping her on her journey.”

– Heather S. Barberi,  
OCC Foundation





## Fichner Helps Fight Cancer

### Off Campus

- 2014-2017 - Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk
- 2015 - Light the Night "Morris Plains Honored Hero" Award
- 2016 - Celgene Corporation "Honored Patient" as a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society top fundraiser

### On Campus

- Blood Drives - "Blood donations are a very vital component to those battling cancer and going through chemotherapy," she said.
- President, Future Health Professionals (*formerly Health Occupations Students of America*)
- Member, Student Nurses Organization
- Fall 2016 - brought "Be the Match" to OCC to provide awareness about the importance of marrow registry for those in need of bone marrow or stem cell transplant



## WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING



- *Hotel California: A Salute to the Eagles* Benefit Concert raised over **\$25,000!**
- Over three years, **nearly \$100,000** in scholarship support has gone to Travel Abroad programs!
- June 2017 Gala raised over **\$203,000!**
- Scholarships Distributed to Students in 2016-2017 totaled **over \$520,000!**

## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO



- **Annual Golf Outing** tees off on Tuesday, October 10, 2017
- Blauvelt Lecture Series  
**Jon Meacham** (October 23, 2017)  
**Erin Brockovich** (April 12, 2018)

# A Trip Down Memory Lane

If you long for the “good ole days” when you were a kid, the 2017-2018 performing arts season at the Grunin Center will leave you with a smile. ►



## 2016-2017 Season: What We're Celebrating

- 18,000** patrons purchased tickets!
- \$5,000** was awarded from the **Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation** to present global music.
- \$20,000** in cash, equipment, and marketing resources was received from **Music & Arts**, along with access to free workshops/clinics for faculty and students.

## 2017-18 Season: We're Looking Forward To

- NOVEMBER: TELLING: JERSEY SHORE**  
Stories of local veterans and adapted to a stage performance. Don't miss it!
- DECEMBER: Disney's FROZEN Sing-a-long**  
You know you love singing along with this amazing animated film. Come show off your *Frozen*-expertise!
- THE HOLIDAY SEASON:**  
Check out our December schedule!



Instead of telling your kids and grandkids that “back in the day” you didn’t have cell phones and computers, take them to a show and let them experience the fun of your generation. The new Grunin Presents has turn-back the clock performances that will take you and your family on a nostalgic journey through the ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s, and beyond!

I can’t say that I remember the Beatles’ debut performance on “The Ed Sullivan Show” in 1964, but I knew who they were. However, I distinctly remember The Rolling Stones’ debut that same year. And well... I didn’t care for The Stones... but I loved The Beatles! And you’ll love **The British Invasion Years** when it takes over the Grunin Stage in September. This show “replays” the classic songs by iconic Sixties British groups, including the Fab Four, plus America’s musical response with memorable hits by The Beach Boys, The Monkees, and The Doors.

From the ‘50s through the ‘70s, The Everly Brothers had a sound all their own. I was too young to remember the ‘50s, but “oldies” music was popular, and so were Don and Phil, so I loved “Bye, Bye Love” and “Wake Up Little Susie.” In October, **The Everly Brothers Experience** celebrates the ever-present harmonies created by the duo. Their career spanned three decades and continues to influence artists around the world. So “Walk Right Back” to the Grunin Center or you may end up “Crying in the Rain.”

Children of the ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s, and ‘90s will remember the hysterical TV show, “Candid Camera”! In November, one of my family’s favorite TV shows is coming to the Grunin Center! **Candid Camera’s 8 Decades of Smiles! With Peter Funt**, comes out of “hiding,” with Funt’s hilarious stage comedy, blending clips, quips, and behind-the-scenes tales from the show’s funniest moments. The practical jokes were funny but never mean, something children, teens, and adults could watch and enjoy together. But be on guard – there could be hidden cameras in the theatre. So remember to “smile” you just might be on Candid Camera!

In November, **Arlo Guthrie** returns to the Grunin Stage. I well remember his rendition of “City of New Orleans” in 1972. Can’t say I knew much about him other than he was an activist and a Vietnam protester. But, my brothers thought he was cool, so he was! The eldest son of America’s most beloved singer/philosopher Woody Guthrie, Arlo has become an iconic figure in folk music in his own right with a distinguished career spanning over 50 years. If you caught his show last year, come again – it’s new... and if you missed him last year, don’t make the same mistake twice!

In 1963, the folk trio Peter, Paul, and Mary released “Puff the Magic Dragon.” I heard that song on the radio and TV for years. I remember it made me cry because I thought Puff died – a crushing

thought for a child. But actually, Little Johnny Paper just grew up and lost interest in childhood fantasies and thus Puff went away; today, I’m comforted by the thought that perhaps Puff left to play with another child. Now, I know what you’re thinking... and you can just forget those rumors that the song had references to drugs. Not true! Co-authors Peter Yarrow and Leonard Lipton have always insisted that the song is about a child’s “loss of innocence.” Well, maybe you can ask Yarrow himself in May, when legendary musician **Peter Yarrow** returns to the Grunin Center to weave a narrative of his life in music and politics.

I was young in the mid-‘60s, but I was “hip” when I listened to the fun sounds of Herman’s Hermits. Today on XM, I have the ‘60s channel programed into my car radio and you can almost always see me singing, or at least lip-syncing, to those tunes. **Herman’s Hermits starring Peter Noone** is featured as part of Grunin Presents in November. Whether you’re young or old, you’ll get a kick from their classic hits “I’m into Something Good,” “Mrs. Brown, You’ve got a Lovely Daughter,” “I’m Henry VIII, I Am,” “Can’t You Hear My Heartbeat,” and “There’s a Kind of Hush.” As a kid, I just liked the music, but over the years, seeing Noone on TV and hearing him on XM, I’ve discovered his extraordinary talent, disarming wit, and handsome features! Go ahead, get into “something good” because shows “as sharp” as this “are something rare”!

As a teen in the ‘70s, there’s a special place in my memory for Stevie Nicks. I spent countless hours listening to the album *Rumours* and contemplating why she wore black point shoes on the cover. Nicks was known for sporting 4-inch (some say 6-inch) heeled boots so the diminutive waif, just 5’1”, could look taller on stage; she was dwarfed by the other band members, especially 6’5” Mick Fleetwood. Amazingly, that ethereal black chiffon dress graced the cover of three albums – took me 40 years to find that out! **TUSK: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band**, an OCC Foundation Benefit Concert for student scholarships, will command the Grunin Theatre in April. So “Don’t Stop”! If you miss this show, it’ll be “Second Hand News.”

So what happens if you don’t like “memory lane”? The Grunin Center has lots of other shows and events! Broadway and standards? Grunin’s got them. Pop, rock, jazz? Got ‘em! Dance? Grunin’s got it. Children’s shows? Oh, yeh, they’ve got them. Poignant lectures? Why yes, Grunin has those, too. The Grunin Center even has bluegrass, gospel, soul, R&B, Celtic, world-inspired shows from Mexico to Korea to Bollywood, one-of-a-kind creations, and new twists on old favorites. The Grunin Center has it all! Visit [grunincenter.org](http://grunincenter.org) and check out the lineup.

– RAD





## **Tina Barreiro '08**

Alumna Develops a Passion for the Environment



When Tina Barreiro attended classes at Ocean County College, she never dreamed she would end up back on campus as a field research technician for the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP), a National Estuary Program locally hosted by OCC. On any given day, Barreiro is somewhere in Ocean County collecting data about the bay and its wildlife.

*“I’m in the water in all kinds of weather...”*

“I’ve always been interested in the environment and how humans interact with it,” Barreiro explained. “At OCC I took as many environmental science and ecology courses as I could. My professors were passionate teachers who wanted their students to succeed – they gave us individual attention and offered advice. I had a great start towards my career goals here.”

Barreiro graduated from OCC in 2008 with an associate degree in biology, and continued her studies at Stockton University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in biology (with a minor in marine science) in 2009. Barreiro first connected with the Barnegat Bay Partnership in 2012 when she took the Barnegat Bay Volunteer Master Naturalist course, offered through OCC’s Continuing & Professional Education Department. Learning about the BBP’s work to protect and restore the bay, she decided to apply for a job, and was hired part-time to assist with research.

Helping with a seining project designed to assess fish populations in the bay was Barreiro’s first task. “People asked us questions about the project, and I really enjoyed those interactions and helping to educate them about the fish, jellyfish, and crabs we captured in the net.”

During the past five years, BBP’s research program has expanded. With the help of a group of dedicated volunteers, seven field technicians work on several projects throughout the year; Barreiro has been involved every step of the way.

“I’m in the water in all kinds of weather, pulling nets and retrieving collectors and identifying and measuring the catch,” she said. “We start collecting data about American eels in February. That’s followed by one of my favorite projects – a study of river herring spawning runs in the spring.”

For the last couple of years, Barreiro has been the lead field technician on a stream connectivity study. She collects data about the areas where roads cross streams, looking at what structures might be impeding water flow and the movement of fishes and other aquatic species through the crossings.

As Barreiro’s science experience has grown, she realized how much she enjoyed sharing her knowledge and experiences. She became an environmental science and oceanography lab instructor at Brookdale Community College, taking students to Sandy Hook and opening their eyes to life in an estuary.

When Barreiro’s not working, she travels around the world, staying with locals to get an authentic cultural experience. “Whenever I go to a coastal area, I always check out the local bay and go diving or snorkeling to see what fish species live there. It seems I can never be too far away from the water!”

For more information about the Barnegat Bay Partnership’s science program and how to volunteer, visit <http://bbp.ocean.edu> or call 732-255-0472.

– KW





# The Boys (& Girls) of "Spring"

In March, the Viking Men's Baseball team escaped the chilly climate of the northeast and traveled to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to participate in a series of games at The Ripken Experience, a one-of-a-kind baseball complex founded by Major League Baseball's legendary Ripken family. In addition, the Lady Vikings Softball team kicked off its season in Myrtle Beach, as well, at Snowbird Softball.



Emily  
Dancisin



Coach  
Mazanec



Quintin  
Garvin



Coach  
McRae

Playing first base, Emily Dancisin finished her second Snowbird experience with an impressive .350 batting average, explaining that she and the team learned a lot. "The weather was a nice, warm change. We went 3-3. That is pretty good considering we were a young team that seldom got to play outside prior to the trip. We were able to try out players in different spots to see what would benefit the team the most. It was a great opportunity to see live pitching in competitive games, before our actual season began."

Head Softball Coach Bob Mazanec agreed. "The trip gave the softball team a chance to bond and for the coaching staff to evaluate the team before coming home to start regional play. It was not only a reward for all the hard work they do in practice but also a chance to get out of the gym and onto the field against other teams. It was a fun and productive opportunity for all."





"The entire trip was an awesome memory," Dancisin continued. "My teammates and our coaches made it extremely enjoyable, from our nights at Broadway at the Beach to the restaurant Coach Bob insisted we go to (*yes, the burgers were that good*), it was an unforgettable experience. Inevitably, the trip bonded us."

The men also had a valuable experience. According to baseball's outfielder Quintin Garvin, who made his second trip to Myrtle Beach, "It was a great trip that I will never forget... building friendships that I will have for the rest of my life."

"The most important thing I have learned from this trip is to play as one. You need to have a strong bond and always be there for your teammates. Each and every game we played to our fullest potential as a team and had a winning record. Each player played very well and we all stepped up to get the job done. The whole reason why we go down to

Myrtle is to build solid team chemistry for the season," Garvin explained.

Head Baseball Coach Ed McRae stated that the trip "is the highlight of our baseball season! It gives the players an opportunity to bond as a team and get prepared for our upcoming season. It is also a huge factor in my recruiting process when presenting our program to new prospective student athletes. This year we had a great trip, finishing with a 5-1 record while playing teams from all over the country. This is an experience our players will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics, added, "This is the 2nd year the Vikings have participated in a spring trip to Myrtle Beach and both years have turned out to be an outstanding experience for all. The games were exciting, the weather was great – I can't wait for next year's teams to enjoy!"

– RAD



## CHECK ONE: ■ STUDENT ■ ATHLETE

**MARIA THE ATHLETE****Team** | Women's Soccer**Position** | Midfield**High School** | Lakewood**Honors** | NJ Start Athletic Award  
EOF Leadership Award

**What athletic accomplishment on the field are you most proud of?** | What I am most proud of is the progress that I made as a soccer player during the whole season. I believe that my skills have gotten better and also my confidence on the field.

**Describe the OCC Women's Soccer Team in three words or less.** | We Became Family.

**WHAT THEY SAY...**

**Executive Director of Athletics Ilene Cohen** | "Maria has been a stand out team player for our OCC Womens Soccer team with emphasis on TEAM – she works hard individually and even harder pushing her teammates to do their very best and work together."

**Assistant Coach Tori Capestro** | "Maria played well all season. She's a hard worker, able to manage her job, practice, and class, all while planning a wedding! Maria is a positive force on the team and very motivating. I'm looking forward to her returning to play next season!"



## Maria Palacios '18

**MARIA THE STUDENT****Major** | A.A., Liberal Arts

**Goal** | My goal is to keep on going with my education and to have a career as a physical therapist or an ultrasound technician. I would like to transfer to either Brookdale or Rutgers University. I am going to major in biology.

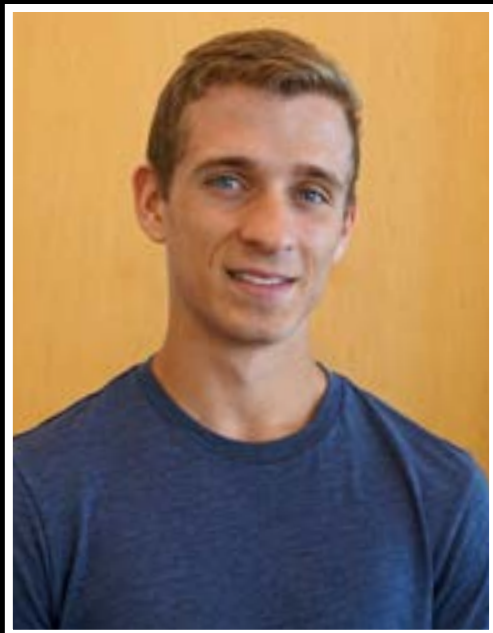
**What do you enjoy doing off the soccer field... and out of the classroom?** | I enjoy spending most of my time with my family or friends, which have been my support system.

**What is your favorite OCC class/professor... and why?** | I have to say that my favorite class so far has been "Western Civilization from 1650" with Prof. Banner. He made me enjoy history; he always discusses his lecture in a way where everyone in the class participated and made it understandable. I really enjoy his class.

**Describe OCC students in three words or less.** | Helpful.



# ETE BOTH!



## CHRIS THE STUDENT

**Major** | A.S., General Studies

**Goal** | My goal is that next semester I will be attending Wilmington University in Delaware where I will be studying criminal justice and I hope to become a police officer.

**What do you enjoy doing off the lacrosse field... and out of the classroom?** | My hobbies are hunting, fishing, and spending time out on the boat with family and friends.

**What is your favorite OCC class/professor... and why?** | My favorite professor/class at OCC is anthropology with Prof. Hartney because he always keeps the students' attention. He gets to know each student as well as keeping the class fun and entertaining.

**Describe OCC students in three words or less.** | Very Friendly.

## WHAT THEY SAY

**Head Coach Nicholas Caruso** | "Chris Smith is the definition of a Student-Athlete. Chris is a tremendous asset and leader on the field, by working hard in practice and games. He is also an example of what hard work is in the classroom. His dedication to his school work has paved the road for his bright future beyond OCC."

**Executive Director of Athletics Ilene Cohen** | "Chris is one who works just as hard off the field as he does on the field, both individually and as a team player. He is a well-respected student-athlete. His teammates look up to him not only as a player but as a person. Players like Chris are hard to come by these days."

– RAD



## Chris Smith '17

### CHRIS THE ATHLETE

**Team** | Men's Lacrosse

**Position** | Midfield

**High School** | Southern Regional

**Honors** | 1st Team All-GSAC/All-Region  
Academic All-Conference  
(3.0 GPA+ during season of participation)

**What athletic accomplishment on the field are you most proud of?** | My biggest accomplishment on the field as a lacrosse player was winning the Region 19 tournament for the first time in school history.

**Describe the OCC Men's Lacrosse Team in three words or less.** | A Great Journey.

## ATHLETICS: 8 THINGS WE'RE PROUD OF



### Face Off... Goal!

Men's Lacrosse won the Region XIX Championship... in just its 3rd season!

### Female Athlete of the Year

Emily Steinberg (tennis) was honored at the National Girls & Women in Sports Day celebration!

### Single Game Scoring Record

Courtney Hagaman (basketball) set the record on January 19 with 48 points against Nassau Community College!

### Viking Styles

Team-branded fashions are on sale online including sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats, and more. Visit [OCCVikings.com](http://OCCVikings.com) > Marketplace > Athletics or Bookstore Merchandise.

### Top-Ranked Standing

The National Alliance for Two-Year Collegiate Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) ranks the top athletic programs in the nation. OCC's Intercollegiate Athletic program is nationally-ranked, offering highly-competitive sports for men and women. OCC has been consistently ranked among the top Junior College Athletic Programs in the United States!

### Get in Shape

The Fitness Center is available to current OCC students, faculty, and staff.

### Community Service

Staff and students support their community in many ways. In recent years, the Athletic Department has been recognized by Region XIX with the "Champions of Character" Institutional and Team Awards.

### Viking Tradition

Every college athletic program has at its core one trait that fuels successful seasons. The Vikings have a time honored tradition of excellence both in the classroom and on the playing field.



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