

OCEAN VIEWS

A Newsletter for Ocean County College Alumni, Our College Family, and the Community
Winter-Spring 2019 ■ Vol. XIII: No. 1



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OCC Graduates Students from ASU

As OCC's partnership with Ain Shams University (Cairo, Egypt) enters its third year, we are proud to announce that 40 of our Egyptian students will graduate from Ocean County College this May. At least 10 of these students will join us at OCC to attend the 2019 graduation ceremony. During the month of June, they will spend several weeks on the Kean University campus in Union, New Jersey, taking courses for the first semester of their senior year.

In November 2018, President Dr. Jon Larson, Interim Associate Vice President of e-Learning Hatem Akl, and Associate Vice President of International Programs Maysa Hayward attended the Egypt Entrepreneurship Summit in Luxor to take part in discussion panels, conduct training, and participate in meetings for current and future educational projects. During this visit, Dr. Larson signed agreements with nine Egyptian governmental universities to establish the first American Community Colleges in Egypt.

Innovative Partnership Launched

In January, Ocean County College formally announced a new partnership with Stockton University. The program, called the "Transfer Pathways Dual Admission Program," allows students to receive conditional acceptance to Stockton University while they work on their associate degrees at Ocean County College.

This innovative partnership between Stockton and OCC strives to make higher education even more affordable and accessible for New Jersey students by providing a direct route to a bachelor's degree with easy transfer of credits.

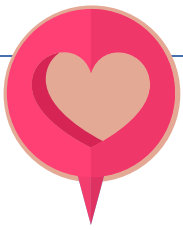
Students enrolling in this program will receive advising services from both institutions to ensure a seamless transition from OCC to Stockton. They will be eligible for housing in one of Stockton's residential living locations – including the institution's waterfront locations in Atlantic City – as early as the first year in the program. Participating students will have use of academic, technology, and support services



at all OCC and Stockton campuses and enjoy many other services provided by this program.

Stockton University has also agreed to provide annual scholarships of \$2,000 for up to five OCC graduates who enroll at Stockton.

OCC is very excited to begin this partnership with Stockton University!



THINGS WE LOVE!

Be Well!

The **RWJ/Barnabas Health Wellness Center** is open to students, faculty, and the community. The Center provides immediate care for allergies, colds, flu, fever, upper respiratory infections, headaches, sore throats, urinary tract infections, muscle or back pain, minor rashes, and insect bites. School and sports physicals as well as wellness visits are also available. Located in the new H. Hovnanian Health Sciences Building (Bldg 102), the Wellness Center is staffed by a certified Nurse Practitioner from Monday through Friday.



What's Old is New Again

The original **Instructional Building**, constructed in 1965, was one of the first five structures on OCC's campus; at the time, it was the only building with classrooms, and it housed the heating plant for the entire college. Renovation plans were initiated in 2013, and work began as the building turned 50. The structure was dismantled and gutted to its walls, floor, and roof. It was then updated with modern heating, cooling, electrical, and security systems; a 3,000 sq. ft. addition; new classrooms and bathrooms; and audio/visual systems throughout.

The building includes classrooms for math, English, physics, and engineering courses; a 110-seat lecture hall; labs; collaboration rooms; a student success/tutoring center; office space; a centralized adjunct workroom; and three student lounge spaces, including a new atrium. Meanwhile, the campus heating system was relocated out of the building into a new, centralized plant.

A photo of the interior of the beautiful new atrium appears on the next page spread (p.4-5).



Makers Club Helps Escape Mistakes and Shift the Tab

Students with disabilities often struggle with typing on standard keyboards. Correcting this issue can be expensive, with solutions costing \$100 or more. To help solve this problem, the Ocean County College Makers Club members put their minds together to design and 3D-print a keyguard that helps guide a student's fingers to the right keys.

The overlay fits most OCC keyboards and



prevents multiple key presses and mistakes – for a fraction of the cost of keyguards sold by most retailers.

Looking Distinguished

This fall, Dr. Jon Larson, OCC President, was presented with the **Distinguished Alumni Award** from his alma mater, Norwich University. This award, the institution's highest honor, is given "to an alumnus or alumna for exceptional service to Norwich University, outstanding accomplishment in a civilian or military career, and notable public service. Recipients have given significantly of their time, talent, and resources in support of their alma mater." Norwich hosted several thousand alumni and their guests during its annual Homecoming festivities in September. The event also marked the start of the university's "Year of Distinction," a year-long commemoration that will culminate



in a 200th birthday celebration in 2019. Norwich University, one of the nation's six senior military colleges, is a diversified academic institution that educates traditional-age students and adults in a Corps of Cadets and as civilians.



Improving Deaf Community and Police Interactions

Danielle DiSessa, a student of Professor Kathy Basilotto in the Interpreter Training Program, represented OCC in November at a forum organized by New Jersey Deaf News. The OCC Interpreter Training Club was honored to be recognized by and to work with law enforcement officials at this forum, designed to help prevent confusion between police and people who are deaf, specifically during car stops or 911 calls. The forum was also a chance for police to get feedback from deaf people and to ensure those who are deaf can be comfortable the next time they interact with a police officer.

OCC Recipient of Community College Opportunity Grant

Earlier this year, OCC was selected for New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's Community College Opportunity Grant and will receive funding for the Free Community College program. The program will be jointly administered by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education and the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. In addition, the College received a \$250,000 grant to support the implementation of this program for the Spring 2019 semester.

OCC is one of a select number of institutions that will participate in the inaugural cohort to pilot the state's Free Community College initiative in the spring. The program will provide financial assistance for the full cost of tuition up to 18 credit hours as well as educational fees.

Students who register for six credits or more, and whose family incomes are within the program guidelines, are eligible after applying for all other federal and state grant aid, such as federal Pell Grants



and New Jersey Tuition Assistance Grants. The Community College Opportunity Grant is a "last-dollar grant"; therefore, the amount of all state, federal, institutional, and community aid received by the student shall be applied to tuition and approved educational fee charges to reduce the amount of the Community College Opportunity Grant award.

For the Spring 2019 Community College Opportunity Grant award, all students – new and returning – must complete and file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application by February 15, 2019, in order to apply for all other available forms of federal and state needs-based grants and merit scholarships. This includes students satisfying all requirements to determine eligibility to receive payments of these state and federal grants and scholarships within established state deadlines.

For more information, email HUB@ocean.edu or call 732-255-0481.

FREE
COLLEGE TUITION!

Learn more at The Hub  (Building #1)
or online at go.ocean.edu/free



The Land of Saints and Scholars

OCC students traveled to Dublin last summer for Study Abroad: Ireland



August 3, 2018 marked the start of OCC's second Study Abroad Program in Dublin, Ireland. It was the beginning of an academic journey that continues to impact the lives of those involved. From the ancient east to the dramatic northern shore, students were exposed to the history and science that shapes Ireland's legacy. The experience created friendships, opened minds, and a greater appreciation for a world beyond the one we know.

In spring 2016, Dr. Maureen Reustle offered her first Irish history course in the Gateway Building, through the Kean-Ocean program. With guest speakers such as humanitarian Don Mullan and historian Christine Kinealy, Dr. Reustle was able to bring a piece of Ireland into the classroom. We, the students, were hungry for more, and the seed was planted.

OCC sanctioned its first-ever Ireland Study Abroad course in 2017, and the response was overwhelming. The program was, truly, an unprecedented success. The participants are now a tight-knit group of friends who share memories of their time abroad.

As the Ireland Study Abroad program evolves, we're constantly searching for new and exciting additions. This summer, veteran participants took the opportunity to travel west and scout the city of Galway. Exploring Galway was an absolute pleasure and a great way to capture the spirit of Ireland's west coast. A vibrant seaside city, Galway has been shaped by a number of different factors over its lifetime. A walk along the shoreline gives insight into why it became one of Ireland's largest port cities and provides a spectacular view of the Arran Isles. This, combined with its compact streets and colorful shop fronts, makes for a diverse landscape that can only be described as a portrait of Irish culture and beauty. It's rich with history and hosts several science and technology festivals every

year. However, unlike Dublin, Galway maintains a small city vibe that is extremely welcoming and very enticing, especially to traveling musicians and artists.

It was bittersweet to return to the U.S. after our seven days overseas. While our hearts were left behind, it's what we took home with us that really makes it all worth it. No one knew what to expect going in, yet it was precisely this type of universal unfamiliarity that helped to bridge divides, dissolve assumptions, and challenge our worldview.

So much goes into preparing a trip like this, but so far, the results make the effort worthwhile. The instructors on this trip, Dr. Reustle and Professor Vijay Ramdeen, made it a point to visit the most impressive locations under the guidance of one of Dublin County's greatest tour guides, Sean Finegan. Together, they provided us with the tools necessary to pursue every inquiry and curiosity Ireland presented us with.

There is no better way to study the history and science of a foreign country than to experience it up close and personal. Ireland's dramatic landscape and troubled past make for an incredible story, one that will be told by all of us for years to come. Some will say we arrived as strangers and left as friends, but in Ireland there are no strangers, just friends we have yet to meet.

– Steven Jackson, OCC and Kean Alum

“Ireland was truly life changing. I met new people who became great friends and experienced a different culture in a whole new way.”

Jen Hernandez, OCC Student and Scholarship Recipient



“I had no idea what to expect when coming here. Looking back, I could not be more grateful for the chance to explore this country and myself. Ireland will always be a part of me!”

– Gabriella Salerno, OCC Student



“This program gave me the opportunity to make new friends and memories while learning about Ireland’s rich culture and history.”

– Grant Tokarski, OCC Student and Scholarship Recipient



“Studying in Ireland allowed me to learn new things, explore a new place, and make new friends that will last a lifetime!”

– Sam Guidetti, OCC Student and Scholarship Recipient



Jesse Holt:

Life to the Limit



Vertical

Jesse Holt graduated from Toms River South High School in 2002 and, not long after, began military training with the 101st Airborne Division, while simultaneously taking college courses via the GI Bill. “I wanted to jump out of planes. I think it’s just how I’m wired,” said Holt. “My parents said I was always pushing the limits.”

After his time at the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, Holt entered Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, which provides further training for those individuals assigned to the 101st Airborne. Holt trained to rappel from UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Overseas, he pointed out, “You’re landing behind enemy lines, so you want to get to the ground as quick as possible.”

After more than six months of training, Holt deployed to “The Triangle of Death” in Iraq. While deployed, he noted, “We did well over 250 raids,” shutting down insurgents, searching for improvised explosive devices, and finding weapons caches.

Vikings

Holt returned to the States in 2007 and was honorably discharged from the military. He worked construction while attending OCC, before taking a job as a contractor teaching military combat tactics to Navy Seabees (U.S. Naval Construction Battalions) in California. The military tried to recall him, said Holt, but his traumatic brain injury – “from getting blown up seven times” – qualifies him as a disabled veteran.

After two years on the West Coast, he made his way back to N.J., and to OCC, where he took general studies classes, then business studies. A micro and macro economics professor of his was a disabled veteran also, and a successful entrepreneur, and Holt valued their conversations. “I always looked up to him... I was always interested in entrepreneurship. I see it as risk-taking.” Holt, who is starting his own CBD (cannabidiol) company, also took psychology classes, as he is interested in the subconscious, and wanted to learn why people do what they do. “I like to dive deep,” he remarked.

Terminal Velocity

Sky-diving, which Holt does primarily at Skydive Cross Keys in Williamstown, N.J., “is a gnarly thing to do,” but he is calmed by a guardian angel: his mother. “I know she’s with me, so I’m not afraid.” His mom, who died when Holt was 20, always wanted to try sky-diving. “That’s where I get my adrenaline drive from, my mom.” Now, at 300-plus jumps and after a coach course, he can go along with novices when they head up into the sky. When he reaches 500 jumps, he can have someone strapped to him, to join them on the way down.

Namaste

Holt discovered yoga when in California. After a hike at Runyan Canyon in Los Angeles one day, he spotted a group doing yoga at the bottom of the trail. He tried it, he liked it, he researched it, and he kept doing it. “I sleep better, I’m in a better mood, and it got me into meditation, which I do every morning,” he said. Holt is originally from California and Toms River and now lives in Forked River; he treks to Hot or Not Yoga in Manahawkin for yoga classes.

Permanence

“I like art of the body,” said Holt, who has many tattoos. His first – at 14 years old – is kung fu-related, while his most recent, a bloodline theme, is a tribute to his family. Other pieces commemorate his mother and friends he lost overseas. “Tattoos suck, honestly,” Holt laughed. “They hurt. But if you can get into a meditative state, and go somewhere else, it’s much better.” He has worked with the same tattoo artist at White Lotus Tattoos in Toms River for 21 years.

Holt, who is sponsored by White Lotus, as well as Eat Clean Bro – a healthy meal delivery service – admits he doesn’t have much room left on his body for new tattoos. “I’m an extremist!”

– JKH

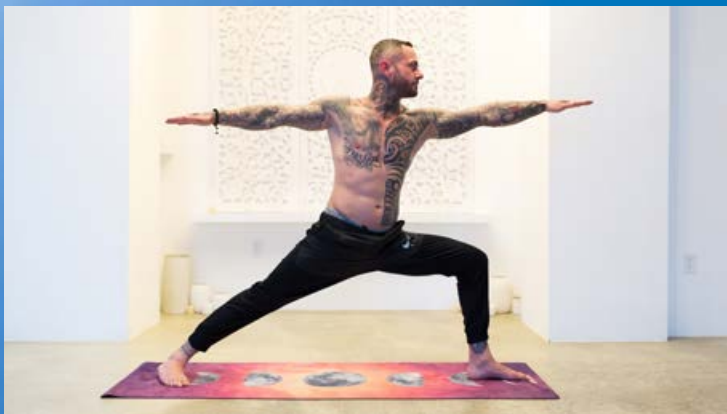


Photo courtesy of Greg Molyneux Photography

Jilian McLeer: A STAR Student and Now Attorney

It was the NJ STARS program that drew Jilian McLeer to OCC.

"I knew early on, in my senior year at Toms River High School South, that I had an interest in ultimately attending law school. Therefore, attending my first and second years of college with minimal to no student loans was a very attractive option knowing how much law school costs."

She soon became a Viking, Class of 2009. "I had a wonderful experience as an OCC student," McLeer stated. "I felt that all of my professors treated me as a valued student and not just a 'number,' which was what many of my friends at larger universities experienced. I particularly enjoyed the many student life opportunities and events that made my experience even more memorable. I earned my liberal arts degree while I was at OCC. I purposefully chose a more general major as it made transferring my credits to a four-year school easier."

"To this day," she added, "I reflect on the wonderful experiences I had with Professor Marilyn Kralik and the Honors Program, and Professor Bill Rickert and Phi Theta Kappa. Both of these professors impacted me tremendously, not only as a student and a scholar, but also as a person."

After earning her associate degree, McLeer enrolled at The College of New Jersey for her junior and senior years, and graduated with a Business Administration degree with a concentration in Marketing. She then entered law school at Rutgers Law School-Camden, receiving her law degree in 2014.

"I am currently employed as an associate attorney at King, Kitrick, Jackson & McWeeney, LLC, in Manasquan, New Jersey," said McLeer. "I practice insurance defense litigation and residential and commercial land zoning. I pursued my career in law because I found it to be intellectually challenging and personally fulfilling. I truly feel that I'm making a positive difference in people's lives every day through my work."

Outside of her law career, McLeer, who lives a half mile from the beach in Asbury Park, NJ, with her fiancé, is either "at the beach or riding my bike anywhere and everywhere near the shore" during the warmer months. "I also enjoy cooking, reading for pleasure, and I've recently gotten really into golfing," she noted.

McLeer would likely sign an affidavit acknowledging the advantages of OCC. "I would wholeheartedly recommend OCC to others," she remarked. "OCC provides a great economical choice for students, and it is also a great stepping stone to becoming accustomed to life at a senior college or university."

"On my first day at OCC, I was apprehensive about being in a new school with many fellow classmates who were much older than me. On the day of graduation, I was a confident, happy person ready to begin my junior year at TCNJ."

— JKH

Favorite spot on campus

The Student Center and the Planetarium!

Favorite class at OCC

Art History with Professor Marilyn Kralik

OCC in three words:

Affordable, excellent, memorable

NJ STARS



Snapshot: Photography Club

Isabelle Gelay, Club President, ...became involved in the organization the first semester of her first year at OCC. At the time, the club was inactive. She worked to reactivate it and has served as its president ever since.

Kreisler Fortes, Club Secretary ...“This is honestly the best club I have ever joined in my entire life, since I really enjoy photography as my hobby and I also met new friends.”

Richard Fallon, Club Advisor ...teaches Visual Communications Tech courses, with a concentration on photography classes, including Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Experimental Photography and Photojournalism.

Words Overheard at Meetings

- exposure
- aperture
- color temperature
- focal length of lens
- angles
- contrast

Photographers of Interest

Some of Gelay's favorite photographs include those from Annie Leibowitz, Ansel Adams, and Paul Nicklen. “It’s hard to choose one favorite photograph,” she noted. “But, **one of my top images** is the *Rolling Stone* cover of John Lennon and his wife Yoko, photographed by Annie Leibowitz. The image captures so much emotion between John and Yoko that you can feel it through the image.”

Fortes’ top choices for photographers are Peter McKinnon and **Kaiman Wong**.

Fallon is a “big **Ansel Adams** fan,” and favors many other photojournalists from that era: Edward Weston, Robert Frank, Henri Bresson, Annie Leibovitz, and Richard Avedon





The OCC Photography Club, which has been in existence since the early 2000s, is a student-run organization with a roster of about two dozen members, 12-15 of whom consistently attend the monthly meetings. According to Fallon, meetings usually have “a theme or idea that is being worked on or developed. Each meeting starts with reports, moves to agenda items, and then usually includes a lecture or contest.”

Gelay points out, “The Photography Club works with other clubs on campus as well as the College itself if they need our assistance. The club worked with the OCC Foundation for one of its Welcome Days and the 100 Smiles Campaign. We just recently photographed the Jazz Band’s group photos for the year as well, and one of the club members went to the Chowder Fest event (held on Long Beach Island in October) for the Humanities Club and the College.”

“The Photography Club is still an up and coming club, and I hope students will keep the club running after the current board graduates,” Gelay added. “The current members are amazing. They all have different knowledge levels of photography, and the club gives them an opportunity to increase their knowledge while meeting people who have the same interest in photography and want to learn more.”

Campus Angles

Gelay: “The most photogenic spot on the OCC campus would be the campus mall in front of the Student Center, especially during the changing of the seasons. You get shading from the sun, plus during the fall a nice contrast of colors.”

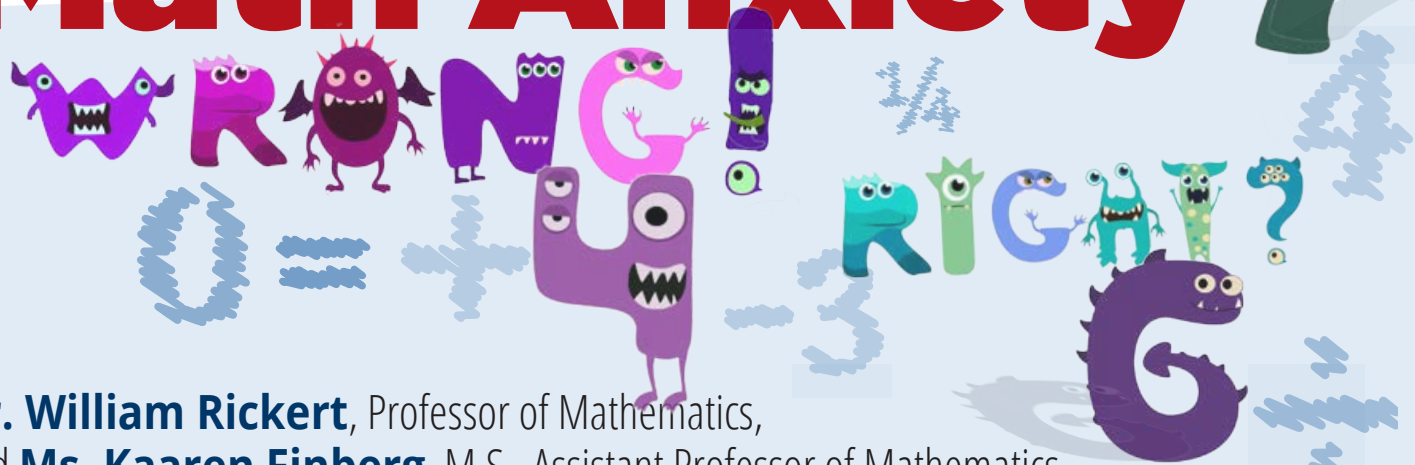
Fortes: “Honestly, from the Snapchat stories I always see, I think it’s the 4th floor of the Gateway Building.”

– JKH



“he said, she said. he said, she said. she said, he said. she said, he said. he sa

Coming to Terms With Math Anxiety



Dr. William Rickert, Professor of Mathematics, and **Ms. Kaaren Finberg**, M.S., Assistant Professor of Mathematics, often present interactive discussions on Math Anxiety to OCC students

BEAUTY, POWER – AND FIGURE SKATING

HE SAID: “I struggled in arithmetic and arithmetic applications until I finished the eighth grade. Arithmetic was generally unpleasant to me. My life totally changed freshman year in high school. I took algebra in my freshman year against the recommendation of my counselor. Within one week, I saw the beauty and power of mathematics. Within one month, I was helping most of the other students, and I enjoyed helping others understand mathematical concepts.”

SHE SAID: “During high school, I was in training as a figure skater at the Boston Skating Club. I was dismissed early and only completed Algebra I and Geometry. After getting married, having two children, and going through a divorce, I decided to return to college to reinvent myself. After being out of school for 25 years, I forgot what to do with the x and y . Therefore, I enrolled in a class at Union County College. It all came back to me. One by one, I completed math courses. The result is a master’s degree in Pure and Applied Mathematics! Who would have thought.”

BEING WRONG IS OKAY

HE SAID: “While there are many excellent mathematics teachers, I believe some use the fact that there is one right answer to a problem to cause stress for some students who do not immediately see what to do. Also some elementary teachers are not well prepared in mathematics and often make it an unpleasant experience for young students. To overcome the emphasis on getting the one right answer, wrong answers can be examined and become learning experiences rather than unpleasant experiences.”

SHE SAID: “Math is very abstract. It requires higher-order thinking skills, in a step-by-step logical fashion. Math is a skill and can be taught. However, most people are superficial, jump to conclusions, and do not take the time to learn the basics. We live in a fast world.”

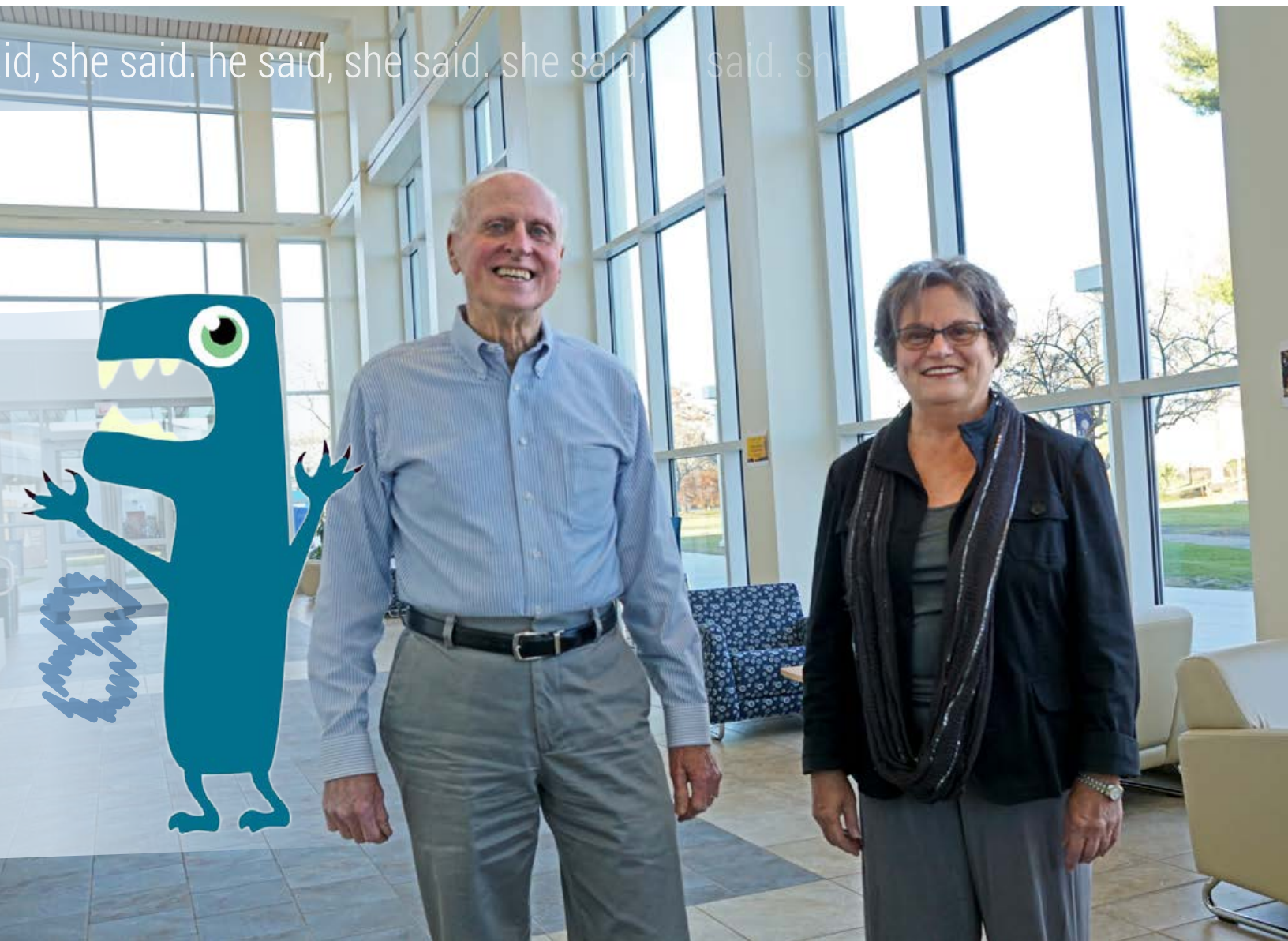
MENTAL AND PHYSICAL STRESS

HE SAID: “Mathematics has the usual characteristics of anxiety. Physical characteristics include queasy stomach, sweaty palms, butterflies, and dry mouth. Mental aspects include blanking out, panic, and negative self-talk (*‘I do not work fast enough; Everyone knows this but me; I will never get this.’*)”

SHE SAID: “When people know they don’t know, they get anxious. They want to succeed, but they have not learned the material. We cannot fool our brains. We either put it into our brains and learn by proper preparation or we don’t. People come to the exam very anxious because they know they don’t know. They develop both physical and mental symptoms of anxiety: blanking out, nervousness, the shakes, sweaty palms, etc.”

WHY THE PRESENTATION?

HE SAID: “Students would often share negative experiences with me, and good students would do poorly on tests due mainly to stress. I began exploring mathematics anxiety in the early 1980s. There were many journal articles and books being written on the subject. Carolyn Showalter and I did some lectures on mathematics anxiety in the 1990s. When Kaaren came to OCC, we really got interested in helping students with mathematics anxiety and our lecture just naturally



evolved from our discussions. We seemed to complement each other perfectly in the presentation, and we hoped we could provide at least a little help for students.”

SHE SAID: “Our presentation covers symptoms of anxiety, causes of anxiety, preparation techniques, and how to handle nerves only when one has prepared. It is all in the preparation!”

DEALING WITH IT

HE SAID: “I seem to address mathematics anxiety in my classes by the nature of my approach. All answers right or wrong are considered and discussed. I try to involve all students. Students seem to love it when I say this is a really good answer and it is the right answer to a slightly different question. We then explore what that question would be. As far as the actual techniques to overcome mathematics anxiety, I emphasize cognitive restructuring: controlling how you think about mathematics and using a calm scene to control anxiety.”

SHE SAID: “We can never overcome all anxiety. We can only reduce the anxiety to a manageable level and then try to work through it in our minds to feel the wonderful feeling of success!”

MAKING IT COUNT

HE SAID: “I am always happy when my students say they now enjoy mathematics and want to study more mathematics. A long time ago, one class said to me, “We notice that you never actually solved any of the problems; we solved them. We are not sure if you can actually solve a problem.” So to satisfy them, I had to do one of the problems all by myself without their help. It made me so happy that the class actually felt that way, and I never forgot that accomplishment.”

SHE SAID: “Some anxiety is good! It gets us keyed up!”

THE POWER OF LOVE

HE SAID: “I love the power and beauty of mathematics that permeates the entire universe. I also enjoy and am fascinated by the philosophical nature of mathematics.”

SHE SAID: “I love math because it explains nature, and I find the understanding very rewarding. It gives me perspective and changed my whole way of thinking.”

– JKH

Noelle Carino, OCC Foundation Board Chair

Endeavoring to Provide Access to Quality Education



“ I love the hustle and bustle of student life, seeing the connections and relationships that develop, and the beautiful architecture that makes up this amazing space. ”

At the Helm

As Chair of the OCC Foundation Board, Noelle Carino is busy — in the best of ways. “As the Board Chair,” she explained, “I have the privilege of working closely with my fellow Trustees, as well as the Foundation staff of Nancy Heroy, Sherri Bray, and Ken Malagiere. Together, we are responsible for ensuring the ongoing success of OCC’s students through the gift of scholarships.” The team promotes the Foundation at events, provides input on new programming, and gains insight into the needs of the student base.

“For me,” Carino continued, “being able to give my time and talents to an organization that lives its mission every day is incredibly important. There is not a decision I have seen made in my last seven years with the Foundation that has not been made from the perspective of fully supporting the educational endeavors of OCC’s students. Providing access to quality higher education through scholarships and special program support is our top priority at all times.”

All the Many Projects

“One of the things that is top-of-mind at the Foundation is our extensive Global Education Experience,” said Carino. “The opportunity to gain perspective through the immersion of oneself in another’s culture is invaluable. Through funds generously donated by people within our community who understand the importance of this type of travel, students are able to have these experiences at a fraction of the cost. In 2019, students will be able to visit destinations such as Costa Rica, London, Germany, and Morocco. It is our hope to broaden this initiative even further by annually selecting a global event, such as the Olympics, to coincide with student travel.”

The Foundation also helps present The Blauvelt Lecture Series at the Grunin Center, which, to date, has brought Jon Meacham, Chrissy Metz, Erin Brockovich, and *National Geographic* Live to Ocean County, and “more importantly, to our students,” Carino noted. “These lectures provide access to experts in their fields who aim to share relevant life lessons with our community.”

And, she added, “I am proud to be part of the 100 Women Campaign through the OCC Foundation. Our mission is to bring together dynamic, innovative, and accomplished Ocean County women who will support each other’s life and career goals, share insights and

experiences, and encourage education through OCC. In addition to scholarship support, we provide beneficial mentorship opportunities to OCC students. Through this program, I have had the privilege of working with two women, Lilyanna Njoo and Briann Skiba, who have blessed my life in extraordinary ways.”

Toms River Life

Although she was born in Edison, N.J., Carino is, she notes, “a self-proclaimed native of Toms River. We moved to Toms River permanently in 1984.” She shares a property with her parents and her brother, sister-in-law, niece, and nephew, where they sled in the winter, swim in the summer, and have “linner” — their blended version of lunch/dinner — every Sunday afternoon.

During her senior year at Georgian Court University, Carino co-founded consumer electronics company LSI Distributors, which she and her partner sold in 2014, after which she took a position with the Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce. Then, earlier this year, she joined Swing Education, a startup headquartered in San Francisco, CA, where she is responsible for building school partnerships on the East Coast. “As education is one of my fundamental pillars, having the ability to enter into that space as part of my career has proven to be deeply satisfying.”

Carino, who attended OCC through the Jump Start and summer programs, found her way to the Foundation when her parents were honored as Humanitarians of the Year in 2012. She joined the Board in 2015, served on the Executive Committee in 2016, “and was honored to be named Board Chair in January 2018.”

Family First

“I am passionate about giving back to my community and serve on various boards, committees, and task forces,” Carino explained. “In early 2018, I launched FemCity Collective Toms River — a network of local business women who meet regularly to share best practices, gratitude, and, occasionally, mom wisdom — which brings me so much joy. I spend a good deal of my time at our church, The Presbyterian Church of Toms River, where I help when and where I can, and soak up every minute of weekly worship. I am an avid learner and spend a good deal of my time reading and listening to podcasts.

“Before any and all of those things, however, I am a wife and a mother. I live and love

in Toms River with my husband, Domenick, and sons, Alex, Colin, and Sam.”

Parting Words

“Since I was a little girl, my parents have often said to me, ‘You done good, Noelle,’ as a sweet gesture to commend my efforts. At the end of the day, at the end of my life, I want to look back and feel that sentiment. If I can reflect on the years that I lived and say to myself, ‘You done good,’ it will have been a life well-lived.”

Favorite Spot on Campus

“I have memories of class trips to the Planetarium, Kids on Campus classes in the Instructional Building, shows at the Grunin Center, and of course, the clock tower. Our new H. Hovnanian Health and Sciences Building is absolutely something to behold, and I am so excited to welcome the Ocean County Vocational Technical School’s Performing Arts Academy to campus in 2020. Presently, however, my favorite spot on campus is the Jon and Judith Larson Student Center. I love the hustle and bustle of student life, seeing the connections and relationships that develop, and the beautiful architecture that makes up this amazing space. The Starbucks in the center doesn’t hurt!” — JKH



OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO

- **Robert Eric's Piano Man: A Tribute to Billy Joel**
Saturday, March 30, 8:00PM
\$45 Concert Only
\$100 VIP Reception and Concert
- **Temple Grandin**
Saturday, April 6
Blauvelt Lecture Series
- **National Geographic Live: Ocean Soul**
Thursday, June 6
- **Scholarship Celebration**
Friday, June 14
Honoring Gale Wayman, Humanitarian of the Year, and H. Hovnanian Foundation, Distinguished Organization of the Year

Local Favorite John Pizzarelli Brings His Nat King Cole Celebration to the Grunin Center

World-renowned guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli has been hailed by the Boston Globe for “reinvigorating the Great American Songbook and re-popularizing jazz.” The Toronto Star pegged him as “the genial genius of the guitar,” and the Seattle Times saluted him as “a rare entertainer of the old school.” For this show, he honors the music of the Nat King Cole Trio with a selection of their classics.

Established as one of the prime contemporary interpreters of the Great American Songbook, Pizzarelli has expanded that repertoire by including the music of Paul McCartney, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Tom Waits, Antônio Carlos Jobim, and The Beatles. His themed shows, often performed with his wife Jessica Molaskey, suggest there is no limit to Pizzarelli’s imagination or talent.

Having concentrated on the music of Paul McCartney, Johnny Mercer, and Frank Sinatra over the last two years, Pizzarelli has returned to the bossa nova of Antonio Carlos Jobim with his July 2017 Concord Jazz release *Sinatra & Jobim @ 50*. With co-vocalist Daniel Jobim, grandson of the legendary Brazilian composer, the two explore songs Sinatra and Jobim recorded in 1967 and 1969 as well as add new songs to the mix flavored with the spirit of the classic Francis Albert Sinatra and Antonio Carlos Jobim album.

Pizzarelli’s latest album for Concord is a follow-up to his wildly successful *Midnight McCartney*, an album The New Yorker said “may be the best collection of McCartney covers ever recorded.”

Since its release in 2015, Pizzarelli has toured North America, South America, Asia, and Europe performing shows centered on Frank Sinatra’s centennial, the songs of Johnny Mercer, and a McCartney program in which his quartet is joined by strings and a horn section. He also tours on a double bill with pianist Ramsey Lewis and is looking forward to touring a celebration of Nat King Cole’s music for his centennial, which will be in 2019.

While plenty of jazz greats influenced his work – Benny Goodman, Les Paul, Zoot Sims, Clark Terry, and Slam Stewart, among others – Cole has been Pizzarelli’s hero and foundation over the last 25 years. He devoted two albums to his music, *Dear Mr. Cole* in 1994 and *P.S. Mr. Cole*, recorded and released five years later.

In addition to being a bandleader and solo performer, John has been a special guest on recordings for major pop names such as James Taylor, Natalie Cole, Kristin Chenoweth, Tom Wopat, Rickie Lee Jones, and Dave Van Ronk, as well as leading jazz artists, such as Rosemary Clooney, Ruby Braff, Johnny Frigo, Buddy DeFranco, Harry Allen, and, of course, Bucky Pizzarelli. He was featured opposite Donna Summer, Jon Secada, and Roberta Flack on the GRAMMY Award-winning CD, *Songs from the Neighborhood: The Music of Mr. Rogers in 2005*.

John has performed on the country’s most popular national television shows such as *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, *Conan*, *Great Performances*, the talk shows of Jay Leno, David Letterman, Regis Philbin, and the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Also in New York are regular stands at Birdland with his combo where he premiered the Sinatra-Jobim collection in August 2017.





**John Pizzarelli – A Centennial
Celebration of Nat King Cole**

April 26, 2019, at 8:00 pm
Main Stage, Tickets \$45-49

“ I’m looking forward to sharing stories and playing the music of Nat King Cole in Toms River. I hope to see all my Jersey brethren there! ”



Nature Girl

Becky Laboy still lives in the same old farmhouse in Bayville in which she grew up. “Built in 1883, our home is one of the oldest in Berkeley Township,” she noted. “My parents raised me and my sister on a ‘mini farm,’ with horses, goats, chickens, turkeys, cats, and dogs.”

Lifelong Learner

After graduating from Central Regional High School in 1987, Laboy attended Shippensburg University for theatre, but the school wasn’t for her. “I decided to attend OCC while I figured out where I wanted to focus my education,” she explained. She took a variety of classes, including photography and painting. “I had not been an art student in high school, so the opportunity to take classes I hadn’t had previous experience with excited me,” Laboy stated. She graduated with an AA, then transferred her credits to United States International University in San Diego, CA, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in International Relations and a master’s in Education.

Laboy stayed on the west coast for 10 years. In 2001, she returned to New Jersey — and to OCC. “I began a more than decade-long pursuit to complete numerous undergraduate-level chemistry, biology, botany, and calculus classes that I later transferred to Kean University. I finally earned a BS in Biology this past May 2018,” said Laboy. “I was excited that I could attend classes at the Kean-Ocean building on the OCC campus.”

“As I see the changes that have been made to the campus since I attended as young 20-something college student, I know that opportunities abound for students who enroll at Ocean County College,” she remarked. “The partnerships OCC has forged, in particular with Kean University and with the EPA’s Barnegat Bay Partnership, have expanded the options

Becky Laboy: Environmental Superhero in Ocean County

Superpowers: Education Outreach Specialist, Ocean County Soil Conservation District, Saving the Planet – with a Side of Birding

for incoming students and strengthened their relationships with the community.”

“I would not have been able to predict this decades ago, but my connection to the College has continued throughout my life,” she added. Seasonally, she even works for OCC’s Continuing and Professional Education Department as an instructor for the Barnegat Bay Volunteer Master Naturalist class.

Teacher of and for the Environment

Laboy has worked in education for 20-plus years, eventually transitioning into informal education with a focus on the natural world. Currently, she is the Education Outreach Specialist for Ocean County Soil Conservation District, endeavoring to teach the community about the importance of healthy soil for a healthy community. “I emphasize the importance of using native plants, which are adapted to local conditions, do not need chemical fertilizers, nor copious amounts of water, and support birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects,” she explained.

“My goal is to ‘save the planet!’” said Laboy. “To do this, I provide education programs to the public and engage individuals in activities and conversation that inspire stewardship of our local natural resources. I present to audiences of all ages and genres, including school children, teachers, scouts, garden clubs, community organizations, government groups – anyone who is interested in learning about the importance of our natural resources and how best to care for them to maintain a healthy community. I also write grants and implement the grant projects focused on creating healthy landscapes.”

She emphasized, “Nature is intrinsically connected, and each link within the chain must be protected and conserved in order for the ecological system to maintain health and structural integrity. We humans are part of nature and

depend on the health of the planet! It is in our best interest to protect it.”

“My favorite part of my job is watching the transformation take place in people who come to my programs,” said Laboy. “Together we transform our little corner of the world to a better place for people and wildlife.”

Author

Laboy helped pen *The Kid’s Guide to Exploring Nature*, a publication of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, part of its *BBG Guides for a Greener Planet* series. Her chapters are: “Exploring Spring: Beach – Bird Migration” and “Exploring Summer: Beach – Adaptations.” The book can be found in bookstores or online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and elsewhere.



Birder

“Birding is my passion!” Laboy remarked. “We birders can be fanatical about keeping track of bird species we’ve seen. I have my yard list, county list, state lists, and country lists, along with lists for other birding regions. Birding is like a treasure hunt, really. I take walks in the woods, on the beach, around ponds and lakes looking for birds, and when I see one or hear one, and positively identify its species, I mark it down.”

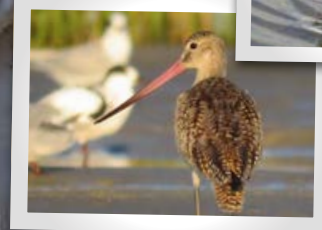
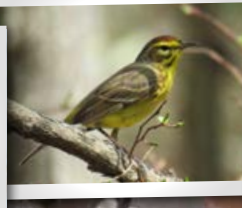
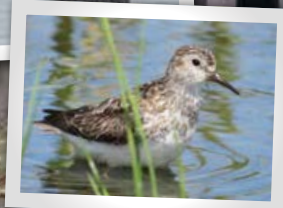
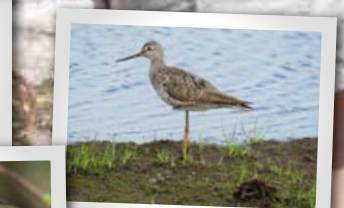
“My sister, who is also a birder, and I are doing an on-going ‘50/50 Quest,’ which means we are trying to find at least 50 birds in all 50 states,” she added. “It will take us a lifetime to accomplish this goal, but it keeps us busy exploring new places and seeing the country.”

Native Planter

“Plants are amazing!” Laboy exclaimed. “They have evolved perfectly to withstand the pressures of the environment. For example, plants that grow on the barrier beach may have tomentose (hairy) leaves that catch the blowing salt, keeping it away from the delicate blade of the leaf, lest it stings and dries it out – like the salt of a potato chip around one’s munching lips.”

Laboy, who is one of four co-leaders for the Jersey Shore Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey, ensures that her home garden is mostly natives or ‘Jersey-Friendly’ plants, “all part of the natural ‘ecosystem’ I’ve created,” she stated. “If all of my neighbors ‘go native,’ together we can re-create biodiversity. Biodiversity ensures resistance, resilience, and stability in the landscape.”

– JKH



Laboy’s Favorite Spot on Campus

“There is a nature trail on campus that offers a leisurely walk through a native woodland where I can enjoy nature’s peace and beauty.”

OCC in three words

“Opportunities for everyone!”

CHECK ONE: ■ STUDENT ■ ATHLETE



Justin McKenzie Simon

Quick Stats

Vikings Basketball Player
Hometown: Jackson
Class year at OCC: 2019

There's No "I" in Team

"I love competing on a team because everybody contributes as a unit to reach a common goal to get to the next level. To compete on a team, we all make each other better."

Favorite Pro Athlete

Russell Westbrook of the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder. "He just has this fight in him like a dog that never gives up or backs down from a challenge. He just goes a hundred miles an hour every time with no breaks."



Picking Up Basketball

"I played basketball in high school for Jackson Memorial. I first got involved with the sport in middle school, when 'And 1' streetball mixtapes were very popular, and driveway pickup games."

Key to Success

"The most important word that is said often (at practices and games) is 'discipline.' We have to do the right thing every time, regardless if someone is watching or not, to be the best. Consistency and positive energy are the difference between 'could have been a great team' and 'is a great team.'"

Court Recollections

"I have so many favorite moments playing for OCC, but here are my top two. The first one is witnessing the Sports Center Top 10 Plays of the Week in person. It was somebody getting dunked on at Cumberland County. I was on the court when this guy jumped insanely high, basically over somebody. It felt like being courtside of a Vince-Carter-arm-in-the-rim dunk contest. It was something out of a movie like *Space Jam*. Usually it's only the NBA or D1 (featured on the Top 10 Plays). As a D3 school, I was shocked to see us there."

"My second favorite moment was our second time playing Atlantic Cape at home. The energy was insane; it was like the whole community came out to support us, and I had almost a perfect field goal percentage to win the game."

Decision-Making

"I am happy I chose OCC. I was surprised how much more it offered me after being here, and I wouldn't change my path if I could do it again. I try to let people know how much they can get out of OCC. For people who are indecisive, I would recommend OCC because it builds your confidence to want to accomplish anything you set your mind to."

Vikings Family

"My experience as a student has been a journey, with ups and downs, but I have stayed focused and determined to reach my goals through hard work and not taking the easy road out. As a student athlete, it's like having a second family. My teammates are like my brothers. They are always looking out for me on and off the court. My coaches, athletic trainer, and athletic directors are like my aunts and uncles. They are always looking out for my best interest because they want me to succeed."

Post-OCC

"I want to finish with my master's degree at Kean University in occupational therapy, then work in a hospital setting in the tristate area or a private office on the West Coast."



ETE ~~X~~ BOTH!



Pascal El-Khoury

Quick Stats

Vikings Volleyball Player
Hometown: Brick
Class year at OCC: 2019
4.0 student

Awards

All-Tournament Team, 1st Team All-Region,
1st Team All-Conference

Favorite Pro Athlete

Kerri Walsh Jennings, a professional beach volleyball player and three-time Olympic gold medalist.



Intro to Volleyball

"I actually never thought of playing volleyball until a teacher from my middle school, Mr. Cutts, recruited me for the team. After participating in a summer clinic, I fell in love with the sport and decided to try out for the high school team."

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

"The best part about competing on a team is that it allows me to escape from everything. Once I step on the court, I forget about my classes, studies, and work, and I focus all my efforts on volleyball. Competing on a team also allows me to meet new people. The memories I made with my teammates will stay with me our entire life."

Call It a Comeback

"One of my favorite games this season was when we were down 13-23 at one point and ended up winning the set. Being able to push 10 points after being down was such a great feeling. We fought for every point and the dedication and heart that I saw in each individual player was truly amazing."

Overheard on the Court

"One of the key phrases my team has used throughout every game is 'shake it off.' In volleyball, there are many times when it comes down to the mental toughness of a player. Being able to come back from a mistake is crucial because once that play is over we must shake it off and win back the next point."

Why OCC?

"My brother and sister went to OCC and eventually transferred to a four-year university. Telling me about their experience, OCC was certainly an option for me. After looking around at many colleges, they pushed for me to do the NJ STARS Program, which helped pay for my tuition. I realized it would help save me a lot of money and, at the same time, I could stay close to home."

"OCC was for sure one of the best decisions I have made. I am very glad I came to OCC and I would certainly recommend it to others. Especially if you are not sure what you want to major in, OCC is a great place to explore your options while financially, it's an easy decision."

Ace Undergrad

"I am currently pursuing an A.S. in Engineering. I am treasurer of the NJ STARS Club and Vice President of Fundraising for Phi Theta Kappa. One class that I found very interesting was Graphics for Engineers, where we learned how to use the program AUTOCAD, which allowed us to create and draft two-dimensional designs."

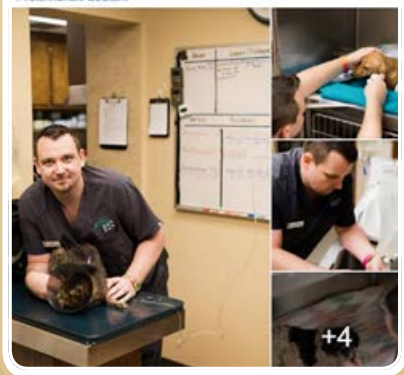
After OCC

"I plan on attending Rutgers University-New Brunswick and majoring in civil engineering. I also plan on getting a master's degree and eventually an employment position that would allow me to expand my knowledge from the classroom to real world experiences."

- JKH



OCC COMMUNITY AS SEEN ON *Social Media*



Congrats to the students led by Mr. Paxton who won 1st place in the Robotic Bulldozer Competition today at the Ocean County Robotics Competition at Ocean County College #LakerPride Lake Riviera Middle School | @LRMSLakers

Our friends from @OceanEdu's College Pathways program presented to senior English classes about Holland's Hexagon, Career Pathways and the importance of choosing a career related to skills and interests #MTHawkPride @MTHSGuidance Mrs. Raimondo | @MrsRaimondo

Thanks to @OceanEdu for hosting the 3rd annual mayors forum. At least the Mayor of Bay Head is enjoying my segment. Hopefully the students did as well. Mayor Ducey | @MayorDucey

