



# OCEAN VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE ALUMNI, OUR COLLEGE FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY  
January 2015 ■ Vol. IX : No. 1



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## Vision Statement

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

## The Mission of the Alumni Office is to:

- connect and engage OCC alumni and future alumni to the college and to each other;
- increase the number of alumni, family, and friends who take an active role in the growth of OCC;
- support and advocate for OCC;
- maintain accurate and up-to-date records of all alumni; and
- cultivate alumni as leaders, volunteers, advocates, and donors for OCC.

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## Charting Our New Course Initiative

**A**s OCC celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2014, the College embarked on a journey to transform into the community college of the future. Collectively, OCC is charting a new course designed to strengthen its focus on students and assure the College a sustainable future in the face of major changes in higher education. This groundbreaking initiative calls for fresh thinking, engaged leadership at all levels, and changes to the college culture, processes, and practices. As the journey progresses, OCC will become a better place to learn, work, and partner with.

Dr. Don Norris and Dr. Tim Gilmour of Strategic Initiatives, Inc., are the facilitators

of the Charting Our New Course five-year Strategic Plan, but this effort is owned by the people of Ocean County College. The stewards of the process are a Guiding Coalition of respected faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and students. A Project Management Team, comprised of OCC's executive administrators, will track and manage the progress of the plan. For the next two years, the College will be engaged in an intensive developmental process, reinventing programs and practices using the principles of resilience and performance excellence. During the course of this initiative, virtually everyone within the OCC community will participate and play a role in the College's transformation. ■

## Operating Values of the Charting Our New Course Initiative

- ◆ **Student-Focused: Put the success of our students and the College ahead of self-interest.**
- ◆ **Proactive:** Vigorously seek new opportunities for the College in both existing and new markets using ingenuity and innovative thinking.
- ◆ **Supportive:** Guide, coach, and mentor one another, ensuring that everyone reaches their full potential.
- ◆ **Communicative:** Articulate ideas and concerns, practice genuine listening before speaking, and maintain confidentiality when appropriate.
- ◆ **Impartial:** Remain open-minded about past performance and engage new initiatives with optimism and enthusiasm.
- ◆ **Positive:** Remain congenial, practice empathy, and have fun.
- ◆ **Courageous:** Act with discipline to maintain accountability while pursuing decisions based on evidence and consensus.
- ◆ **Collaborative:** Practice teamwork in all actions and decisions.
- ◆ **Trustworthy:** Practice integrity and transparency in all actions.
- ◆ **Accountable:** Commit to high performance and present transparent results.

## Alumni and Staff Celebrate 50th Anniversary at Blue Claws

As part of OCC's 50th Anniversary celebration, almost 200 OCC alumni and staff enjoyed a Blue Claws game at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood on August 15. Attendees gathered at the First Base Picnic Area for a BBQ buffet, ball game, and fireworks.

Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President, and several Ocean County community leaders were recognized before the game, and then he threw out the ceremonial first pitch. The evening provided a fun environment for alumni to connect with each other and members of the OCC community.

Given the success of the event, the Alumni Office will be hosting an "Alumni Night at the Blue Claws Game" for next summer on August 28, 2015. Save the Date! ■



Dr. Larson (3rd from R) poses with Buster, the BlueClaws mascot, a team player, and friends before the game.

## Distance Learning News

In a recent statistical study, it was found that the state of e-Learning at OCC is growing! The College is happy to report that its students, when matched up against national averages in the areas of credit load, gender differences, residence locations, and degree popularity, come out on top.

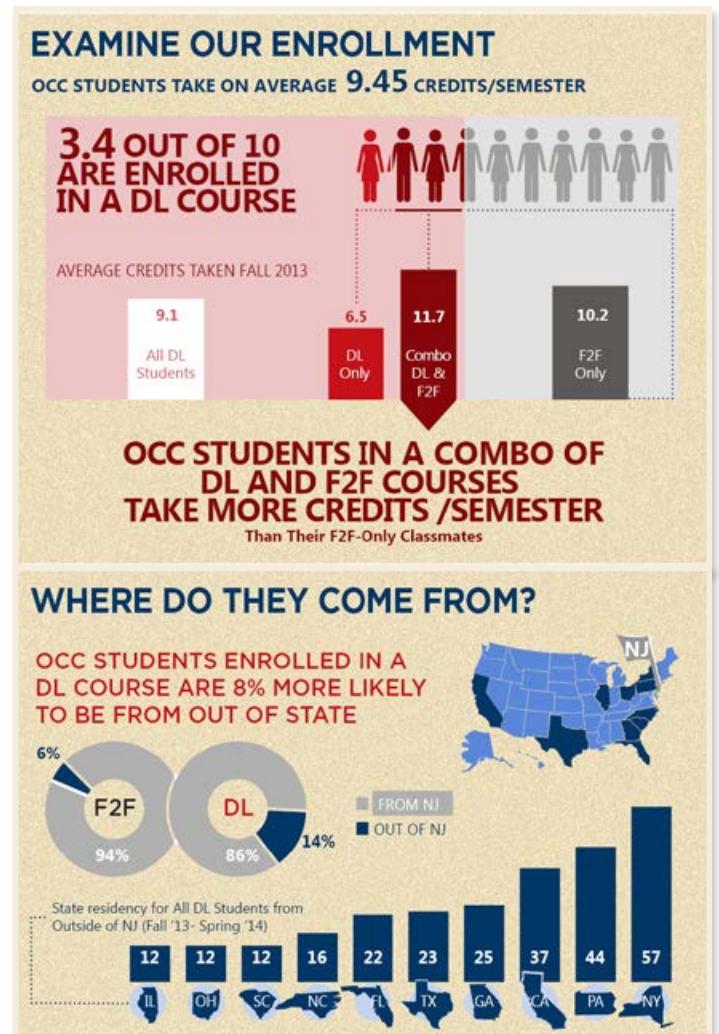
For example, 9.8% more OCC students take a combination of distance learning and face-to-face courses than the national average. OCC students are also serious about learning – 3.6% are more likely to be degree seeking than the national average.

"When OCC's enrollment is examined, we find that OCC students take an average of 9.45 credits per semester and 3.4 out of 10 students are enrolled in a distance learning course," explained Cristo Leon, Interim Associate Director of e-Learning. "The most exciting thing that we discovered is that OCC students who are enrolled in a combination of distance learning and face-to-face courses take more credits per semester than their face-to-face only classmates."

According to the study, OCC students enrolled in a distance learning course are more likely to be female than face-to-face students – 61% of distance learning students are female compared to 38% who are male. On the other hand, 53% of face-to-face students are female and 46% are male.

"An interesting point that we found is that distance learning students tend to be five to six years older than face-to-face students. One would think that younger students would want to take classes online but that doesn't seem to be the case," Cristo said.

The study also reported that OCC students enrolled in a distance learning course are 8% more likely to be from out of state than face-to-face students. While the majority of all distance learning students at



OCC are from New Jersey, 14% come from out of state including Pennsylvania, California, Georgia, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, and Illinois. ■



## New Job Training Programs

A new allied health program, Medical Scribe Certificate, has been developed by OCC's Office of Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) to train students in all types of medical documentation to assist the medical provider with electronic reporting in offices or emergency rooms. Based on extensive research, it is anticipated that this program will be well received and highly enrolled.

In addition, experts in the cyber security field are creating a new CPE certificate program, anticipated to be rolled out in the spring 2015 semester. CPE has also been approached to offer a CSharp programming language course to a local company as a customized training program.

Elsewhere, the College is increasing its partnership activity with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges' Coalition 19, formerly the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development. CPE is now offering civil service courses, arranging for training with advanced manufacturing companies, beginning an open enrollment program for small businesses, and working to schedule universal construction code courses in spring 2015. ■



## NJ STARS Legislation

On September 10, Governor Chris Christie signed legislation that revised the eligibility requirement for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship (NJ STARS) program. Since 2004, almost 1,800 students have participated statewide.

In the past, the program was limited to students who graduated in the top 15 percent of their high school classes. The new law provides that eligibility will be based on the class rank at the completion of students' junior or senior years of high school. Since students normally consider colleges early in their senior years, determining eligibility at the end of the junior years will give them ample time to determine if they qualify for the scholarship so they can make informed decisions. ■

## Community Outreach

Human Resources has been working with Brick Memorial High School on a Structured Learning Experience Program. Participating high school juniors and seniors will work on the OCC campus in unpaid internships. The internships will be spread across campus, and the students will gain valuable real world work experience while learning about OCC. The pilot program began in fall 2014. ■

OCC has one of the most successful STARS programs in the state.



## Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies

Dr. Paul B. Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, congratulated OCC's Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies (CPGHS) for the excellent programs offered during 2013-2014 for students, educators, survivors, and the community.

The core mission of the Commission is to promote Holocaust education in New Jersey. On a continual basis, the Commission surveys the status of Holocaust/Genocide

Education; promotes the implementation of programs; and coordinates events that will provide appropriate memorialization of the Holocaust on a regular basis.

Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig, OCC Associate Professor of English & Literature and CPGHS Program Advisor, deserves commendation for her outstanding efforts in assisting the State to meet its Holocaust/Genocide mandate by offering educational programs at the College.

Among the Center's many events, "The Forgotten Genocide" was the first in the 2014-2015 Genocide Awareness Series. Guest speaker John Pehlivanian, attorney and former-Parliamentarian for the NJ General Assembly, spoke on "The Armenian Genocide," the first genocide of the 20th Century. Pehlivanian is of Armenian ancestry and works to protect the sanctity of the memory of those living in Turkey who were brutally massacred or deported from 1915 to 1918. ■

## Pulitzer Prize-Winning Writers Visit

Dale Maharidge, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist, along with Tayari Jones, award-winning fiction writer, spoke during OCC's annual Visiting Writers' Reading Series.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist, Maharidge is best known for his collaborations with photographer Michael Williamson for their book *And Their Children After Them*.

Award-winning novelist Tayari Jones' first novel, *Leaving Atlanta*, received several awards and accolades including the Hurston/Wright Award for Debut Fiction.

The two lectures were sponsored by the School of Languages and the Arts. ■



## "U OK?" Suicide Prevention Display

In order to help increase the awareness and prevention of suicide, OCC's Counseling Services and Student Health Advisory Council co-sponsored "In Their Shoes" in September. Representatives from Ocean Mental Health's Crest Services and the Ocean CONTACT Hot Line were on hand to distribute materials.

"In Their Shoes" is a display of 234 pairs of shoes, representing the 234 New Jersey youths, ages 10 to 24, that died by suicide between 2009 and 2011. Attached to each pair of shoes are tags that illustrate the types of thoughts and feelings that weigh on the minds of young people who take their own lives. The exhibit was developed by Attitudes in Reverse, [www.attitudesinreverse.org](http://www.attitudesinreverse.org), a nonprofit organization started by Kurt and Tricia Baker after their son Kenny died by suicide in 2009.

According to Susan Ebeling-Witte, OCC Project Director for Student Support Services, September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day. She explained that one in 10 college students has considered suicide and or that one in 12 college students has made a suicide plan. Globally, suicide was the second leading cause of death in 2012 for ages 15-29. ■



## Military Friendly

OCC has been named for the second year in a row to the 2015 Military Friendly® Schools list. Military Friendly® Schools are those that deliver the best experience for military students nationwide to ensure their success.

The Military Friendly® Schools designation is awarded to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the nation that are doing the most to embrace military service members, veterans, and spouses as students, and to dedicate resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.

Ocean County is home to the largest veteran's population in the state of New Jersey and is also home to the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, which spans 20 miles and 42,000-contiguous acres across the two largest counties in New Jersey, Ocean, and Burlington. OCC's Financial Aid Office helps military students and their families access educational funding with the specific benefits available through each branch of service.

The Military Friendly® logo is proudly displayed on the College website, social media, veterans publications, and other OCC materials.

If you are a veteran, active duty military member, or dependent of a deceased or disabled veteran, you may be eligible to receive monthly educational assistance from the Veterans Administration while enrolled at OCC. To learn more, call Robert Mather, OCC's Veterans Coordinator, at 732-255-0400, ext. 2330. ■



Veterans Day Remembrance 2014 at OCC's Veterans Memorial on the Toms River campus.

## Nursing Building Reopened/Renovated



**One feature in the Nursing Building is a control room where instructors oversee the students as they participate in clinical simulations. These simulations include wireless Sim Men.**

In August, the School of Nursing moved back to the Health Science Building. The renovated facility is now home to state-of-the-art equipment and upgraded technology, including improved simulation labs, to prepare nursing students for clinical experiences.

New items were purchased using funds from the Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund (HEFT), Equipment Leasing Fund (ELF), Go Bond, and Perkins Grant. The equipment and labs will greatly enhance the student learning experience and position the College to expand its nursing and allied health programs. ■

## Robotics on Campus



The annual Robotics Contest was held on the Main Campus in December. Eighty-five students from eight high schools and middle schools attended, representing Barnegat Township, Brick Memorial, Brick Township, Lacey Township, Manchester Township, Central Regional, Veterans Memorial, and the Ocean County Vocational-Technical School. Students were tasked with building robots using Legos, programming them with computers, and then racing against each other. Awards, including scholarships, were presented to the students who completed the tasks successfully. ■

## Grants

OCC's Grants Office has been on a winning streak lately! The College was awarded three different grants over the last few months.

The first award comes from the U.S. Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (UISFL). This is a three-year grant that provides funding for the College to create a Middle East Center and develop a Middle East Studies certificate. OCC is the lead on this consortium grant with AMIDEAST and Kean University. Dr. Maysa Hayward will serve as the Project Director and work closely with a team of faculty and administrators serving as the Project Advisory Committee. The grant period began in October 2014 and ends in September 2017 for a total 3-year award of \$511,891.

The second award is from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT). This \$15 million consortium grant partnership led by Bergen Community College, which includes OCC along with 10 other

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

community colleges, 20 employers, and 10 local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) to create the New Jersey Health Professions Pathways to Regional Excellence Project (NJ PREP) Consortium. OCC will receive \$824,450 over four years to establish and implement a credit Patient Care Technician certificate and degree program, and a Holistic Health and Wellness degree program, one-year certificate program, and non-credit certificate. This project will be facilitated by the offices of Academic Affairs and Continuing and Professional Education.

The third award is a Performing Arts Project Grant from the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission. This grant provides \$10,000 to support the 3 Sails Jazz Festival on June 12-13. The festival will take place on the OCC campus and begins with master classes for interested musicians and students, and a Friday night concert. The festival will continue with all day activities on Saturday, including performances by nationally and internationally recognized jazz musicians. ■

## A Living History

Faculty Make Civil War Come Alive

**I**t seems that over the past 50 years, knowledge about American history, from the Pilgrims to the Founding Fathers, and from World War II to Vietnam, has suffered.

Why?

While the medical experts say that the brain's attention span is about seven to ten minutes, history may have suffered because in this digital age, other "experts" have clocked the attention spans of young adults at 15 seconds ... maybe even less! That may be one reason why TV, radio, and Internet advertisers have dropped the length of commercials from 60 seconds to 30 seconds over the past few decades ... and today, many are as short as 15 seconds.

But perhaps the lack of historical knowledge is due to traditional teaching styles that are sometimes experienced by students as being dull and tedious. Without inspiration, animation, and imagination, the modern-day student who doesn't find something immediately attention-grabbing or engaging, will simply tune out.

And that's where John Fraterrigo comes in. An Adjunct Instructor of [continued on page 8](#)

## The Role Players



**Johnny Reb** (played by John Fraterrigo) is the name given to Confederate soldiers during the American Civil War. Reb is short for Rebel. Johnny Reb is pictured wearing a gray wool uniform with officers wearing a tie and a shirt that looked like a tuxedo. Due to the heavy wool uniforms, many soldiers suffered from heat-stroke during long marches in the heat of the South.

**Billy Yank** (played by Fred Fraterrigo) is the name given to Union soldiers during the American Civil War. Billy Yank wears a regulation blue Yankee wool uniform and a forage cap with a floppy crown, which when turned over would be used to feed the soldier's horse. Heavy wool uniforms were worn year round including during stifling hot summers.



"LIVING HISTORY," continued from p.7



Computer Science and History, this professor uses wit, humor, and "action" to make history come alive to help students not only learn about history but to develop a love of history ... or at least a healthy respect for it. "I know a lot of people don't like history, so, I try to make it fun," he said.

And how does he "make it fun?" With costumes and props and a little help from his uncle, retired history professor Fred Fraterrigo, this dynamic duo make the Civil War come alive in OCC's "U.S. History" class. "Uncle Fred," age 87, plays the part of Union Army Sergeant Billy Yank and "Nephew John" is Confederate Army General Johnny Reb, replete with Northern and Southern accents.

As the pair show off their muskets, side arms, swords, and replicas of wool uniforms and hats, Billy Yank (Fred) chastises Johnny Reb (John) – "Never Show a Woman Your Suspenders!" The class laughs.

The use of accents, uniforms, and banter, not only teach about history, but give the students a flavor about life and manners during the 1800s.

And professors Fred and John don't just tell about the Civil War, they put life into its history. Spies and intrigue, beautiful women and weak men, forced marches and unbearable heat, God and country, strategy and lies, and a look at two divergent points of view – the United States of America and the Confederate States of America.

A hot debate between the two demonstrates how the soldiers lived, who they loved, and what they were willing to die for.

"We have a right to leave (the union)! We can't have a foreign power in Fort Sumter!" shouted Johnny Reb in his gentlemanly Southern accent.

"I'm going to war to save the Constitution! When the rebs fired upon the U.S. flag at Fort Sumter, they were traitors!" retorted Billy Yank with a typical "in charge" Northern style.

The pair easily popped in and out of character – once as history professors and then as Civil War veterans.

According to Prof. Fred, "There was a difference in heart." The





South was defending a way of life ... the North was defending an idea – that of democracy. In simpler terms, “The union army was paid, the confederates were not paid.”

The class was amazed by a demonstration of a musket – gun powder, bullet, ramrod, pull back hammer, put in cap, pull trigger ... hold your ears! “If you were good, you could get off two shots a minute,” Prof. Fred explained. Heads shook in surprise.

Despite the slow and tedious job of loading and firing a gun, Prof. Fred explained that the bullets from 150 years ago were more deadly than the bullets today! “If you were shot, you either received an amputation or death.” The class gasped.

And the brutal reality of war came to life ... seven million bullets were used during three days of fighting at Gettysburg alone ... 17,000 union men dead in 20 minutes ... dead horses and dead bodies piled up in July – “what a stink!” Students started to absorb the hard core truth of war.

Then Prof. John explained that the armies “let prisoners go because

they couldn’t afford to feed them and made them promise that they wouldn’t go back and fight! It was a different time when a man’s word and a handshake meant something.” People looked at each other and nervously laughed, perhaps knowing that in today’s society, a man’s word and a handshake may not go that far.

The class was taken on a journey from the beginning of the war, which both sides thought would consist of just one battle, to four years later, when for the North, it became a War of Annihilation. “Kill everyone! Burn their cities!” yelled Billy Yank.

As in most wars, the class ended on a sobering note; 600,000 men were lost to the North and 400,000 to the South. One million “boys were not going home. The union is safe and slavery ends.”

North vs. South. Uncle vs. Nephew. Everyone’s attention spans were squarely focused on the action at the front of the room. Who knew that history could be so engaging?! Prof. Fraterrigo and Uncle Fred knew, that’s who. ■

– RoseAnn D’Urso, *Editor*

**Of great interest to the class were the different American and Confederate flags that were displayed.**

The Fraterrigos present a program on American history as seen through the perspective of the American flag as it changes over the years. The pair also acts out World War II, making the history of our fathers and grandfathers come alive.



*The 36-star Union flag.*



*First Confederate National Flag (13 stars).*

## Business Studies Professor Gives Marketing Students a **Global Challenge**

**K**atherine Dillon, Associate Professor of Business Studies, proposes a unique final project for her marketing students, one that tasks them with assuming the role of a foreign retailer and designing an original chair to sell in the United States – an exercise Dillon calls “reverse international marketing.”

“To be an effective marketer, it is important that a student know the culture, currency, and the economy (of a country), whether it be domestic or foreign,” noted Dillon, an OCC educator for 26 years. “The Global Challenge” aims to help students “understand first-hand the challenges of marketing internationally.”

In focus teams of three, grouped according to psychological consumer behavior, the students are asked “to create a new product category of furniture collection for a global luxury brand company,” Dillon explained. “The challenge is to keep the product consistent with the company’s past, present, and future brand marketing and advertising strategies. Through the advantage of joint venture, the student will design the writing of a marketing plan to introduce the product to the United States as a ‘limited edition.’

“The project is based as a ‘competitive event’ between focus teams,” she continued. “Students learn in the project there are many different areas of competition, such as economic, humanistic, and educational. All three are put into effect. The project is then evaluated by an artistic designer of accessories and/or a furniture interior designer.”

As Dillon further pointed out, “I know at the beginning the students find this project a bit overwhelming. Nothing is familiar ground for them. The playing field is global and the players are the wealthy.

“It frustrates them not to be able to use

their already existing opinions,” she added. There is sometimes “a fear of the unknown,” but Dillon points the students in the direction of research to help them on their way.

In addition to their extensive background research, the student teams learn about some of the advantages and disadvantages of joint ventures over other forms of expansions. For example, as Dillon clarifies, joint ventures can be relatively inexpensive, as costs are shared with a partner, or partners, and the parties can gain valuable skills from each another. However, these joint ventures can also be risky, as they are subject to takeover by a partner or a government, partners may disagree on production or marketing strategies, there is a lack of total control over the venture, and profits are shared.

For “The Global Challenge,” Dillon’s students are given a project checklist, which includes: a cover page with the collection name and company name; a mission statement explaining the history of the company, and the “company country culture”; the target market; a description of the chair, such as its dimensions, its design features, and its functionality; a warranty; the price; the promotion; and more.

After completing the project, teams are evaluated by specific criteria, and the first-place winners earn 10 extra points toward their final grade.

“The best part is watching the students day by day come together from a group of three to a team of one,” said Dillon, as well as “when the students finally realize the world is a very small place – and the only true international language is business.”

She hopes her marketing students, through the participation in this project, “blend their class learning with hands-on





international business experience.”

Dillon believes her students gain leadership skills, as well as interpersonal tools that beget understanding of, and respect for, other cultures. “Students utilize a combination of practical and conceptual approach to foster innovative thinking. By doing the project in class, I watch students learn how to communicate in teams, use their creativity, and put to use decision-making skills they didn’t even know they had to begin with,” Dillon added.

Student Jessica Naia, 26, noted, “I absolutely love this project. It was a very fun project for me. I am very creative and got to use that a lot with this project.

“Now, since I’m an extern this semester, I get to see the students’ faces and see them being creative,” she continued. “It made me fall in love with marketing while doing this, and makes me feel good seeing the students talking and making something of their own and feeling proud of it!”

Sherri Lareau, 58, explained that without the Global Challenge Project, she would have been unprepared to deal with real life challenges, this past July, when she participated in a Global Entrepreneurial Program with students from 14 countries (see Student Success story “Student Attends Global Entrepreneurship Program,” page 16).

“Throughout the Global Challenge Project, Prof. Dillon emphasized the

importance of understanding the global environment, the cultural differences of other countries compared to ours, and how to conduct ourselves as professionals in any global setting. I realized how important it was to have those concepts, skills, and ability to be an effective participant in the global marketplace. OCC has an exceptional and comprehensive business studies department that globally stands on its own merits,” said Lareau.

In addition to her role in the classroom at OCC, Dillon serves as an advisor to Phi Beta Lambda, Professional Business Leaders of America. Each year, she explained, a national competition for two- and four-year universities is held, and “the attendance is usually in the form of 4,000 college students, advisors, and workshop presenters.

“This year in July (2014), in Nashville, our students Sue Bell and Etti Hayman competed in the Integrated Marketing Plan competition,” she continued. “Their goal was to bring over a product that exists globally to the United States, prepare a marketing plan, and present the plan to a panel of three judges.”

Forty schools competed in the event, and OCC came in sixth in the nation – a point of great pride for the College, and for Dillon, who noted, “What an unbelievable experience it was to see them on stage.” ■

– Juliet Kaszas-Hoch, *Staff Writer*

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

## BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAMS

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

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

## GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

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

## DOCTORATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- **Nursing – Leadership Education**

## INFORMATION

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## It's a Small World



**T**hey say it's a small world. There's a song about it. There's even a ride at the Magic Kingdom. Once in a while we all have a "small world" moment.

*"I don't believe it! You grew up in my hometown? Wow, it's a small world."*

It seems that no matter where you live or what your background is, this is a worldwide phenomenon. Something that makes us marvel and wonder. An incident that occurs by happenstance that has you and me meeting the same people, experiencing the same events, or finding ourselves in the same situations in unanticipated locations. "It's a small world" shows our surprise or amazement that people or events are connected in some way.

"It's a small world" may even play into the "six degrees of separation" theory that claims everyone is just six or fewer steps away from any other person in the world, thus connecting two random people in a maximum of six steps.

Well, I'm not certain if I could prove the "six degrees" theory but it does seem that several people at OCC have their own "it's a small world" moments. In fact, many found reconnections with people they knew years ago, while others made connections with people they didn't even know they knew!

"One of my earliest childhood memories is standing on a chair at the kitchen sink, helping Prof. Shirley Grone wash dishes in my family's North Jersey apartment. She and

my mom were friends all through high school (Toms River High School – there was just one at the time) and college (Montclair State)," explained Diedra Jones, School Relations/Tech Prep Technician.

"Shirley and I reunited when I started working for Dr. Nancy Gerry at OCC; Shirley did professional development workshops for us. (As a child), washing dishes with Shirley was one of my favorite things!" Jones added.

Grone concurs. "Diedra was an adorable child. She was happy and lots of fun to play with. We would spend hours together. I was thrilled when I found out she was at OCC," said Grone.

Robert Marchie, Lecturer II, found it interesting to point out that four of his fellow faculty working in the History Department all went to graduate school together. Marchie along with Kim Kamaris, Interim College Lecturer II; Kyle Banner, Adjunct Assistant Professor; and David Lansing, Adjunct Assistant Professor, all went to Monmouth University.

"We had all been in classes together and built up

friendships over the years. Now we are professional colleagues and have a great time working alongside one another!" Marchie said.

On an even more interesting note, Sean Walsh, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Humanities, and Marchie also went to Rowan University together for their undergraduate degrees "almost ten years ago and we somehow ended up working for OCC together."

But the "small world" keeps expanding. At one point, Kamaris and Walsh were also students of Assoc. Prof. Richard Trimble when he taught at Manasquan High School, "and now work with him in the History Department!" Marchie noted.



Hold on, this may be the start of “six degrees of separation”! Trimble knows Kamaris and Walsh. Walsh knows Marchie. Marchie knows Kamaris, Lansing, and Banner. And now they all know each other. I guess that makes Trimble the first degree?

Anyway, even your “humble *Ocean Views* editor” has her own “degrees of separation.” In 1990, Pamela Donohue became the College’s marketing director and soon became my officemate and one of my very best friends. The interesting part is that Pam was friends with my sister-in-law when they went to Trenton State College. I had met Pam at my sister-in-law’s shower, wedding, and other occasions but had no idea who she was until she came to work with me.

Next, I discovered that after working in adjacent offices for several years, Nancy Heroy, Administrative Assistant in Foundation, and I both lived in South Plainfield, NJ, as children and went to the same high school. While we weren’t in the same class, I also learned that Nancy was friends with Betty Ann Lipari, the older sister of my friend Carole. And to top it off, my brother appears in Nancy’s senior year book!

But the most amazing connection is between Lori Crimmins, Accounts Receivable Technician, and Donna Carbone, Manager of Accounts Payable. One day during summer 2014, Crimmins and Carbone were talking about education. As the conversation went on, they realized that not only did they both graduate from the College of Saint Elizabeth’s (St. E’s) in Convent Station, NJ, they both graduated in 1983. They shared stories and even though St. E’s was a small school, neither one ever came in contact with the other.

A few days later, Carbone found her college yearbook. Not knowing what Crimmins’ maiden name was, she started looking for anyone named Lori. The clincher? Carbone found Crimmins’ picture on the same page as hers ... right next to each other!

“Talk about small worlds ... what are the chances that two college students back in the 80s, were in the same graduating class, but never met?” said Carbone. “We were on the same page of the college yearbook and now we both wind up being employed in the Finance Department at OCC” in adjacent offices.

“We were shocked that we went to the same college,” exclaimed Crimmins. “Neither of us could believe it. I was a resident of Founder’s Hall and Donna said she commuted. I was in my own little world back then in my clique of all girls and we didn’t really interact with the students who commuted.”

Carbone continued, “Although there are many different things

that shape a person’s character and personality, I believe that you are your surroundings. When I talk to Lori, I feel a connection, a sense of camaraderie. Our thought processes and values are very similar and I believe that some of the similarities are a result of how and what we were taught at St. E’s.”

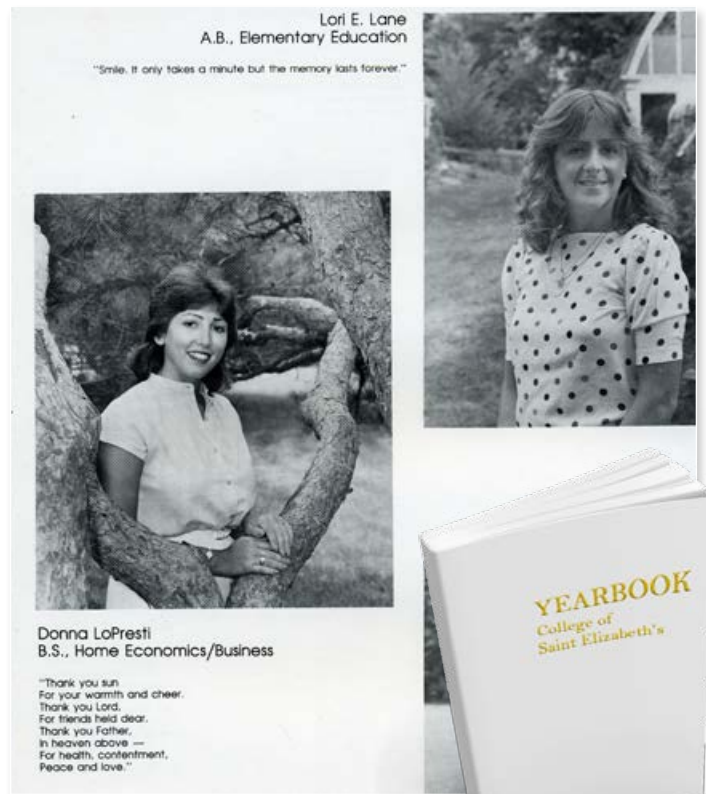
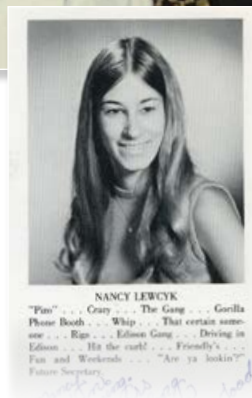
“Donna couldn’t have put it better,” said Crimmins. “We definitely made a connection that day. I thought afterwards, what a small world it is. You never know who you will meet up with in your future that was also there in your past, whether you knew it or not.”

“I love knowing that a part of my past is still with me in the present. It’s comforting to know that as we grow, our experiences will always stay with us,” Carbone added.

From washing dishes to professional development workshops and from going to college together to teaching college ... it may take 35 feet between two desks to realize that you went to the same high school 35 years ago. And while two students had no idea that the other one existed, it is ironic that at OCC they are working in adjacent offices – Carbone on the left and Crimmins on the right ... just like their yearbook photos.

It really is a small world. ■

– RoseAnn D’Urso, *Editor*





## Grunin Center Opens to Rave Reviews

The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts at Ocean County College officially opened in September 2014 with a spectacular season line up! The all new Grunin Spotlight Series features big-name talent, master classes, and “meet & greet” receptions. Other new ventures include Friday Film Classics, the Grunin Family Series, and Special Events. Back by popular demand with expanded offerings are the Performing Arts Series, Inspiring Artists, OCC School of Performing Arts Productions, and MidWeek Jazz.

“There are a lot of exciting things happening at OCC,” explained Mark Wilson, OCC College Lecturer and Artistic Director of the Grunin Spotlight Series.

“A new degree program in performing arts started in the fall semester. Next, through a generous donation by the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation, the College has been bringing world-renowned artists in the performing, fine, and visual arts to Ocean County. And third, our new Master Classes kicked off with Bernie Williams, Natalie Weiss, and Neil Berg this past fall, continuing into the spring with Anthony McGill from the New York Philharmonic and Broadway’s Jeff Blumenkrantz,” he said.

According to Wilson, OCC’s year-long series of master classes are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from the

“masters,” those performers who have struggled to learn their craft and make it big in theatre, music, and art.

The Grunin Spotlight Series, Grunin Family Series, master classes, and “meet & greets” are all made possible through a generous donation from the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation. In May 2014, the Grunins donated \$5.75 million to OCC to establish the Center for the Arts on the Main Campus. The single largest donation that the OCC Foundation has received in the College’s 50-year history, Heather Barberi, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation, said that “it is a testament to both the Grunins’ generosity and the trust they place in the College.”

As part of the new Center for the Arts, the much anticipated Grunin Spotlight Series features top-name personalities, master classes, receptions, and special discounted pricing. The fall got off to a rousing start when Bernie Williams and his All-Star Band (see photo above) played to a packed house! A former-NY Yankee, four-time World Series Champion, and a five-time All Star, Williams is now just as well-known for his music, which features fusions of jazz, rock, and the tropical rhythms of his Latin heritage.

There’s still time to get in on the discounted series pricing when you purchase



*Neil Berg’s 100 Years of Broadway is a widely acclaimed musical revue, which featured a dazzling cast of Broadway stars accompanied by an all-star New York band with Berg vivaciously hosting at the piano!*

three of the six remaining Grunin Spotlight performances. Each month from January to May, you can enjoy an exciting performance, including one of Broadway's award-winning leading ladies Sutton Foster; New York Philharmonic's first African-American principal player, clarinetist Anthony McGill; the world's reigning male chorus Chanticleer; the unparalleled Emerson String Quartet; The Hit Men, featuring former stars of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons; and renowned Grammy Award-winning saxophonist and Tony Award nominee composer Branford Marsalis, one of the most revered instrumentalists of his time.

The fall semester saw a Special 50th Anniversary Event headlined by The Bronx Wanderers, and a world premiere screening of the documentary *Heartbreak & Healing after Sandy* was sold out with a second viewing added to accommodate audience demand.

"We're all very proud of the success and exceptional quality of performances that we've been able to bring to Ocean County College and the community," said Carol Kaunitz, OCC Director of Auxiliary Services. "Hats off to Mark Wilson and Bobbi Krantz (*Director of Grunin Center*)."

The opening season continues through June 2015 when the sounds of hot music and cool vocals sizzle as OCC hosts the popular MidWeek Jazz Series. Acclaimed artists play classic jazz and swing in a single 90-minute set on select Wednesdays. The Midiri Brothers start 2015 off with a bang with their salute to Benny Goodman. A full slate of performances is scheduled through June 2015, culminating with OCC's First Annual Three Sail Jazz Fest, a two-day extravaganza!

"Ocean County is home to many residents who view artistic and cultural experience as an important enrichment to their daily lives. Many travel to Monmouth County, Princeton University, Philadelphia, and New York City to utilize the facilities there to satisfy their hunger for the arts. The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts at Ocean County College will help make Ocean County a magnet for patrons of the fine and performing arts," explained Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President.

For a selection of national performances featuring dance, music, drama, and lecture, the Performing Arts Series has it all. Choose four of the remaining six shows and you'll receive special discounted series pricing! Each month from January to June, enjoy fine entertainment by The Jersey Follettes, Christopher Macchio with Simona Rodano, Jeff Blumenkrantz, the Duquesne University Tamburitians, the National Players' *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and back by

popular demand Darren Williams' Broadway Blockbusters.

Not to be outdone by the national performers, OCC's School of Performing Arts Productions features a variety of shows this spring. The OCC Repertory Theatre Company presents *August: Osage County* while the OCC Concert Band's spring concert rounds out the season.

It seems that the Center for the Arts really does have something for everyone. Join us when we view some of the best produced and most loved classic movies during Friday Film Classics, including *Annie Hall* and *North by Northwest*. And, become a patron of up-and-coming performers featuring Inspiring Artists such as The Oceanaires and The New Dimensions. Plus, there's still time to enjoy discounted pricing on the Grunin Family Series, just purchase four shows including *The Little Engine That Could Earns Her Whistle*, *Little Mermaid*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Dog Loves Books*.

Jeremy Grunin, Executive Director of the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation explained that "The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation is dedicated to supporting Ocean and Monmouth county-based initiatives that include the arts, human services, and education. The Foundation has in recent years made a considerable impact in the areas of health care and in education. We see the untapped potential in the fine and performing arts here in Ocean County and know that Ocean County College is the perfect vehicle for unleashing that potential, specifically through our young people."

For ticket information, call the Grunin Center Box Office at 732-255-0500. Purchase tickets online at [tickets.ocean.edu](http://tickets.ocean.edu). ■

– RoseAnn D'Urso, *Editor*



## Student Attends Global Entrepreneurship Program

OCC student Sherri Lareau was pleasantly surprised her first day taking part in the annual Global Entrepreneurship Program at Babson College, held for two weeks last July in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

“I thought that this workshop was going to be American students from across the United States,” Lareau explained. “Well, you can believe my shock when I discovered that everyone else was from outside the U.S. – Argentina, Brazil, Spain, Australia, Germany, Poland, Mexico, Uruguay, Russia, China, and the UK to name a few!”

In fact, a total of 30 students from 15 countries participated in the program, and just two – Lareau and a student from Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) – study in the U.S. Lareau was actually the only American, as the BMCC student was a Canadian citizen originally from South Korea.

According to a Babson Entrepreneurship Program intranet article, the program, sponsored by the Santander Universities Global Division, “has been running since 2008. This year marked the first time two U.S. community colleges ... had a student participating.

“Students from OCC and BMCC were chosen because both schools offer entrepreneurship programs in their curriculum. The opportunity to build upon that entrepreneurial foundation at Babson College, the national leader in Entrepreneurship Studies, was a great opportunity for these students.”

Lareau, 58, of Toms River, first heard about the program from Dr. Jianping Wang, Vice President of Academic Affairs at OCC. Dr. Wang “informed me that my professors had selected me for this honor,” said Lareau. “My information was sent to the Program Director for review. I was unaware

of a qualifying process and that I was amongst 34 other possible candidates for this scholarship. My professors did not tell me that as they did not want me to worry.

As the intranet article notes, “For the duration of the two-week program, students live in the residence halls, eat in the cafeteria, attend classes, and participate in study groups. The full immersion into college life is designed to give foreign participants a feel for the American college experience. In the classroom, students are taught the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, including theory and practice of entrepreneurship, business cases, and the principles of Entrepreneurial Thought and Action®.”

**“Every experience that I have at OCC becomes a life skill.”**

**– Sherri Lareau**

Lareau was impressed with “the detail that was put into the organization of the program and how professional everything was set up.

“They did not leave out any possible question or concern that could possibly arise. That kind of attention to the configuration of details allowed the students to focus on the lessons. I felt from the first email that I was important and how much Santander wanted me to have an exceptional experience.”

As she is quoted in the intranet article, Lareau remarked, “It was the experience of my life. I experienced, right here in my own country, global entrepreneurship. I got to experience things I’ve only read about.

“This is how we will be able to solve the problems of the world.”

And, Lareau pointed out, the experience also taught her that “OCC is right on target



with its educational programs; our students can hold their own in any situation.

“Global and cultural awareness is an absolute must when it comes to dealing with any organization,” she explained. “One never knows what situation they will find themselves in and they must be quick to act, culturally adaptable and globally prepared.”

She added, “My ‘Marketing 134’ class at OCC was so extensive in the cultures and global environment areas that I was able to change hats and accomplish my goals.”

Lareau took 16 credits in the fall. A non-traditional student among her mostly younger classmates, Lareau explained she graduated from high school in 1974, after 11th grade – completing all her requirements in the honors curriculum – and was an emancipated ward of Connecticut.

“Although I was accepted to the University of Connecticut, situations prevented my attendance. Over the years, I have taken continuing education classes at OCC to complement my work experience of over 30 years in bookkeeping/office management.

“With the encouragement from my family after being laid-off, I became a full-time student at OCC in 2013, to fulfill a lifelong desire for a college education.”

Lareau is flourishing at OCC, with a current GPA of 3.9 in business studies with a concentration in accounting. She is a work-study student in the department; an extern leader in “Marketing 134” with Professor Kathy Dillon; Treasurer of Phi Beta Lambda, for which she’s won state and national awards;



a member of Alpha Beta Gamma and Phi Theta Kappa; and an Orientation/Parents' Orientation Leader.

After completing her associate degree, Lareau plans to attend a local four-year school. She is also endeavoring to complete two or three certificates of proficiency.

Her longer-term goals include a job – “fingers crossed” – with OCC. “I believe that I can passionately fulfill any task and be a part of OCC’s mission/vision to be the community college of the present and future,” said Lareau. “I want my grandchildren to aspire to attend OCC.”

The College has already played a significant role in the lives of the Lareau family. “My children grew up with OCC in their backyard,” the matriarch noted. “During the summer, they attended many programs (and they saw plays at the Arts Center.”

Oldest daughter Stephanie received a Master’s of Accounting from Florida International University in Miami, and is now an Adjunct Instructor at OCC, teaching “Principles of Accounting.”

“I am at the college almost every day and try to be involved as much as possible,” Stephanie remarked. “Besides teaching, I am also tutoring math and accounting students for Student Support Services. I am a professional mentor for Phi Beta Lambda. Right now my life is centered around OCC. It has given me my dream job and has helped enrich my life.”

Lareau said her middle daughter, Bethany, “attended summer programs (at the College) growing up and had her artwork on display many times” in the now Grunin Center for the Arts. Bethany earned a cosmetology education and resides in Toms River with her husband and two daughters.

“My granddaughter, Jazmin (5 years old), loves to come to Grandma’s school,” noted Lareau. “Jazmin and I share a very special bond of going to school each day for our education.”

Sherris youngest daughter, Melanie, is



a 2011 OCC alumna who transferred to Stockton College, earned a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, and is now back at OCC working on a Small Business Management Certificate.

Melanie, 25, said the Babson College program “was a great opportunity for my mother and I am so proud of her.

“She works really hard and loves (OCC). She stopped going to college a long time ago to raise her family. After all three of her daughters graduated, she decided to go back and get her degree. I couldn’t be more proud of my mother and the drive she has.”

Stephanie concurred. “This opportunity for my mother to travel to Babson College has been life-changing for her. She has met students from all over the world who have given her insight into other cultures. She participated in many leadership activities and learned so much. This opportunity expanded her knowledge and gave her more confidence. I truly see her being a leader now, and not just a participant.

“My mother is still the same sweet, wonderful woman she has always been, but now OCC has opened her eyes into a new world for her. She was so scared to be a middle-aged woman going back to college – she thought she would fail or embarrass herself. With the help of the wonderful OCC faculty and programs they offer, she has truly excelled and became the most amazing person I know,” Stephanie said.

“I could not be more proud of what she has done. I want to thank OCC for giving me and my mother these opportunities to excel and thrive; it is truly a college dedicated to the community.”

As Lareau remarked, “I look back on the person I was when I first started and am so excited with my personal, professional, and educational growth. Every experience that I have at OCC becomes a life skill, and I want to share it, improve it, and promote it to the community and current and future students. I am so passionate about OCC! My experience at OCC has allowed me to be the very best me I can be!”

She concluded, “My husband, Jerry, and I as parents always emphasized the importance of education and how knowledge opens the doors to many opportunities. He has his degrees from Memphis State, my daughters have theirs, and now I will have mine!” ■

– Juliet Kaszas-Hoch, *Staff Writer*



# Student Spotlight



## Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program: A Leadership Experience

Ocean County Student Support Services Specialist (SSS) Amy Immordino had no doubt that student Kaylen McCaffrey, this year's President of the SSS Club, would be an ideal candidate for the prestigious Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program.

"Because I am Hispanic and have overcome many obstacles to be where I am," McCaffrey noted, Ms. Immordino "thought I would be a good fit" for the eight-week summer program, which is geared toward leadership and professional development for Hispanic college students in New Jersey.

"I arrived to the United States from Costa Rica when I was 14 years old, and I attended high school until sophomore year," McCaffrey explained. "At that time, I dropped out due to family issues.

"I decided to get my GED in 2013 and applied to Ocean County College," where she is currently studying liberal arts. She hopes to pursue a master's in psychology, and eventually work with abused children or women with eating disorders.

Immordino pointed out that McCaffrey, of Jackson, was one of just 20 students chosen from more than 1,000 applicants to be a part of the Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program, which provides participants an internship experience.

As stated on the program application, online at nj.gov, "Our students work in a government, corporate, or non-profit setting and participate in leadership training seminars conducted by a team comprised of the Center's staff, government officials, business professionals, and current and/or former elected officials who are each experts in their respective fields."

"After applying and being accepted, I was placed with The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ), where one of my responsibilities was planning the 9th Annual Latino Parenting Conference," said McCaffrey. "I called sponsors, contacted guests, got donations, and sent invites. My other responsibilities included distributing pregnancy tests to women entering the clinic and translating for Spanish-speaking clients."

The Center for Hispanic Policy, Research, and Development chose the CHSofNJ as a program placement site, as a June 13 online article for *The Trentonian* explained. "Interns chosen for the program are given the opportunity to work closely with experienced professionals, where they will learn to assess their own leadership styles and communication skills," the article notes. "In turn, the students will provide additional professional support to organizations such as CHSofNJ," a not-for-profit child and family service agency.



“The students selected to participate were chosen from a large and competitive pool of candidates. We believe they are bright, motivated, skilled, and very talented,” Abraham Lopez, Executive Director of The Center for Hispanic Policy, is quoted in the article.

As McCaffrey explained, “On Wednesdays, we attended leadership seminars, and one of the things I took away from the seminars was pride in being a Latino woman. Sometimes we, as Latinos, are ashamed of our accents, but I learned that I have value and I can make a difference as a Latino woman. I worked in a non-profit, and my experience showed me that there is a lot of need in the community. My eyes were opened to the fact that you need to have a lot of heart to work with these people, and it confirmed for me my desire to be a psychologist.

“The most impactful moment of the experience was meeting motivational speaker, Rod Colon,” McCaffrey continued. “He spoke about how to be masters in networking, and most importantly, I learned that ‘I am the CEO of me.’ He said that, ‘I am a business owner, and my business is me. I have been running my business for 28 years, and I need to approach interviews as a business owner who has something to offer other businesses.’

“As a result of his presentation, I created my own motto: ‘From Ashes to Beauty.’ At the conclusion of the program, I was asked to be a speaker at the graduation, and I was able to share the story where I’m from and how I got to where I am today.”

And where she is today – at OCC – means a world of opportunities and learning experiences, and a bright future ahead.

“Through all of its offerings, OCC ensures that its students are successful,” said McCaffrey, who is involved in the Kean and Ocean Christians Club in addition to serving as President of the SSS Club.

The latter, she remarked, “increases students’ academic success rate by providing tutors, counselors, and advisors who can help students with any questions they may have. The employees worry about all aspects of the student, from emotional to financial to academic.”

“Kaylen is very inspiring in her role as President of the Student Support Services Club,” noted Immordino.

“She creates a positive environment, and she listens to what everyone has to say. She is deeply connected to being a student leader on campus, and I have seen her motivate her peers to get involved with the SSS Club sponsored events, and leadership opportunities on campus.”

She is, Immordino concluded, simply a “dynamic” student, and a valuable member, and leader, of the OCC community. ■

– Juliet Kaszas-Hoch, *Staff Writer*



## Business Students Honored

Ninety-one business students from the School of Social Science, Human Services, and Business were initiated into Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG). The initiation ceremony was held in May 2014. ABG is a national business honor society established in 1970 to recognize and encourage scholarship among college students in business curricula. Invitation letters are sent to students who achieve an overall GPA of 3.0, have a business-declared major, and have 12 degree-level credits completed.

During the ceremony, three students were also initiated into Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX), the national paralegal honor society founded by the American Association for Paralegal Education. Candidates for membership in LEX must be in good academic standing, have completed at least two-thirds of their paralegal coursework, have a minimum overall GPA of 3.5 with a minimum GPA of 3.75 in paralegal courses, must demonstrate a commitment to the paralegal profession, and exhibit ethical behavior.

Business Studies faculty Associate Professor (ABG Advisor) Hank Schwartz and Professor (LEX Advisor) Edward Kissling gave welcoming remarks and installed the new members. Associate Professor (ABG Co-Advisor) Barbara Napolitano presided over the candle lighting ceremony. ■



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Festival** June 12-13, 2015

## Alumni Stay to Make Waves at Ocean

At Ocean County College, many employees devote a large part of their career to the institution, and several of those long-term and dedicated staff members are alumni! Given the nature of our modern economy and workforce, it is unique to have such an extensive list of employees giving 10, 20, 30, and even 40 years of service to the College. But what is even more fascinating are the stories of past students who endeared OCC so much that they chose to come back to the school for employment, and some actually never left! In fact, 22% of full-time employees at the College are alumni. The staff members included in this feature demonstrate a true commitment to OCC and are proud alumni still making waves at Ocean.

**T**HERESA “TRACY” WALSH '82, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING: Commonly known as Tracy, Walsh graduated from OCC's

nursing program in 1982 and went on to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degrees from Seton Hall University.

Walsh served as an OCC faculty member from 2006-2008 and has worked in a number of health care facilities including Deborah Heart and Lung Center, Community Medical Center, Saint Barnabas Behavioral Health Center, and Kimball Medical Center. In fall 2012, Walsh came back to the College as Dean of the School of Nursing and is working hard leading one of OCC's most popular programs. Currently, there are 350 students enrolled in the program and approximately 1,200 students are on the waiting list to enter!

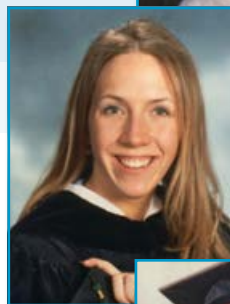
“OCC provided me with the foundation to practice nursing in a multitude of settings throughout my career. The School of Nursing instilled in me the importance of continuing my education. Faculty served as mentors challenging me to expand my knowledge and practice. It was my deep appreciation and respect for these mentors that led me back to OCC as a faculty member in 2006. I wanted to be able to provide students the same education and mentorship I had

received while studying here. Serving as the Dean of the School of Nursing is an honor for me. My education at OCC has prepared me for this role and the challenging profession of nursing,” Walsh explained.

In addition, there are a handful of nursing instructors, specialists, and office staff who are also alumni including Pamela Cooper '94, Tamila Purpuro '05, and Elizabeth Stevenson '99, all College Lecturers; Mary Ann Kaufmann '93, Nursing Skills Specialist; and Linda Wilson '00, Office Manager.

**J**ENNIFER FAZIO '01, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE, AND ALISON NOONE '99, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE: Fazio and Noone are the friendly faces and spirited leaders of OCC's Office of Student Life. But these two go beyond colleagues; they are best friends of almost 20 years. Their partnership started at Toms River High School, where they played in the band together. For their associate degrees, both women attended OCC and were very active on campus.

Noone started at OCC in 1997, and became Vice President of the Associated Students of OCC (student government), along with Editor of the college yearbook, *Barda*. During her time as a student, Noone worked in the Office of Student Life and served



as a campus Orientation Leader, 1998-1999.

In 1999, Noone began working full-time as Coordinator of Student Programming/Volunteerism. Today, 15 years later, Noone is the Assistant Director.

Fazio began at OCC as a student in 1999. She, too, was a student government Vice President, a student worker in the Office of Student Life, and a campus Orientation Leader. In 2002, Fazio joined OCC as a full-time Student Life Technician and 12 years later is Director.

It is clear that this pair's professional lives have mirrored each other, but their similarities continue! Over the last six years, they have been alternating maternity leave, both having beautiful families of three children, following the same birth order: girl, boy, and girl.



## 22% of full-time employees at the College are alumni.

**J**ACK KELNHOFER '95, INTERIM DEAN OF E-LEARNING: During his time as a student, Kelnhofer recalls two remarkably rewarding experiences. First, while in Prof. Bill Kanouse's creative writing course, he attended a writing seminar with Kurt Vonnegut. Kelnhofer had the opportunity to meet Vonnegut and asked how to keep up his enthusiasm for writing, to which Vonnegut replied, "If you don't write then nothing will get written." His second influential experience was serving as a Student Volunteer Tutor; this inspired him to go into teaching.



In 2008, Kelnhofer came back to OCC as an Adjunct Instructor in the English Department, then in 2010 joined as a full-time Lecturer.

Last spring, Kelnhofer was awarded "Professional Educator of the Year at OCC." He remains extremely popular among the students and is widely respected for his innovative teaching practices and commitment to educational excellence.

**T**RACEY FATIGANTE '00, OFFICE MANAGER FOR THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, SOCIAL SCIENCE, & HUMAN SERVICES: Fatigante began working at OCC in 1984 as a reservist and was hired as clerical support in the Social Science Department in 1989. Over several years, she served as a part-time employee, until 1993, when she became the full-time Office Manager for the Social Science Department. Fatigante credits Giarratana (see above) as the most helpful person when she first began at OCC.

"No matter how many times a day I would call her for assistance she always came to my aide. I have to say that the Social Science

Department has the best group of people that I have ever worked with. It feels like a family."

Fatigante began taking classes at OCC in 1993 and graduated in 2000. Her first professor was Karl Kleiner in an "Introduction to Business" course. Fatigante credits her experience in his class as instrumental in setting and achieving her goal to complete an Associate in Arts degree in Marketing.



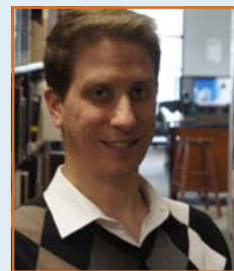
**W**ENDY GIARRATANA '78, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, SOCIAL SCIENCE, & HUMAN SERVICES: During her years as an OCC student, Giarratana was a Student Worker in the Business Department. After graduating, she secured a job in an insurance agency; however, she always wanted to work at OCC. Giarratana kept in touch with the department chair and the office assistant to see what the chances were of working in the Business Department again. One day, Giarratana got a call from the office assistant saying she was leaving and the position would be opening up. Giarratana immediately applied and the rest is history. She has been in the department for 34 years!

Working at OCC has enabled Giarratana to be involved as a professional member with Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity, and she has been recognized twice as "Professional of the Year." She also attended state and national competitions with advisors and faculty to help support OCC's business students in their endeavors.

"In my opinion, I work with the best faculty and staff I could ever ask for. After all of these years we are like family. These are

people I can always rely on for anything that I need. I have been very fortunate to have this job for this length of time, and to have met the people that will be in my life long after I retire," Giarratana said.

**J**OHN FOGLIA '05, SYSTEMS LIBRARIAN/COLLEGE LECTURER II – LIBRARY: When Foglia began at OCC, he had no idea what he wanted to do, so he did what he knew



best, which was photography and graphic design. This led him to become a Student Worker for the graphics academic department. He also served as the President of the Photography Club.

Upon graduating, Foglia answered an ad for a part-time Computer Lab Assistant at the OCC Library. His computer skills and customer service abilities helped him obtain the position. He transferred to Stockton College taking part-time classes while working. After his first semester, the Kean@Ocean program opened up and he immediately applied. During his Kean@Ocean years, Foglia's position went from part-time to full-time.

"I have never worked in an establishment that has appreciated my skills and knowledge more than the (OCC) Library," Foglia said. This inspired him to finish his Bachelor of Arts degree and start graduate school. Foglia decided to expedite this process and received his B.A. through Thomas Edison State College. He then enrolled in Drexel University's Masters in Library and Information Science degree through Drexel's iSchool, completing his entire Master's degree online.

"Many people look at my academic journey and comment how I bounced around

[continued on page 22](#)

# Alumni Feature

“ALUMNI STAY,” *continued from p.21*

from major to major and wonder if any of it was a waste. I can confirm that I utilize all my skills in photography, graphic design, customer service, history, and teaching every day. None of my education was wasted and it is why I love working and being a librarian. This college took a student that had no direction and who felt incredibly out of step and afforded me the opportunity to become a fully-fledged professional. I cannot thank everyone at OCC enough for seeing me through this journey. It continues to get better each day,” Foglia added.

**G**EOERGE BUONANO '10, HELP DESK SPECIALIST II, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: When Buonano was an



OCC student, he was President of the Gamer's Club. This led to a lot of good memories and lasting friendships he still has today. Later on, he happened to be out of

a job and heard there was an opportunity to be a Reserve PC Tech at Ocean, and figured it was worth a try. After being in that position for a year he was promoted to a full-time position on the IT Help Desk.

**L**ENABELL (LEE) M. MANNING '72 & '90, HUMAN RESOURCES INFORMATION SERVICES SUPERVISOR: When she first attended OCC in 1969, Manning was a member of the OCC Community Chorus under the direction of Prof. Charles Read. Manning was a music major and Prof. Read was an inspiring instructor who was instrumental in helping her to step out of her comfort zone and not be so shy.

Years later, Manning was working for an environmental lab when she attended OCC for the second time to get a degree in computers. Prof. Mary Burke was her favorite teacher and encouraged her to be the best she could be. When Manning's environmental lab job

was eliminated she saw an ad for a Human Resources Technician at OCC and applied.

“I love the work I do for OCC and enjoy my colleagues,” Manning said. “The OCC environment was and continues to be my other family.”

**L**AURA WAGNER '08, FINANCIAL AID TECHNICIAN: When Wagner was a student at OCC, her favorite class was “Principles of Accounting I” with Prof. Lynn Luper. “(She) shared such enthusiasm and love for the subject that it encouraged me to change from a psychology major to business,” Wagner said.

She always wanted to work in higher education so when the opportunity came to work at the College, she left her career in sales/media marketing to join OCC. Wagner enjoys helping the students understand how financial aid works and making it a less intimidating process for them.



**K**ATHLEEN T. LANGENBACHER '71, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE BOOKKEEPER: In 1971, Langenbacher graduated from OCC with an Associate in Arts degree. After 20 years in the corporate world, she returned to the College as an employee in 1988. While she worked full-time at Ocean, she attended Georgian Court University part-time in the evenings to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 2000. The following year, Langenbacher transferred to the position of Bookstore Bookkeeper and was extremely happy there for fourteen years and “loved having contact with our students.” In July 2014, she joined the Accounts Payable Department and “works with three great colleagues.”

“During my (time) at OCC, I have attained lifelong friendships and have stayed in contact with many people who have retired,” she said.

**L**AURA MANRESA '06, ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVE, AND JOY PRESS '04, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ADMISSIONS OFFICE: As part of her Master's program, Manresa came back to OCC as an intern in January 2014 and became a full-time employee in July. Manresa says that she enjoys being out in the community and making connections with prospective students. She is a big advocate for the school and all of the opportunities that are available for the students. “I wish I still was a student!”

In 2004, Press graduated Magna Cum Laude from OCC. She continued her education at Kean University and graduated in 2009 with a dual degree in education and history. She is a member of Kean's Honor Society and History Honor Society. She is



currently a graduate student at New Jersey City University pursuing a Master's degree in Special Education. Press started working at OCC in 1999 in the Registration and Records Office and now enjoys being an integral part of the Admissions Office. In addition to Manresa and Press, alumni Megan Springsted '87, Assistant Director, and Michael Palmerson '12, Reservist Orientation Leader, also work in the department.

All these individuals represent just a handful of alumni who dedicate their time, energy, and talents to Ocean County College as employees. The decisions of alumni to stay at OCC as employees indicates that beyond being an exceptional college where students receive a quality education, OCC is a community where people feel supported in an environment that offers advancement and permanence. ■

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

## THE RANDOM 10

...is a set of questions for an OCC alumn interviewed in the "Alumni Spotlight."

Here is **Nicholas Devlin's** "Random Ten."



### Nicholas Devlin, Class of 2014

Congratulations to Nicholas Devlin, '14, this year's Alumni Representative on the OCC Board of Trustees! Participating in governance roles at Ocean is nothing new for Devlin. It is quite evident that he made the most of his time here at OCC and embodied the notion of getting involved on campus.

Devlin held a very impressive and long list of leadership positions as a student at OCC. While not a fully inclusive list, his activities included: President of the Literature Club, Editor-in-Chief of *Seascapes* magazine, Leadership Retreat Participant, Student Government Vice-President, Interclub President, Academics Standards Senator, Chess Club Vice President, Animal Rights Club Treasurer, and OCC Vikings TV Network Treasurer. He was also able to balance his extracurricular activities with his academic pursuits, earning a regular place on the Dean's List and serving as a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges. Devlin noted that one of his most memorable experiences at OCC was attending the "Art in Japan" study abroad trip led by Lisa Cecere, Assistant Professor of Humanities and Fine Arts.

"I truly enjoyed meeting so many people who wanted to help and support each other," he said.

Since completing his Associate in Science in Computer Science, Devlin transferred to NJIT to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and completed a programming internship with Ellucian, a leading provider of Higher Education Technological Services. Devlin aspires to earn his Master's in Library Science and work in a college library specializing in academic research.

"I want to work in a field that helps everyone," he said. It should be noted that Devlin is a voracious reader who always has a book with him.

Devlin encourages current OCC students to join as many clubs as possible, without interfering with their classes, and to get to know their professors. "If a teacher doesn't know your name, that's a bad sign," he said.

It's no surprise that Devlin was recognized as one of the College's "Who's Who Among Students at OCC" and his ambitious spirit continues to be a welcomed presence on campus. ■

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

1 **Where were you born?**

Massachusetts.....



2 **Describe yourself in one word.**

Curious.....



3 **Who is your favorite author?**

E.E. Knight

4 **What are you currently reading?**

*First Lord's Fury* by Jim Butcher  
and *Dante's Inferno* by Dante Alighieri

5 **What is your dream vacation?**

Taking a cruise around the world.....



6 **If you won \$20 million in the Lottery, what would you do with the money?.....**

Pay off my college debt and then take more classes!

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

I have two...  
"World Literature"  
with Prof. Kelnhofer and  
"Discrete Math" with Prof. Gordon.



8 **I have always wanted to...?**

Become fluent in more than one language.....



9 **If you could meet one celebrity, who would it be?.....**

Bill Nye (The Science Guy)

10 **Where do you see yourself in 10 years?.....**

Having a fulfilling career, married, and with kids.





## Poul Erik Graverson, Class of 2008

In 2006, at the age of 31, I decided it was finally time to go to college. I was married and had a newborn son at that time, and wanted a better life for my family and myself. The decision where to start was an easy one for me. At the time I lived in Brick and Ocean County College was a short drive away. It offered me an affordable option to try out college and make sure it fit. Furthermore, thanks to the helpful and encouraging counselors at the school, I was informed that credits would easily transfer to a state school if and when that ever became something I wanted to do. I was so unsure of myself, that I didn't tell anyone outside of my wife that I had returned to college until after I had completed one semester, when I felt confident and comfortable with my decision to return.

Not knowing exactly what I wanted to study, or do professionally beyond school, I decided to take a number of classes that interested me. I took the requisite English and history classes, just like everyone else, but I was also taking language classes like French and Spanish. I tried to take electives that interested me, such as art history with Prof. (Marilyn) Kralik, a great teacher. She encouraged me to pursue my interests and take the classes I wanted to take. I decided to take an anthropology class, as well. Always

having been fascinated by archaeology, but never really knowing too much about it, I thought it would be a fun class. I never considered it to be a career field with any possibility of pursuing it beyond that.

My teacher for the anthropology class was Prof. Christine Kitchin, an archaeologist with a story somewhat reflective of my own. She too returned to school later in life as a nontraditional student. She too wanted to pursue a career in a field that fascinated her, instead of getting the standard business degree and following others down a more traditional path. I doubt that Prof. Kitchin realized the profound impact that she had on my life during that time period. She not only fostered my love of archaeology, but she inspired in me a feeling of "You can do it, too." Her positive feedback and encouragement motivated me to continue my pursuit of happiness in a scientific field, which I never thought possible previously.

I finished classes at Ocean County College in December 2007 and officially graduated with an Associate degree in Liberal Arts in May 2008.

In January 2008, I followed another recommendation of Prof. Kitchin and continued my studies, attending her alma mater, Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where I studied under some of the same professors

as she did. Two years later, I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Geology. At Ocean County College, I made the Dean's List and followed this up with an honor's program at Rutgers. I read everything and excelled in my classes thanks to teachers, like Prof. Kitchin and Prof. Kralik, who continued to support and inspire a nontraditional student like myself.

While still attending Rutgers, thanks to a professor at that school who I connected with, I was given my first job in archaeology. This job was not glamorous and not high paying, but was a foot in the door, which opened into the world of professional archaeology. It was at a cultural resource management (CRM) firm. CRM archaeology firms employ at least 80% of archaeologists throughout the United States. CRM work is the survey, investigation, documentation, and mitigation of archaeological sites and buildings by professional archaeologists, among other disciplines, prior to impacts most often caused by construction. CRM work came to be thanks to federal laws, most importantly Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act.

After graduating from Rutgers, I moved on to Monmouth University, where after another two years I received my Master's degree. All the while I continued to work



within the CRM field, learning more about the field of archaeology and building upon my experience.

The best way to learn archaeology; is to do archaeology. Get out and dig! I attended various digs early on in my career, first by attending field schools, and later by volunteering my skills on digs as an assistant, once I had some knowledge and time under my belt. No, I was not paid for this work, but it has paid off in building my experience level, honing my skills, and adding impressively to my resume. By the time I was attending Monmouth University for my Master's degree, I had worked either professionally or as a volunteer in eight states up and down the East Coast and even did a dig in Israel with the Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

It's important to add that throughout my academic career, I always had to work full time. For many years, I went to school full time and worked full time. When I did volunteer for archaeological digs, this was often done by taking time off work. I did apply for various small scholarships and funds that helped ease the burden of volunteering for some of the far flung excavations that I was involved in, including a rock shelter excavation in Tennessee and a Roman city excavation in Tiberias, Israel. The full-time work was to pay for a mortgage, food, clothing, and the other essentials of life. School, ultimately was paid for at the time with loans.

After graduating from Monmouth, I got a job doing archaeology for a CRM firm in New York City. Around that same time, I was awarded a partial scholarship with the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. I am now a part-time Ph.D./doctoral candidate at that school, studying historical archaeology.

About two and half years ago, I was in the right place at the right time and landed my dream job in the world of archaeology. I am continuing my career as a professional archaeologist, working for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), which is part of the Department of Defense (DOD). I

live and work in Hawaii, with my office located at the Pearl Harbor Naval Station in Honolulu. My position at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) has me traveling all over the world, to some rather exotic locations, where I work with other professional archaeologists, physical anthropologists, historians, analysts, and military personnel in order to recover and repatriate fallen American soldiers from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

I have done fieldwork on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, as well as in Belgium and Germany. I have worked on other cases in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, the Philippines, the United States, Poland, France, and the Netherlands. Thanks to my position as a professional archaeologist with JPAC, a world of opportunities and excitement has been opened up to me. I get to fly on large military aircraft and train with military personnel doing dunker training, mountaineer training, and mountain first aid courses. I am able to give back to my country in a unique way I never thought possible. And to think it all started at Ocean County College less than ten years ago.



I hope others will find their experience at Ocean County College as rewarding as I did. It is the beginning of a journey, which can lead anywhere. With teachers like Prof. Kitchin and Prof. Kralik continuing to inspire students, I'm sure they will. I hope in this short piece, new students find the confidence and courage within themselves, which I lacked when I first started out on this road, to pursue their dreams and follow their own path. A world full of potential and wonder is waiting for you. All you need to do is take that first step and follow it up with another. Stick with it, follow through, and you can do it, too. ■

*If you are a current or prospective OCC student, or an OCC alumnus, feel free to email Poul Erik Graverson, [poulgrave@aol.com](mailto:poulgrave@aol.com), with questions and he'll do what he can to assist you.*

## Pamela Caporale Falcone Class of 1981



It has been my good fortune to have had the opportunity to attend Ocean County College. I was determined to go to college and OCC afforded me this opportunity beautifully.

I completed an Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts in 1981 and was fully prepared to enter an undergraduate degree program. Ocean County College was my only opportunity to go to college. At this school I was able to enter a work/study program to help with the costs of attending. The academic track program was excellent in every respect from content to skills to proficiency requirements. I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend such a fine educational program that I found at Ocean County College. It has been the foundation of my higher education obtainment.

I readily stepped into a four-year program at Georgian Court College and graduated two years later with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. I began my teaching career shortly after that and taught in the public schools in Manchester Township for 16 years. During this time I went on to complete a Master's degree in Psychology and Education at Seton Hall University in 1989.

*continued on page 26*

“PAMELA CAPORALE FALCONE,”  
continued from p.25

I returned to Ocean County College as an adjunct instructor teaching “Child Psychology” during the academic school year of 1994-95. It was my privilege to do so for the college which gave me all I needed on my way to completing my undergraduate degree.

Ocean County College continues to remain a place of learning, culture, and exploration for my family, whether we are attending art exhibits, theater shows, or planetarium visits.

It is my joy to share that at the close of my teaching career of 16 years I wrote a children’s and family novel, *Epiphany The Twelve Gifts of Christmas* (Tate Publishers 2014). My book encompasses a story about the most valuable gifts we have to share and the greater meaning of Christmas. Journey with me and share this story with your family.



Book Synopsis: *Sister Bernini, a Franciscan nun and teacher, wants to bring a change of heart and mind to her students. She seeks to make a change through teaching about the ‘Twelve Days of Christmas.’ The students participate in a day by day unfolding of each of the twelve gifts of Christmas, the greatest gifts in life that we all possess if we choose to embrace them. They are the gifts of friendship, learning, reading, the love of family, creating with one’s hands, cooking, and so on. This book will embrace the hearts and minds of all who read it. Its depth speaks to us all about the greater gifts of life that we can celebrate by reaching for a deeper understanding about life’s greatest gifts. ■*

## College At Any Age

George G. Tozzini, Class of 2006

Approximately 16 years ago, I had the curiosity and desire to put my hands in mud, and find out what pottery was all about. It was then that I found out about the ceramic course being taught at OCC. Not only did I sign up for “Ceramics I,” but continued with “Ceramics II, III, and IV” ... as a matriculated student, without even giving it a thought about going for a degree.

The ceramic course at the time was given by Prof. Lisa Cecere (Assistant Professor of Humanities), who was and still is, in my opinion, one of the most outstanding ceramics instructors in the state of New Jersey, even outside of that perimeter. I know of no one who has the patience, knowledge, dedication, and ability to teach ceramics to the students and the public, every phase of ceramics, like Prof. Cecere can.

While attending ceramics my curiosity about oil painting began bugging me; I’ve always loved the arts and I said “Why Not?” What a wonderful discovery. I may not be a Rembrandt, but the feeling of applying your thoughts and imagination on canvas became exhilarating. I signed up for “Painting I” with Prof. June Wilson. One of the finest painting instructors in the state, who has received numerous awards and high merits for all her works, which still stand for the public to view in this state.

Taking “Painting I & II” with Prof. Wilson was so enjoyable, and unique, because she held one of her classes in the evening, which allowed many students and adults the flexible time needed for their daily schedule. Not only did Prof. Wilson teach all phases of painting, but her numerous trips with students to art galleries, museums, and legal aspects with the art world, was an education in itself. She allowed me to attend a presentation of Andrew Wyeth’s works at Monmouth University, a gala event, one which I can never forget; Andrew Wyeth

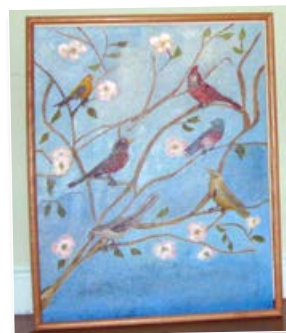
became my mentor, a great realist painter of our times, who has passed on only a few years ago.

It was during this period that I continued taking ceramics and painting as a non-matriculated student, that I became so interested in the arts, that I started taking courses part-time and eventually completed my degree for graduation, which took place in May 2006.

Sixteen years ago I was 67 years old. In July of (2014), I have celebrated my 83rd birthday. I still continue with my ceramics and oil painting. Here’s an eye opener. One of the courses that I took at OCC for credit was real-estate. After passing that course, I applied for the state test, passed it, and now I’m an active real-estate agent for one of the finest brokers, Coldwell Banker Riviera Realty in Manahawkin, NJ.

My greatest quotation, (although I don’t remember the author, “Grant to me O Lord, eyes to see beneath the surface, ears to hear both what is said and what is meant, and above all, a tongue guided to know when to keep silent and when to speak, and even then to choose just the right words to convey, truth, mercy, and consolation in love.” ■

*Editor’s Note: Ocean Views is so appreciative to have received this letter from George. What wonderful memories and such great accomplishments! His is a true testament for all that someone can do after they retire. Thanks George!*



## A Message from the Director

### Greetings Alumni!

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the newly appointed Director of Alumni Relations, Development, and Grants at Ocean County College. While I may be new to this specific position, I have been working at OCC since 2011 when I started as Adjunct Instructor of Sociology and then transitioned into a full-time Lecturer position in 2013.



As I begin this new role, my first priority is to get to know you, our alumni family, and create more opportunities to bring us all together for fun and meaningful events. With OCC celebrating its 50th Anniversary last year, 2015 is a perfect time for our Alumni community to grow with the College.

In the coming weeks and months, I'll be sharing information about exciting new initiatives at OCC and within the Alumni Office. I'd also love to learn more about you and your interests so we can establish activities that build an engaged and active Alumni network.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions, or just to say hello!

Go Vikings!

Rebecca Feiler White

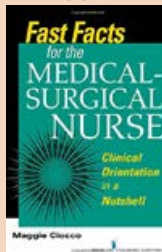
Director of Alumni Relations, Development, and Grants

rfeiler-white@ocean.edu

732-255-0400, ext. 2443

## Share news about your career, education, and family!

**Maggie Ciocco '88**, recently had a book published by Springer



Publishing entitled *Fast Facts for the Medical-Surgical Nurse: Clinical Orientation in a Nutshell*. Maggie has worked as a Clinical Instructor and Adjunct Instructor for the College's Nursing program, and is currently a per diem Lab Reservist at OCC.

**Maureen Conlon '04** completed a Master of Science in



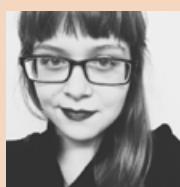
Management from Thomas Edison State College. Her thesis was titled "The Impact of Social Networks on Brand Equity." Maureen is Manager of Web Services at OCC.

**Jennifer Crimmins '09** is engaged to **Joseph Bizzoco '03**. The



couple is planning a wedding for some time in October 2016. Jennifer graduated from The City University of New York School of Professional Studies.

**Breanna Little '13** is currently an International Studies major at



Ramapo College of New Jersey and is a Senator for the RCNJ Student Government Association. She is the Secretary and Treasurer of Sigma Iota Rho, the International Studies Honor Society, and recently attended the Model United Nations Washington, D.C. Conference. Breanna is also interning at the Museum of Tolerance New York and hopes to intern at a nongovernmental organization in the spring.

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## EXPRESS UPDATE

The Alumni Office is eager to update our records to ensure we have your accurate contact information and communication preferences. Please complete this form online at [www.ocean.edu/alumni.htm](http://www.ocean.edu/alumni.htm) or fill out this "Express Update" form and mail it back to our office. All updates received via mail by February 28, 2015 will be entered in a drawing to win an OCC Gift Basket valued at \$50!

Your time and participation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Name (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (middle) \_\_\_\_\_ (last) \_\_\_\_\_

Name at Graduation (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (middle) \_\_\_\_\_ (last) \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Alumni on the Move

Continued from p.27 .....



**Ryan Patrick Matthews '12** had his artwork featured in an exhibit "From Thomas the Tank Engine to the White Pass" at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Art Department Gallery. In addition, Ryan's personal story as an autistic artist was featured in a documentary short entitled *Basically Me*.



**Michael Palmerson '12** graduated from Kean University with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Michael is working in the OCC Admissions Office and at Toms River Regional Schools as a substitute teacher.



**Heather Tatarian '09, Brian M. Van Nortwick Jr. '11, and Magdalena Banas '08**, participated in OCC's Completion Convocation as alumni speakers sharing their experiences and their accomplishments since graduating to inspire students to complete their associate degree. This presentation was part of a week-long series of events to promote awareness of degree completion.



**Karen Geiger Trump '99** was honored with her family as "Beachwood Citizens of the Year" for their dedication and service to the city's Soccer Club and Micro Program. Karen played on the OCC Women's Soccer team as a student and after graduating coached the team with great success. Last winter, she was inducted into OCC's Athletic Hall of Fame.



**Dr. Tyler C. White '04** was appointed to serve on the Brick Mayors Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Addiction. The Council is a group of community members working to change the state of the community in regards to prevalence of drug and alcohol use and abuse. ■

## 2014-2015 ANNUAL ALUMNI APPEAL

Thank you to our 2014 Annual Alumni Appeal Donors! Each contribution is greatly appreciated and supports Ocean County College's tradition of excellence in education.

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**Azucena S. Wong**  
**John Zarzyski**  
**Zodiac Aero Evacuation Systems**

## “Aqua Kids” TV Show Features Barnegat Bay Episodes

Thanks to the efforts of the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP), the new season of “Aqua Kids,” a nationally syndicated children’s television program, features eight exciting episodes about the Barnegat Bay. The Barnegat Bay programs cover terrapins, wetlands, maritime forests, dunes, sustainable fishing, clamming, stranded marine mammals, maritime history and culture, and more.

“Aqua Kids” aims to motivate today’s youth to take an active role in protecting and preserving our marine environments. In the shows, a group of enthusiastic young adults get into the water and out on the marsh as they explore marine environments through hands-on experiences. Viewers feel as if they are part of the action, and episodes highlight information about how to get involved and make a difference.

Earlier this year, the BBP was contacted by George A. Stover III, creator and producer of “Aqua Kids,” about shooting in the Barnegat Bay region. BBP staff provided ideas, contacted partners about participating, and assisted with coordination of the schedule. In June, George and his crew of *Aqua Kids* and technical staff spent eight days shooting segments throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed.

The eight Barnegat Bay episodes will be broadcast during “Aqua Kids” Season 10 on two local television stations, WMBC (Saturdays at 7:00 a.m., Channel 18 on Verizon Fios) and WPHL (Sundays at 7:00 a.m., Channel 255 on Comcast or Channel 19 on Optimum). The Barnegat Bay episodes began airing in October and continue through January 2015. Episodes can also be viewed on YouTube through a link from the “Aqua Kids” website, <http://www.aquakids.tv>, or from the BBP website’s Video Gallery, <http://bbp.ocean.edu/pages/337.asp>.

While not specifically about the Barnegat Bay, the first episode of the season, “Mussels and Water Quality,” <http://youtu.be/RGVMC2slpvQ>, features



**“In June, George and his crew of Aqua Kids and technical staff spent eight days shooting segments throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed.”**

*– Find “Aqua Kids” episodes at their website, [www.aquakids.tv](http://www.aquakids.tv)*

Andrew Pidduck, a student at MATES. He joined the “Aqua Kids” team while volunteering with the BBP during summer 2014. An avid fisherman from Point Pleasant Beach, Andrew assisted BBP science staff with the Long Term Juvenile Fish and Nekton Seining project.



Georgian Court University, ReClam the Bay, Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences, Viking Village, Tuckerton Seaport, Marine Mammal Stranding Center, Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, and Sea Pirate Campground. ■

– Karen Walzer,  
*Public Outreach Coordinator,  
Barnegat Bay Partnership*

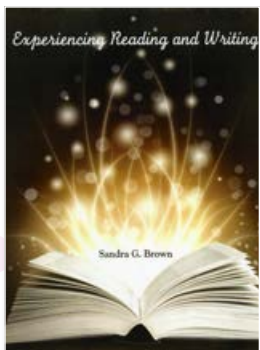


**Maureen Alexander**, Academic Administrator for the School of Business, Social Science, and Human Services, received a Master of Administrative Science (MAS) from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management.

**1** OCC was honored with the Toms River-Ocean County Chamber of Commerce's Business Beautification of the Year Award for the campus's addition of the Gateway Building. The presentation was made at the Chamber's 50th Annual Awards Reception. The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation was honored as the Distinguished Organization of the Year. **Heather Barberi**, OCC Foundation Executive Director, and **Jan Kirsten**, Executive Director of College Relations, served on the Awards Reception Committee.

**David Bordelon**, Associate Professor of English & Literature, had an article, "How Do We Stop It?: Strategies for Pushing Back Corporate U," published in *Thought and Action*.

**2** **Dr. Sandra Brown**, Professor of English & Humanities, published with Kendall Hunt, *Experiencing Reading and Writing*, a textbook



written to help developmental college students improve, and ultimately transform, verbal, and cognitive ability required for success in all courses, uniquely utilizing transactional reading and writing process theory. The widely accepted rhetorical model is arranged in order of complexity, noting in particular the differences among the brain's psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. The book is available in the OCC Bookstore and online through Kendall Hunt.

College Relations received four 2014 Medallion Awards from The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). The Medallion Awards recognize excellence in community, technical, and junior college marketing and public relations activities. Awards were received for: Annual Report, Barnegat Bay Program – Gold; Logo Design, OCC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Bronze; Notes/Cards/Invitations, Gateway Building Grand Opening – Silver; and Website, Launch of the New OCC Site – Bronze. Congratulations go out to **Scott Bruinooge**, Coordinator of Publications, who designed the annual report, logo, and invitations; and **Maureen Conlon**, Manager of Web Services, who coordinated implementation of the new website.

**Eileen Buckle**, Director of Financial Aid; **Sabreena Joynes**, Assistant Director of Payroll; and **Ed Tafaro**, Executive Director of IT presented at the annual NJRUG (New Jersey Regional Users' Group) hosted by OCC. The conference serves as a networking opportunity for future collaborative efforts. There were over 150 attendees from 20 institutions representing 13 community colleges and 7 four-year colleges and universities. Instrumental in coordinating the conference were **Karen Papakonstantinou**, Controller and NJRUG President, and **Elise Barocas**, Director of Accounting and NJRUG Treasurer. As a result of the success of this conference, the 2015 conference is scheduled to be held at OCC in June.

**Kathryn Caro**, Nursing and Allied Health Administrator, along with **John Knight**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Humanities, and **Marilyn Knight**, CPE Instructor, co-presented "A Formula for Success: A Mix and Match to Non-Credit Certificate Completion," at Georgian Court University's Good Ideas Conference and the NJ Council of County College's Best Practices Conference. Their presentation, pertaining to online health care programs, was selected for the NJ EDGE Annual Conference. This will be the first year that Continuing and Professional Education is included at the NJ EDGE conference. **Jeff S. Harmon**, Executive Director of e-Learning, also presented "Faculty Tested, Middle States Approved: Online Assessment of Student Achievement at Ocean County College Drives Classroom Change" at the NJ EDGE conference.

In October 2014, **Allison King** became the new Vice President of e-Learning and Enterprise Initiatives, overseeing all existing e-Learning and Continuing and Professional Education operations. As part of the newly restructured division, **Patricia Fenn** became the Assistant Vice President of Continuing & Professional Education (CPE), Workforce Development, and Community Services. She will be expanding the current offerings of CPE, penetrating untapped markets for the College, and overseeing School Relations and ESL initiatives.

**Bob Kumpf**, Director of Security, **Sydney Stroman**, Security Lieutenant, and **Jan Kirsten**, Executive Director of College Relations, attended training sponsored by the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. The program, entitled “The Aftermath, Higher Education Active Shooter Recovery Workshop,” provided an overview of planning; economic recovery; health and social services; relationships with local, state, and federal partners; and public information and warning systems. The workshop included three modules: Active Shooter - First 24 Hours, The First Week, and Long-Term Recovery. A version of this workshop was conducted as part of College Security Training (14 officers received Security Officers Registration Act training). Officers who completed the training found it to be extremely beneficial, which suggests that it should be expanded to other areas of the College. In addition, Kumpf is President of New Jersey CUPSA (College and University Public Safety Association), an organization consisting of 40 colleges and universities, with 1,800 police and security professionals protecting over 350,000 students.

3 **Cristo Leon**, Interim-Associate Director of e-Learning, was nominated to serve on the board of the Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity Group. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing in the community and to make simple, decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. People from all walks of life work together in partnership to build houses with families in need.

4 **Joe Pelkey**, Programmer Analyst, Ellucian/OCC, and OCC graduate 2012, placed second in a statewide cybersecurity competition, the NJ Governor’s Cup CyberChallenge. Governor Chris Christie challenged students from across the state in an effort to identify and develop NJ’s best talent in cybersecurity in response to a demand for well-trained individuals with significant hands-on cybersecurity skills. Pelkey was a top 40 scorer from 950 registrants for the preliminary testing, finished among the 25 top performers

of the 104 finalists, and was then invited to be one of ten participants at the NJ Cyber Aces Academy, which is funded through a two-year National Science Foundation grant. Participants will receive \$25,000 in free online/self-study master’s level cybersecurity courses from the SANS Institute, a company that specializes in information security and cybersecurity training. Pelkey selected to study Advanced Forensics.



Under the direction of **Eileen Schilling**, Executive Director of Academic Outreach, and the staff from the Southern Education Center, the SEC’s ACAD classes completed several community projects, which included collecting food and clothing to benefit the Barnegat Food Pantry and Habitat for Humanity, as well as tending to the SEC’s existing garden. As a result of the students’ efforts, the SEC received a generous donation from Big Lots stores, including three garden benches, one of which is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Judith Icklan, former OCC Vice President of Economic Development, as well as a donation of beautiful planters and daffodils.

**Heidi Sheridan**, Assistant Professor of English & Literature, and **Lynn Kraemer-Siracusa**, Assistant Professor of English & Literature, presented “Cross Disciplinary Collaboration” at the Two-Year English Association Conference in Baltimore. The pair highlighted the benefits and drawbacks of both formal and informal cross disciplinary collaboration in today’s classroom, including the more formal Learning Communities that partner with the areas of Student Success and EOF and the more informal collaborations between two professors from different disciplines teaching two different courses.

5 **Mark Wilson**, College Lecturer II, Humanities & Fine Arts, appeared on “Comcast Newsmakers.” He spoke about the new Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts and upcoming programming. ■

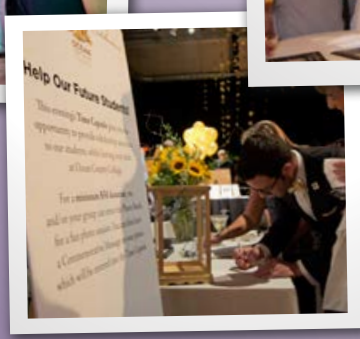




## Alumni Help Make Scholarship Celebration a Success

The OCC Foundation netted over \$140,000 at its 50th Anniversary Scholarship Celebration in August. The annual event was held on OCC's Main Campus in Toms River. Proceeds will support the continuing development of the OCC Foundation's scholarship fund.

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





The evening's festivities included a sumptuous gourmet buffet, live entertainment, dancing, and silent auction. With close to 300 people in attendance, guests enjoyed live music provided by Fate. Food, for the fifth consecutive year, was prepared by Kessler's Catering.

The evening also featured two special guest speakers. The first, Philip G. Zitelli, was the evening's Honorary Chair. Zitelli has a special connection to OCC – he served as the first Student Government President and was also a member of the first graduating class. Among his comments, Zitelli commemorated the 50th Anniversary through a number of nostalgic stories about OCC's first years.

The second presentation was by Maria Pipitone, a 2009 graduate of OCC. "It must have been fate, because just as Ocean County College turned 50 this year – so did I," Pipitone shared with the audience. As a Foundation Scholarship recipient, Pipitone learned to give it her all while attending OCC. She graduated with a 4.0 with the help and support of professors and staff at both the Disability Resource Center and the Educational Opportunity Fund. Pipitone has since gone on to earn a Bachelor in Social Work from Georgian Court University and a Master of Social Work from Fordham University.

A video presentation highlighted the past 50 years at OCC and gave a glimpse into the future. In addition, this year's silent auction raised nearly \$22,000. Guests bid on an array of items including golf outings, sporting event tickets, vacations and entertainment packages, theatre tickets, collectibles, and gift certificates.

The Scholarship Celebration Chair was Kenneth J. Malagiere, owner of Narcissus Florals and also a member of the OCC Foundation Board of Trustees.

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

SAME GREAT EVENTS... NEW 2015 DATES

## Save the Date!

### Annual Scholarship Celebration

#### Saturday, June 20, 2015

6:00 p.m. • OCC Campus

## 14th Annual Golf Outing

### Fall 2015

Date TBD • Pine Barrens Golf Club • Jackson, NJ

For more information, call the OCC Foundation Office  
732-255-0492 or visit [www.ocean.edu](http://www.ocean.edu).

## Give the Gift of Education

The gift of education is life changing. It is a gift that can't be measured. Giving the gift of a scholarship has a tremendous impact on the lives of students, most often making a vital difference in their future.

**Permanently Endowed Scholarships** provide Ocean County College with a permanent asset from which students receive support. The gift becomes part of a larger fund managed by the Foundation, and scholarships are awarded annually from the earnings generated by the gift. The original principal amount remains untouched and is held in perpetuity.

The OCC Foundation currently holds over 45 permanently endowed scholarships. Naming an endowed scholarship is an opportunity to perpetuate your own interest in the College or to recognize or memorialize a loved one, friend, classmate, or business.

**Annual Scholarships** are established to generate one or more scholarship awards based upon the fund's principal amount. The principal is normally expended entirely on awards during an academic year. Unlike an endowed scholarship, an annual scholarship is not permanent and is awarded only as long as you (or others) choose to contribute to the fund.

Annual scholarships are a convenient and lower minimum investment option available to those who would like to distribute an award each year. Annual scholarship funds can also be established to memorialize a loved one or honor a special person.

**Dollars for Scholars** is for those that would like to assist students at OCC, but do not want to establish a permanently endowed or annual scholarship. This campaign is dedicated to raising funds to broaden the base of our scholarship program and provide much needed support to OCC students. Donors can participate by making contributions to the fund at any time in any amount.

When you give the gift of education, you provide critical assistance for talented students who otherwise could not afford to attend. You are making a true difference and shaping their lives. For more information, please contact the OCC Foundation office at 732-255-0492. ■

## OceanFirst Donation

For the fifth consecutive year, the OceanFirst Foundation has generously donated \$50,000 to the OCC Foundation to provide 50 incoming students with \$1,000 scholarships. Scholarship recipients are graduates of schools in the OceanFirst Bank service areas of Ocean and Monmouth counties with grade point averages of 3.0 or higher. They also must have entered as full-time freshmen in the fall semester. ■



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## OCC Hosts NJCAA National Soccer Championship

OCC was honored to serve as host for this fall's National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women's Division III National Soccer Championship Tournament, held November 13-16.

This prestigious event brought eight of the top women's soccer teams from around the country to OCC's Ocean County Stadium on the Main Campus for the four-day tourney. In addition to OCC's Vikings, participating teams included: Anne Arundel Community College, MD; Brookdale Community College, NJ; Genesee Community College, NY; Herkimer County Community College, NY; Nassau Community College, NY; Richland College, TX; and Rock Valley College, IL.

The Vikings Women's Soccer Team turned in an impressive fall campaign compiling a terrific 15-2 record in the regular season on its way to claiming the Region XIX Championship. That win earned the team a spot in the National Tournament.

According to Ilene Cohen, OCC Executive Director of Athletics & Judicial Affairs, and Championship Tournament Director, everyone at the College was excited to host this prestigious event. "Ocean County College was proud to welcome all the teams to the Jersey Shore for the 2014 NJCAA National Women's Soccer Championship," Cohen noted. "We hope that they enjoyed their championship experience!"

A total of 11 matches took place, concluding with the National Championship Game on November 16. The Vikings finished in fifth place and received the Team Sportsmanship Award, with the Tournament coming to a close with Brookdale earning the National Championship title.

"The Athletics Department would like to say thank you to the entire campus for its support. Many hours go into a tournament of this magnitude and we extend our gratitude to all the staff and volunteers who assisted in making this year's soccer tournament so successful," Cohen said.

In addition to coming in fifth place in the nation, many of the Vikings soccer players were recognized for their efforts, during the regular season, with various All-Region and All-GSAC honors, among other awards. In addition, Head Coach AJ Trump and Assistant Coaches Tracy Cole and Alyssa Morris were named Region XIX Coaching Staff of the Year!

Ocean Orthopedic Associates and the Ocean County College Foundation were tournament sponsors along with All Shore Screen Printing; Applebees – Doherty Enterprises, Inc.; Custom Lighting and Electrical Service, Inc.; Devil Brownies, LLC; Hands on Health Chiropractic, LLC; Hotels Unlimited; Jersey Mikes – Silverton, NJ; and Thompson Healthcare & Sports Medicine. ■





## Women's Volleyball Dominant in Inaugural Season

In their very first season at OCC, the Women's Volleyball Team compiled an impressive 18-2 overall record and a perfect 10-0 conference record. The squad took first place in the Garden State Athletic Conference Championship, and, in addition, played its way to the Region XIX Championships, where the women lost a

heartbreaker of a match to finish as runners-up in in the Region. A number of Vikings were named to All-Region and All-GSAC teams, and, in their first season at the helm, Head Coach Brett Killman and Assistant Coach Jennifer Kelemen were named Garden State Athletic Conference Coaching Staff of the Year. ■

## Cross Country Continued Hot Streak in Post-Season

After a fantastic regular season, the OCC Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams headed to Essex County College in late October to run in the Region XIX Championships. The Vikings swept the individual titles, as Liz Kowalski won the women's race and Kevin Charette took first in the men's contest. The women finished as champions of both Region XIX and the Garden State Athletic Conference, and placed an incredible five runners in the top seven. The men, meanwhile, finished strong as fourth in the Region. Six Vikings runners earned All-Region and All-GSAC honors, and Coach Ed Baynes was again named Region XIX and GSAC Coach of the Year.

The women finished 3rd at the NJCAA Nationals in Canandaigua, NY. Liz Kowalski was named 1st Team All-American for her 3rd place overall finish. Meghie Weinberger was named 2nd Team All-American for her 9th place overall finish. The men placed 12th overall and Kevin Charette was named a 1st Team All-American for his 5th place overall finish. ■



## Men's Soccer

OCC's Men's Soccer Team amassed a 9-7 record in the regular season this fall, and made it to the Region IX semifinals, losing a tough match to Bergen Community College in double overtime. Six Vikings soccer players earned All-GSAC honors, while five were named to All-Region teams. ■

## Women's Tennis

The Vikings Women's Tennis Team put together a strong season this year, including participating in the Region XIX Championship Tournament. One player made it to the championship match, and finished as the Region XIX runner-up, earning her a spot on the Second Team All-Region XIX. ■

# OCC ALUMNI BENEFITS

- Free OCC Alumni Rewards Membership for discounts, specials, and incentives
- Complimentary subscription to *Ocean Views*, the OCC Alumni newsletter
- Use of OCC pool
- Career Services
- Discounts on day trips, activities, and the Planetarium

Questions?  
Email us at [occalumni@ocean.edu](mailto:occalumni@ocean.edu)



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## March 19, 2015

Thursday • 10am – 2pm

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Bldg. #29 • College Drive, Toms River

For sponsorship opportunities and additional information,  
call 732.255.0400, ext. 2443.

*In case of inclement weather, the event will be held 3/20.*



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