

The Office of COMPUTER STUDIES NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS



Volume 3 Issue 1

March 2021



Welcome back from the winter break!

January marked the beginning of the spring semester and, for many, the sprint toward graduation in May. The College continues in a remote learning mode, and the CS faculty have been busy ensuring that the experience is as good, if not better than what we have come to expect of on-campus face-to-face classes.

- Dr. Sylvia Riviello

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DID YOU KNOW...

Students wishing to transfer to a 4-year school or to enter the workforce may need a copy of their transcript. Time is often of the essence, so you can generate an unofficial copy by going to your Student Planning/Progress page from Ocean Connect and selecting the Unofficial Transcript tab. When an official transcript is needed, visit <https://tsorder.studentclearinghouse.org/school/select>.

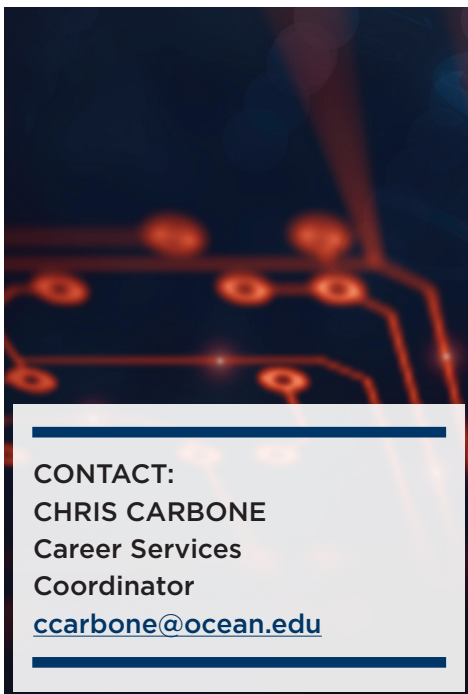
YOUR CAREER

If you're graduating, don't forget to apply for a *Certificate of Proficiency in Information Technology*. It's **free**. Contact your advisor or Dr. Cohen for more details.

Graduating students should also take advantage of our Career Services Program on campus. Services include:

- One-on-One Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- Career Counseling
- Industry Insight
- Internships and Employment Opportunities
- Interviewing and Networking Strategies
- LinkedIn and Social Media Optimization
- Online Career Assessments
- Career Database

Email Christopher Carbone (ccarbone@ocean.edu), and check out the Career Information research guide at ocean.edu/student-services/career-information-research-guide



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Career Services
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NEW THIS SPRING

The spring semester marks the first offering of a new course in the realm of Cybersecurity – CSIT200-Information Security Fundamentals. Students are taught the fundamental concepts and principles in the area of information security. This examines the relationships between and concepts involved in information assets, confidentiality, data integrity and availability, security threats and information damage.

CS TIP LINE

Hi Dr. Cohen,

I'm considering transferring to a 4-year school and they want letters of recommendation. Is there anything I should know? - Thanks. Macchiato

Dear Macchiato,

Over the years, many students have asked me to write letters of recommendation, and I'm more than happy to do so. These letters are written strictly on a voluntary basis.

But, you should keep a couple of things in mind.

1. Never specify someone without first asking their permission.
You'll probably get a letter that says that you didn't ask permission.
2. Set up an appointment to discuss your request in person. Do not make the request via email if possible.
3. Make sure that your professor knows you. The best letters are written by faculty who know you, from whom you have taken multiple classes and/or have completed substantial projects, have received very positive evaluations, and/or one you have seen many times during office hours. Otherwise, you might get a recommendation that only says that you were present in class.
4. It's best to choose a full-time faculty member rather than an adjunct instructor, preferably one with an advanced degree.

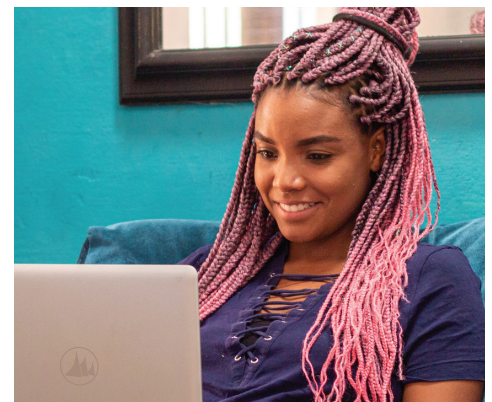


Lastly, should you choose a faculty member, employer or someone else, an effective recommendation letter should be written by someone who can:

- Evaluate your performance in your field of interest.
- Discuss your personal characteristics.
- Discuss your capacity to work with others.
- Discuss your leadership skills.
- Evaluate your level of professionalism (e.g., punctuality, efficiency, assertiveness).
- Discuss your academic skills — not merely experience, but your potential to succeed in graduate-level study.
- Evaluate you positively relative to others.

He or she also should be recognized in their field and be someone whose judgment is highly valued, as well as someone who has the skills to write a helpful letter.

Have an item you'd like to share or a question you need answered? Contact Dr. Cohen (gcohen@ocean.edu).



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CLUB NEWS

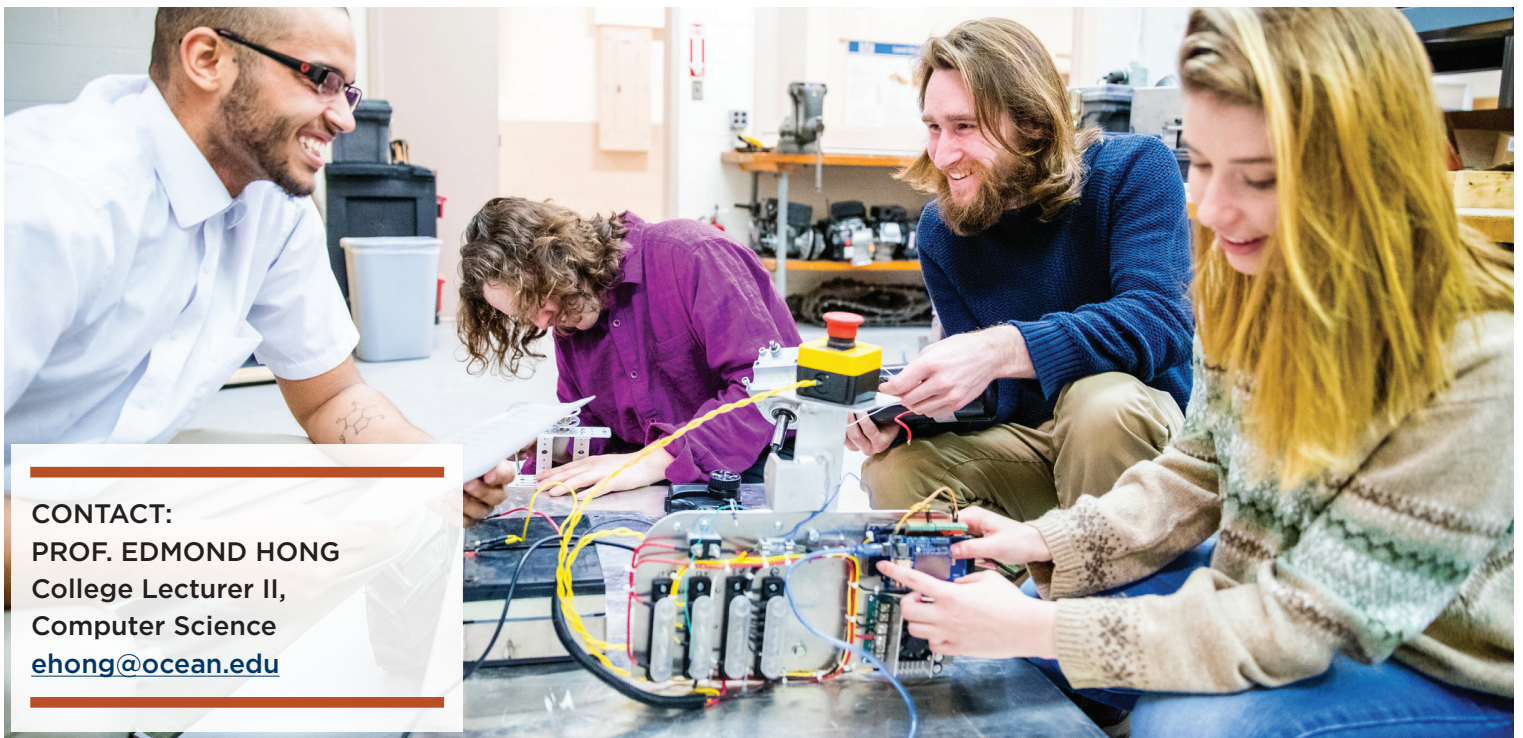
Makers Club:

This group of self-motivated, technology-based DIYers or inventors get together to be more creative and productive in a teamwork environment. Members utilize everyday objects or scrapped parts from daily life to make useful things. There is no limit on what we can do. Imagination is our driving force, hands-on is our culture, and science and technology are our tools. Due to the pandemic, we are unable to have group get togethers, but we are planning to promote some projects such as Arduino control/robotics programming in a virtual environment. We welcome new members to join our club, watch for details on Ocean Connect soon. Contact Prof. Hong for more information (ehong@ocean.edu).

Computer Science Club:

After an abbreviated start last spring, the CS Club is looking to reboot this spring. This spring also marks the continuation of the Cybersecurity seminar series.

If you are interested in a specific topic that you would like to explore or share, please contact Dr. Cohen (gcohen@ocean.edu).



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FROM THE FACULTY

From the Desk of Ken Michalek

Ocean County College is excited to become a member of Intel's Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Future Workforce Program. This program is offered to community colleges and vocational schools to accomplish three goals, which include enabling students to gain technical confidence in AI, enhancing employability for AI-related jobs and applying the AI training to produce solutions to industrial or social issues using AI.

To make this program a success, Intel offers training for faculty, access to prepared course lessons and over 200 hours of AI educational material, as well as assistance with the creation of an AI laboratory and an AI-based curriculum. OCC faculty will attend training during the months of January and February. The training and assistance from Intel will be used to offer new AI-based courses at OCC and new associate degrees (A.S., A.A.S.) in Computer Science with a concentration in Artificial Intelligence. A Certificate of Completion in Artificial Intelligence is also planned for industry professionals. The OCC AI program and degrees are expected to be available in the fall of 2021.



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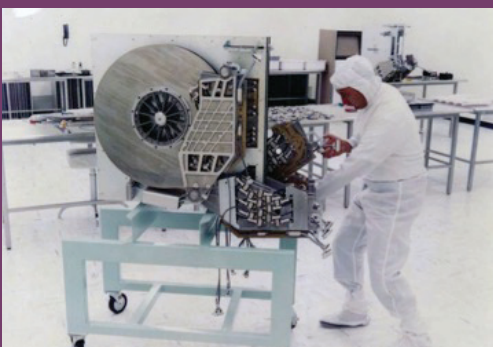


POTPOURRI

The first hard disk drive, like so many innovations in computing, came from IBM. It was called the IBM Model 350 Disk File and was a huge device. It had 50 24-inch disks contained inside a cabinet that was as large as a cupboard and anything but lightweight. This hulk of a storage unit could store a whopping 5MB of data.



An IBM Model 350 Disk File being delivered. Yes, that's ONE hard disk drive unit.



State of the art 250 MB disk drive from 1979

Although hard disk drives kept improving, state-of-the art disks were built according to the concept "bigger is better" well into the '80s. Hard disk drives were normally used together with big mainframe computers, so this wasn't such a big deal as entire rooms were set aside for these computers.

FROM THE FACULTY

From the Desk of Jonathan Weiss

The Ocean County College [Cybersecurity Curriculum](#) will officially launch with the spring 2021 inaugural offering [CSIT200, Information Security Fundamentals](#). Significant progress has been made with this curriculum since it was conceptualized in 2020. OCC has already defined the certificate and degree programs comprising the curriculum, become a member of the [National Cybersecurity Training and Education Center](#) in June 2020, and launched a Cybersecurity Seminar Series with distinguished speakers from the industry in the fall 2020 semester.

In addition, last month, the College was accepted as an Academia Partner for both [CompTIA](#) and the [EC-Council](#). These partnerships allow us to offer courses that prepare our students not only for the OCC certificates and degrees in cybersecurity, but also for the respective industry certifications: CompTIA's [Security+](#), and EC-Council's [Certified Ethical Hacker](#). We look forward to shepherding our students through these certification options.

Our Cybersecurity Seminar Series will also expand and continue into spring 2021 with the following committed speakers: [Edward Amoroso](#), CEO of TAG Cyber and former Chief Information Security Officer for AT&T, [Karl Siil](#), chief engineer of the cyber warfare systems group at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, and [Julian Cohen](#), former cryptocurrency CISO and principal for cybersecurity programs across various financial, healthcare, technology and defense industries.

We look forward to an exciting spring semester in Cybersecurity at OCC!

