

# OCEAN VIEWS

A Magazine for Ocean County College Alumni, Our College Family and the Community  
Summer - Fall 2022 • Vol. XVI: No. 2

## HAILEY SADOWSKI '22

- Founder/President: OCC Habitat for Humanity Chapter ✓  
Student Commencement Speaker ✓  
EOF Distinguished Scholar ✓  
Sigma Kappa Delta Member ✓  
Alpha Beta Gamma Member ✓  
Student Government Member ✓  
Phi Theta Kappa Member ✓  
Business Club Member ✓  
Jewish Club Member ✓  
Tri-Alpha Member ✓  
Viking Spirit Award ✓  
OCC Adjunct Award ✓  
EOF State Academic Achievement Award ✓  
Who's Who Among Students at OCC Award ✓



COMMENCEMENT  
SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

A magazine for Ocean County  
College alumni, our College family  
and the community

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*Ocean Views* is published biannually by the  
Office of College Relations, Ocean County College,  
College Drive, PO Box 2001,  
Toms River, NJ 08754-2001

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*Expect the Best*





## OCC Wins Prestigious Bellwether Award for Innovation

Ocean County College is the 2022 winner of the highly coveted Bellwether Award. This impressive achievement was announced during the 28th Annual Community College Futures Assembly in San Antonio on March 1.

The nationally recognized Bellwether Awards, presented to institutions with cutting-edge programs, are considered one of the nation’s most prestigious honors for community colleges—likened to football’s Heisman Award. Public community colleges from all over the United States are invited to apply, with ten finalists in each of three categories presenting their programs in a final round of competition at the assembly. One winner is selected from each category by a panel comprised of national experts.

OCC’s submission, *Meet Reggie: the AI Chatbot Transforming Ocean County College*, took first place in the Planning, Governance and Finance category, which recognizes programs that improve efficiency and effectiveness. Dr. Jerry

Racioppi, vice president of Student Affairs, Dr. Sheenah Hartigan, executive director of Enrollment Services, and Dr. Kate Mohr, assistant director of Enrollment Services, introduced the judging panel to OCC’s behaviorally intelligent chatbot, “Reggie.” Through direct engagement with students, “Reggie” elicits real-time data which enables OCC to take proactive measures to address individual student needs, adjust program delivery, and increase student registration, while maximizing the efficiency of academic and student support staff.

“Ocean County College is honored to receive the prestigious Bellwether Award,” said Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC’s president. “This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff and is an affirmation of the innovative spirit that contributes to the success of our students. We are proud to represent our community as a leading institution in the nation, and we are excited to continue working with our partners to meet the challenges facing community colleges today.”

“ This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff and is an affirmation of the innovative spirit that contributes to the success of our students. ” - Dr. Jon H. Larson, president of Ocean County College

## Ocean County College Earns Gold Status as a Military Friendly® School

Ocean County College received the 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School designation, with Gold Status ranking, in recognition of the College’s commitment, effort and success in supporting student veterans. The annual list identifies institutions that are setting the standard for military and veteran programs and initiatives.

OCC’s distinction as a Gold-level institution is a direct result of the rigorous efforts of the College’s Veteran and Military Resource Center, which has also been designated as a Center of Excellence for Student Veteran Success. The VMRC provides comprehensive support services for veteran and military-affiliated students to ease the transition to campus life and help them achieve their goals. The center serves as a central point of contact and coordinates support in various areas across campus, including admissions, registration, financial aid, academic and career advising, counseling, disability services and veterans’ benefits.

The Military Friendly® designation is based on extensive research using public data sources from more than 8,800 schools nationwide, input from student veterans, and responses to the proprietary, data-driven Military Friendly® Schools survey from participating institutions. Criteria for selection include student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.





## OCC Board of Trustees Names New Chair

Jerry J. Dasti has assumed the position of Chair of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees, succeeding Carl “Van” Thulin, Jr.

At a recent Board meeting, Mr. Thulin, who has served on the Board since 1984 and was elected to the chair in 2005, expressed his gratitude for being allowed to serve and confirmed that he will remain on the Board as an active member. The Trustees and Dr. Larson shared their appreciation for Mr. Thulin’s long and respected tenure, and applauded his decision to continue serving on the Board.

The newly elected Board officers include

Mr. Dasti, chair; Mrs. Linda Novak, vice chair; Mr. Frank Dupignac, treasurer; and Mr. Stephan Leone, secretary.

Mr. Dasti thanked the Board of Trustees for its confidence in his service as chairperson and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Thulin for his outstanding commitment to the College. Mr. Dasti, an attorney with Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Koutsouris and Connors in Forked River, was initially appointed to the OCC Board of Trustees in 1996. Prior to his current position, he served as Board Treasurer since 2005.

The Board of Trustees meets monthly in the campus Conference Center (Building #10). All meetings are open to the public. For the Board meeting schedule, visit [ocean.edu](http://ocean.edu).

“ We are taking steps to really open the door for students to come to college. ” - Jerry J. Dasti, chair of the Board of Trustees

## No Tuition Increase for Second Year

For the second year in a row, Ocean County College announced student tuition will not increase in the upcoming academic year. The College’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the tuition freeze at its monthly meeting in February.

“We are delighted to confirm that there will be no tuition increase in fall 2022,

expanding accessibility and affordability for students,” said OCC President Dr. Jon H. Larson.

The continued freeze on the tuition rate is part of OCC’s ongoing commitment to making college affordable and assisting students in reaching their educational goals without being burdened with mountains of student debt. In 2020, OCC bundled the cost of books and electronic course materials with tuition, an approach that

lowers out-of-pocket costs for students and may enable them to receive more financial aid. As a result of that structure, the zero-increase in tuition also means that the cost of books will not increase for the 2022-23 school year.

“We are very proud to be able to do this,” said OCC Board Chair Jerry J. Dasti. “We are taking steps to really open the door for students to come to college.”



## OCC Inducted into Toms River Regional Schools Hall of Fame

Ocean County College was inducted into the Toms River Regional Schools Hall of Fame as a 2022 Distinguished Honoree at the organization’s 26th Induction Dinner on May 22. The Distinguished Honoree award is presented to candidates who have made an outstanding contribution to the ideals and educational philosophy of the Toms River school system.

OCC has long been a partner and supporter of Toms River Regional Schools, committed to providing students in Toms River and the surrounding communities with

the opportunity to benefit from affordable, student-centered, and quality academic programs. Most recently, the partnership has been strengthened through the College Readiness and College Pathways programs, Early College opportunities, and the NJ STARS program, with additional exciting opportunities on the way.

“It is our belief that by working together, all of us are better equipped to help students learn and succeed, while also being a good neighbor in the greater community we serve,” said OCC President Jon H. Larson, accepting the honor on behalf of the college community. “Our partnership with Toms River Schools is a wonderful example of that.”



# GIA MAIONE PRIMA FOUNDATION STUDIO THEATRE OPENS

A DAY-LONG CELEBRATION OF DANCE, featuring the music of Louis and Gia Maione Prima, marked the dedication of the Gia Maione Prima Foundation Studio Theatre at the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 19.

Gia Maione Prima (1941-2013), a New Jersey native, was a singer and devotee of the fine arts, and the widow of famous jazz musician, singer and composer Louis Prima. In 2011, with assistance from her long-time friend and counsel, Anthony J. Sylvester of Sherman Wells Sylvester & Stamelman, LLP, she established the Gia Maione Prima Foundation to support and encourage appreciation for American jazz, popular music and jazz performance, as well as the fine arts.

Events celebrating the dedication of the black box theatre began with a performance from Carolyn Dorfman Dance in the world premiere of *PRIMA!*, with music highlighting the five-decade career of Louis Prima and his band. The afternoon also featured a performance by the Ocean County College

Dance Club, highlighting dance students of Ocean County College, and *Clairvoyant*, performed by the Grunin Performing Arts Academy Dance students and choreographed by Jessica Totaro.

An evening cocktail reception in the Grunin Performing Arts Academy lobby was followed by a performance from Louis Prima, Jr. and the Witnesses right next door on the Main Stage at the Grunin Center. Louis Prima, Jr., the son of Louis Prima and Gia Maione Prima, expressed his delight at performing in Toms River, his mother's hometown. Prima himself spent many childhood summers at the Jersey Shore, he told the crowd. He and his band performed several of his parents' most popular and memorable songs during the show, including "Sing, Sing, Sing," "I Wanna Be Like You," and "Jump, Jive and Wail."

The outstanding event was made possible through the support of the Gia Maione Prima Foundation in partnership with the Ocean County College Foundation, Ocean County College, and Ocean County Vocational Technical School Performing Arts Academy.



photo: Louis Prima Jr. & The Witnesses



photo: Carolyn Dorfman Dance



photo: Marco Palos, Anthony Sylvester, A.D. Adams



“ Louis Prima, Jr., the son of Louis Prima and Gia Maione Prima, expressed his delight at performing in Toms River, his mother's hometown. ”

# COMMENCEMENT

# D A



The OCC community gathered on the Gateway Building lawn to celebrate the Class of 2022 during the College's 55th Annual Commencement Week activities from May 24-26.

On Tuesday, May 24, graduates from OCC's nursing program received their nursing pins and recited their Dedication Pledge during the annual **Nurses' Pinning Ceremony**. The students successfully completed a two-year course of study leading to an Associate in Applied Science degree in Nursing during December 2021 and May 2022.

The following day, OCC recognized the outstanding achievements of graduating students at the **2022 Awards Ceremony**, presenting awards and scholarships totaling more than \$75,000.



Awards were made possible by supporters within the college community, community partners, and donors through the OCC Foundation.

The events concluded on Thursday, May 26, with OCC's **55th Annual Commencement**. More than 1,400 students received associate degrees and over 700 students attended the ceremony, which featured a keynote address from U.S. Congressman Andy Kim. OCC President Dr. Jon H. Larson welcomed the graduates and delivered the President's Remarks. Father G. Scott Shaffer of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church offered the invocation, and Gianna Mancuso, a member of the Grunin Performing Arts Academy's class of 2022, sang the National Anthem. Speakers included OCC Board of Trustees Chair Jerry Dasti; Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, president of Kean University; Commissioner Virginia E. Haines; and Student Commencement Speaker Hailey Sadowski from the OCC Class of 2022. Congratulations to our new graduates!

# OCC CONTINUES TO LEAD THROUGH INNOVATION IN STEM

**AS THE DEMAND GROWS** for a skilled workforce in STEM-related fields, Ocean County College continues to develop new and innovative programs to help students prepare for careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

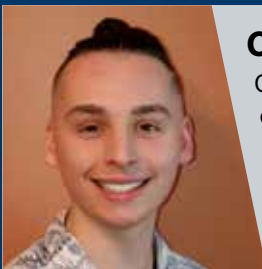
According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, an increase in digitized processes resulting from the pandemic, such as telework, online shopping and contactless ordering, is boosting demand for skilled workers in IT and computer-related occupations. These areas, which include software, IT infrastructure, and cybersecurity, are projected to see faster-than-average employment growth, even as employers already face a talent shortage.

As an institution committed to innovation, Ocean County College is taking steps to ensure that its degree, certificate and workforce programs provide students with the skills they need to take advantage of new opportunities to step into those gaps.

## Cybersecurity

OCC is offering two new courses as part of the College's expanding cybersecurity curriculum: CSIT 241, Cybersecurity Legal and Regulatory Overview, and CSIT 277, Introduction to Cloud Computing. CSIT 241 prepares students to develop security policies and procedures to prevent, protect, and respond to cybersecurity risks and attacks. CSIT 277 introduces students to cloud computing services, applications, and use cases via classroom instruction and virtual labs.

OCC continued its Cybersecurity Seminar series in 2022 with a discussion led by tech security leader Dan Walsh, CISO of VillageMD, on the use of a Software Bill of Materials to manage risk in software supply chain. In April, OCC Adjunct Assistant Professor Jonathan Weiss gave a virtual presentation titled *OCC's Cybersecurity Curriculum Career Paths*, providing an overview of key courses, certifications, and potential careers for students who complete the coursework. Professor Weiss also discussed the cloud laboratory assets that provide opportunities for hands-on learning and grant funding that allows students to pursue cybersecurity certifications following successful completion of the courses. More seminars are planned in the fall.



## Cybersecurity Program Reaches Milestone

OCC student Michael Mancini passed the CompTIA Security+ exam to achieve Security+ SY0-601 certification. Mancini achieved this certification by successfully completing preparation via CSIT 200, Information Security Fundamentals, and being awarded grant money from OCC to pay for both practice tests and the exam voucher. Mancini is the first to take advantage of this element of OCC's Cybersecurity curriculum and its path to professional accreditation. Three other OCC students are pursuing this path of opportunity and expect to be certified this year.





## ..... Artificial Intelligence

OCC continues to develop and promote the new Associate in Applied Science and Certificate of Completion programs in Artificial Intelligence, which were launched in partnership with Intel in fall 2021. The degree and certificate are based on Intel's AI for Workforce program, with curriculum designed specifically to introduce AI skills to students at community colleges in order to address the talent shortage in the industry. AI has become an increasingly important field of study, with career opportunities in a variety of industries, including high tech, healthcare, automotive, industrial, manufacturing, aerospace and many others.

## Industrial Hygiene/Hazardous Materials Management

OCC's new certification in Industrial Hygiene/Hazardous Material Management is geared toward students looking to enter this lucrative field, as well as employees working in the industry who wish to advance their careers. According to Program Chair Lincoln Simmons, college lecturer in STEM, the 17-credit certificate provides students with the knowledge, skills and training required to conduct industrial hygiene and hazardous materials testing and assessment, and can be completed in just two semesters.

In conjunction with the certificate, students can also complete a number of industry-recognized professional credentials offered through OCC's Workforce and Professional Education. These additional credentials can increase the students' employment and salary possibilities.

## Welcome to Java Junction!

Ocean County College's newest culinary addition, Java Junction, is not just a coffee shop – it's also an apprenticeship! The new café, which opened on March 31 in the lobby of the Gateway Building, is managed and operated by students in OCC's Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism Management (HRTM) program, providing them with hands-on, paid industry experience as they work toward their degree.

HRTM students Chelsea Buro, Blake Ferraro and Mattalyn McCaffrey, along with their lecturers, Sean Bips and Chris Bottomley, worked hard for weeks last spring to prepare Java Junction for the grand opening, even creating a brand identity and a unique logo, that was designed by Ferraro. A crowd was on hand to welcome the first patrons through the door once the ribbon was cut, and the shop remained bustling as customers came by to check things out and support the new venture.

The café was open for business Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. through the remainder of the spring semester, offering coffee and other beverages as well as an assortment of grab-and-go items, such as sandwiches, pastries, and packaged snacks. The campus community was encouraged to stop by for a caffeine boost and to support OCC's HRTM students at work.

As the semester ended, the shop closed its doors for the summer—but coffee lovers, take heart! Java Junction plans to reopen again this fall. In fact, the café is now looking for new apprentices for the fall 2022 semester. Students can register now for this credit-based paid course, which can also be used as an elective for non-hospitality students. Interested students should enroll in APPR-151 [HRTM] taught by Sean Bips.

OCC's HRTM program prepares students for a career in the hospitality, recreation and tourism industries or to continue their education toward a bachelor's degree. The program provides a business planning and management foundation that examines industry trends, consumer behavior, guest services and other factors that influence hospitality, recreation and tourism development and promotion. For more information about the A.S. in HRTM at Ocean County College, visit [go.ocean.edu/hrtm](http://go.ocean.edu/hrtm).



# JAVA JUNCTION

COFFEE, SANDWICHES, AND  
SNACKS ON-THE-GO

# FROM ALMA MATER TO EMPLOYER

*Alumni employees enjoy a strong connection to OCC*

More than 200 current OCC employees are alumni and their roles are widely diverse. Alumni currently serve as administrators, faculty members, security, student support, maintenance staff, IT professionals and more. Recently, alumni employees reflected on the ways this unique relationship with the college has impacted their lives.

**Brianna DeCicco '11**

**Associate Director, Academic & Tutoring Support Services**

## **Why did you decide to attend OCC?**

I needed an opportunity to explore different academic fields to help point me in the right direction in terms of career path. That and I needed to do it at an affordable rate that was also close to home.

## **How was your experience as a student?**

At first, I had a rough start, but I made connections with faculty who helped me refocus on my academics—encouraging me to meet my goals.

## **How did attending OCC impact your life and/or prepare you for the future?**

Attending OCC changed the entire trajectory of my academic and professional life. OCC gave me the opportunity to explore content that piqued my interest, and I had instructors who supported my enthusiasm and inquiries. Here, I fell in love with literature and learning. I loved being a student at OCC so much that when I graduated, I enrolled at Kean Ocean, connecting with even more faculty and staff. After graduating with my B.A., I once again found myself at OCC, but this time I was an OCC staff member, providing support to a whole new generation of students.

## **Advice for new/potential OCC students?**

Take risks and try hard: OCC is the place for it. Make connections with your peers, professors, and staff on campus—and stay connected beyond one semester.



**Rosita Cotto '02, '08**

**Human Resources Assistant**

**Why did you decide to attend OCC?**

I started employment at OCC in 1995, a temporary position in Human Resources that should have lasted one year but I was privileged to serve two. As part of the temporary position, I had to take two 3-credit courses. That was the start. Today, I hold two degrees.

**How was your experience as a student?**

As a single mother of five children, it was very difficult and challenging. I lived through a domestic violence relationship that had me afraid of another failure. But being here, I found the help, understanding, and wisdom of several people that will forever hold a special place in my heart!

**How did attending OCC impact your life and/or prepare you for the future?**

Being here showed me that there was more to life than what I had encountered. OCC gave me hope. It was an experience that I will forever be grateful for because it helped me grow.

**Advice for new/potential OCC students?**

If you can follow that dream from fresh out of high school, go for it! The sky is the limit! Whatever barrier comes your way, push yourself through it. No one can tell you what you are capable of. Look within you and know your worth!

**Alison Noone '99**

**Director, Student Support Services**

**Why did you decide to attend OCC?**

I attended OCC because I wasn't ready to leave home for college. I wanted to stay close to home, but also continue my education.

**How was your experience as a student?**

I took this time to try so many new things while at OCC. I got involved in so many clubs and activities, such as Student Government, trips to New York City and baseball games. I took classes like Karate and Creative Writing, things that I didn't have the opportunity to try before. I also was a part of the Student Work Study program and worked in a college office in between classes. That helped me gain clerical skills that I could use in my future career.

**How did attending OCC impact your life and/or prepare you for the future?**

I learned so much more from my fellow classmates at OCC than I ever imagined. High school was a bubble of people from similar lifestyles to my own. My peers at OCC were people from all different backgrounds, ages, and experiences. Students were here to change their lives. Interactions with those students influenced my life more than the academics in the classroom.

**Advice for new/potential OCC students?**

Take advantage of every opportunity you can! There are programs offered for everything from academic assistance to social activities and trips. These opportunities will not only enhance your college experience, but you will learn from them, too. Now that I'm a staff member, I can tell you that the staff genuinely wants to see you succeed. Let us help you!

**Susan O'Connor '09**

**Executive Director of Curriculum and Program Development**

**Why did you decide to attend OCC?**

I was returning to school after working in the restaurant industry for many years. OCC was the perfect choice for me to be able to start school almost right away, stay local, and continue to work while I was in school. The affordability was also an attractive feature.



**How was your experience as a student?**

I had a very positive experience as a student at OCC. I was lucky enough to connect with professors who were invested in my education and willing to mentor me. I was able to schedule my classes around my other responsibilities, and that enabled me to complete my associate degree quickly.

**How did attending OCC impact your life and/or prepare you for the future?**

While at OCC, I started working as a student worker in academic advising. This enabled me to learn new skills and exposed me to employment opportunities in an academic setting that I had never imagined. I attended Kean Ocean, which was another opportunity afforded to me because of my time at OCC. I feel grateful for the pathways that have been afforded to me because I made the decision to go to OCC. I also feel invested in our students' experience, because I can relate to them, having been a student here myself.

**Advice for new/potential OCC students?**

Get involved. Join clubs and honor societies to improve networking skills and build your resume. If you can become a student worker at OCC or participate in work-based learning (internships etc.), it is a huge bonus when you are looking for a job after graduation. Also, stick with it! Keep going to class, show up for your education, and focus on the areas that foster your critical thinking and creativity!

**“** OCC impacted my life in many positive ways. Being able to receive a degree impacted not only my life, but changed the view of college for my children. No matter what age you are, your dreams can be achieved with one step! **”**

- Lisa Hussain '16, advancement and database specialist for the Ocean County College Foundation

# SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION

RAISES MORE THAN \$200,000

The OCC Foundation's annual Scholarship Celebration was held Friday, June 24, on the beautiful campus mall at Ocean County College. 250 supporters attended the open-tent event, which featured a gourmet buffet and silent auction and raised more than \$200,000 to assist the Foundation in its mission to ensure students have access to a quality, affordable education right here in Ocean County.

"We come together to give thanks for our college community, our students, faculty and staff, who make this a place to feel welcome, a place to feel at home," said Kenneth J. Malagiere, executive director of the Foundation.

The annual celebration provides an opportunity to honor extraordinary individuals while raising crucial funds for students. This year, the Foundation celebrated the

accomplishments and tremendous dedication of several distinguished honorees.

Dr. Rosann Bar, dean of the School of Business and Social Sciences, and Dr. Patricia Gianotti, college lecturer in Addictions, were honored for their contributions to the Addictions Counseling program and their commitment to OCC. As a result of their expertise and leadership, Ocean County College has emerged as a leader in developing innovative programs for students who want to become drug and alcohol counselors, at a time when counselors in this field are most needed.

Alison Noone, director of Student Support Services, was recognized for outstanding dedication to the operation of the Helping Hands Food Pantry. Helping Hands was created through a collaboration between the Tau Iota Chapter of



Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Life Office to assist college students struggling with food insecurity. The pantry, in operation since 2018, recently moved to a new, larger location in the Library and is in the process of expanding its services to ensure that students have the non-academic supports they need to succeed in college.

Finally, the Wintrode Family Foundation was honored for the establishment of the Roberta W. Wintrode Memorial Fund. The Wintrode Family Foundation established this fund in 2021 to honor the memory of a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, Roberta W. Wintrode, whose love



for education, biology, nursing, and the arts was present in every aspect of her career and avocation. The fund is intended to immediately impact the students of Ocean County College by providing support to all opportunities of educational and intellectual value, including special programs such as foreign and domestic student travel, guest lectures, capital projects, and scholarships and grants.

“Thank you all for your continuous generosity,” said Foundation Chair David J. Paulus. “Your support will enable us to help so many students, and we are endlessly grateful.”



# FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW LEGACY CAMPAIGN

For more than 50 years, the Ocean County College Foundation has provided support for thousands of deserving students through funding for scholarships, endowments, and capital and special projects, made possible through the generosity of its donors.

This year, the Foundation is launching a \$25 million, multi-year legacy campaign dedicated to enhancing the Ocean County College experience by expanding scholarships and graduating awards, increasing support of domestic and international travel, and enriching the Ocean County community through educational and intellectual programming.

The new campaign was introduced at the annual Scholarship Celebration on June 24.

“Together, we will take the community college experience to new heights and inspire our peer institutions through our commitment to innovation, while meeting the needs of an evolving workforce and ever-more-determined student body of tomorrow,” said Kenneth J. Malagiere, executive director of the Foundation. “Our pledge as a foundation is to lead this effort with equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging to build a stronger Ocean County together.”

The Foundation hopes to meet the \$25 million goal by 2024, in celebration of OCC’s 60th anniversary serving the Jersey Shore community. To learn more about this opportunity, visit [go.ocean.edu/foundation](http://go.ocean.edu/foundation).



COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
Legacy  
CAMPAIGN  
2018-2024  
ACADEMIC GROWTH & EXCELLENCE

SITE OF  
OCEAN COUNTY  
COLLEGE

that grows.

Ocean County College

Ocean County College Campaign is the  
a transformational  
the success of our  
hope that you, too  
Ocean County College  
deavor to reach our  
the students of OCC.

QR Code

# SAVE THE DATE!

## BLAUVELT SPEAKER SERIES

visit: [go.ocean.edu/FoundationEvents](http://go.ocean.edu/FoundationEvents)

PRESENTED BY



### ICE-COLD FACTS WITH ICE-T

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
6:30 p.m. - IN-PERSON

Rapper, actor, producer, author and speaker Ice-T will discuss overcoming adversity and share the life lessons that helped him not just to survive, but to thrive.



### ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11**  
6:30 p.m. - IN-PERSON

21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
**GOLF**  
*Classic*

### MIA HAMM

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8**  
6:30 p.m. - IN-PERSON

With two World Championships, two Olympic Gold Medals and near unparalleled success as a marketing icon, Mia Hamm has served as an outspoken advocate for Title IX and gender equality across sporting lines.



# OCEAN COUNTY TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL

## RETURNS - TO - CAMPUS

The Ocean County Teen Arts Festival returned to the Ocean County College campus March 22-23 with an innovative hybrid event that incorporated live performances as well as virtual presentations.

For over 40 years, Ocean County College has hosted the annual festival, a two-day event designed to showcase the hard work of Ocean County students and promote the importance of arts education. Participating students, aged 13 to 19, prepare their chosen art presentations for critical analysis. Artists and teachers from around the county come to provide critiques and to teach workshops and master classes in their individual specialties, which include drama, filmmaking, voice, acting, instrumental music and more.

The festival was presented virtually in 2020 and 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Sixteen Ocean County public high schools attended this year's event: 14 in person and two virtual, with more than 1,200 students participating.

"It's an opportunity for all high schools in Ocean County to come together at the Grunin Center, and for students to have a chance to interact with one another in workshops and programming," said Jessica Zawerczuk, assistant director of Marketing and Sales at the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts.

Led by organizers Jaclyn Wood, assistant director of Education and Community Engagement, and Erik Stratton, Education and Community Engagement coordinator, this year's festival included 13 in-person workshops, one of which also had virtual attendees. Students displayed their hard work and talents in the visual and performing arts, writing and filmmaking, resulting in a total of 381 adjudications: 230 2D or 3D art pieces,

117 performances, 23 creative writing, and 11 short films.

"I always love adjudicating for Teen Arts in Ocean County," said Kate Cordaro, director of Education at Two River Theater, who served as a musical theater adjudicator for the event. "There's something in the water down there—wonderful teachers and talented students. I was blown away again!"

In addition to their own exhibits and performances, students also had the opportunity to network with representatives from organizations focused on the arts, attend workshop sessions, and view demonstrations by professional artists. OCC Adjunct Assistant Professor in Humanities, Dr. Sungji Kim, served as an adjudicator at the festival and presented a voice master class. College Lecturer II Brian Gilmore

(piano), along with Adjunct Assistant Professors in Humanities Beomjae Kim (flute) and Do Yeon Kim (cello) performed and presented an information session promoting the music program at OCC.

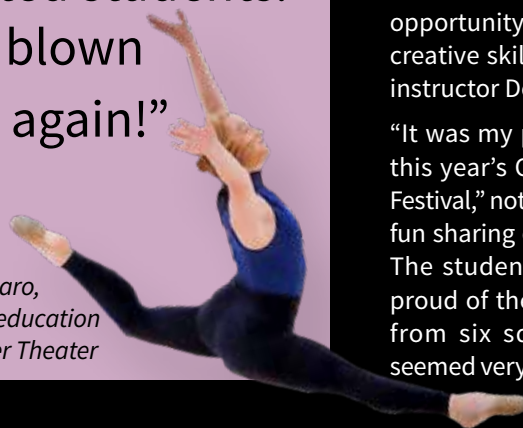
The workshops offer students the opportunity to learn new, hands-on creative skills, such as origami with instructor Deanna Kwan.

"It was my pleasure to be a part of this year's Ocean County Teen Arts Festival," noted Kwan. "It was so much fun sharing origami in person again! The students were wonderful and proud of the cubes they completed from six squares of paper. They seemed very excited to be on campus taking part in the various arts offerings."

Students who excelled in their chosen art forms at the county level were invited to represent Ocean County at the New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival. This year's state competition was held over the summer at Middlesex County College.

"...wonderful teachers and talented students. I was blown away again!"

- Kate Cordaro,  
director of education  
at Two River Theater





**ARTS | ENTERTAINMENT | EXPLORATION  
EXPERIENCE OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE!**

Concerts · Theater · Jazz · Dance · Planetarium · Family Shows



**CAMPS  
ON CAMPUS**

In 2022, Ocean County College was delighted to offer another fantastic summer of educational, fun, and imaginative experiences for kids aged 8-18. Our staff and partners provided enrichment camps designed around a wide variety of interests, including sports, music, engineering, rocketry—even YouTube streaming! Campers were able to choose from the many kid-favorite sessions on our main campus, online courses through our partners at Black Rocket Productions, and off-campus opportunities at Eagle Ridge Golf Club. This summer was the best one yet!

**UPCOMING EVENTS** - visit: [www.grunincenter.org](http://www.grunincenter.org)



**Paul Reiser  
With  
Vance Gilbert**

**Oct. 8  
8 p.m.**



**The Rocky  
Horror  
Picture Show**

**Oct. 29  
8 p.m.**



**Matt O'Ree  
Band**

**Nov. 3  
7 p.m.**



**Judy Collins  
Holidays  
& Hits**

**Dec. 11  
7 p.m.**



**Jazz at  
Lincoln  
Center**

**Mar. 10  
8 p.m.**



**Red Hot  
Chilli Pipers**

**Mar. 12  
7 p.m.**



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT \_\_\_\_\_

# HAILEY SADOWSKI '22

*Be unapologetically driven,  
vocal, take chances, and  
challenge yourself.*

*- Hailey Sadowski*



When Hailey Sadowski initially applied to OCC, she intended to get in, get her degree, and get out. She wasn't planning to join clubs, win awards, or get involved in student government, and she certainly didn't plan to address the Class of 2022 from the Commencement stage.

"I was just winging it," Sadowski said, describing those early days. "I never planned for any of this." But a pattern soon emerged that would carry her through the next two years, driving her toward a success she had never imagined. "People present opportunities to me, and I say 'sure'— and from there it just kind of snowballs into something bigger each time."

Her first instinct, on learning that she had been nominated for Commencement Speaker, was to turn it down flat.

"I had to say no," she recalled, adding that the idea of giving a speech was "petrifying."

But then she thought about the advice she could give—not just to other graduates, but to anyone who might be watching and wondering if they could do it, too. As a first-generation college student, she knew how hard it can be to figure things out on your own.

"It's definitely tough, especially when you first start. That's the hardest part—figuring out the FAFSA, how to apply, how to pick your degree path. But once you start that process, it gets easier, because you get connected with the proper resources."

Sadowski initially decided to give OCC a try after seeing a cousin earn her degree in 2020. "When I saw her graduate, that's when I kind of decided," she explained. "She was able to help me out with the FAFSA, and after that, I just started making appointments. It was definitely unsettling, but once I got the groove of it, I figured it out along the way."

Sadowski connected with the Educational Opportunity Fund, a program that provides funding and other services to income-eligible students who are motivated to go to college. EOF offers financial and academic resources, such as tutoring and academic advising, as well as a network of support on campus. That support gave Sadowski the confidence to stay focused on her goal, even during the pandemic.

"I thrived as an online student," she said, noting that having to schedule her readings

and plan out her work helped her learn self-discipline, while being in lockdown prevented her from encountering too many distractions.

It was through one of her online classes that Sadowski met Laura Wagner, an adjunct professor at OCC and the director of Marketing and Development at Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that builds affordable homes for families in need of a decent place to live.

Even in the virtual classroom, "Hailey really popped out to me," said Wagner. Sadowski's papers displayed a strong attention to detail, meticulous research, and a talent for critical thinking. Wagner invited her to intern at Habitat for Humanity over the summer to help them build a marketing plan. Eager to explore marketing as a potential career path, Sadowski agreed to give it a try. As summer turned into fall, she stuck with it, learning to develop marketing strategies, perform grant research, and solicit sponsorships.

"She was just phenomenal," Wagner said. "She wanted to learn everything about Habitat for Humanity. She even offered to make cold calls."

It was during a community fundraising event when Sadowski got the idea to bring Habitat for Humanity to OCC.

"I saw that a lot of other campuses around us had a Habitat chapter," she said in an interview with OCC's Student Life. "I thought, I would love OCC to have that kind of representation in the community with this nonprofit. I decided to see if I could create a club and get students involved."

"Hailey is big on motivating others," said Wagner, adding that the club took off quickly under her leadership. "She's excited to share opportunities with other people. She's definitely a leader. She makes things happen."

The club held its first meeting on St. Patrick's Day, and by April, members were participating as a group in Habitat's bingo fundraiser. "It was kind of like trial by fire," Sadowski says of that first event. Despite their inexperience, she is proud of how the club members represented OCC that day. She kept the momentum going by organizing a multi-club, offsite event in May, another first for OCC. By the end of the term,

the club had grown to 30 members, an impressive number even by Sadowski's standards.

"To have it be this successful was definitely shocking," she admitted, although she is quick to add that she's not finished yet. "There are definitely a lot of plans." Although she won't be a student at OCC next year, she intends to serve as chair to help keep the club active and guide the next generation of officers. She also hopes the club can participate in Habitat on the Hill, a conference in Washington, D.C. where club members learn how to advocate for affordable housing legislation in their communities.

"I really want to be able to bring that experience to OCC students, especially those interested in student government," she said. "I just feel like it would be a great opportunity for them."

As for Sadowski, in fall of 2022 she will be transferring to Stockton University to begin a dual degree program in business administration. Although she hasn't decided on a focus yet, she's not worried.

"I'm kind of hoping I'll figure that out along the way," she said.

If the past two years are any indication, it seems certain that she will.



“ Hailey is big on motivating others. She's excited to share opportunities with other people. She's definitely a leader. She makes things happen! ”

- Laura Wagner, director of Marketing and Development at Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity

# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



photo: Barnegat Bay - Little Egg Harbor Estuary @Michael Leon

## Barnegat Bay Partnership Releases State of the Bay Report

The Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP), the National Estuary Program for the Barnegat Bay, has released its latest State of the Bay Report, which presents an evaluation of the bay's current status and identifies trends based on a comparison to key indicators.

Issued every five years, the State of the Bay Report is prepared by a technical work group of Barnegat Bay scientists who review data from recent and ongoing research to assess the current environmental conditions of the bay and its watershed.

The latest report compares the bay's current conditions with eight holistic ecosystem targets identified in the 2021

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the Barnegat Bay – Little Egg Harbor Estuary.

“The State of the Bay Report uses recent data collected by a wide array of scientists working in the bay, including community scientists, to see if the bay is reaching the ecosystem goals that our community decided were important,” explains Dr. Jim Vasslides, senior program scientist for the BBP. “For example, one of the ecosystem goals was to reduce the number of times bay, river, and lake bathing beaches are closed each summer due to water quality concerns, primarily harmful bacteria. Based on water quality samples collected and analyzed regularly by the county health department, the number of beach closures during the timeframe covered by the report was lower than the threshold, so we are achieving that goal.”



“The Barnegat Bay Partnership will continue to use the best science available to protect and restore this unique ecosystem that we all treasure ... join us in these endeavors and help build on the successes of the past five years.” - Dr. Stan Hales, director of Barnegat Bay Partnership

## Environmental Outcomes

The ecosystem targets, specific environmental outcomes which can be monitored to measure progress, are used to describe the overall physical, chemical, and biotic conditions of the bay. Targets for the 2021 report include public beach openings, hard clam restoration, approved shellfish harvesting areas, wetlands protection, water conservation and reuse, submerged aquatic vegetation extent, wetland and riparian buffer preservation, and ecological water flows.

The report uses research by academic, government, and private-sector scientists and engineers to determine the status and trends relative to each of the targets. Easy-to-read status and trend dials provide a quick summary of the report's findings, which can be explored in more detail by referring to the sections about each ecosystem target.

"Of the eight ecosystem targets, we are achieving one, we are making progress on three, we are unfortunately going backwards on one, and there are three that we currently do not have enough information to determine what the current status is," said Vasslides. "This report helps us to identify where our efforts are having a positive effect and where we need to devote additional attention. Taken together, it shows that there are some areas where we are making progress in improving the overall condition of the bay, but that there are others where we still have work to do."

## Monitor and Evaluate

Continued monitoring and evaluations are critical for measuring the progress of efforts and for planning future actions. The State of the Bay Report serves as both an education and outreach tool, presenting this information to a wide audience in order to increase knowledge and appreciation of the shared resources in the Barnegat Bay, increase awareness and support of the BBP's work, and to identify and present current as well as new sources of environmental data.

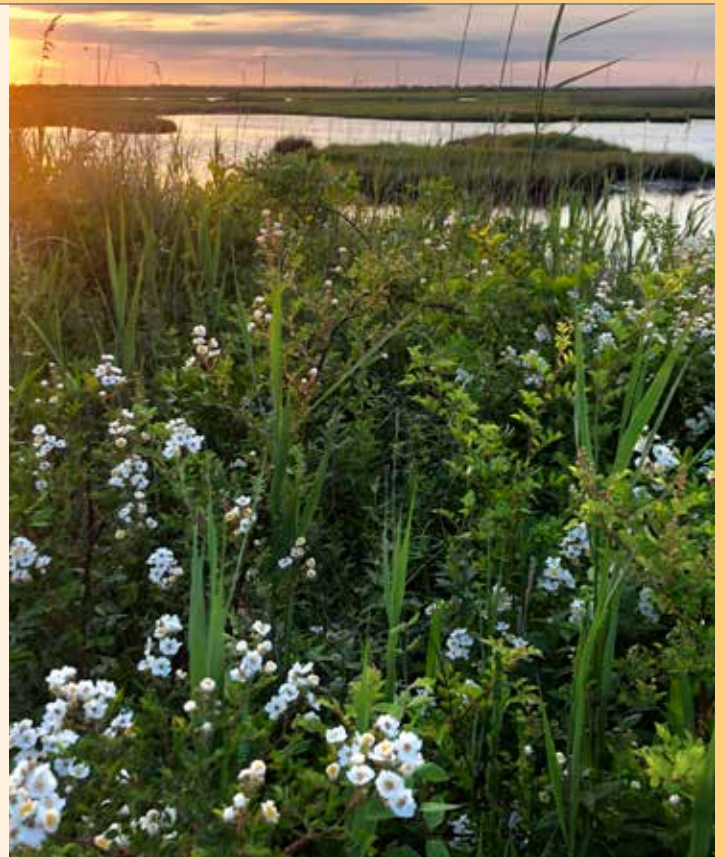


photo: Barnegat Bay - Little Egg Harbor Estuary ©Michael Leon

"The Barnegat Bay Partnership will continue to use the best science available to protect and restore this unique ecosystem that we all treasure," said Dr. Stan Hales, BBP's director. "We hope you will join us in these endeavors and help us build on the successes of the past five years."

Everyone who lives, works, or visits the Barnegat Bay watershed can play a role. To read the full report, and to learn about how you can help, visit [www.barnegatbaypartnership.org](http://www.barnegatbaypartnership.org).



photo: Recording data from a Surface Elevation Table at one of the MACWA sitesCenter



# JORDAN VIGGIANO '22

## EXPECT - THE - BEST

Brick native Jordan Viggiano has been playing sports for almost as long as she has been attending school—and it shows.

The multi-sport student athlete, a 2022 graduate of Ocean County College, first got involved in sports when she was only five years old.

“My parents are big sports fans/athletes, and put me in a lot of different sports,” she explained.

Viggiano competed in field hockey, basketball and lacrosse in high school, collecting accolades and landing on “key players” lists, year after year. As a senior at Brick Memorial, she received the NJSIAA’s National Girls and Women in Sports award, which honors the achievements of outstanding female athletes in New Jersey high schools.

But her success wasn’t limited to courts and fields. A high achiever in the classroom as well, Viggiano received the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) in 2020, which led to her decision to attend OCC after graduation. NJ STARS awards New Jersey’s highest-ranking students with scholarships to cover tuition at their home county college.

“I was very unsure about what I wanted to do with my life, and I was not ready to go

away for school yet,” Viggiano said. OCC offered the opportunity to explore career options while remaining close to home.

Viggiano continued to gain recognition during her two years as a Viking, competing in women’s soccer, basketball and softball for OCC. She was named D-III Women’s Basketball Player of the Week and Viking of the Week for soccer and basketball. She earned both NJCAA All-Region XIX and All-Garden State Athletic Conference Team honors in her first year of soccer and was nationally ranked in points-per-game and total points scored in basketball.

In 2022, Viggiano was once again honored with a *National Girls and Women in Sports Day* award, this time named “Female Athlete of the Year” for Ocean County College by the GSAC and the New Jersey Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women—all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Balancing schoolwork and sports may be a challenge for most student athletes, but OCC’s athletic staff reports that Viggiano, who received her associate degree in Criminal Justice in May, made it look easy. In addition to her athletic honors, she was named in *Who’s Who Among Students at OCC* for making significant contributions to the College in both scholarship and

leadership. She was also the winner of the Julie Foukarakis Memorial Award, a scholarship presented to a student athlete who excels academically and whose influence has been most constructive at the college.

“Jordan is an excellent athlete. You see it in every game that she plays, whether it’s soccer, basketball or softball,” said Ilene Cohen, OCC’s executive director of Athletics. “She stands out no matter what field she’s on. To be able to maintain the high academic standards that she does, throughout the year, just makes her an extra-special student athlete. It’s not easy to play a sport all year long and keep up the grades. She was on all year.”

Whether she’s talking about the courts, the playing fields, or the classrooms, Viggiano has only good things to say about her experiences at OCC. “It was amazing, because I balanced both school and sports well, got recognized for my academic and athletic accomplishments, made friends, and met a lot of new people,” she said. “I had fun, learned new things, and improved myself.” Jordan plans to continue her studies in Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University next year.



**JORDAN VIGGIANO**  
Q & A

**Favorite sport**

“Basketball, but sometimes it switches depending on what sport I’m playing.”

**Role model**

David Goggins (former Navy SEAL, endurance athlete and author of *Can’t Hurt Me*.) “Reading his book changed my life and gave me the confidence I was missing.”

**Secrets for success**

“I don’t waste energy on things I can’t control, and work on the things I can. I believed in myself and had confidence, always tried to have a positive attitude, and always expected the best possible outcome for what I did.”

**Best advice from a coach or professor**

“You are in control of whether you want to have a good time or not, and to make the best of your situation and what you are given.”

**After OCC**

Attend Florida Atlantic University; become a forensic psychologist or U.S. Marshal.

**Favorite subjects/classes at OCC**

Forensics and Criminology.

**Favorite teachers at OCC**

Chief Petrecca,  
College Lecturer in Criminal Justice.

**Favorite spot on campus**

Athletic building/basketball court.

**Advice for future OCC students**

“Have confidence in yourself and want to succeed for you—but also, don’t take things too seriously and have fun with it.”

**PLAYS:**

- Soccer
- Softball
- Lacrosse
- Basketball
- Field Hockey

**HOMETOWN:**

Brick, NJ

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

Brick Memorial



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# OCC COMMUNITY TRENDING | 🔍

