The grand opening of the new O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Kids Child Development Center on OCC’s Main Campus is anticipated for September 2007. The Center will help children to grow and learn – physically, socially, and cognitively. This full-day, full-year program, will be open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday for children ages two months to six years. Families are required to complete enrollment forms and may choose from five-day, three-day, or two day per week programs. The Head Start program is also available for income eligible applicants. The O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Kids Child Development Center staff will hold the credentials and skills necessary to meet the needs of young children including CPR certification and first aid training. The child development program will use the Creative Curriculum, which translates new research and theory from the field of early childhood education into a practical, easy-to-understand approach to working with children and their families. For information, call O.C.E.A.N., Inc. at 732.244.5333, ext. 915.

Distinguished Alumna Takes a Front Row Seat

Priscilla Oughton didn’t plan to take a front row seat in her first class as a student at Ocean County College. It may have been her apprehension as a non-traditional student that made her late for class, thus leaving that front row seat as her only choice. It was also that first day in Professor Joseph Byrne’s sociology class that inspired Priscilla not only to continue her pursuit of a career in social work but to willingly take a front row seat in all of her classes.

A self-described “sponge,” Priscilla couldn’t imagine how far she had come in life without a college education. With her children in college, she was able to devote her time and energy to taking both day and evening classes including summer semesters. Priscilla credits OCC Professors Carolyn Nixon and

Nursing Alumnae Bring Experience Back to the Classroom

Two Ocean County College alumnae have come back to campus to share their real world experiences with hopeful nursing students. OCC graduates Christine B. DeSantis (Bayville) and Teresa Walsh (Toms River) have recently become full-time professors in the Nursing Department. The pair is using the knowledge they acquired at OCC, as well as from their professional practice, to assist and encourage current nursing students.
Maryann Birdsall for helping to cultivate her innate curiosity and desire to learn. She also credits counselors in a learning assistance program with helping her to overcome test anxiety and enabling her to excel academically. Priscilla excelled in college and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, in November 1991. During her final semester at OCC, Priscilla completed an internship working with victims of domestic violence at Providence House. On May 28, 1992, she graduated summa cum laude from OCC with an Associate in Science degree in social services and with a new found confidence to continue her education.

Priscilla pursued her goal of becoming a social worker while studying for a bachelor’s degree at Monmouth University. She completed internships with the Ocean County Judicial Volunteers Program and with the Division of Youth and Family Services while attending class full-time and working part-time at a geriatric care center. Priscilla became a member of Lambda Sigma Tau Honor Society and the National Social Work Society, and earned a Bachelor in Social Work cum laude in May 1996. Two years later, she graduated from an accelerated Masters in Social Work (MSW) program at Fordham University, completed a graduate school sponsored internship at Jersey Shore Medical Center, and accepted a position as a social worker at Lakewood Nursing Home.

Six months after completing her MSW, a twist of fate took her life in an unexpected direction. Due to the death of her father, Priscilla was thrust into helping to run the family real estate management business. While learning the ins and outs of the business, she became a limited partner for two years, accompanied the general partner to meetings, and traveled to sites to learn about properties and how to resolve problems. Today, Priscilla and her husband, John, a retiree from the banking industry, are the managing members of Ought Knot LLC in Florida, and limited partners of Beachwood Mall LP and Northeast Mall LP in New Jersey.

Although Priscilla no longer works in the social work field, she draws upon her education and experience frequently in her personal life.

Born in Lakehurst and reared in Beachwood, Priscilla graduated from Toms River High School. A witness to the tremendous growth of the county, she recalls when Route 37 was a two lane road and the bridge from Toms River to Pelican Island was constructed of wood. In 2005, Priscilla and her husband relocated to Florida. Parents of three sons and grandparents of a boy and two girls, Priscilla and John will celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary in December 2007.

Priscilla and John were the owners of a large parcel of land surrounding the campus. Because of their generosity and their strong desire to assist OCC, the land was recently acquired by the college. The college has always been her concern and she was extremely pleased to be able to help. Looking back at her experience at OCC, she expresses her gratitude for the vital role OCC played in giving her the confidence to reach her goals.

In recognition of her accomplishments, Priscilla will be honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 40th OCC Commencement ceremony on May 24, 2007. And this time, instead of sitting in the front row seat of a class, she’ll be sitting in the front row seat of the commencement platform party addressing her fellow OCC alumni.

Kathy Buffum
Assistant Director of Resource Development
Sandra Kearns, OCC Director of Nursing Education, is excited to have both DeSantis and Walsh on board and so are the rest of the nursing faculty. “They (faculty) joke that it makes them feel old,” Kearns laughs. “The students they once taught are now teaching along side them.”

According to Kearns, students respond well to the alumni, as well. “It helps when a professor can literally say ‘I have walked this same path,’” she added.

Walsh, an assistant professor of nursing, feels rewarded by the opportunity to pass on her experiences to the nursing students. “I know the program because I came through the program. I know the ropes,” she said. “The whole experience has helped me with teaching.”

After graduating from OCC, Walsh completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing from Seton Hall University. Over the years, she worked at Community Medical Center as a nursing practice coordinator and a pain management coordinator; at Saint Barnabas Behavioral Health Center as a nurse educator and a director of quality and education; and for 18 years she worked at Deborah Heart and Lung Center as a staff nurse in the cardiac unit, a nurse coordinator, and a nurse practice coordinator.

Walsh’s many dedicated years in the world of nursing have helped her to gain useful knowledge in the field and her students at OCC are now an outlet for that knowledge. “I feel comfortable preparing the students for the entry level of nursing practice,” she said. “I worked in a couple of hospitals in the county and I know what the students need to practice and what the needs of our population are.”

The students of OCC are learning just that.

Not only are OCC nursing students working through a rigorous curriculum towards graduation, but they also become automatic members of the Student Nursing Organization (SNO), which helps them prepare to assume professional responsibilities upon graduation. SNO is a local chapter of the New Jersey Nursing Student, Inc. and National Student Nurse Association. Objectives of SNO include elevation of personal and professional standards of nursing students, promotion of leadership characteristics and team work, and promotion of health awareness and community service to OCC and the local community.

Kearns takes great pride in her students and faculty. “We have an aggressive program,” she stated. “We have the respect of the community and the state. We do our best to keep moving with the times and keep advancing the program accordingly.”

DeSantis, an assistant professor of nursing, shares in Kearns’ vision to keep moving forward with the program. “I would love to bring a career night to the students so that they could meet with nurses who have advanced their careers. Perhaps bring back some other OCC graduates, like myself, who have continued their education and followed their dreams. What better way to inspire a student about the future than to show them the future!” she said.

Not only is DeSantis’ style of teaching enthusiastic, she is enthusiastic about higher education, as well. DeSantis continued her education after OCC and completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Delaware and a Master of Science with family nurse practitioner certification from Rutgers University. She worked for many years as an emergency room nurse at Ocean Medical Center and was later an advanced practice nurse (APN) in cardiology at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. In addition to her current position at OCC, she works as a corporate APN providing medical care in an occupational health setting.

DeSantis encourages her students to look beyond OCC after graduation and to further their education. “Don’t let this
Enrollment Rises to the Occasion

The official census data for the spring 2007 semester shows that both student headcount and number of credits are the highest for a spring semester in the history of the college. A total of 8,166 students registered for 79,389 credits, representing an increase in total enrollment of 5.9% and an increase in total credit hours of 7.7% over last year. Full-time enrollment is up 9.7% (4,184 students), while part-time student enrollment is up 2.2% (3,982 students). This is the first spring semester with total headcount exceeding 8,000 students. Several factors are believed to have had an impact on enrollment, two of which are the NJ STARS Program and the Kean@Ocean Alliance. Most importantly, however, staff members who are involved with recruitment and registration are commended for their many contributions in support of this record enrollment.

EOF Receives Funding

The OCC Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program has received additional funding from the NJ EOF program. In April 2006, the state set aside $98,786 to distribute to eight institutions, two in each of the four higher education sectors, based on program outcomes. An award of $12,345, in Article IV
funds, will be received by OCC’s EOF program in 2007; this additional funding was as a result of having the highest EOF graduation rate for the fall 2001 cohort in NJ’s community college sector. The EOF program provides financial assistance and support services such as counseling, professional tutoring, leadership building, and academic, financial, and personal advising to students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who attend institutions of higher education in NJ.

Tuition Rollback

During his budget address in February, NJ Governor John Corzine promised a 4.9% increase in state funding for community colleges. In response to the governor’s budget, the OCC Board of Trustees, in March, approved a tuition rollback of $2, from $90 to $88 per credit. OCC’s share of the State’s budget increase roughly equals $400,000, which is approximately the amount of revenue the College expects to gain from the planned $2 tuition increase. Dr. Jon Larson, OCC President, said “It is my hope the good news from the State will continue so we can appropriately provide tuition relief to our students and their families while still providing the quality education our community expects from Ocean County College.”

Travel with the Academy for Lifelong Learning

OCC’s Academy for Lifelong Learning offers trips to international and domestic destinations in addition to one-day bus outings. The best part is that travelers don’t need to be a member of the Academy and you don’t need to be 55 years old to sign up – age-restrictions are waived on all Academy trips! The Academy’s first international trip, “Unbelievable Italy: Rome, Florence, and Venice,” is scheduled for late fall 2007. Upcoming vacation packages will include “Theatre in London,” a trip to Ireland, and an upcoming cruise to Alaska. Plan your next holiday with OCC’s Academy for Lifelong Learning! For more information, please call 732.255.0400, ext. 2384.
We are very pleased to be honoring this wonderful couple for their outstanding character and involvement in the community and business life of Ocean County,” said OCC Foundation Summer Gala Chairman Keith Buscio.

Mr. and Mrs. Leone are longtime residents of Toms River and have a deep commitment to both their family and the community. They are the proud father and stepmother to two daughters, Cheri Leone and Debra Challoner.

Mr. Leone graduated from the Lawrenceville School then received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University and a Juris Doctorate from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, NYC. He is a member of the New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C. Bars, along with the Federal District Court of New Jersey, Southern District of New York, and the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the American Bar Association, along with the NJ, NY, and D.C. Bar associations.

In 1988, Mr. Leone joined the law firm of Bathgate, Wegener and Wolf of Lakewood, and served as a partner from 1988 to 1997. He then founded the law firm of Carluccio, Leone, Dimon, Doyle, and Sacks LLC, a 13-lawyer firm in downtown Toms River. Mr. Leone has a diversified practice concentrating in business sales and acquisitions, commercial and residential land use approvals, riparian and water front development, affordable housing communities, corporate and professional formations and governance, and commercial and residential real estate transactions.

Over the past 45 years, Mr. Leone has also been active in various real estate developments. His activities have included land subdivision and improvement for residential development, commercial development of office buildings, retail stores, gas stations, and management of sand and gravel mining license agreements.

Mr. Leone was the founder, president, and CEO of Glen Rock Lumber and Supply Co, Inc, Brick (1961-1983). In 1971, he was one of the founders and the Chairman of the Board of Shore National Bank. Before entering law school, he served as Brick Township’s Business Administrator from 1983 to 1985.

Mr. Leone received the Man of the Year Award from the Brick Township Chamber of Commerce in 1976, and earlier in 1966, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Brick Township Jaycees. In 1999, he was honored by the Nature Conservancy, and, in 2006, he was awarded the Guardian Angel from Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton. That same year, he received the designation of Super Lawyer from New Jersey Magazine.
Planned Giving

Planned gift, deferred gift, estate gift – different names for a way to manage your affairs, plan for the future, and make a gift to the Ocean County College Foundation. These are the most common types of planned gifts. Please consult with your attorney or financial planner to discuss the best method for you and your family.

Cash – checks and credit card donations are the most frequent, and generally the most convenient, means of giving.

Wills or Trusts – alumni and friends are encouraged to include provisions to benefit the students of OCC through their estate plans.

Real Estate and Tangible Property – if highly appreciated, offers a tax benefit to donors when donated to the OCC Foundation.

Income Producing Plans – charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

Charitable Lead Trusts – support the students of OCC now and still leave assets to your heirs.

Life Insurance – use a life insurance policy to make a substantial gift.

For additional information about gifts to support the students of OCC, please contact Sandy S. Broughton, Executive Director, OCC Foundation and Resource Development, at 732.255.0400, ext. 2134.

On Monday, May 7, the OCC Foundation held its 6th Annual Golf Outing at Sea Oaks Country Club. At the time of printing, we were still tallying the receipts – last year, over $72,000 was raised to support scholarships, special projects, and programs at OCC and this year, we expect to exceed that amount! The Foundation would like to thank Nina Anuario, Senior Vice President Business Development at OceanFirst Bank, for chairing the event. A HUGE thank you to all of our committee members, the sponsors, donors, and players for supporting the efforts of the Foundation.

Annual Golf Outing Committee

Nina Anuario, Chairperson
Janet Beers
Irene Cohen
Robert A. Davis
Eileen Della Volle
John N. Ernst
Katie Grofik
Virginia E. Haines
William Hoey
Dottie LaPosa
Richard M. Larsen
Dr. Jon H. Larson
Patricia Lindberg
Joseph Mezzina
Ken Olsen
Richard Pallamary
Richard M. Parrish
Pravin Patel
Joel Perlmutter
Karl Reinheimer
Pauline Rota
Domenick Servodio
Brian Solik
Thomas Vogel
Massimo F. Yezzi, Jr.
Harvey York
Michael York

OCC Foundation Staff

Sandy S. Broughton, Executive Director
Nancy A. Heroy, Administrative Assistant
You can make a difference at OCC

This year’s Annual Fund Drive is a joint effort between the OCC Foundation and the Alumni Association. By combining our efforts, our goal is to increase the scholarship support available to our students and help make an OCC degree a reality for all deserving students who are in need of financial assistance. Send your check to Ocean County College, OCC Foundation, College Drive, P. O. Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001 or give on-line at www.ocean.edu. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Speakers Bureau

In an effort to spread the word about the important work of the OCC Foundation, we are pleased to announce that a speaker’s bureau has been formed. Your club/organization is invited to request a ten-minute presentation, which includes a brief video and a speaker(s) who will talk to your audience about the Foundation and its mission to assist students of OCC and the community at large.

Please consider having a representative share with your club/organization vital information about the OCC Foundation through this new and important initiative. As always, your support and interest are greatly appreciated. Please contact Sandy S. Broughton, Executive Director, OCC Foundation and Resource Development, at 732.255.0400, ext. 2134, if you are interested in having someone speak at a future meeting. We look forward to hearing from you.
Among his many civic activities, Mr. Leone is past-chairman of the board of Brick Township Hospital, past-president of the Brick Township Chamber of Commerce, founder and first-president of the Brick Township Rotary Club, and is past-president of the Brick Township Jaycees. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Ocean County College and the OCC Foundation as well as a director of the Toms River Business Improvement District, serving as the co-chair of the Master Plan Committee.

Involved in the political life of his community, Mr. Leone served as Ocean County Democratic Finance Chair from 1998-2004. He is a past-member, appointed by Governor Byrne, to the Banking Advisory Board, and a former-member of the New Jersey State Health Planning Council. He was also campaign manager for New Jersey State Senator John F. Russo, Assemblyman John P. Doyle, Assemblyman Daniel F. Newman, and Assemblywoman Marlene Lynch Ford.

Mrs. Leone was born and raised in Toms River. A graduate of Toms River High School, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kean University and a Masters of Library Science from Rutgers University.

From 1971 to 1988, Mrs. Leone worked as a teacher and media specialist in the Toms River School system. She was a partner in The Production House, a video production company in Toms River, from 1988 to 1992.

Although retired, Mrs. Leone keeps very active with civic involvements. She is a current member of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a trustee of Algonquin Arts, the Garden State Philharmonic (past president), Ocean’s Harbor House Foundation (past president), and the Shelter, Inc. She has also volunteered her time with various projects of the OCC Foundation, including long-time chairperson of the Public Relations Committee and as a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Over the past few years, Mrs. Leone has been involved with other community service work including the United Way of Ocean County, the Italian-American Cultural Society (past president), the National Council for Community and Justice, Open Arms (past president), and the Georgian Court President’s Council.

She has also stayed involved with politics over the years, running for State Senate in 1997 and currently serving as president of Democratic POWER, a group of Democratic women helping other women get involved in the political process.

Among her honors, Mrs. Leone has received various awards including Humanitarian and Volunteer of the Year from the United Way of Ocean County, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Ocean, the Garden State Philharmonic, National Council for Community and Justice, and the Italian-American Cultural Society. In 2006, she received the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council’s Silver Gull Award for community service.

According to Sandy S. Broughton, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation, the annual gala provides the community with an opportunity to not only honor well-respected, well-deserving individuals who have given of their time, talents, and resources, but it also allows business and community members to participate in supporting scholarships and special programs and projects for students at OCC.

“Over the years, tremendous community support has continued to enable the Foundation to help thousands of deserving students,” Broughton said. “This year, the Leone’s are very pleased that the funds from the Gala will be dedicated to ‘Reach for the Stars,’ a fundraising campaign to support the Robert J. Novins Planetarium.”

For more information on the Summer Gala, to become a sponsor, or to make a donation, call the OCC Foundation at 732.255.0492.

RoseAnn D’Urso, editor
Coordinator of Public Relations & Programming
An article written by Dr. James Brown, Dean of Health, Science, and Human Performance, and Sandra Kearns, Associate Professor of Nursing, was selected for publication in the January 2007 issue of the peer review journal Teaching and Learning in Nursing. Their article presents an introduction to the history of Web-based and Web-assisted teaching, learning, and assessment, and reviews the literature on the utilization of online materials for nursing education programs.

A proposal submitted by Dr. Marcia Bradley, Professor of Science, Marc Labella, Assistant Professor of Science, and Chris Spencer, Instructor of Science, was selected for the 8th Annual Faculty Best Practices Showcase at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Their presentation, “Brave New World: Teaching Anatomy and Physiology Totally Online,” focused on academic discipline, technology, and educational methodologies.

Karen Bosley, Professor of Humanities, Fine Arts, and Media Studies, received the 2006 Louis E. Ingelhart First Amendment Award from College Media Advisers, shared the 2006 Press Freedom Award with the Viking News staff from the Student Press Law Center and Associated Collegiate Press, and received the 2006-2007 Ingelhart Award for support of a free student press from the Society for Collegiate Journalists.

Linda Capuano, Director of Testing, Adaptive Services and GED Chief Examiner, and Carol Cappetta, GED Examiner, were honored by the NJ Army National Guard. Both Linda and Carol received a Patriotism Award for their dedication in assisting recruits who need to take the GED. Both awards are proudly displayed in the Testing Center. In addition, Linda along with Jim Rodgers, Adaptive Services Specialist, were presenters at the 2007 Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference held in Orlando, Florida. Their workshop, “Assistive Technology on Campus: Accommodations for Students with Disabilities,” focused on how the Center for Academic Services uses technology to enhance learning. While the strategies were developed to serve students with disabilities, the presentation suggested ideas that could be used with all college students.

Dr. Antoinette Clay, Assistant Vice President for Instructional Support Services, spoke at Manchester Middle School’s Black History Month program entitled “The Purpose of Black History Month.” She gave a PowerPoint presentation and a Black History Month quiz (with prizes) for 800 6th graders.

Loretta Cramer, Career Specialist, and Janis Fischer, Disability Counseling Specialist, participated in a panel presentation on “Important Issues for Disability Services Providers” at the NJ Association on Higher Education and Disability (NJ AHEAD) held at Brookdale Community College. In addition, Loretta was elected president of NJ AHEAD and Janis was elected to the program committee. They both will serve two-year terms.

Jan Kirsten, Director of College Relations, completed Leadership Shore, a one-year program administered by the Business and Community Development Department at Brookdale Community College and cosponsored by the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council.

John Morrison, Assistant Professor of Humanities, directed How it Works as part of The Workshop Theater Company of New York City in association with The Playwrights Guild of Canada. The play won Canada’s 2006 Governor-General’s Award for Drama. After the performance, the Canadian Consulate-General and a translator led a discussion on the distinct cultural issues of Canada and the U.S. and how these impact on playwriting and theatre in each nation.

Continued on page 11
Dr. Martin Novelli, Dean of Humanities, Fine Arts, and Media Studies, hosted the Algonquin Film Society’s spring series titled “A Tribute to Peter Sellers” at the Algonquin Arts in Manasquan. He introduced the following films and then led post show discussions: The Mouse that Roared, Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb, and Being There.

Joanne Padrone, Director of the Academy for Lifelong Learning, led a discussion on “Developing a Certificate Program for Effective Adult Community Homeowner Governing Bodies” at the League for Innovations in the Community College 10th Anniversary Conference in New Orleans, LA. She discussed the process utilized by the Academy to assess community needs, develop programs, and meet the needs of the adult communities.

Deborah Robinson, Director of Continuing and Professional Education, presented “Think Global, Act Local: Developing Skills and Behaviors for Success in the Workplace” at the Workforce Development Institute, held at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Jim Rodgers, Adaptive Services Specialist, was appointed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, to a three-year term on the Ocean County Commission for Individuals with Disabilities.

Elaine Schardien, Enrollment Services Specialist, was featured in the March 13, 2007 issue of the international magazine Woman’s World. Elaine and her co-authors Julie Knowles and Lisa Tarabocchia spoke about their book Recipe for A Balanced Mom – An Inspirational Cookbook. To read the article or for information on the book, visit their web site at www.balanceitall.com.

Carey R. Trevisan, Dean of Special Services, was elected treasurer for the Ocean County Personnel and Guidance Association, reappointed as a trustee for the 200 Club of Ocean County, and also reappointed to the board of trustees for Ocean County Counseling and Referral Service.

Sandra Williams, Learning Support Specialist, completed a Doctor of Letters degree with Unusual Excellence from the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies at Drew University. The capstone research project, as part of her multidisciplinary psychology/gerontology studies, was on “Global Contemporary Feminist Movements.”

Chengbo Yin, Research and Assessment Administrator, presented “Approaching Millennium Students – Two Examples of How OCC Utilizes Technology to Approach Students” at the NJ Council of County Colleges’ 7th Annual NJ Community Colleges Best Practices Conference at Cumberland County College. His presentation focused on two examples of how OCC utilizes the latest technology to approach millennium students: web survey software to collect students’ opinions and Demo Builder 5 to create flash tutorials for web resources such as Ocean Cruiser and WebAdvisor.

Please address comments and submissions to RoseAnn D’Urso, editor, at rdurso@ocean.edu.

In Memoriam

Catherine Dondiego (January 17, 2007) was Instructor of English and Literature. She began working for OCC in the fall 2006 semester and relocated here from upstate New York.

Patricia Harsche (March 11, 2007) was Adjunct Instructor of Social Sciences, Education, and Public Service. She had been employed at OCC since 1993.

Dr. Rolf Erik Zimmerman (January 26, 2007). Dr. Zimmerman was the Director of the Robert J. Novins Planetarium since its founding in 1974 until 2001. He retired from OCC in 2001 and also taught classes in physics and astronomy, both before and after his retirement.

They will be greatly missed by their students and those who had the opportunity to know and work with them.
**Student to Graduate from OCC before Leaving Lacey High**

There are overachievers – and then there is exceptional Lacey Township High School senior Heather Wombough, 17.

While still a student at Lacey, she will graduate in May from OCC with an associate degree in science with a focus in mathematics.

Heather attends LTHS from 7:05 to 10:30 a.m. Then, as part of the Jump Start program, she drives to OCC. Jump Start allows high school students to take college courses for credit.

Heather takes four classes at the high school and three at the college. She needs to take at least a half-day at high school to graduate. At Lacey she takes English 4 honors, advanced concert band, advanced placement physics, and physical education.

Heather began taking college classes the summer after her sophomore year. She continued to take classes during the fall, spring, and summer, plus the winter intersession. Last fall, she took calculus 3, finite mathematics, and general chemistry I. This spring, she took computer literacy and discrete mathematics.

Heather plans to enter Rutgers University in New Brunswick in the fall as a junior. She will major in mathematics and plans to be a high school math teacher. Heather’s mother, an elementary school teacher, is cited as one of the reasons for her resolve. “I’ve always been very goal oriented,” Heather says. “And once I set this goal for myself, there was no backing down.”

Meanwhile, Heather is captain of the high school’s math team and vice president of the National Honor Society. Senior Madeline Buczynski, 17, is president of the National Honor Society. Heather is “a joy to work and collaborate with on National Honor Society issues,” she says.

At OCC, Heather is the vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, the international junior college honors society. ■

**Tau Iota Shines the Brightest!**

OCC’s Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the national honor society of two-year colleges, attended the 20th Annual Middle States Regional Convention held at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Valley Forge, PA, March 2-4. Members of Tau Iota received several recognitions for their hard work and dedication.

Among its honors, Tau Iota received the 2007 Award of Excellence, making OCC one of the top three chapters in the region. This award includes a full scholarship for the International Convention. Tau Iota was also recognized as a Five-Star Chapter, the highest level of achievement and as a 2006-2007 Chapter Champion. Additionally, Tau Iota received the 2006 Pinnacle Platinum Chapter Award for an outstanding membership campaign. To earn this designation, Tau Iota increased its membership acceptance rate by 10% over last year.

Individual students also came out winners at the regional convention. Nicole Foy, Toms River, was inducted into the Chapter Presidents Regional Hall of Honor. Susan Taylor, Forked River, was inducted into the Chapter Officers Regional Hall of Honor. And April Wennlund, Toms River, was inducted into the Chapter Member Regional Hall of Honor.

At the International Convention, held on April 12-15, in Nashville, Tennessee, Tau Iota received the Distinguished Chapter Award. This is the first time that Tau Iota won this prestigious award on the international level.

“Everyone at OCC is extremely proud of the achievements of Tau Iota Chapter. Our members have worked hard in many areas especially the International Honors Theme and the International Service Project; that hard work has resulted in significant accomplishments,” said Dr. William J. Rickert, PTK Advisor and OCC Professor of Mathematics.

The PTK Middle States organization consists of 79 chapters throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. PTK recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students. Students who have earned at least 15 credit hours at OCC, excluding transfer or remedial credits, and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 may be eligible to join Phi Theta Kappa. ■

Stephanie Freudenberg, 16, is a student at Lacey Township High School Reprinted with permission from the Asbury Park Press.
Students Participate in Write Connection

Toms River High School South and Ocean County College partnered for the second year in a row for a program called the “Write Connection.” On February 21, students in Toms River South’s grade 11 classes traveled to OCC’s Media Center for a program designed to help improve their writing techniques.

Judith Angona, OCC Professor of English and Literature, along with students from her Honors English II class tutored students from teacher Marcie Cantillo’s period 6 class from Toms River South. OCC’s student-tutors offered writing suggestions through peer editing and emphasized the importance of proficient writing skills. According to Prof. Angona, “having the students revise and rewrite their papers during this visit reinforced the concept of writing as a process, a concept that is central to our writing instruction at Ocean County College. We plan on having a follow-up session between the high school students and the college writing tutors.”

Rosemary Hardie, Supervisor of English Instruction at Toms River High School South, explained that the program’s objective is to increase writing proficiency at a grade level where students will face two rigorous standardized testing that include writing components, such as on the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). “This collaborative program also focuses on the research paper unit and preliminary college essay writing,” Hardie added.

“We have seen this program be of great benefit to our students,” said Superintendent of Toms River Regional Schools Michael J. Ritacco. “We anticipate that this exchange of knowledge, specifically in the area of writing, between OCC honors students and Toms River South students will continue for many years to come.”

The “Write Connection” is modeled after the successful pilot program that currently exists between Lawrence High School and The College of New Jersey. The program was also reported on at the Spring Writing Alliance Conference at Rutgers University in April 2005. ■

Malissa Sermarini
Communications Specialist, Toms River Regional Schools
OCC Athletic Hall of Fame

The OCC Athletic Hall of Fame returned to the Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Lakewood, NJ, on October 18, 2006, to induct five new members. Pictured (L-R) are Larry Sheehan ’76 (basketball), Laury Haskamp Cuddihy, M.D. ’89 (swimming), Jeannie Legg Keefer ’79 (swimming), Shannon Dinkjian McCurry ’92 (basketball, tennis), and Jim Francis ’89 (swimming). A total of 25 members have been inducted since the inception of the Hall of Fame in 2003.

Save The Date!

The 2007 OCC Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Lakewood, NJ. Invitations will be available in September. For more information, call 732.255.0494.

Woman of the Year is a “Nycz” Selection

As part of National Girls and Women in Sports Day in New Jersey, Courtney Nycz, Toms River, was honored as one of the Garden State Athletic Conference Woman of the Year selections. The annual event was held in February at Seton Hall University where approximately 1,000 people were in attendance for a luncheon and awards ceremony honoring one female athlete from each high school and college in the state.

While participating in two sports each year, Courtney excelled as one of the top female athletes for the OCC Vikings. During her first season of competition as a swimmer, Courtney earned All-American honors in all her events. Now at the end of her second season of swimming, she qualified to participate at the nationals held the first week of March (see Viking Sports Re-Cap). In softball, Courtney earned All-Conference honors as an outfielder and led the team this spring 2007 season as one of the top returning players. During her three semesters at OCC, Courtney earned All-Academic honors each semester. Last spring, she led the softball team in a fundraising event where the team raised money for “Relay for Life.”

Courtney is a NJ STARS student and plans on completing her associate in arts degree in liberal arts with a concentration in psychology in May 2007. She would like to transfer to Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in the fall 2007 semester to pursue a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in occupational therapy.

Viking Sports Re-Cap

Fall

The Men’s Soccer Team, under the coaching staff of Jason Asch and Brian Huttemann, finished just under .500 this fall, with a strong performance late in the season. All-Conference/All-Region honors went to Bobby Wynn, with Jason DeBartolomeis being named to All-Region.

Women’s Soccer had another great year, finishing second in both the conference and in the region. The team was ranked in the top ten in the country for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), Division III, during most of the season. Four players earned recognition in All-Conference and All-Region including Nicole Lauriegh, Amy Feyko, Erin Roche, and Katie Replinger. Lauriegh, the high scorer for OCC, was ranked the #1 player in the region, which earned her All-American honors for the second year. Karen Geiger Trump, AJ Trump, and Terry Byrnes provided the coaching leadership to this team.

Under the direction of new head coach Stan Friedman, the Women’s Tennis Team had a great season, finishing second in both the conference and region tournaments with the following players earning All-Conference/All-Region honors: Ashley Ferone, Olga Brylevskaya, Tia Ryan, Rachel Planer, Sirena Fredricks, Lindsey Most, and Shannon Witte.

Winter

Men’s Basketball finished with a 21-10 record under the new coaching staff of Ryan O’Rourke and Rory Caswell. The OCC team (along with Gloucester County College) had a 7 win – 1 loss record in the Garden State Athletic Conference earning the Vikings the right to be named the GSAC Champions of the South Division. The team’s success was led by All-Conference and All-Region players Justin Conroy, Kevin Waldron, and Anthony LaBruno.

Ilene Cohen
Director of Athletics

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be the end of the road,” she said. “Start making plans for the next degree. We have so many paths to choose from. We are bound only by our own lack of imagination or drive.”

Walsh echoes DeSantis. “Learning is a lifelong process, OCC is just the beginning. Nursing and medicine change quickly, you have to keep learning,” said Walsh.

Taking her own advice to heart, DeSantis is still looking to further her education and is currently “weighing a few options” to begin her next degree during the fall semester 2007. “I have been accepted to the forensic nursing program at Monmouth University and I have also been in discussion with Rutgers University about its doctorate in nursing practice program. So many options, so many paths!” she added.

It’s true! OCC offers its nursing students a number of options and makes obtaining a degree in nursing accessible, no matter which path you choose. OCC offers day and evening nursing programs for students with no background in the medical field. For students currently employed in the health care field, as well as outstanding scholars who are not employed, the One Day per Week program allows students to attend class once a week and complete most of their requirements right from home via the Internet. The Career Mobility Nursing program is an alternate track for qualified licensed practical nurses (LPN) and corpsman/paramedics seeking to become RNs. OCC also offers assistance to persons with disabilities considering a career in nursing.

Walsh and DeSantis both appreciate the options and opportunities OCC offers, especially in retrospect.

DeSantis entered OCC with no nursing experience. “I learned all my fundamentals here at OCC, which helped me adapt nicely to the ‘real nursing world,’” she said. As a result, DeSantis is able to dually use those fundamentals for her career as well as for the benefit of her students.

Walsh shares the same affection for OCC. “I love the student population, I love the environment,” she said. “I feel that it is rewarding for me to facilitate their educational experience so they are prepared to meet the needs of our community.”

OCC has become a powerhouse in producing highly qualified nursing graduates…and highly qualified faculty! DeSantis and Walsh took their experiences from OCC in very different directions after graduation. However, they both ended up back at the college where they started, bringing with them even more experiences then they had when they left.

The faculty at OCC, as a whole, comes from many diverse settings of education and practice. Kearns believes “having a faculty from different educational backgrounds avoids a narrow perspective of learning…and life.”

For more information on Ocean County College’s Nursing Program, call 732.255.0395 or visit the college website at www.ocean.edu.

Nursing Alumnae Bring Experience Back to the Classroom

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Viking Sports Re-Cap

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Women’s Basketball came on strong towards the latter part of the season earning a fourth seed into the Region XIX Tournament led by the strong playing of Jackie Kline, Oriana Smith, and Kelly McDonald.

The Men’s and Women’s Swimming teams competed hard all season earning 16 national qualifiers (eight men and eight women). At the NJCAA tournament held in Buffalo, NY, both the men’s and women’s teams finished in 6th place in the country. This is the best finish for the team under the helm of Coach Steve Stout. Swimming is a sport that has between 16 to 20 teams competing nationally each year. With that in mind, the NJCAA considers swimming and diving to be one division, yet both scholarship and non-scholarship compete together at the national level. OCC finished 2nd in the non-scholarship level.
A Bachelor's or Master's Degree

The Kean University/Ocean County College Alliance allows qualified students to complete the entire degree program for certain Kean University undergraduate degree programs and specific graduate programs on the OCC campus!

Fast Facts

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