Surfin' OCC
Sisters Jessica and Casey Kwiecinski
Navigate Ocean Waves and Online Learning p. 10
New Building Bridges Gap Between Two Schools

Serves as Ocean County's "Gateway" from Associate to Baccalaureate Degree

For years, the place to go for a "sneak peak" of the Barnegat Bay was Ocean County College's famous Library Clock Tower. But with the opening of the new Gateway Building, a "sweeping view" of the beautiful Barnegat Bay can now be enjoyed from its top floor. As the highest point, not only on OCC's Main Campus, but in Ocean County, the fourth and fifth floors of this magnificent building offer faculty, staff, and students a 360 degree panoramic view of the Barnegat Bay and much of Toms River.

The Gateway Building officially opened for fall classes on September 4, 2013. On October 2, a dedication ceremony was attended by Ocean County College and Kean University executives along with county and state officials. The 6:00 p.m. dedication was attended by more than 150 invited guests who enjoyed presentations, music, and delicious food.

Dr. Jon H. Larson, Ocean County College President, and Dr. Dawood Farahi, Kean University President, touched on the many benefits of not only the Gateway Building, but on the Kean-Ocean partnership.

"The opening of the Gateway Building is evidence of the strong, unique, and progressive partnership established in 2005 between Ocean County College and Kean University. It provides an extraordinary opportunity for students in Ocean County to get a baccalaureate degree close to home," said Dr. Larson.

"Here at OCC, we strive continually to augment our campus such that we improve the bigger picture, and persist in realizing our primary ambition: an atmosphere where our students are comfortable but challenged, happy, and fulfilled," Dr. Larson added.

"The Gateway Building marks another historic milestone not only for the partnership..."
between Kean University and Ocean County College, but also for the residents of Ocean County and neighboring communities who now have easy access to world-class higher education,” stated Dr. Farahi.

“The building itself embodies the partnership between Kean and OCC, but it is what takes place inside the building, inside our classrooms, that is truly transformative. I hope this is one of many celebrations to come, and I am delighted that together we will help prepare generations of students to succeed in today's competitive global economy,” Dr. Farahi said.

A joint venture between OCC and Kean, this magnificent building sits on OCC’s upper campus. The 74,000-square foot, five-story structure is an impressive academic facility. The building was constructed to incorporate new standards in environmental efficiency, most notably a geothermal well field and an eco-friendly cooling and heating system. The building will be shared by both OCC and Kean.

Dr. James McGinty, OCC Executive Vice President of Operational Support, commented on the innovative building style. “The Gateway Building breaks new ground on the OCC campus and introduces standards and elements of design that will no doubt be repeated as we add additional buildings.”

Michael Bruno, OCC Associate Director of Facilities Planning & Construction, has been the force behind much of the work that has gone into the successful completion of the Gateway project. He explained some of the building’s innovative designs.

“Many environmentally-friendly facets of the Gateway Building will make their way to future buildings. The exterior wall construction includes three-inch thick, insulated panels to provide a well-insulated, ‘tight’ exterior envelope. Classroom and office lighting will automatically dim to save energy when there is adequate natural sunlight shining into the room. Rain water from the building’s roof enters rain gardens outside of the building, which helps to ‘clean’ the water prior to it entering the surrounding environment,” said Bruno.

This state-of-the-art building houses a 210-seat lecture hall with natural light and a large screen for presentations. The classrooms have newly-designed chairs that can be adjusted for left hand or right hand use.

Another unique aspect of the Gateway Building is that it is “divided” in half with OCC and Kean housed in separate wings. OCC’s space includes 14 classrooms, two laptop labs, and a conference room, along with faculty and staff offices. The Kean wing includes 12 classrooms, four seminar rooms, two specialty labs, a conference room, and office space for faculty and staff.

Common space includes study areas, seating to relax and chat with friends, and a student lounge with two flat screen TVs. There’s even a Seattle’s Best Coffee kiosk featuring regular brewed coffees, lattes, and hot chocolate. In addition, the kiosk serves grab-and-go sandwiches, salads, pastries, yogurt, snacks, and beverages.

In addition, there are 192 parking spaces in the new parking lot that is currently operating near the Gateway Building. According to Bruno, these spaces have been added to compensate for the increase in the number of students taking classes; however, students attending class in Gateway have been overwhelming that particular lot. Future plans include an additional 1,177 parking spaces. “The County is working on completing that lot in the coming months. This lot will be used for Gateway, the lower campus, athletic fields, and the upper campus,” added Bruno.

But the Gateway Building is not the end to OCC’s campus renovations. According to Dr. McGinty, there are quite a few construction projects in the works, so the Gateway Building truly earns its title, in that its successful creation has led to more plans for structural growth.

“There are several new projects planned for the campus,” explained

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Bruno. A new Student Center will include a modern cafeteria and many student-centered areas such as meeting rooms for clubs. The Instructional Building, one of the original buildings on the campus, is planned to be renovated into a modern teaching facility for general academics in addition to new laboratory space. Early conceptual design is underway for a new building that will house the Nursing program, general academic space, the TV Studio, a centralized IT infrastructure, and administrative and computer lab space.

“All projects will blend the open, collaborative, modern, and energy-efficient aspects of the Gateway Building while still blending into the existing, traditional campus architecture,” added Bruno.

For now, the Gateway Building is home to OCC and Kean classes as well as Kean-Ocean administrative offices. Kean students will be able to meet with an advisor, register for classes, and purchase books in one convenient location.

During the summer, Janie Foley (Kean 2014) was excited about the prospect of taking classes in the new building come September. “I am looking forward to it. It will lead to more opportunities for classes, which should bring more students, professors, and options in general.”

Over the summer, faculty members from both Kean and OCC moved into their offices and have acclimated to their new environment. Dean Labollita, OCC College Lecturer of Social Science, shared his thoughts on the new building. “This is a much more technologically-advanced building than I had thought. The streamlined classrooms will be a great learning environment for our students and the ergonomic offices are an asset for the faculty. Truly – a cherished addition to the campus!”

Since fall 2005, Kean has been offering students the opportunity to complete a bachelor’s or master’s degree on the OCC campus. The Kean-Ocean partnership allows students to first complete an associate degree at OCC and then continue on to earn a Kean bachelor’s degree without ever leaving Ocean County. Currently, there are 25 bachelor’s degrees including accounting, biology, computer science, criminal justice, elementary education, English, finance, graphic design, history, management, marketing, nursing, physical education, psychology, public administration, sociology, and special education. Several majors include teacher certification options in special education, K-5, or 5-8 subjects.

Kean also offers master’s degrees through the Kean-Ocean partnership. Master’s degree programs include counselor education (state certification for school counseling), educational leadership (state certification for supervisor/principal), nursing (options in clinical management or school nursing), and public administration (option in nonprofit management).

“I completed my associate degree at OCC in 2012,” explained Maria Tchaplygin. “I plan to pursue a bachelor’s degree through the Kean-Ocean program and I look forward to taking classes in the new Gateway Building. Being able to study for my bachelor’s here on the OCC campus, makes a Kean degree accessible and affordable.”

If someone you know is looking to complete a four-year college degree or master’s program but doesn’t want to travel outside Ocean County, the Kean-Ocean partnership can provide you with the opportunity to pursue your education right on OCC’s beautiful Main Campus! And the new Gateway Building lets you do it in style!

RoseAnn D’Urso
Manager of Promotional Programming
FDU Offers 40% Tuition Discount to OCC Students

Ocean County College and Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) announced an unprecedented Dual Admission Agreement that provides a 40% tuition discount to OCC students transferring to FDU. The new OCC-FDU Scholars Program Agreement was signed on October 25, 2013 in the Board Room on OCC’s Main Campus in Toms River.

FDU and OCC established a Scholars Program that enables OCC students to complete the upper division courses required for FDU undergraduate degree programs and selected combined bachelor’s/master’s programs upon completion of an associate degree from OCC.

Dr. Jianping Wang, OCC Vice President of Academic Affairs, spearheaded this impressive Dual Admission Agreement. “Fairleigh Dickinson University offers some very attractive programs, but many of our students cannot afford the tuition. This is a win-win agreement for both OCC and FDU, but most importantly for our students. OCC students are now able to transfer to the university of their choice, and Fairleigh Dickinson University is now able to attract OCC’s high-caliber students. Together, we have made quality higher education more affordable for many more students and their families and we are very proud of that partnership.”

Dr. Joseph J. Kiernan, FDU Campus Provost said, “We are very pleased to expand our partnership with Ocean County College. In the past several months, there have been many conversations about affordability. Today, two of New Jersey’s academic institutions have gotten together to do something about it … we created an affordable path.”

“Dr. Wang is an action-oriented person – so refreshing,” said Donald Hoover, Senior Lecturer, FDU International School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. “Fairleigh Dickinson’s mission of creating global citizens aligns with Dr. Larson’s vision of providing students with marketability and global opportunities. This is a welcoming opportunity to fulfill this vision for area residents,” he said.

Financially, all OCC students in the program will be eligible for a 40% reduction from the appropriate FDU tuition rate upon completion of the associate degree and enrollment in the BA, BS, or combined degree program. In addition to the 40% reduction:

- Students who elect to reside at FDU’s Metropolitan Campus or College at Florham will receive a $1,500 per year housing grant.

“OCC graduates are well-rounded and leave our doors with a solid foundation in education, better able to handle the rigors of an upper-division school. Everyone at OCC is very pleased that Fairleigh Dickinson is able to admit our academically-outstanding students, at a reduced tuition rate, who otherwise might not be able to attend this extraordinary university,” said Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President.

In brief, the Scholars Program is open to first-time college students admitted to FDU who elect to attend OCC; first-time college students applying to FDU who do not meet requirements for admission; and matriculated OCC students who have earned less than 30 credits. All students interested in the Scholars Program must sign an OCC-FDU Scholars Program Commitment Form. Admissions standards for students entering into the program from OCC will be consistent with FDU policies. All matriculated students at OCC will be granted priority at FDU during the registration period in their final OCC semester prior to transfer to FDU.

Sheldon Drucker, FDU President, commented, “Fairleigh Dickinson University is proud to build upon our partnership with Ocean County College to provide OCC graduates easy access to a variety of undergraduate, as well as combined bachelor’s and master’s degree programs. Just as importantly in these difficult economic times, these students will be eligible for a significant reduced tuition rate, as well as scholarships and grants.”

For more information contact Anthony Mastropietro, FDU Community College Partnership, at 201-424-8652 or mastro@fdu.edu.

RoseAnn D’Urso
Manager of Promotional Programming
PTK Has Secret to Financial Success!

Do you want to know the secret to financial success? It’s simple. Don’t just take a college class ... complete your degree! That’s right. Statistics show that the surest way for anyone to land a job in his/her chosen field is to earn a college degree or certificate. And that’s exactly what students at OCC promised to do during the fall 2013 semester.

OCC’s Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society of two-year colleges, along with OCC’s Student Government Association (SGA), sponsored a mass pledge with students promising to complete their associate degree or certificate before leaving OCC to either transfer to a four-year institution or to enter the job market.

The pledge, entitled Community College Completion Corps (C4), is part of a national movement promoted by PTK. C4 stresses that completing a community college degree or certificate is a student’s pathway to greater earning potential and unlimited opportunities throughout his/her life.

Tau Iota and the SGA kicked off the pledge drive at the beginning of the fall semester with a push to get the word out on campus during September. Posters were placed around campus urging students to “Commit Today, Earn More Tomorrow.” In addition, buttons and wristbands were distributed.

The week of October 21 to October 25 was heralded as “Commitment Week at Ocean County College” when students gathered to sign the Completion Pledge. In addition, administrators, faculty, and staff were also asked to sign a pledge, committing themselves to do whatever they can to facilitate completion of each student’s credentials.

According to the C4 campaign, completing a community college degree or certificate helps students to earn an average of up to $500,000 more over the course of their careers than individuals who don’t complete their education. In addition, individuals with college credentials are less likely to become unemployed than their co-workers who did not earn credentials.

In April 2010, leaders of six national organizations representing the nation’s 1,200 community colleges signed “The Call to Action,” a pledge to increase student completion rates by 50% over the next decade. PTK was the only student organization asked to participate, and in response to this call, it launched C4.

The 2010 White House Summit for Community Colleges called for community colleges to produce an additional five million degrees and certificates in the next ten years, part of a goal to restore the United States as the world’s leader in college graduates. The United States is currently ranked 16th among industrialized countries in the percentage of citizens holding higher education credentials.

In part, OCC’s student pledge had students commit to plan for college completion … discuss career planning with instructors and staff … seek advisement on course selection … use college support networks and resources … serve as a role model by attending class, being prepared, and participating in discussions … encourage other students toward college completion … and help at least one other student succeed.

OCC’s employee pledge had administrators, faculty, and staff commit to recognize their role … work alongside colleagues … promote an educated citizenry and a globally-competitive workforce … affirm the need for a dramatic increase in the number of individuals earning postsecondary degrees and certificates to fulfill critical local, state, national, and international goals … and acknowledge that they have an obligation through their work to meet the challenge while holding firmly to traditional values of access, opportunity, and quality. Employees also pledged to promote practices and strategies that will produce 50% more students with high-quality degrees and certificates by 2020.

Together with student leaders from Tau Iota and the SGA, the College hosted a Completion Convocation on October 24 to launch its participation in C4.

To learn more about Community College Completion Corps, visit www.cccompletioncorps.org.

RoseAnn D’Urso
Manager of Promotional Programming
Making Friends with the Military

OCC was named to the 2014 Military Friendly Schools list. This designation showcases the top 20% of colleges, universities, and trade schools throughout the nation that embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students. Military Friendly Schools are so designated because they deliver the best experience for military students nationwide to ensure their success.

OCC proudly features the Military Friendly logo on the college website, social media, publications (published after September 2013), and other OCC materials.

The Military Friendly Schools website provides information on the selected schools based on location, class structure, and areas of study. The site also provides information on Military Friendly Employers, Military Friendly Franchises, and Military Friendly Cities that offer the most opportunities for military personnel. The website may be viewed at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com.

Articulation Agreements Expand Student Opportunities

OCC has entered into an articulation agreement with Norwich University, Vermont. The agreement will allow students to transfer seamlessly from OCC’s online associate of science degree in criminal justice to the online Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice through Norwich’s College of Graduate & Continuing Studies (CGCS).

Norwich offers master’s degrees, bachelor’s degree completions, certificates, and enrichment programs for working adults and lifelong learners through an online venue designed to accommodate students’ varied work schedules and lifestyles.

Norwich University prides itself on a tradition of being forward-thinking education innovators, with a strong focus on student centered academic excellence.

Elsewhere, Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Outreach & School Relations, has been very successful in expanding the College’s online articulation agreements with four-year institutions to ensure a seamless transition to other online degree programs. Articulated partnerships are being expanded with upper division institutions that offer fully-compatible online baccalaureate degrees.

Schilling has been working closely with Excelsior College, the University of Maryland - University College, Southern New Hampshire University, College of Online & Continuing Education, Penn State World Campus, and American Public University to develop specific articulation agreements to benefit OCC students and to expand the options available to them after they complete their associate degrees.

New Internship in Computer Studies

In a unique collaboration between Academic Affairs, Information Technology, and Ellucian, an internship program has been established to allow talented computer science students to receive Ellucian training and hands-on programming experience. Successful graduates may have the opportunity to permanently join the College or Ellucian staff upon completion of the internship.

Academic Affairs established a new course section of “Internship in Computer Studies,” with Mary Burke, Professor of Computer Science, as the academic advisor. Two students are enrolled in this course, and each student will spend 125 hours in the program working on data security, privacy, and protection.

It is important to note that throughout the program the students are working in an educational environment delivered by Ellucian with mockup data. OCC is pleased with the results of the first internship program of this kind, and believes both interns will be good candidates for permanent positions.

Ellucian provides higher education software and services to more than 2,400 institutions in 40 countries that look to Ellucian for the ideas and insights that will move education forward.
OCC Security Partners with Local Police Force

Bob Kumpf, Director of Campus Security, coordinated with Toms River Police Chief Michael Mastronardy to conduct a series of “active shooter” drills by the Toms River Police Department on the OCC campus throughout summer 2013. The drills took place in the temporarily vacated Nursing Building.

By the end of the summer, a vast majority of the Toms River police were on the OCC campus, making them more familiar with the College and its facilities.

This continued partnership with the Toms River Police Department is another example of OCC’s proactive endeavors to ensure that the College is prepared, secure, and safe.

Improving Student Advising with Enhanced Communication

The OCC Advising Office, recognizing the need to find innovative methods of communicating with students, is always seeking new ways to accommodate student needs and to foster a personal connection with them, especially with nontraditional students, distance learning students, and students at the Southern Education Center (SEC) in Manahawkin, NJ.

With that in mind, research was undertaken recently to identify products that would allow students to meet with advisors remotely.

Initially, Skype was considered an efficient tool to advise students, but it lacks some essential advising aspects and does not provide the opportunity for other offices, such as Financial Aid and Registration & Records, to utilize the software. Eventually, after contacting other community colleges, a Cisco product named Jabber was discovered, which offers face-to-face and voice capabilities, instant messaging, desktop sharing, and conferencing.

The short-term goal in using the Jabber software is to establish a better partnership between OCC’s Toms River campus and the SEC. The long-term goal is for students to be able to speak to a college representative remotely with the advantage of the desktop sharing and conferencing ability.

A pilot program began in September wherein NJ STARS students had the capability of scheduling appointments remotely with the coordinator via Jabber. Following a successful completion of the pilot program, steps will be taken in January 2014 to make Jabber available to the entire student body. Students will be able to connect via Jabber with staff members in various College offices. While the service will be available to all students, it will be most useful to nontraditional students who cannot readily travel to campus.

OCC is Among Top Associate Degree Producers

Community College Week, a national publication covering community, technical, and junior colleges since 1988, has once again named OCC in its special edition listing of the Top 100 Associate Degree Producers in the nation.

The data used for this study is collected by the National Center for Education Statistics through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Set (IPEDS) completion surveys. Included in the analysis are institutions within the nation that are regionally accredited by agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Based on the data collected for the 2011-2012 academic year, OCC placed 47th on the list of institutions awarding associate degrees in liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities, having conferred 1,122 degrees in these general education disciplines.
Website Redesign Updates Navigation, Content

Over the past year and a half, College Relations and Information Technology worked together to redesign the OCC website in order to update its look and make it more user-friendly! The newly trimmed down site has gone from over 10,000 pages to just 1,700! It was launched in October 2013.

The redesigned website’s layout and navigation have been specifically crafted to reflect what our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members told us they needed. It also builds upon technology that is capable of addressing future needs of the campus community and prospective students. A major feature of the new design is that content can be continually updated as the College moves forward to keep the website fresh and current.

A major goal of the redesign project was to develop a more intuitive site navigation that will guide website visitors to the correct information based on what they are trying to do. The redesign features a new Alumni page including easy access to Alumni benefits, events, Rewards Program information, and a quick and easy way to update your personal information. You can even view back editions of Ocean Views and find the latest information on Planetarium and Arts & Community Center shows!

State Honors Nine Ocean County Artists

The 2013 Award Reception for the Annual New Jersey Senior Citizens Art Contest took place on November 1, 2013 at Meadow Lakes in East Windsor, NJ. Nine Ocean County residents were honored at the closing award reception.

The following Ocean County artists previously received 1st Place in the 37th Annual Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit held at Ocean County College and subsequently had the opportunity to move up to the state level.

Non-Professional Division: Rosemarie Reinman (Toms River), Photography, Angel Oak, and Sonia Schories (Manchester) Oil, Still Waiting, each took home 1st Place in their respective divisions.

Margaret Greener (Lakewood) received 3rd Place in Acrylic for Dinghy. And Honorable Mentions went to Paul Hartelius III (Manahawkin) in Watercolor for House of Seven Gables, Lois Linde (Lakewood) in Drawing for Jason, and Doris Taylor (Toms River) in Print for Lunchtime.

Professional Division: Ellen Scharfenberg (Toms River) took 2nd Place in Pastel for Fog & Queen Ann’s Lace. Richard Maxwell (Whiting) received 3rd Place in Sculpture for A Study in Wire. Honorable Mention went to Louis Riccio (Brick) in Oil for Art Birdsall Master Duck Carver.

Joanne Padrone, OCC Director of Resource Development, explained, “There were 17 Ocean County artists who were chosen to exhibit at the state level. The talent that was displayed at both the County and State exhibits was outstanding. I congratulate our winners along with all of our artists.”

The Ocean County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit was sponsored by OCC’s Department of Resource Development, Office of College Relations, Senior Art Advisory Committee, and the Arts & Community Center, along with the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission.
During a three-month stay in Puerto Rico last winter, twin sisters Casey and Jessica Kwiecinski, 19, regularly walked a few miles uphill to a café with wi-fi to enable their studies as online students at Ocean County College – just one of a number of challenges the Jackson natives tackled in pursuit of a life with surfing at its center.

“We have been taking basic classes online to earn our associate degree while we are still figuring out what exactly we want to do” beyond a current focus on riding waves near and far, for fun and for competitions, Jessica explained. “We love the online learning experience as it allows us to do our schoolwork wherever we are in the world, and on our own time. It’s really convenient because we can surf and train all day and go to school at night or when the waves are flat.”

“OCC has helped us continue our education while still being able to travel and work towards our goals and dreams of being professional surfers,” Casey continued. “I have had nothing but good experiences with my online courses, and I plan to continue with them online for now. I think that even if my traveling schedule were to stop, I would still continue with the online courses, because I am familiar with them and they allow me to work at my own pace, on my own time. I highly recommend OCC’s online courses to anyone! They are easy to understand and I feel I can learn better in a comfortable environment. The teachers are always quick to respond with answers to any of my questions and I can’t imagine going to college anywhere else!”

In their small studio apartment on the beach in Rincon, the girls made do with no Internet, phone service, television, or car. “While most of their peers were away at college, these sisters were learning how to make the rent, pay the bills, and cook their own meals,” said their mom, Jill Kwiecinski, all of which was “a small price to pay for living out their dream.”

Jessica and Casey started surfing at 13 and 14 years
old, respectively. Both attended the Ocean County Performing Arts Academy their freshman and sophomore years of high school, then Jackson Memorial and a vocational school for graphic design junior year, before transitioning to homeschooling with Keystone National as seniors to facilitate travel for surfing.

“Our high schools did not have a surf team,” said Jessica. “However, I competed on a national level throughout high school, traveling all along the East Coast and California for contests.”

“I love getting to travel because of surfing. I’ve gotten to meet so many amazing people from all over the world because of it and it’s given me so many cool opportunities,” Jessica added.

Casey came later to the competitive scene. “A lot of my close friends from all over the United States did it and I would travel to the contests with my sister and see how much politics and aggravation are involved and wanted nothing to do with it,” she remarked. “This past year, I have been entering the competitive world, though. It’s a love/hate relationship.”

For the pure pursuit of surfing, however, Casey has nothing but love: “I love the fact that it’s always changing, no two waves are alike, and you can constantly challenge yourself.”

The sisters’ winter stint in Puerto Rico was preceded by a visit to the Surf Expo in Florida last January, to which Jessica was invited as part of the Eastern Surfing Association All-Star Team. They also met with and gained sponsors; the girls are both backed by Body Glove, Cobian Footwear, Creatures of Leisure, Key 2 Sports Training, Eastern Lines Surf Shop, and Fins Tropicali Cuisine, in addition to Brian Wynn Surfboards for Casey.

“From the Expo the girls headed off to Rincon,” said Jill, “where for the first time in their lives they lived on their own. During their three-month stay in Puerto Rico, they trained hard, surfed every day no matter how big or small the waves, and competed on a professional level, while still finding time to work out and run the hills of Rincon.”

As Jessica remarked, there is a great deal “you take for granted when living at home, such as having food in your fridge or a warm shower every night. We did not have a car, so we had to walk everywhere. We basically did nothing but surf, run, walk to the food store, and walk into town so we could do schoolwork.”

“The main thing about living alone in Puerto Rico,” said Casey, “was that we didn’t have our family, just each other. We both got pretty sick at one point and we couldn’t just go to the doctor, or the hospital, or go cry to our mom. That was the scariest part – being far away from our family. Fortunately, we met a lot of really nice people who made our experience so much easier, by giving us rides, taking us in like family, and watching out for us.”

In early March, the girls prepared to compete in the Corona Pro surf contest, where they’d face the biggest waves they’d ever surfed.

“It was the biggest swell Puerto Rico has seen for this contest ever,” their mom noted. “The waves were said to be 12 to 15 feet, making the surfers need Jet Ski assist just to make it out past the break.”

Body Glove found the sisters a local to train them prior to the competition.

“I remember doing nothing but running and trying to build my endurance when I heard how big it was going to be,” said Casey. “I was really sick the day before the contest and didn’t even want to do it. I didn’t sleep the night before. I remember just sitting in my yard listening to the waves; they were so loud.”

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Casey added, “Walking up to the beach that morning all I wanted to do was turn around and run home.”

Jessica concurred: “I don’t think I have ever been so nervous to do something that I love before in my entire life. When we walked up to the beach that morning and saw how big the waves were, I knew there was no turning back.”

“Fortunately,” said Casey, “we were introduced to Charlie King, a former Manasquan resident, who had a lot of knowledge of the spot and of big waves. He hooked us up with bigger boards, because our small surfboards were not going to cut it in that swell. We also had a few people from home on the beach watching, and that helped a lot. I remember my mom texting me that morning telling me I didn’t have to do it if I didn’t feel comfortable, but I knew I had no choice. As I kept advancing through heats, I got more and more comfortable and I’m so happy I did it.”

“My sister has literally been by my side throughout all of these experiences,” said Jessica. “I always have somebody to paddle out with, hang out with, talk to, and do pretty much everything with! Since I’m not in one place for too long, I have to adapt to change a lot and I know that I can count on my sister being there—the one thing that won’t change!”

As Casey said of her sister, “I don’t know what I would do without her; she’s become my best friend. Traveling a lot makes it hard to keep close relationships with people back at home, so without my family I would be lost. She’s been by my side through the good and the bad times, and I would not be the person I am today without her. She also pushes me to work harder and I’ve been blessed with so many cool experiences because of surfing, and I’m happy I’ve gotten to share them with her.”

To learn more about the Kwiecinski twins, follow them on Instagram and Twitter, at @caseykwiecinski, @jessicakwiecinski, and @EastCoastKTwins. Visit their website at thektwins.com.

Juliet Kaszas-Hoch  
Staff Writer
Is it true that girls can do anything including math? According to one OCC alumna, the answer is an emphatic yes!

Avenel resident Purna Patel graduated cum laude from OCC in 2010 and went on to receive Kean University’s Researcher of the Year Award in April 2013 – just one month after she co-published her geometry research in one of the most well-known and selective journals in mathematics.

But with all her current academic success, Patel’s life started out very differently.

Raised on a farm in a small village in India, Patel’s family grew cotton, sugarcane, beans, grains, vegetables, mangoes, pomegranate, and different spices. Her teachers and family envisaged that Patel would marry and become a housewife – higher education was not in her future.

“It was expected by the entire community, so it was more of a norm,” she explained. “Women were mainly housewives, especially ten years ago, and did not contribute to a family’s income. People often said, ‘What are you going to do with your education when all you will be doing is cooking for your family your whole life?’ I felt frustrated and helpless. Many people disagreed with the idea but could not contradict it or disrespect it, especially in the village.”

However, math was always somewhere in Patel’s subconscious. While she studied the art of henna and embroidery, Patel drew geometric patterns in her notebook to help with artistic designs. Ultimately her destiny lay not in the gentle art forms of embroidery and henna, but somewhere that most girls in India dared not tread.

In 2004 at the age of 17, Patel’s family, including her parents and brother, immigrated to the United States. She spoke no English. However, she discovered her mathematics ability while studying English as a Second Language at Newton High School (Newton, NJ) and the County College of Morris. Patel ultimately moved to Ocean County. It was at that time that her love of mathematics was awakened. But it was difficult for her to decide to major in math and become a teacher.

“I was still living in that environment (from India) and the ideas it fostered about being female and pursuing a career in mathematics.” But Patel’s parents supported her decision and she was now determined to break tradition and become a math teacher.

In an email to Theodore Gordon, OCC Instructor of Mathematics, Patel highlighted her recent accomplishments and attributed her success to the help she received from all her professors at OCC especially Dr. Elizabeth Brierley, OCC Associate Professor of Communications, and Dr. Marilyn Kralik, OCC Professor of Art History.

“I owe so many thanks to you and to the professors who have helped me through my previous years in college. So thank you for all your help in all of my classes,” she wrote in her email.

Patel explained that she received so much more than just advice and an education.

“I thank Prof. Gordon who advised me to continue with my intended major when I got nervous about whether I had chosen the right major during my first year at OCC.

“During 2009-2010, my parents lost their job and we could hardly afford food. I thanked Prof. Brierley and Prof. Kralik for helping and supporting me during a tough time for me and my family. I was very close to giving up my education to help support my family and they advised me to continue. Prof. Brierley gave me the book for her class that I enrolled in. Prof. Kralik offered me a check to help out my family,” added Patel.

“One of my all-time favorite students. An inspiration,” said Dr. Brierley. “Purna has overcome tremendous obstacles. She is the
ideal student: she never made excuses, she always made an effort. I could tell she was under a lot of stress so when she was enrolled in my class, we spoke during office hours and my heart broke to hear of her situation. We met on a regular basis to discuss her progress, but more importantly, to see how she was feeling, how her family was doing. I am honored to say that Purna and I have developed a friendship and have kept in touch. I am so proud of her resilience, her compassion, and the love and respect she has for her family.”

Dr. Brierley continued, “I recall one of the highlights of my teaching career was when Purna came to my office on what is the traditional day in India to honor teachers. She performed a ritual for me – a prayer of sorts, and then touched my feet, my hands … I was so moved. She has no idea how much that meant to me, I am honored to reflect on such a magnificent human spirit.”

“Purna is such a beautiful soul,” said Dr. Kralik. “She impressed me as a student – she is outstandingly diligent and creative – but also as a person of conscience and integrity. She occasionally would drop by my office to chat, to ask follow-up questions, or discuss broader intellectual issues. One afternoon, I guess I pushed a little bit and found out that her family was enduring many difficulties. Despite the fact that they were all working so hard, they were up against circumstances beyond their control and faced with finding new jobs and a new home. Yet Purna has such dignity and such a belief in the future – even though she and her brother had to figure out a way to commute long distances to continue their educations, she was absolutely determined to make it work. And she did.

“I was honored and humbled at her commencement ceremony – Purna fought her way through the crowds so that she could introduce me to her family, and then they took our picture together. I often think about her, proud to have been a small part of her journey,” Dr. Kralik added.

After transferring to Kean University, Patel continued to study math. While enrolled in Dr. Raymond Viglione’s “Euclidean/Non-Euclidean Geometry” course, she became curious about a particular diagram and began modifying it.

“I used to see things more algebraically, although I always wondered about having many shapes put together and how and why they appear the way they do. Since geometry is more visual, I thought it wasn’t my thing until I started reading proof solutions in Dr. Viglione’s class,” she said.

Patel worked with Dr. Viglione, Assistant Chair of the Mathematics Department at Kean University (see photo, left), and the two came up with a new theorem. They published “Proof without Words: A Variation on Thébault’s First Problem” in the March 2013 edition of The College Mathematics Journal.

“Purna is one of the brightest and most inquisitive students I’ve met in my 11 years at Kean,” Dr. Viglione noted. “She has a wonderful talent and passion for geometry. It was a pleasure to work with her, and I’m quite proud of our paper, wherein we present a never-before-seen geometry result along with a slick proof.”

Patel explained the theorem further. “Given a parallelogram (see diagram), the centers of the squares drawn on the both sides of both diagonals form a parallelogram congruent to the original and rotated 90 degrees about its center.”

Pretty impressive for a young girl expected to get married and cook for her family for the rest of her life. But the question remains, why does Patel have such a love of geometry?

“Well, I am a nature lover, and if you look around, almost every object is made of some kind of geometric shape. When I was making henna designs and embroidering, I used to look around and get ideas for different designs. The only difference is that those designs are curvier; in geometry the shapes are straight,” she explained.

Patel has certainly come a long way from her parents’ farm in a rural village in India. And she chalks up her success to the help and encouragement she received at Ocean County College.

“My experience at OCC was wonderful. I loved all the classes I had taken and learned a lot. I have made many friends at OCC. I felt like a part of a community,” she added.

Patel will graduate from Kean in January 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and plans to teach high school – passing on her love of geometry … and proving that girls can do anything including embroidery, henna, and math. ♦

RoseAnn D’Urso
Manager of Promotional Programming
**Alumni on the Move**

**EILEEN BIONI, ’11,** recently received her Bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Kean University. She is currently attending Bay Path College in Longmeadow, MA, pursuing a Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy. After graduation, she plans on working as an occupational therapist in a school-based setting or in a children’s hospital. Eileen attributes OCC as the stepping stone she needed to pursue her dreams. She is proud to call herself an alumna of this great community college!

**LINDA S. CLARK, ’12,** became unemployed at the age of 55 and decided to return to school. In 2010, she started at OCC to finish the associate degree she had started back in the ’80’s. Linda was able to transfer several credits, but had to retake some standard courses in English and the dreaded “speech” class. Linda felt she was accepted as easily by her younger classmates as by those closer to her age and made friends of all ages, ethnic groups, and abilities. Her music and English classes were her favorites, and she even managed to earn an “A” in that “public speaking” class! She graduated with honors at age 58. She felt all of her professors at OCC were patient and very helpful. In fall 2012, Linda secured a part-time position at a respite group home for children with developmental disabilities. “I now am employed there full-time and love it!”

**GRACE JOHNSON, ’88,** was honored with community leaders from Lakewood and Ocean County at the Man & Woman of the Year Banquet. The event was hosted by St. John AME Zion Church in August 2013.

**ASHLEY RAE KARK, ’08,** is the Sales & Marketing Coordinator of North America for Evotec, a small German-based biotech company. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Montclair State University on an NJ Stars II scholarship and is

continued on page 16

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**FRIENDS AND 2013 OCC GRADS** enjoy the first game of the football season at Rutgers University. The group transferred to Rutgers for the fall 2013 semester. *(Photo Above, Front Row L-R)*

**Kathryn Donohue** (Toms River) is majoring in Environmental Science and **Danielle Vogt** (Ortley Beach) is a History major. *(Back Row L-R)* **Marc Nantel, James Lopez,** and **Marc Varvaro** (all Toms River) are Sports Management majors, and **Christopher Keglian** (Toms River) is a Supply Chain Management major.

*(Photo Right)* Lopez as a Volunteer Manager for the Rutgers Women’s Basketball Team, in action on the court during a game.

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**WE’RE PROUD OF OUR ALUMNI**

**Let Us Know What You’re Doing!**

Email us your career moves, promotions, relocations, marriages, births, and other information you’d like to share with your fellow alumni. We’d also like to publish recent pictures, so please feel free to submit a digital photo. Email your submission to jpadrone@ocean.edu with the Subject line titled “Alumni on the Move.”

Post a message on our Facebook page and you may get published in our next edition of Ocean Views.

Help us keep our database current. Update your name, address, phone, email, and career information.

Contact Joanne Padrone, Director of Resource Development, at 732-255-0400, ext. 2065, or email jpadrone@ocean.edu.
LAUREN WEBER ELYSE, '11, lives on the Island of Oahu, HI, where she owns two companies. The first company is Lauren Elyse Fine Art, where she works as a professional painter and illustrator. Lauren feels that her OCC Business major helped her greatly with this venture, and feels she can honestly say without the insight and instruction she received at OCC she would not be a successful artist today. The other company is a social media business that helps small businesses get their online presence current and comprehensive. She and her husband live near the beach and they love to travel.

Lauren's original artwork, "Fireflies."

Continued from p.15
pursuing a Masters of Business & Science in Drug Discovery & Development at Rutgers University. Ashley explained that she originally applied for a lab manager position but her supervisor saw something more than a lab tech and offered her a job in sales and marketing. "I had no background in this, and to be honest, did not want the position. After some coaxing, I decided to try it out for a couple months ... and here I am over three years later!"

FRANK H. KELLOGG, '12, is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda. In June, he competed in a national finance competition and placed in the top ten of college students. He was also given an opportunity, last summer, to teach women's self-defense classes for the Barnegat Food Bank in addition to four other self-defense workshops. Frank feels he was able to use a lot of the business skills he learned from his professors at OCC in real-life applications.

MARK MALINOWSKI, '00, completed his Master of Science in Financial Fraud & Forensics from Carlow University, Pittsburgh, PA in August 2013.

RICARDO J. ZULUETA, JR., '96, is the CEO/founder of Fukitt [foo-kit] Clothing. The mission of his brand is to inspire and motivate people to live life without regret and accept challenges worth the risk, which is why he supports suicide prevention awareness. For more information, visit www.fukitt.com. Previously, Ricardo worked as a financial analyst with AT&T. 

Happy Birthday, Alumni!

Watch your email for a personal Birthday Greeting sent to our alumni!

You’ll receive a Birthday Wish with a Birthday Coupon for two FREE tickets to the Planetarium to be used during your Birthday Month. Redeeming your Coupon is easy! Just print out your Birthday Email, make your reservation, bring a guest, and enjoy the show! If you have questions or want to update your email address, contact Joanne Padrone, Director of Resource Development, at jpadrone@ocean.edu.
Island Heights resident, Evan Williamson, ’13, was selected as this year’s Student/Alumni Representative on the OCC Board of Trustees. The Board provides leadership and develops policy for the College. As part of the Board, Evan holds a non-voting seat but has the opportunity to ask questions about student involvement and make suggestions.

Evan was born in Brick and graduated from Central Regional High School in Bayville. His mother is Dr. Marilyn Kralik, OCC Professor of Art History. When asked how his mother influenced his life, Evan replied “how didn’t she influence my life? I’ve been coming to OCC since birth. She always pushed for high success and I knew I had to go the 100%.”

After attending his first Board of Trustees meeting, Evan said it was “impressive.” His goal while serving on the Board is to make a difference, push for more arts, and most importantly, to be representative of all the students.

Evan has worked in the Arts & Community Center Theatre and has appeared in OCC’s productions of Book of Days and Dream of the Burning Boy. He was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Associated Students of OCC (student government), and the Video Club. His hobbies include woodworking and do-it-yourself projects.

Over the years, Evan has been involved with many volunteer endeavors. He has many memories of helping with events sponsored by the Toms River Rotary while in high school and at OCC. Currently, he is working with the United Way’s Recovery Program in Monmouth County to help rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

After graduating with an associate degree in General Education with a focus on broadcasting and television production, Evan is taking a semester off. He looks forward to majoring in International Relations at the College of New Jersey and is also interested in transferring to Yale to pursue his goals. Evan would one day like to work with the United States Department of State in Foreign Service. Good luck, Evan!

Joanne Padrone  
Director of Resource Development

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Alumni Spotlight

Evan Williamson  
Class of 2013

THE RANDOM 10

...is a set of questions for the alumni interviewed in each issue’s “Alumni Spotlight.” Here is Evan Williamson’s “Random Ten.”

1. **WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE OCCASION IN YOUR LIFE?**  
   Living in England for 18 months when I was 10 years old

2. **WHAT IS YOUR DREAM VACATION?**  
   Visit Eastern Europe especially Lithuania

3. **I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO...**  
   Have an influential position so I can use my knowledge to make a difference

4. **IF YOU COULD BE ANY CHARACTER IN FICTION, WHO WOULD IT BE?**  
   Jay Gatsby

5. **IF YOU COULD CHANGE PLACES FOR A WEEK WITH ANY OTHER PERSON-LIVING OR DECEASED, WHO WOULD IT BE?**  
   Salvador Dali

6. **IF HOLLYWOOD MADE A MOVIE ABOUT YOUR LIFE, WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY THE LEAD ROLE?**  
   Johnny Depp

7. **DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN ONE WORD.**  
   Whimsical

8. **WHAT ESSENTIAL ITEMS WOULD YOU BRING ON A ROAD TRIP?**  
   A road atlas, a Leatherman, and a thermos

9. **WHAT BOOK ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING?**  
   A collection of short stories by H. P. Lovecraft

10. **IF YOU WON $20 MILLION IN THE LOTTERY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THE MONEY?**  
    Donate and use the rest to travel

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Michael Palmerson, Class of 2012
Outgoing Student/Alumni Representative

Michael Palmerson is a third generation OCC alumnus. He graduated OCC with an associate degree in Liberal Arts and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. He attends Kean University, through the Kean-Ocean program, and will graduate in May 2014. Michael is studying History and plans on obtaining a teacher’s certificate. He currently is a substitute teacher at Walnut Street Elementary School in Toms River.

As last year’s outgoing Student/Alumni Representative to the OCC Board of Trustees, Michael felt his experience on the Board was “refreshing” and the leadership at this level “inspiring.” Michael believes he made a difference by providing the Board with the students’ perspective and felt that this helped in making some decisions.

Michael is still a visible presence on OCC’s Main Campus in Toms River. He is the Vice President of Kean-Ocean Student Government, representing the interests of the students. He is also an Orientation Leader and goes to recruiting events. In addition, Michael runs programs, trips, and lectures, as well as provides giveaways to students.

Tips from Michael to Evan on His New Role as this Year’s Student/Alumni Representative on OCC’s Board of Trustees:

1. If you have something to say – say it!
2. Remember who you represent - the thousands of OCC students and alumni.
3. You are only here for a year – make the best of it!

Joanne Padrone
Director of Resource Development
In the de Silva family, the Apple Doesn’t Fall too Far from the Tree

Dr. Eugene de Silva, OCC e-Learning Adjunct Instructor of Physics and Chemistry, and his daughter Eugenie have been making headlines across the country. Not only did Dr. de Silva build all of OCC’s online physics courses along with organic chemistry; he developed the first online college physics programs for the State of Tennessee.

“The online courses at Ocean County College provide the students with an opportunity to link their knowledge to practical applications,” Dr. de Silva said. “These courses promote the essential skills demanded by employers along with the subject knowledge.”

Dr. de Silva holds numerous fellowships in management, manufacturing, and business, and a doctorate covering plasma physics and chemistry from Metropolitan University of Manchester. He is also expected to complete another doctorate in Higher Education this year. He is a chartered physicist, chartered chemist, and chartered scientist; he also holds the acclaimed Royal Society of Arts Fellowship. In November 2013, he was elected as a Fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Science in recognition of his service to the Academy and the State. He came to the United States under the category of Alien with Extraordinary Abilities from the United Kingdom, and then obtained his U.S. Citizenship.

When Dr. de Silva is not devoting time to research and teaching, he spends time with his daughter and strives to help her succeed. As a single father who has cared for his daughter Eugenie since her birth, he cherishes the time spent with her and his main focus is on ensuring that she accomplishes her goals in life.

Eugenie is anything but a typical 14-year old. Three years ago, she graduated from high school and this past May, she became the world’s youngest person to graduate with a Bachelor’s degree in intelligence analysis with a 4.0 GPA (Summa Cum Laude), at the age of 14, from American Military University. In summer 2013, she completed a graduate research class to start her Master’s degree in Legal Studies from Harvard University! Like her father, Eugenie plans on obtaining multiple degrees, including a doctorate, and a law degree. Eugenie is currently completing two Master’s and is expected to complete both next year.

RoseAnn D’Urso
Manager of Promotional Programming

Ocean County College Online offers a variety of engaging, professionally-relevant online classes for students of all ages. Courses can be taken as part of a complete degree program or on an individual course-by-course basis. Many of our students have full schedules that make coming to campus difficult. Our premier e-Learning software lets students take charge of their schedules and participation.

160 Courses Offered
Online courses are available in Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Physics, Chemistry, English, Math, Criminal Justice, Business, Computer Science, and more! Online lab sciences are “hands-on” and taken in the convenience of your own home.

OCC Online also offers 13 full degree programs that can be completed online such as Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, Business, Computer Science, and General Studies concentrations, plus seven online certificates.

Getting Started
Our online courses follow the same academic calendar as traditional on-campus courses. To apply and register, visit http://online.ocean.edu or talk to an enrollment specialist at 877.464.2154.
Tip of the Hat

Acknowledging recent accomplishments of OCC faculty and staff

Nat Bard, Instructor of Art, Drama, & Music, has organized and facilitated a film series program for the past five years. This extra-curricular activity is very beneficial for students, many of whom have been loyal followers. Heidi Sheridan, Assistant Professor of English & Literature, has been serving as the Student Advisor for Seascape, OCC’s Literary Magazine, for several years. OCC is very fortunate to have dedicated faculty who work hard to enrich the educational experience of our students.

OCC’s Academy for Lifelong Learning partnered with Harrogate, a senior retirement community in Lakewood, to present Senior Scholars in July. Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig, Associate Professor of English & Literature, presented “Heart of the Stranger: A Portrait of Lakewood’s Orthodox Community,” covering the complex history of Lakewood, the rise of a Jewish community, and how it became the largest enclave of Orthodox Jews in the U.S. Dr. Maysa Hayward, Dean of e-Learning, spoke on “The Present Middle East, Challenges & the Case of Egypt,” including the Arab Spring, the overthrow of President Mubarak, the democratic election of and subsequent removal of Morsi, and the Muslim Brotherhood. John Knight, Grant Project Director, presented “What is Health Information Technology? How Does It Affect You?” Donna Parsons, Instructor of Information Technology, spoke on “Social Media, the Good, the Bad, the Ugly.”

In other news, Dr. Botein-Furrevig was featured in an article, “New Light on an Old Minority” in German Life magazine’s summer 2013 edition. She was interviewed about her second book, Last Waltz on the Danube: The Ethnic German Genocide in History and Memory. Dr. Botein-Furrevig responded to questions about why she chose to write about this little known genocide, the history of the Donauschwaben people, and her theory about the role of history and collective memory in documenting genocides.

Also, Dr. Hayward continues her academic involvement in Arabic studies through the publication of her chapter entitled “Identity, Transformation and the Anglophone Arab Novel.” The chapter was published in The Edinburgh Companion to The Arab Novel in English: The politics of Anglo Arab and Arab American Literature and Culture, edited by Nouri Gana and published by the Edinburgh University Press, 2013.

Elsewhere, Parsons is Secretary on the Board of Trustees for the FBI Newark Citizens Academy Alumni Association (FBIINACAA) and was recently named the Education Committee Community Outreach Chair. The non-profit Association is separate from the FBI, but serves in the role of Ambassador between the FBI and the community, assisting with education, bringing awareness and preparedness to the public in order to help provide for a safer America.

Dr. Angel Camilo was appointed the Dean of Adjunct Faculty in November. He was previously the Interim Dean.

Patricia Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and Continuing & Professional Education, attended the annual meeting of the Western Cooperative for Educational Technology (WCET) as a member of the Steering Committee and Board of Directors. She attended the November meeting in Denver, CO, to facilitate discussion focused upon e-Learning and the State Authorization Project.

Marc LaBella, Associate Professor of Biology, and Jeffrey S. Harmon, Director of e-Learning and Acting Director of Institutional Effectiveness, were part of the keynote address “Ignite Session” at the New Jersey Edge Digital Reality Conference in November. LaBella presented “Ocean Does Online,” relating to the success of the online Anatomy & Physiology courses offered by OCC. Harmon presented “So You Want to Go Online: A Model for Successful Rapid Distance Education Infusion.” Elsewhere, Harmon presented “Blowing up Online Discussion Boards: Creative Uses for 21st Century Discussions” at the Mercer County Community Conference Engaging Learners in the 21st Century.

Judi Madigan, Technical Director of the Arts & Community Center, was inducted, as a lighting designer, into the New Jersey Association of Community Theatres (NJACT) Hall of Fame. She was one of the first inductees into the Hall of Fame, which was created to recognize the many people who’ve had an impact on NJ community theater. Previously, Judi was nominated five times for Best Lighting Design and won three times. In addition, Bryn Farace, Technical Reservist and OCC Theatre
Company Stage Manager, was nominated for Best Stage Manager for the College’s production of *10 for 10 for 10*, produced in spring 2013.

7 **Joanne Padrone**, Director of Resource Development, was sworn in as a Monmouth-Ocean Development Council (MODC) Board Member at the June MODC Open Meeting.

8 **Maureen Reustle**, Dean of Academic Services/Center for Student Success, completed her Doctor of Letters degree from Drew University. The title of her dissertation was “Hatred to Hope: Murals of Northern Ireland and the Peace Process.”

9 **Richard Trimble**, Assistant Professor of History, published his eleventh book, *The Ultimate Baseball Drill Book* (PublishAmerica), a compilation of some 500 baseball drills. Trimble, a long-time baseball coach, was an assistant coach at OCC for seven years. In addition, his textbook for HIST 176 “U.S. Military History” has been picked up by Edwin Mellen Press, Lewiston, NY. The book, *America at War*, is expected out by the end of 2013, and encapsulates America’s wars from colonial times to the modern day.

10 **James Vasslides**, Program Scientist for the Barnegat Bay Partnership, co-authored an article “Habitat and diet overlap of 4 piscivorous fishes: variation on the inner continental shelf off New Jersey.” It was published in the *Fishery Bulletin*, a quarterly journal of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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**In Memoriam**

*Stephanie Miller* (Registration & Records) passed away on August 20, 2013. She was a loyal and dedicated employee for 30 years and an OCC alumna with two degrees (AAS ’93 and AS ’02). As part of OCC’s Veterans Day remembrance, a tree was dedicated to the memory of Miller who served in the U.S. Navy from 1971 to 1974. Her presence on the campus will be greatly missed.

*Harry Morey* (retired, Media Services) passed away on October 23, 2013. He worked as a graphic artist, retiring after 20 years, and was an OCC alumnus with two degrees (AA ’74 and AAS ’93). He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

*Dr. Cornelius V. Robbins* (former-Dean of Instruction, late 1960’s) passed away over the weekend of November 30-December 1, 2013. After leaving OCC, he served as President of Genesee Community College (New York) and President of SUNY Cobleskill.

*Geraldine Ryder* (Associate Professor of History) passed away on November 25, 2013. Our deepest condolences go out to Ms. Ryder’s family and friends. She was a loyal and dedicated employee for 19 years. Her presence on the campus will be greatly missed. by faculty, staff, and students.
The OCC Foundation held its “East Meets West… the Gateway to Giving” Scholarship Celebration on Saturday, August 24, 2013. The annual event was held on OCC’s Main Campus. Proceeds will support the continuing development of the OCC Foundation’s scholarship fund.

The event’s major sponsor was Investors Bank. “Sincere appreciation is expressed to Investors Bank for its role in ensuring the success of our Scholarship Celebration. I’d like to also express my gratitude to the many other donors and supporters of this important event,” said Sandy S. Broughton, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation.

Over 200 people attended the event and they were entertained with live music provided by “Fate.” A video presentation highlighted the importance for today’s students to be globally oriented. Food, for the fourth consecutive year, was prepared by Kessler’s Catering.

Guests had an opportunity to bid on an array of items including golf outings, sporting event tickets, vacations and entertainment packages, theatre tickets, collectibles, and gift certificates.

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

(Top L) OCC President Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC Foundation Executive Director Sandy S. Broughton, and OCC Foundation Chairman Ken Malagiere.

(Top R) Gerry Ludwig, Dr. Jon H. Larson, Investors Bank Assistant Branch Manager Nancy Costello, Sandy S. Broughton, Investors Bank Vice President Senior Market Manager Cindy Dundas, Investors Bank Vice President Manager of Client Care Deborah Leonard, Ken Malagiere, Investors Bank Branch Manager Assistant Vice President Cheryl Pisko, and John Costello.

(Middle L) Dr. Jon H. Larson, Autumn Walsh and her husband OCC Foundation Board Member John Walsh, and Ken Malagiere.

(Middle R) Dr. Jon H. Larson, Colleen McKenna and her husband Investors Bank Senior Vice President Business Lending Owen McKenna, Sandy S. Broughton, and Ken Malagiere.

(Bottom L) Guests bid on an array of silent auction items.

(Bottom R) Alumna Sara Salter emphasized to the audience the difference their contributions make in the lives of students and thanked everyone for their support.
'68 Alumnus Establishes Generous Scholarship Program

Philip G. Zitelli, ’68, a member of Ocean County College’s first graduating class, recently donated $100,000 to establish a permanent endowment fund named “The Philip G. Zitelli Scholarship in Leadership.” This scholarship has been established as a demonstration of Zitelli’s ongoing support of OCC and his interest in developing leaders.

An initial investment of $100,000 to the fund will provide one scholarship annually. The funds will be invested as a permanent endowed fund with the investment earnings to support the scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded from the investment earnings in an amount not to exceed $5,000. Any accumulated excess earnings can be used to fund another scholarship not to exceed $5,000.

According to Sandy S. Broughton, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation, the scholarship will assist a graduating OCC student in supporting the continuation of his/her academic studies at an accredited four-year college or university within the United States.

“Mr. Zitelli’s leadership gift will have a valuable impact on the lives of so many students who are working hard to obtain a college degree,” explained Broughton. “We are grateful for his generosity and for his confidence that OCC is producing extraordinary leaders, who are armed with tools that will further prepare them to be movers and shakers in the world.”

Zitelli, a resident of Mount Laurel, served as OCC’s first Student Government President from 1966-1968. In addition, he was one of the founding members of the OCC Alumni Association and served as its President from 1978-1983.

“What is clear is that the increasing fast-moving and competitive environment we face in the 21st Century demands more leadership from more people. Without that leadership, organizations, communities, and society at large remain stagnant, lose their way, and eventually suffer the consequences,” explained Zitelli.

“That said, the question I wrestled with was how best to position philanthropic money to encourage and support those individuals who early in their lives demonstrate leadership potential/capabilities,” he continued. “I believe one way is establishing “The Philip G. Zitelli Scholarship in Leadership” through the Ocean County College Foundation. The scholarship is intended to assist a graduating student who has been accepted to an accredited four-year college or university to further his or her academic studies and who has demonstrated a leadership role within the Ocean County College community or the community at large while attending Ocean County College.”

Zitelli added, “My hope is that, in some small way, with this ‘Scholarship in Leadership’ we begin to encourage and develop a new generation of leaders who would be able to contribute in their own way to creating better organizations, communities, or society at large.”

RoseAnn D’Urso  
Manager of Promotional Programming

$50k Awarded to OCC Foundation by OceanFirst Foundation

The Ocean County College Foundation has been awarded $50,000 for the 2013 Dollars for Scholars campaign by OceanFirst Foundation. The grant will provide a $1,000 scholarship to 50 deserving, first-year OCC students.

“Contributions have a valuable impact on helping students achieve the dream of earning a college degree. If you are interested in making an investment in the future of our community, please call 732.255.0492. Gifts of any size truly make a difference!”

(L to R) Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President; Katherine Durante, OceanFirst Foundation Executive Director; Sandy S. Broughton, OCC Foundation Executive Director; and Nina Anuario, Ocean First Bank Senior Vice President - Business Development, and OCC Foundation Board Member.
Dollars for Scholars Campaign – Every Gift Makes A Difference!

The OCC Foundation invites you to invest in the future of our community by supporting the “Dollars for Scholars Campaign.” Please consider a donation to this annual campaign. Funds raised will enable the Foundation to provide needed scholarships to deserving students. Donations of $1,000 or more will be acknowledged on a Donor Wall when the new Student Center is built.

Send your donation to: Ocean County College Foundation, P.O. Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001. For more information, visit www.ocean.edu/foundation.htm. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Planned Giving Helps Raise Scholarship Funds

Planned gift, deferred gift, and estate gift – these are different names for a way to manage your affairs, plan for the future, and make a gift to the OCC Foundation. These are also 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.

- **Donations**
  Checks and credit card donations are the most frequent, and generally the most convenient, means of giving.

- **Wills of Trusts**
  Alumni and friends are encouraged to include provisions to benefit the students of OCC through their estate plans.

- **Income Producing Plans**
  Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

For information about gifts to support OCC students, contact Sandy S. Broughton, OCC Foundation Executive Director, at 732-255-0400, ext. 2134., or sbroughton@ocean.edu.

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

- **Life Insurance**
  Use a life insurance policy to make a substantial gift.

- **Charitable Lead Trusts**
  Support the students of OCC now and still leave assets to your heirs.

Speakers Bureau Brings OCC to the Public

The OCC Foundation is seeking invitations from local service and social organizations to help spread the word about our important and continuing effort aimed at raising more scholarship funds for OCC students.

The “Dollars for Scholars” presentation will include a brief video and speaker who will talk to your group about how the Foundation is working to meet the needs of deserving OCC students who require financial assistance to make their dream of a college degree a reality.

To arrange for a speaker, please contact Sandy S. Broughton, OCC Foundation Executive Director, at 732-255-0400, ext. 2134., or sbroughton@ocean.edu.
BBP Hosts Boat Tour of Barnegat Bay

To give local, state, and federal officials a first-hand look at some of the impacts of Superstorm Sandy, the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP) hosted a boat tour of the Barnegat Bay aboard the River Lady paddleboat in September. United States Congressman Jon Runyan, staff from the offices of U.S. Congressmen Chris Smith and Frank LoBiondo, Ocean County Freeholder Joseph Vicari, OCC President Dr. Jon Larson, and representatives from over 30 BBP partner agencies and organizations participated in the tour.

As the River Lady, a paddle-wheel riverboat operating out of Toms River, headed east into the bay, one impact of the storm was immediately obvious – the erosion of the saltwater marsh along the shoreline of Good Luck Point in Berkeley Township. A team of researchers, including BBP staff, have been assessing wetlands in our region; after Sandy, they found a significant amount of marsh edge was compromised or lost. This loss is a cause for concern, since wetlands play a vital role in protecting our coastal communities. During storms, wetlands absorb water like a sponge, helping to buffer the effect of wind and waves and reduce flooding inland.

Tour participants heard several Barnegat Bay scientists explain how data from their ongoing research projects will be used to help answer questions about the post-storm conditions in the bay. Mapping the changes in contours of the bay bottom, testing bay sediments for contaminants possibly deposited by the storm’s floodwaters, and assessing fish and shellfish populations are among the studies currently underway.

People on the tour also visited the site of a restoration effort, an artificial oyster reef in the bay off Good Luck Point. A project of the American Littoral Society and its partners (the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program, ReClam the Bay, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection), the reef was created by depositing thousands of bushels of clam shells, which provide a hard substrate where young oysters can attach and grow. During the tour, participants helped to distribute seed oysters over the artificial reef. The seed oysters were raised and donated by volunteers from ReClam the Bay, a nonprofit volunteer organization that educates the public about shellfish and water quality in the bay.

Karen Walzer
BBP Public Outreach Coordinator

Kean Students from China Volunteer for Service Day on the Bay

In July 2013, the Barnegat Bay Partnership hosted a Service Day on its property for approximately 125 students from Kean University’s campus in Wenzhou, China. The students were attending the Kean-Union campus for a summer English language immersion program and, in addition to touring parts of the East Coast, engaged in volunteer activities.

The day’s events included a litter cleanup, invasive species removal, and trail work at the Brown’s Woods property on the corner of Whittier and Washington in Toms River. Partnership staff worked with the students and shared information about the types of flora and fauna found on the property, as well as environmental issues relating to soil and water health.

Michael Hogan, Southern Region Coordinator for the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team, gave a brief presentation and worked with the students on removal of invasive plants. Volunteers from ReClam the Bay were also on hand during the lunch break to give an informal presentation about the relationship between water quality and the shellfish in the Barnegat Bay.

The Barnegat Bay Partnership, one of 28 National Estuary Programs, is a partnership of federal, state, county, municipal, academic, business, non-profit, and private agencies and organizations working together to protect and restore the Barnegat Bay. For more information about the Partnership’s research, education, and restoration efforts, visit http://bbp.ocean.edu or call 732-914-8102. ♦

Karen Walzer
BBP Public Outreach Coordinator
Continuing & Professional Education

The staff of Continuing & Professional Education (CPE) has been very involved in several projects under the auspices of the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development (NJDLWD). Under the leadership of Patricia Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and CPE, these grant-funded programs have been growing.

As part of the Recovery New Jersey Talent Network grant, Mary Ellen Clark, NJDLWD Assistant Commissioner, and Patricia Leahey, Deputy Director of the Ocean County Private Investment Council and Coordinator of the Ocean County Workforce Investment Board, visited with Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President, in July. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and review OCC’s participation in the Recovery NJ grant and other New Jersey and county programs. OCC offers many certificate programs funded by PIC. The College is also heavily involved in administering the Unemployment Education Program (Reemployment & Eligibility Assessment Program) for the State. In June, OCC provided the State with training services rendered under this grant at a cost of $13,000.

Michael Forcella, OCC Manager of Business Engagement and Director of the Recovery Grant, has been actively sponsoring seminars and information sessions for businesses and the public who have been impacted by Superstorm Sandy through the loss of employment or income. Under this grant, OCC is sponsoring grant-required training sessions provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and credentialing seminars for Energy Efficient Building practices. These sessions provide a forum to explain the process for advising throughout the State for job opportunities for displaced workers.

Instruction Division Advances Student Opportunities

Academic Affairs worked collaboratively with Resource Development/Grants to submit an Advanced Technology Education (ATE) grant proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF), entitled the SAGE (Security and Geospatial Education) Project. The proposed program, in Cyber Security and GIS (geographic information systems), will be developed regardless of whether or not the grant funding is received. The program will involve cooperation among three academic disciplines: Computer Studies, Homeland Security, and Engineering. The proposed programs also have a very strong component of community service.

Elsewhere, Mary Burke, Associate Professor of Computer Studies and Perkins Grant Coordinator, spent several months developing the FY 2014 Carl D. Perkins Career & Technical Education Grant budget. In June 2013, she presented the budget to the Ocean County Workforce Investment Board and received its support for a request of $514,000. The Perkins Grant is intended to be used to develop more fully the academic, career, and technical skills of students, with emphasis on those career clusters that support workforce development, economic development, and stakeholder partnerships. Burke received invaluable support from Angel Camilo, Dean of Adjunct Faculty; Tracey Walsh, Dean of Nursing; and Brad Young, Interim Dean of Social Sciences.

In addition, OCC has again received grant support from the County of Ocean Cultural and Heritage Commission Local Arts Grant for 2014. The grant will help support the performance and summer workshop, “Celebrations,” which will commemorate the 450th birthday of Shakespeare and Ocean County College’s 50th Anniversary.
Career, Employment, & Counseling Services

Dr. Kathryn Pandolpho, Director of Career, Employment, & Counseling Services, and her staff have been administering three grant-funded programs.

The Adults Back @ College program has been funded for three years by the New Jersey Department of Education; funding will end on June 30, 2014. The goal of this program is to recruit former-OCC students who earned more than half of their credits for graduation and who had a satisfactory grade point average. During the three years of the program, 124 students registered for classes and 43 students graduated.

Funded since fall 2010, by the U.S. Department of Education, the Student Support Services program provides comprehensive services to at-risk students (first generation, low income, and/or disabled). The total number of participants is 172 (with 127 this year alone). These students have done exceedingly well with 23 on the President’s List and six inducted into Phi Theta Kappa for the current academic year. To date, 34 students have graduated with 20 students transferring to four-year schools.

Funded by the Division on Women, New Jersey Department of Children & Families, the Displaced Homemakers Program provides comprehensive services to women who are moving to economic self-sufficiency because of a death, disability, separation, or divorce. From July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, the program at OCC took on 50 new clients plus 41 continuing clients for a total of 91. Nineteen clients are attending college – 15 at OCC. Other clients are attending college through the Kean-Ocean partnership and at Richard Stockton College and Georgian Court University. The program has also seen six clients graduate and several others have been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and the EOF Honor Society. Two clients completed their GEDs through OCC’s Continuing & Professional Education program. Displaced Homemakers has been recognized by the State as an exemplary program. This current fiscal year, the program has been awarded an additional $60,000 to provide services to 90 new clients (see related story below).

State Expands Program in Superstorm Sandy-Impacted Counties

To help Sandy-impacted displaced homemakers become economically self-sufficient, the State of New Jersey will use $480,000 in federal funds to augment eight of the State’s displaced homemakers programs in areas affected by the storm.

“Expanding our social services, such as our Displaced Homemakers Program, means women who are struggling with the loss of their primary source of income and recovering from the storm are able to get the help they need,” said NJ Department of Children & Families (DCF) Commissioner Allison Blake.

A displaced homemaker is a woman who has lost her primary source of income due to divorce, separation, death, or disability of a spouse and who must now obtain or update her skills to enter the workforce. Displaced Homemakers programs provide a range of services, including life skills development, computer literacy training, job counseling and training, job placement assistance and resources, and financial management services.

Last year the state’s fifteen Displaced Homemakers programs helped nearly 3,700 women become self-sufficient.

The additional funding for the program comes from a federal Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) awarded to New Jersey after Sandy.

“For many women in our county who were already struggling to find a job, Sandy made the situation worse,” said Suzan Grey Burr, Managing Director for the Women’s Rights Information Center in Englewood. Many of them lost so much and are still trying to recover. These training funds will help them gain the skills and credentials they need to enter the workforce with qualifications and confidence to compete and succeed.”

The funds will primarily assist displaced homemakers in affected counties successfully complete an educational program that will lead to employment. If needed, women may be able to receive some assistance for transportation, clothing, childcare, and food vouchers.

“I personally believe that self-sufficiency comes one step at a time,” said Eileen A. Burdge, Community Services Specialist for the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County, located on OCC’s Main Campus in Toms River. “One thing I love about working with my clients is watching them progress and achieve a first success, which could be anything: getting a GED diploma, taking a first computer, or going to a workshop.”

“Thanks to the additional federal funding, we will be able to help more women, especially those struggling from Superstorm Sandy, earn certificates in active and growing career fields and find meaningful jobs,” said Roni Salkin, coordinator for the Women’s Center of the Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County. “Often we are the last hope for women who are trying to support themselves and their families for the first time, and the more women we can help the better it is for everyone.”

The complete list of Displaced Homemakers programs by county is available by visiting www.nj.gov/dcf/women/displaced/county.html.

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Cross Country Wins National Championship

The OCC Women’s Cross Country Team took home first place when the Viking Women traveled to Holyoke, Massachusetts, for the National Junior College Athletic Association’s (NJCAA) National Championship on Saturday, November 9.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Ed Baynes, the Women’s Team won the National Championship and the Men’s Cross Country Team finished as runner up.

Other honors include:

Liz Kowalski, (photo, right) from Toms River North High School/Toms River, won the women’s race and was named an Individual National Champion. She was also named an NJCAA 1st Team All-American.

Meghie Weinberger, Toms River North High School/Toms River, finished 11th in the women’s race and was named an NJCAA All-American Honorable Mention.

Brothers Keith Charette and Kevin Charette, Lacey High School/Forked River, also received national honors. Keith finished in 3rd place in the men’s race and was named an NJCAA 1st Team All-American. Kevin finished 6th and was named a 2nd Team NJCAA All-American.

Ed Baynes, Cherry Hill, Head Cross Country Coach, was named “National Coach of the Year.” OCC also won the “Gary Moore Best Overall Program” award.

A.J. Trump, OCC Athletic Director, said, “Great job and congratulations to Ed and the Viking Cross Country Team! Everyone at OCC is extremely proud of their hard work and outstanding accomplishments.”

According to Trump, the Vikings Cross Country Team had a terrific fall 2013 season overall. As the regular season came to an end, the men ranked sixth and the women ranked second in the NJCAA national polls. The team then ran in the Region XIX Championship at Thompson Park in Lincroft, New York, on October 26 with the men finishing in first place and the women in second.

Keith Charette, Kevin Charette, Brandon Eldershaw (Jackson Memorial High School/Jackson), Liz Kowalski, Meghie Weinberger, and Paige Fisk (Jackson Liberty High School/Jackson) each earned All-Region XIX First Team honors.

For more information, visit Ocean County College’s Athletics page at www.ocean.edu.

RoseAnn D’Urso
Manager of Promotional Programming
OCC Selected to Host Division III Women’s Soccer National Championships, 2014-2016

The National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship Events Committee has selected OCC as the host site for the 2014, 2015, and 2016 NJCAA Division III Women’s Soccer National Championship Tournaments. These highly prestigious events will bring eight of the top women’s soccer teams from around the country to the College for a four-day tournament experience each year.

The most recent NJCAA tournament featured teams from New Jersey, New York, and Maryland, as well as teams from as far away as Minnesota and Texas. The tournament is often attended by a number of coaches from four-year colleges and universities who will be looking to bolster their rosters from the abundance of talent on the participating teams.

OCC’s Ocean County Stadium, on the Main Campus in Toms River, opened for its first game – a women’s soccer match – on September 8, 2011. The astro turf field provides a high-tech surface on which to play, and holds up well, even in poor weather. Not only does the College have this multipurpose turf field, but it also has practice and match soccer grass fields. Other improvements to Ocean County Stadium include a scoreboard and walking paths with lighting.

It is well-known throughout the region that OCC has some of the finest athletic facilities in New Jersey, the Garden State Athletic Conference, and NJCAA Region XIX. Not only does OCC’s facilities feature Ocean County Stadium, the College can also boast about a newly refurbished gymnasium floor, six lighted tennis courts, scenic softball and baseball diamonds, a fitness room, and competition-size swimming pool with modern scoreboards.

For updated information on our facilities (pool hours, intramural activities, and athletic events), and the 2014, 2015, and 2016 NJCAA Division III Women’s Soccer National Championship Tournaments, call the OCC Athletics Hot Line at 732.255.0406.

OCC’s Athletic Department was recently honored as the co-recipient, with Brookdale Community College, of the 2012-2013 National Junior College Athletic Association’s Region XIX Institutional Champions of Character Award. This award is given annually to the school that best embraces community service and athletic competition as a means of character development through sport.

Student-athletes, coaches, and administrators from both colleges assisted various recovery efforts after Superstorm Sandy devastated the Jersey Shore in October 2012, including making a considerable donation to the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, and cleaning up residential neighborhoods affected by the storm. The athletic programs also undertook other community service initiatives, such as collecting gifts for Toys for Tots and hosting numerous youth sports clinics.

This is the second time that both OCC and BCC have been recognized for their commitment to the NJCAA’s core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership, and sportsmanship. The institutions’ student-athletes maintain standards of excellence both on and off the field, and recognize that there is more to the college experience than athletics.
Women’s Soccer

Under the guidance of Head Coach A.J. Trump and Assistant Coach Tracy Cole, the Viking Women’s Soccer Team was nationally ranked throughout the fall, and finished its regular season with 12 wins and just three losses. The team earned the third seed in the Region XIX Tournament and finished in third place in the Garden State Athletic Conference.

Student-athletes Marykate Sullivan, Jacki Wolf, Hailey Neluna, and Maeve Burg were named to the All-Region Team. The Vikings began regional play on October 23, defeating Union 4-1 in the semi-finals, but then fell 1-0 to Gloucester on October 25. OCC defender Marykate Sullivan (photo above) was named Defensive Most Valuable Player in the finals.

OCC’s Women’s Tennis Team, led by Head Coach Stan Friedman, capped a fantastic regular season with a second-place finish in the Garden State Athletic Conference and a third-place finish in the Region XIX Tournament. Team member Allison Dennis (photo above) was named to the All-Garden State Athletic Conference Team, while Casi Callahan, Heather Kaba, and Cynthia Vitolo each earned All-Region honors.

Based on a strong team finish, the women qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association’s National Tournament, held at the Billy Jean King Tennis Center in New York City from October 22 to 25. The team finished ninth in the nation.

Men’s Soccer

This past fall, the OCC Men’s Soccer Team compiled an impressive 12-3 regular season record on its way to the fourth seed in the Region XIX Tournament and a third place finish in the Garden State Athletic Conference. The men were nationally ranked throughout the season, and team members Kevin Istvanditsch, Justin Pfeiffer, Bill Bartels, Ben Osei, and Pablo Bedoya were named to the All-Region Team.

At the end of October, first-year Head Coach Sal Colino and Assistant Coach Vasili Foukarakis began preparing the team for a run in the regional playoffs with hopes of a return trip to the National Junior College Athletic Association National Championships. On October 29, OCC hosted Bergen in the Regional Quarterfinals with the Vikings defeating Bergen 2-0, but two days later, the men lost a close 4-2 semifinal match to Camden, just missing out on a return trip to the Nationals.

OCC’s Athletics Competition

Ocean County College Athletic Programs participate in Region XIX of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Region XIX represents New Jersey, Delaware, and Eastern Pennsylvania. OCC competes at the NJCAA Division III level. NJCAA Division III schools do not offer athletic scholarships.

Region XIX is traditionally one of the strongest regions in the country, as evidenced by its success on the national level. OCC is also a member of the Garden State Athletic Conference, a subdivision of Region XIX.

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30 Winter 2014 I Ocean County College
Five Inducted into OCC's Athletics Hall of Fame

OCC honored five outstanding alumni-athletes, coaches, and others of distinction at the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Dinner held on November 20 in the Health & Human Performance Center, OCC Main Campus, Toms River. The Master of Ceremonies was Kevin Williams, Sports Director at WOBM Radio.

The Athletic Hall of Fame honors distinguished OCC alumni-athletes, former coaches, and others whose achievements have had a significant impact on OCC’s athletic program. The 2013 inductees are:

Dom Alagia (Toms River) has been Public Address Announcer for sporting events at OCC since the 1990’s. Alagia is an actor and voice over artist in TV, movies, radio, and videos.

Robert Czarniewski (Ocean Gate) has been Scoreboard Operator for sporting events at OCC since 1972. Czarniewski teaches physical education at Island Heights Elementary School.

Mary Bellezza Gibson (Beachwood) graduated from OCC in 2002. She played on the Viking Women’s Basketball Team (1996-1998). Gibson works as the County Municipal Alliance Coordinator for the Ocean County Health Department and is Adjunct Instructor for Health Science at Richard Stockton College.

Michael J. Kavanagh (Brielle) graduated from OCC in 1978. He played on the Viking Men’s Basketball Team (1976-1978). He is a trial attorney with GEICO (Government Employees Insurance Company).

Karen Geiger Trump (Beachwood) graduate from OCC in 1999. She played on the Viking Women’s Soccer and Basketball teams (1997-1999). In addition, Trump was the Viking Women’s Head Soccer Coach (2003-2010). She currently serves as the Director of the Micro Program for the Beachwood Soccer Club.

OCC alumni-athlete nominees must be two-year participants (eligibility begins the seventh year after departure), made a significant impact in the sport, and maintained a 2.0 or higher grade point average. OCC coaches must have been an outstanding coach for three or more years; be retired as a coach for at least one year; hold state, regional, or national achievements; and have been an employee in good standing while coaching. Individuals who do not qualify under the above criteria due to extenuating or extraordinary conditions may still be eligible upon the consideration of the OCC Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

RoseAnn D’Urso
Manager of Promotional Programming

(Top photo, L to R) Newly inducted Hall of Fame members Karen Geiger Trump, Dom Alagia, Michael J. Kavanagh, Robert Czarniewski, and Mary Bellezza Gibson. (Bottom photo) Master of Ceremonies Kevin Williams.
OCC ALUMNI BENEFITS
Ocean County College Alumni are entitled to a variety of benefits:

- Free OCC Alumni Rewards Membership for discounts, specials, and incentives
- Complimentary subscription to Ocean Views, the OCC Alumni newsletter
- Use of OCC pool
- Access to OCC social networking sites
- Discounts on day trips

Questions?
Email us at jpadrone@ocean.edu

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