See inside:
Drepung Gomang Monastery Sacred Arts Tour >>>
The new Homeland Security A.S. Degree
OCC is a Family Affair • Championship Sports News
In January, OCC and Kean University celebrated the groundbreaking for the proposed Kean-Ocean Gateway Building, a 74,000-square foot, five-story, $30 million academic facility to be built on the OCC main campus in Toms River.

“This is a landmark day for Ocean County College,” said Carl Van Thulin, Chair of the OCC Board of Trustees, at the afternoon ceremony.

The Gateway Building, explained Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President, is “a joint venture cultivated from the partnership between OCC and Kean University, and we have lofty expectations for the end product.”

The partnership between the two schools was established to provide higher education to area residents; students completing their associate degree at OCC can continue on with their studies for a Kean bachelor’s degree through courses offered on the OCC campus.

The Gateway Building, scheduled for completion in December 2012, will provide additional space needed to accommodate those interested in earning a four-year degree from Kean.

The complex – designed by Blackney Hayes Architects, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – will include state-of-the-art classrooms and conference rooms; a 225-seat lecture hall; laptop computer labs; a physical education and nursing demonstration room; a graphic design studio; student and faculty lounges; and faculty, administrative, and support staff offices.

“We are committed to a mission of opportunity,” Dr. Dawood Farahi, Kean University President, said at the groundbreaking event. “We are committed to a mission of excellence. … We are proud of this partnership.”

Ocean County Freeholder John C. Bartlett Jr. pointed out that all the county Freeholders believe in the importance of education. Bartlett, a former educator himself, called the groundbreaking “one of the most significant occasions in OCC history,” and an occasion that would not have happened without the dedication of Larson and Farahi.

“Here at OCC,” Larson concluded at the event, “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.”
Drepung Gomang Monastery Sacred Arts Tour

At the end of January OCC hosted the 2011 Drepung Gomang Monastery Sacred Arts Tour, part of the Global Education Committee’s “Changing Tides: Shifting Global Demographic Patterns” series. The tour served to elucidate the compassion and wisdom of the ancient Tibetan Buddhist culture. OCC was pleased to host the members of the Drepung Gomang Monastery, who spoke about their culture, offered workshops on basic meditation, performed overtone chanting, and shared meals with others on campus.

OCC was also given the unique honor of seeing the monks create a sand mandala, a drawing of sand in three-dimensional form. During this process, millions of grains of sand were meticulously placed on a flat platform over five days. Later, the sand was swept up, and poured into the campus lake to symbolize the impermanence of all that exists.

All contributions from the tour are used to purchase food, housing, and medical supplies for the nearly 2,000 monks at the Drepung Gomang Monastery in Southern India, and as seed-funds for income-generating projects aimed at eventual self-sufficiency. The Sacred Arts Tour was sponsored by the Student Life Committee as well as the Global Education Committee.

Chemistry Club Demonstrates that Science is All Around Us

As part of the OCC Chemistry Club’s intent to fulfill the mission of the American Chemical Society, of which it is a student affiliate, club members – along with OCC faculty members Maria Tamburro, Instructor of Science; Dr. Patricia Demko, Professor of Science; Robert Artz, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Science; and Dr. Angel Camilo, Adjunct Instructor of Science – joined forces with Georgian Court University’s Dr. Andrew Weber and GCU students to celebrate National Chemistry Week.

“We set up tables at the Ocean County Public Library in Toms River and set up hands-on chemical experiments,” Tamburro explained. “Our theme this year was ‘Behind the Scenes,’ and we demonstrated how chemistry is used in television shows such as Mythbusters, and in movies such as Toy Story and The Wizard of Oz.

“Our target audience were the high school students from Toms River High School South. We attracted many curious spectators. We hope to nurture an interest in the sciences in general and chemistry in particular.”

The American Chemical Society has noted the OCC Chemistry Club’s work in their national publication, titled Chemical and Engineering News.

(Opposite) Prof. Maria Tamburro played Mr. Potato Head as student members of the Chemistry Club used costumes, toys, and treats to celebrate National Chemistry Week.

OCC Holds Tuition Flat Amid Economic Crisis

Over the past two years, despite the economic crisis that has gripped the country and a decrease in funding from the state, OCC has kept tuition down. In fact, the College claims one of the lowest tuition rates in New Jersey. In Fiscal Year 10 (Fall 2009), the cost per credit at OCC was $92; in FY11 (Fall 2010), the cost per credit was $94, an increase of only 2.2%; and in FY12 (Fall 2011), the cost remained at $94.

In order to ensure that students can continue to afford OCC, the College instituted a restructuring plan that included a nearly $2 million cut in operating expenses between FY10 and FY12, curricular transformation, and a reduction in force.

OCC’s capital projects, which involve funding sources outside the college, have not been affected by the restructuring, and will move ahead as planned.
Center for Academic Excellence Hard at Work

Diane DeFilippo and Loretta Cramer of the Center for Academic Excellence worked with Dr. Christine Kephart, Writing Center Tutor, to submit a proposal for Level 1 certification for peer tutors through the College Reading and Learning Association. The first training session was held in February. Cramer is a member of the conference planning committee for the CRLA Regional Conference.

The CAE recently received Perkins grant funding for a 12-hour mini-course teaching the skills of academic coaching. Fifteen faculty and staff working with students in Perkins majors participated in this course, which took place over six sessions during the spring semester.

In addition, the CAE has been awarded funding for professional tutoring for at-risk students enrolled in Perkins funded majors. Human Resources is currently accepting applicants for Reserve Perkins Professional Tutor positions. Interested applicants should contact the CAE.

BBP Announces Return of Sea Nettle Warning System

With summer around the corner, the Barnegat Bay Partnership and the Ocean County Health Department are reminding beachgoers of the Sea Nettle Warning System. Sea nettles (Chrysaora quinquecirrha) are stinging jellyfish present in the waters of Barnegat Bay and other coastal waterways in New Jersey. Public concern about the apparent increase in sea nettles led the BBP and OCHD to pilot a warning system last summer.

Bay or river beaches in nine Ocean County municipalities participated in the project in 2010. OCHD employees worked with lifeguards to collect data and monitor the abundance of sea nettles. At each beach, information was posted on the lifeguard stand, with a four color system used to depict the probability of encountering a sea nettle based on the number observed in the swimming area. Bathers were also able to check the potential threat level on the OCHD’s jellyfish warning webpage.

In addition to preliminarily checking the threat level, bathers can cover unprotected skin with petroleum jelly or lightweight protective clothing as a precautionary tactic. To treat a sea nettle sting, sprinkling meat tenderizer or baking soda on the afflicted area may help reduce irritation. The BBP and the OCHD are working to establish a second season of the Sea Nettle Warning System, and the BBP is also currently studying potential ways to exclude sea nettles from bathing areas. For more information, visit http://bbp.ocean.edu.

Professor Publishes Book on Relationships with Narcissists

Neil Lavender, Ph.D., Professor of Social Sciences, recently published The One-Way Relationship Workbook: Step-by-Step Help for Coping With Narcissists, Egotistical Lovers, Toxic Coworkers, and Others Who Are Incredibly Self-Absorbed, which he co-wrote with Alan Cavaiola, Ph.D.

Lavender’s and Cavaiola’s book discusses interactions with friends, family members, intimate partners, or coworkers who are narcissists. The One-Way Relationship Workbook was written to help individuals improve, and ultimately transform, relationships with self-absorbed, self-centered, or narcissistic people. Noted psychologists created the exercises and worksheets in the book.

Nina W. Brown, Ed.D., professor and eminent scholar at Old Dominion University, remarked, “Lavender and Cavaiola have produced a workbook that guides the reader in self-exploration and suggests ways to maintain positive self-esteem when in relationships with difficult people. The authors present easy-to-understand definitions, descriptions, and activities focused on essentials that help the reader.”

The One-Way Relationship Workbook can be found in major chain bookstores as well as online.
Arts and Community Center Celebrates Grand Re-Opening

OCC celebrated the official grand opening of the renovated Arts and Community Center (formerly the Fine Arts Center) this spring. The April event, sponsored by High Point Insurance, featured a cocktail party followed by “Three Phantoms in Concert,” presented by Monica Robinson, Ltd., and accompanied by the Garden State Philharmonic, the OCC orchestra-in-residence. Three extraordinary Broadway performers who have played the role of the Phantom sang solos, duets, and trios to the delight of the grand opening audience.

The ACC is home to the OCC Theatre Company, the Community Chorus of OCC, the OCC Concert Band, and the 3 Story Players. Professional programs include A Premier Performance Series; an Aspiring Artists Series with a Meet-The-Artist Reception; a Super Seven Series of entertainment for children; Curtain Calls, a script-in-hand new look at classic musicals; and MidWeek Jazz.

To purchase tickets, call the OCC Box Office at 732.255.0500 or visit tickets.ocean.edu.

Upcoming Shows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Premier Performance IV: Ridgewood Gilbert &amp; Sullivan Opera Company H.M.S. Pinafore or The Lass that Loved a Sailor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>MidWeek Jazz Presents: Boogie Bob Seeley returns! $15 Door / $13 Advance</td>
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Momentum Building for Veterans Support and Services

In April, the OCC Veterans Club held a dinner to raise money to enhance the Veterans Memorial on the College’s main campus as a means to permanently honor those who valiantly served our country. The funds raised by the event will be put toward the installation of 11 polished granite commemorative pavers, each dedicated to an American war or conflict, and with a list of all American casualties and fatalities.

Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig, OCC Assistant Professor of English and Literature, conceptualized the project, and together with Michael Zahler, OCC Adjunct Professor of Humanities, presented the idea to the Veterans Club, which spearheaded the fundraising effort.

The Veterans Club, recently revitalized via the hiring of Michael Sparrow, Veteran Affairs Coordinator, is part of a national fraternity that brings together college students who served in the United States Armed Forces, as well as their dependents. This organization helps to foster kinship, and establish a network of peers, as well as create a place to turn with questions, or for camaraderie.

OCC is proud to host a Veterans Club for our students affiliated with the military, and to provide them with various services and support as they work to earn a college degree.

For additional information visit www.ocean.edu/veterans.htm.

Obituary: Carolyn Hadge

Carolyn Hadge, an Adjunct Instructor of Social Science and Berkeley Township resident, passed away on March 22. Hadge, 75, was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. She received a bachelor’s in Psychology from Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire, and a master’s in Counseling from The College of New Jersey.

In 1978, Hadge moved to Toms River and devoted herself to making a positive difference in the lives of women and teenagers suffering from addiction. She pioneered the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Prevention program development and implementation in the Toms River school system, where she worked for 17 years.

In addition to her position at OCC, Hadge also taught at the Johnson and Johnson School Nurse Fellowship Program at Rutgers University’s summer education program.

She was an active member of the drug and alcohol addiction community in New Jersey, and her words and actions have had a positive influence on hundreds of individuals.

Among many other honors, Hadge twice received the Soroptimist Award for helping women and young girls find their voice and discover their potential.
Grants bolster OCC programs

Grants enable faculty and staff to turn visions into fundable proposals that address the strategic goals and objectives of the institution. Federal, state, local, corporate, and foundation grants provide excellent sources of funding that expand programming. This year, OCC received a record number of grants through the assistance of SunGard Higher Education.

**Total Amount for OCC programs**............................$1,207,427  
**Total Amount for Barnegat Bay Partnership**..............$2,260,083

Combined Total Amount..........................$3,467,510

Below are just a few examples of OCC’s recent grant-funded projects.

**Student Support Services**
- **Funder**: US Department of Education  
- **Amount**: $1,100,000  
- **Purpose**: Improve retention and success of 140 low-income/first generation students through intensive support services.

**Health Information Technology**
- **Amount**: $430,470  
- **Funder**: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator  
- **Purpose**: Provide certificate training programs in Health Information Technology.

**Disengaged Adults Returning to College**
- **Amount**: $75,000  
- **Funder**: NJ Commission on Higher Education  
- **Purpose**: Provide support services to returning students who left OCC without earning a degree or certificate.

**ARRA Combined Heath & Power**
- **Amount**: $475,000  
- **Funder**: NJ Economic Development Administration  
- **Purpose**: OCC will install a new CHP plant, which will result in the expansion of the distribution system as needed to supply campus buildings with hot and chilled water.

**OPEN FAFSA Completion Workshops**
- **Amount**: $7,500  
- **Funder**: NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority  
- **Purpose**: Provide workshops to assist families and students to complete the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA).

**OCC Dual Enrollment Project**
- **Amount**: $20,000  
- **Funder**: NJ Commission on Higher Education  
- **Purpose**: Increase admission and retention of low-income and first-generation high school students in OCC courses.

**OCC Displaced Homemaker Project**
- **Amount**: $69,913  
- **Funder**: NJ Department of Community Affairs  
- **Purpose**: Provide services to foster the development of career and job skills of displaced homemakers that lead to self-sufficiency.

**OCC Community Chorus**
- **Amount**: $6,000  
- **Funder**: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission  
- **Purpose**: Offer a concert series that combines students and senior citizens with professional musicians from the tri-state area.

**OCC Theatre Company**
- **Amount**: $9,000  
- **Funder**: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission  
- **Purpose**: Offer quality theatre performances to students and the community while enhancing learning and artistic appreciation.

**OCC GED Center**
- **Amount**: $86,518  
- **Funder**: NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development/Ocean County Private Industry Council  
- **Purpose**: Provide residents with a local GED testing center in order for them to pursue their educational and career goals.

**Carl D. Perkins Grant**
- **Amount**: $369,719  
- **Funder**: NJ Department of Education  
- **Purpose**: Develop more fully the academic, career and technical skills of OCC students through instruction, equipment and supplies, professional development, student travel and tutoring.

To see additional OCC and Barnegat Bay Partnership grant-funded projects, please visit [www.ocean.edu/campus/grants/Grant_Funded_Projects.htm](http://www.ocean.edu/campus/grants/Grant_Funded_Projects.htm).

**WANTED**: Local Businesses and Organizations Seeking OCC Interns

Ocean County College offers our students college credit for internships that meet course requirements and are directly related to career goals. Internships may be available in:

- Addiction Counseling  
- Criminal Justice  
- Electronic Media  
- Human Services  
- Journalism  
- Child Care  
- and many other disciplines!

Interested businesses or organizations can visit the OCC website for more details: [www.ocean.edu/academics/internships/internship.asp](http://www.ocean.edu/academics/internships/internship.asp)

**OCC students will not be paid or otherwise compensated for the internship. The intern experience is for educational purposes only.**
OCC Offers New Homeland Security A.S. Degree Program

Articulation agreement with Monmouth University encourages transfer opportunities for continuing degrees

OCC has established a new degree course of study through which a student will have a seamless pathway from high school to associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees in Homeland Security.

The College recently signed an articulation agreement with Monmouth University for a partnership that establishes a direct route to continuing degrees in Homeland Security, beginning with an A.S. degree from OCC. The associate degree program provides students with a broad understanding of organizational integration and management; law enforcement; intelligence; risk management; forensic science; and safety and security issues, including terrorism, natural and man-made disasters, cyber-security, and emergency management.

According to Richard O’Meara, Program Coordinator and Lead Lecturer, the Homeland Security Program is essentially comprised of two primary overlapping parts: counter-terrorism and emergency management. Core courses include: Introduction to Homeland Security, Fundamentals of Emergency Management, Domestic and International Terrorism, Introduction to the Intelligence Function, Risk Management and Analysis, and Organizational Integration and Management.

“9/11, Katrina, and the recent catastrophe in Japan have demonstrated how important homeland security is to our ability to live long and productive lives,” said Ben Castillo, Dean of Social Science and Human Services at OCC. “We need young, responsible men and women who are educated in the field and prepared to step up. OCC can now supply that need.”

Homeland Security Program Coordinator Richard O’Meara

One of OCC’s newest faculty members is Homeland Security Program Coordinator and Lead Lecturer Richard O’Meara, a highly decorated retired brigadier general in the U.S. Army. O’Meara, a Long Beach Island resident, holds a law degree in addition to master’s degrees in History and International Affairs, and he is currently pursuing a PhD from Rutgers University.

“He’s the right man for the job,” said Ben Castillo, Dean of Social Science and Human Services at OCC, and a retired New Jersey State Trooper.

O’Meara’s professional military experience spans a number of decades, beginning with his enlistment in 1967. His awards and decorations are extensive, and include: a Distinguished Service Medal, a Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, five Meritorious Service Medals, two Purple Hearts, an Air Medal, five Army Commendation Medals, Vietnam Campaign and Service Ribbons, a Jungle Expert Badge, a Combat Infantryman’s Badge, a Department of the Army Staff Badge, and Security Clearance: Top Secret.

In 1981, O’Meara helped found the law firm O’Meara & Hight, P.C., and remained a senior and founding partner until 2003.

Prior to his arrival at OCC, O’Meara held teaching appointments at the United States Military Academy, Kean University, Rutgers University, the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and Monmouth University, among many other institutions.

He has published extensively, on topics that range from American foreign policy to human rights to Northern Ireland; delivered presentations on ethics, war crimes, peacekeeping, and nationalism; and developed curriculum for Kean and Monmouth Universities, in addition to preparing OCC’s Homeland Security Program.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities and academic pursuits, O’Meara is a member of many boards, committees, and organizations, including the National Council on Public History, Human Rights First, the International Society of Military Ethics, the Lawyer’s Alliance for Justice in Ireland, the Defense Research Institute, Ocean County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, the Beach Haven Volunteer Rescue Squad, and the Surfboat Theater Company on LBI.
Students choose to attend OCC for many reasons – great academics, affordability, a supportive environment, proximity to home. And some students choose OCC for all of those reasons plus the valued recommendation of a family member whose own experience here made the decision that much easier.

Inter-generational ties to a school strengthen family bonds and create parallel history, in addition to providing an enduring connection to the institution. Professors may recognize a student’s last name, and students may garner the advice of a parent or sibling when selecting courses, drawing the family closer to the college.

Four members of the Carlo family, of Lakewood, have much more than genes in common. Rose Carlo, 54, and her three children – Michelle, 26; Michael, 25; and Angela, 21 – all earned an associate degree at OCC.

Rose graduated from OCC in 1979 with a Community Services Technician A.S. degree. Years later, as she explained, “I advised my children to attend Ocean County College because I had such a wonderful, positive experience there. Each of my children was able to work full time while attending classes, as I did. In today’s world, my husband and I believe that education is so important. Ocean County College and Kean@Ocean allowed my children to experience an affordable higher education while staying close to home.”

Michelle Carlo, Rose’s oldest daughter, is a 2005 graduate of OCC who subsequently earned her bachelor’s in Sociology at Kean. She currently works in medical billing at Ocean Mental Health and plans to go back to school for her master’s this fall.

Middle child Michael Carlo, OCC ’07, also graduated from Kean with a degree in Sociology. He is pursuing his master’s at Georgian Court University and works as an aide for students with autism at a school district in Deal.

Angela Carlo, the youngest of the siblings, will graduate from OCC this May. She wants to pursue Sociology as well, and hopes to work towards a master’s and perhaps become a counselor.

As Angela explained, she had the option of going away to a four-year college following high school, but she chose Ocean County...
College. A NJ STARS scholarship was one incentive, as was the 15-minute drive from home to school. “Commuting is so easy, and you can hold a job,” she pointed out, adding that the location allowed her to remain with her family, with whom she is very close.

The experiences of her mother, sister and brother also played a part in her decision to attend OCC. Before she ever enrolled, Angela learned from her family members that “there are so many good things about OCC,” including terrific professors who offer interesting classes.

“We developed a system,” Angela said of she, Michelle, and Michael – as Angela prepared to register for courses each semester, she asked her siblings about their former classes and professors. And, as an added bonus, she could sometimes borrow books they held onto from those courses.

Rose, who pursued a Sociology degree at Georgian Court University and now works in a special education classroom for Lakewood Public Schools, is thrilled by the academic determination and success of her children. “All three of my children are excellent, responsible students and adults,” she remarked. “I credit their attending Ocean County College and Kean-Ocean with their success.”

Jackson residents Jennifer Greene, 20, and brother Christopher Greene, 23, also recognized the value of Ocean County College, and helped convince their cousin, Stephanie Greene, 20, to transfer to OCC from a school in Florida.

Both siblings, too, continued on to Kean after earning their associate degree; Christopher earned a degree in Sociology, and teacher certification, in fall 2010, and Jennifer is currently a math major in secondary education at the university. She hopes to be a middle school or high school math teacher.

“My OCC education definitely prepared me for other schools, and for my future” said Jennifer.

While in high school, Jennifer learned about OCC, and the Kean-Ocean partnership, from Christopher. In addition to a NJ Stars scholarship and the short distance from home, Kean-Ocean was “huge” incentive for her.

Brenda Carter, 58, of Toms River, was in the unique situation of attending Ocean County College at the same time as her son, Michael Carter, 24, now a student at Seton Hall University.

Originally from Bronx, New York, Brenda worked as a systems analyst in corporate America, and as Director of Application Development for Nordica, before deciding to change gears. “I went back to school after I had climbed the ladder of success,” she noted.

Brenda began pursuing a degree in Business Administration at OCC, then took some time off to start her business, Symmetry Beauty Supply Boutique (www.symmetryboutique.com), which officially opened on June 19, 2010 – or “June-teenth,” as Brenda pointed out, explaining that this was the date, in 1865, that the slaves in Texas learned they had been emancipated.

“I’ve always had an entrepreneurial mindset,” said Brenda, who even helped found an investment club for youth at the college. “Dr. Larson was a big help with that,” she pointed out.

While on campus when she and Michael were both studying for an OCC degree, “Dr. Larson always took the time out to give me a hug,” Brenda remarked. She was also always happy to see her friends Anita Woolery, Instructor of Social Science, and Grace Johnson, Assistant Director of Multicultural Services. For the Carters, Ocean County College felt just right.
1. What year did you graduate from OCC, and what was your course of study?
I graduated in 1995 with a degree in Liberal Arts.

2. What is your fondest memory of OCC?
As a child my aunt and uncle would bring me to the college arboretum, and we would walk all the paths back there. I loved it! When I was a student the arboretum was always a quiet place where I could go to study or just escape.

3. Did you continue your education beyond OCC, or did you begin working after earning your associate degree?
After OCC I spent a few semesters at Georgian Court College taking a lot of biology classes. I decided Georgian Court wasn’t the place for me so I transferred to The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and earned a B.S. in Biology.

4. How and when did you start your business, For the Love of Trees Arboriculture, Inc.?
I started my business in 2009. I had known for some time that I wanted to start my own company. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) holds workshops at OCC that I attended to learn all the basics of starting a business. The SBDC then helped me file all the necessary paperwork to get the company started.

5. What services does your business provide?
For the Love of Trees provides a wide range of services. I am a New Jersey Certified Tree Expert and an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist, so I do consulting work for engineering companies and townships. We also provide insect and disease diagnosis and treatment, tree injections, tree and shrub planting, tree and shrub pruning, fertilization, and soil amending. This year we added weed control as a service; we don’t want weeds competing with our trees for water and nutrients.

6. What’s the best part of being your own boss?
I love being my own boss. It’s very important to me that things are done the right way and for the right reasons. I take pride in owning a company with ethics and also one that is environmentally sensitive. Since I am the primary decision maker I can be sure that what we are doing is always the right thing to do.
7. What do you like most about working with trees and other vegetation?
There are many aspects of arboriculture that I love. It’s great when I get a call about a tree that isn’t looking well and I can do something to save it. I also enjoy planting trees and returning a few years later to see how much they’ve grown.

8. Do you have a favorite tree?
I have many favorite trees, including Coral Bark Maples, Paper Bark Maples, and Eastern Redbud.

9. What do you enjoy doing when you’re not working?
When I’m not working I’m usually working in my own yard caring for the arboretum that I’ve created. I also enjoy hikes in the woods and kayaking.

10. What advice would you give to current OCC students?
I was a nontraditional student when I attended OCC; I had a small child and worked full time. I know that there are many students at OCC in similar positions. I’d like to tell them – and all other students – that hard work does pay off. Don’t be afraid to dream big; you can accomplish anything if you set your mind to it.
Alumni on the Move

Share news about your career, education, and family!

CHARIS CHAMBERS ’10 is majoring in Hotel Administration at Cornell University. She serves as the Cornell Hotel Society Event Planning Chairperson, and is a member of the Communications Committee for the Cornell University Student Assembly. Chambers also works as a teaching assistant and in the front office at the Statler Hotel on campus.

ROBERT MCCOMBS ’10 is majoring in Civil Engineering at Cornell University. He is a member of the Cornell United Club Soccer Team and the Steel Bridge Team, which competes against other schools in the field of structural engineering.

JON FARONEA ’09 is completing his last semester at Rowan University. He will graduate this May with a bachelor’s degree in Advertising. Jon will be doing an internship over the summer to complete his degree requirements.

DANA FORREST ’09 is a student at Rutgers University, where she is majoring in Psychology, with a minor in Sexualities Studies. Forrest works as a sexual health advocate and HIV/AIDS peer educator for the campus group Health Outreach Promotion and Education (HOPE). She is also employed as a teen pregnancy prevention facilitator for the Pinelands Regional School District, and, in conjunction, will be sitting on the Monmouth-Ocean Council on Teen Pregnancy Prevention.

SAMANTHA SURIANO ’09 is double-majoring in Biology and Psychology at the College of Charleston. Upon graduating in 2012, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in Public Health, concentrating in Epidemiology.

ELAINE MARIE BIDDULPH ’08 was selected for the 32nd Annual Juried Exhibition at Monmouth Museum in Lincroft, NJ. Her artwork, titled Blue Mommy, was created in Illustrator while she was attending OCC.

CHRISTINE CLINTON ’06 will receive a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Kean University this May. Clinton volunteers at Community Medical Center in Toms River, where she hopes to obtain a full-time job.

BRIAN KLIMAKOFSKI ’04, who graduated from OCC with an associate’s degree in Criminal Justice, has been promoted to police chief for Manchester Township. He is only the fifth chief of police in the township’s history. Klimakowski began working as a dispatcher for the police department in 1987, then became an officer, and held the positions of public information officer and captain prior receiving the promotion to chief.

WILLIAM F. SCOTT IV ’02 is currently attending the Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduating from OCC, Scott continued his education at Rutgers University, where he earned a bachelor of arts in Philosophy, with a Sociology minor; New York University, where he received an Advanced Certificate in Clinical Research, with a Clinical Trials concentration; and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where he earned a master’s in Biomedical Sciences, with a concentration in Pharmacology.
DANA M. SOTO ’01 recently completed eight-week U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. The capstone event of boot camp is “Battle Stations,” designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork, and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of honor, courage and commitment.

ALISON NOONE ’99 welcomed her son, James Patrick Noone, on May 11, 2010. He was born at Community Medical Center in Toms River. He is the little brother to big sister Skylar Noone, born on September 23, 2008. Last year, Noone graduated from Excelsior College, in Albany, New York, with a bachelor’s of science in Business. She is the Coordinator of Student Programming at OCC.

BRADLEY BILLHIMER ’91 opened his law firm, the Law Offices of Bradley D. Billhimer, on 2 Hooper Avenue, in Toms River. Billhimer is also an Adjunct Instructor of Social Science at OCC.

KATHLEEN PASSUTH BOMBERY ’89 is the Associate Dean of Health Sciences at Chattahoochee Technical College, the largest technical college in Georgia.

PAUL LUSNIA ’86 will pursue a degree in communications this fall at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Lusnia served in the United States Air Force and received an honorable discharge with the rank of Senior Airman.

LILLIAN TESORIERO ’84 is one of a group of eight women who self-published a murder mystery titled The Sandcastle Mysteries: Death and Deception at the Jersey Shore. The fictional story highlights area coastal towns, restaurants, and landmarks. The book is in its second printing. For more information visit www.eightwomenwriters.com.

CAROLE HEDINGER ’81, a certified public accountant and Toms River resident, was named executive director of the New Jersey Lottery. She previously worked as acting director of the Lottery. Additionally, Hedinger served on Governor Chris Christie’s transition team, studying gaming, sports, and entertainment.

LOOkING FOR A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL SUMMER CAMP?

OCC offers more than 50 summer programs for kids of all ages! Programs vary from one day to a full week.

Registration is easy! Look for the “2011 Summer Camps for Kids!” catalog in your mailbox or browse the list of classes online. To speak to a registration expert, call 732.255.0404.

www.ocean.edu/cpe.htm
Judith Angona and Dr. Sandra Brown, both Professors of English and Literature, led the panel presentation “Good Connections: Fact and Fiction in the Twenty-first Century Classroom” at the Two Year College Association (TYCA) Annual Conference. Angona’s paper, “Jumping at the Sun: Oral Literary Traditions in the Modernist Fiction of Zora Neale Hurston,” and Brown’s paper, “Seeing the World Without Joining the Army: The Literature of War and Its Impact on the Reader’s World View,” were both based on contemporary cultural theory. The papers introduced connections among modern and postmodern genres, contexts, and thematic concepts in literature, illustrating oral folk traditions and war narratives that not only clarify the present dynamics of our global community but also govern a reader’s world view. For the past ten years, Angona has served as an officer on TYCA’s Regional Executive Committee. Brown is past editor of the TYCA newsletter, which she renamed The TYCA Nor’easter.

Dr. Jim Brown, Associate Professor of Science, was featured in the April 2011 edition of Online Science Educator, in which he speaks about teaching online courses in Human Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology. Earlier this year, Brown presented at the 2011 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s (PASSHE) Distance Education Virtual Conference, where he discussed best practices, communication methods, student interaction and feedback, and learning results from teaching laboratory-based science courses online.

Sandy S. Broughton, Foundation Executive Director, was elected Vice President of Professional Development for the Board of Directors of the Association of Fundraising Professionals – New Jersey Chapter. Broughton was also elected to the Board of Trustees for the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council and is a member of the non-profit committee.

Broughton was also an honoree of the Toms River Area Branch of the NAACP at their annual Freedom Fund Dinner in May.

Ilene Cohen, Athletic Director, received the 2011 Honor Award for her outstanding achievements in athletics and her contributions to girls and women in sports. She accepted the award at “National Girls and Women in Sports Day” at Seton Hall University. Cohen also serves as the Assistant Women’s Region Director for Region XIX.

Caitlyn Cook, Librarian-Reference Services; Lynn Kraemer-Siracusa, Instructor of English and Literature; Catherine Pontoriero, Librarian-Reference Services; and Heidi Sheridan, Instructor of English and Literature, completed a pilot project and delivered a paper at the Two Year College Association titled “Teaching the Google Generation: Integrating Information Literacy Into First Year English Courses.”

Michael Angelo Forcella, Adjunct Instructor of Business – and an Adjunct Instructor for the Fairleigh Dickinson University-OCC Partnership, School of Hospitality, Tourism, and Management – attended two full-day workshops designed to foster professional development in the area of pedagogical best practice. He has been invited to attend Certified Hospitality Educator classes sponsored by FDU this June. Completion of this program will lead to the status of a Certified Hospitality Educator, permitting the use of the CHE designation after Forcella’s name when displaying academic credentials.

In January, Peter Hartney, Adjunct Instructor of Social Science, began his second term as a member of the Surf City Borough Council. He was elected to the position in November 2010. As Councilman, he chairs the Beach Fees/Beach Protection Committee and the Environment and Public Issues Committee. On the county level, Hartney is a board member of the Ocean County Board of Social Services; serves as vice-chair of the Ocean County Mental Health Board; and currently chairs the Ocean County Human Services Advisory Council, serving as leader of the Homelessness Task Force. (Above, Hartney on the beach in Surf City in the days following a powerful Nor’easter in February 2010.)
The Toms River Chamber of Commerce honored Dr. Jon H. Larson, OCC President, with the “Distinguished Citizen of the Year” award at their 48th annual gala reception and dinner dance. Dr. Larson’s remarks can be found at www.ocean.edu/president.

Dr. Virginia Reilly, Professor of Business Studies, recently completed Princeton University’s Spring 2011 Alumni Studies Course “Post-Recession America: Lessons Learned,” which dealt with causes of the recession, derivatives, executive compensation, shadow banking, heath care reform, quantitative easing, and deciphering liquidity and the credit crunch.

At the 2011 Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference at Mercer County Community College, Dr. Reilly was named Local Chapter Professional of the Year, while Katherine Dillon, Associate Professor of Business Studies, was honored as Outstanding Advisor of the Year, and Dean LaBollita, Assistant Dean of the School of Social Science and Human Services, was named Business Person of the Year.

Francis D. Polk, Provost for Off-Campus Programs, Adjunct Faculty, and Community Outreach, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Robert Singer Vocational Technical Institute.

Megan Procaccini, Project Specialist at the Center for Academic Excellence, was selected to participate in Center for Leadership and Services’ Leadership Conference 2011 at Kean University.

Margaret Quinn, Assistant Professor of Nursing, recently attained her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Rutgers University. Her capstone project was to initiate video game technology into the middle school curriculum. Quinn’s initiative gained regional news coverage, and she was subsequently asked to present her research findings at the Atlantic Care Nursing Research Day.

Every Gift Makes A Difference!

The Ocean County College Foundation and Alumni Affairs invite 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.

Send your donation to: Ocean County College Foundation, P.O. Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001. OCC Alumni can direct their donation to the OCC Resource Development/Alumni Affairs Office. Please specify your graduation year and name at graduation to ensure proper credit.

Your support is greatly appreciated!
The Barbara R. Wheeler Fund for International Education Established at OCC

The OCC Foundation is the recipient of a generous donation from the family of alumna Barbara R. Wheeler, Class of 1975. Wheeler, a regular supporter of the OCC Alumni Fund Drive, retired from the Township of Berkeley as assistant treasurer after a career that spanned 21 years. Shortly after her death in 2009, members of her family contacted the Foundation office to assist them in finding a way to honor Wheeler’s memory.

Wheeler was an avid traveler who appreciated the educational value of traveling abroad; therefore, a fund was created in her name to provide scholarships for international education. Wheeler visited Australia and Vietnam, walked the Great Wall of China, and traveled down the Amazon River. As Wheeler’s son, Daniel Wheeler, remarked, “Our mother would be thrilled that she is helping make it possible for OCC students to broaden their educational experience by participating in international travel.” In the past, OCC students have traveled to London, Israel, China, and North and Central America. On a case by case basis, the Barbara R. Wheeler Fund will also provide support for travel within the United States.

OCC students interested in applying for an international education scholarship must complete an OCC Foundation Scholarship Application and meet specific criteria, including: a grade point average of 2.0, completion of the FAFSA form, a type-written, 150-word essay stating why he or she should receive the scholarship, a recommendation letter, and proof of in-county residency. Applications are available on the OCC website, www.ocean.edu, and from the OCC Foundation Office.

The Barbara R. Wheeler Fund for International Education is designed to provide travel scholarships for two students per trip. The number of trips will be decided by the family and will be based on the needs of the college. The initial donation will be invested as a quasi-endowed fund that will provide scholarships through its earnings but will not be restricted by the earnings only. Alumni and other friends of the college who may be interested in memorializing or honoring a loved one can contact the Foundation Office at 732.255.0492 for more information.
Annual Foundation Golf Outing a Success

The 2011 Foundation Golf Outing was held at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Lake-wood, NJ. Again this year, proceeds from the event benefitted OCC students with scholarships, special projects, and academic programs. Thanks to a hard-working committee, chaired by Michael York, our sponsors, donors, and players, the event was a huge success. Our appreciation is extended to everyone who played a part.

10th Annual Golf Outing Committee
Michael B. York, Chairperson
Nina Anuario       Michael O’Brien
Arthur Bailey      Ken Olsen
Ilene Cohen        Nick Pagano
Vincent D’Allesandro Richard Pallamary
Eileen dela Volle  Richard M. Parrish
John N. Ernst      Pravin Patel
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William Hoey       David Rosen
Anne Kraljic       Ron Rosetto
Dottie LaPosa      Pauline Rota
Jon H. Larson, Ph.D. Michael Schrader
Victoria Magliacane Domenick Servadio
Deb Mathis         Dina Vicari
Kathi Mead         Massimo F. Yezzi, Jr.
Heather Moffitt    Matthew Yezzi

Foundation Staff
Sandy S. Broughton, Executive Director
Kathy Buffum, Manager
Nancy A. Heroy, Administrative Assistant
The National Alliance of Two Year College Athletics Administrators Cup recognizes excellence in two-year college athletics based on success in national championship competition. After the fall season, OCC was ranked fourth in the country in the National Junior College Athletic Association Non-Scholarship Division, with our women’s program receiving more points than any other program.

For Third Straight Year, Women’s Soccer Wins GSAC and Region XIX Tournaments

The women's soccer team, guided by Head Coach Karen Trump, accumulated an impressive 16-2-1 record and was ranked third in the final NJCAA Division III poll of the past fall season. The team finished fifth in the NJCAA Division III tournament; won the Region XIX tournament for the third straight year; and captured the Garden State Athletic Conference regular season title, also for the third year in a row.

Robynn Frank Honored at “National Girls and Women in Sports Day”

Robynn Frank was selected as OCC’s “Woman Athlete of the Year” and was recognized through the Garden State Athletic Conference at Seton Hall University in February. Frank was a leader on the court for the Vikings women, with over 600 rebounds and just below 600 points. She earned “National Player of the Week” honors her first season, in which she recorded three double-double games in a week, and captained both the basketball and softball teams her sophomore year. Frank, a NJ STARS student, is now pursuing her teaching degree from Kean University on the OCC campus.

Cross Country Teams Strong at NJCAA National Championships

In the first two seasons back since the mid 1990s, the women's cross country team saw a great deal of success under Head Coach Ed Baynes. In 2009, the team won the NJCAA National Championship, and last fall, the team finished second. Angela Ciardelli was OCC’s fastest runner in the 2010 fall championships, finishing seventh overall. Priscilla Robinson was the second Vikings runner to cross the finish, in 14th place, followed closely by Alyssa Collier, who earned 15th place.

The men's cross country team has also made great strides under Coach Baynes. This past fall, in their first team appearance at the NJCAA National Championships since the program’s reinstatement, the Vikings placed 13th. OCC’s Ray Mamazza finished 45th overall for the top Vikings time. He was followed by Michael Neigel, Jarryd Novin, Joshua Avileira, and Michael Schaeffer.

Athletes Give Back to the Community

Throughout the year, the Athletic Department staff and our student-athletes support numerous causes in the community, including the CROP Hunger Walk, Kevin’s Kids for Christmas Drive, Breast Cancer Awareness, and the Sunny Side Care Facility Holiday Party.
Men’s and Women’s Swimmers Lap Up Accolades

This past March, the Vikings swimmers, led by Head Coach Steve Stout and Assistant Coach Lauren Stoltzfus, competed in the 2011 NJCAA Swimming and Diving National Championships. The men earned third place and the women finished sixth in the non-scholarship division.

During the championships, OCC’s Billy de Rouville beat three of his own school records by swimming personal bests. He set a new record in the 50 freestyle, the 100 freestyle, and the 200 freestyle. In addition, de Rouville, Kyle Everson, Zach Saunders, and Alex Carpenter set the 800 freestyle relay school and pool record this season.

The swim team had a number of All-American Honorable Mentions this year: de Rouville, Carpenter, Saunders, Everson, Mark Madjeski, Sean Hirtes, John Boylan, and Nick Brow for the men, and Amy Hrabal, Nicole Haines, Jen Huff, Priscilla Robinson, and Rebecca Siersema for the women.

All-Region Players Lead Women’s Basketball Team

This year, the women’s basketball team, led by Head Coach Dana Kovich and Assistant Coach Nicole Ciocher, amassed an overall record of 15-10, a Region XIX record of 13-7, and a GSAC record of 13-5. The women finished fourth in the GSAC and fifth in Region XIX.

Team members Elizabeth Lawler and Erin Applegate both received All-Region and All-GSAC Honors, and Lawler was also named NJCAA Player of the Week in mid-February for her impressive stats, including 29 points, five blocks, and a career-high 26 rebounds against Middlesex, followed by 17 points, 11 rebounds, five steals, and three blocks against Sussex. Lawler, a 6’0” center, racked up a number of double-doubles this season, during which she ranked second in the nation in rebounding.

Athletic Complex Construction Moving at a Swift Pace

Six brand-new tennis courts are now open for use, until dark each day, on the OCC campus. Currently under construction is a multi-purpose turf soccer and lacrosse stadium, and, in addition, a walking path will soon be created around the complex. A dedication ceremony for the new athletic complex is planned for June 2011.

Men’s Basketball Team Finishes Fifth in National Tournament

The men’s basketball team played far into the winter season this year, finishing fifth in the 2011 NJCAA Tournament in March. After first beating Massachusetts Bay, the men suffered a close loss to eventual tourney winner Mountain View, then played in the 3rd/5th place consolation game against host school Sullivan County Community College. OCC’s Darnell Braggs was named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Team.

Prior to the national tourney, the men – guided by Head Coach Rory Caswell and Assistant Coach Tory Fisher, with help from Volunteer Coach Jeff Moglia and long-time Stat Man Larry Hartmayer – defeated Camden County College to win the NJCAA Region XIX Division III Championship (photo, above). Steven Salley was named Region XIX Tournament MVP, while JaMario Clayton earned Region XIX Player of the Year honors, and Caswell was selected as Region XIX and District 6 Coach of the Year.

Student Veterans Honored by Athletic Department, Viking Basketball Players

Student Veterans of OCC were honored at a halftime ceremony held in December by the Athletic Department. Pictured: Ocean County College Administration, Basketball Teams, Coaches, Cheerleaders, and the Veteran Honorees.
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
- Specialized events to connect with friends, professors, and community members
- Discounts on day trips through the Office of Student Life

Questions? Email us at alumni@ocean.edu