



OCC

magazine

2015 EDITION

BACK-TO-BACK STATE CHAMPS!

Speech and Debate Brings Home
Gold at State, Nationals

STEM @ OCC

Guitar-Making Teaches Fine Art
of Precision



ORANGE
COAST
COLLEGE



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Orange Coast College, founded in 1947, is one of the nation's top transfer schools. With a student population of 22,000, OCC provides exemplary programs leading to Associate in Arts degrees, Associate in Science degrees and 145 career programs. As a multicultural and multinational institution, OCC is a qualifying Hispanic Serving Institution and an Asian American Native American and Pacific Islander Serving Institution, and serves more than 1,000 international students representing more than 56 countries. The College's 164-acre campus is located in the heart of Costa Mesa, just minutes from Southern California's beautiful beaches. For complete details about OCC, visit www.orangecoastcollege.edu.



Dear Friends of Orange Coast College,

As president one of the most rewarding parts of my job is meeting so many wonderful people whose lives have been bettered by their connection to OCC. Their stories are always different — whether they are current or former students, instructors, donors or volunteers — but their sentiment is always the same: OCC holds a special place in their hearts.

In these pages you will find examples of some of the ways that OCC continues to change lives and, in turn, change our community for the better. You will read the story of former student Enrique Flores, a first-generation college student who arrived at Coast without a plan and, with the help of our Transfer Center, eventually transferred to UC San Diego where he is majoring in chemistry.

This magazine also features not one, but two former OCC students who eventually came back to the College to teach: Photography Instructor Blade Gillissen talks about what makes the program the best choice out there for aspiring photographers, and Forensics Instructor Sha Davari recounts the hard work and dedication he witnessed this year as he coached OCC's Speech and Debate team to a ninth national championship. Both Blade and Sha started their stories at OCC as students and today are full-time instructors who are dedicated to helping students achieve success.

While I am exceptionally proud of OCC's status as the state's top combined transfer school and the region's leader in career training, it's the stories of individual students, instructors, volunteers and donors that paint a full picture of what the College has come to represent in our community: a trusted resource for learning.

In mapping our course for the future, we remain focused on our core values of serving our community with learning opportunities that are accessible to all and providing exceptional stewardship to every student who sets foot on our campus. We thank you for your continued support and for sharing our vision of bettering our community through education.

Regards,

Dennis Harkins



2015 EDITION

Dennis R. Harkins, Ph.D.
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SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Road
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

or call (714) 432-5725

Get in touch with us;

We want to hear from you!

Email: jgutierrez@occ.ccd.edu

www.orangecoastcollege.edu

MISSION STATEMENT

Orange Coast College serves the educational needs of its diverse local and global community. The College empowers students to achieve their educational goals by providing high quality and innovative programs and services leading to academic degrees, college transfer, certificates in career and technical education, basic skills and workforce development to enable lifelong learning. The College promotes student learning and development by fostering a respectful, supportive and participatory campus climate of student engagement and academic inquiry.

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STEM @



OCC

Guitar Making Class Teaches Students the Fine Art of Precision

Last summer, two dozen faculty members from local colleges gathered at Orange Coast College in the throes of summer to make some music; or, more accurately, some musical instruments. It was part of a National STEM Guitar Project, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. The five-day workshops provide faculty training in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through the hands-on learning techniques needed to build a guitar, from start to finish.

The workshop gave faculty members from OCC, Fullerton College, Saddleback College and UC Irvine the chance to build their own custom electric guitars

while picking up useful tips for incorporating STEM training into their teaching methodology. The subjects taught by instructors in attendance ran the gamut from architecture to engineering to math to auto mechanics, and the results were as varied as the seminar's participants; some guitars were marbled, others branded with nicknames or school insignias. The one thing every guitar had in common? All were diligently crafted.

"Making the guitar required the orchestration of certain skills and knowledge, such as understanding how sound waves are generated by vibrating strings and the function of specific electrical components in the pickup and distortion of the sound," explains workshop participant and OCC Professor of architecture Dean Abernathy. "I'm an experienced maker and an architect, and I'm well aware of the challenges and benefits of designing and producing a musical instrument."

The workshop came at an opportune time, with OCC recently reviving a long-abandoned steel string acoustic guitar making class. While steel string acoustic guitar making is more complex than electric guitar-making, there are many commonalities — both are complicated processes that touch on subjects such as physics and math. "It's a lot like STEM training," explains OCC instructor and luthier Michael Rafferty. "We teach you how to achieve precision."

The class, which is spread over two semesters, takes place on Saturdays and guides students from the raw wood to a finished instrument. "I start from the log, and finish at a polished and playable instrument," says Rafferty.

In the first semester, students complete the body of the guitar. The second semester is dedicated to the neck and guitar assembly. The course, at four units, is transferable to Cal State schools, and students come from all disciplines, including architecture, interior design, and construction technology.

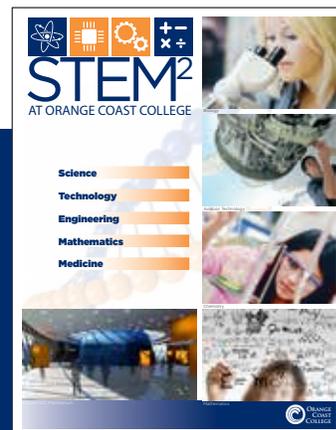
Rafferty stresses that students of all abilities are welcome to sign up, regardless of musical ability. "You don't have to be a player to sign up," he says. As the class gains steam, he's seeing a student demographic that is all over the map; men and women, old and young. And with comparable classes at private studios running upwards of \$1,000,



OCC's guitar-making class is an affordable option for students who are interested in the mechanics of building an instrument.

As careers in STEM-related fields continue to grow at an unprecedented rate, guitar-making is simply one way in which OCC incorporates STEM training into the College's curriculum in unexpected and innovative ways.

"This is the College's first effort at using guitar making as a platform for STEM training," says Construction Technology Professor Tim Peters. "It's an opportunity for students to get some skill mastery in fine woodworking in addition to acoustics, electronics, finishing, sound physics and mechanical assembly"



Orange Coast College offers a wide range of STEM-related certificates and associates degrees. From computer programming, dietetics and marine science programs, to welding technology and aviation pilot training, students at Coast have access to exciting STEM programs and hands-on training opportunities. For more information go to www.orangecoastcollege.edu/stem

Designing Her Way to the Top

INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENT ERIKA DE LA PARRA COMPETES AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

OCC interior design student Erika De La Parra traveled to Chicago this summer to compete in a national Interior Design Association charrette at Chicago's NeoCon convention.

Erika earned the fully paid trip to Chicago by winning IIDA's Southern California and West Coast charrettes, which are collaborative design and planning competitions that formulate a solution for a design problem. In both competitions — which took place in November and April respectively — she took the lead in her groups, and her outside-the-box thinking ultimately paid off with a trip to NeoCon, the commercial interior design industry's largest annual convention.

"It truly was an honor to represent OCC and the Southern California IIDA Chapter as their first student to participate at the International Student Design Charette," Erika says. "Just being at NeoCon was a great experience on its own. I got to meet so many people and learn a lot more about the interior design industry."

IIDA's charrette took place in the convention's Merchandiser's Mart. After being assigned to groups of five, competitors were tasked with programming the mart's 8,390-square-foot atrium space to include flexible semi-private and collaborative work areas, a bistro/café, lounge, and incorporate the natural light coming from the windows and skylights. With only five hours to design the space, students were challenged to think on their feet. "We



were encouraged to go around the conference collecting material samples from the exhibitors for our design boards," Erika explains.

Judges from some of the biggest architectural design firms in the nation picked a winner, who was later announced at winner's reception.

With plans to graduate this year, Erika is grateful to OCC's interior design faculty for their support, and for preparing her for an even bigger prize: a future career in museum and exhibition design.

"I've had a great experience overall at OCC," she says. "The interior design faculty are always pushing students to go beyond and do more, and they really are preparing us for what's to come," she says.

To learn more about the interior design program at OCC, visit www.orangecoastcollege.edu/interiordesign

Capturing Greatness

OCC Photography is a Sure Bet
for Aspiring Photogs



MENU

INFO.



RATE



Canon

LOCK



Ask Orange Coast College photography instructor and chair, Blade Gillissen, to tell you what he thinks of the program, and he won't mince words.

"This is the safest bet I think there is in photography," he said. "We're incredibly affordable, and the photo education that students get at OCC is excellent."

Blade would know — he started at Coast as a student in 1991, working his way through school as a student assistant. He went on to start a successful commercial photography business before returning to OCC as an instructor in the late 90s, at a time when the College was pushing the idea of having working professionals teach.

It's a strategy that has proven successful; OCC's photography program is well known not just for the caliber of students that graduate and pursue careers in the industry, but also for the quality of its faculty and staff,

all of whom have extensive experience as professional photographers.

"One thing that makes the program unique is that of our five full-time faculty, two are truly fine-art, exhibiting artists right now," Blade said. "Two other full-time faculty members are truly commercial photographers, running their own businesses. And then there's me, and I probably do a little bit of both."

The program also has continued its tradition of hiring local working photography professionals to teach courses in their spare time. "We have about 10 part-time faculty members who teach specific classes within their field of excellence," Blade said.

The program offers three certificates for aspiring photogs: Still Photography, Digital Tech, and Digital SLR Photography and Videography. Students have the option to concentrate in one of many different areas, including fashion photography, documentary, portrait photography, advertisement illustration and architectural photography.

Students interested in studying photography as a fine art also can obtain a certificate of completion or an associate degree, and then move on to a program at a four-year university.

“We have students who come to us with many different needs. Some want to study with us for two years, then go out and get jobs assisting and become commercial photographers,” Blade said. “But, even though we’re a vocational program, students can absolutely study photography as a fine art here as well. Most of those students we would encourage to go on and get a bachelors or master of fine arts degree.”

Perhaps more important than the certificate, however, is the portfolio that students amass along the way. With access to an equipment room with more than \$2 million in cameras, lenses and other photography equipment that can be checked out, OCC photography students have an opportunity to create a portfolio that they can show potential employers when they interview for jobs.

Students also are given the chance to exhibit their work in a dedicated student gallery space or at an annual student show.

Yet, for all the incredible resources and opportunities that are available to photography students at OCC, Blade insists that it’s the faculty and staff that make the program stand a cut above the rest.

“What makes OCC so great is the people,” he says. “We have an amazingly talented faculty and staff, and that’s what makes the program stand out in the country. I can’t imagine doing anything else.”

Have an eye for photography?

Check out www.occphoto.com for more information about OCC’s photography program.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Steve Morissette '15 is living the dream; hired to be a photographer by popular surf brand Rip Curl while he was still a student at OCC, Steve now spends his days shooting everything from models and products for catalogs to lifestyle and surf photography. When asked to what he owes his success, Steve is emphatic: “Without OCC’s photo department I wouldn’t be where I am today, that’s a fact,” he says.

Steve first heard about the program through a friend, and when he saw the variety of courses and resources offered to students, he was blown away. “The program is so dialed, from the teachers, digital lab, equipment, studios, dark room ... it’s hard not to soak it all in and just get smothered with photography all day, every day,” he says.

Steve also credits an exceptional faculty with expanding his photographic horizons. “Every teacher had something different to offer, from proper studio lighting to abstract thinking and techniques,” he explains. “Without the proper education I wouldn’t have the experience and knowledge to do the job I have today. For that I am forever thankful to OCC.”



Fired Up!

OCC'S CULINARY STUDENTS WIN SECOND PLACE AT NATIONAL COOKING COMPETITION AGAINST TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE U.S.

In early August, members of Orange Coast College's Hot Food Team found themselves taking heat in Orlando at the American Culinary Classic, a national competition hosted by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) where they placed second overall.

The high-pressure competition was part of ACF's Cook. Craft. Create National Convention and Show, held annually and attended by more than 1,000 chefs, cooks, students and foodservice professionals hoping to enhance their skills and stay up-to-date on industry trends.

The competition came at the end of a whirlwind year for OCC's Hot Food Team, who earned an invitation to the Sunshine State by winning gold at both state and regional ACF competitions. Each competition closely resembled cooking contests seen on popular reality television shows like "Top Chef," with teams being given specific cooking tasks followed by close scrutiny by a panel of ACF certified judges, including a certified "master chef" and a pastry judge. The structure puts student chefs to the test, and culminates with a judging phase that is often as grueling as the competition itself.

"It was great to hear the things that the judges liked about our food, but it was hard to hear the things that the judges didn't like," explains team captain Annette Alvarado. "I know they are helping us learn, but these guys chose a kind of 'tough love' approach."

In Orlando, OCC's Hot Food Team found themselves up

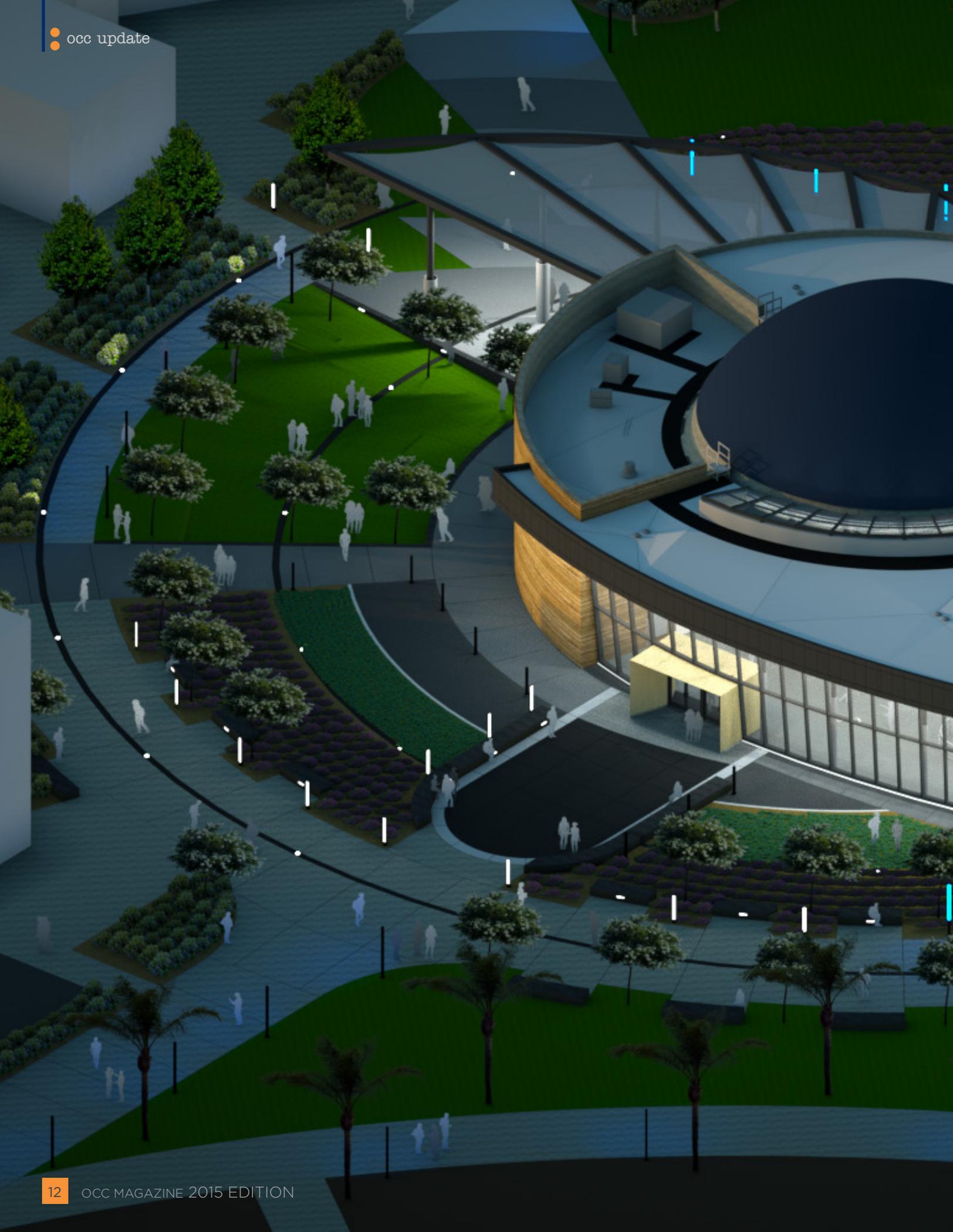
against three other regional teams from the Northeast, Southeast and Central areas of the U.S., as well as a team representing the military. There, they were tasked with cooking four different kinds of finger foods, one cold festive buffet platter, three different hot starters and one festive menu consisting of five courses. For the pastry portion of the competition, student chefs were charged with making four different plated desserts, and one platter of candy, chocolates or petits fours. Each phase of the competition came with strict parameters such as "prepared hot, served cold" or "chocolate as main ingredient."

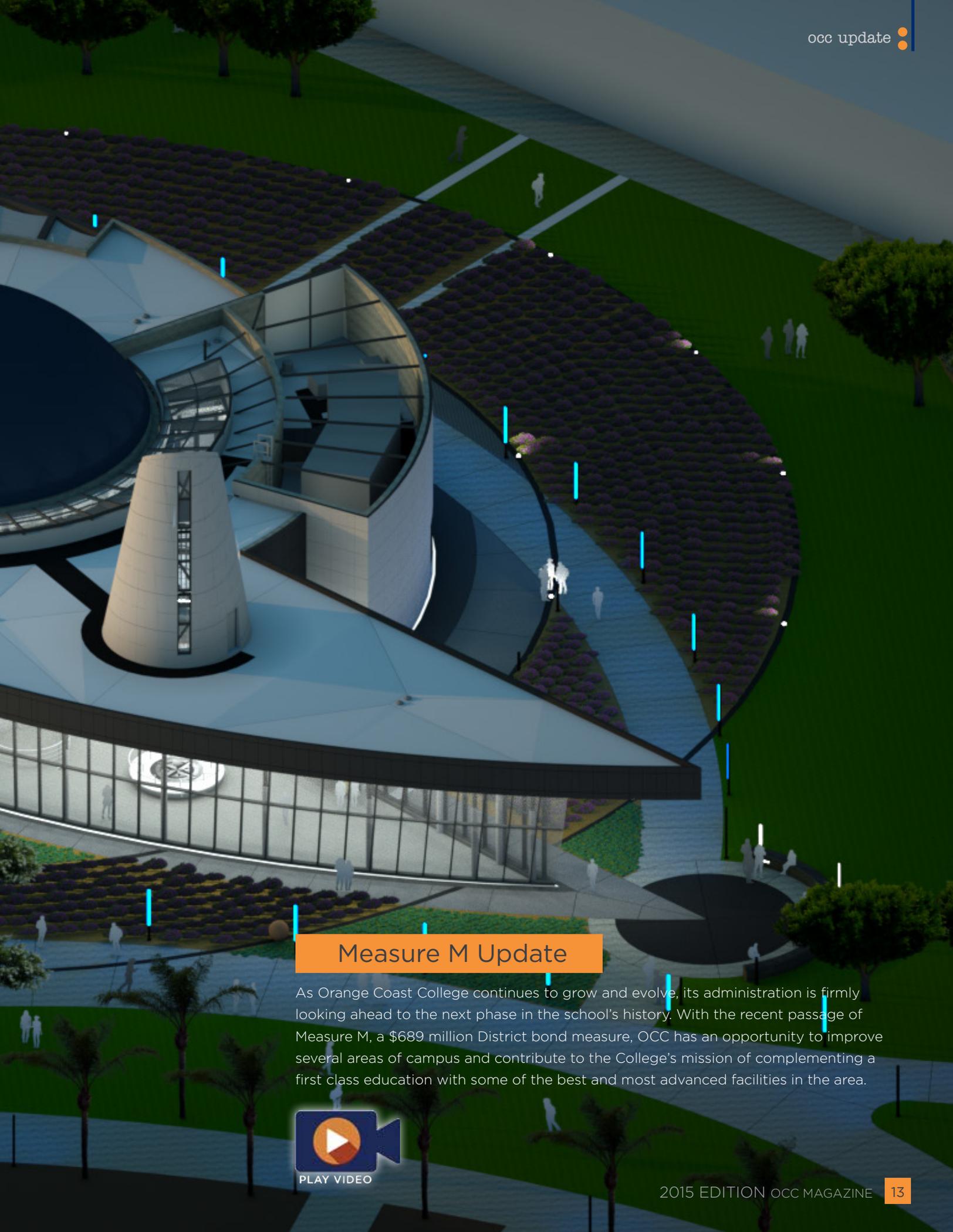
Ultimately, the team was grateful for the opportunity to compete on the national stage, and to have access to some of the biggest names in the cooking scene.

"It's really a good teaching opportunity, because you're hearing from really high-up people," says Elizabeth Mendoza. "The judges gave us great feedback. It was really exciting."

Thinking about a career as a professional chef?

Learn more about OCC's culinary arts program at www.orangecoastcollege.edu/culinary_arts





Measure M Update

As Orange Coast College continues to grow and evolve, its administration is firmly looking ahead to the next phase in the school's history. With the recent passage of Measure M, a \$689 million District bond measure, OCC has an opportunity to improve several areas of campus and contribute to the College's mission of complementing a first class education with some of the best and most advanced facilities in the area.





Mathematics, Business & Computing Center

Construction is complete at OCC's new Mathematics, Business and Computing Center, which opened on the first day of the fall semester. The 90,000-square-foot interdisciplinary complex includes 10 computing labs, three lecture halls and 30 faculty offices, making it easier for students to find their instructors.

Planetarium

OCC is scheduled to break ground on a new Planetarium this year that will serve as an extension of the College's commitment to STEM curriculum. In addition to providing a space for College-level courses, the Planetarium also will give the local community an opportunity to attend shows, lectures and exhibits throughout the year. The Planetarium will include a state-of-the-art theatre and presentation room with a 40-foot dome and theater-style seating for 125, a Foucault pendulum exhibit, an interactive science exhibit hall, and a Science on a Sphere NOAA display globe.

Additionally, OCC received a \$1 million grant to fund a telescope farm adjacent to the Planetarium. These telescopes will be accessible to students and visitors alike and will undoubtedly provide a unique and valuable resource to the community for years to come.

Recycling Center

Coast prides itself on its commitment to sustainable practices, and in that vein the College will break ground on a new, expanded Recycling Center within the next two years. In addition to recycling facilities, the new center will include classrooms and offices, as well as 45 parking spaces (the current Recycling Center has eight). The new building will increase the Recycling Center's ability to host K-12 field trips for local schools, and may allow for new programs of study in relation to sustainable practices.

OCC also has plans to install solar panels in the coming years in areas throughout campus. Along with newly installed water-bottle filling stations, electric vehicle charging stations and drought-tolerant landscaping, solar panels will simply be another way in which OCC leads by example in addressing environmental concerns.

Student Center

A new OCC Student Center is anticipated in the next five years, in order to create a one-stop-shop for student services and resources. The center will house a new cafeteria, campus bookstore, student government and student success center, and also will serve as a place where students can study and relax.

Lights, Camera, Hollywood:

OCC STUDENT DIRECTOR OLIVER NGUYEN IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO HIS DREAM OF BEING A DIRECTOR IN TINSELTOWN

Oliver Nguyen's interest in film began the same way as it has for many moviemakers before him—as a little boy making videos for fun with an inexpensive camera.

Beyond those early days holed up in his room, crafting music videos that he would share with his friends, Oliver didn't give his interest much thought. It wasn't until he was in his second year at Orange Coast College as a biology major and looking

Oliver was forced to reevaluate the career path he was on. His brother had just quit a business program at Cal State Fullerton to pursue his dream of becoming a chef, and something in Oliver clicked — he realized he also had a dream that he wasn't pursuing.

"What really inspired me to [pursue film] was my brother. He was a business major but he had no passion for it," Oliver explains. "He ended up quitting and going to culinary school, and now he's doing pretty well. When I saw that, I thought 'I'm going to do it, too. I can't go on like this'"

At first, his parents were disappointed. "My mom straight up said 'No,'" Oliver says. "She told me 'You'll never make it.'"

It wasn't until Oliver showed his mom and dad his first effort at filmmaking — a short film he made in a beginner class at OCC — that his parents saw not only his dedication to his craft, but his talent as well.

Since then, Oliver's parents have been 100 percent behind him as he works toward his goal of seeing his work on the big screen. One step toward that goal was being selected for OCC's annual entry into the Newport Film Festival, OCC Shorts.

Coast has been a part of the film fest for 12 years, and currently is the only college allowed to show films in the 600-seat Regency Lido Theatre in Newport Beach. Each year, the College's entries are chosen by a committee of

OCC film instructors who narrow down finalists among dozens of hopefuls looking to snag the highly coveted spots.

"[OCC Shorts] was definitely one of my goals when I first decided that I wanted to make movies," Oliver says. After submitting films and being rejected for the past two years, the third time was the charm. "I'm very happy," Oliver says. "It was really exciting to see my movie in an actual theater."

Oliver's film "Dirt" premiered in the Lido Theatre this past spring. The crime-drama follows an ex-convict who wants to help his younger brother steer clear of gang life. Oliver — who works part-time as a chef at a Vietnamese restaurant, and scraped together the \$900 it took to make "Dirt" — plans to add the film to his application to film programs at USC and Chapman University.

As for where he hopes his journey in film will take him? Oliver doesn't hesitate.

"I want to become a director in Hollywood," he says. "I want to make movies that people will go and see in theaters."



Dreaming of a career in film?

Visit www.orangecoastcollege.edu to learn more about making your dream a reality.



ALL HANDS ON DECK

SAILING SCHOOL IS A TREASURED RESOURCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Adventure on the high seas and cruises on state-of-the-art ships are things you might not expect to see at your typical community college, but then again, Orange Coast College is not your typical community college.

Opened in 1960, OCC's School of Sailing and Seamanship has grown to become one of the largest public boating education programs in the nation. The Sailing School, which offers youths and adults the chance to take courses ranging from beginning sailing to ocean voyaging to powerboat training, is located in an oceanfront boathouse on Pacific Coast Highway in Newport Beach. With more than three dozen power and sailing vessels that measure from 14 to 90 feet, this program truly has something for everyone.

"Our mission is access to boating. We have tremendous support from donations from the community, and that enables us to offer exceptional courses at very low prices," said Sailing School Director Brad Avery.

The School is self-supported, with funds coming from private donations and student fees. The most recent feather in the School's cap came in the form of the donation of the Nordic Star, a 92-foot luxury yacht. "She is a great education platform for students who are seeking careers in the maritime industry," Avery said of the Nordic Star. "A lot

of hands-on lessons can be taught aboard, on a scale that is common to commercial work boats and large yachts"

The School offers professional mariner and Coast Guard licensing programs for individuals interested in pursuing a career in the maritime industry. The 15-unit professional mariner certificate prepares students for jobs on tugboats, sports fishers, private yachts, or for transfer to four-year maritime programs.

The Sailing School also is looking ahead to the next phase in its storied history, and is committed to continuing a tradition of offering students the opportunity to find adventure on the open sea. With the recent departure of OCC's flagship, the Alaska Eagle, the School is in the market for another sailing vessel for students interested in traveling further than Southern California's waters.

"We're looking for a boat that's 50 feet long, that will take six students and two instructors to Hawaii, up to Canada and then home," said Avery. "People will still get the experience of crossing an ocean, being together and being out-of-sight of land."

To learn more about OCC's sailing program, visit www.occsailing.com or call (949) 645-9412.



OCC EARLY CHILDHOOD LAB SCHOOL OFFERS A UNIQUE EDUCATION TO CHILDREN

The Orange Coast College Early Childhood Lab School might be one of the best-kept secrets in Orange County.

When most people hear the word “lab,” they likely don’t think of a preschool. But it’s exactly that “lab school” designation that makes OCC’s resident preschool a unique resource in the community. The school is part of OCC’s Early Childhood Education program and offers students the chance to observe and, in some cases, be assistant teachers to preschool-age children. As college instructors, the teachers and director at the Lab School are highly educated, with most possessing a master’s degree in early childhood education.

Children who attend OCC’s Lab School benefit from the expertise of their highly educated and experienced teachers, who are mentors in the early childhood community. The emergent-based curriculum is carefully crafted, and is designed to stimulate language, physical, cognitive and creative development, and encourage positive self-esteem and social interaction.

Best of all? This program is accessible to anyone in the community with children age 2 to 5 years old. Morning, afternoon and extended day programs are available, as well as a popular summer camp.

For enrollment information visit www.orangecoastcollege.edu/earlychildhoodlabschool or call (714) 432-5517



Transfer Success

TRANSFER CENTER HELPED ENRIQUE FLORES EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

For Enrique Flores, the Transfer Center at Orange Coast College made all the difference in determining his future.

The first in his family to not only graduate from high school, but also to attend college, Enrique arrived at Coast without a plan.

“There was no real guidance from my high school counselors, specifically in college searches, ideal college majors or financial aid resources. It was assumed that all of that information was obtained from parents or siblings who had gone through the process,” Enrique said. “Being a first-generation college student, I was extremely lost.”

Not long after enrolling at Coast, Enrique came across the Transfer Center, and there he found the answers he was looking for.

“Events such as Transfer Day were extremely helpful in my search for a university to transfer to after OCC,” Enrique said. “Representatives from various institutions came to visit and gave me a feel as to what each campus had to offer.

Futhermore, some representatives provided one-on-one appointments, which were invaluable because I obtained specific information I needed about the campus and my major.”

The Transfer Center also arranged university tours that helped Enrique get a feel for campus environments. “The tours allowed me to explore campuses firsthand as opposed to seeing pictures on the Internet. They greatly helped me narrow my selection of universities,” he said.

When it came time for Enrique to apply to the Cal State and University of California systems the Transfer Center helped him every step of the

way, whether he had questions about the application or needed someone to look over his personal statement.

Enrique eventually chose to attend UC San Diego, where he currently is majoring in chemistry. He was recently invited to conduct lab research with one of his professors.

“I would never have gotten this far without the Transfer Center,” he said. “The overall transition from Orange Coast College to the University of California, San Diego was made that much simpler thanks to their services.”

Did you know... OCC is the top community college in Orange County for transfers to the University of California and California State University systems combined? To learn more about how OCC can help you reach your goals, visit www.orangecoastcollege.edu/student_services/counseling/transfer_center





Back to Back!



PIRATES DEFEND STATE BASEBALL CROWN

Sometimes the biggest pieces of motivation can come in the most unlikely of places.

Such was the case for the Orange Coast College baseball team, who took an unintentional slight and battled through the top teams in the nation to shock the world and reclaim the state title California Community College Athletic Association State Baseball Championship in late May at Fresno City College's John Eules Ballpark.

"A state tournament official came up to me and said that it appeared we would crown a second straight national championship from this tournament, which meant he didn't think we were going to win this thing,"

OCC head coach John Altobelli said of his underdog Pirates. "So we adopted the motto, 'why not us?' ... it was more than a motto ... it was something we believed in and we went into the tournament with the intent of winning a state championship. I'm so proud of the guys for believing that they could do it and making it happen. This is a special team ... one I will never forget."

Coast — 18-2 over the past two postseasons — became the first team since the 2000-02 Riverside City College Tigers to win back-to-back state titles and it was the first time in school history that the Pirates accomplished the feat. OCC now has six state championships in school history — 1956, 1960, 1980, 2009, 2014 and 2015. It is also the third state crown won by defeating Delta in the title round.

"This was a team that nobody gave any chance to," Altobelli said. "Even in the Final Four banquet program, we were described as 'considerable underdogs.' But, we believed in ourselves and we managed to play our best baseball at the right time. It never gets old."



Women's Sand Volleyball

OCC'S NEWEST SPORT PART OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING

This year, Orange Coast College made room on its roster for the College's newest sports team — women's sand volleyball.

It was a decision that makes sense, given the popularity of the sport at the National Collegiate Athletic Association level. Since first being introduced as an NCAA-sanctioned sport in 2010, women's sand volleyball has exploded onto the collegiate sports scene, with nearly 50 colleges and universities around the nation sponsoring teams.

At OCC, the process for starting a team was approached more cautiously. Like many community colleges in California, Coast initially offered students a chance to participate in women's sand volleyball on a club team three years ago.

"We put out feelers to see about interest," says head sand volleyball coach Chuck Cutenese. "Before making it a varsity sport, we decided to make it a club sport."

The response was overwhelming — within the first year, the number of California community college club teams doubled in size. By the time the California Community College Athletic Association announced last year that it would be recognizing women's sand volleyball as a sanctioned sport, Cutenese was fielding calls from students who only wanted to play sand volleyball, which, while encouraging, didn't come as much of a surprise.

"OCC and other local colleges are hotbeds of Orange County volleyball," he explains.

Currently, there are three conferences (four divisions) and 18 sand volleyball teams split between community colleges in Northern and Southern California, with an additional 20 teams

participating as club teams with the hope that they will be fully sanctioned in the future. OCC is in the Misty May Treanor Division.

In its first season, Coast's 14-player sand volleyball team did well, with the Pirates going a perfect 6-0 in their first six matches, including three matches that finished with 5-0 shutout wins.

Playing against some of the top teams in their own conference — the Orange Empire Conference — Coast managed to earn a spot in the CCCAA Regional playoffs, but the Pirates went up against a tough foe in Golden West and were eliminated from the postseason.

Individually speaking, Coast had two teams — Danielle Boyette/Sierra Brown and Lehua Alama-Jordan and Danyelle Brown — reach the state quarterfinals before falling in their final match.

While most of his athletes came from a background in traditional indoor volleyball, Cutenese is looking forward to growing the program by recruiting talented athletes from local high schools who specialize in sand volleyball.

"It's very exciting," says Cutenese. "This is history in the making."

To learn more about OCC's sand volleyball team, visit www.occpirateathletics.com

Giant Killers



Men's and Women's Crew Teams Continue to Dominate the Sport

Most California Community College athletic departments offer the same variety of sports for both men and women to enjoy – football, baseball, volleyball, swimming, track and field, tennis, cross country – just to name a few.

But one thing that Orange Coast College offers that no other community college in the entire NATION does ... men's and women's crew.

With a school so close to the Pacific Ocean, it seems like a natural fit for OCC to offer men's and women's crew to all types of male and female athletes, and it's a tradition that has been with the Pirates' athletic department for decades.

Started by longtime crew coach and eventual OCC President, David A. Grant, the Pirates began to take on the top four-year universities in the nation back in the early 1960s and despite the "David vs. Goliath" type of matchup, Coast has more than held its own, competing and winning several prestigious regattas not only in California, but throughout the world.

The Pirates have taken their boats overseas and competed in international regattas in England, Ireland and Canada, and in 1984, Grant and the Pirates were the first Western crew to ever compete in the People's Republic of China.

During Grant's 38-year run as head coach (1964-2002), Coast won more than 80 percent of its races against such formidable teams like UC Berkeley, Stanford, UCLA, Washington, Harvard and Pennsylvania, among others.

Once the framework of success was laid out by Grant, the tradition has continued as the Pirates continue to turn out one successful program after another.

OCC crew is run through donations and fundraisers that are put on throughout the year. If you would like to donate to either men's or women's crew, or any of the 24 sports on OCC's campus, please go to the school's athletics website at www.occpirateathletics.com.

Meet the Coach

OCC's newest men's crew coach Cameron "Cam" Brown arrived in Southern California earlier this summer by way of Oklahoma City, where he was head men's crew coach at Oklahoma City University. Previous to that, Cam spent several years coaching rowing in Australia and was the strength and conditioning coach in 2009 for the Memphis Redbirds, the AAA affiliate of Major League Baseball's St. Louis Cardinals. He joins Coast Crew as the program is coming off a winning season this past spring, culminating in two national titles for the Coast Novice 8 and Second Novice 8 men's teams.



Breaking the Curse

AFTER 25 YEARS OCC'S SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM SWEEPS BOTH STATE AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Orange Coast College's Speech, Debate and Readers' Theater team had a big task ahead of them earlier this year: break the curse.

For the past 25 years, OCC's speech and debate teams have managed to rack up several notable wins at both the state and national level, but no team has been able to win both.

Some might call it superstition or merely coincidence, but to the hardworking speech and debate "kids" who have passed through OCC's hallowed halls during the past two and a half decades, the curse feels very real.

"Every team that won at state lost at nationals," says assistant coach and OCC forensics instructor Sha Davari. "Until this year."

OCC's team picked up the first place trophy at the Phi Rho Pi National Forensic Organization's national competition in Cleveland in early April, finishing with 220 points and several gold medals in events such as Reader's Theatre, Duo Interpretation and International Public Debate.

The weeklong event included 300 students representing 60 teams from around the country. OCC, which has been a dominant force in competitive forensics since the 1960s, finished first place overall and brought home seven gold, 10 silver, and seven bronze medals in individual events.

The team similarly swept the California Community College Forensics Associations state championship a month earlier, with 16 gold, 6 silver and 15 bronze medalists.

The wins come after months of intense preparation, with most team members practicing every afternoon during the week, and often on weekends as well.



Davari — a former OCC speech and debate kid himself who later went on to earn a law degree at UC Davis — points out that in addition to rehearsing their speeches, students and coaches meticulously honed every facet of their performances.

"We spent an inordinate amount of time practicing," he said. "Everything down to the smallest details, like hand gestures and facial expressions."

Known for being a tight-knit group, OCC's speech and debate team gives students a chance to not only gain useful public speaking skills that benefit them for their entire lives, but also close friendships that continue long after they graduate and move on. This past year, those friendships often translated into team members going the extra mile to help each other with speeches and monologues.

"The students on our team have an unbelievably deep bond. They spend hundreds of hours with each other each semester," Davari says. "Certainly one of the keys to our success this year was the students teaching students."

Speech and debate team members have also been known to form tight bonds with their coaches, who become mentors and, in some cases, lifelong friends.

"We become a bit of a life coach [to our students]," Davari says. "In many ways we're helping them figure out what kind of adult they want to be — adults who are reasonable, thoughtful and who have powerful critical thinking skills."

Speech is a small world, but it can teach you a lot about how to be successful in the real world."

OCC Foundation

BOARD MEMBER DEREK SABORI BRINGS UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE TO THE TABLE

Derek Sabori might not be what you think of when you think of a board of directors tasked with overseeing cash assets totaling more than \$14 million.

But with a laid-back style that is decidedly more skate park than boardroom, the Vice President of Global Sustainability for Volcom brings a unique business perspective to the Orange Coast College Foundation Board of Directors.

In many ways, Derek was a natural pick for the board — both he and his wife, Sibley, have taught classes at OCC, in fashion and business respectively, and his children attended the College's Harry and Grace Steele Children's Center, the construction of which was partially funded by OCC's Foundation. The family also has connections to faculty members at Coast.

"We've been close friends with [OCC fashion department Chair] Christina Amaral for years, and she's always done a good job of keeping us tied in with the College," Derek explains. When Chris suggested that Derek be considered for a Foundation board seat, he met with Foundation Director Doug Bennett and was excited by what he saw.

"I've been really impressed with the staff, and how much a small team can get done" Derek says. "Also hearing all the great stories from donors who either anonymously donate or make donations to the school part of their trust — that OCC had such a profound impact on them that they would write the school into their will... hearing those stories has been very exciting."

Derek's career at Volcom began nearly 20 years ago when he was tasked with answering phones in the retailer's Costa Mesa headquarters during an unpaid summer internship. That internship eventually led to his first real job, buying fabric and trims for the company's fashion lines.



He has watched Volcom evolve over the years into one of the most recognizable brands in American sportswear — Derek was there when the company dabbled in music production with its own record label, and he had a front-row seat when Volcom became a publicly traded entity, raising nearly \$90 million in its Initial Public Offering in 2005.

Along the way, he picked up an MBA from the Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine, where he discovered a passion for sustainability in business. As Vice President of Global Sustainability, Derek is tasked with overseeing Volcom's sustainability initiatives, covering topics such as emissions, waste, water use, environmental reporting, and more. It's a passion that he was eager to share with students while teaching business courses at OCC.

"One of the things that draws me to continue to be tied in and close to the school, and connected with students and faculty, is really pushing sustainability in business," says Derek. "A lot of times I see sustainability sectioned off in business, but sustainability should be a topic in every business course."

As a Foundation Board member, Derek is able to channel that same passion for helping students, while still maintaining a balance in his very full schedule.

"I really like the way [the board] operates," he says. "It's not a huge, time-intense board, so it's good for working professionals. It's also really uplifting and offers a lot of networking. It's been a great experience, and I definitely plan to stay on."

Alumni Spotlight

SHANA JENKINS PAYS IT FORWARD

Twelve years ago, when Shana Jenkins was mapping out her future, Orange Coast College wasn't even on her radar. That all changed when a friend convinced her to visit OCC's campus for the College's annual Senior Day, an event that gives thousands of high school students a chance to see what OCC has to offer.

"OCC definitely wasn't my first choice, and I was hoping to go to an Ivy League institution," explains Shana. "That didn't work out because it's very expensive. So I ended up at OCC and I'm so glad that I did, because it changed my life."

Shana made the most of her time at Coast, where she volunteered on the Associated Students of Orange Coast College, and was elected as a student trustee for Coast Community College District's Board of Trustees. Shana also joined the OCC chapter of honor society Phi Theta Kappa, and was a co-founder of Helping Hands, a club on campus that provides tutoring to elementary school children. Her efforts earned her admission to UCLA, where she transferred after two years at Coast and later earned a bachelors degree in political science and public affairs.

In a farewell speech as student speaker at the College's 57th Commencement, titled "I Wish I Would Have Known," Shana recounted her journey to her fellow graduates, and her message was clear: OCC was the right choice.

After graduating from UCLA, she went on to work at a think tank in Washington D.C., assisting in policy research and analysis, as well as donor and constituent relations. Shana eventually landed back in Southern California and immediately got back in touch with the alma mater that made such a difference in her life.



"I've been involved in [OCC's] Alumni and Friends since 2008," Shana says. "I love the work that the Foundation does and being a part of that is a really big deal for me. We talk a lot about the vision of the future for OCC."

As one of the youngest members of the College's Alumni and Friends, Shana has been particularly helpful in mobilizing a younger generation of former students to give back to the College. She also was integral to the success of the College's Measure M bond campaign in 2010, when she helped manage and organize student volunteers, organized phone banks, and headed up a get-out-the-vote street campaign.

As an alumni, Shana sees the value of supporting OCC students who, like her, have big dreams and limited means. Five years ago she started an annual scholarship at OCC specifically aimed at helping students who show a commitment to improving college life and student success at OCC, while maintaining a stellar academic record.

As for her future plans? Shana hopes to be involved in the fundraising for OCC's highly anticipated Planetarium, scheduled to break ground by 2017. She also plans to continue her work with OCC's Alumni and Friends, recruiting former students to get involved, which is a cause that is near to her heart.

"I feel like a lot of what I've achieved is because of what I learned at OCC," Shana says. "Being involved has given me a way to feel like I'm contributing to somebody else having the experience that I had."

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS

The classes that transformed your journey. The faculty and staff that impacted your life. The students who became life-long friends.

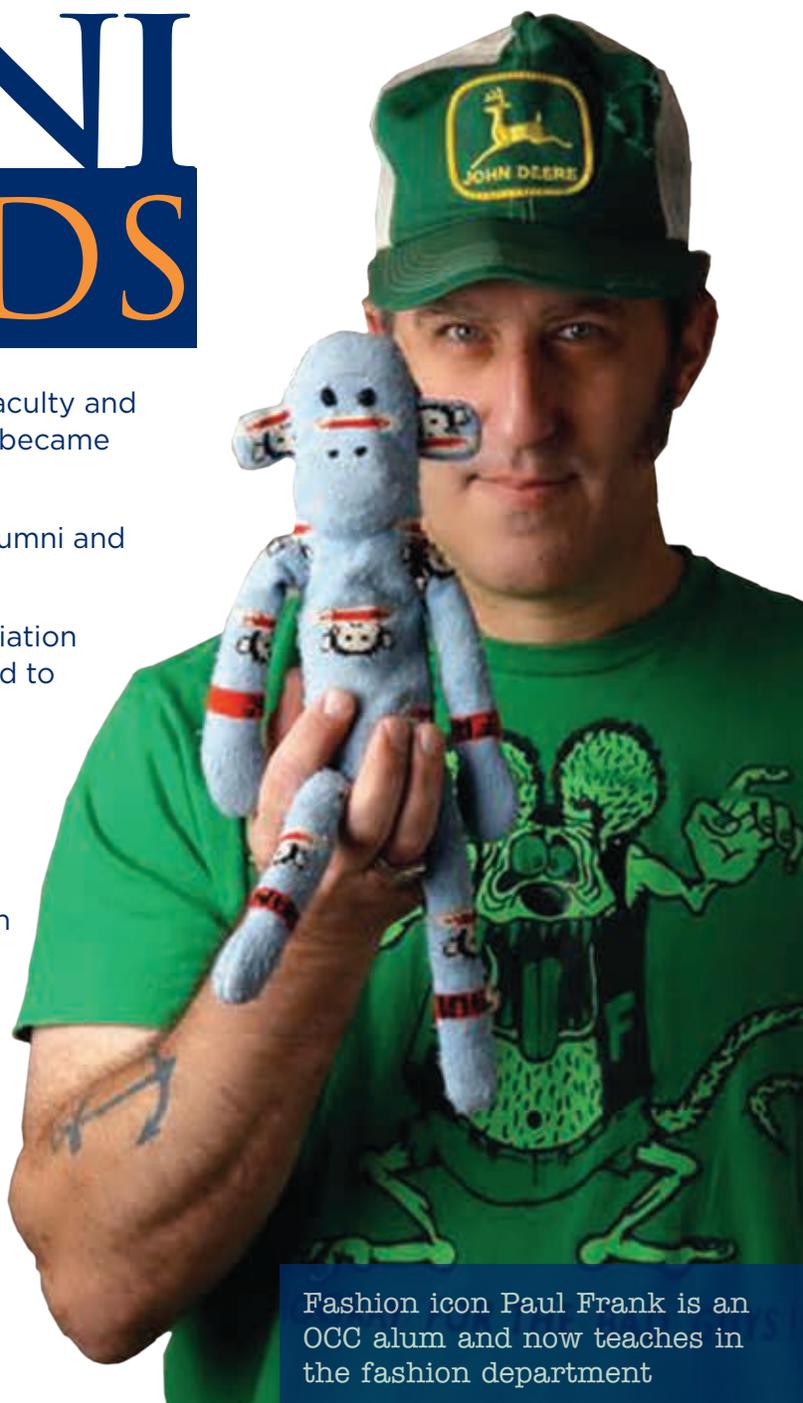
Reconnect with the school you love. Join the OCC Alumni and Friends Association.

The Orange Coast College Alumni and Friends Association connects alumni to the College, to the community and to each other.

You are considered an Alumni and Friend if you ever took a single class. Membership is a great way to keep in touch with OCC and fellow Pirates. Alumni Association members not only receive great resources, they also support current students through the annual Alumni and Friends Scholarship.

Annual memberships are FREE! Once you sign up you will start to receive these benefits:

- Access to the NEW Computer Lab on campus
- Invitations to special events on campus
- Library privileges
- Use of the Job Placement Center
- Electronic newsletters
- Discount on local movie tickets



Fashion icon Paul Frank is an OCC alum and now teaches in the fashion department

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