



Calendar

- **Sept. 4 - Labor Day, Campus Closed**
- **Sept. 8 - LAZERDOME: Metallica, 8:30 p.m., OCC Planetarium**
- **Sept. 9 - Football: Moorpark at OCC, 5 p.m., LeBard Stadium**
- **Sept. 13 - Pirate Involvement Fair, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., College Center Quad**
- **Sept. 13 - First Day of Instruction Anniversary Event, Noon, College Center Quad**
- **Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 - National Hispanic Heritage Month**
- **Sept. 15 - OCC Repertory Production of "Theatre Nouveau," 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab/Studio**
- **Sept. 19 - National Talk Like a Pirate Day**
- **Sept. 27 - Banff Mountain Film Festival presented by The Friends of the Library, 3 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre**
- **Oct. 1 - Orange County Children's Book Festival, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., OCC Campus**



Fall Flex Day Offers Employees a Chance to Re-Connect, Share Ideas

OCC hosted its Fall 2023 Flex Day on August 25. The event is a designated day for staff and faculty to come together and focus on improvement in instruction, student success, and professional development.

This day was a continuation of the celebration of our 75th anniversary. It included the anticipated distribution of the 2023 Edition of the OCC Magazine and a photo opportunity in the central Quad to take part in a 75th-themed snapshot into OCC's continuing legacy.

Sessions were held across campus in various locations, with many sessions centrally located in the MBCC Building. OCC colleagues prepared excellent topics to engage our campus community with care and inclusivity during this professional development day!



OCC Magazine: Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future

Read all about it! The 2023 Edition of the OCC Magazine is hot off the presses... And it smells a little like oranges.

This year's edition celebrates the diamond anniversary of the college with a look back at 75 years with a timeline offering a look back at key highlights of the College's history. Articles in the magazine include stories honoring former and present staff, faculty, and student accomplishments- such as Teacher of the Year Kelli Elliott, student commencement speaker Nancy Estrada, and equal education activist Sylvia Mendez. The 2022/2023 year was filled with anniversaries and openings of legacy programs- like the Dennis Kelly Aquarium and the Coast Collective- as well as championships from dedicated students triumphing in their passions- including Women's Basketball, Men's Volleyball, the Speech and Debate Team, and Coast Report.

The publication is now available online in a multimedia format.

OC Children's Book Festival Returns Oct. 1

Orange County's Children Book Festival logoThe 20th annual Orange County Children's Book Festival returns to Orange Coast College this fall. Join us for this community event on Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the OCC Quad.

Families and their little ones are invited to gather at OCC to celebrate the love of books and the joy of reading.

This fun-filled day will feature numerous activities such as storytelling, conversations with authors, book signings, face painting, train rides, bounce house, and a surprise appearance of special guests from a faraway galaxy...



Our 2023 Special Guest Authors include actor and comedian Jesús Trejo, author of Papá's Magical Water-Jug Clock; actress Leslie Stratton, author of Let's Share, Panda Bear; and former LA Clipper Craig Smith, author of Craig and His Magical Basketball.

For a schedule of happenings on the Entertainment Stage, Storyteller Stage, Illustration & Inspiration Stage, World Stories & Adventure Stage, and Animal & Nature Stage sponsored by San Diego Wildlife Alliance, visit the program event page at kidsbookfestival.com. Admission and parking is free.

NASA Competition Lands at OCC

A group of students standing together watching a robot move. Orange Coast College played host to NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) Robotics competition. This 4-day engineering design challenge brought students together from OCC and Chula Vista's Southwestern College who had completed two online events (Mission 1 and Mission 2) earlier this year. Over 40 students were invited to participate in the on-campus event August 16 - 19.

During the 4-day engagement, students collaborated with team members as a fictitious aerospace company vying for a NASA rover contract. Students in assigned roles utilized STEM-industry mentors to guide the rover design.

Major Matthew Blystone of the US Space Force spoke to the attendees. During their visit, the students took field trips to the University of California, Irvine, and took an industry tour at Google. The teams were mentored by STEM professionals Jacob Bingham, Judy Gallardo, Spencer Krock, and Lorena Santos.



The competition included STEM-based activities for all students and an engineering design challenge. Some other events open to the participants were facility tours, live subject matter expert presentations, resume workshops, networking events, job shadowing opportunities, and a 4-year college campus visit. The event was arranged by OCC's Professor Erik Bender, Jessica Artinger, and our Mourad Mjahed and Minerva Garcia from Southwestern College.

OCC'S Stem Academy Honored With Diversity Award

Orange Coast College's "STEM Academy" program has been named a recipient of the 2023 INSIGHT Into Diversity Inspiring Programs in STEM award.

The OCC "STEM Academy" serves as an academic support program that connects students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics to the resources and tools they need to succeed in STEM courses offered at the college.

Honorees of this national recognition were chosen from colleges and universities for their efforts to make a difference in the lives of underrepresented groups and support their important work through mentoring and teaching in the STEM fields. As one of 80 recipients, the OCC STEM Academy will be featured in the September 2023 issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

"We want to honor the schools and organizations that have created programs that inspire and encourage young people who may currently be in or are interested in a future career in STEM," said Lenore Pearlstein, owner and publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. "We honor these programs as role models to other higher education institutions and beyond."



Did you Know?

By Kevin Ballinger

In my research, I noticed that little is ever published about commencement ceremonies in the school newspaper - I'm sure this is because the papers were not posted in the summer following graduation. By fall, they had moved on. So, my first article this fall is about OCC's graduation.

Did you know that OCC graduations were held indoors until



1958? OCC's first several commencement ceremonies were staged in the campus theater, a leftover military building from the Santa Ana Army Air Base. According to Barnacle's story, in June 1958, "due to turning away graduates last year for lack of room... they were going to hold the graduation at the Stadium/football field." That year, the expected number of grads was over 250.

From 1958 to 2003, OCC held graduations at LeBard Stadium, built in 1955. In 2004, OCC held commencement at the Pacific Amphitheatre at the Orange County Fair & Exposition Center, directly across Fairview Road from OCC's campus. Commencement was never staged off campus until 2004, when more than 2,000 OCC students were honored. In May 2023, Orange Coast College conferred more than 3,800 associate degrees and certificates of achievement at the 75th commencement ceremony.

A case could be made that we have never held a commencement event outside the original Santa Ana Army Air Base land since the Pacific Amphitheatre is in that area! Congratulations, class of 2023, as you join the 75 years of proud alums.



Navigate OCC Student Orientation Welcomes New Pirates

A crowd of new students walking in the main quad. First-time students came out Tuesday, Aug. 22, for a chance to get to know Orange Coast College's campus at the Navigate OCC onboarding event.

The pre-semester event, which began in 2018, allows students to navigate the campus, meet their peers, chat with faculty, learn how to get involved, and take care of any last-minute business before the first-week rush. Students can purchase books, obtain their student IDs, meet with a counselor, locate their classrooms, and more.

"Navigate OCC is a great way for new students to feel connected to the campus, develop a community of peers and support, and feel more confident before the start of the semester," says Student Success & Support Program Manager Felipe Salazar.

Navigate OCC is coordinated by the Future Pirate Center, Global Engagement Center, Student Equity, and Associated Students of OCC. Additionally, several departments and programs participate, including OCC's Career Center; EOPS, Financial Aid and Financial Wellness, and Guardian Scholars programs; the STEM Academy; Housing; Pirates' Cove food pantry, Title IX, Success Center, and Instructional Innovation Center; and several academic programs.

Mary McChesney Foundation Gift

The OCC foundation received a gift of \$904,000 from the trust of retired faculty members Mary McChesney and Lyn Bonin this July.

McChesney, who passed away in January of this year was a member of the OCC faculty from 1950 through 1983, where she taught Spanish and English Literature, and Adelyn Bonin, who passed away in 2017, was a member of the OCC faculty from 1959 through 1983 where she taught German.

In 2017, through the Bonin/McChesney Trust, Mary donated \$1 million to help fund the Foucault Pendulum in the OCC Planetarium.

"I have grown old, but my love for this college is very much alive," McChesney said. "Here is the promise for an exciting future."

Having donated to honor her late partner, McChesney said, "I know Lyn would be happy to do this. This is half hers. I like to think she sees what we're doing, and she approves."

The \$904,000 will fund an endowed scholarship to benefit OCC students. The Scholarship Committee and OCC Foundation are developing details of the scholarship.

If you would like more information on how you can include OCC in your estate plan or trust, please get in touch with Doug Bennett at dbennett@occ.cccd.edu