

# OCC magazine

2019 EDITION

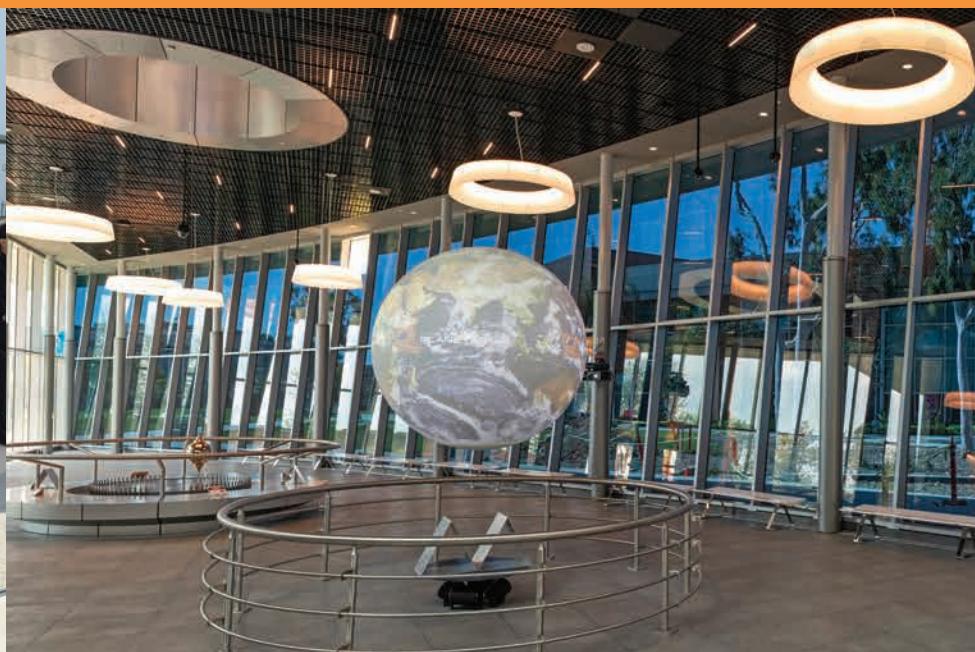


Meet New President  
Dr. Angélica Suarez

# Fly Me to



There was a palpable excitement in the air on the evening of March 22 as Orange Coast College welcomed employees, donors and community supporters to witness the dedication of the College's new Planetarium. More than 300 people gathered on patio in front of the Planetarium's main entrance to watch the ribbon-cutting, hear speeches from College and District leaders. After the ribbon-cutting, guests were invited to stay, explore the Planetarium's many exhibits and mingle with one another.



# The Moon

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PLAY VIDEO



Welcome to the 4th edition of the OCC Magazine!

I am very pleased to serve as the 11th president of Orange Coast College, the largest community college in Orange County and a leader in transfer to four-year universities.

In these pages you will see that Orange Coast College continues a tradition of excellence in serving the educational needs of its community. Since 1947, the College has been at the forefront of higher education locally, regionally and nationally, and has served thousands of students in reaching their academic and career goals.

This is a testament to not only OCC's world class facilities, extensive student support resources and stellar academic programs, but also to the dedicated and supportive faculty, staff and administrators, whose commitment to student success over the past seven decades has been consistently demonstrated.

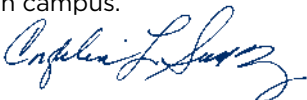
Though OCC's history is rich, the future beckons. The College is in a transformative period and we are focused on preparing students and the campus for the challenges and opportunities before us. To that end, OCC is launching several new programs of study this year that will provide students with the skills they need to be competitive in an ever-changing economy. On page 11 you can learn about OCC's new Virtual/Augmented Reality certificate, a cutting-edge program that introduces students to the Immersive Media industry, which is projected to grow by more than 140 percent over the next five years. And, on page 20 you can read about OCC's new social media strategist certificate, a unique, interdisciplinary program that quickly prepares students for jobs that are in high demand.

As you walk around the College, you will also find a campus that is evolving with innovative and state-of-the-art facilities. OCC recently completed construction on a new Planetarium and Recycling Center, two extraordinary facilities that signal our shared community values of sustainability and STEM education. Additionally, construction is under way on several exciting projects, including a new Student Union, Student Housing Complex, and Kinesiology & Athletics Complex.

On pages 14 and 15, I invite you to #ExploreCoast with a visitor's guide that highlights some of the amazing attractions on campus, including the Planetarium, Dennis Kelly Aquarium, and Doyle Arts Pavilion.

Lastly, on page 6, I share with you my personal journey beginning as a young girl who started her educational path at a community college, and now has the great privilege and honor to lead one of the premier community colleges in California.

Thank you for your continued support of OCC and I look forward to seeing you on campus.



Angélica L. Suarez, Ph.D.



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#### 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 through fostering a respectful, supportive, participatory, and equitable campus climate of student engagement and academic inquiry.

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6

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](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu).

Orange Coast Junior College district was established in 1947, with classes beginning in 1948. For more than 70 years, OCC has been a leader in higher education in Costa Mesa and its surrounding communities.

# GAME O



N

## OCC ENTERS THE WORLD OF E-SPORTS AT ESPN COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

This past May, as ESPN hosted its first-ever ESPN Collegiate Esports Championship (CEC), hundreds of schools from across North America, ranging from junior colleges to four-year universities, competed for the chance to represent their school on the national stage in Houston. Qualifying for the chance to play at the national level was extremely difficult and competitive, so you can only imagine how Orange Coast College student Nick Caravaggio felt when he and his teammates earned the right to represent Coast at the CEC. Even more impressive? OCC was the only community college to qualify for the top eight, and the only non-funded e-sports program to make it to the top four.

“We felt very accomplished once we got there,” says Caravaggio. “[To] see ourselves next to all these big-name schools that have these large e-sports departments on campus and funding going into that. We were just sort of six players that got together for fun, figured out what worked for us, and ended up being able to make it.”

E-sports is a term that describes the world of competitive gaming, which in recent years has turned into an explosive multibillion-dollar market. Most major e-sports tournaments are held in venues with a high audience capacity (such as convention centers) but most of their viewers come from streaming services such as Twitch. Professional gamers from leagues or teams will face off in some of the most popular multiplayer games such as Call of Duty, Fortnite, Super Smash Bros and Marvel vs Capcom.

Caravaggio and team OCC competed in Overwatch, one of the five games being played at the ESPN CEC (along with Street Fighter V, Hearthstone, StarCraft II and Heroes of the Storm). Team OCC includes students Jacob Nguyen (Galaxy), Jesse Lopez (JETJEL), Andre Merdinoglu (Chicken), Charline Sanchez (Parjuny) Joseph Huynh (EuphoRia) and is led by Caravaggio (SlayerGramps) as Captain.

“Being able to represent OCC at such a high level felt really special because I never even thought I would get to this point,” says Merdinoglu, who also serves as co-captain. “We felt accomplished even though we did fall in the semifinals. Everyone felt like we had a good time ... and overall, representing the school at such a high level when no one saw it coming, was quite remarkable.”



It was a grueling journey to qualify for the CEC, which currently is Overwatch's only collegiate championship. Overwatch is a popular six-on-six online game that has mechanics encouraging players to work as a team in order to win matches. Team OCC began by participating in the Tespa Collegiate pre-season last fall, which is a governing body similar to the NCAA in traditional sports. The team played one online match against other college Overwatch teams every Sunday for 12 weeks, eventually earning ranking sixth out of 474 teams. This high ranking helped them obtain a favorable seed for the spring tournament.

Once spring began, the team played in multiple tournaments at the same time in order to earn one of the 64 spots for the main championship tournament. Team OCC knocked out many familiar names, including UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego. Eventually they qualified for the championship and received a 7-seed.

The feat didn't come without a price. In addition to practicing solo, each member of the team had to commit to a two-hour team practice every week on top of their homework and papers, just like any other collegiate student-athlete. Some of the team members had to balance full- or part-time jobs as well. When the team finally qualified for the quarterfinals, ESPN required them to get waivers signed by OCC's administration, and it was a mad dash to not only get them signed, but to also explain to administrators what e-sports is, and why it was such an accomplishment for OCC's team to make it to the national championships.

"I would just give a big thank you to the school administration for signing [a] waiver [allowing us to attend] in record time. They got us a document signed by the chancellor within five hours because it was due that night," says Caravaggio. "Once [OCC's] administration realized how big of a deal it was they were very supportive. I'm very grateful for that because a lot of schools don't really appreciate, or understand, how big e-sports is, and how big it's becoming too."

Team OCC continued to roll through the competition once the main championship began. They defeated Western Washington University in the round of 64, Miami University in the round of 32 and Kennesaw State University in the



OCC made it to the Top Four of ESPN's first Collegiate Esport Championship.

round of 16. Qualifying for top eight - basically the national quarterfinals - meant that Team OCC earned an all-expense paid trip to Houston to compete at the CEC.

"The day we got there we went to a welcome event that included all the players from every single [collegiate] e-sports team, from every game, at a massive outdoor dinner with a stage where people were speaking on behalf of ESPN, Tespa and Blizzard. That was really cool to get a grasp of how many people were actually there, all of the other players competing in their own video games, as well as Overwatch," says Caravaggio. "Overwatch had the most players there. The most teams and the most players so it was sort of the main game that the event focused on."

Team OCC had a tough task in the first round, going up against Grand Canyon University who scored a massive upset in knocking out UC Irvine, one of the title favorites. Team OCC took the first round but lost the next two. They would win the next two en route to defeating Grand Canyon, 3-2.

"A lot of commentators, casters, and predictors were thinking that Grand Canyon University was the team to beat since they were knocking out a lot of big names, including UCI who was one of the schools most favored to win," says Caravaggio. "They have a really, really big e-sports program, but we shut them down."

Eventually Team OCC lost to the University of Utah in the CEC semifinals, but the team did not walk away empty handed; their top-four finish earned each player a \$650 scholarship. They were also featured in an e-sports documentary on ESPN that aired on May 23. The team says it was a wonderful experience and they hope to get back next year.



# OCC HORTICULTURE: MAKING FRIENDS AT THE ZOO

During the Spring 2019 semester, Horticulture Professor Rick Harlow's Wednesday night class connected with the Santa Ana Zoo to donate excess vegetable scraps, and a group of Ring-tailed lemurs were very happy about it!

"With four sections of hort. science, we often overrun the local soup kitchen and OCC's Pantry with extra lettuce, carrots, kale, etc., and fill up the dumpster with scraps like broccoli stems and beet tops," explains Harlow. "In April, two zookeepers came by at the end of the harvest and took saved scraps back to the zoo and sent these pictures as a thank you."



## THROWING SHADE:

### *Students, Faculty Plant Trees Around Campus for Arbor Day*

OCC Horticulture instructor Rick Harlow speaks for the trees. And this year, his students answered the call.

During the spring semester, when Harlow broached the subject of commemorating Arbor Day with a day of planting trees, he got an enthusiastic response. Thirteen student volunteers planted nine Afghan Pines, three fruiting mulberry, one Brazilian Flame tree, and one Baobob tree in a little over two hours in late April.



"We've been doing this for the last five years or so, usually on a whim since Arbor Day typically falls on one of our plant sale days and we already have student volunteers here," explains Harlow. "This year I announced my idea in a couple of classes and posted a sign-up sheet to see if there was any interest, and there was quite a bit instantly."

Ultimately, Harlow hopes to create a walking tree library around campus, built by students for future generations of students. "There are many trees around campus propagated by students by seed or from using air layering techniques in plant propagation class," he explains.

This year, the students planted 14 trees total, covering all corners of campus. The Afghan pines — raised from seeds using seed stratification by OCC horticulture students in a plant propagation class — were planted on the south side

of campus along Merrimac Way. They were selected due to their place of origin in the foothills in between Afghanistan and Pakistan, where they rely on snow melt and live for long, dry periods without water.

The Fruiting Mulberry trees were placed in the College's Horticulture Garden, with each tree showing a different growth form — weeping, branching from the base, and standard. Faculty chose these trees in order to demonstrate the ways that fruiting trees can potentially be incorporated into a residential landscape design and function as an

ornamental tree as well.

The Brazilian Flame tree was placed on the northwest side of campus, along Horticulture Way, not far from vending machines. A rare but dramatic tree, the Brazilian Flame tree has the largest bipinnately compound leaf in the plant world making them look like tree ferns when young.

The Baobob tree from Madagascar was planted next to another one planted three years ago, also along Horticulture Way in a grassy dish area. These are coveted trees in their native Madagascar, as well as Africa, and develop remarkably large trunks to hold water.

Harlow acknowledges how meaningful planting trees can be for students. "I think this gives students a sense of ownership of their college campus," he says. "Students can come back years later and say 'I helped plant that tree.'"

# Meet New OCC President Dr. Angélica Suarez

*On July 1, Orange Coast College welcomed its 11<sup>th</sup> president, Dr. Angélica Suarez. Coming to Coast from San Diego — where she was Vice President for Student Affairs in the Southwestern Community College District — President Suarez has spent her career passionately advocating for students. Here she dives a little deeper into why she found her calling in higher education, and tells the story of how she went from being a student assistant in the president's office at East Los Angeles Community College, to becoming the second woman and first Latina president of OCC.*

**Q** *First thing's first: there is a lot of buzz about you on campus and in our local community. You're only the second woman president in Orange Coast College's 70-year history, and you're the first Latina. At a college where 35 percent of the students identify as Hispanic or Latino, and half identify as female, that's a big deal! How important do you think it is for our students to see themselves in OCC's highest levels of leadership?*

**A:** It's very important, and I believe it is a significant moment in the history of Orange Coast College. It brings me great joy and honor to serve as a role model for students who may have experienced a similar path — first in their family to go to college, English language learner, immigrant, financial hardships, etc. As a former community college student, I want students to know that I've been where they are ... often unsure of my ability yet finding champions who believe in me and have become part of a culture of support. This is the spirit that I have found at OCC in my short time — I already see how our programs and services are designed to empower students and help them succeed.

I'd like to share with OCC students that if they can see themselves in my story, then they should know that success is possible as they travel the path to achieving their goals

... exploring possibilities, setting high standards, breaking barriers, and accomplishing personal success.

The community college provided me with an opportunity to break tradition, and start a new tradition, one that is firmly rooted in higher education. As the eldest of six children, I can proudly say that I had a role to play in my siblings pursuing a higher education. I certainly hope to similarly serve as a role model and inspiration for OCC students.

**Q** *What were some of the challenges you faced as a first-generation college student?*

**A:** My father worked as a gardener and my mother worked cleaning homes. They believed in hard work and dreamed of providing better opportunities for their children than those they had experienced in their native country. Their goal was for their children to graduate from high school, given that they had only achieved a third-grade education. As the first person in my family to become a high school graduate, my parents encouraged me to find full-time employment so that I could help support the family. Fortunately, the high school I attended had a strong connection with the local community college and



I was exposed to the possibility of a higher education. During one of the college visits to my high school, going to college was made a reality — financially and logistically — and I applied, sharing with my parents that I would be better positioned to help support the family with a college education.

Although my parents may not have always understood what I was pursuing in college, they supported me ... perhaps a ride to school, a warm meal when I got home in the evening, a load of laundry, and above all, an understanding that they wholeheartedly believed in me.

**Q** *Did you ever think that one day you would be a college president?*

**A:** This possibility truly never crossed my mind!

I'm here today because of the incredible and courageous work that others have done to pave the road for me with a circle of support — my husband, my family, my colleagues and mentors. When I think of mentors, it's important to know that many served in that role without knowing it. It was the counselor who insisted on making sure I always focused on the future beyond what I was pursuing, the faculty member who took time to share with me that they believed in my ability and cared about my success, the staff at the college who made sure I was connected by hiring me as a student worker, and many others

Throughout the many years I've worked in the community college system as a classified professional, faculty member and administrator, I've been inspired to engage with students and help to create a place of belonging and connection. Sharing my journey and narrative is a way to connect with them and their experiences. I'm grateful that my journey has led me to a career where I can make a difference in the lives of students, because for me, the community college experience was transformational and changed the trajectory of my family.

**Q** *I'm curious about your path. How did you go from student at East L.A. College (ELAC) to president of Orange Coast College?*

**A:** I recently spoke to students from Phi Beta Kappa, and I joked that my path was really an “un-guided pathway.” Finding my way to East L.A. College was not a path previously traveled in my family, so I didn't have a

roadmap. As a senior in high school, I was fortunate to attend a presentation given by the community college about the many programs/services available for students. I shared that my primary goal was to help support my family, and they said, “You can go to college. We can help you with financial aid and you can work toward a certificate program so that you can help your family.” That's all I needed to hear! I completed the college application that afternoon, and when the college representatives left, I had a temporary paper ID — a college ID. To this day, when I recall that experience, I can still feel the sense of empowerment I felt then, knowing that I was now a college student. I knew it signified an important milestone in my life, and the lives of my family.

**Q** *What was your favorite memory from your time attending community college?*

**A:** My experience as a student worker. Working at the college allowed me to interact with a number of people, many who would become my mentors. Some of the counselors at the college would regularly come by and ask me about my educational plan, coursework, transfer plans, etc. They'd say, “So, you just finished your certificate, that's great ... what's next?” I would tell them “I'm applying for a position at the college” and they'd say, “That's good but think about transferring to the university.” My first educational achievement (a certificate program) would lead me to a nine-year career at ELAC as a classified employee.

**Q** *What made you finally decide to go back and finish your degree?*

As a student, and later an employee, at the community college, I witnessed first-hand the importance of empowering students to succeed and believe in their potential. As I learned about the various roles that people played at the college, I found my passion in helping students understand the educational path so I decided to pursue a degree in counseling.

When I looked at my transcript, I thought I was only a few classes shy of reaching 60 units for transfer. My bubble was burst when I met with my counselor to review my transcripts. She shared that while I had plenty of coursework, it was not in the required areas of general education and major preparation. Having learned the importance of persistence and a strong work ethic, I



Lifeguard trainees visited the OCC Planetarium in July. President Suarez was there to welcome the New Zealanders and invite them to attend Coast as international students.



finished the transfer requirements a few years later while working full time and taking classes at night.

My journey took me to Cal State Long Beach, and leaving the safety of my family and community, even though it was only 25 miles away from home. At the university, I felt like a fish out of water ... unsure of my abilities and questioning whether I belonged. But once again, through much support, hard work, focus, and determination, I graduated from CSULB with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling psychology. Again, this was a major accomplishment for our family — moving through uncharted waters and earning both degrees with a 4.0 GPA.

**Q** *But you didn't stop there...*

**A:** After I completed my master's program, I moved to Chicago where I was hired as a counseling faculty member at Wright College.

Part of the tenure process required that I take 15 units of graduate level work. At this point, one of my colleagues was working on her doctorate and she said, "Why don't you enroll in the doctoral program at Loyola ... you will love the experience." And so, I applied for the program, and while the voice of doubt and belonging at the university was fainter, it still crept in during the interview process. I decided to do what I had done many times before in similar circumstances ... lean on those who believed in me

and let the experience serve as a catalyst and not a barrier. Work hard, focus, welcome support, and excel.

These experiences are the stories that make up my narrative ... one that is symbolized by encouragement and support, determination, commitment, and optimism.

**Q** *Eventually, you made your way back to California, and you were hired as a counselor at Southwestern College. And it seems like at Southwestern, you thrived - you became the Academic Dean for the Higher Education Centers in Otay Mesa and San Ysidro. Later, you were promoted to Vice President of Student Affairs. What drives your passion for the work you do as a leader in the California Community College system?*

**A:**

I personally experienced how the community college transformed my life and the importance of having champions along the way, so I knew that I wanted to contribute to creating the kind of environment where students felt that they had many champions supporting their success.

I am heartened by the extraordinary people that dedicate their life daily to motivating students to believe in their own ability. At OCC, I look forward to working collectively to build upon the College's high standard of excellence, shared values, and its strong commitment to holistic student support, nurturing an inclusive environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed.

# President Suarez Weighs In On...

## “ Enrollment Challenges

As we continue to see college enrollments decline across the state, we also have an opportunity to reflect on current practices that inform how we support students along the educational pathway. In late July, I attended a Guided Pathways retreat and was very impressed with the work being done to support students along the path, from onboarding students, interventions to keep students on the path, and design curricular pathways to support student completion. These initiatives are very much in line with OCC’s creative and innovative spirit, which has been palpable since I arrived. It is this critical engagement with our educational partners — school districts, university partners, and industry partners — that will strengthen the pathway for our students as they work toward their goals. These partnerships through dual enrollments, transfer agreements and work-based learning opportunities serve to strengthen OCC’s position as an institution of choice; one that is focused on access, success and completion.

### AB705

The requirement that students complete transfer level math and English within one year is a game-changer. As we move to implement this change in Fall 2020, it is critical to keep a student-centered focus to ensure students are progressing successfully in this process. What I have learned in my short time at OCC is that the college has embraced this transition with a student-centered approach, creating a structure of support for students so that they can be successful. As we implement this change, flexibility, adaptability and responsiveness will be critical.

### New Construction on Campus

I think Orange Coast College is a destination college, and current construction projects, as well as those in

the planning stages, will further provide students with unparalleled state-of-the-art facilities that promote a stimulating learning environment. The new student housing complex is particularly exciting as we focus on supporting students holistically. The next few years will be an era of major transformation for OCC and I am thrilled to be here at this time.

### Basic Needs

It’s important that we provide the support students need to be successful in achieving their educational goals. And sometimes that means providing support when students don’t have access to the food they need to concentrate on their education, or partnering with our community-based organizations to help students who are experiencing housing insecurity. I feel very happy to be part of an institution that lives its values and believes strongly in providing holistic student support.

### Pirates’ Promise

One of the primary reasons students report for not completing their education is a lack of financial resources. With the Pirates’ Promise, this barrier is removed. Oftentimes in community colleges, students need to work while attending school, for a variety of reasons, and with the Pirates’ Promise, this might mean students will be able to enroll full-time so they can reach their goal sooner. Promise programs that support students with up to two years of tuition make dreams come true. The Promise is a partnership ... the College promises to pay for tuition and the student promises to enroll full-time and maintain good grades. This program sends a clear message to students: “We believe in you because we invest in you, so you can invest in the work you’re doing at the College.” There is a sense of investment on both sides. It’s a beautiful partnership.



# The Next Big Thing

*When it comes to Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR), it can be difficult to fully realize the possibilities, because the possibilities are endless. However, in an institution of higher education AR and VR are gamechangers.*

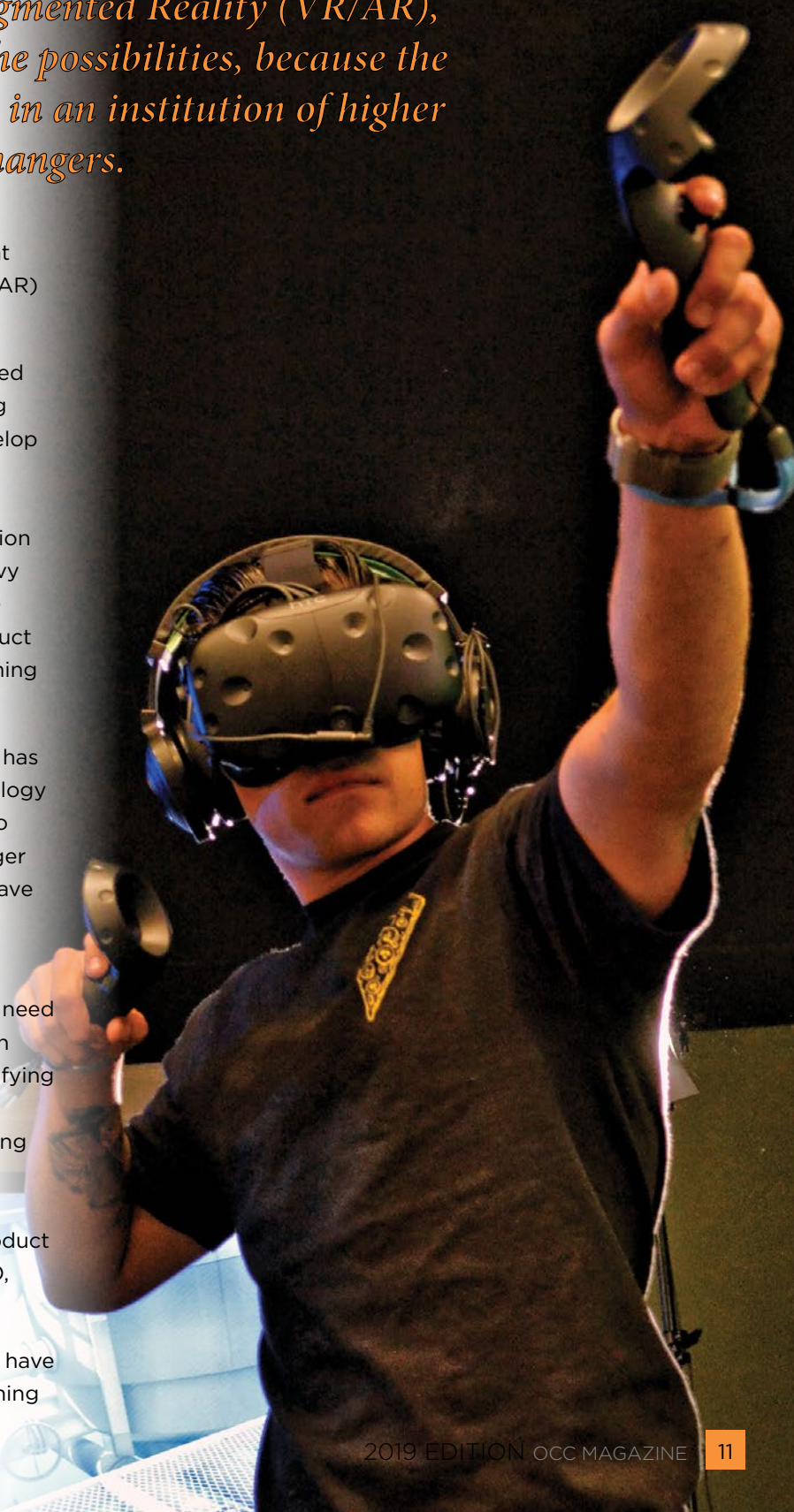
**F**or a program of study that represents the kind of cutting edge technology curriculum unseen at two-year colleges, OCC's Immersive Media (VR/AR) certificate has been a long time coming.

The concept itself isn't new - virtual reality first emerged in video game arcades nearly 30 years ago, and during the 1990s video game makers tried, and failed, to develop affordable VR headsets that consumers could use at home. In 2013 Google came out with their AR smart glasses, called "Google Glass," that displayed information in a hands-free format, and which quickly ran into heavy criticism over privacy concerns. Ultimately, many large companies could not find success in their VR/AR product lines because even though the concept was sound, timing wasn't right.

OCC Film and TV Production Specialist Scott Broberg has closely watched the evolution of this emerging technology during his two decades working at Coast. According to Broberg — who has taken on the role of Project Manager for OCC's VR/AR program — not only did the timing have to be perfect, the technology needed to catch up.

He has waited patiently for the right time to develop a program of study that teaches students the skills they need to find employment in the immersive media industry. In addition to going through the rigorous process of justifying the need for such a program, Broberg knew that the industry needed to be able to support graduates coming out of OCC with VR/AR training. Over the past couple years, as the industry began to penetrate mainstream culture with advancements like Facebook's Oculus product line and popular AR mobile apps such as Pokemon GO, Broberg knew that the time had finally arrived.

"Building this new immersive media program wouldn't have been able to happen years ago, because it was something



that is totally on the cutting edge, and a lot of the classes at colleges are years behind the times,” he explains. “The timing was just perfect for everything — OCC’s film and television department has expanded, we’ve added brand-new classes, we’ve got an additional full-time faculty member, and we’ve had multiple CTE grants over the last few years. So it’s just been an amazing couple of years.”



take students all over the world, all at the push of a button. “With this technology, we could collect data in places our students normally couldn’t get to,” he says. “An example would be the side of a cliff of sediment, or any kind of geologic formation, nearby or in a location that is hours or days away. Essentially, we could take our students on a geology virtual field trip.”

OCC’s VR/AR program of study will culminate in a Certificate of Achievement for students that gives them the basic skills they will need for entry level employment or internships in the growing field of immersive media, such as 360 video and audio, CG animation, AR apps, immersive game design, 3D modeling and drone imagery.

Students will have access to the latest VR and AR equipment, allowing them to build a portfolio of work that can lead to employment or transfer to a four-year program, such as those found at USC and Stanford University. “Our students are going to not only be making 360 videos, but then they’re also doing the computer graphics side of things, where they can tell stories with animation through virtual reality,” says Broberg.

While virtual and augmented reality have always found a natural home in gaming, the real game-changing potential that has investors and industry watchers buzzing is the ability to train, or teach, individuals in a virtual environment. “You can imagine something that’s dangerous like welding,” Broberg explains. “The first time you weld, you don’t want to be using a real welder; you could burn yourself or ruin the product that you’re welding. You can do it in VR almost as accurately, and practice the method over and over before you’re actually touching a real welder. And, when you finally do weld in real life, you’ll have a much higher rate of accuracy.”

Broberg also points out that the medical field has already caught on to the potential of VR and AR, as well as military and police, aviation, psychology, and more. “There’s almost no industry that it doesn’t touch or couldn’t touch at some point,” he says.

Another potential avenue of VR/AR training is in higher education itself. According to Broberg, this technology can

The possibilities for this type of learning experience truly are endless. History students could travel back in time to see what the Roman Colosseum looked like 2,000 years ago. Art students could incorporate AR elements into their work, adding unique visual textures. Biology students could dissect a frog without ever touching an actual frog. And Astronomy students could travel anywhere in the solar system. “There are a ton of astronomy apps that students could access, and instantly they would be floating in the solar system, picking up planets, and seeing data from NASA of each planet” Broberg says.

Why is it important for community colleges to get in on the ground for this up-and-coming industry? According to Broberg, two-year colleges are ideally suited for VR/AR training, not just because of their affordability, but also for the flexibility they offer to students looking to enhance their skills. “If a filmmaker wants to start doing 360 video and VR, they don’t need to go to a four-year university and get another bachelor’s degree. They can re-train here,” he explains.

For now, VR and AR appear to be the key to the next cultural and technological revolution, and OCC is ready: while classes started in the summer, the full program will launch in Fall 2019. According to Broberg, companies in the industry have already come knocking, seeking interns and offering to design customized certificate programs that would fast-track employment in their firms. “Between now and maybe three, four, five years from now, when mainstream adoption is in full effect, that’s when the big rise is going to happen,” he says. “This is the perfect time for our students to go through a program like this and get out in the industry. Because there aren’t that many people who know how to do it yet.”



# ORANGE COAST COLLEGE BECOMES FIRST COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO WIN AT ASA DATAFEST

A team of Orange Coast College computer science students earned the respect and admiration of their peers by becoming the first team from a community college to win at the American Statistical Association's 2019 DataFest at Chapman University in May.

The ASA DataFest is a 48-hour intense hackathon where teams of University-level students work to clean, explore, analyze and perform machine learning modeling on corporate — provided big data. OCC sent three teams to the competition under the mentorship of Computer Science Professor Nadia Ahmed. One of those teams — dubbed “Memory Leak” — won Best Use of Outside Data, a top prize in the four categories teams competed in. This year's data was provided by the Canadian Women's Rugby team, and included wellness data, GPS data, competition information, and force load/impact data.

“Our team impressed the judges by performing signal processing on GPS data to extract the number of collisions incurred per player on the team as a predictor of sleep quality and overall wellness,” explains Ahmed. “They used data from the National Center for Biotechnology Information to corroborate per player performance as flags for traumatic brain injury events.”

The OCC team's win is unprecedented, as community colleges were only allowed to participate in the



OCC is the first community college to win at ASA's DataFest.

competition starting last year. At this year's competition, 28 teams of 128 students represented colleges across California, such as Cal Poly Pomona, Chapman University, UC Irvine, and UC Santa Barbara.

OCC's winning team was comprised of five students who were invited to speak at a round-table discussion and awards banquet on May 20. “This is a rag-tag team of hard-working individuals, each with unique backgrounds and talent,” says Ahmed. “They are intensely passionate about learning, go above and beyond to solve problems, and are incredibly loyal to their values as a tight knit group of friends. They inspire me and I know they will be successful in whatever they set their mind to.”



## SEE THE STARS



Visit a galaxy far, far away at OCC's **Planetarium!** Catch a show in the Planetarium's state-of-the-art immersion theatre, or witness the earth's rotation with OCC's Foucault Pendulum, the only one of its kind in Orange County! Digital exhibits like the Planetarium's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Science on a Sphere globe help visitors visualize fascinating data, such as weather patterns and geological formations. You can find OCC's Planetarium in the "Science Quad" near OCC's Library and parking lot E.

[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/ocplanetarium](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/ocplanetarium)

# Explore

*There's more to do on OCC's campus than attend classes! From symphony performances to public aquarium tours, Coast is a destination campus for visitors of all ages. Here is a list of exciting options for your next outing.*



## DIVE UNDERWATER

The only student-run public aquarium in the United States, Orange Coast College's **Dennis Kelly Aquarium** is a must-see stop when visiting campus. Here you'll see learning in action as marine science students care for rainbow-hued sharks, leopard eels, seahorses and, of course, fish! With more than 4,000 gallons of water comprising 20-plus tanks, nearly every marine life eco-system is on display. OCC's Aquarium is located in the Lewis Center for Applied Sciences, near parking lot E on Merrimac Way.

[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/aquarium](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/aquarium)



## GRAB A BITE

Gourmet Foodie Alert! OCC's **Captain's Table** offers a four-course gourmet dining experience for a fraction of the cost of fine-dining restaurants. Take a culinary journey around the world with themed menus offering everything from Spanish tapas to California Cuisine. The Captain's Table is a learning lab staffed by OCC's culinary and hospitality students, with servings for lunch and dinner on select Thursdays during the academic school year. Reservations fill up fast, so make yours at the beginning of each semester by calling (714) 432-5876, ext. 22.

[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/thecaptainstable](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/thecaptainstable)



## ART APPRECIATION



From airplanes made entirely of cardboard to installations of shattered glass representing the cosmos, OCC's **Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion ("The Doyle")** invites visitors to stretch their curious minds, and to embrace new and different ideas, people and places. The Doyle focuses on contemporary visual culture, and provides a space for artists to have a conversation with the campus and local communities. Best of all? Admission to The Doyle is always free! Find The Doyle next to OCC's Starbucks, near parking lot D.

[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/doylearts](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/doylearts)

# Coast



If you can't function without your morning cup of brew, then you're in luck - there's a **Starbucks** Coffee shop located conveniently on campus! The recently remodeled interior includes a group table for study sessions, as well as comfy chairs and tables for coffee breaks between classes. OCC's on-campus Starbucks is located adjacent to the OCC Library, near parking lot D.  
[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/ocstarbucks](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/ocstarbucks)



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 College's Boathouse, located at 1801 West Coast Highway in Newport Beach, houses the school's sailing program, as well as an impressive nautical library that is open to the public.  
[www.occsailing.com](http://www.occsailing.com)



OCC's not-so-secret **Horticulture Garden** is truly a wonder to behold. Visitors will delight in seeing a wide variety of native and exotic plants in a beautiful and serene garden space that offers plenty of shady spots for relaxing. Keep an eye out for Cous the Cat, or go on a hunt for the koi pond (hint: it's close to the bamboo forest!) The only problem with visiting OCC's Horticulture Garden is that you might not want to leave! Find the gardens on the northwest side of campus, near the Adams parking lot.

[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/horticulture](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/horticulture)



Music, theatre and dance lovers will find their fix at OCC's **Robert B. Moore Theatre** and **Drama Lab Studios**. The 70-member orchestra that makes up OCC's Symphony performs anywhere from four to six times per year, offering professional music performances at an affordable price! OCC's theatre and dance programs offer multiple performances each academic year, including plays that are part of the program's OCC Theatre for Social Justice series. The Moore Theatre is located on the corner of Fairview and Merrimac Way, near parking lot C.

[www.occtickets.com](http://www.occtickets.com)



As one of the best deals in town, OCC's **Swapmeet** is a hidden gem in Orange County. First-time visitors hoping to check out the Swap Meet will quickly see why the weekly market is mostly supported by word-of-mouth and a loyal customer base. To find your way there, go to the northern corner of Orange Coast College's campus, just off Adams and Fairview, on any Saturday or Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/swapmeet](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/swapmeet)



# The Colombian

*Wake up. Train. Do homework. Train some more. Sleep. Wake up. Do it all over again.*

**W**hile most students at OCC are battling homework, papers, school projects and jobs, 22-year old Sabina Mazo is always getting ready for a different fight: whoever is on the opposite side of the octagon.

“When I have a fight, it is my priority,” says Mazo. “So I bring more focus to it.”

Mazo, aka “The Colombian Queen,” is considered one of the best MMA prospects in the world. As a professional fighter, Mazo entered the UFC as the LFA flyweight champion with six wins under her belt (two by KO and four by decision). Her bouts have aired on AXS TV and ESPN. She has a background in Muay Thai and jiu-jitsu, and while her first two professional MMA fights were in Colombia her coach told her that pursuing an MMA career in the United States would allow her to achieve her goals faster. She found King’s MMA in Huntington Beach and decided to move to California to train here.

“I wanted to move to California because of the gym,” says Mazo. “It has a lot of great fighters and [owner Rafael Cordeiro] is the professor there. That’s why I chose this place. Master Rafael was one of the first guys fighting in the world of MMA, and he has a lot of UFC fighters, including champions and other fighters.”

Mazo trains twice a day but did not want the school of hard knocks to be her only source of learning. So she chose to enroll in classes at Orange Coast College. Her training works the body while her classes exercise the mind.

“The number one thing was to be close to the gym... and I think it was a perfect match for me,” says Mazo. “I always liked to learn. I finished school, but I knew I wanted to keep studying. For me, it’s really important to be knowledgeable in other aspects of life [besides fighting].”

Coming to the U.S. has given Sabina a chance to not only become bilingual, but bi-cultural as well, and taking classes at OCC allows her to practice her English.



# Queen

“I wanted to improve a little bit more,” Mazo explained. “All the classes that OCC offered, — the prerequisites and all those classes — they’re good for me. They’re going to help me in my MMA career, as well as in my English and communication. [For example] public speaking has helped me in my main career.”

Mazo has signed on for four fights with the UFC. She made her UFC debut on March 30 and went the distance, but ultimately suffered her first professional loss by unanimous decision. However, Mazo looks at failure as a learning lesson.

“It was not a shock to me because in the gym, that’s where you’re supposed to lose,” explained Mazo. “Of course I was not happy with the performance I gave and everything, but I think it just motivates me more. More energy to put into my training and doing the fights to see those things. I see this last fight as an energy pump. I don’t know how to explain it, but it does give me more energy to do better.”

That’s what fighters like Mazo do, whether the challenge is in the classroom or in the octagon.

“I’m a fighter and that’s my work and that’s my career for now,” says Mazo.

Mazo will finish her degree at OCC in 2020, and she has plans to transfer. But first, she has another fight to prepare for. Her next UFC bout is not officially scheduled but she says it will be in 2019 “for sure.”





Orange Coast College conferred more than 5,400 associates degrees and certificates of achievement at the College's 71<sup>st</sup> commencement ceremony on May 24. Congratulations to the Class of 2019!





PLAY VIDEO



PHOTO GALLERY

# SOCIAL MEDIA 101

Clicks, likes and shares ... this fall, OCC will roll out a certificate program that will introduce students to the ins and outs of social media communication.

“The idea of this program is to train students to promote organizations and individuals on social media. In order to do that they’re going to learn about different social media platforms and they’re also going to get a crash course in public relations and marketing,” says Literature and Languages Dean Michael Mandelkern.

Demand for social media strategists has exploded in recent years, as more consumers engage with companies and organizations on popular social media channels like Facebook and Twitter. OCC’s program will prepare students for a career in social media publicity and marketing in as little as two years.

“Students will be learning which platforms to use depending on their target audience,” says Mandelkern. “There are many jobs available right now, that pay well, because many companies are looking for someone who’s able to do this, but not very many people are trained in social media strategy.”



OCC’s Social Media Certificate program will be housed in the College’s Literature and Languages Division, under the communications program. However, the program is multi-disciplinary, and offers courses in business, digital arts, and even fashion. According to Mandelkern, the decision to make communications the home base for a social media certificate was made after careful consultation with experts in the industry.

“As with any career program at OCC, we had to consult with industry professionals when we were developing the curriculum,” he says. “We had an advisory committee that included people in the industry who do this work, as well as hiring managers who already employ individuals who do this type of work. Communications is very interdisciplinary by its nature, and this program overlaps with the business program, but also many other areas of the College.”

# AVIATION PROGRAM OPENS DOOR TO BACHELORS DEGREES FOR STUDENTS

OCC Aviation Science Program Coordinator Stanley Harriman knew that he had some students who weren’t able to further their careers in the industry simply because of geography — for one reason or another, some students aren’t able to leave Orange County to pursue an advanced degree in aviation. So, he decided to bring new learning opportunities to them.

This fall, Orange Coast College will offer a program in partnership with Southern Illinois University that gives aviation students a chance to earn a bachelor’s degree in aviation management, all without ever leaving OCC’s Costa Mesa campus. The 16-month program will be run by faculty from SIU, who will fly to California every other weekend to teach classes covering a broad range of subjects, from business management, to hospitality, to airport logistics.

“Two years isn’t a very long time, especially when you’re training to become a pilot, so students usually try to find a

place to transfer out. This is just another way for students to stay around this area, finish up their flight training, as well as use that time to earn a bachelor’s degree,” Harriman explains.

Students who have already completed an Associate of Science degree at Coast will be eligible to apply for SIU’s program, and there will be an opportunity for graduating students to take SIU classes concurrently with their final OCC courses.

Best of all: students whose relocation options are limited due to life circumstances can continue both their flight training and their formal education at OCC.

“I believe that that value in an aviation management degree is kind of like a plan B. If students want to be pilots, and for some reason in the future they aren’t able to be, this is another facet of aviation they can get into,” Harriman says.



# OCC NEWS

## PIRATES HONOR JIM MCILWAIN WITH TRACK DEDICATION



PLAY VIDEO



PHOTO GALLERY

Orange Coast College renamed the OCC Track and Field Complex after longtime coach, administrator and Pirate Hall of Famer Jim McIlwain in mid-March. McIlwain's accomplishments at Coast span the entire campus; after one season as an assistant coach, McIlwain coached the Pirates' cross country teams for 10 seasons and track and field for 12.

A true pioneer in the sport, McIlwain was one of the first coaches to involve women in cross country and track on campus, and because of that, OCC was the first among all 109 community colleges in the state to establish a women's cross-country program. The Pirates were the second school

to create a women's track and field team.

"Maybe it's because we were among the first to establish women's teams, but our

women's programs on this campus — in all sports — have consistently been among the best in the state. I'm proud of that," McIlwain said in a 2005 Orange Slices article.



## STUDENTS, FACULTY DESIGN CONCRETE SCULPTURE FOR LAB ANTI-MALL ANNIVERSARY

OCC architecture students and faculty participated in the 25th anniversary celebrations for Costa Mesa's The LAB Anti-Mall in November 2018, using industrial robots to create a temporary structure called the "Cytocast."

To build the structure, Sarafian and his students mixed and poured concrete into a fabric mold using industrial robots. After curing, several wishbone-shaped concrete pieces were bolted together into a vaulted shape to create an archway. "We based the design of the Cytocast

pavilion on the concept of social media's influence on architecture," said architecture instructor Joseph Sarafian. "The word 'cyto' refers to a cell or group of cells pertaining to the modularity of the structure. 'Cast' refers to the process of casting concrete."



## OCC PARTNERS WITH ANAHEIM DUCKS FOR FIRST FLIGHT EVENT

An outreach team from OCC was on hand as more than 15,000 elementary students from Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties descended on the Honda Center in Anaheim as part of the Anaheim Ducks' Scholastic Curriculum of Recreation and Education (SCORE) First Flight Field Trip in February. This is the third time OCC has participated in the event, which gives elementary aged students a chance to learn about science and STEM-related careers.

OCC partnered with the Anaheim Ducks organization to print student-designed hockey pucks ahead of the event that were tested on the ice as part of the day's program.

Faculty and students from OCC's manufacturing program brought several 3D printers to the event, and outreach and marketing

teams from the College were on hand to share information about OCC and hand out Coast swag.



PLAY VIDEO



PHOTO GALLERY

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STUDENTS CREATE SAND ART IN NEWPORT BEACH

Orange Coast College Early Childhood Education students teamed up with art non-profit Low Tide Aliens and OCC alumni and sustainability advocate Jill Soloway to create a sand mandala at Newport Beach, part of the department's effort to support sustainable, child-directed play.

The field trip began with students walking the shore to collect natural trinkets, such as shells, sticks and rocks. OCC students later added their findings to the mandala. "OCC ECE students have been learning how to plan engaging activities for children based on children's interests and needs," said ECE instructor Jenny Chaiyakal. "When children are trusted to explore natural environments



without synthetic materials, they can dive deeply into authentic learning experiences."

## 'HAILING CÉSAR': GRANDSON OF POPULAR LABOR RIGHTS ICON VISITS OCC

Eduardo Chavez, grandson of well-known civil rights activist César Chavez, screened his documentary "Hailing Cesar" in March at OCC's Fine Art Lecture Hall. The event included a viewing of the 60-minute documentary and was followed by a discussion with Chavez and the film's producer, Sirous Thampi.



## OCC RECYCLING CENTER FIRST BUILDING IN WORLD TO ACHIEVE TRIPLE CERTIFICATION

The Orange Coast College Recycling Center is taking sustainability initiatives to a new level by becoming the first facility in the world to achieve LEED Gold certification, Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES) v2 certification in California, and TRUE Zero Waste certification. This unprecedented milestone pays homage to OCC's commitment to sustainable practices on and off campus.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED is the most widely used green building program in the world. The SITES rating system evaluates the sustainable performance of landscapes and the TRUE Zero Waste rating system enables facilities to define, pursue and achieve their zero waste goals.



# Milestone Marker:

## NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR **JOHN ALTOBELLI** NOTCHES 700TH WIN, FOURTH STATE TITLE

Altobelli was named the Orange Empire Conference Coach of the Year earlier in the season after guiding OCC to its third consecutive conference title. It was the first time since 1980-82 that the Pirates won three straight conference championships.

In addition to the conference and state titles, OCC's 39 wins in 2019 were the most ever by the Pirates in one season, topping 2009's highwater mark of 37.

Altobelli also hit another milestone this year when he notched his 700th career win on May 17 against Mt. San Antonio, becoming just the 16th head coach in California Community College baseball history to join "The 700 Club."

### 2019 ABCA/Diamond National Coaches of the Year

- NCAA Div. I: Tim Corbin, Vanderbilt (TN)
- NCAA Div. II: Joe Urso, Tampa (FL)
- NCAA Div. III: Scott Laverty, Champan (CA)
- NAIA: Billy Berry, Tennessee Wesleyan
- NJCAA Div. I: Anthony Gilich, Central Arizona
- NJCAA Div. II: Raydon Leaton, Northern Oklahoma-Enid
- NJCAA Div. III: Keith Gorman, Cumberland County (NJ)
- Pacific Assoc. Division: John Altobelli, Orange Coast (CA)
- High School Div. I: Chan Brown, Parkview (GA)
- High School Div. II: Ricky Griffin, Argyle (TX)
- High School Div. III: Aaron Frey, Sabetha (KS)



Orange Coast College head baseball coach John Altobelli was honored by the American Baseball Coaches Association as a 2019 ABCA/Diamond National Coach of the Year after guiding the Pirates to the state title this past season.

Altobelli will be honored on Jan. 3, 2020 in the main clinic hall prior to the start of clinics at the 76th annual ABCA Convention, held Jan. 2-5 in Nashville, Tennessee.

OCC wrapped up an incredible playoff run in 2019, going 39-9-1 overall as the Pirates claimed the state crown, Coast's fourth under Altobelli's tenure and seventh in school history. He is now just one of five coaches in California Community College Athletic Association baseball history to have won four or more state titles, joining Cerritos' Wally Kincaid (6), Cypress' Scott Pickler (5), Riverside's Dennis Rogers (4), and Fresno's Len Bourdet (4).

This year's Pirates became just the third team since 2000 to win the state title after losing a game in the first two days of the double-elimination tournament. The loss forced the Pirates into playing back-to-back doubleheaders to survive. Coast overcame the grueling schedule and beat El Camino in the bottom of the ninth inning on the final play of the game to win the championship.

# Girl Powers



*The Pirate women had a banner year, notching two state championships and other top honors.*





## PIRATE WOMEN CLEAN UP IN OJAI WITH SINGLES, DOUBLES STATE TITLES!

**A**n incredible season of women's tennis came to a historical end as the Orange Coast College Pirates wrapped up a magical season with individual state singles and doubles championships at the California Community College Athletic Association Tennis State Championships at Ojai's Libbey Park.

After winning the State Dual Team Championships earlier in the week, OCC women's tennis athletes went after the individual titles, and six grueling rounds of tennis over three days later, it was a Pirate takeover in the final rounds of both singles and doubles.

In the singles finals, OCC sophomore and No. 2 seed Miri Inoue took on Pirate teammate and No. 4 seed Shayee Sherif. After losing last year in a tough state quarterfinal matchup, Inoue outlasted her friend and captured the state title.

Tough as it may seem for Pirate teammates to compete against one another for the state title, they know how to stay professional. "I was ready and excited to play, not only because Shayee is a great player, but also because I played (fellow teammate Nicole Knickerbocker) in the previous round, so it made me prepared for it," says Inoue. "I was just thinking of playing my best."

Knickerbocker, advanced to the state semifinals before falling to Inoue, giving Coast three of the top four players in the state.

"There really wasn't too much for me to do in the finals except just watch and not cheer," OCC head coach Chris

Ketcham says with a laugh. "I'm just so proud of this team and the accomplishments they were able to achieve this year. It was a bit of a surreal experience to watch two of your players play for the state championship. I didn't want either of them to lose."

Sherif's run to the state finals required her to go through some of the top competitors in the state. In the quarterfinals, she outlasted Chabot College's Stephanie Huang in a match that took well over two hours to complete. After a 30-minute rest, Sherif was back on the court to take on the top seed in the state, Fullerton College's Yu Seung Suh. It was no contest as Sherif rolled past Suh to reach the state finals against Inoue.

"I thought Shayee played an amazing tournament, along with an incredible season overall," Ketcham says of Sherif. "The finals match was close between Miri and Shayee, but I think those hard-fought matches Shayee needed to win may have taken some of her energy, where Miri had a bit of an easier road to the finals."

In doubles play, Inoue and Knickerbocker wrapped up an incredible season by winning the state doubles title with an incredible win over El Camino College. For Inoue, knowing that it would be her final match as an OCC Pirate was key to her eventual victory.

"It was a great way to end my OCC career with the doubles win," Inoue said. "Coach Ketcham told me during the match to remember all of the hard work and memories at OCC and to put everything into this last match as a Pirate."

In all, Inoue wraps up one of the greatest two-year runs in OCC women's tennis history. After coming to OCC from Sydney, Australia, Inoue was named OCC's Female Athlete of the Year as a freshman after going 43-5 in singles and doubles. This year, she bettered those records by going 29-2 in singles and 29-1 in doubles for a combined record

of 58-3. Her two-year grand total in singles and doubles: 101 wins, 8 losses.

Inoue is the first Pirate since Michelle Esquivel in 2005 to win the singles state title, the doubles state title and the dual team state title in the same season.

## COACH OF THE YEAR: ANTHONY IACOPETTI

**A** look at Anthony Iacopetti's 15-year coaching record will tell you that he's a remarkable coach. With multiple state and conference titles under his belt — including three Women's Swim State Championships in the past four years — Iacopetti clearly has a gift for developing top athletes, and this year the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) seems to agree, recognizing him as "Co-Coach of the Year." He was also named the Orange Empire Conference Coach of the Year for 2019.

State and Conference titles and accolades aside, perhaps the most remarkable thing about Iacopetti's illustrious career is that he's managed to develop three winning aquatics teams — men's and women's swim, and women's water polo — in a pool a fraction of the size of those seen at rival colleges. "We joke that it's a puddle compared to everyone else's" he says.

All of that is about to change, with OCC set to complete construction on a new Aquatic Complex in Fall 2020 which will have a competition-size pool and diving pool, as well as ample shade structures. For a program that has found a way to excel in less than ideal circumstances, the new facility is just icing on the cake.

Iacopetti became head coach at OCC in 2010, following the retirement of longtime coach Don Watson. With 19 state championships in his 30-year career at Coast, the late Coach Watson paved the way for Iacopetti, serving as not

just a mentor but as an example of excellence. "I was only 24 years old when I first came [to OCC] to start running practices. I discovered very quickly that I love coaching," he says.

Iacopetti certainly has his work cut out for him, with the challenge of finding and developing winning teams while at a two-year college always present. However, he's found a surprisingly simple way to make it work: find students

who have talent but need a little extra guidance and development, and then demand excellence. More often than not, Iacopetti's student athletes rise to the occasion.

"All of our coaches are working so hard to provide consistency and positivity in the lives of our athletes. My coaching staff and I take a lot of pride in providing that for them, and that's the key to our success," he says. "We only had 13 athletes on our women's team this last year, but they were 13 that were vetted all the way through."



This year's team benefitted from a higher-than-usual number of returning athletes, which allowed them to dominate every race and meet they entered. Knowing that his athletes had it in them, Iacopetti told them before the State Championship to strive not only for the crown, but also for a win in all five of their relays, a feat that's only been done a handful of times.

The team once again rose to the challenge Iacopetti set before them, earning a well-deserved perfect record. But you won't hear him taking the credit: "I've been fortunate enough to have good kids who have helped us win State Championships along the way," he says.



## PIRATE WOMEN CONQUER CALIFORNIA (AGAIN) AT STATE SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS!

**F**or the second year in a row, and the third time in four years, the Orange Coast College women's swim team captured the state crown at the 2019 California Community College Athletic Association State Swimming and Diving Championships at De Anza College.

Winners of nine overall events, the Pirates finished the three-day state championships with 553 points, with San Diego Mesa a distant second with 332 points. Sierra (318), Diablo Valley (313), San Joaquin Delta (234), American River (221), Las Positas (201), Riverside (172), Santa Rosa (170) and Santa Babara (157) completed the top-10.

Coast picked up a state title in the 200-yard butterfly, where swimmer Riley Crow cruised to victory with a winning time of 2 minutes, 7.25 seconds, nearly six seconds faster than the rest of the pool.

But the key to this year's state crown came in the relay events, where the Pirates were a perfect 5-for-5 for the meet. They completed their perfect relay run in the 400

freestyle relay, where the foursome of Meghan Kluck, Amber Theders, Crow and Kennedy Hood dominated the competition en route to a winning time of 3:35.0, well ahead of the competition.

For the entire State Meet, OCC was led by Kluck and Crow, who each won two individual golds and were both a part of four of the relay wins. Hood also was a leg in four relays while Kylie McCormick and Cheyenne Morris picked up medals in three each. Theders participated in two relay victories. OCC Swim Coach Anthony Iacopetti and San Diego Mesa's Jim Fegan were picked as Women's Co-Coaches of the Year.

Other top-three performances on Saturday came from Theders in the 1,650 freestyle, Hood in the 100 freestyle and Kluck in the 200 breaststroke. Jenna Morley also finished fifth in the 200 breaststroke, while Morris picked up a 6th-place finals finish in the 200 backstroke.

With the win, OCC claimed its 20<sup>th</sup> state title in women's swimming and 93<sup>rd</sup> overall state title in school history.

# A LOOK BACK...

*By Jim Carnett*

*It was a banner year for female athletes at Coast, who dominated in state contests and brought home the gold in women's swim and tennis. While we celebrate these successes, it's also important to remember how far women athletes have come, and pay a debt of gratitude to the superstars who paved the way for today's champions. Here, retired "Mr. OCC" Jim Carnett shares the story of OCC retiree Sue Brown, a fierce advocate for women's rights and one of the architects of Title IX in California.*

**S**usan Brown is a leader.

Her administrative achievements throughout her 31-year Orange Coast College career were multifaceted and the stuff of legend. Brown's OCC tenure ran from 1964 until 1995, and her service was characterized by remarkable productivity and weighty accomplishments.

As an Orange Coast College administrator, Brown played an indispensable role in introducing Title IX — the landmark 1972 legislation that bans sex discrimination in schools — to California's community colleges. She was a key player in forever altering the landscape of community college athletics at the state level, and though she modestly asserts that the time had finally arrived ... she, in fact, had arrived to change the time.



Brown served as chair of OCC's Physical Education and Athletics Division from 1977-85. In 1977, she was named the first woman to serve on the Commission on Athletics (COA), which today is known as the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA).

In 1980, Brown was named COA chair. She became the first woman, and first non-college president, to be accorded that honor. She served as COA chair for four years, and was one of the principals who sat down and wrote women into the state's rules and policies for athletics.

"Title IX and the COA occupied a lot of my time during those four years," Brown reflects. "I'm certain there were those at Coast who felt I was spending too much time away from OCC on COA business, though no one ever said as much to me. During those years we were about the business of seeing that there was a single state athletic code that took care of both men and women.

"It was an exciting time, but there was also tension. I was involved at the state level to the point of making it (Title IX implementation) happen ... it had to happen," Brown says. "But there were a few male coaches in our division at the time who weren't prepared to deal with change. We all managed to make it happen, however, and our campus soon became one of the leaders in the state."

In case you haven't picked up on it yet, Sue Brown was, and is, a trailblazer.



The COA became the first postsecondary, amateur athletic governing body in the nation to adopt a single set of rules for both men's and women's sports. That largely occurred because of Brown's vision and tenacity.

When Brown joined OCC's Physical Education faculty in 1964, she wasn't the first woman in the department, but she proved to be the woman who would spearhead the greatest change the division ever experienced.

"When I first arrived we had a very limited and proscribed selection of classes," she recalls. "I remember seeing a handbook that listed all of our different classes. There weren't many.

"We had no women's intercollegiate athletic program at that time; it's all come about as a result of Title IX. Back in 1964, we had a WAA (Women's Athletic Association) Program with volleyball, basketball, field hockey and softball ... and cookies and punch. It was recreational in nature."

Now the College fields 13 women's intercollegiate sports teams ... and year in and year out it's one of the BEST women's athletic programs in the state, with OCC women dominating their conference and statewide rivals.

"We have come so very far," Brown marvels. "To watch our professional women athletics, our Olympic athletes, and our youth-league girls is truly exciting. Girls can now look forward to the chance of a scholarship, just like their male counterparts, providing a motivation for success as both a student and athlete. This dramatic change fills us all with pride."

**"Our daughters and granddaughters are better off because of Sue's vision and tenacity," says Carnett.**



# PIRATES CLOSE THE BOOK WITH STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**J**oey Fregosi's well-placed infield single with the bases loaded capped off a walk-off, come-from-behind, 8-7 win over El Camino in late May to win the 2019 California Community College Baseball State Championship at Fresno City College's John Eules Ballpark.

The win, coupled with a 7-5 win over the Warriors in the earlier game, gave the Pirates their seventh state baseball championship and 94th overall title in school history.

"I told these guys when we got here this weekend that we were on our final chapter of this great story and it was up to us to write what type of ending it would be," OCC head coach John Altobelli said. "Man, do I love this final chapter.

"These guys never quit when it could've been so easy to. We dug deep and we had players step up for us that didn't get a lot of playing time for us all year and they got it done. What a special group this is."

The final game was a nailbiter, with Coast leading 5-4 after six innings before the Warriors came through with a two-run home run over the left-field wall, putting them up, 6-5. But the Pirates wouldn't quit, and in the bottom of the seventh came through with a two-run double to right-center, giving OCC a 7-6 lead.

The Warriors, playing inspired baseball all season long after losing one of their teammates to an automobile accident in April, refused to quit. They tied things up at the top of the

eighth with a double to left and a sacrifice fly to right.

Controversy ensued three batters later when, with runners on second and third, a fly ball down the right-field line bounced off of OCC outfielder Caleb Anderson's glove and appeared to score two runs, but the umpires ruled the ball foul, keeping the score tied at 7.

In the ninth, Coast began to write its final chapter. With bases loaded Fregosi stepped up with the season on the line. Not playing with an injured elbow, the sophomore infielder bounced the first pitch into the hole to the right of the Warriors' shortstop at short. There was no play to be made as the Pirates' scored, sending an eruption of celebration.

"What a perfect kid to end our season with," Altobelli said of Fregosi. "His year wasn't as strong as he would've liked it to be, but he never stopped working and he kept his head up. When he got his opportunity, he delivered."

OCC starting pitcher Cole Van Den Helder was named the State Tournament MVP after coming back on two days rest to throw five strong innings after throwing 118 pitches against Sacramento City. In the final game, he allowed four runs (all unearned) on nine hits with one walk and eight strikeouts.

Coast became just the third team since 2000 to win the state title by playing four games over the final two days.

# From the Panhandle to the Pirates, Williams Finds a Home at OCC

It should come as no surprise that Orange Coast College first baseman Tommy Williams led the Pirates last season with nine total sacrifice at-bats. His “we before me” attitude not only served the Pirates well in 2019, but it’s a mentality the OCC sophomore transfer has had with the ball club since coming to Costa Mesa from the Texas Panhandle city of Canyon.

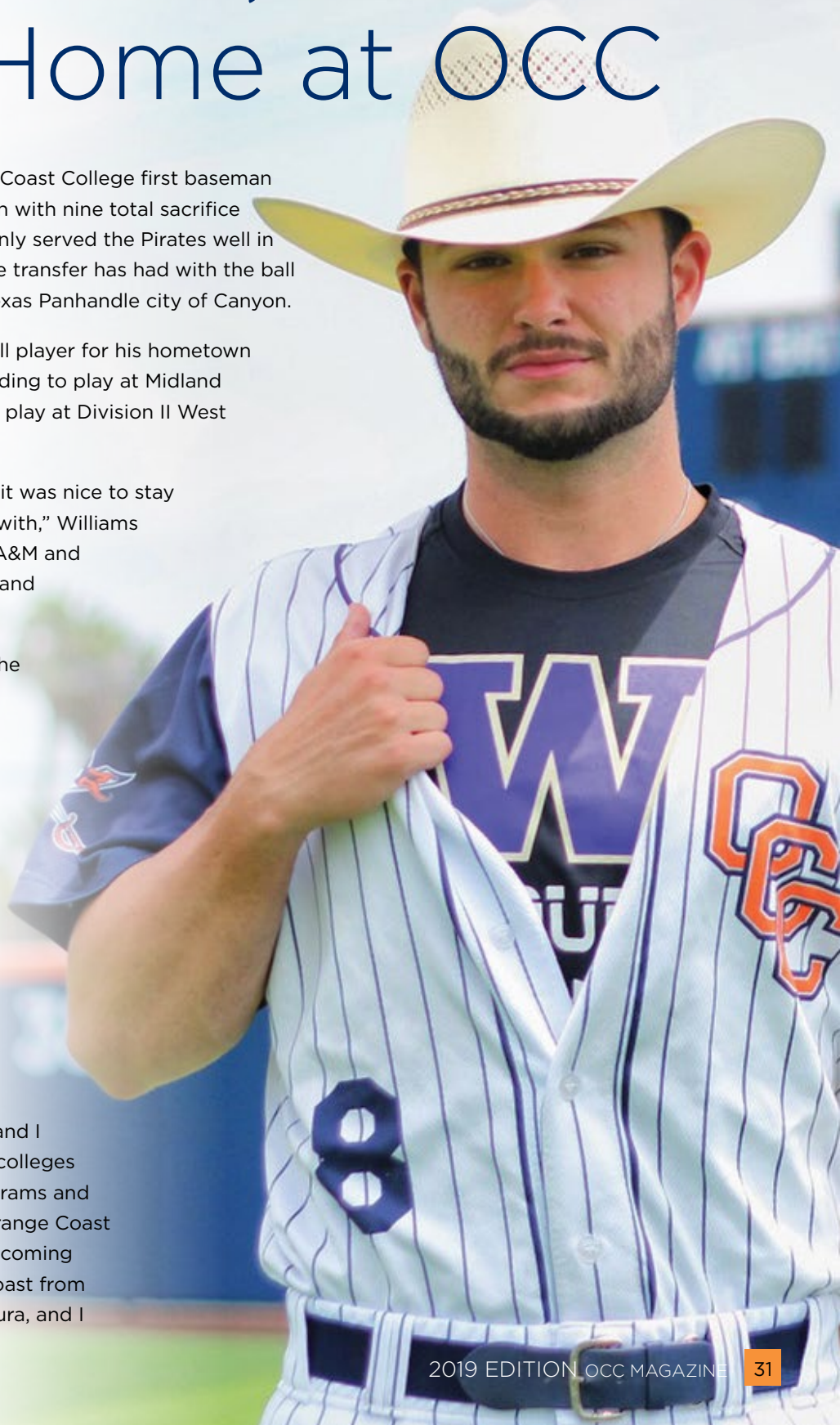
Williams was a standout football and baseball player for his hometown Canyon High School and after originally deciding to play at Midland Junior College, he decided to stay home and play at Division II West Texas A&M in 2018.

“The school was two minutes from home, so it was nice to stay home and play in an area I was very familiar with,” Williams said. “I played middle infield for West Texas A&M and I enjoyed my time there with my teammates and playing every day as a freshman.”

Williams played in 48 games (47 starts) for the Buffaloes and batted .297 with 47 hits, 23 RBI and a stellar .971 fielding percentage. It was a solid freshman campaign for the local baseball standout, but deep down, something just wasn’t right.

“I just didn’t feel like it was where I needed to be,” Williams said. “I wanted to someday get drafted by Major League Baseball and I wasn’t sure if I was going to get the looks of anyone where I was playing. I also didn’t want to sit out an entire season, so I had to make the decision to transfer to a two-year program.

“I remember I was in Florida with my family and I started doing some research on community colleges with the best transfer rates to Division I programs and schools with solid baseball programs, and Orange Coast College came up right away, so I looked into coming to OCC. I tracked down a former player at Coast from a few years ago on Instagram, Dominic Purpura, and I



wanted to ask him about the program and his experience at OCC. He told me that if OCC was a four-year school, he would've stayed all four years so I asked him if he had (head coach John Altobelli's) cell number and I reached out to him."

For Altobelli — who has helped guide the Pirates to four state titles and several Final Four appearances in his storied career — the 2019 season represented one of his best years of recruiting. "I told Tommy that we had an All-Southern California returner at shortstop in Murphy Stehly and a bounce-back from Texas Christian coming to Coast in Tristan Hanoian, so with them and other solid returning players like Adam Serrano and Joey Fregosi in the mix, our middle infield was going to be a tough place for him to play," Altobelli said. "But Tommy was determined to get out of Texas and he wanted to come out here and play."

After a few weeks of talking with his family and friends, Williams decided to take the leap and come to Orange Coast College. "I knew it was going to be a hornet's nest in the middle infield at OCC and Coach Alto was up front with me right from the start," Williams said. "With lots of thought and prayer, I woke up one morning and it just felt like the right thing to do so I made the choice and I haven't looked back."

With the assortment of talent still on a Pirate squad that reached the State Final Four in 2018, Williams knew it would be hard to break into the starting lineup from the middle of the infield. "From day one, I told a lot of the guys out here that the more versatile of a ball player you are, the more opportunities you'll have to be successful," Altobelli said. "So, we tried to work Tommy over at first base with the understanding that it was what was best for the team. I'm sure he wanted to stay in the middle infield, but he sacrificed his comfort and for the betterment of the program, he agreed to try first base and he's been outstanding for us."

Playing a new position, on a new team, in a new state ... Williams had to earn the trust of the Pirate coaches and his teammates and he worked tirelessly at the new position in the hopes of being OCC's starting first baseman. "It was

frustrating at first, without a doubt," Williams said. "But I saw the depth of our roster and I knew that if I could move to first and learn how to be effective there, it would free up options for the rest of the team to play around the infield, so I understood why I was there and embraced the opportunity. I worked with the assistant coaches on getting better and more comfortable and to just let my baseball instincts carry me through."

With so many question marks heading into 2019, Williams put them all to rest by playing an outstanding first base for the Pirates, while being one of the best table-setters for the heart of the OCC lineup. In 42 games with Coast,

Williams batted .358 with 48 hits, 42 runs and 23 RBI. Defensively, Williams had only five errors in 359 total chances for a .986 fielding percentage and has prevented numerous errors of his teammates with his incredible eye-hand coordination on errant throws.

"He did everything we asked of him and more," Altobelli said.

"He's extremely competitive and gets the job done without being all that flashy. He's the guy who will move guys over and let the guys in the middle of the lineup get the glory. He just wants to win. He's the typical blue collar type of baseball player you root for and you want to see succeed."

Success has definitely found Williams and the rest of his Pirate teammates as OCC captured its seventh State title in May. His hard work also earned Williams first-team, All-Orange Empire Conference honors and the attention of Division I head coaches from around the country.

"Coming to OCC has been a dream come true for me," Williams said. "It's been an incredible year here. You always try to play for a 'best case scenario' and a 'worst case scenario.' Well, this experience here has far surpassed any of my best case hopes and wishes. The coaches believed in me and the guys on the team all really care about each other and we all want the same thing. I definitely think we've all learned from one another and we pulled on the same side of the rope in the state championship."

Following his OCC career, Williams is heading north to play at the University of Washington and continue his athletic and academic careers.

**"You always try to play for a 'best case scenario' and a 'worst case scenario.' Well, this experience here has far surpassed any of my best case hopes and wishes."**

# OCC'S #1 FAN

Maybe it was fate that brought Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis (nickname: Hot Lips) to Orange Coast College. Or, maybe, it was happenstance. Either way, all parties agree that it's a match made in ... interstellar space.

Bergman-Rallis has enthusiastically served on OCC's Foundation Board of Directors since 1997, her signature candy colored lipstick brightening the room at every ribbon cutting, fundraiser, and board meeting. It was Foundation Executive Director Doug Bennett and former OCC President Margaret Gratton who first discovered Bergman-Rallis through her charity work supporting OCC's Early Childhood Lab School. They quickly invited her to join the College's Foundation Board of Directors, to her surprise.

"I still remember thinking 'But I have no, none, zero, bupkis experience ... what can I bring to the table?'" Bergman-Rallis shares. "However, I accepted their very kind and generous offer. Fast forward 22 years and it's been one of the most profoundly influential and gratifying decisions of my life!"

With a personality to match her bright lipstick color, Bergman-Rallis exudes a contagious positivity that makes anything seem possible. It was this optimism, coupled with a lifelong fascination with space, that made her the perfect champion for OCC's Planetarium. Indeed, without community partners and visionaries like Bergman-Rallis, the Planetarium would certainly not exist. What started as a far-fetched dream nearly 15 years ago has ended with the opening of a state-of-the-art facility that is the first of its kind in Orange County, a premiere science center for generations to come.

"There is a power in 'town and gown' relationships, a unique symbiosis that links OCC (gown) — which creates knowledge — with our community (town), resulting in the creation of incubators that find markets for



Bergman-Rallis has served on OCC's Foundation Board for more than two decades.

emerging ideas," she says. "These strong town and gown relationships don't just happen ... they're a result of learning from each other in a deliberative, mutually beneficial way."

As the College invited the campus and local community in late March to witness the grand opening of its long-awaited Planetarium, there was one smile that shone brightest. That evening, with her signature flair, Bergman-Rallis unveiled one more surprise: the Bergman-Rallis Planetarium Theatre.

"When I realized in that moment that it was my name, how amazed, delighted and stupefied I was," she says. "I am honored and humbled, and will continue to be forever!"

However, now that the excitement surrounding the Planetarium's opening has settled, Bergman-Rallis is ready to get to work on the Foundation Board's next big project.

"My sincerest hope is to continue to serve among my gifted and dedicated colleagues who sit on the Foundation Board," she says. "The Board's thoughtful, comprehensive and inspired approach to its mission, coupled with its determination and creative juices, will certainly result in its status as a uniquely special community asset, enhancing all of the benefits of the 'town and gown' relationship."

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

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- Access to College resources, such as state-of-the-art computer labs, the job placement center and a large library
- Invitations to special events and celebrations on campus
- Updates on the College news through newsletters
- Local retail discounts through the Bursar's Office



Gabriel Caliendo – who both studied and taught in OCC's culinary arts program – is a founding partner in Lazy Dog Restaurant and Bar, which opened its first location in Huntington Beach in 2003. Caliendo is the creative mind behind Lazy Dog's menu, featuring a fresh take on traditional comfort foods. He often invites OCC culinary students to visit him in his research and development kitchen, and offers advice to aspiring chefs.

**Sign up Today:**  
[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/alumni](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/alumni)