Orange Coast College

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Orange Coast College

Message From the President

Dear Friends,

In your hands you hold the 2020 Orange Coast College Foundation Annual Report, a publication that highlights the symbiotic relationship between Orange Coast College and the community. It goes without saying that 2020 will go down in the history books as one of the most challenging years in modern times, and at OCC we know that we would not have been able to weather the storm as well as we did without the support of our partners in the community.

The Orange Coast College Foundation will be celebrating a milestone anniversary as this publication goes to print: 35 years since the Foundation was first established. On page 2 you can read an interview with Foundation Executive Director Doug Bennett, who has been at the helm from the very beginning, when he was hired only one month after the Foundation received its non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service in 1985. Much of the success of the OCC Foundation over the past three and a half decades — including more than $120 million raised to support students and academic programs — can be attributed to Doug's ability to forge relationships with partners in our community who want to invest in and transform the lives of OCC students and future generations of students. We are deeply grateful to Doug, as well as members of his team Rene Kinn and Liz Parker, for their dedication to helping our students reach their academic, professional and personal goals.

In addition to looking back at our Foundation's achievements, this report is also focused on the future. While the campus was mostly closed to the public during 2020, the footprint of OCC has changed dramatically. Among the biggest changes is the opening of an on-campus student housing facility, The Harbour at OCC, in Fall 2020 (pg. 9), the opening of new College Center and Student Union buildings (pgs. 10 and 11), and athletic facilities (pg. 13). Further, a great deal of progress has been made on a Professional Mariner training facility and Language Arts/Social & Behavioral Science instructional building, both of which are expected to open in 2021 (pgs. 12 and 14).

Although much of our day-to-day teaching and support services are being delivered remotely, Orange Coast College continues to thrive. We are continuously looking for ways to help students succeed, including scholarships, technology support and accessible mental health counseling for all students currently enrolled in classes at the College (pg. 26). As we bid farewell to 2020, we look toward the future with optimism and excitement as we partner with you, our community, to champion our students and their educational dreams.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angélica Suarez

Message from Bill Wood/ Doug Bennett

Dear Friends of Orange Coast College:

Since 1985, the Orange Coast College Foundation has built a legacy of providing support for programs and projects that benefit OCC students. We are particularly grateful to the generous donors acknowledged in this report.

Despite the challenges and tragedies of 2020, we are pleased to report that 2020 was a strong financial year for the OCC Foundation. This annual report highlights those achievements and provides perspective on the Foundation's 35+ year history.

As we look ahead to students, faculty and staff returning to the campus we are excited to share with them the many campus projects that have been completed over the last year such as the new College Center, the Student Life Building, the Aquatics Complex, and the soon-to-be-completed Professional Mariner Training Center and Social and Behavioral Science/Literature and Languages Complex.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the volunteer members of the Orange Coast College Foundation Board of Directors listed below for their service and support of the College during the past year:

Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis
Barbara Bullard
David Cline
Peggy Fort
Blade Gillissen, OCC Faculty Representative
Marc Harper, CPA
Rush Hill
Jeff Hyder
Shana Jenkins, Secretary
Eileen Lewis, OCC Friends of the Library
Doug Meece
Diane Nelson Menninger
Patrick Munoz
Jerry Richards, Ed.D.
Janet Ronnenberg
Derek Sabori, Vice Chair
Julie Simer, Treasurer
Angélica Suarez, Ph.D. President, OCC
Kevin Ballinger, Vice President, OCC
Madjid Niroumand, DBA, Vice President, OCC
Rich Pagel, Ed.D., Vice President, OCC

We hope that you enjoy reading about the new and exciting developments at Orange Coast College, many of which are made possible by the support of our many generous donors and their gifts that help us transform the lives of our students through education.

Sincerely,

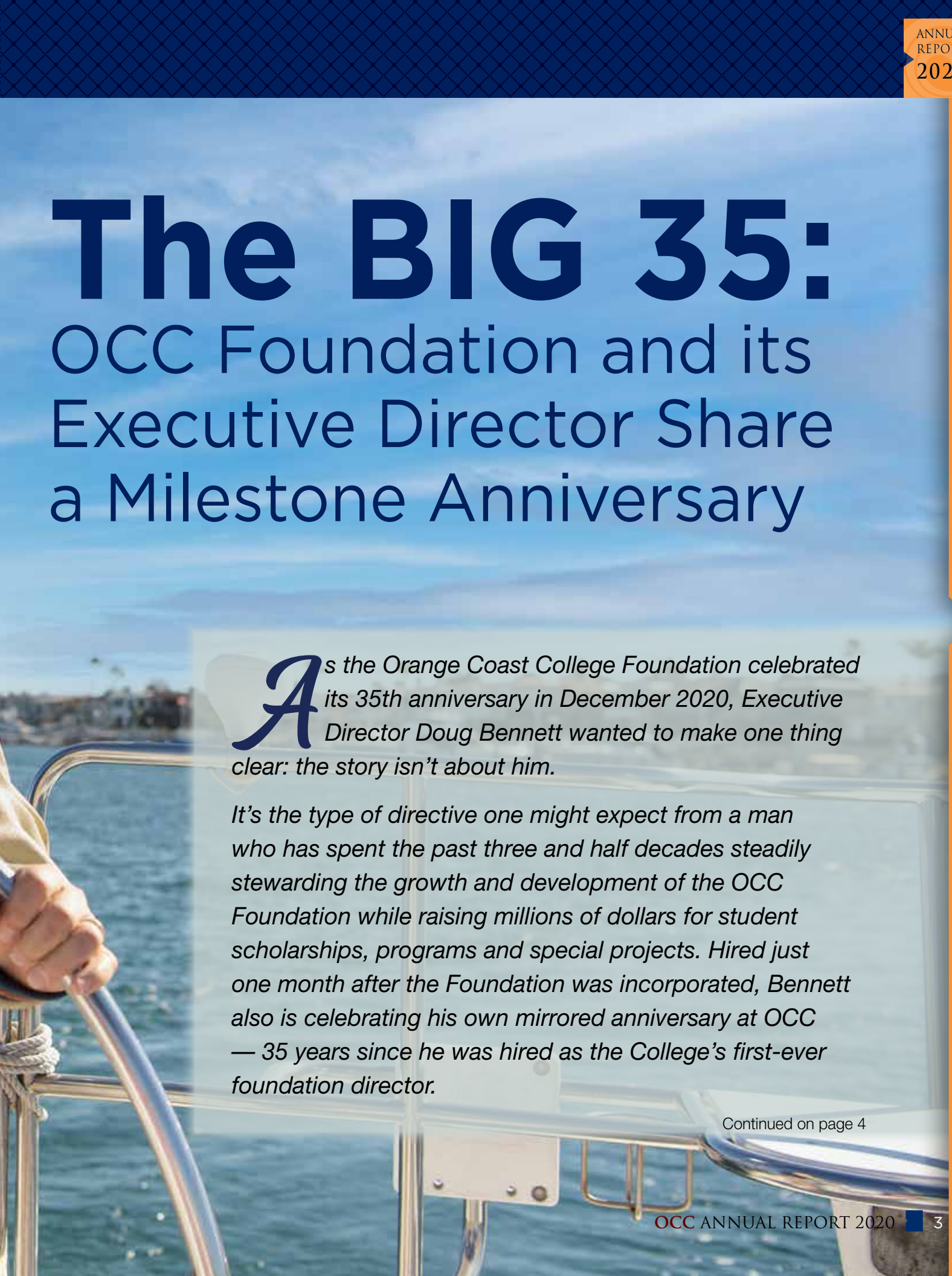
C. William "Bill" Wood
Chair, Orange Coast College Foundation

Doug Bennett
Executive Director, Orange Coast College Foundation

COAST COLLEGE

The BIG 35:

OCC Foundation and its Executive Director Share a Milestone Anniversary



As the Orange Coast College Foundation celebrated its 35th anniversary in December 2020, Executive Director Doug Bennett wanted to make one thing clear: the story isn't about him.

It's the type of directive one might expect from a man who has spent the past three and half decades steadily stewarding the growth and development of the OCC Foundation while raising millions of dollars for student scholarships, programs and special projects. Hired just one month after the Foundation was incorporated, Bennett also is celebrating his own mirrored anniversary at OCC — 35 years since he was hired as the College's first-ever foundation director.

Continued on page 4

Q: *The OCC Foundation is marking the 35th anniversary of its incorporation. Tell us a little bit about how the Foundation was first started.*

Back in the1950s the original Orange Coast College Foundation was formed. The original Foundation took in money and was a nonprofit, but as the [Coast Community College] District grew it became basically the District Foundation, taking in money for all three colleges within the District. Sometime in the early '80s, a decision was made to create three new separate foundations for each of the three colleges, so the Orange Coast College Foundation, as it exists now, received a federal tax identification number in December of 1985.

Q: *You were hired the following month, on Jan. 6, 1986, and you've been with the Foundation, in its current form, practically since day one. Who were the major players, besides you?*

The president of the College at that time, Dr. Bronsard, had been hired in the summer of '85, and he was someone who really pushed to have a separate foundation. Then he pushed to hire a director, which was me. Another person behind a lot of the early fundraising was [former OCC president and current Coast District Trustee] Dave Grant — at that time he was the dean of students, so he was a big pusher and mover behind creating an incorporated foundation. And then, the other person that was involved was Sharon Donoff, the assistant dean of students; she did a lot of the scholarship fundraising, and the type of things that revolved around Honors Night in those days.

I had been working in the fundraising office at St. Joseph Hospital for about four and a half years when I heard about the OCC job. I applied and, as I understand it, there weren't very many applicants, so I rose to the top of a shallow pool. I was lucky enough to get hired.

Q: *As the very first director of a brand new foundation, how did you go about planning what you wanted it to look like?*

When I started the Foundation didn't have a board of directors — it was incorporated, but it was a formative organization. One of the first tasks over the first six months to a year was to recruit a board of directors, community members who would serve on our first board. It was one of the things that Dr. Bronsard asked me to do. So, I started talking to people, meeting people, getting recommendations, looking through files to find alumni or people that had a connection to the College who would be good potential candidates for the board.

We had the first board meeting in the Summer of '86. We were still recruiting board members after that, but that's when we started having board meetings, talking about raising money and policies, and how we were going to run the organization.

Moments in Foundation History

1985:

OCC's Foundation received non-profit designation from IRS. Nancy Timmons hired as first Foundation assistant.

1986:

Doug Bennett hired as first executive director and John Killefer is first Foundation board chairman

1993:

Newly renovated Robert B. Moore Theatre reopens with enhanced acoustics, added air conditioning, and improved seating thanks to $1 million-plus Foundation campaign.

1993:

Maruja Baldwin makes $1 million endowment gift to OCC Men's Crew.

1997:

Harry & Grace Steele Children's Center is dedicated, with more than $1 million raised by OCC Foundation to help fund $2.5 million project.

2002:

The College's Art Center opens, and Gertrude R. Doyle pledges $1 million to construct the Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion.

Q: *In those early days what were some of the projects or campaigns that you focused on? How did you decide?*

The first major campaign that the foundation did started in 1989; in the late 80s there were a lot of calls to remodel the Robert B. Moore Theater, which had been built in the mid-50s. It was a really nice building when it was first built, but one of the main negatives about the Moore Theater at that time was it didn't have air conditioning. It was designed by Richard Neutra, with the idea that the side doors could be opened during the warmer months and the breeze would blow through, enough to cool down an audience of 900 people.

So, we were talking about that on the board, and one of the first foundation board members we recruited was a man named Albert Wong; he was an international student who had come to OCC from China. When he came to OCC in the '70s there was a tradition of administrators and faculty sponsoring international students and hosting them in their homes for short stays and family gatherings — and one of the people that Albert met was Dr. Moore and his wife Pat.

After Albert graduated from OCC, he went on to start a computing company called AST, which was one of the first makers of PCs. In 1988 he made a gift of stock of AST Company that ended up being valued at about $135,000, for the Moore Theater, and that was the biggest cash gift we'd received since the new foundation had started. It gave us momentum to try and raise additional funds.

Dave Grant had a good relationship with the Harry and Grace Steele Foundation, which was a charitable foundation started by a local family, and we went to them and asked for a matching grant where they would match any money that we raised for the theater campaign up to $400,000. Overall we raised about a million dollars in the campaign.

Q: *After that first campaign, did you learn any lessons? Was there anything that surprised you?*

I learned more about fundraising, about the advantages and disadvantages of working with outside consultants, and about the importance of networking. It's hard work. You have to be focused and you have to keep pushing on, to have volunteers involved and build enthusiasm ... that type of thing.

One of the things that we did that was popular on campus is we sold seats in the theater for $250, and people could have their names, or the names of someone they donated in memory of, on a plaque on their seat. That created a lot of enthusiasm. We also hired an architectural firm, the Hill Partnership, to create a plan. We didn't have nearly enough money to do everything we wanted with the theater, but

2002:

A small island off the coast of British Columbia named "Rabbit Island" is donated to OCC Foundation by Henry Wheeler.

2004:

The first Orange County Children's Book Festival sponsored by Foundation is held on campus, drawing more than 10,000 people.

2008:

OCC Foundation provides funds for feasibility study on OCC Planetarium.

2011:

The Barto family donates a $1.3 million 92-foot yacht to OCC's Sailing Center, named the Nordic Star. It is the largest boat ever donated to OCC.

2013:

Anonymous donor makes $1 million gift to fund Astronomy House and Telescope Farm.

2014:

After 30-plus years, OCC bids farewell to its flagship, the Alaska Eagle. During her time at Coast, the 65-foot sloop carried some 3,000 students for nearly 300,000 miles at sea to such destinations as Alaska, Hawaii, Australia, Antarctica, and South America.

we reopened in 1992. We were able to make a lot of big improvements — things like adding air conditioning and upgrading the acoustics made a big difference.

That first big campaign brought recognition to the Foundation, both in the community in terms of donors, and on campus. Back then some people really didn't understand why I was hired, and what it was that I was to do, but when they saw what we were able to achieve with the Moore Theatre it gave us more credibility because we'd been successful with something.

Q: Since then, the OCC Foundation has raised more than $100 million, a very impressive feat for a community college foundation. What do you think accounts for that success?

When I was hired in the 1980s there was a growing move for more community colleges to have foundations, and they were starting to form up at other colleges. Some of it goes in fits and starts depending on how involved the president is, and staff turnover ... things like that. I believed the one thing that stands out for us, and some of the other successful community college foundations, is we are persistent, we have stability.

All of the presidents that I've worked with have always been supportive of the fundraising mission, so we just sort of kept plowing ahead and doing the right things, and we grew from that. Plus, we're in a great community in terms of fundraising and access to wealth, and we have alumni and faculty members who are invested in the College and who have been supportive.

Q: In the past 35 years you've had many campaigns, and there've been some really large ones, the most recent being OCC's new Planetarium. What's been your favorite out of all of them?

I've done so many. I suppose the projects that I've been involved in that I take the most satisfaction from weren't campaigns for buildings, but ones that made a difference personally for our students. The one that comes to mind is initiating the Guardian Scholars Program.

In June of 2001 I went to an alumni event at Cal State Fullerton. I don't really go to that many events, but I went specifically to see a speaker named Ron Davis, who I had read about in the announcement. I didn't really know who he was before, but Ron had been the CEO of Perrier America. He was a Cal State Fullerton alumnus, and during the event he talked about his efforts to help foster youth called Guardian Scholars at CSUF. At that time we had started receiving scholarships checks from the Orangewood Children's Foundation, and I had often wondered what happens to those kids after they age out of foster care. This was around the same time my oldest daughter was graduating from high school, and I thought of all the work that we did to prepare her to apply for college.

Ron started talking about helping kids and then he said, 'If there's anyone here from a community college I want to talk to you, because I know that a lot of kids can't start their journey in higher education at a Cal State or a UC. They just don't have the grades coming out of high school, but anyone can go to a community college.' So, I went up to him after the meeting, and I said, 'Hi, I'm Doug Bennett from OCC, and I want to partner with you.' We had some discussions and a few weeks later he'd met with Margaret Gratton, who was the president of OCC at that time, and he gave us $25,000 to get the program started.

Initially, kids were coming into the Foundation office, and [Foundation administrative assistant] Rene Kinn and I would help them and get them going, but we didn't have the ideal amount of administrative support at that time. Over the years, as legislation has been passed and there's been a funding push geared toward supporting foster youth in California, OCC's Guardian Scholars program has grown and developed, and now we have an office and a staff dedicated to our foster students. We've had a lot of kids that have come through who have been successful — who have graduated from schools like Cal State Fullerton and UCLA, and who have gone on to be successful.

Q: What advice would you give somebody who's just starting out in fundraising? It's probably a much different world now than it was when you started.

You want to be a good communicator in terms of writing grant proposals meeting the donors and thank you letters. I do a lot of writing, so it helps to be a storyteller when you talk to people either in-person, on the phone, and in writing.

For me, it's also important to focus on how what we're doing helps students, how the gifts that people make change students' lives. My view is that the College doesn't need anything, but the students of the College need many things, so I've always tried to stay focused on our mission, avoid distractions, and hire good support staff, because administratively there's a lot that goes into running a credible fundraising office. There are things behind the scenes that we do that I think serve as good models for being a successful nonprofit organization.

Q: *Have you always been a storyteller?*

I remember when I was growing up, my dad would always tell stories, especially when family were around, and there's things that I learned from him. He was from North Carolina and was a Navy officer, and as I've gotten older and reflected on things that I learned from him about leading people, about being a father, and different things like that, I realize I probably learned how to be a storyteller from him.

I also think it helps that I have a good memory. I try to remember details so that when I'm talking with people I can make sure what I talk about is relevant to what motivates them to give, or so that they can better understand the College and our needs.

Q: *When you got hired at OCC, did you have any sense that you would spend most of your career at this one location, or is that something that just happened? Does it surprise you that you've been at the College for 35 years?*

I believed I'd be here three to five years, and get a bigger, better job, whatever that means, at a larger organization. I don't think I would've imagined that I would've stayed this long.

Q: *What was it that kept you?*

It's passion for the job. This is one of the really great fundraising jobs in Orange County, and it's a real gem of a job. It's a really good place to work because of the people and the environment. While we might not get as big of gifts as some other organizations, we've managed to be impactful over the years.

Q: *Any favorite memories that stand out?*

There's so many of them. There's so many donors and so many interesting people that I've met. But, I guess the campus memories that stand out for me involve my kids. All of my daughters did things at Orange Coast College, either taking classes or being in the lab school. When we reopened the newly renovated Moore Theater in the summer of '92 with a summer musical — South Pacific by Rodgers and Hammerstein — my wife Mailei, and my daughter Tiffany, auditioned and they were in the chorus. They didn't have speaking parts, but they were in the chorus of the show, and so after all the work on the campaign I got to see them up on stage in the theater and that was really neat.

Years later my youngest daughter, Sarah, enrolled at OCC and received her associate's degree, and in 2008 she was the commencement speaker. Seeing her on the stage at graduation is a great memory.

2016:

PLAY VIDEO

OCC breaks ground on a new Planetarium; with a 40-foot domed ceiling, immersion theatre, Foucault Pendulum, and Science on a Sphere NOAA display globe, the facility will be the first of its kind in Orange County, and will serve as a vital science center for generations of K-14 students.

2018:

The Orange Coast College Foundation receives bequest of $1.8 million from the estate of late philosophy professor David Johnston to establish the M.F. & Marvel Monia Johnston Scholarship Fund.

2018:

PLAY VIDEO

Anonymous Donor provides $1.9 million to fund new artificial AstroTurf baseball field

2018:

Retired faculty member Mary McChesney makes $1 million gift to name Foucault Pendulum in Planetarium.

2019:

PLAY VIDEO

OCC officially opens the doors to its long-awaited Planetarium, with a grand opening ceremony that brings out hundreds of employees, donors, local officials, project collaborators and community partners.

And then my daughter Erica ... when she was in preschool she went to the Lab School for a couple years when it was first opened, and we got to know the teachers and staff over there. Later, when she was in high school, the manager of OCC's Children's Center let Erica and her friend raise their 4H pigs there. It was cool seeing them taking their pigs across the campus that summer, but it was a mess, and they never let any pigs back in the Children's Center.

A few years later Erica and her husband John got married in the horticulture gardens at OCC. It was just a beautiful day, and there was something special about walking her down the aisle in the place where I worked. It was a good moment.

Q: What do you think is the future of the OCC Foundation?

I hope the Foundation continues to grow and prosper. There are some fairly significant future gifts that I know about from wills and trusts of donors that will someday help lift the Foundation to the next level. Hopefully, when I retire, the Foundation's able to hire a new director who's smarter and stronger than I am, who is more aware of modern fundraising tools and who can give the Foundation the guidance and leadership to grow into a larger and more successful organization.

Home at The Harbour

PLAY VIDEO

The Harbour at OCC officially opened its doors on Sept. 25, with nearly 400 student residents moving into the facility with the help of family and friends. The opening of The Harbour makes Orange Coast College the first community college in Southern California to offer on-campus housing for students, an experience that has the potential to transform the ways in which students engage with the campus.

"OCC's residential collegiate experience really provides a whole new college experience for students," says Director of Housing and Residential Education Jamie Kammerman. "The sense of community that students can engage in is heightened, and the multiple resources and support that are available to help students achieve their educational goals is weaved into the fabric of on-campus housing. I truly believe it's not only an educational, but transformational experience for students who are able to be a resident."

Resources include a staff of resident advisers who will serve as "mentors" for on-campus residents, connecting them to resources they might need. The facility also includes a multitude of study and meeting space for residents, and residential coordinators will partner with OCC's student services programs to provide on-site support.

Construction of The Harbour totaled $100 million, and the facility is funded through tax-exempt bonds via a public/private partnership with National Campus and Community Development Corp. The property is managed by The Scion Group, which is tasked with things like leasing units and managing a staff of resident advisors.

The Scion Group also works closely with OCC's Student Services to develop safety protocols to keep residents safe and mitigate the spread of illness, including enforcing masks, providing cleaning supplies and installing signage that encourages social distancing.

With 800-plus beds available, The Harbour is around 50 percent occupied. The Scion Group is continuing to offer leasing agreements for one, two, and four bedroom apartments, as well as studios. Prices range from $995 to $2050, depending on occupancy.

For more information visit www.theharbourocc.com

Constructio

College Center

Construction of Orange Coast College's new College Center facility is officially complete, with the building becoming operational in Fall 2020. Standing at 119,000 square feet and located at OCC's main entrance on Fairview Road, the College Center is OCC's largest building and serves as an anchor point on campus. The College Center houses the OCC's executive administration offices, Bursar's Office, dining facilities, and hospitality program classroom and lab space. The Center also contains an on-campus restaurant, The Captain's Table, and an 8,000-square-foot ballroom, available to rent for private events.

on Update

Student Union

OCC students will also will have a brand new place to call home-away-from-home when they return to campus in 2021, following a campus closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Construction is complete on a new Student Union which will give all students a place to gather, study, and connect. Additionally, the Student Union will serve as a home base for the Associated Students of Orange Coast College, Veterans Affairs, Scholarships and Outreach.

Language Arts & Social Behavioral Sciences

PLAY VIDEO

Construction is well under way for OCC's new Language Arts and Social Behavioral Sciences building, with an expected completion timeline of Summer 2021. The new instructional facility is part of a larger complex of buildings located on the northeast side of campus, and connects to OCC's Math, Business and Computing Center via a second-floor bridge. The new building — funded through Measure M, a $698 million bond measure that voters approved in 2012 — will house the College's Literature and Languages and Social and Behavioral Sciences divisions, and will include a state-of-the-art newsroom for OCC's award-winning journalism program, as well as classroom and lab space, conference rooms, and faculty offices.

Chemistry

Planning for a new Chemistry building has kicked off, with architects finalizing design plans in late 2020. The new facility will be funded through the state's Prop 51 funds, and will replace an aging chemistry building on campus that was originally built in 1975. Construction is expected to begin in 2022, with an opening scheduled for 2024.

Solar Panels

Orange Coast College is well on its way to becoming an energy independent college campus with the installation of several new large solar panels. The panels, located in OCC's largest parking lot off Adams Avenue between Harbour Boulevard and Fairview Road, will provide 2.7 megawatts of power to OCC's 164-acre campus, in addition to the 1 megawatt of power already provided by existing solar panels. With the addition of the new panels, OCC will save between $250,000 and $300,000 in energy costs per year, and expects to be a net zero energy campus by late 2021.

Tennis Courts

Orange Coast College's tennis courts were relocated from their long-standing home alongside Fairview Road in Summer 2020, providing a much-needed upgrade for the aging courts. With a new location directly across from the College's Fitness Complex and next to the soccer fields, OCC's brand-new tennis facility includes nine courts and a sleek new footprint. With two recent women's tennis state championships in 2017 and 2019, the OCC tennis program is poised to recapture its crown upon the return of sports contests after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professional Mariner Program Charts New Path with Training Center, Simulator

Orange Coast College's School of Sailing and Seamanship is taking its professional mariner program to the next level with construction of a brand new Professional Mariner Training Center set to be complete by Summer 2021. The Center — located across the street from OCC's sailing hub on Pacific Coast Highway in Newport Beach — will include classroom space as well as a Full Mission Bridge Simulator, valued at roughly half a million dollars funded by the OCC Foundation Marine Program Fund.

"This simulator has been in discussion for a long time as something that will benefit students as they work towards their professional mariner associates and certificate programs, as well as being an additional resource for our community classes that we provide through the School of Sailing and Seamanship," says Sailing Program Director Sarah Hirsch. "It will allow us to put students on the water anywhere in the world. We could put them on the water in the port of Los Angeles or Long Beach, where they may end up someday finding a job."

Custom built to fit the space, OCC's maritime simulator will encompass an entire room at the new Center, with 12 large monitors positioned around the user. Additionally, a second classroom with 10 individual desktop stations running simulations will be available to students. According to Hirsch, simulation complements maritime training by allowing students the opportunity to practice a maneuver many times until they get it right, something that isn't practical in person.

"A captain's not going to have the time or the ability to let a student repeatedly drive a tugboat, say, into the port of Long Beach. They just won't ever get that time," she explains. "The maritime industry has really been embracing simulation from the aspect of giving students a lot of different experiences and letting them run through an objective over and over, without the same repercussions they would have on the water."

Another benefit of simulator training? Being able to access many different types of boats, instead of being limited to the ones owned and operated by OCC's sailing program. "We want to give the students a diverse range of experience on different boats, including vessels that may be beyond the scope of OCC's Sailing Center," says Hirsch.

Students matriculating in OCC's professional mariner program are trained for careers that run the gamut, from working on supply boats in ports, to spending extended periods of time working as a crew member on vessels around the world, to serving as engineers charged with boat repair and maintenance. Some students transfer from OCC into a four-year program, such as Cal Maritime, while others enlist in the Navy.

However one thing is certain, no matter their objective: all maritime students in the program will benefit from the chance to learn how to use the program's new simulators. "I think the simulators will just up the level of professional experience we can give students right out the door," says Hirsch.

The OCC Foundation has stepped up to fund half the cost of the new simulators, and plans to fundraise in order to pay for the rest. The professional mariner program also has obtained a Career and Technical Education grant from the State of California to help offset costs, such as hiring a staff member to maintain the simulators.

For Hirsch, although the cost to own and operate the larger Full Bridge simulator will be steep with ongoing maintenance and new location and vessel packages factored in, the opportunities for growth and industry partnerships make it a natural next step for the program.

"Simulator training is so limited, especially in Southern California. There are companies in L.A. County who may be sending their employees to Seattle to train on simulators. We're hoping that we'll be able to form some partnerships with companies who would like to have that professional and continuing training for their employees done locally," she says.

Another potential avenue for growth is in research and development, paving the way for OCC's professional mariner program to go beyond the local maritime industry. "Something else that the simulation has been used for is port planning," explains Hirsch. "We could potentially partner with ports or cities who are looking to change or develop their waterways, so that they can actually experiment with how they might change the waterway, put a bridge over it, add a retaining wall, etc … before they actually do it."

With these and more opportunities on the horizon, Hirsch is ready to embrace the possibilities. "I see the new building and simulator as a doorway for the College's professional mariner program and the community sailing program to step through and into a new era. It's very exciting."

PLAY VIDEO

OCC Foundation

35 Years of Ex

Total Amount Raised

$122,914,100

Total Cash Gifts

$56,934,879

Total # of Donors

28,159

Total Estimated Value of In-Kind Gifts

$65,979,221

**(boats, cars, supplies, art... even an island!)*

Total # of Scholarships

more than 300 separate scholarships awarded annually

Total # of Campaigns – 13

cellence

Since 1985:

$16,378,000 (approximately) in scholarships have been awarded to more than 12,000 OCC students

Total # of Estate Gifts & Planned Gifts

35 individuals and families have made estate and planned gifts to the OCC Foundation. Additionally, 25 individuals have indicated they have made provision for the OCC Foundation in their estate plans.

of Gifts

- 97,093 total gifts
- 91,269 gifts of cash; average cash gift = $624
- 5,824 gifts; average in-kind gift = $11,328
- Gifts of $100 or less – 20,695

Thank You

Orange Coast College and the OCC Foundation are appreciative of the continuing donations from the community in support of students. The Foundation has a legacy of financial prudence and responsibility, Gifts are with the fiduciary oversight ensuring that the restrictions of donors are adhered to and that disbursements are administered with integrity. The honor roll of donors below lists donors who gave $50 or more between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

$1,000,000 PLUS

Donald Ayres
Thomas Barker

$500,000 - $999,999

Robert Orr
Peninsula Marine Properties, LLC

$100,000 - $249,999

Donald Beall
John and Kimberly Bibb
Dennis Daoust.
Phillip McNamee
Ernest and Mary Pennell
Pepsi Bottling Group, LLC
James and Leslie Reynolds
Richard Sias
Robert Ward

$50,000 - $99,999

ASOCC
California Channel / Charter Communications
Gene Haas Foundation
Bob McCaffrey
Pied Piper II, LLC
Samueli Foundation
The Rallis Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999

Claudia Ackley
CBIS Foundation, Inc
Chargers Los Angeles
John Choumas, Jr.
Clay Lacy Aviation
Foundation for California Community Colleges
Brandin Grams
Lewis Grinnan, III
Harriet E. Pfleger Foundation
Isidore & Penny C Myers Foundation
Jennie V. Foundation
Jane McLaughlin
Jim & Martha Newkirk
Bob Newman
Barnes & Noble OCC Bookstore
Penske Media Corporation
Perreault Family Foundation
Daniel Shrader
Waltmar Foundation, Inc.

$5,000 - $9,999

Beckman High School
Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis
John and Yasuko Bush
Sally Crystal
Patrick Declusin
Jeffrey Dimsdale
Doing Good Works
Donalda M. Pelletier Foundation
Gary and Mary West Family Foundation
Christopher Hernandez
Donald Hudson
Richard L. Iavelli
Intel Corporation
Johann Keil
Judith Longyear
National Charity League, Inc. Newport Chapter
Marion Palmore
Constance Raub
Samuel & Leticia Goglanian Family Charitable Fund
UBS Financial Services, Inc
United States Sailing Association

$2,500 - $4,499

American Association of University Women Laguna Beach Foundation
Atlantic Aviation
Beckman PTO
Richard and Lynette Berg
Lori Berg
Greenberg Traurig Elizabeth Steele Marital Trust
Dana Jon Gardner
David Grant
John and Katrin Homan
Paul Mitchell
Carleton Morgan
Network For Good
Orange County Wine Society
SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union
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Many donors to the Orange Coast College Foundation choose to make significant gifts to the College to benefit students via their wills and estate plans. Below is a list of individuals who believed enough in the work of OCC to ensure that the OCC Foundation remains a force for good in the lives and careers of students via such a gift.

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**Indicates gifts received in 2020*

Orange Coast College and the Orange Coast College Foundation deeply appreciate the support provided by these individuals to the college. If you would like to learn more about how you can benefit OCC students in your will or estate plan, please contact:

Doug Bennett, Executive Director
Orange Coast College Foundation
(714) 432-5126
dbennett@cccd.edu

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This list includes gifts of over $50 made to the Orange Coast College Foundation between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Every effort has been to insure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any names inadvertently omitted. If you have any questions about this list or would like information on making a gift to support Orange Coast College students please contact:

Doug Bennett, Executive Director
Orange Coast College Foundation
2701 Fairview Road
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(714) 432-5126
dbennett@cccd.edu

OCC FOUNDATION/ FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Total audited gifts and pledges to the Orange Coast College Foundation for the 2019-2021 year were $5,736,589. Cash gifts totaled $1,708,021 and gifts of boats and equipment were valued at $4,028,568.

The total audited assets of the OCC Foundation were valued at over $32.48 million as of June 30, 2020

The value of the Foundation's endowment stood at $22,225,854 as of June 30, 2020 and $25,856,840 as of December 31, 2020.

The OCC Foundation endowment assets are managed by Northern Trust Bank and for the year ending December 31, 2020 earned 10.01% net of fees. Since inception in 2012 the fund has earned 7.45% net of fees

To view the Foundation's Audited Financial Statements please visit the Foundation's website at www.orangecoastcollege.edu/foundation or contact Doug Bennett at dbennett@cccd.edu or (714) 432-5126.

LIABILITIES

Designated Scholarships		Accounts Payable		Total Liabilities
$321,599	+	$66,677	=	$388,276

ASSETS

Cash		Investments		Property & Equipment		Pledges		Other		Total Assets		Net Assets
$1,271,845	+	$22,225,854	+	$8,026,266	+	$100,000	+	$865,072	=	$32,489,037		$32,100,761

A Lifetime and More of Giving:

Isidore Myers's Generosity Continues to Make a Difference in Students' Lives

It all started with donated camera equipment.

In 2001, industrial real estate developer Isidore Myers was retiring after more than 30 years of acquiring properties all over Orange County, and he was cleaning out his office. In the process, he came across several high-end pieces of camera equipment that he no longer had any need for and he decided to call Orange Coast College's School of Photography to see if they would be interested in accepting the donation. Blade Gillissen answered the phone.

Vietnamese Born People in Quarantine
Hong Kong Harbor, October 1979

"Isidore simply called one day and had some equipment that he wanted to donate," Gillissen says. "He donated equipment one more time about a year later, and that's when we started first talking about this idea he had of taking all of his photo slides from his travels all around the world and creating prints and categorizing his photo collection."

Over the next few years, in order to show their appreciation for his generous donation of camera equipment, Gillissen and other photo department faculty helped Myers organize his vast photo collection, eventually creating a collection of about 50 photos that encompassed his work. For his 90th birthday, OCC's photography department helped organize a showcase of the final product, a gesture that Myers appreciated.

"I think seeing his photographs displayed was something he had never envisioned, and he appreciated the department," Gillissen says. "The next time I went to see him, he sat down with me and said that he had this charitable trust, and while the organizations that were in that trust had been decided many years ago, he didn't really have anything that represented photography or fine

arts in general and felt like he really wanted to add that, and thought that we would be a good place to benefit from that gift."

Over the past 15 years, the Isidore and Penny Myers Foundation has donated more than $300,000 to OCC's photo department, a gift that has made a positive impact in the lives of countless students. Myers, who passed away in 2016, has left behind a legacy at Coast that is difficult to quantify.

"One of the first things we did was set up the Isidore and Penny Myers' scholarship fund for our students, which awards up to $5,000 a year for one or two photography students," explains Gillissen. "That amount for a community college scholarship is amazing, and even more so because it helps that student purchase the necessary expensive equipment they might need to jumpstart their career."

However, beyond helping one student per year, Myers' generosity also has helped countless photo students at Coast in that it has allowed the photo department to purchase cameras and equipment that they can loan out throughout the semester. For students who can't afford equipment, the ability to "check out" a camera and lenses makes learning the craft of photography more accessible.

"We have about 700 students in our program. We don't have enough gear to just say, 'Well, here's a camera for everyone. Get them back to us at the end of the semester,'" says Gillissen. "But for our basic photography classes, the funding from the Myers' Foundation allows us to buy equipment that we can check out to students who don't have cameras."

The funding has also allowed OCC's photo department to keep their fees low — they have not raised their $40 materials fee since the early 1990s. For an industry with high cost barriers to entry, making photography accessible to everyone is the goal.

"What I really want people to know is that the funding we have received from the Myers' Foundation affects almost every student within our department," says Gillissen. "It makes everyone's experience within our program a little bit better, and I think it especially makes it better for those students who might not have been able to afford to take photography because maybe they don't have their own camera or maybe they can't afford the film or the paper."

Legacy

Are you interested in supporting Orange Coast College's mission but feel overwhelmed by the thought of writing another check or relinquishing your assets today? A simple, flexible and versatile way to make a gift is to include OCC in your will or living trust, known as a charitable bequest. By including a bequest to the Orange Coast College Foundation in your will or living trust, you will be leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit Coast students for years to come. For information on how to include the OCC Foundation in your will or trust please contact Doug Bennett, at (714) 432-5126 or dbennett@cccd.edu, or visit our website at https://orangecoastcollege.plannedgiving.org

Mental Wellness During COVID-19: Three Questions With Larry Valentine

With the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 approaching the one-year mark, many students at Orange Coast College are struggling to cope with the stress of the virus that has upended their lives and disrupted their goals. OCC's Director of Mental Health Services, Larry Valentine, discusses ways for students to improve mental wellness during a time of isolation, uncertainty, and disappointment.

Q: *In your experience, what are some of the challenges that students at OCC are facing right now as they navigate trying to continue their education during this pandemic?*

Well, overall, there are many issues, but the main one is probably dealing with expectations versus a very different reality. College is supposed to be a time when people get a chance to get out there and experience different things in a way that they hadn't before. Our students were looking forward to being able to make transitions that are both wonderful and scary all at the same time, and also looking forward to being able to make connections in their lives in a different way. This is part of becoming a young adult. The pandemic has changed the trajectory of that. It's made it more difficult to communicate with people, and more difficult to explore different parts of your life. It's also made it more difficult to be able to move toward life goals in the ways that our students expected to. At the Student Health Center, we've had students reporting lots of anxiety, lots of depression, lots of isolation... all sorts of things.

On the other side, young adults often feel like they are, if not invincible, at least that nothing bad will happen to them. So some of the normal things that they do, like connecting with people, having parties, hanging out with friends, etc ... now they're being judged for doing those things because they're not safe. For a lot of our students in that 18-to-25-year age range, the normal developmental things that they do now have all these different meanings. It's difficult, and it's a really hard place for them.

Q: *Research has shown that there's already an epidemic of anxiety among college students. What are some coping mechanisms that students can employ when they're dealing with these huge changes and disruptions to their lives?*

First, I think finding some of those things that help with self-care is very important. Students should look for things that they enjoy doing alone. Even though many, of course, prefer to be with others, it's still important to be able to do some solo activities, whether that's going for a walk, meditation, watching TV, etc. Anything that helps bring some calm and self-care.

Another important aspect of self-care that often gets overlooked is making sure to get plenty of rest, exercise and good nutrition, things that have become even harder to do right now. This is advice we would normally give people under normal circumstances, but it's become even more important now that we are in such isolation. Finding small places where they can self-care, small places where they do have control, is important for students because so much of this is out of their control right now.

A lack of control can be very difficult for anyone, and this is especially true for college students. On top of the fear of getting sick or worse, of not being able to be on campus where they want to be, and of not being able to be with their friends, there's this nagging thought of, "when is this going to end?" This is where, unfortunately, we see hopelessness creep in.

We've been talking a lot with our students about trying to find places where they do have control, where they do have power, even if it's very small. Finding those decision-making places where they can find some of their own agency is important, because that helps them get through this time when they are just unsure about what's going to happen next.

Another way for students to cope is by making connections where they can. Luckily, we do live in a world where a lot of our students are highly skilled at connecting to people in lots of different ways via technology. Staying connected to family, friends, and anyone who is supportive is very beneficial for young adults. Even if it can't be face-to-face, it's still helpful to maintain and create those virtual communities.

Q: Many of our students have lost their jobs as businesses have shut down, and others have had to provide more support to their families while also dealing with disruption and change in their own lives. What advice do you have for students who have the added stress of lacking basic needs?

The fear of "Am I going to be able to make my rent this month? Am I going to be able to buy food?" is very real for many of our students. I think finding places of support, where they can get help, is essential. But it's more complicated than that because of the isolation caused by this pandemic — it can be difficult for students to reach out when they don't have that regular connection, right? When normal relationships are not happening naturally, it's harder to ask for help.

This is where I think there's an opportunity for employees at OCC to not only encourage students to be proactive in finding support — because there is definitely support out there — but to also make sure we're focused on figuring out ways to reach out to and connect with people where they are. So we've been trying to do more outreach, like Zoom presentations for classes or athletics teams, with the goal of connecting with different parts of campus to try to let people know we're here to support them in any way we can.

Orange Coast College's Student Health Center offers free counseling with licensed and pre-licensed marriage and family therapists to all currently enrolled students. Sessions typically last 50 minutes, and can address a range of topics, including relationship issues and substance abuse. To make an appointment call (714) 432-6858.

Pirates' Plank 2020: OCC's Business Pitch Competition Goes Virtual

After a monthslong delay due to COVID-19, Orange Coast College's Pirates' Plank business pitch competition took place on Nov. 12 in an online format, giving students a chance to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges and compete for cash prizes.

The competition was postponed from its original date of April 2 due to OCC's campus closure during an initial surge of COVID-19 cases in Orange County. As it became clear that campus would remain closed through the rest of year, business professor and organizer Mark Grooms made plans to move Pirates' Plank to an alternative format.

"We originally hoped to postpone the competition until campus re-opened, but we made the best of things with an online competition instead. Student presenters, judges, family and friends were able to gather on Zoom along with some special guests," says Grooms. "It went really well! Students presented their business ideas, fielded questions from the judges, and heard critiques from the judges about their idea and presentation."

This year's judges represented a broad spectrum of industries, including Peggy Fort, founder and CEO of California Marketing Concepts, Inc.; Tony Wong, co-founder and president of AirKentics, Inc.; and Clint Lawrence, founder, and CEO of JC Motors and Motorcycleshippers.

Two $500 prizes were awarded for "Most Innovative Business Idea" and "Most Likely to Succeed." Due to the unusual nature of this year's event, the presenters who did not win one of the two top prizes received $100 for their commitment and enthusiasm to the Pirate's Plank event.

Skye Meredith took home the prize for "Most Innovative Idea" for her "Comfort Kitchen" pitch — a dining experience in the comfort of your own home using THC and CBD infused foods that are handpicked by experts to fit a customer's health needs. Meredith also proposed that all extra proceeds go to providing the same treatments free of cost for cancer patients.

Business Economics major Michelle Weston won the prize for "Most Likely to Succeed" for her "Weston Automotive" concept — an App allowing customers to shop directly with participating auto dealerships' inventories.

Other student pitches included protective equipment for athletes that have or develop skin conditions, and an outfit rental service in the fashion industry.

Reflections of a Past Symposium Winner

Bodhi Edwards only has one regret regarding his participation in last year's Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium: "In retrospect, I absolutely hate myself for not entering into this research symposium sooner," he says.

Edwards — who has since transferred to California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo where he is majoring in mechanical engineering — was named the "First Author — Grand Winner" for his research on surfboard tail designs. He received a $1,500 prize to go with the title.

For Edwards, surfboard design is a family endeavor — his father has shaped surfboards as a hobby for more than 40 years, and as a shop assistant the younger Edwards often watched with fascination as his father turned a blank mold into a sleek surfboard. As he got older and began attending college, Edwards started to apply what he was learning in his science and technology classes to improve further on those designs. "I began using my gained engineering knowledge of 3D modeling, loading, buoyancy, friction, and turbulence to start making my own comparisons as to why the ideas my father claimed would actually work," Edwards explains. "Essentially, I wanted to place facts and physics behind this otherwise untabulated knowledge that could either prove or disprove my dad's — and many other shapers' — knowledge of surfboard shaping."

After years of encouragement from OCC Engineering Professor Dr. Angelo Esposito, Edwards finally made the decision to participate in the College's annual Research Symposium, which gives students a chance to present their research to the rest of campus and compete for cash prizes (and bragging rights!) He chose Esposito to be his mentor, and tapped Architecture Professor Steve Fuchs and OCC Makerspace Coordinator Garet Hill to help him build prototypes of his surfboard tails.

Looking back, Edwards is grateful to have been given the chance to compete in the annual event, which took place mere days before Orange Coast College's campus was closed and most classes were moved online due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. "I was astonished by how many people I found who were interested in this topic," he says. "The thing I enjoyed most was chatting with the judges and viewers about the project, and providing details into the aspects that interested each of them most."

This year's Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium is set to take place online on March 19, 2021.

PLAY VIDEO

Peterson Gymnasium Refreshed Thanks to Hilgendorf Endowment

Orange Coast College's Peterson Gymnasium got a facelift in the fall, with the gym floor receiving a fresh coat of paint and varnish courtesy of the Jane Hilgendorf Athletics Endowment.

OCC's gym floor was dedicated in Hilgendorf's name in 2017, following her death in 2016. A longtime faculty member, coach and administrator, Hilgendorf left an indelible mark at OCC as a leader in the College's athletics program. She spent 18 years coaching OCC's women's volleyball team, and helped build one of the more successful programs in all of California community college athletics. During her time as head coach, Hilgendorf compiled a 233-100 record and helped guide the Pirates to 15 playoff appearances in 19 years, five conference titles and three state championships (1978, 1980, 1982).

Following her coaching career, Hilgendorf moved to the administrative side of the Athletics Department, where she was the Assistant Athletic Director for seven years (1991-1998), and the Dean of Physical Education and Athletics — as well as Athletic Director — for three years (1998-2001). In addition to her work on the OCC campus, Hilgendorf was also a member of the state Commission on Athletics from 1981-1987 and was the president of the Orange Empire Conference in 1998.

Following her death on March 27, 2016 at the age of 74, OCC received an incredible gift of $1,012,500 from Hilgendorf's estate. Per her request, 75 percent was donated to the OCC Kinesiology and Athletics Department, while the remaining 25 percent went to the Friends of the OCC Library. Additionally, $20,000 from the trust funded a scholarship benefitting outstanding transferring OCC women's volleyball players.

"Jane absolutely loved Orange Coast College," former coach and athletic director Barbara Bond said of her longtime co-worker in a statement. "She worked tirelessly as athletic director and dean to improve the athletic programs and improve the competitive experience for the OCC students. She was also one of the pioneers for women's athletics at the state level, ushering in Title IX and its impact on women's sports throughout the California community colleges."

PLAY VIDEO

OCC Foundation Receives Gift of 225-Million-Year-Old Fossil

The Orange Coast College Foundation has added another petrified wood log to its collection, bringing the number of fossilized logs on campus to four.

At 4,800 pounds, the most recent petrified log is the largest OCC has ever received and is estimated to be around 225 million years old. The fossil comes from the estate of Marla Bird in Corona Del Mar, which previously gifted OCC three petrified logs in 2012 and generously offered to pay to have the most recent gift moved by crane to OCC's campus.

"These logs come from trees originally located in what is now Arizona, during the Triassic period," says Horticulture Lab Coordinator and instructor Joe Stead. "Petrified wood forms when downed trees are submerged in water, and later covered in volcanic ash. The result is that, over hundreds of thousands of years, the silica from the ash turns the wood into stone, forming petrified wood."

Bird's husband, Ken, originally purchased the petrified logs at a museum auction in Oklahoma City, later shipping them to his home in Corona Del Mar where they were placed around his yard. Marla Bird's son, Kelly Christensen, first approached Stead about donating the logs after attending a lecture about the use of rocks in garden design in 2012. "This log, in addition to the previous three, is an extremely generous gift, and certainly will benefit students across many disciplines at OCC for many years to come," says Foundation Executive Director Doug Bennett.

All of the petrified logs at OCC are placed in the College's horticulture gardens, with the newest log placed just outside the garden's entrance.

Marla Bird passed away on July 24, 2020 at the age of 92. She was a passionate supporter of the local arts, serving as the President of the Laguna Art Museum for a number of years. She is survived by her four children, Kelly, Melissa, Kate and Dave, stepchildren Ellen, Pristen, Deborah, and Ann, as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Remembering Professor Emeritus and Photography Icon **John Upton**

It's safe to say that without the late John Upton, Orange Coast College's photography program would not be the renowned and respected program that it is today. Indeed, it might not exist at all.

As one of the founders of the OCC School of Photography, Upton first brought his talents to the College in 1963 as a part-time faculty member, after having studied with the likes of photography giants Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Dorothea Lange, and Edward Weston while attending the California School of Fine Arts. In 1955 he was the first resident student of Minor White in Rochester, N.Y. and took courses in the history of photography from famed photo art historian Beaumont Newhall.

After being hired full-time at OCC in 1965, Upton grew enrollment in the photography department substantially, as he had a knack for hiring talented up-and-coming photographers to teach classes at OCC, which boosted the department's reputation and popularity. Upton became chair of OCC's photography department in the late 1960s, and in the 1970s, he brought Ansel Adams to campus to display his work in the Art Gallery and to offer a public lecture in Robert B. Moore Theatre. In 1976 Upton co-authored the seminal college textbook "Photography," now in its 12th edition with more than 1.5 million copies in print.

After his retirement, Upton continued to teach at Coast well into the 2000s, retaining his "professor emeritus" title and continuing to support OCC's photography program. He passed away on Dec. 7, 2020 at the age of 88.

"In many ways John was the 'father' of the Orange Coast College photography program," says Photography Department Chair Blade Gillissen. "He was a great photographer and teacher … and an even better friend and mentor. He will be greatly missed."

The Doyle Arts Pavilion hosted a survey exhibition of Upton's work in January 2020 titled "Right Place, Right Time: A Survey of John Upton's Photographs." The survey presented selections from four main bodies of work: Early Work, "Japanalia," "Jungle Road," and the more recent "Petaluma." The exhibit culled select images from a lifetime's worth of images from travels all over the world.

Upton is survived by his daughters, Sean and Erica, his sons-in-law, and granddaughters.

PLAY VIDEO

Orange County Children's Book Festival Goes Virtual Format in 2020

The show went on for the Orange County Children's Book Festival, which moved its 17th annual event from an "in-person" to a "virtual" book fest in mid-September.

More than 10,000 people from all over the world logged in to participate in the Book Festival, which featured three parts: "Story & Activity Time," "Blue Ribbon Panels," and "Red Carpet Time." Story & Activity Time featured authors and illustrators sharing their work through five 20-minute videos released daily for 12 days. The Festival's Blue Ribbon Panels featured authors who discussed current global events with young readers, including social justice, COVID-19, and grief and loss.

The last day of the Book Festival featured a grand finale, with a two-session virtual event that included celebrities and notable, New York Times bestselling authors, such as author of the Diary of A Wimpy Kid series Jeff Kinney and top-rated Wharton professor Adam Grant, who co-presented with actress Kristen Bell.

"Red Carpet Time" also included illustrators, wild animal experts, and celebrity chefs who gave live demonstrations aimed at teaching children how to cook. This year's virtual format allowed children and their families to participate in the fun, regardless of their geographical location. Participants logged in from countries as far and wide as Spain, Argentina, Japan and Australia.

"Over the past 16 years, the OC Children's Book Festival has presented California families with engaging storytellers, talented authors and accomplished illustrators to enjoy," said Festival organizer Pat Burns. "Although nothing can replace the experience of attending the Book Festival, the Virtual Orange County Children's Book Festival was an entertaining and inspiring virtual event. We were thrilled to be able to share this experience with not only our local community, but with families all over the world."

Almost Presidential

Explores Failed Candidacies During Historic Election Year

As tensions soared leading up to the historic 2020 General Election on Nov. 3, Orange Coast College's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion debuted an online exhibit on Sept. 19 titled "Almost Presidential," examining failed vice-presidential and presidential candidates, and investigating names forgotten to history or reduced to one-liners and supporting roles outside the spotlight.

The virtual exhibit included sculpture, drawing, photography, installation, and video by Pio Abad, Deborah Aschheim, Matthew Brannon, and Cintia Segovia, and exhibition curators Marisa J. Futernick and Rebecca Sittler. Each of the artists featured in "Almost Presidential" have challenged the visual and rhetorical representations of former presidents and their legacies in their previous bodies of work.

"Almost Presidential presented new work by six artists who examine the American political landscape from an unfamiliar angle," explains Doyle Arts Pavilion Director Tyler Stallings. "The online exhibit presented a timely exploration of political rhetoric, failure, and gendered dynamics within political systems in the U.S. and beyond, including in Mexico and the Philippines, with the featured artists combining fiction and historical fact into an active survey of political material, text, and image."

Candidacies that were explored included recent failed campaigns for president by Hillary Clinton and Mitt Romney, as well as presidential campaigns from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, such as those of George Wallace, Shirley Crisholm, and Walter Mondale. Presidential candidates who initially failed to secure their party's nomination for president but in later years went on to run and win were also featured, including Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

"One of the important things we are able to do as artists is shine a light on something, be that forgotten history, an underrepresented part of history, or figures from history" says Futernick, one of the two curators of the exhibit. "The work in 'Almost Presidential' [brings] to light ... figures [and] ideas that are maybe a little bit neglected and that's something that we can do as artists in addition to the actual nuts-and-bolts, day-to-day work of voter engagement ... letter writing ... showing up at protests ... donating to causes that we're passionate about, and putting in labor that way as artists, too."

Sittler, the other curator for "Almost Presidential," points out that artists also have the skills needed to organize forgotten details of history in order to make a subject more easily digestible. "I think artists have the time and the ability to look at history from different angles, look at ephemera, elements of history … [and] archives in a different way," she says. "All of that material is incredibly rich, [and] we're used to having it all narrated for us, but it's quite messy and sometimes incoherent. Artists are often driven to exploring things that are maybe messier than history wants us to believe it is."

The exhibit also looks at the ways in which failed candidates help to shape politics in ways that are often overlooked, such as the candidacy of George McGovern influencing Robert Kennedy's campaign in 1968, or the influence of two-time failed candidate Bernie Sanders on today's Democratic platform.

PLAY VIDEO

"Though our national histories are often written with the victors in mind, failed candidates have a substantial impact on intangible ideas surrounding 'electability' and how we visualize presidential power," says Stallings. "They also have the potential to expand the political imagination of the electorate while shaping the platforms and strategies of future candidates and political movements."

In addition to an online exhibition on The Doyle's website, the project also included a public Zoom panel discussion on Oct. 1 and a special project film, titled "Almost President — The Film."

The film portion of the project was centered around the Zoom panel discussion and can be viewed at www.orangecoastcollege.edu/almostpresidentialfilm

Online programming continues to be featured at The Doyle for 2020-2021 while Orange Coast College's campus remains closed for in-person instruction in support of efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Strong Alumni Ties to Lead to New Boat for Coast Crew

The Orange Coast College men's crew is the proud recipient of a brand new, eight-man boat, thanks to the support of the Pirate rowing community and its alumni.

The new boat, named the Guenter A. Grams '61, will be used by the Pirates for national and regional championships and, according to head coach Cam Brown, will hopefully get some use during this upcoming 2021 men's crew season, barring any further delays or cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This eight-man boat comes to us from Germany and is a top-of-the-line quality boat. It's the same quality boat used at the highest levels of the sport," Brown said. "Brandon Grams, who rowed for OCC back in 2007, was one of several who donated to this purchase, but since he was the biggest donator, he was allowed the right to name the boat, which he did after his grandfather, Guenter. Brandon told me that Guenter attended Orange Coast College back in 1961 and, in fact, a good portion of Brandon's family has attended OCC in the past. It really is a beautiful boat and I can't wait to see it in the water … hopefully this upcoming spring."

This new boat is a part of Brown's coaching plan to keep his team's fleet of boats up to date. "My goal since I've been at OCC is to bring in a new eight-man boat every three years," Brown said. "Our current fleet is getting a bit old and these boats run in the area of $50,000 so we cannot reach this goal without the amazing support we get from our alumni and throughout our community. I'm so very appreciative and grateful to have such a supportive group that can help keep our rowing program among the best in the country."

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

FOREVER PIRATES

The "Forever Pirates" campaign was developed in partnership with OCC's Athletics department, who began using the phrase "Forever a Pirate" following the death of student and baseball player Jordan Watanabe in 2009. Late OCC Head Baseball Coach John Altobelli coined the phrase in an effort to keep Watanabe's memory alive within his program. After Altobelli's tragic passing in January 2020, the phrase took on new meaning, with OCC alumni from all over the world identifying themselves with the hashtag #ForeverAPirate.

The Alumni & Friends is housed under the OCC Foundation, and any student who has ever taken a single class at the College is eligible to join. OCC alums who join Alumni & Friends will receive a free gift of their choice, branded with a new Forever Pirates logo. Gifts include a coffee mug, face mask, sticker, and license plate holder.

Sign up Today:
www.orangecoastcollege.edu/alumni

Our Mission

Orange Coast College serves the educational needs of our 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 transfers, 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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