



OCC Speech, Debate, and Theater Team dominates state championship tournament

Orange Coast College's Speech, Debate, and Theatre Team won the California Community College Forensics Association's 2023 State Championship on March 12, 2023. The team won by 70 points over the other 19 competitors from schools across the state. The Pirates scored 232.5 points, followed by Mt. Sac's 162.5 and Pasadena City College's 110 points.

"That type of point spread is truly impressive and speaks to the mountain of hard work and practice put in by the team over the past season," said Director of Forensics Shauhin Davari.

This is the team's 5th state title in the past six in-person tournaments. Before winning the 2023 State Champions, the team had previously won the honor in 2015-2018.

Pirates Capture State Championship with 78-71 win over Butte College

The Orange Coast College women's basketball team didn't pass the "eye test" to most of the so-called experts in the California Community College world, but the Pirates used that lack of statewide respect and generated a season for the ages, capped off by a 78-71 win over Butte College in the championship final of the California Community College Athletic Association Women's Basketball State Championships on Sunday at West Hills College Lemoore.

Just four years removed from starting the task of rebuilding this once-proud school program and kicking things off with a 2-14 season, head coach Sammy Doucette reached the summit in record time, capturing the school's second-ever women's basketball state title (2002-03) and the 97th state championship in OCC's proud athletic history.

"If I say I can't believe I'm here, it sounds like I don't believe in my team ... which I do," Doucette said. "But to go from 2-14 to this ... wow. You can't touch this feeling. I love this team."



The team placed well across many events and took gold medals in debate, theater, limited preparation, oral interpretation, and platform speaking.

Campbell Gorlinski and Nina Menzagopian won top speaker awards. Gorlinski ranked as the state's top debate speaker, competing against over 100 students. Menzagopian won top speaker overall in the state out of over 200 students and took home three gold medals.

The team's performance was a stunning comeback from not even placing in the top 5 at the regional tournament. The next step is the national championship title with the 2023 Phi Rho Pi Tournament on April 9-15 in Rockville, MD.



Coast Report Wins Journalism Honors

Orange Coast College's student paper, Coast report, won 11 awards on March 11 at the Associated Collegiate Press/Journalism Association of Community Colleges (ACP) Spring National Student Media Conference in San Francisco, including a top 10 ACP Best in Show News Website honor.

"We are very humbled and honored to be recognized for these awards," Coast Report adviser Professor Jeremy Shermak said. "There is no better place in the country to practice community college journalism than California. We are running with the best, and these are the future leaders of journalism. It is quite an honor."

Coast Report received a 10th place win for its website in the ACP's two-year schools Best in Show News Website category. Among nine California schools, CR finished in the top ten out of over 30 nationwide. Including an overall General Excellence Award for news websites, CR won 10 additional awards in the JACC state

competition.

Individual awards were given to former Sports Editor and current USC student Chris Bibona and former Editor in Chief Sarah Guidroz. Bibona took first place for his 2022 Sports Game Story, "The 14 Game," and an honorable mention for his sports column, "The Plank." Guidroz won a second-place honor for her 2022 editorial for Student Press Day. James was honored for her 2022 news photo of the OCTA bus strike.

JACC On-The-Spot contests were held throughout the San Francisco conference weekend. Reporter Anna Tran won second place in the Editorial Cartoon category, and Sports Editor Timothy Hessen won third place in the Sports Writing category. Honorable mentions were given to Features Editor Liz Hanna in Opinion Writing and Multimedia Editor Colin Sweeney in two categories: News Photo and Sports Photo.

Orange Coast College Horticulture Dept. hosting Spring Plant Sale April 7 & 14

OCC is reviving its annual Spring Plant Sale on April 7 and 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Horticulture center.

The OCC and surrounding community is invited to visit the first two Fridays of the month to purchase plants produced by students of the Horticulture Program as part of their hands-on learning.



OCC HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

2701 FAIRVIEW ROAD | COSTA MESA
USE ADAMS PARKING LOT ENTRANCE
WALK TOWARDS THE HORTICULTURE DEPT



"It's full circle for the students," Horticulture Instructor and Lab Coordinator Joe Stead said. "They get ownership of the plants and see the seed out to the customer."

Plants are donated to the program by local vendors. Students then propagate and tend to them throughout the semester until they are big enough to take home and sell to the community. Edible plants such as tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, and cooking herbs will be available at the sale, as other household greens and flowering selections.

This 25-plus-year tradition has seen changes throughout the years with the changes in the community and its needs and wants. Sustainability has become a focus and has seen some greenhouses converted to aquaponics and crops shared with on-campus departments such as culinary and Pirate's Cove.

Profits from the sale go towards scholarships, student projects, and new supplies like plants and soil. The goal: "We would like to sell out," Stead said, but any remaining plants will be donated to the community that the department appreciates for its support.

The event is accessible to the general public. For more information, please visit the horticulture department's website at www.occhorticulture.com or visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/occ.horticulture

Orange Coast College students named semifinalists for national scholarship

Two Orange Coast College students have been selected as semifinalists in the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship competition.

Bernardo Moreno-Arteaga and Asumi Yamamoto are two out of 82 California nominees and 450 national students selected as semifinalists for the 2023 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships. This highly-selective accolade is one of the largest private scholarships for the nation's top community college transfer students.

The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is a prestigious national award that supports high-achieving community college students as they transfer to top four-year institutions to complete their bachelor's degrees. Semifinalists are chosen from a pool of nearly 1,500 applications attending 369 schools in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

Winners of the scholarship will be announced in April. Each selected scholar will receive financial support for up to three years, college planning services, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to connect with a community of fellow Cooke Scholars.

Cooke Transfer Scholars are chosen based on exceptional academic achievement, financial need, persistence, service to others, and leadership. Students must be currently enrolled at a community college and residing in the United States.



Did you Know? With Kevin Ballinger

Did you know that Joe DiMaggio played Baseball on the very ground of the future Orange Coast College? In this old photo from

1944, displayed at the college a few years ago, you can see Joe DiMaggio on the right, second player. He played for the Santa Ana Army Air Base (SAAB) baseball team between 1943 & 1944. He enlisted in the Army in February 1943 and was stationed at the SAAB until he was transferred to a Hickam base in Hawaii in 1944. He gave up his MLB salary of over \$43,000 to earn only \$50/month in the Army.

Other amazing photos of Joltin Joe playing at SAAB are posted at Baseball in Wartime - Joe DiMaggio.

What about OCC Baseball? OCC fielded a baseball team in our first year and won the Eastern Conference Championship by defeating Fullerton JC at the Pirate's last game of the year in 1949. That same year, 1949, Joltin Joe's Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series - maybe it was the Costa Mesa good luck dirt!

Celebrate our 75th Anniversary Baseball game by seeing the OCC Pirates game on Saturday, April 15th at noon at the John Altobelli Park (OCC baseball field).

And if that is not enough baseball, The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim will host "Orange Coast College Night" on Friday, May 19, against the Minnesota Twins, beginning at 6:38 p.m. Tickets include an Angels and Orange Coast College co-branded hat!

For comments and suggestions: kballinger.r@retiree.cccd.edu



Reboot/5th Annual Pirate's Plank Business Pitch Competition

OCC will host the Reboot of the 5th Annual Pirate's Plank business pitch competition on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 6:45 p.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre.

Three local business owners will judge the competition as the six contestants each attempt to impress them with their unique business pitch. Pirate's Plank is a platform for students to present their business ideas to the judges, who will offer contestants feedback in a similar model to ABC's Shark Tank show.

The judges will listen to the presentation, ask questions regarding the product's viability in the marketplace, and offer advice on how to improve their solution and presentation. Each student who presents will receive invaluable advice. Two students will be selected as the winners with the titles "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Most Innovative." These two winners will receive cash prizes of \$500 each, an internship in the OCC MakerSpace, and one-on-one consultation with Digital Media Expert Professor Cora Volkoff.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month and LGBTQIA+ Pride Month at OCC

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, and Orange Coast College has a month-long series of events scheduled to celebrate, inform and involve our community. At OCC, we value respect and inclusivity and are proud that all are welcome. A list of planned events can be found on the OCC Student Equity web pages.

Reboot/5th Annual
Orange Coast College
Pirate's Plank



Business Pitch Competition

Thursday, April 6, 2023
6:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Robert B. Moore Theater
Admission is FREE

Watch OCC Student compete for Cash and the titles of "Most Innovative Idea" and "Most Likely to Succeed."

For more information about the event go to:
www.occpiratesplank.weebly.com



This event is ADA compliant. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made no later than five business days prior to this event by contacting Business & Computing Division at (714) 432-5867.



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