



Returning student De La Parra finds passion in interior design.

## OCC Interior Design Student Leads First Place Team in SoCal Competition

OCC Interior Design student Erika De La Parra (second from left in photo) led her team to the top award in the IIDA (International Interior Design Association) Southern California Chapter 2015 Design Charette and will share a \$10,000 scholarship.

She was one of 35 interior design students from 13 college and university campuses in Southern California who participated in a highly collaborative and demanding design charette, sponsored by IIDA and hosted by Tangram Interiors in Newport Beach. A charette is a process to quickly generate a design solution that integrates the talents of a diverse group of people.

In April Erika will compete again with a new team in the West Regional Design Charette at Gensler & Associates in Newport Beach, widely recognized as the world's leading collaborative design firm. In June, the winner will represent the West Coast Region at the National Student Charette in Chicago at NeoCon, North America's largest design exposition and conference for commercial interiors.

## OCC's Faculty Academy to Promote Excellence in Teaching

The Faculty Academy, a program launched by OCC faculty and administrators to promote excellence in teaching, will begin monthly breakfast meetings on Fridays, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24 and May 22 from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will earn a stipend for attending.

The three-hour meetings will provide an opportunity for faculty to share experiences and expertise with colleagues. "We believe that cultivating and sharing research based on best practices in teaching and learning is an ongoing and collaborative process of inquiry, experimentation, and reflection," said Georgie Monahan, a faculty member who is introducing the Faculty Academy with Michael Sutliff, dean of Kinesiology And Athletics.

The Faculty Academy will provide the training and resources to make excellent teaching possible, including gaining the students' attention and convincing them of the importance of what is being taught and learned, as well as developing powers of critical analysis and reflection, synthesis and evaluation, Sutliff explained. "When teaching has truly succeeded, students leave with an ability to learn, question, and commit on their own."



## Calendar

### ■ Dec. 11 — Winter at the Coast End-of-Year Celebration

Student Center Lounge,  
10 a.m.

### ■ Dec. 12-14 — "An Old Fashioned Christmas Melodrama & Ice Cream Social"

Drama Lab Theatre, 7  
p.m. Friday & Saturday,  
2:30 p.m. Sunday

### ■ Dec. 12 — Annual Retirees Holiday Luncheon

Student Center Lounge,  
11:30 a.m.

### ■ Dec. 12-13 — Orange Coast College Swapmeet

Adams Parking Lot, 8 a.m.  
to 3 p.m.

### ■ Dec. 18-20 — Erin Tomlinson Coast Christmas Classic

Peterson Gymnasium, 1-7  
p.m. Friday & Saturday,  
1-5 p.m. Sunday

### ■ Jan. 28 — Pedagogic Clay 2 Exhibit Opening

Frank M. Doyle Pavilion,  
time TBA

### ■ Jan. 29 — Baseball vs Palomar

Wendell Pickens Field,  
2 p.m.

### ■ Jan. 30 — Pedagogic Clay 2 Exhibit MFA Graduates Presentations

Fine Art 119, time TBA

### ■ Jan. 30 — Baseball vs Southwestern

Wendell Pickens Field,  
2 p.m.

## Violinist Marks 50 Years with OCC Symphony

**K**aren Harms, assistant concert master to the Orange Coast College Symphony, was the guest of honor during a surprise celebration at its Nov. 22 concert — recognizing her 50-year anniversary with the 70-member orchestra.

Karen joined the OCC Symphony in 1965 when it was a fledgling program at OCC under the direction of the late Joseph Pearlman, who retired in 1983 and was followed by Alan Remington. “Each conductor had such an interesting background and skills,” Karen said, but her favorite is current director, Ric Soto, who took over the orchestra 11 years ago when Remington retired.

Soto “puts so much of himself into the music,” she said. “He exhibits such caring for each one of the orchestra members.”

The celebration — with cake and punch for the orchestra and friends following the concert — was a well-kept secret until Karen was backstage before the opening curtain. “The chances of 75 musicians keeping a secret is zero,” she laughed. Someone mentioned that her picture was in the program. Another said, “I didn’t know you played in the orchestra for 50 years!” She also noticed several friends in the audience that night.

She might have been suspicious when the symphony began rehearsing Ravel’s “La Valse,” one of her favorite pieces, which is rarely played because of its difficulty. During rehearsals, Soto joked, “You can blame Karen!”

Although it is challenging, Ravel’s work was actually a special treat for the musicians to play, Soto said. “A lot of people were very excited about it. It’s a real rollicking piece.”



*Assistant Concert Master Karen Harms plans to keep playing “as long as I can.”*



*Wolfson featured with seven other local printmakers.*

## OCC Instructor Featured in Printmaker Exhibit

**O**range Coast College multimedia and printmaking instructor Sandra Wolfson was featured in “Poetic Impressions — The Vision of Seven Printmakers” at Southern CA Art Projects and Exhibitions in Corona Del Mar, on Dec. 4-7.

The group show featured several printmaking instructors from local community colleges, as well as two former students of Wolfson’s, Nita Kurmins and Colleen Premer. Other artists include Hedy Buzan, Yoonsook Ryang, Sheryl Seltzer and Vinita Voogd.

The show coincided with the Corona Del Mar Holiday Art Walk, and included an artist’s talk on Thursday, Dec. 4. All of the featured works were available for purchase.

## OCC Medical Assisting Alum Wins National Scholarship

**K**im Perez-Platten, a recent graduate of OCC’s medical assisting program, is one of three students nationwide to receive the Maxine Williams Scholarship Fund. She is featured in the current edition of “CMA Today,” the national magazine for the American Association of Medical Assisting (AAMA).

Kim won \$1,000 and an annual membership to AAMA. In the “CMA Today” article Kim says, “I am fascinated by medicine and how far we have come in our ability to help people. I look forward to making a positive impact on all I encounter, as well as the medical assisting profession itself.”

The Maxine Williams Scholarship Fund provides educational assistance to deserving medical assisting students. Named after Maxine Williams, a founder of the American Association of Medical Assistants and its first president, the program was established in 1959. The fund is supported entirely by private contributions.



## Pirates Finish in Top Three at CCCAA Championship Meet

The Orange Coast College men's cross country team capped off a stellar 2014 season by finishing third overall at the California Community College Athletic Association's State Meet, held at Fresno's Woodward Park.

With a pair of sophomore-led, top-10 performances, the Pirates finished with 157 points overall, trailing only state-champion College of the Canyons (79) and American River (86).

It is the seventh straight top-five team finish for the Pirates, dating back to 2007.

Leading the way for OCC was the sophomore combination of Lucio Ramirez and Brandon Ferguson. Fresh off of his Orange Empire Conference and Southern California Regional titles, Ramirez took on the state's best and battled Hartnell's Diego Leon, Cuesta's Connor Fisher and Santa Barbara's Alex Heuchert throughout the entire four-mile course.

Finally, Leon edged out Ramirez and the rest of the field to win the individual title with a time of 20 minutes, 9.4 seconds. Ramirez was just three seconds behind Leon and finished second with a time of 20:12.6, while Fisher (20:16.5) took third and Heuchert (20:19.3) placed fourth.



*Pirates cap off season with a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish.*

## VET NET Training Raises Awareness About Veteran Challenges

The VET NET Ally Program offered a seminar for Orange Coast College faculty and staff on the morning of Friday, Nov. 14.

The program featured Ron Wilson, a retired Army major, RN, MFT intern with the Orange County Health Care Agency and Drop Zone, which provides services to 400 student veterans in the Santiago Community College District. He was joined by Susan Aube, an instructional associate at the Student Success Center, and Sylvia Worden, Associate Dean, Student Health Center. The training concluded with a panel of student veterans who shared their experiences as veterans at OCC, and later answered questions from faculty and staff.

Each participant received certification as a VET NET ally, a group comprised of a network of faculty, staff and administrators committed to creating a supportive campus environment for veterans who study at OCC. The training provided invaluable insight into the unique challenges facing student veterans as they reintegrate into civilian life.

The next VET NET Ally training at OCC is expected to take place during spring semester.

## OCC Ebola Health Summit Helps Local Colleges Establish Protocols

OCC's Ebola and Emerging Infectious Diseases College Health Summit in early November was a big success, with more than 200 college faculty, staff and students from all over Orange County in attendance. "We had people from almost every college and university in Orange County attending," said Associate Dean of OCC's Student Health Center Sylvia Worden.

Attendees also came from Los Angeles County, and from as far as Central California. The purpose of the summit was to discuss protocols for potential cases of Ebola on college campuses, and was aimed at preparing staff with helpful information about how to proceed in the event a student or employee is exposed to the disease.

The first presentation was given by Dr. Carmen Rexach, a professor of anatomy and physiology at Mt. San Antonio College. Dr. Rexach gave an overview of the Ebola virus.

From there, Dr. Michael Huey, Assistant Vice President and Executive Director of Emory University Student Health and Counseling Center, honed in on how to deal with potential cases of Ebola in a college setting. Emory University is home to the Centers for Disease Control.

Dr. Huey's message was simple: "Let the people who know how to deal with this deal with it."

The last speaker to present was Dr. Michele Cheung, Deputy Medical Director of the Epidemiology Division at the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHA). She reassured attendees that the OCHA is equipped to handle potential cases of Ebola. "One thing she said that was really comforting is that

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now there's only five airports that people travelling from West Africa are coming into," Worden said. "People who are heading into Orange County — the health department is monitoring them."

The OCHCA is notified of residents who are at risk, and checks in with them daily, even going so far as to go to their homes and check their temperatures every day in some cases.

The morning presentations were followed by an afternoon protocol session just for campus residence staff and health professionals, during which time protocols were developed. OCC's Student Health Center faces some challenges; the CDC recommends that potential Ebola patients be put in a private exam room with a private restroom, something the SHC doesn't have. According to Worden, she and her staff are looking into solutions to this problem, as well as purchasing supplies such as waterproof gowns.

"There's always something," Worden pointed out. "If we never get somebody with Ebola, there will be some other infectious disease where we will want to put somebody in an isolation room. We learned a little more about our weaknesses, and it wasn't so scary to talk about ways to work that out."

## OCC Announces Faculty Hiring

OCC has announced plans to add 14 full-time faculty positions for the 2015-2016 school year, the largest hiring of full-time faculty in recent years. The Instructional Planning Council Subcommittee on Full-Time Faculty Hiring, which looks at research and meets with faculty members and department chairs, decides the prioritization of hiring full-time faculty members.

The departments gaining a full-time faculty member are:

- Astronomy
- Anthropology
- Kinesiology
- Aviation Pilot Training
- Computer Science
- English (Generalist)
- Film and Video
- Math
- Communication Studies (Argumentation Forensics)
- Fashion (Program Coordinator)
- Geology
- Men's Crew — Kinesiology
- Manufacturing Technology
- Disabled Student Programs and Services (Counselor)

The full-time positions will be advertised starting in December, and screening subcommittees will identify top candidates by the end of January. Interviews are set to take place in February and March, and the school expects to recommend new hires to the Board of Trustees in April.

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process Continues at OCC

OCC shared its moderation and Vision 2020 facilities plan in two community meetings in April and July. Community input is important as the College shapes the plan, as well as programs OCC provides to students and the community. Dedicated OCC faculty and the program advisory committees continue to work to define the type of educational facilities needed to support a high-quality, student-learning environment. The goal is to design educational facilities that are mission-driven and provide a place where students and the community may intersect. Currently, the Math, Business, and Computing Center construction continues, and OCC should receive a final report by April of 2015 consisting of transcripts from the community meetings, including comments made both at the meetings or submitted online. As part of this process, the College is undertaking a structural review of potentially historically significant structures and examining retrofitting these buildings for possible reuse.



*The OCC Planetarium will feature technologically advanced exhibits, including a Foucault Pendulum and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration global display system.*