



OCC Speech and Debate Team Wins National Championships

The Orange Coast College Speech, Debate and Readers' Theater team won the Phi Rho Pi National Forensic Organization's national competition in Cleveland in early April.

OCC took 14 members to the event, which hosted the top 60 teams in the country. Coast finished with 220 points, and received gold medals in several individual events, including Readers' Theater, Duo Interpretation and International Public Debate Association Debate.

"It's been an amazing year," said head coach Chris DeSurra. "I think these students have worked harder to get where they are than they ever thought possible last fall."

The win came after months of intense preparation, with most team members practicing every afternoon during the week, and often on weekends as well. Many of the speech and debate team's coaches are part-time Coast faculty members who

OCC's Speech and Debate team took first place at national in Cleveland.

volunteer during their free time to help prepare students for competition.

OCC to Award Degrees, Certificates at 2015 Commencement

Orange Coast College will confer associate degrees and certificates at this year's Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 29. The program which will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the Pacific Amphitheatre, located at the OC Fairgrounds.

The student speaker will be international student Hani Murfeed Al Furais, whose speech "Back to Our Future" will describe how the turmoil and civil unrest in his home country of Yemen inspires him to pursue his education.

Al Furais is set to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona this fall to finish a four-year degree in industrial engineering.



Calendar

- **May 8, 9, 10, 15 & 16—**
Urinetown: The Musical
Drama Lab Studio, 7:30 p.m.
- **May 9— Baroque Masters**
by OCC Symphony &
Choral Ensemble
Robert B. Moore Theatre,
7:30 p.m.
- **May 13 — Honors Night**
Robert B. Moore Theatre,
4 p.m.
- **May 14-23 —OCC Annual**
Student Juried Art Show
Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion,
times vary
- **May 17— Urinetown: The**
Musical
Drama Lab Studio, 2:30 p.m.
- **May 17 — OCC Wind**
Ensemble
Robert B. Moore Theatre,
3 p.m.
- **May 19 — Studio Hour**
Robert B. Moore Theatre,
7 p.m.
- **May 21 — End-of-the-Year**
and Retirement Celebration
Student Center Lounge,
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **May 22 — World Dance**
Celebration Concert
Robert B. Moore Theatre,
8 p.m.
- **May 22-24 — One-Act Play**
Festival
Drama Lab Studio, 7:30 p.m.
- **May 23 — Musical Theatre**
Workshop
Fine Arts 119, 7:30 p.m.
- **May 24 — One-Act Play**
Festival
Drama Lab Studio, 2:30 p.m.
- **May 29 — Commencement**
Pacific Amphitheatre,
5:30 p.m.

Honors Night Set for May 13

This year's Honors Night will take place on Wednesday, May 13, from 4-9 p.m.

Honor's Night has been a tradition at Orange Coast College for more than 50 years. The evening recognizes students who have achieved top honors in academics as well as service and leadership to the College and community.

The event will include a buffet in the OCC Student Center, prepared by the College's culinary arts students. The evening will continue in the Robert B. Moore Theatre, where more than \$400,000 worth of scholarships will be handed out to deserving students.

OCC Food Riders Receive Spirit of Volunteerism Award

Orange Coast College's OCC Food Riders were honored at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards Luncheon on April 14 at the Disneyland Hotel.

The OCC Food Riders club was founded four years ago by Coast librarian Carl Morgan. The group takes excess food from the OCC cafeteria and delivers it via bicycles and trailers to local food pantries that serve Orange County's homeless population.

The club delivers on average 120 pounds per ride and makes two deliveries per week, to Share Our Selves Community Health Center and The Lighthouse, both in Costa Mesa.

The success of the Food Riders and the impact it has made was a pleasant surprise for Morgan.

"We've had great feedback from both organizations, more than we expected" Morgan said. "When we first started, we didn't know if [the food we were delivering] was food they would want or need, but it's been just the opposite. Everything that we take over goes to use, and they do tend to rely on it."

During OCC's summer and winter break — when the College's cafeteria is closed — the club organizes canned food drives in order to continue the weekly deliveries.

Anyone is welcome to attend the bi-weekly rides, and the club has several "loaner" bikes for those who need it.

OCC Hosts Screening of Academy Award Winning Film at Cinco De Mayo Event

Orange Coast College's International and Multicultural Committee hosted a safe and sober Cinco De Mayo celebration on May 5 in the College's Student Center.

The Committee screened the film "The Liberator," a

historic epic film about Venezuelan leader Simon Bolivar. A question and answer session with faculty members followed the showing of the film.

Orange County's Community Services Programs provided movie snacks during the event, including popcorn, candy, and granola bars, as well as fruit and veggie platters, and cookies. CSP also hosted giveaways for students, and provided resources for alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

OCC Shorts Premiered at Lido Theatre on April 26

Six Orange Coast College student directors screened their films as part of OCC Shorts in this year's Newport Beach Film Festival on April 26 in the Regency Lido Theatre.

The entries were chosen by a committee of OCC film instructors, who narrowed down the six finalists among dozens of hopefuls looking to snag the highly coveted spots.

Student director Matthew Guastella directed the documentary "Barbershop Traditions Today," which offers an in-depth look at the history of barbering and its role in today's society.

"This is a film that encapsulates this heritage — a gathering at a place that everyone goes to their whole life but doesn't know much about," Guastella explained.

Student director Oliver Nguyen — whose film "Dirt" runs 15 minutes and cost \$900 to produce — has submitted films for OCC Shorts for the past two years. This year, the third time was the charm.

"I'm very happy. This was definitely one of my goals when I first decided that I wanted to make movies," Nguyen said.

"Dirt" is a crime-drama that follows an ex-convict who wants to help his younger brother steer clear of gang life.



Nguyen — who works part-time as a chef at a Vietnamese restaurant and someday hopes to direct films in Hollywood — plans to add the film to his application to film school at a four-year university.

Student director Camilla Prisco Paraiso admits that she didn't expect her film "Notes" to be chosen for the film festival since it was the first project she worked on as a film student at OCC.

The two-and-a-half minute film features a girl chasing a piece of paper and contains no dialogue.

"I think this film captures that feeling of frustration and embarrassment when you're trying to get a piece of paper or a napkin that keeps flying away," she explained.

Prisco Paraiso moved to Orange County from Brazil in 2013 to pursue a film education at OCC. She has plans to attend UCLA in the fall, and hopes to someday be a director of photography.

Other films that were screened as part of OCC Shorts include "Speakeasy to Me" by Alexa Polar, "Nowhere to Go" by Oscar Ussery, and "Surprise Visit" by Ryan Park.

This is the 12th year that Coast has participated in the Newport Film Festival, and the College is the only school that is allowed to show films in the 600-seat Lido Theatre.

Five OCC Faculty Members Recognized by UCI, School's First

Five Orange Coast College faculty members will be honored at an Educator Recognition event co-sponsored by UC Irvine and School's First Federal Credit Union.

The event — which will take place on Tuesday, May 12 from 5-7 p.m. at UCI's University Club restaurant — gives the University's most academically successful transfer students a chance to identify the faculty member or counselor from their community college who played a critical role in their successful transfer.

The five OCC faculty members chosen for the honor by their former students are Bryan Malinis, Gabriela Ernsberger, Dr. James Smolin, Dr. Jarren Gonzales and Lia Raileanu.

Malinis — an adjunct faculty member in OCC's communications department — is humbled by his former student's nomination.

"For me, teaching is not just a job; it is a calling," Malinis said. "I wake up with excitement every morning because I look forward to engaging in profound dialogues with my students. I often say that I learn even more from my students than they learn from me. So, to be recognized by a former student for simply following my passion is humbling"

Laux, Davari, and Raskin Honored at OCC Coast Colleague Event

John "Mickey" Laux was named Orange Coast College's Full-Time Faculty Member of the Year at last week's Coast Colleague Recognition event at OCC. During his speech Laux expressed a deep gratitude for the chemistry faculty at OCC, who he says are like family to him. "It's been a pleasure of mine to be working with them," he said. "I think Orange Coast College is one of the best college's in the nation, and I really appreciate this award."

Laux has taught chemistry for the past 18 years both as a part-time and full-time instructor, and his fun and engaging teaching style has earned him the admiration of students and colleagues alike during that time.

Shauhin Davari was named Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year at the same event. Davari teaches forensics at OCC in the same program he once attended as a student. In his spare time, Davari volunteers his time as a coach on OCC's



nationally ranked Speech and Debate team.

Debra G. Raskin was named the College's Classified Staff Member of the Year. She oversees the math area of OCC's Student Success Center and teaches math part-time at Coast. Raskin also attended OCC as a student, and jokes that she "just never left."



OCC employees Micky Laux, Sha Davari, and Deborah Raskin were honored at the college's Coast Colleague event.

OCC Students Design Window Displays at Upscale Retail Center

Orange Coast College fashion students participated in the SOCO + OCC Window Display Project in mid-April.

SOCO — short for South Coast Collection — is an upscale interior design center in Costa Mesa that brings together home furnishing, antique, and home décor shops with artisan boutiques and restaurants. SOCO also is home to OC Mix, a 23,000-square-foot marketplace with retail and food vendors.

OCC students teamed up with several shops and restaurants to design the window displays, including Cloth

& Metal, Granola Babies, Peinture, Farrow & Ball, and Bistro Papillote. The competition is part of the fashion program's Intro to Visual Display & Presentation course, taught by part-time faculty member Steve Jones who is also the owner of boutique real estate development company Better Shelter.

The competition gave students a chance to try their hand at visual merchandising in a real-world setting — each group of students consulted with shop owners and managers to come up with a concept for the window displays, which were then judged by the entire class.

SOCO owner Bryon Ward was impressed with the level of skill displayed by OCC's students.

"It's wonderful that we can help expose new talent," he said. "[The students] really captured the personalities of each brand."

Annual Student Dance Concert Featured Diverse Styles, Faculty Tribute

Orange Coast College's Dance Department presented its annual Student Dance Concert this past weekend in the Robert B. Moore Theatre.

The evening featured the choreographic premieres of many OCC students, and showcased a diverse selection of dance styles, including modern, hip hop, contemporary, Middle Eastern, Latin and more.

After the concert, dance scholarships were presented to select OCC dance students, followed by a faculty tribute to Linda Sohl-Ellison, who has taught dance at Coast for 37 years. Sohl-Ellison is retiring from her full-time position but will return to teach part-time in Spring 2016.



Faculty Academy Gives Instructors a Chance to Share Teaching Strategies

Orange Coast College faculty members from several different departments met in late April at OCC's Captain's Table restaurant to have breakfast and talk about teaching.

It was the third session of the newly developed Faculty Academy, a project dreamed up by Dean of Kinesiology and Athletics Michael Sutliff and professor of communication studies Georgie Monahan.

The Faculty Academy's main purpose is to bring teachers together to talk about aspects of teaching that, in the long run, will improve instruction in all areas of campus.

"Our overall goal is to create an environment where teachers can talk about teaching," said Sutliff. "This is really a 'teachers-teaching-teachers' model of professional development."

Every session focuses on a central topic of discussion; the topic for last Friday's session, for example, was "Concepts of Critical Thinking." Those in attendance were eager to talk about their work, including what teaching methods work well, and what challenges they faced in the classroom.

The Faculty Academy is available to all instructors on campus, but there is an application process that inquires about professional goals and interests.

Security Device To Be Installed at OCC

Orange Coast College plans to install Lock Bloks on all outward-swinging doors on campus by the end of May.

A Lock Blok is a small rubber device that prevents a locked door from completely closing. The device will allow faculty and staff members to close a locked door without exposing themselves to dangers on the other side of the door.

"The campus has been looking into some kind of device to aid with security in the event of a catastrophe," said OCC's head of Maintenance and Operations Mark Goode. "Our primary focus up to this point has been active shooters on campus, and how do we respond to that kind of threat."

OCC has considered several options to address security concerns about unlocked doors, including replacing the hardware for every door on campus. Goode estimates that the cost to change or retrofit all door locks on campus would run upwards of \$1 million.

The cost of each Lock Blok is \$10 and installation is simple. OCC purchased enough devices to be installed on every outward-swinging door on campus.

Lock Bloks were designed by an elementary school teacher, and originally were intended to assist handicapped students and limit classroom distractions. The device is widely used at elementary schools throughout the country.