

Kinesiology Professor Receives State Equity Award

Orange Coast College kinesiology professor Robin O'Connor will receive the Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award on July 21. The award, which is given by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, recognizes community college staff members who have made significant contributions toward faculty and staff diversity or student equity.

Professor O'Connor is a Coast alumna, having completed her Fitness Specialist Certificate in 1999. She volunteered as a student assistant in the Adapted Physical Education, program under Mary Martin while completing her masters in kinesiology at Cal State Long Beach, and was hired to teach full time at OCC in 2004.



O'Connor will be honored on July 21 for her contributions toward equity at OCC.

"I knew from my first volunteer opportunity in the program that this is what I wanted to be a part of for the rest of my life and immediately asked the program director how I could do this," O'Connor said. "This involved getting out of my comfort zone, getting a boat-load of volunteer and paid experience, and education in all aspects of physical activity and disability and exercise physiology as well as psychology and advocacy, and then returning to school to get my master's in kinesiology and specialized credentials in Adapted PE."

Under O'Connor's guidance, Adapted PE at OCC became the Adapted Kinesiology Program for Students with Disabilities (AKIN). Each year, the program enrolls 70 students with disabilities ranging anywhere from traumatic brain injury to paraplegia to schizophrenia. The program challenges enrollees with a vigorous exercise regimen to improve strength, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance.

"Can you imagine taking classes at OCC and trying to finish your education when you have been diagnosed with a genetic disorder that will, over the next year, take your sight completely ... and you are only 20 years old?" she asked. "We provide the expertise, the support, the social and environment and the bridge back into life."

O'Connor also recruits approximately 100 student volunteers to assist and aid AKIN enrollees each year.

Recently she helped develop an AKIN Assistant Certificate program, slated to begin in Fall 2015. The certificate will enable students to secure employment in the field of kinesiology while completing an associate's degree or working toward the requirements for transfer to a four-year institution.

O'Connor has been a tireless advocate for equity and diversity at OCC through her teaching, service, fundraising and activism. Her efforts have led to the inclusion of a dedicated facility for students with disabilities as part of the College's Vision 20/20 Master Plan. Architectural planning for the building is set to begin in 2016.



Calendar

■ **July 18, 19 — Androcles and the Lion**

Drama Lab Studio, 2:30 p.m.

■ **July 18, 25 — Androcles and the Lion**

Drama Lab Studio, 7 p.m.

■ **July 23, 24 — Androcles and the Lion**

Drama Lab Studio, 11:30 a.m.

■ **August 7 — Party 'Til the Cows Come Home for Scholarships**

Adams Lot, 6-10 p.m.

Save the Date!

■ **August 28 — Focus Day**

Robert B. Moore Theatre,
9 a.m. until noon

OCC Appoints Deans For Business, Technology, Social Sciences Areas

OCC has hired three deans for its Business and Computing, Technology, and Social and Behavioral Sciences divisions. The three appointments provide permanent leadership for divisions that had previously been headed by interim administrators or by other OCC deans.

Daniel Shrader has been appointed dean of the Technology Division, and is set to start in mid-July. Shrader previously was associate dean of the Industry and Technology Division at El Camino College. He also has worked and taught in the industry, including working for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Dr. Kevin Henson has been appointed dean of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division, replacing Dr. Paul Asim, who retired in May after 11 years. Dr. Henson previously was the dean of the Creative Arts and Social Sciences Division at the College of San Mateo. He received his doctorate in sociology from Northwestern University, and previously was a tenured professor of sociology at Loyola University in

Chicago. He is expected to begin his appointment at OCC in early August.

Dr. Ron Johnson has been hired permanently as the dean of OCC's Business and Computing Division. Dr. Johnson has been in the role as interim dean since January. He previously served as interim vice president of instruction at Coast in 2012, and has nearly 20 years of experience working at the community college level as a director, dean, vice president and instructor. Dr. Johnson has a doctorate in community college leadership from Oregon State University.

"I am very excited to have Dr. Henson, Dr. Johnson, and Mr. Shrader join our administrative team of instructional deans and I look forward to their leadership," said OCC's Vice President of Instruction Kevin Ballinger. "All three have community college administrative experience and they will be a great addition to Orange Coast College."

Psychology Professor Retires after 40 Years at Coast

OCC Professor of Psychology Charlene Melrose will retire on August 1 after 40 years. She was hired in 1975 after receiving her master's degree in psychology from San Diego State University.

"OCC took a chance on a 23-year-old, high-energy applicant with a newly minted degree," Melrose said. "I believe it's been a mutually gratifying relationship for all involved."



Melrose spearheaded OCC's Mental Health Worker program.

During her time at Coast, Melrose has taught six different psychology courses and led the charge in developing new programs within the department, including the Associate of Arts degree in Psychology for Transfer and the Mental Health Worker program. She also has served as the psychology department's chairperson and coordinator of the Mental Health Worker program.

Melrose has served as an evaluator for the National Science Foundation, and

was chosen to attend the Outstanding Teacher's program, sponsored by Gallup Poll. During a sabbatical in 2001, take shortly after the 9/11 terrorism attacks, Melrose had the opportunity to spend time at the Gallup Poll headquarters in New Jersey, where they were doing significant polling every night. She has also spent time doing research at the Los Angeles Zoo, shadowing animal trainers.

Melrose hopes to travel and spend time with her family in

her retirement. She has two daughters, both of whom teach at community colleges, and four grandchildren with her husband Jim.

Theatre Dept. Will Stage Children's Play 'Androcles and the Lion'

OCC will stage a summer production of "Androcles and the Lion" by Aurand Harris. The show will open on July 18 and run through July 25 in OCC's Drama Lab Theatre.

Show times include a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19, and nighttime showings at 7 p.m. on July 18 and Saturday, July 25. There also will be 11 a.m. showings on Thursday, July 23 and Friday, July 24.

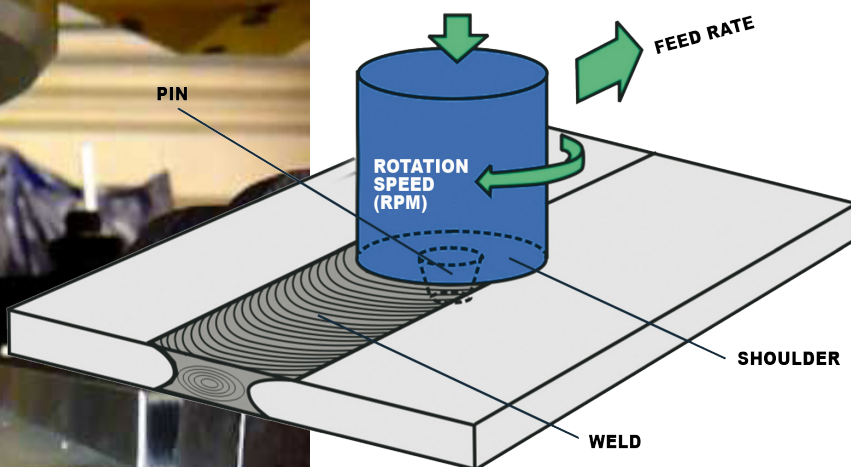
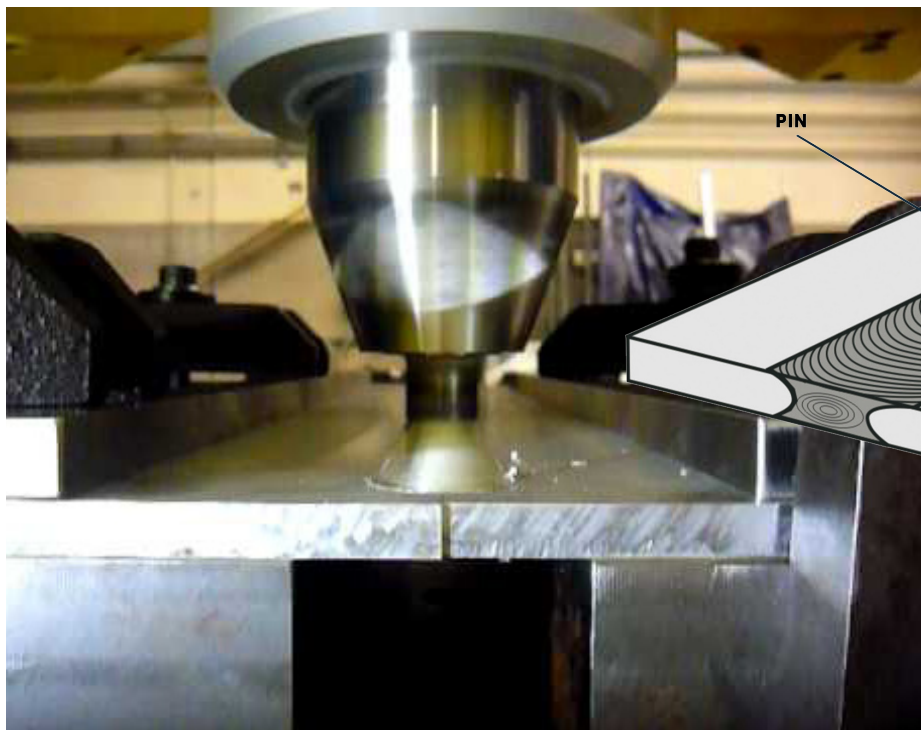
One of the most popular children's plays ever written, "Androcles and the Lion" brims with silliness and joy, and features plenty of audience interaction. The show is geared toward children ages 5-12.

"This is going to be a really fun show that everyone, children and adults alike, will enjoy," said director and OCC theatre arts instructor Tom Bruno.

Tickets will be available at the door and run \$9 for adults and \$7 for children, students and seniors. OCC's Drama Lab Theatre is located off Fairview Road and Merrimac Way, directly behind the College's Robert B. Moore Theatre. Parking is free on weekends, and metered parking is available during the week.



Androcles and the Lion opens at OCC on July 18.



OCC's friction stir welder is one of the few available to students in the U.S.

Friction Stir Welder Donated to OCC's Welding Program

OCC has received a half-million dollar donation in the form of a friction stir welder from Base 11, a nonprofit headquartered in Costa Mesa. Base 11 provides funding, equipment, facilities and curriculum for hands-on STEM education and training.

Friction stir welding was developed in the early 1990s and joins two surfaces through a solid-state joining process. The process differs from traditional welding in that it does not produce an arc, sparks or smoke.

"We don't have a spark. We don't have any heat," said welding instructor Richard Hutchison. "This means less distortion and less strength loss. You can weld in any position because there isn't the fluid of metal, so you don't have to worry about gravity."

OCC's friction stir welder, which arrived in late May, was built in Sweden and the College is one of only a handful of schools in the nation to be in possession of a machine. Students who are trained to use OCC's friction stir welder will have a leg up when it comes to finding a job, particularly in the aerospace industry. Many welding students from Coast end up working for Space X, Boeing and Northrop Grumman Corporation, and the College's technology division currently is working on building a program that will train students to meet the specific needs of the aerospace industry.

Due to the high cost and scarce supply of machines, the need for workers trained to use friction stir welders is particularly high across the profession.

"I had a company owner in western Washington who contacted me and said 'As soon as you get graduates [trained on the friction stir welder] I'll put them to work,'" Hutchison said.

Foundation To Host Western-Themed Fundraiser August 7

The OCC Foundation is hosting a fundraiser, titled "Party 'Til the Cows Come Home for Scholarships" on Friday, August 7. All proceeds will go toward funding student scholarships.

The event is in conjunction with a cattle drive on August 8 organized by the Orange County Fairgrounds. OCC will be housing nearly 200 steer on the north side of campus from August 6-9. Attendees of Friday night's fundraiser will have the chance to see live roping demonstrations as well as participate in other western-themed activities.

Dinner for the event will be provided by Newport Rib Company, and guests will enjoy live music, cocktails, appetizers, and raffle and live auction opportunities. Tickets for the event run \$75 per person, and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information call (714) 432-5707.



OCC Culinary Alum, Food Network Star, Brings Food Truck to Campus

Students enrolled in OCC's summer Intro to Hospitality course were treated to a visit from former culinary student Jake McPeck and his Mess Hall Canteen food truck on July 13.

McPeck is a recent winner of the Food Network's Food Truck Face Off, with the top prize being a brand new food truck that he and his family have dubbed the "Mess Hall Canteen." Together with his mom, dad and girlfriend, McPeck travels all over Orange County serving up tasty cuisine such as mac n' cheese topped with lobster, snow crab, bacon, masago aioli and sharp cheddar, or a sautéed kale bowl topped with braised wagyu beef, bacon, barbeque sauce, chipotle aioli and sharp cheddar.

According to Mess Hall Canteen's website, their mission is to "serve over-the-top flavors while bringing recognition to the personal needs of military members, past and present."

McPeck inherited his passion for gourmet food from his dad, a veteran who has always dreamed of becoming a chef. When McPeck enrolled in culinary classes at Coast, he knew right away that he had found his passion. "I just fell in love with it, and now it's an everyday way of life for me," he said.

He absorbed as much as he could during his three years at OCC, even enrolling in a study abroad program that took him to Italy, and then to Germany for the Culinary Olympics. "That was probably one of the highlights of my career," McPeck said.

Grateful for his time at OCC, McPeck gives back by inviting culinary students who are looking for experience to work as interns at Mess Hall Canteen. He's also happy to share any and all useful tips he's picked up along the way.

"I know it's important for kids in the culinary program to get experience, because that's what restaurants are looking for [when hiring]," he said. "Anything I can do to help, I'm happy to do it."

Cameron Brown Joins OCC as Head Crew Coach

Joining the Orange Coast College coaching family is men's crew head coach Cameron Brown, who comes to OCC after a five-year stint as head men's crew coach at Oklahoma City University.



At OCU, Brown helped build the school's program into a steady contender. In 2015, he saw the men's program reach its highest ranking in the history of the program. Brown helped improve the Men's Varsity 8 results each year, culminating with a bronze-medal performance in 2015.

"I am thoroughly excited to be joining the OCC athletics family and becoming a part of the long and successful history of OCC athletics and the rowing program," Brown said. "The OCC Pirates have a record of high performance and expectations, and I am looking forward to working with the student-athletes and staff to reach that goal and continuing the legacy of success."

OCU was a five-time collegiate team points champion at the Head of the Hooch Regatta (2010-2014) and the program received a gold medal at the Dad Vail Regatta for the first time in school history during Brown's tenure as head coach.

In addition to his time at Oklahoma City University, Brown was the rowing coach at the Oklahoma City National High Performance Centre from 2009-2015, where he helped guide his teams to several national and world championship regattas during that span.

Prior to his time in Oklahoma, Brown resided in Australia where he was state development coach, club coach and high school varsity coach for Rowing Queensland, located in Brisbane, Australia, from 1998-2007. While he was there, Brown helped three Rowing Queensland U19 women's boats to top-three finishes at the 2007 Australian National Championships.

Brown — who received his bachelor's degree in Human Movement Studies and master's degree in sports coaching at the University of Queensland — also spent time in Aspen, Colorado as an exercise physiologist for Aspen Back and Body in 2008 and was the strength and conditioning coach in 2009 for the Memphis Redbirds, the AAA affiliate of Major League Baseball's St. Louis Cardinals.