Orange Coast College
UPDATE
Volume 11, Issue 9
March 05, 2025

OCC Celebrates New Chemistry Building with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Orange Coast College hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the new Chemistry Building on February 20. The ceremony was followed by a tour and light refreshments.

This significant milestone marks the ninth and final building made possible by Measure M funding. OCC's new Chemistry Building features lecture halls, faculty offices, meeting spaces, and nine labs. Several collaboration areas will provide options for students to gather, including outdoor study areas, two lobbies, and social deck area.

The 43,786-square-foot facility features updated instructional technology and infrastructure systems, including exterior circulation and HVAC systems.

Additionally, an interactive periodic table of elements display is located on the first-floor lobby. This illuminated display features individual cabinets for each element, showcasing the name, symbol and a sample of the element (no radioactive materials). The cabinets contain a fascinating array of high-grade element samples, minerals, ores and artifacts. Some of these samples are linked to Orange Coast College and its geographical location. For instance, the cabinet for sodium includes rock salt from Guerrero Negro, a location where marine science students visit during their annual grey whale field trip.

Calendar

NOW-MARCH 20
"What's My Thesis?" & "Wizard Hours," Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion. Free admission.

MARCH 11-12
Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, 7 p.m., Robert B Moore Theatre

MARCH 13
Total Lunar Eclipse Viewing Party, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., OCC Planetarium

MARCH 14-16
"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [revised] [again]," 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

MARCH 21-22
"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [revised] [again]," 7:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

MARCH 23
"THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM Shakespeare (Abridged) [revised] [again]," 2:30 p.m., Drama Lab Theatre

Faculty and student presenters will have the ability to showcase individual elements or groups of elements using an iPad. Above the display, there will be a touchscreen that visitors can use to access short videos about each element, providing an easy way to learn more about their properties.

OCC's periodic table of elements display was generously funded by an anonymous donor.

Orange Coast College Selects Patricia Falzon as New Executive Director of College Advancement

The Coast Community College District Board of Trustees approved Patricia Falzon as the new Executive Director of College Advancement at its meeting on February 19, 2025. Falzon was selected following an extensive search and began in her new role on March 3. She replaces Doug Bennett, who retired in December 2024.

"We are thrilled to welcome Patricia Falzon to Orange Coast College," says OCC President Dr. Angelica Suarez. "Her extensive experience in higher education and private industry, along with a proven record of securing transformative gifts and fostering lasting donor relationships, will be invaluable as we continue to uplift and inspire students to achieve their educational goals."

With over two decades of experience working in the Orange County community, Falzon is returning to the OC after serving as Executive Director of Principal Giving for Queen's University in Ontario Canada since 2020, where she led the university's principal gifts program, securing an impressive $303 million through gifts ranging from $5 million to $100 million since 2020.

"Patricia Falzon's passion for philanthropy and strategic leadership make her an excellent individual to lead the OCC Foundation," says OCC Foundation Board Chair Jeff Hyder. "With a long and successful legacy built through the dedication of a committed Board of Directors and strong community partnerships, the Foundation is well-positioned for continued growth. We look forward to working with Patricia to build on this legacy and create new opportunities that will support student success and transform lives for generations to come."

Prior to her role at Queen's University, Falzon led fundraising and community engagement initiatives as a Senior Director of Development with California State University, Fullerton and University of California, Irvine. She has also served as an advancement leader at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa and the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach.

"Orange Coast College has long been a cornerstone of our vibrant local community and one of California's leading community colleges," says Falzon. "I am deeply honored to join this thriving campus community and look forward to collaborating with my campus colleagues, the OCC Foundation Board, as well as with supporters and alumni to advance OCC's legacy of student achievement and community enrichment."

Falzon holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Toronto and a diploma in Performing Arts Management from Confederation College of Applied Arts.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Women Leaders with Non-Traditional Careers Lunch & Learn Series

To inspire and empower the next generation of women leaders, Orange Coast College's Career Center hosted a series of three Lunch and Learn events focused on women excelling in non-traditional careers. These events were designed for students who are interested in exploring dynamic career opportunities in male-dominated fields.

"We noticed that female enrollment numbers were low in some of our programs that offer great career paths, and we believe this may stem from a lack of awareness about the industries and careers available," explains Kyle Slocum, K-16 Programs Project Coordinator.

The Lunch and Learn series provided students with an opportunity to hear directly from women trailblazers in these industries, gain valuable insights into their career journeys, and ask questions about the challenges and rewards of pursuing careers in these fields. The events aim to break down barriers and demonstrate that women can thrive in any profession.

"We want students to know more about the career options available in industries they may not have considered," explains Slocum. "For example, a student might not realize that construction training can lead to a fulfilling career as an inspector, which offers a very different day-to-day experience than traditional construction work. Students can also learn about how these industries have evolved and may now be more appealing than they were in the past."

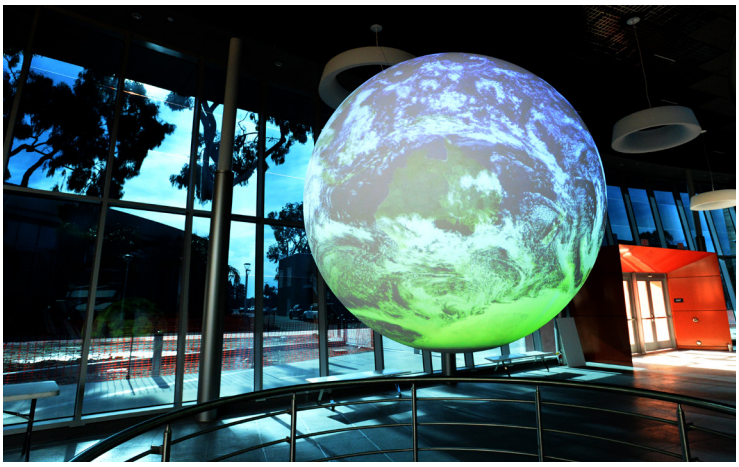
Each event featured inspiring speakers, networking opportunities, and a catered lunch for attendees. The sessions were designed to encourage students to think beyond traditional career paths and open their minds to the possibilities of a future in these innovative industries.

Panelists included a Commanding Officer from the United States Coast Guard, a UX writer and content designer for Google, a pilot and a project manager for a structural concrete company, among others.

The Lunch and Learn series was in recognition of Career and Technical Education Month.

OCC Planetarium Celebrates Grand Reopening with Free Shows for the Community

The Orange Coast College Planetarium welcomed community members to explore the wonders of the universe once again with its grand reopening celebration on March 1. After upgrading its projectors, the OCC Planetarium reopened its doors with five free planetarium shows.



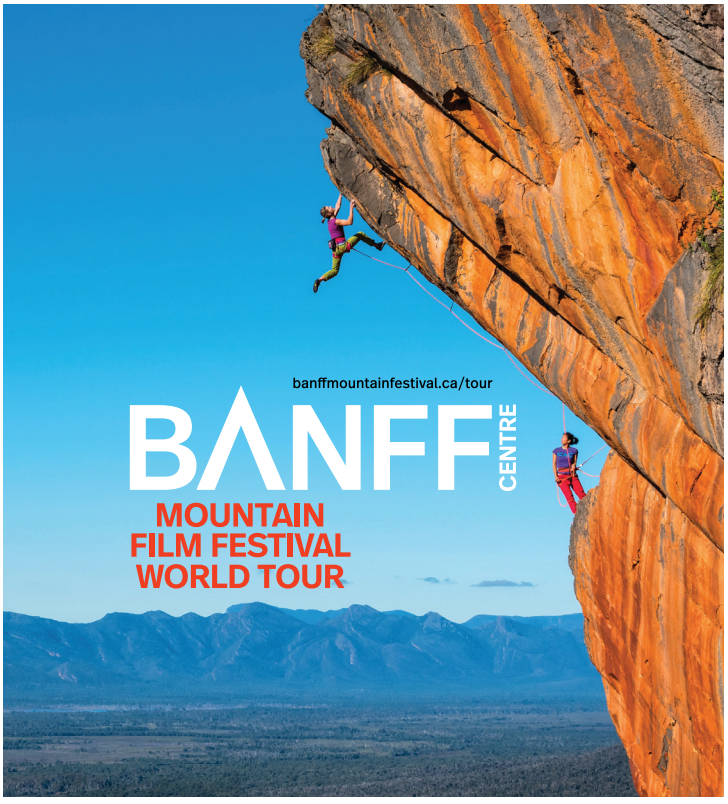
Visitors were able to choose from one of three shows, including "Magic Tree House: Space Mission," "Birth of Planet Earth," and a Spanish version of "Habitat Earth."

"We are very excited to welcome the community back into our Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis Theater," says Interim Planetarium Manager Jessica Artinger. "Our skies are darker and more immersive than ever, allowing us to showcase breathtaking visuals that bring the cosmos to life."

Each show featured stunning visuals, live narration, and an engaging experience for visitors of all ages.

The event also included activities for families and the Dennis Kelly Aquarium was open to explore.

Banff Film Festival Returns to OCC March 11 & 12



The Orange Coast College Friends of the Library (FOTL) will host a screening of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour on Tuesday, March 11 and Wednesday, March 12 with a new selection of films on each night. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the Robert B. Moore Theatre and feature an international selection of films presenting a wide range of outdoor adventures and portraits, including climbing, mountain expeditions, remote cultures, and the world's last great wild places.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is a flagship program of the Banff Centre in Canada. The festival began more than 35 years ago as a one-day event featuring films about mountain climbing and

has grown into a nine-day event with more than 840 screenings throughout the year.

Advance tickets can be purchased on OCC Tickets for $16 or $20 the day of the screening. Tickets for current OCC students with ID are only $10. Advance tickets can be purchased online at OCC Tickets.

For general information, email cmorgan@occ.cccd.edu or call (714) 432-0202 x21058. Complimentary parking will be available in Lot C near the Robert B. Moore Theatre. All proceeds will benefit OCC Friends of the Library.

OCC Waterfront Campus Hosts Camp for Autistic Youth

The Orange Coast College School of Sailing and Seamanship partnered with the nonprofit Spectrum to host a three-day sailing camp for autistic youth.

This is the second year Spectrum Sailing has held a camp with the OCC School of Sailing and Seamanship at the College's Waterfront Campus in Newport Beach. About 20 kids from Orange, Los Angeles and Riverside counties, as well as one from the Bay Area, took part this time around.

OCC Waterfront Campus Director Justin Dion said he hopes to continue working with Spectrum Sailing to help expose the autistic community to the joys of boating. He added that the College also partners with outside organizations to offer classes to disadvantaged youth in addition to their public summer sessions.

"We're always looking at ways to engage the youth," Dion said. "I think sailing sometimes has a bit of a reputation for being kind of a rich guy's activity or a rich guy's sport. We want to spread the message that sailing is for everyone."

OCC Celebrates Year of the Snake with Lunar New Year Celebration

OCC's Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) team hosted a Lunar New Year Celebration on February 13 in the College Center Ballrooms.

This celebration marked the beginning of the Year of the Snake and raised awareness about the various ways Lunar New Year is celebrated around the world, including Chinese New Year, Seollal in Korea, Tet in Vietnam, and more.

Activities included a community resource fair that featured many local organizations that support the Asian community. During the celebration, the campus community had a chance to win prizes, participate in photo opportunities, enjoy Asian appetizers, partake in a tea tasting, and hang their New Year's wishes on a Wishing Tree. The highlight of the celebration was the Lion Dance performance.

Lunar New Year is celebrated across the globe to welcome the arrival of spring and the start of a new year based on the Chinese lunisolar calendar. This year, Lunar New Year began on January 29, kicking off more than two weeks of festivities, customs, and delicious feasts.

The snake sign symbolizes good luck, rebirth, and regeneration, drawing the Chinese mythology.