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OCC Chamber Singers Team Up With Long Beach Chorale for Modern Masterpiece

The College's chamber singers will join forces with the Long Beach Chorale and Chamber Orchestra for a performance of Kirke Mechem's modern masterwork *Songs of the Slave* on Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the College's Robert B. Moore Theatre.

The powerful and emotional work features soaring music with texts adapted from Mechem's opera, *John Brown*, including a speech by Frederick Douglass, a letter from an enslaved woman to her husband, and text from the Declaration of Independence.

"The texts are some of the most powerful that we have ever gotten to sing, and they're incredibly relevant right now," says OCC Director of Choral Activities Eliza Rubenstein. "This is a masterpiece, and I don't say that about many modern works."

In addition to a 100-person chorus and a full orchestra, the performance will include two soloists: soprano Marliisa Hudson and bass-baritone Wayne Shepperd, a singer known for his extraordinarily deep voice who will

reprise a role that he premiered some 20 years ago. "He walks into the theater and says "hi everybody," and the roof shakes," Rubenstein says.

Composer Mechem will offer a pre-concert talk at 6:45 p.m., giving all those in attendance a chance to meet a living legend amongst American choral composers. At 90 years old, Mechem is spry and eager to see OCC's performance of his work.

"This is a piece of music that is incredibly artistically satisfying while also encouraging us to think hard about important topics," Rubenstein says. "I don't know what more we can ask of a work of art. And the chance to perform it in front of the person who created it is incredibly special."

Tickets for *Songs of the Slave* run \$15 for the general public and \$10 for students, and can be purchased in advance at www.occtickets.com or at the door. A second performance will take place at Grace First Presbyterian Church in Long Beach on Sunday, March 13 at 4 p.m. Tickets for Sunday's performance are available at www.longbeachchorale.org

Calendar

- **March 5 — OCC Symphony**
Robert B. Moore Theatre,
7:30 p.m.
- **March 8 — Senior Day**
Main Quad, 10 a.m.
- **March 8 — Women's Tennis
vs. Irvine Valley**
Tennis Courts, 2 p.m.
- **March 9 — Diane Nelson
Artist Talk**
Frank M. Doyle Arts, 3 p.m.
- **March 10 — Islam
Explained**
Science Hall, 4 p.m.
- **March 10 — Baseball vs.
Cypress**
Wendell Pickens Field, 2 p.m.
- **March 10 — Men's Tennis vs.
Fullerton**
Tennis Courts, 2 p.m.
- **March 11 — Men's Volleyball
vs. Miramar**
Peterson Gymnasium, 6 p.m.
- **March 12 — Men's Crew,
Newport Regatta**
Newport Harbor, 7 a.m.
- **March 12 — Songs of the
Slave**
Robert B. Moore Theatre,
7:30 p.m.
- **March 18 — Clash of the
Mathletes**
Forum & Student Center,
4 p.m.
- **March 18 — Beach
Volleyball vs. Riverside &
Saddleback**
Huntington Beach, 10 a.m.
- **March 19 — Women's Crew,
Berg Cup**
Newport Harbor, 7 a.m.

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE
SENIOR DAY 2016

**YOUR BEST CHOICE
 ONCE YOU GO, YOU JUST KNOW!**

March 8, 2016
 TUESDAY IN THE QUAD • 10 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

Senior Day Slated for March 8

Orange Coast College's 33rd annual Senior Day will take place on Tuesday, March 8. More than 4,000 high school seniors are expected to visit campus to learn about educational opportunities at Coast.

Senior Day serves as a major recruiting effort, with busses bringing high school students to OCC to get a taste of campus life, and to gather information about enrollment, transfer opportunities, financial aid, and clubs and activities.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and volunteers will staff information tables, hand out t-shirts, serve lunch, greet students, and serve as ushers in the Robert B. Moore Theatre. All volunteers will receive a 2016 OCC Senior Day T-shirt and a BBQ lunch sponsored by Associated Students of Orange Coast College.

OCC Speech & Debate Team Adds to Winning Record On Way to Nationals

Orange Coast College's Speech, Debate, and Reader's Theater team brought home a first place finish at the 2016 Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensic Association's "Chris DeSurra" Spring Championship at Moorpark College on Feb. 20, one week after placing second at the Tabor-Venitsky Invitational Tournament in Cerritos on Feb. 14.

The team is gearing up for the National tournament in April, which will host the top 60 teams from around the nation. "The [Chris DeSurra] tournament is the first of two, leading to the National tournament. So a victory here illustrates that OCC is competing to win," said Director of Individual events Shaw Davari.

The first place win took on extra meaning for the Speech and Debate team, with the eponymous tournament named after former OCC Director of Forensics, Christopher DeSurra, who currently serves as department chair for communication studies at Coast. DeSurra was being honored for his contribution to Southern California forensics, and four out of six current OCC speech and debate coaches competed under his tutelage.

"He instilled the OCC tradition of excellence into the team, leading students to personal successes as well as national team championships. We wanted to do this for him and the OCC legacy," said current Director of Forensics, Courtney Anderson.

OCC's team won the sweepstakes award, meaning they accumulated the most points of all schools, including both two-year colleges and four-year universities.

The College's Speech, Debate, and Readers Theater team's next tournament is the State Championship in Concord March 9-13.

'Distinguished Professor' and Bestselling Author Tom Garrison Passes Away

Retired marine sciences "Distinguished Professor" Dr. Tom Garrison — the first Orange Coast College professor to garner that title — passed away last Wednesday from complications related to lymphoma. He was 73.

When it came to the marine sciences, Dr. Garrison wrote the book. Over the span of his career, he wrote 15 textbooks, including bestselling "Oceanography — An Invitation to Marine Science" which has been translated into five languages and is widely used in college marine science and oceanography programs all over the world. He donated a portion of his royalties from the book's use at OCC back to the College's foundation.

“Tom signified teaching excellence at Orange Coast College. Invariably when I’m speaking to alumni they bring up Dr. Garrison as one of the best teachers they had at OCC or anywhere else,” says OCC Foundation Executive Director Doug Bennett. “Besides being a gifted teacher, Tom was a generous supporter of a variety of programs at Coast. Every year he would donate a portion of the profits from the his ‘Oceanography’ textbook to the marine science program to support student field trips, equipment and scholarships.”



Dr. Garrison was instrumental in developing OCC’s marine science department into one of the largest programs of its kind in the U.S. — Coast is the only community college in the nation to boast an entirely student-run public aquarium. He taught a popular “Intro to Oceanography” class at OCC for many years, continuing to teach part-time after his retirement in 2011, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California as well.

In his 45-year career as an educator, Dr. Garrison was continually recognized for his contributions to academia: he was named the country’s Outstanding Marine Educator by the National Marine Technology Society, won the ACCT Pacific Regional Faculty Award in 2010, and was a winner of the prestigious Salgo-Noren Foundation Award for Excellence in College Teaching. During his career, he also helped write the script for the PBS syndicated Emmy-award winning television series “Oceanus,” and wrote and edited scripts for “National Geographic” and the “Science Channel.”

Dr. Garrison grew up in Long Beach, Calif., and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Utah, Salt Lake, before joining the U.S. Navy. He received his masters from San Diego State University and his doctorate in marine geology and higher education from USC. He is survived by his wife, Marsha, daughter Jeanne Allen and her husband Greg Allen, son John Kramer and his wife Dinara Kramer, and grandchildren Grace, Sarah, Alem and Alia. Funeral arrangements are not yet complete, and will be announced at a later date.

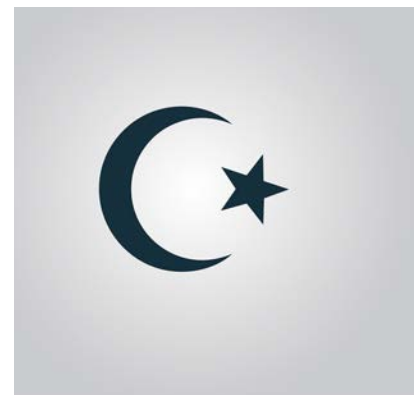
Religious Studies Dept. Presenting Event Aimed at Demystifying Islam

OCC’s religious studies department has invited speaker Munir Shaikh to give a talk on campus aimed at separating fact from fallacy regarding muslim beliefs and traditions. The event is scheduled for Thursday, March 10 from 4-5:30 p.m. in the College’s Science Hall.

Religious studies instructor Marcella Norling will give an introduction, followed by Shaikh, who teaches a class on Islam at OCC, and Siaddiqa Sepehrnia, who will offer a student perspective. Philosophy instructor Michael Holland will close out the event with a structured question and answer session in which questions can be presented anonymously.

“Our objective is to cultivate in OCC students an engagement with the global community, and to allow them to engage with others in their own academic community,” said Norling. “We hope this talk will help students formulate a rational and respectful response to recent tragic and disturbing local events.”

The talk is co-sponsored by the International and Multicultural Committee and is free to attend.



OCC Math Dept. Will Host High School Math Meet March 18

High school students will have the opportunity to show off their math skills, win prizes, meet likeminded peers, and learn about OCC’s math and science programs at “Clash of the Mathletes” on Friday, March 18 from 4-7 p.m. in the Student Center and Forum.

Here’s how it works: each participating high school can enter a team of four members, with an optional alternate. A faculty sponsor must accompany each team, and all teams members must be enrolled in the same high school.

Awards and prizes will be presented at a dinner immediately following the competition, and the event is free for all participants. The deadline to register is Friday, March 11 and interested parties can contact math instructor Sonia Avetisian at savetisian@occ.cccd.edu or at (714) 432-5563.



Manufacturing Conference Showcased Latest Tools, Trends

Orange Coast College hosted the 2016 Southern California HTEC Conference on Saturday, Feb. 27 in the College's Technology Center. Co-sponsored by Haas Factory outlets in Anaheim and Torrance, the conference offered manufacturing educators a chance to learn about the latest tools and trends in Haas education and partnerships.

Many of the tools in OCC's manufacturing shop come from Haas Automation Inc. The Oxnard-based tool builder has been a huge supporter of OCC's program, including offering deep discounts on machines and donating money to fund student scholarships.

"Haas is really good about supporting not only the program, but also our students," said Cervantes. "Last year they gave us \$20,000 to give to students who are pursuing degrees in manufacturing."

OCC's manufacturing department offered demonstrations of its enviable roster of high tech machines at the conference, including a 5-axis CNC machine — a cutting tool that can create complicated machine parts at the push of a button — as well as the program's plastic and metal 3D printers. Industry heads also were on hand to give talks on

current trends in manufacturing and machining, including builder and motivational speaker Titan Gilroy, who founded Titan America MFG in 2005 after retiring from a career in professional boxing.

The HTEC Conference was free to attend, and had about 150 people in attendance.

Coast Teams Up With Local Nonprofits To Help At-Risk Girls

Orange Coast College hosted teen girls who live in foster care on Feb. 27 for "Belle of the Ball," a morning of beauty, self-improvement and empowerment.

The event was sponsored by the Orangewood Children's Foundation and included a morning of prom dress shopping and workshops to help 75 local teen girls ages 16-19 prepare for the popular high school event.

OCC's Student Center Lounge was transformed for the festivities, with dress displays and accessories, and curtain-partitioned dressing rooms and mirrors. Workshop themes include dress, body image, make-up and etiquette. Volunteers helped the girls choose a dress and accessories, and a tailor and professional make-up artist were on hand.