

## Calendar

- **Feb. 16 — Poetry Reading by Mariah Adessa Ehere Tallie**  
Multicultural Center, 2 p.m.
- **Feb. 16 — “The Impact of the Civil Rights Movement on the Voices of Today”**  
Multicultural Center, 11 a.m.
- **Feb. 23 — Retro-Active Exhibit Opening Reception**  
Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion, TBA
- **Feb. 24 — Softball vs Cypress**  
Softball Complex, 2 p.m.
- **Feb. 24 — Active Shooter Training**  
Forum Lecture Hall, 1 p.m.
- **Feb. 24 — Giles T. Brown Student Project & Research Symposium**  
Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion, 10:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m.
- **Feb. 24 & 25 — Opera Magnifica’s “Pair Me a Parody”**  
Music Recital Hall, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 25 — Baseball vs College of the Canyons**  
Baseball Fields, Noon
- **Feb. 25 & 26 — Opera Magnifica’s “Pair Me a Parody”**  
Music Recital Hall, 3 p.m.
- **March 1 — Softball vs Golden West**  
Softball Complex, 3 p.m.

## OCC Dance Team Wins 20th National Title

The Orange Coast College dance team took home the top prize in the open pom competition at the 2017 Universal Dance Association (UDA) College Dance Team National Championships in Orlando, Florida on Jan. 14.

Coast was the only two-year school to advance to the finals, and went up against eight teams from colleges and universities around the country including UC San Diego and the University of Central Oklahoma.

The team also placed 4th in the open jazz division.

The UDA National Championship is the largest collegiate cheer and dance competition in the country, with more than 100 colleges from across the nation competing in this year’s event at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. This latest win marks the OCC dance team’s 20th national title with UDA in the past 23 years.

## Black History Month Kicks Off at OCC With Full Schedule of Events

The College’s Student Equity office and Multicultural Center are hosting a series of events during the month of February in honor of Black History Month.

Student Equity will host several events, including a screening of the film “Paris is Burning” on Feb. 23, and a talk titled “History of the Future: Re-Inventing the Past,” led by Dr. Nahum Chandler and Nalo Hopkins on Feb. 22 from 2–3:30 p.m. Both events will be held in OCC’s Multicultural Center.

To see a full listing of events, visit the Global Engagement Center’s website at [www.orangecoastcollege.edu/GEC](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/GEC)

## Opera Magnifica’s “Pair Me a Parody” Joins Grand Opera and Operetta

The College will present its annual Opera Magnifica, titled “Pair Me a Parody” from Feb. 24–26 in the OCC Music Recital Hall. There will be two evening performances at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24 and 25, and matinee performances at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 25 and 26.

This year’s program will feature a number of grand opera selections — such as a Mozart aria from Don Giovanni and a selection from Bellini’s La Sonnambula — followed by parodies of them from light opera repertoire.

The idea for the program came from research by OCC music instructor Susan Ali, which she presented last year at the National Opera Association’s annual convention.

“The research was designed for young singers to learn light opera (easier selections) in order to spiral into learning the more difficult piece for which the selection was a parody,” Ali explains.

“Our program includes narration so that both the students and audience members learn about these parodies,” Ali says. “For example, OCC alumni and guest artist David Stoneman will sing ‘Fin ch’han dal vino’ from Don Giovanni —this is considered to be a ‘patter song’ in that each syllable is fit to one note and the recitation is very rapid. Then, three OCC students will sing a ‘patter trio.’ They will sing a very funny selection — in patter — from a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta.”

Tickets for the event will run \$10 and can be purchased in advance at [www.occtickets.com](http://www.occtickets.com) or at the door. Parking is in Lot D, and is free.



## Research Symposium Gives Students a Chance to Present Work

OCC is hosting its first ever Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium on Feb. 24 in the Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion. The Symposium will give students a chance to present the work they do inside or outside the classroom, and aims to highlight many different disciplines on campus in a single event.

Students will present their work in one of three ways: a poster session, which provides the opportunity to share work through a visual presentation and includes a question and answer period; an oral presentation (or paper session) which includes 15-minute oral presentations with 5 minutes of questions; and an Exhibition of Work, which includes creative works such as sculpture, machined products, architectural design and ice sculptures.

The Symposium begins at 10:30 a.m. with the poster session and continues into the afternoon with the oral presentations beginning at 1 p.m. The Exhibition of Work will be on display throughout the event, and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Rachel Ridnor at [rridnor@occ.cccd.edu](mailto:rridnor@occ.cccd.edu)

## Doyle Arts Pavilion Exhibit Will Showcase Sci-Fi Inspired Photography

OCC’s Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion will host an exhibit titled “Retro-Active: Ten Years of Science Fiction” by photographer and sculptor Sam Davis from Feb. 23 until April 2.

The images featured in the exhibit will depict a single moment in time — much like stills in a movie — and contain science fiction elements, such as sea monsters and dinosaurs.

According to a press release by curator Kim Garrison Means: “Davis’ characters are out of their elements, no longer in control as they navigate alien terrain, but these lost adventurers are far from powerless. They are professional heroes — astronauts, flight attendants and explorers — with skills and resources to draw upon, and emotional fortitude to meet what lies ahead.”

Originally from Pensacola, Florida, Davis has taught photography at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena,



and has been a visiting faculty member at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. He currently is an assistant professor of photography at Southern Utah University.

Davis has spent the past 10 years focused on science fiction and pop culture, and many of his images are as playful as they are nostalgic.

Garrison Means writes: "The depiction of these characters at this moment in time, journeying into the abyss of the unknown, combined with the nostalgia of his retro style, costumes, antique photographic processes, and prop-like sculptures evokes a feeling of longing, for home or for another time or for some other place, where the adventure is over and our heroes can once again belong."

An opening reception for "Retro-Active" will be held on Feb. 23. The Doyle Arts Pavilion is open from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information visit [www.orangecoastcollege.edu/artspavilion](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/artspavilion)

## Dr. Derek Vergara Named OCC's Dean of Students

**D**r. Derek Vergara returned to Orange Coast College as its Dean of Students earlier this month. He had previously been at Coast from 2013 until 2016, first as the Acting Dean of Student Services and later as Dean of Title IX and Student Relations.

Last March, Dr. Vergara left OCC to become Dean of Student Support Services at Fullerton College.

Before coming to OCC, Vergara was the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator at Concordia University in Irvine. He also has served as Associate Dean of Students at Pepperdine University, and Executive Director for the Institute for Multicultural Research and Campus Diversity at University of La Verne, and has worked in various roles at University of California's Irvine and Riverside campuses.

He holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Azusa Pacific University, and a doctorate in education from University of La Verne, with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership.



## Sara Head Joins OCC as Project Director for Adult Ed

**L**ate last fall, the College hired Sara Head as the Project Director for the Adult Education Block Grant.

Originally from Southeast Missouri, Head moved to California a little over five years ago. Before coming to OCC, she worked at Golden West College and California State University, Fullerton. At GWC, Head served as part-time faculty supporting the Student Success Center, and then was the Faculty Coordinator for the "Access 2 Success" Title III grant. While there, she designed and implemented a new student academic assistance

program called PASS (Peer-Assisted Study Sessions).

While at CSUF, Head served as the Project Manager for an initiative between the CSU Chancellor's Office, New Teacher Center and Association for Independent College and Universities (AICCU) that brought California educators together to network and share resources.

"I'm excited to collaborate with faculty, staff and administration at OCC to build opportunities and support that increase access and equity for all students," Head says.

She recently moved to Costa Mesa and in her free time she enjoys spending time at the beach with her boyfriend, going to Zumba, exploring new places and learning new things.

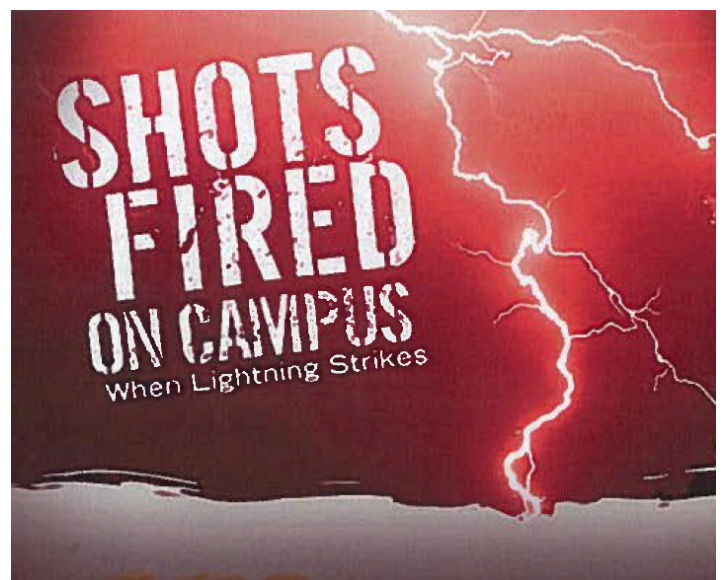


## Active Shooter Training, Self Defense Workshop Scheduled for Feb. 24

**O**CC will team up with the Costa Mesa Police Department to host a safety training event titled "Shots Fired: When Lightning Strikes" on Feb. 24 in the Forum Lecture Hall at 1 p.m. The training will focus on how to respond when an active shooter is in your vicinity.

The College's Professional Development Advisory Committee also will offer a self defense class the same day, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Aerobics Room, adjacent to Peterson Gymnasium. The class will be led by full time faculty member Dennis Morgan, who holds a 2nd degree black belt.

All Coast faculty, staff and administrators are encouraged to attend.





## OCC Baseball Coach Picks up 600th Career Win

The Orange Coast College baseball team picked up its fourth straight win to start the 2017 season, but for longtime head coach John Altobelli, Friday's 5-3 win over Cuesta at Wendell Pickens Field was a tad bigger ... career win No. 600.

Altobelli (600-441-3), OCC baseball's all-time leader in wins, becomes just the 20th head coach in history of California Community College baseball to reach 600 victories.

"It's an honor to be able to do what I do for as long as I've done it," Altobelli said, looking back on 25 years as head coach of the Pirates. "These 600 wins are special to me, but they never would've happened if not for the amazing support from my coaches throughout the years and the hard work and effort put in by our players. It's all about the young guys I've been lucky enough to coach — they're the ones responsible for all this."

## Pirate Standout Grasso Heads to USC

Gianluca Grasso, who helped the Orange Coast College men's volleyball team reach the finals of the state men's volleyball championship last season, will be playing volleyball

and attending school at the University of Southern California, according to Pirate head coach Travis Turner.

Grasso, who came to OCC by way of Andrews Osborne Academy (OH), was second on the Pirates' squad with 241 kills, 145 digs, 40 aces and 30 blocks, earning co-MVP honors of the Pacific Coast Conference, along with former teammate Adrian Faitalia.

"Not only is Gian one of the best athletes I have coached he is one of the kindest kids I have had in this program," Turner said. "He consistently put his teammates ahead of himself. We wish Gian nothing but the best at USC. He is in the best of hands with USC head coach Jeff Nygaard and his staff."

A steady offensive threat for the Pirates, Grasso played in 22 of 24 matches and reached double figures in kills in 16 of those matches, including a season-best 20 kills against Long Beach in the California Community College Athletic Association Men's Volleyball State Championship on April 30.

"His skill set is uncommon and when he's up in the air, his body control is amazing," Turner said prior to the start of the 2016 season. "His ability to make split-second decisions while in mid-air is something that can't be taught."

Grasso helped guide the Pirates to a 21-3 overall record and PCC-best 13-1 conference record, reaching the state finals match before falling to Long Beach City College in four sets.