



More Than 100 Staffers Attend OCC's Classified Appreciation & Development Day

Approximately 150 employees attended the OCC's Classified Employee Appreciation and Development Day on March 29 in the College's Science Hall and Math, Business and Computing Center.

The event — hosted by the Coast Community College District — included breakout professional development sessions with guest speakers covering topics like "Conflict Resolution," "Diversity Training" and "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." Vendors were on hand to provide useful information to attendees, and there were several raffle giveaways, including a customized OCC beach cruiser bicycle. Breakfast and lunch also were provided.

"We understand that our greatest source of power exists within our classified and confidential employees," says Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Cindy Vyskocil. "It's vital that we celebrate their contributions toward the District's success, while investing in their ability to continue to succeed."

Coast Astronomy Dept. Invites Public to Witness Rare Planetary Event

The Orange Coast College astronomy department will host a viewing of the Transit of Mercury, or the passing of the planet Mercury in front of the sun, on Monday, May 9 from 6:30 a.m. until noon.

Transits of Mercury are rare events, and only occur about a dozen times each century. The last Transit of Mercury occurred in 2006.

"A transit occurs when a planet passes in front of the face of the sun," explains OCC astronomy instructor, Dr. Jerome Fang. "We in Southern California will be able to watch the event as the sun rises."

OCC's event will begin at 6:30 a.m. on the west side of the College's Adams Parking Lot. The transit will already be in progress as the sun rises, and will be visible until about 11:45 a.m., at which time Mercury will have finished crossing the sun. OCC students and the public will have the opportunity to view the transit through telescopes provided by the school.



Calendar

- **April 9 — Men's & Women's Crew, Collins Cup**
Newport Harbor, 7 a.m.
 - **April 14 — Baseball vs. Saddleback**
Wendell Pickens Field, 2 p.m.
 - **April 15 — OCC Spring Plant Sale**
Horticulture Gardens, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
 - **April 15 — Men's Volleyball vs. Grossmont**
Peterson Gymnasium, 6 p.m.
 - **April 15 — Softball vs. Saddleback**
Wendell Pickens Field, 2 p.m.
 - **April 20 — Green Coast Days**
Main Quad, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
 - **April 20 — Garrison Fellows Reception**
Student Center Lounge, 8 a.m.
 - **April 20 — Garrison Fellows**
Robert B. Moore Theatre, 9:30 a.m.
 - **April 22 — OCC Spring Plant Sale**
Horticulture Gardens, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
 - **April 26 — Financial Aid Awareness Day**
Main Quad, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
 - **April 27 & 28 — I OC Giving Day**
6 a.m. (4/27) until noon (4/28)
 - **April 29 — OCC Spring Plant Sale**
Horticulture Gardens, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
 - **April 29 & 30 — Student Dance Concert**
Robert B. Moore Theatre, 8 p.m.
- ### Save the Date!
- **May 9 — Transit of Mercury Viewing**
Adams Parking Lot, 6:30 a.m.
 - **May 11 — Honors Night**
Robert B. Moore Theatre & Main Quad, 4 p.m.



OCC Speech and Debate Wins State Championship Second Year in a Row

The Orange Coast College Speech, Debate, and Reader's Theater team took home the gold for the second year in a row at the California Community College Forensic Association's State Championships on March 10-13.

"Remaining California State Champions is a grand achievement. It honors the proud legacy of OCC forensics," said Director of Forensics, Courtney Anderson.

Fifteen OCC students traveled to Concord, Calif., to compete against 31 other community college teams; the tournament featured 173 debate and 499 individual event entries. "This tournament was highly competitive," said Director of Debate Sherana Polk. "Every school was limited in their entry; therefore, each school brought their best and brightest."

Assistant Coach Das Nugent explained that "OCC advanced 30 out of 47 events, breaking almost 65 percent of the events we brought. Because of this tremendous push into final rounds, we won with a total point value of 282.5."

Coast bested 2nd place Mt. San Antonio College (212 points) by 70.5 points. Moorpark College took home 3rd place with 208 points.

"This win was well deserved," said Director of Individual Events, Shaw Davari. "It has boosted morale and confidence levels in each student, motivating them heading into the national competition here at home in Costa Mesa," which is April 4-9.

Theatre Dept.'s 'One More Day' Explores Human Cost of Bracero Movement

OCC's theatre arts department staged a play exploring the complexities of the Bracero Movement titled "One More Day" on March 18-20 and 24-26, in the College's Drama Lab Theatre.

The Bracero Program brought millions of Mexican guest

workers to the United States between 1942 and 1964 to fill a gap left in the agriculture industry by soldiers fighting in World War II. "One More Day" explored the human cost of the program, including the oppressive working conditions found at many farms and a series of devastating accidents that befell Mexican workers. The play also delved into how the program helped many Mexican families find their way to a better life. "It's not a black and white case, there are a lot of different perspectives and opinions on it," said Director and Theater Arts Instructor Tom Bruno.

The script for "One More Day" came to the College last fall from playwright Michael Roddy. Bruno felt it was a play



that would appeal to the students at OCC and the local community, and many of the student actors he cast are of Mexican American descent. "I think they were really excited to be a part of something that's exploring their culture and their past," said Bruno.

For many students, the play also offered background for the topic of illegal immigration, which currently is in the national spotlight. While rehearsing for the play, "we talked about it," Bruno said.

Marketing & PR Dept. Wins Silver at National Awards

OCC's department of Marketing and Public Relations received a Paragon Award at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) national conference in St. Louis on March 13. Coast won a silver award in the Sports Brochure category for its 2015 Football Informational Brochure.

"We feel honored to receive this recognition from our marketing and PR peers around the country," said Director of



Marketing and Public Relations Juan Gutierrez. "I could not be more proud of our marketing team and the quality of the work they produce in promoting OCC's outstanding programs and services."

NCMPR presented gold, silver and bronze awards in 53 categories at the Paragon Awards dinner and ceremony. More than 200 colleges submitted entries to the contest.

NCMPR annually presents Paragon Awards to recognize outstanding achievements in communication at community and technical colleges around the country. It's the only national competition of its kind to recognize excellence among marketing and PR professionals at two-year community and technical colleges, and the organization has more than 1,700 members from more than 550 colleges in the United States and Canada.

OCC Hosts Latino Youth Conference for Future Students

The OCC International Multicultural Committee invited more than 100 local high school seniors to a Latino/a High School Youth Conference on March 23.

The students invited to participate came from three local high schools and have selected OCC as the campus of choice to continue their studies in higher education. The day included panel presentations and campus tours highlighting programs and services benefitting these future OCC students. Welcome remarks were given by Coast Trustee Board Member Jim Moreno and OCC President Dennis Harkins.

Dr. Tom Garrison Remembered as 'Best Teacher, Ever'

Family and friends gathered for a memorial for retired OCC marine sciences "Distinguished Professor" Dr. Tom Garrison on the morning of March 16 in the Robert B. Moore Theatre, remembering a man who many described as "inspiring."

Dr. Garrison passed away on Feb. 24 from complications related to lymphoma. He was 73.

Dr. Garrison's daughter Jeanne Allen credited her dad with inspiring her to become a teacher in her eulogy. "He dedicated his life to his family and his students, and he wanted me to tell you all that we ... were his hope for the future," she said. "He would want us to find what makes us truly happy and then race, unwaveringly, toward it."

Former OCC President Dave Grant also spoke of his friend and former colleague, and the lasting impact he made on the College. "For me, Orange Coast College without Tom

seems unthinkable," he said. "He was such a noble part of our College life."

Grant went on to share a story that highlighted how widespread Dr. Garrison's influence was. While coaching in China a couple summers ago, he ran across a gentleman who once was a student at Coast. "He said 'I had a fabulous teacher [at OCC] ... Tom Garrison. He was my idol. The best teacher, ever.'"



Horticulture Department's Spring Sale Slated for Last 3 Fridays in April

It's that time of year again!

The Orange Coast College horticulture department is hosting its annual Spring Plant Sale on the last three Fridays in April — April 15, April 22 and April 29 — from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The sale will take place in the horticulture area's garden nursery, near Adams parking lot.

Don't miss your chance to pick up some of OCC's high quality plants and vegetables. The popular event will include a large selection of vegetables, herbs, perennials and hanging baskets, including squash, eggplants, stevia, garlic chives, scaevola and begonia rieger. Horticulture faculty members also will be on hand to give out expert advice.

OCC's horticulture department has sponsored the annual Spring Plant Sale for more than 30 years. Each year, plants are produced by students who attend the horticulture program, with all proceeds going toward student projects and scholarships.

Pirates go 4-for-4 against UCLA!

Orange Coast College men's crew headed up the coast to take on UCLA in a dual matchup on March 19 and by the time the Pirates returned home, they brought back four wins in four races.

The Pirates and Bruins went head to head in two Novice 8



races and two Varsity 8 races, with the Pirates prevailing in all four. In the Second Novice 8, the Pirates jumped out ahead and never looked back as they crossed the finish line with a time of 6 minutes, 47.75 seconds, 24 seconds ahead of the Bruins' boat (7:11.98).

In the Novice 8, the Bruins came with a stronger effort, but again, the Pirates prevailed with a winning time of 6:23.1, just under 12 seconds ahead of UCLA's time of 6:35.05.

In the Second Varsity 8, the Pirates and Bruins battled the entire length of the 2,000-meter race before the Pirates prevailed with a time of 6:31.43, just head of the Bruins' time of 6:32.97.

In the final race of the morning — the Varsity 8 — it was another strong, hard-fought race, but in the end, the freshmen and sophomores of the Pirates were able to outlast their four-year counterparts with a winning time of 6:02.1, over three seconds ahead of UCLA's time of 6:05.72.

Navarro's late heroics lift Pirates to 4-3 comeback win over Hornets

J.T. Navarro's bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth inning helped the Orange Coast College baseball team come all the way back from a 3-0 deficit to top the first-place

Fullerton College Hornets, 4-3, on April 2 at Wendell Pickens Field.

Struggling to find answers against Fullerton starter Louis Corral, the Pirates trailed 3-0 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning before finally finding some success with single runs in the fifth and sixth innings before blowing up the Hornets' bullpen in the ninth with a pair of runs to cap off the hard-earned win.

Fullerton (19-5, 7-2 in Orange Empire Conference) had control of the game through the first five innings and carried a 3-0 lead thanks to an RBI-single by Justin Row and a two-run double off the bat of David Miranda, but the Hornets went just 2-for-13 with runners in scoring position over that span as OCC starter Jack Pabich battled his way out of several jams and kept the game close.

In the fifth, the Pirates (13-11, 4-5) loaded the bases with only one out when Navarro drove in the first OCC run of the game with an RBI-single up the middle.

Daniel Hawkins slugged a solo home run to left -- his second of the season -- to bring the Pirates to within a run at 3-2 heading into the final three innings of play.

Row, who finished with three hits, was hit by a pitch with one outs in the top of the

seventh, then stole second and went to third on a throwing error by the OCC catcher. Pabich struck out Austin Case for the second out for his final batter of the afternoon. Two batters later, after a walk by Miranda, OCC reliever Alex Hernandez struck out Austin O'Banion to end yet another Hornets' threat. For the game, Fullerton was 2-for-16 in the RISP category and left nine baserunners for the afternoon.

In the bottom of the ninth, Jaiden France beat out an infield single to lead things off. Pinch-runner Austin Moore came on and advanced to second on an single to the right side by John Balliet (3-for-4, two runs). Jake Scott walked to load the bases before Robert Bultena followed with an RBI-walk, scoring Moore and tying the game at 3.

Case came into the game in relief of Nick Vega (3-1), but it was of no use as Navarro looped a two-strike single into right field to score Balliet with the winning run.

Ryan Randel (3-1) pitched two scoreless innings to collect the win for Coast. Pabich finished with eight strikeouts over 6 2/3 innings.