

OCC Planetarium Officially Opens Its Doors to the Public

There was a palpable excitement in the air on the late afternoon of March 22 as Orange Coast College welcomed employees, donors and community supporters to witness the dedication of the College's new Planetarium.

More than 300 people gathered on patio in front of the Planetarium's main entrance to watch the ribbon-cutting and hear speeches from College and District leaders, including Interim President Kevin Ballinger, Coast Colleges District Trustee President Lorraine Prinsky, and Associated Students of Orange Coast College President Jesse Lopez. Former OCC President Dr. Dennis Harkins was on hand for the celebration, as well as retired English professor and major donor Mary McChesney, whose \$1 million gift funded the Planetarium's Foucault Pendulum.

After the ribbon-cutting, guests were invited to stay for a show, explore the Planetarium's many exhibits and mingle with one another. Foundation Board members David Kline and Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis were surprised with the unveiling of their OCC Planetarium namesakes — the Barbara and David Kline Science-on-a-Sphere exhibit, and the John and Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis Theatre.

McChesney also was presented with her special Planetarium namesake - the Foucault Pendulum that her generous gift made possible. McChesney was asked to speak during the dedication ceremony, and her words rang true throughout the evening: "With this planetarium we are all saying hello to the optimistic future we hope for."



Calendar

- **April 4 — Pirate's Plank Business Pitch Competition**
Robert B. Moore Theatre, 6:30 p.m.
- **April 5 — Spring Plant Sale**
Horticulture Greenhouses, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- **April 5 — Men's Volleyball vs Santiago Canyon**
Peterson Gymnasium, 6 p.m.
- **April 6 — OCC Day at Angel Stadium**
Angel Stadium, 1:05 p.m.
- **April 6 & 7 — Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind**
Drama Lab Studio, 7:30 p.m.
- **April 9 — Baseball vs Saddleback**
Wendell Pickens Field, 2 p.m.
- **April 12 — Spring Plant Sale**
Horticulture Greenhouses, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- **April 12 — Beach Volleyball vs Golden West**
Huntington Beach Newland Courts, 11 a.m.
- **April 13 — Crew @ Collins Cup**
Newport Harbor, 8 a.m.
- **April 13 & 14 — Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind**
Drama Lab Studio, 7:30 p.m.
- **April 17 — Green Coast Day, Garrison Fellow Awards**
Fine Arts Lecture Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- **April 19 — Coast Colleague Employee of the Year**
Horticulture Gardens, 2:30 p.m.
- **May 3-5 — Peter & the Starcatcher**
Drama Lab Studio, 7:30 p.m.
- **May 5 — OCC Wind Ensemble**
Robert B. Moore Theatre, 3 p.m.



- Rotating exhibits of public art created by OCC art students, made from recycled materials displayed at the Recycling Center
- Reflective pavement art within the community event area
- On-site food production gardens used in the Culinary Arts Department
- The Tea House designed by architecture students
- Recycled water/retention basin
- The Bioswale/Arroyo demonstration area
- Composting and recycling areas

“OCC’s Recycling Center has been a leader in Orange County’s sustainability world for nearly five decades and we are extremely excited to be the first SITES v2 certified project in the State of California,” said

Rich Pagel, Vice President of Administrative Services and key member of the SITES Project team. “We believe in creating an environment in which we can not only talk about a sustainable future, but also demonstrate the benefits to our students and community.”

The SITES project team was led by OCC Recycling Center Sustainability Coordinator Mike Carey and included a key integrated design team from the College’s landscape architecture, horticulture, grounds supervision, community support, finance, art and administration departments and programs, as well as expert SITES and sustainability consultants from Verde, Byline7 and Michael Baker International.

Final phases of art installation and signage currently are under way, and the Center is planning a plaque dedication ceremony as part of Orange Coast College’s Green Coast Day on April 17, during the week prior to Earth Day.

OCC’s Recycling Center represents the first SITES certification in California under the SITES v2 Rating System, and joins other projects in the state certified under the earlier SITES pilot rating system.

Orange Coast College Recycling Center Achieves First SITES V2 Certification in CA

The Orange Coast College (OCC) Recycling Center — already a LEED Gold certified building — is taking sustainability initiatives to a new level by achieving the first Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES) v2 certification in California. Owned and administered by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), SITES is the most comprehensive program for designing, developing and maintaining sustainable landscapes.

During the next year, OCC’s Recycling Center is looking to achieve an unprecedented milestone in sustainability by seeking triple certification of LEED Gold, SITES Gold and TRUE Zero Waste certification in 2019.

“The OCC Recycling Center’s dedication to creating a sustainable landscape for their community represents tremendous leadership in sustainable landscape design and development,” said Mahesh Ramanujam, president and CEO of U.S. Green Building Council and GBCI. “By achieving LEED and SITES certification, OCC is proving their commitment to being green stewards not only in their building design and construction, but also with their attention and focus to creating a high performing, educational outdoor space.”

OCC’s SITES Gold certified project helps educate the public and students about the many environmentally friendly elements incorporated in the outdoor space at the Recycling Center. Key public areas of the project include the following:

- A native plant garden designed to attract Monarch butterflies in the outside medians in front of the Recycling Center
- Interpretive signage that illustrates the reclaimed water reuse system and conservation of potable water in the native plant garden

Coast Marketing and Public Relations Captures Five National Awards

OCC’s Marketing and Public Relations department won five awards at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) Paragon Awards on March 25 in San Antonio, Texas.

OCC tied with Santa Monica City College for the highest number of awards for any single college, with one gold, three silver and one bronze award. Coast took home the top prize for its OCC Magazine publication, beating out two-year colleges from all over the United States. The College also received recognition for its Coast to Coast newsletter, sports brochure, logo wear, and a promotional video.



Director of Marketing and Public Relations Juan Gutierrez traveled to San Antonio to retrieve the College's bounty. "This strong showing is indicative of not only the talent of our team, but also their dedication to helping the College showcase its outstanding programs and services," he says.

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.

Examples of the marketing and public relations department's work can be found at www.orangecoastcollege.edu/newsstand

OCC Speech and Debate Takes 5th Overall at State Tournament

Orange Coast College's Forensics Team returned to the California Community College Forensics Association in early March, taking home five Gold medals, eight Silver medals, and seven Bronze medals – for a total medal count of 20.

Forensics tournaments contain multiple events in different types of speech categories, from acting events, to public address, and debate: unlike most teams at the state championship tournament OCC advanced to final rounds in every type of event offered. Additionally, OCC took home a Bronze Medal in Overall Sweepstakes in a year where the top five teams were only split by 30 points (the equivalent of three gold medals.)

In addition to a standout performance by students, OCC Communications Professor and Director of Forensics Sherana Polk was given the coveted Service Award for her dedication to the forensics community. The President of CCCFA delivered a speech about Professor Polk, describing her as a "super hero."

"[Sherana] has been a part of the OCC speech team coaching staff since 2008 and has been a part of five national-champion-winning teams," says Communications Professor and Director of Interpretive and Platform Events Shaw Davari. "However, her legacy is more than just victories; she has trained hundreds of students to think critically, speak passionately, and become better citizens of the world."

"The entire coaching staff of Orange Coast College is incredibly proud of all the hard work of the students," says Davari. "Additionally, the successes above would not have been possible without the support of the OCC Forensic Alumni, ASOCC, and the Communication Studies Department."

The team's next tournament will be the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament held in Reno, Nevada on April 8-14.

Four Pirate Volleyball Players Transferring to Next Level

While the Orange Coast College men's volleyball program has had a steady stream of success on the court this season, an even prouder accomplishment for the Pirates has been their success OFF of the court. Four OCC standouts are the next crop of Pirate greats who will be advancing their athletic and academic careers to the four-year level.

Aiden Wolf-Nielsen, a 6-foot-10 freshman middle blocker out of University High School, will finish up his first year at OCC before moving down the road to perennial MVB powerhouse UC Irvine. The Anteaters currently are ranked No. 3 in the nation and another former OCC Pirate – outsider J.B. Kam – will be a teammate of Wolf-Nielsen in 2020.

Kyle McCauley, a 6-3 outside hitter out of Edison HS, will be playing volleyball at UC San Diego next year after a brilliant two-year career with the Pirates, and Clark Steele and Braden Neumann will remain teammates after their time at Coast is finished as the twosome head to North Dakota to attend college at the University of Jamestown, a first-year program that will kick off the sport at the college for the 2019-2020 season.

"This is what it's all about ... getting kids into four-year schools and I couldn't be happier for these four guys," OCC head coach Travis Turner said. "These guys have put in the work with our program and they've worked equally hard in the classroom."

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High School girls head coach before coming to OCC in 1989.

One of Thornton's greatest coaching achievements was leading his 2002-2003 team to the California State Community State Championship in 2003.

More than 80 players who played for Thornton continued their basketball careers at four-year colleges and university across the country at schools such as UCLA, UCI, Cal State Fullerton, UNLV, the University of New Orleans, St. Mary's,

Their hard work in both areas is being rewarded and I'm super excited to see these guys move on to the next level."

This dynamic foursome has helped led the Pirates to a perfect 18-0 record and a state No. 1 ranking. The men's volleyball team will close out their season this week with games against Golden West on April 3 at 6 p.m. and Santiago Canyon on April 5, also at 6 p.m.

Concordia University, Northern Colorado, Mercer and Cal State Bakersfield. An additional 80-plus student-athletes transferred to four-year colleges and universities but did not play basketball.

Other notable achievements in Thornton's long OCC career include:

- Three State Final Four appearances
- Five State Elite Eight Appearances
- 16 All-State Players
- 23 postseason appearances in 29 seasons
- Two 30-win seasons
- Nine 25-win seasons
- 15 seasons with 20-or-more wins
- 23 seasons with a season record above .500

Thornton was welcomed to the Hall of Fame by two of his former OCC players who are now community college coaches: Santa Ana College head women's basketball coach, Flo Luppani and Palomar College head women's basketball coach, Leigh Marshall.

Pirate Athletics Legend Mike Thornton Inducted Into CCCWBCA Hall of Fame

Mike Thornton, Orange Coast College's head women's basketball coach for 29 years, was inducted into the California Community College Women's Basketball Coaches Association (CCCWBCA) Hall of Fame on March 14. Thornton was cheered on at the CCCWBCA Banquet of Champions in Oxnard by a large contingent of family, friends and a dozen of his former players.

"I was blown away by all of the people who came to my induction to the hall of fame," he said. "Coaching at OCC was the highlight of my 49-year coaching career. At one time, I was advised by some of my friends when I was coaching at Marina High School to not take the job. OCC hadn't been too successful in women's basketball in recent years and Fullerton and Golden West were two of the best programs in Southern California at that time. They said I would have a hard time winning there. It was the best advice I DIDN'T take in my life!

"The best thing about the job, in my opinion, is the lifelong relationships I've made, the ones that are so important to me, all came from my time with OCC basketball. All of my former players who came back to coach with me, as well as people like (OCC Foundation Director) Doug Bennett, who are going to be friends with me for life."

Thornton, who retired after the 2018 season, had a career record of 584-333 (.637) at OCC, plus 147 wins as the Marina

OCC Day at Angel Stadium Set for Saturday, April 6

Coast employees are invited to attend OCC Day at Angel Stadium on Saturday, April 6 as the Angels take on the Texas Rangers at 1:05 p.m.

Discounted tickets can be purchased for \$25 at www.angels.com/occ and all tickets come with a complimentary, customized OCC Angels hat. Employees also are invited to attend a pre-game event in the Gate 5 Courtyard prior to the start of the game.

For more information contact OCC Athletic Director Jason Kehler at jkebler@occ.cccd.edu or by calling (714) 432-5770.