

Orange Coast College UPDATE

Volume 8, Issue 11

June 15, 2022



Thank you Chancellor for your leadership and
your steadfast support of our students

Congratulations on your
much-deserved retirement.

You will be missed.





OCC Architecture Students Take Top Prize in Cal Poly University Design Competition

Orange Coast College's architecture department won the grand prize and an honorable mention for two entries in this year's Design Village competition at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. The annual competition is hosted by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's architecture program and invites student competitors from California universities and community colleges to design and build "shelters" which they inhabit throughout the entirety of the weekend. Participants were tasked with manually transporting their structures to the foothills behind the university, dubbed "Cal Poly Canyon" on Saturday, April 22, and judging took place on Sunday, April 23.

This year's competition was the largest in the event's 47-year history, featuring 15 entries from some of the top architecture programs in the state. OCC's architecture department took 11 students grouped into two teams, with professors Joseph Sarafian, AIA, and Steve Fuchs each guiding a team. The theme of the competition was "Eternal," giving students an open-ended project brief to design a structure that transcends time and space.

"Our team was inspired by the way various civilizations have viewed the afterlife and eternity, and explored the geometry of a truncated tetrahedron, which is a pyramid with its corners removed.

Students named this project "Three-Fold," explains Sarafian. "Thanks to the support of Professor Rose Anne Kings, the group was able to harness the prefabrication functionality of OCC's FrameCAD Machine to print the light gauge steel studs needed to frame the pavilion."

To date, OCC is the only community college in the world

to own a FrameCAD design and building system — a rapid construction system that makes all of the necessary steel framing components for a structure, which are then assembled quickly onsite.

"Thanks to the lightness of the 20-gauge steel and the Nylon fabric in which it was clad, each 12-foot-tall wall panel only weighed 68 lbs," says Sarafian. "OCC's welding department fabricated nine steel brackets that connected the walls to the base, and carbon fiber-infused Nylon brackets were 3D printed to connect the top of each wall panel, forming a triangular oculus in the roof."

Three-Fold took home the top award, "Best in Theme," and celebrated by projecting a movie screening on its façade on the last night of the event. The student team was led by Sarafian and consisted of Nick Barajas, Emily Ord, Luis Zamora, Tuyen Phan, and Max Masoud.

The other OCC Architecture team won a merit award for its entry entitled "Oculus Cosmos," the design of which was born out of the OCC Makerspace, which houses industry-leading technology for sewing, podcasting, 3D printing, laser-cutting, CNC Milling, and virtually anything a designer could use to make their dream a reality. The Oculus Cosmos team was led by Professor Steve Fuchs.

The OCC Architecture Club hopes to re-build both pavilions on campus to showcase the work for future designers.



OCC Biology Major, Army Reservist Isabelle Phan Named 2022 Jack Kent Cooke Scholar

Orange Coast College biology major Trinh "Isabelle" Phan is among the 100 high-achieving community college students selected to receive the prestigious Cooke

Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship in 2022. The highly competitive national scholarship provides transfer students with up to \$55,000 a year to complete their bachelor's degrees.

Phan immigrated to the United States in 2015 from Vietnam, and began attending OCC in 2016. She joined the United States Army in 2019 and currently serves in the Army Reserves medical unit. "There's no mystery to Isabelle's selection this year: She's an active member of Phi Theta Kappa and Mu Delta Rho (pre-health), is also a member of the National Technical Honor Society (Career and Technical Education and STEM), and is this year's president of SALUTE, the veteran's honor society," says OCC Garrison Honors coordinator Teresa Scarbrough.

A pre-med biology major with a 3.94 grade point average, Phan juggles her schooling and many commitments with being a married mother of a young son. After taking a semester off in 2017 following the birth of her son, Phan found a welcoming environment waiting for her at Coast. "[When] I got back to school and ... asked my Professor if I could bring my son to the lecture because I had no one to watch him for me, [he] did not hesitate for a second," she recalls. "Sometimes in class, my professor asked us questions we couldn't answer. Then, when the class was silent, my baby would coo in the carrier, and the professor would say 'Yeah, you're right! Excellent answer, baby!! See? The baby just attends our class for a couple of days but he already has the answer!' That was the sweetest moment I had during my time at OCC."

One of Phan's largest challenges in pursuing her education has been the language barrier, which was only heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic. "My challenge with learning English was compounded by COVID because it is harder to interact with professors and classmates, making learning and socializing more difficult," she explains. "However, I turned it into an opportunity: it allowed me extra time to review material, read books, and watch recordings of classes. I took the chance to host virtual study sessions with my classmates. These study sessions not only helped me build closer relationships with my classmates and professors but also advanced my English fluency."

In the 2020-21 academic year, four-year colleges and universities saw nearly 200,000 fewer transfer enrollment applications nationwide, reflecting the pandemic's disruptive effect on students and their plans for college. Despite that decline, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation welcomed its largest class of Scholars to date, highlighting the talent and achievement of hundreds of community college students across the country. In light of growing financial hardship for so many families, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation also increased the maximum award amount by an extra \$15,000 to ensure students can focus on their studies while enrolled.

"Today, almost half of all college students begin their academic career at a community college. We know our community colleges are full of high-achieving students, and we're committed to playing our part to ensure those students succeed," said Seppy Basili, executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation in a press release announcing this year's JKC Scholars.

New Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advising to guide them through the process of transitioning to a four-year college and preparing for their careers. Along with financial support, Scholars will additionally receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a thriving network of over nearly 3,000 Cooke Scholars and Alumni.

Phan has plans to transfer to the University of California Los Angeles in the Fall of 2022 to pursue a degree in Molecular and Cell Biology. She eventually hopes to become a military surgeon and a doctor for underserved communities.

This year, more than 1,200 students from 332 community colleges applied to receive the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. A list of this year's Cooke Transfer Scholars can be found on the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation website.



OCC Awards 3,800 Degrees, Certificates at First In-Person Ceremony in Two Years

Orange Coast College conferred more than 3,800 associates degrees and certificates of achievement to some 1,800 graduates at the College's 74th commencement ceremony, on Friday, May 27.

OCC welcomed back graduates and their loved ones in person after hosting the past two commencement ceremonies virtually. Several thousand people attended the program at the OC Fairground's Pacific Amphitheatre.

OCC's student speaker was communications major Oree Freeman. Freeman — a 27-year-old single mother — shared her inspiring life story, including her journey from being a victim of sex trafficking to becoming a college student and now graduate. She credits her success to the resources she had access to at OCC. "Life started to become hopeful because there were people [who] loved to do what they did unconditionally, with no strings attached. The Guardian Scholars, the EOPS and the CARE programs [at OCC] have changed my life. I walk into those rooms and I feel community."

The Class of 2022 is a diverse one: OCC's youngest graduate is just 18 years old and the oldest is 79 years old ... a 61-year span. Graduates also hail from all over the map, including 17 different states across the U.S. and 23 countries around the world.

OCC provided a live streaming of the ceremony on the College's website at www.orangecoastcollege.edu

OCC Hands Out More Than \$600,000 in Scholarships at 64th Honors Night

Orange Coast College awarded \$607k at its 64th Annual Honors Night on Wednesday, May 11. This year's ceremony took place in person after two years of virtual ceremonies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Honors Night activities began with a light buffet reception in front of the College's Robert B. Moore Theatre, with catering provided by OCC's Food Services team. The Student Leadership and Scholarship ceremony followed from 6–8 p.m. in the Moore Theatre.

Honor's Night has been a tradition at Orange Coast College for more than six decades. The evening recognizes students who have achieved top honors in academics as well as service and leadership to the College and community. The event is sponsored by the Associated Students of Orange Coast College.



Orange Coast College Dedicates Language Arts, Social Sciences Building

Orange Coast College dedicated its recently completed Literature and Languages/Social and Behavioral Sciences (LLSS) building on Thursday, May 12. The ceremony took place on the west side of the building next to OCC's Math, Business and Computing Center building, and the program was followed by a ribbon cutting and light reception.

In addition to housing the division offices for both the Literature and Languages and Social and Behavioral Science divisions, the LLSS building also houses classrooms, laboratory space such as an archaeology room with an outdoor dig area, and a state-of-the-art newsroom for OCC's award-winning student-run newspaper "The Coast Report."

The new LLSS building is the second phase of a multi-building complex that already includes the MBCC. The two buildings, which are connected via a bridge on the second floor, are funded through Measure M, a \$698 million bond measure passed by voters in 2012.

The 100,000-square-foot, three-story instructional facility replaces two separate buildings on campus that are 50 and 60 years old.