



## Calendar

- Dec. 8 – OCC Planetarium Skylark Series w/ Katrina Carter-Journet, 6 p.m., OCC Planetarium
- Dec. 9 – Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story, 7:30 p.m., OCC Drama Lab Theatre
- Dec. 10 – Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story, 2:30 p.m., OCC Drama Lab Theatre
- Dec. 11 – Fall 2022 Guitar Ensemble featuring Mircea Gogoncea, 3 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre
- Dec. 12 – OCC Commercial Music Concert, 7:30 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre
- Dec. 14 – OCC Wind Ensemble Concert, 6:30 p.m., Robert B. Moore Theatre



## Pirates Topple Santa Barbara in Five to Punch Ticket to State Finals!

The Orange Coast College women's volleyball team will party like it's 2009 as the Pirates return to the CCCAA State Finals after topping Santa Barbara City College in five sets on Nov. 26 at the Southern California Regional Finals inside the Peterson Gymnasium. A battle that took nearly two-and-half hours to complete, the fifth-seeded Pirates (21-5) needed every ounce of talent against the free-and-easy 13th-seeded Vaqueros (16-11) to pull off a 26-28, 26-24, 25-20, 18-25, 15-13 marathon win to punch the first ticket into the state's Big Dance.

The California Community College Athletic Association Women's Volleyball State Tournament will kick off on Friday, Dec. 2 at Fresno City College with a time and an opponent to be announced.

Brisa Zapata-Reaves led the Pirates with 17 kills and a season-high 32 digs, while Emma Honea added 12 kills and Paige Cutwright knocked down 11 kills to go with six total blocks. Leah Thibault added eight kills and Kingsley Mason chipped in six.

In the middle, Natalia Brandlin was a wall for the Pirates with eight total blocks. Setter Grace Holmgren dished out 31 assists to go along with 13 digs and Emily Payne notched 30 digs.

The Pirates will return to the State Finals for the first time since winning it all back in 2009.

## Orange Coast College Dean of Students Selected for NASPA Regional Award

Orange Coast College Dean of Students Dr. Derek Vergara is the recipient of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Region VI Community College Professional Award for 2022. Dr. Vergara was recognized at a virtual awards ceremony on Nov. 14.

"This [award] is presented to an individual who has demonstrated active involvement with the profession, NASPA, and community college research, policies and/or practice," says Region VI Awards Chair Jennifer Pagala Barnett. "Nominees must show evidence of contributing to the creation of a campus



environment that promotes student learning and development, as well as to providing innovative and responsive services that address student needs.”

A member of NASPA since 1987, Dr. Vergara credits the organization with benefitting his development as a student affairs professional. “Engaging within a wide network of student affairs professionals throughout the country and learning about relevant best practices in student affairs has helped me become a more skilled practitioner and educator,” he says. “I have had the opportunity to serve on committees and contribute to scholarly research and journals, all of which has helped me to grow professionally.”

Dr. Vergara has been at Coast since 2013. He has served in various roles, including as Dean of Title IX and Student relations, where he helped develop Title IX protocols, working to ensure that students have the opportunity to safely report and to receive care and support resources if they experience any forms of harassment, sexual assault, or other gender-based discrimination or violence. In his current role as Dean of Students, Dr. Vergara was instrumental in the planning of OCC’s new Student Union, which provides a space for student clubs and organizations to meet formally, as well as provides a place for students to study, meet new friends, or simply to sit, relax, and recharge after a busy school day.

“Dr. Vergara’s commitment to students and Orange Coast College is exemplary,” says Vice President of Student Services Madjid Niroumand. “His leadership philosophy and student success advocacy have been instrumental in the continuous enhancement of the areas he oversees. We are happy to have him as a critical member of the Student Services leadership team.”



## OCC Salutes Student & Employee Veterans with Ceremony Followed by Lunch

Orange Coast College paid tribute to veterans on campus with a ceremony followed by a catered lunch on Nov. 9.

Members of the campus community gathered in the Quad for a ceremony that included the national anthem, followed by speeches from OCC President Angelica Suarez, Coast Colleges District Board of Trustees President Mary Hornbuckle, and President of the OCC Student Veterans Association Will Bui.

“Orange Coast College has a long history of saluting our brave men and women who have served this country through the various branches of the United States Military,” said President Suarez. “We honor the sacrifices you’ve made for this country in the name of freedom and democracy.”

## OCC Student Newspaper Recognized in Nation’s Capitol During MediaFest 2022

*\*this article was adapted from a media alert that first appeared on the Coast Report website*

Orange Coast College’s student-run newspaper, Coast Report, was honored during the Fall National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 27-30.

MediaFest 2022 brought together three major journalism organizations – the Society of Professional Journalists,



College Media Association and the Associated Collegiate Press – for a multi-day conference that featured keynote presentations from well-known journalists and sessions designed to help students learn the craft.

A convention highlight was the keynote address by legendary Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, who broke the “Watergate” story that led to President Richard Nixon’s resignation.

Coast Report was recognized with second-place honors in the CMA Pinnacle Awards in both the Media Outlet of the Year and Website of the Year among two-year colleges. The awards were given for work done during the 2021-2022 academic year. The Pinnacle Awards received more than 2,900 entries from two- and four-year colleges and universities across the country.

“We are so proud of our student journalists for this recognition of their hard work and professionalism as they report on campus and local news,” says OCC President Angelica Suarez. “OCC has one of the top journalism programs among two-year colleges in the state, with hundreds of students receiving mentoring and gaining hands-on experience throughout the Coast Report’s 74-year history.”

On Sunday, Oct. 30, Coast Report took ninth place in the Two-Year College Website category for the ACP Best of Show Awards. These awards honor current work at institutions who attend the convention.

Coast Report staff members Kate Bent, Kate Meyers and Khalid Alsadek attended the conference. OCC journalism instructor and Coast Report faculty advisor Jeremy Shermak presented on Coast Report’s recent town halls to inform student reporters and advisors on how to replicate the events at their institutions.

Orange Coast College recently constructed a new student newsroom, located on the first floor of the College’s Literature & Languages, Social & Behavioral Sciences building, which opened in Fall 2021. The newsroom is home to Coast Report, which is staffed by students enrolled in Journalism 115 and publishes articles to a news website throughout the academic school year.

“The construction of a new state-of-the-art newsroom at a time when the industry is under attack sends the message to our students that we are committed to the field of journalism,” says Dean of Literature and Languages Michael Mandelkern. “This most recent recognition highlights the bright future ahead for Coast Report.”

Coast Report has been the “student voice of Orange Coast College” since 1948.



## OCC Chamber Singers & Choral Present Fall Showcase Nov. 12

Orange Coast College’s Chamber Singers and Chorale joined talented soloists and a cappella groups to present a Fall Choral-Vocal showcase on Nov. 12 in the Robert B. Moore Theatre.

OCC Music Chair Eliza Rubenstein and Choral Director Kelly Self co-directed the program, which included a variety of choral works from nations around the world, including many with a message of social justice, unity, and strength in times of struggle.

Highlights included:

- A South African children’s song about a child falling into a well
- A haunting Palestinian tune about messages powerful enough to transcend death
- Works from the Justice Choir songbook
- African American spirituals
- A Mongolian folk tune about a stampede of horses
- A U2 song about Martin Luther King, Jr. arranged for chorus

This was the first in-person Fall Showcase since 2019, and the OCC debut of Chorale Director Kelly Self. OCC’s Chamber Singers traveled to New York in June to perform at Carnegie Hall.

“Our singers are back from Carnegie Hall and excited to perform in person again!” said Rubenstein ahead of the concert.