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## Speech Team Makes History with 4th Straight National Championship

Orange Coast College's Speech and Debate team has done what no other community college has ever done: won four national championships in a row.

On April 9-14 more than 50 community colleges from across the country competed for the national championship at the Phi Rho Pi National Speech and Debate Tournament in Daytona Beach, Fla. OCC took the top spot, scoring more points than any other school in the country.

Speech and debate competitions consist of many different types of events — much like track and field — from debate, to platform speaking, to limited prep, and even acting events. All students compete in preliminary rounds, after which a select few advance to the national rounds of competition. Those individual successes are added up to determine a team's total points.

This year's Phi Rho Pi national championship was incredibly close; Mt. San Antonio College from Walnut, Calif. came in second with 241 points, with Coast edging them out with 251 points. "The week had us on the edge of our seats the entire time, but our confidence in our preparation and our students never wavered" said Sherana Polk, Director of Forensics at OCC.

Coast started strong with a huge lead when the semi-national rounds were posted, but Mt. Sac made a late surge, bringing things back into contention. OCC's students staged a late comeback and secured their victory with an impressive display in Persuasive and Impromptu speaking, taking three gold medals in each event.

"The individuals on the team did incredibly well, but the amazing thing about this week was that the focus was never on the individual, and always on the team. It's why we won," said Shauhin Davari, OCC's Director of Interpretive Events. "Some of our best events didn't do well, but the students were unfazed. They were laser-focused on one goal — a team win."



## Theatre Dept. Will Stage Cabaret Musical May 4–13

OCC's theatre department will stage a production of "Cabaret," a musical by Joe Masterho, from May 4 until May 13 in the Drama Lab Theatre. Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on May 4–6, and May 11 and 12. There will be a matinée performance at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 13.

Cabaret takes place as the 1920s draw to a close, with a garish Master of Ceremonies welcoming the audience and assuring them that they will forget all of their troubles in the cabaret. Director and OCC Theatre instructor, Tom Bruno, chose the musical with current events in mind.

"The musical takes place during the rise of the Nazi party in Berlin, and people are just interested in having a good time, not paying attention to the political landscape," says Bruno. "We've recently seen a resurgence of unkind and downright hateful rhetoric within our political system, and it seemed to me that Cabaret would be a very timely production to remind audiences that, as Edmund Burke said: 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.' Our production will, I hope, communicate this message to our audience."

Students actors will perform in the production, which has been in the works for months.

"The students involved are some of the most dedicated, committed and talented performers I have ever had the pleasure to work with," says Bruno. "They show up to rehearsals hours beforehand to work on their own, I really cannot speak more highly of them. I am truly blown away by the extraordinary talent we have assembled here at OCC."

Tickets run \$12 in advance at [www.occtickets.com](http://www.occtickets.com) or \$15 at the door (\$8/\$10 for students and seniors). For more information, contact Bruno at [tbruno@oc.cccd.edu](mailto:tbruno@oc.cccd.edu)

## Save the Date: Honors Night 2018

This year's Honors Night will take place on Wednesday May 9, from 4–8 p.m.

Honor's Night has been a tradition at Orange Coast College for 60 years. The evening recognizes students who have achieved top honors in academics as well as service and leadership to the College and community.

This year's theme is "70s Night" in honor of the College's 70th Anniversary. The event will include a buffet in the Quad, prepared by the College's culinary arts students. The evening will continue in the Robert B. Moore Theatre, where more than \$400,000 worth of scholarships will be handed out to deserving students.

Donors, presenters and honored guests will check in from 4-5:45 p.m., with the program beginning at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact the Scholarship Office at (714) 432-5645.

## PsiBeta Members Place 2nd at Giles T. Brown Research Symposium

Students from OCC's chapter of PsiBeta gave two poster presentations at the school's annual Giles T. Brown Student Project and Research Symposium on April 13, earning a 2nd place award for their efforts.

PsiBeta is a national honor society for psychology students at community colleges. The two poster topics presented at the Symposium were titled "How Do Cultural Orientation and Social Media Use Relate to Social Relationships and Psychological Health" and "How do Self Esteem, Depression and Social Media Use Correlate with the Mental Health and Relationships of College Students." Each poster presentation was followed by a question and answer period, giving students a chance to explain their work.

OCC's Research Symposium gives students a chance to present the work they do inside and outside the classroom, highlighting many different disciplines on campus. In addition to a Poster Presentation session, students also were able to participate in an Exhibition of Work (suitable for creative works such as sculpture and machined products) and Oral (or Paper) Presentation, featuring a 15-minute oral presentation followed by 5 minutes of questions.

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## Save the Date: Commencement 2018

OCC will celebrate its 70th Commencement on Wednesday, May 23 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Pacific Amphitheatre at the OC Fairgrounds (88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa).

Several thousand people are expected to attend the event, which will be livestreamed at [www.orangecoastcollege.edu/gradvideo](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/gradvideo)

Tickets are not required to attend the commencement ceremony, and there is no limit to the number of guests graduates may invite to the program. Parking is available through Gate 3 on Fairview Road.

Guests who need physical assistance or seating accommodations should arrive at least 45 minutes early to receive assistance from OCC staff members. Strollers are not permitted in the seating areas or aisles of the Amphitheatre.

Evenings can be alternately sunny and chilly, so attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately. Sunscreen is recommended.

## Pirates Baseball Repeat as OEC champs; Will Host Playoffs as No. 2 Seed

Thanks to a 12-5 win over Riverside City College on April 27 afternoon, the Orange Coast College baseball team clinched the outright Orange Empire Conference title for the second year in a row and will be the No. 2 seed for this year's Southern California Regional playoffs, which kick off on Friday at Wendell Pickens Field.

Coby Kauhaahaa went 4-for-4 with two runs and an RBI, while Ramiro Velasco went 2-for-4 with a home run, a run scored and three RBI for the Pirates (27-13, 15-6 in OEC), who won back-to-back conference titles for the first time in 31 seasons.

"It's been an up-and-down season for sure, but I'm very proud of these guys for battling through to get to where we are now," OCC head coach John Altobelli said. "We've had some injuries and some moments of streaky play, but when we are clicking on all cylinders, I like the make-up of this team and when it comes to the playoffs, we need to play our best baseball in the weeks to come.

"To win this conference is a feat all its own. It's the toughest conference in the state and to be able to do it back-to-back years says a lot about the character of this team and our sophomores who made it happen. We came close last year to the State Final Four -- hopefully we can make it over the hump this year."

Skylar Limonchi (2-for-6, two runs, one RBI), Murphy Stehly (2-for-5, two runs, one RBI) and Landon Silver (2-for-4, one RBI) also produced multi-hit games for Coast.

Velasco's home run -- his team-leading fifth of the season -- was a two-run shot in the seventh inning that helped propel OCC's run-scoring barrage in the final three innings.

Starter Cameron Jabara notched his fifth win of the season without a loss, allowing just two runs on nine hits with five strikeouts over seven innings. Coast led 4-1 after six innings before battering the Tigers' bullpen with eight runs over the final three innings.

With the win, Coast earned a No. 2 seed in the upcoming Southern California Regional playoffs. OCC will host the highest remaining seed from Tuesday's play-in games between No. 15 Cuesta vs. No. 18 Southwestern and No. 16 San Diego Mesa and No. 17 L.A. Pierce. The lowest remaining seed will travel to Cerritos College to take on the top-seeded Falcons (29-11).

Game one for OCC will take place on Friday, May 4 at 2 p.m. at Wendell Pickens Field. Game 2 will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 5 with a third game immediately to follow Game 2, if necessary.

This is the 13th appearance in the playoffs over the past 14 seasons for the Pirates, who are going for their seventh state baseball title in school history (1956, 1960, 1980, 2009, 2014, 2015). This year's OEC crown is also the 19th conference baseball title in school history.