



"With Love" Restaurant



Lida Suchy

Award-Winning Faculty

Two members of the College's outstanding faculty earned prestigious awards for their exemplary performance.

Photography Professor, **Lida Suchy**, was named a Guggenheim Fellow for her ongoing portraiture project of residents of the Ukrainian Village of Kryvorivnya which has spanned parts of three decades.



Cheryl Strayed with OCC student Talayaisa Gibson

Developing the Workforce

OCC's Workforce Development office continued to bring education and training opportunities to citizens, preparing them for skilled positions in the workforce. Highlighting efforts was the opening of a previously shuttered restaurant at 435 North Salina Street on Syracuse's north side. "With Love" is the home of the Food Management program where students learn all aspects of managing the restaurant business. The restaurant's cuisine will change every six months depending on the student entrepreneur/restaurateur in residence.

New Academic Leadership

Daria J. Willis, Ph.D. is the new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Willis comes to OCC from Lee College in Baytown, Texas, where she served as Dean of Academic Studies. Her leadership team at OCC includes four deans: **Christina Granato**, Dean of Health and Community Services; **Katharine Rumrill-Teece**, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; **Olin Stratton**, Dean of Natural and Applied Sciences; **Meredith Cantor-Feller**, Interim Dean of Visual, Performing and Applied Arts.

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Philosophy Professor, **David Bzdak**, is spending the 2016-17 academic year teaching at a university in India as part of the Fulbright Scholar international educational exchange program.

Helping Students with Life's Needs

The College opened the Community Care Hub in the Gordon Student Center. It helps students with all non-academic related problems in an effort to remove barriers among low-income students and individuals receiving public assistance. Services provided there include legal aid, tax support, a food pantry and coordinated access to emergency funds including transportation and books.

Common Read

New York Times Bestselling Author Cheryl Strayed visited OCC as part of the College's "Common Read." Students campus-wide read her book, "Wild" which details her physical and emotional journey during a difficult time in her life. Strayed spent time meeting with students and also spoke with the community during an event in the SRC Arena. Strayed's appearance was one of numerous activities connected with the year-long Common Read.



Donald Mawhinney completed 55 years of service to the College in June when he attended his final meeting as a member of the Board of Trustees. He was appointed a founding trustee in 1961 one year prior to classes starting in the College's Midtown Plaza location. OCC thanks Mawhinney for his remarkable service and dedication to all of Central New York.

LEADERSHIP

Class of 2016

MARY COPE

Mathematics & Science

Mary is a 2014 graduate of Homer High School who loves working with animals. She's licensed in animal rehabilitation and is also a general falconer whose hobby is training birds of prey. Mary transferred to the University of Georgia where she is majoring in poultry science and avian biology. "OCC was the perfect choice for me. I commuted every day and was able to work with my birds when I got home. When I graduated from high school I wasn't ready to move 13 hours from home. I definitely was after two years at OCC."

BRITTANY MONTPETT

Music with a specialization in Voice

Brittany often sang in public often during her two years on campus. The Cicero-North Syracuse High School alum performed at a statewide recognition ceremony in Albany, at the Onondaga County Legislature and at the College's Alumni Faces celebration where she stood side-by-side with famed Opera Tenor and OCC alumnus Dinyar Vania, '99. "I learned so much from my professors in the Music department. They played a huge role in me earning my degree and transferring." Brittany is now attending Syracuse University where she is majoring in music education.



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Report to the Community



Best of SUNY Art Exhibit

Artwork created by three OCC students was selected to appear in the "Best of SUNY" exhibit at the New York State Museum in Albany. The College's winners were:

Alyssa Caldwell, East Syracuse Minoa HS

Daniel Ryan, Liverpool HS

Renee Thompson, A Beka Academy, Pensacola, FL

2016 Alumni Faces

OCC welcomed four distinguished graduates into the family of "Alumni Faces" honorees for their professional achievements and contributions to the College and the community.

Jeffrey Cleland, '13

*High School: West Genesee
Major at OCC: General Studies*

Michael Meath, '87

*High School: Bishop Grimes
Major at OCC: Fire Protection Technology*

Kathy Rowe, '80

*High School: North Syracuse
Major at OCC: Radio & Television*

Dr. Thomas Zengeya, '02

Major at OCC: Mathematics & Science

Outstanding Alumni Award

Dr. Emad Rahim will receive the 2017 Outstanding Alumni Award in April from the American Association of Community Colleges. He is one of only five nationwide recipients. Rahim is OCC's third such honoree in the last four years, joining bestselling author **Laurie Halse Anderson** in 2015 and Human Rights Activist **John Dau** in 2014.

Serving Those Who Served

The College was once again named "Military Friendly" by G.I. Jobs Magazine for its deep commitment to its student-veterans and their families. The full-time Office of Veterans' Affairs offers support, assistance and information to 350 student-veterans and their dependents.

All-State Students

Two outstanding students were named to the USA Today Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-New York Academic Team. **Iga Szczezanik** is a graduate of Bishop Grimes High School. She was president of the College's PTK chapter and a Business Administration major. She now attends the Rochester Institute of Technology. **Leighann Bulich** came to OCC from Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School. She was a PTK officer and a Resident Assistant. She earned a degree in Emergency Management and now attends the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

National Champion

Devlen Williams finished first in the long jump competition at the NJCAA National Championships. Williams graduated in December 2016. He plans to become an athletic trainer.

Achieving the Dream

The Achieving the Dream National Reform Network is helping the College implement strategies designed to improve student success and completion. The initial year focused on community engagement and the development of ideas. The campus community used that input to create an implementation plan aimed at helping students complete developmental and other "gateway" courses and focusing on a first-year experience. Over the course of the next three years teams implement action plans to achieve core goals.

Our NASA Team

A team of six OCC students is designing a tool which astronauts will use during exploration. In May the students will take their prototype to the NASA Neutral Buoyancy Lab at the Johnson Space Center in Houston where astronauts will test the device. More than two dozen colleges from across the country were invited to submit designs. Most are prestigious four-year schools. OCC was one of only three community colleges selected.

OUTSTANDING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS



Newly-renovated Coulter Library

National Award Winner

Student **Kayla McKeon** was named the National Down Syndrome Society's (NDSS) Self-Advocate of the Year.

Serving the Community

OCC students demonstrated their commitment to Central New York by volunteering in record numbers. More than 1,400 students performed nearly 62,000 hours of community service during the academic year. The College was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Delivering Health Care

Nursing students spent their semester break on a service learning trip to Guatemala where they delivered medical supplies, provided health care and shared knowledge. Students built fuel-efficient stoves for residents and taught people about hygiene and injury prevention.

SUNY Chancellor's Awards

Five students were honored with SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence:

Leighann Bulich, Lake George Jr.-Sr. HS, Emergency Management

Toni Jones, Corcoran HS, Communication Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences with an Honors minor

Jade Lewis, Silver Creek HS, Electronic Media Communications and Humanities with an Honors minor

Daniel Quackenbush, Cicero-North Syracuse HS, Electronic Media Communications and Computer Information Systems

Iga Szczezanik, Bishop Grimes HS, Business Administration with minors in Women's Studies and Honors

Library Renovation

The top-to-bottom and front-to-back renovation of Coulter Library is nearly complete. The 18-month project will be finished by May 2017. The front half of the library now includes a cafe, spaces where students can relax, a winding staircase and offices and computer labs to serve students. The back half of the building consists of traditional library spaces including the book stacks. The building had not undergone any major changes since it opened in 1973.

Hospitality Management

The Hospitality Management learning space on the first floor of the Gordon Student Center has been renovated and expanded for enhanced student learning. Improvements include a new bakery kitchen, demonstration kitchen, teaching restaurant and retail location. There is also a new study area for students. The improvements were funded by a SUNY 2020 grant.

Sustainable Excellence

OCC's commitment to sustainability earned the College nationwide recognition and inclusion on several 2016 "best of" lists including:

- The 2016 Princeton Review's Guide to 361 Green Colleges.
- Sierra Club's 2016 Cool School Rankings.
- 2016 Sustainable Campus Index which is compiled by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Lazer Lounge

A new student lounge opened on the first floor of the Gordon Student Center. The Lazer Lounge was designed by students for students. Highlights include: gaming televisions, pool and ping pong tables, comfortable chairs to lounge in, columns covered with chalkboard paint which students can draw on and plenty of outlets for students to recharge their electronics.

Living Learning Communities

OCC incorporated Living Learning Communities (LLC) into its residence halls. An LLC provides students who share common educational, social or extracurricular interests the opportunity to live together. Programs are designed around specific majors or content areas.

Gateway to Sustainability

Forty years after Mawhinney Hall first opened its doors to students under the name "Academic I," the building has been transformed into a leader in sustainability. The Green Gateway and Living Lab project included a 12-acre redesign of the land around the west and south sides of Mawhinney Hall. New permeable pavers and asphalt were installed, allowing storm water to pass through into a series of underground pipes. The water is transported to large rectangular planters and ultimately to bio-retention areas filled with native plants. The new design keeps water from running into nearby Furnace Brook. Inside the building, rainwater is collected and used in the toilet flushing process, reducing the amount of fresh water the College uses for these purposes.

OCC Advantage

East Syracuse Minoa and Solvay are the first two school districts taking part in OCC Advantage, a new and unique college-readiness and scholarship pilot program. Current high school freshmen who maintain at least a "C" average, perform community service and meet attendance goals will be able to earn a full-tuition scholarship. Once enrolled in the College students will have two years to

complete work toward an associate degree or certificate, preparing them for a career or transfer to a four-year institution.

P-Tech

College is starting early for more than three dozen sophomores attending the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central. These students are part of the "P-Tech" program which stands for Pathways in Technology Early College High School, earning valuable credits toward an associate degree in either Electrical Engineering Technology or Mechanical Technology while partnering with industry leaders. Students come to the OCC campus twice a week for classes during their junior year of high school and three times a week during their senior year. OCC is also partnering with SUNY Broome on a second P-Tech program which provides Henninger High School students the opportunity to earn degrees in either Health Information

Technology or Clinical Lab Technician. Oswego County's nine school districts are also participating in a P-Tech program which puts students on a path toward degrees in either Electrical Engineering Technology or Mechanical Technology. All costs including tuition, books and fees are covered by a grant from the New York State Education Department.

McKinley Brighton

OCC has established a unique partnership with Syracuse's McKinley-Brighton Elementary School aimed at helping students think about career opportunities and higher education. OCC administrators have visited classrooms regularly and worked with students on a variety of topics including qualities which make outstanding leaders, journal making and a series of superhero drawings which are now displayed in the newly renovated Coulter Library.



Nursing trip to Guatemala



Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central students enrolled in the College's "P-Tech" program



Class of 2016

CHIDERA JOSEPH

Business Administration

Chidera is a native of Nigeria who was orphaned at a young age. When she was 11 she moved to the U.S. and was adopted by her aunt. Chidera graduated from Jamesville-Dewitt High School in 2014 and earned a degree from OCC two years later. "I enjoyed my time here. OCC is a really good school. The professors challenged you to think for yourself, analyze information and work on your critical thinking skills." Chidera is now attending Cornell University where she is majoring in communication.



GLENN LA POINT

Electronic Media Communications

Glenn is known to thousands of Central New Yorkers as radio personality "Gomez Adams." He had attended OCC decades earlier but left for a full-time job before getting his degree. Glenn returned for the spring 2016 semester and completed his final three classes. "I had nothing but a great experience my first time at OCC. I love the career I started because of it. I was excited to come back and finish what I started."



GRAINGER SASSO

Mathematics & Science

Grainger earned 38 college credits while attending West Genesee High School and completed his degree work at OCC in just one year. He enrolled in several high-level classes so he could seamlessly transfer into Cornell University's Biomedical Engineering program. "What blew me away at OCC was the dynamic between professors and students. I was amazed at my professors' caliber of qualification, their teaching styles and their effectiveness. These professors made it so easy for me with their support outside of class."



JENN DEROSA

Mathematics & Science

Less than one year after being named Skaneateles High School's Valedictorian Jenn earned an associate degree from OCC. She came to the College with one academic path in mind but chose another based on internship and classroom experiences. "All of the people here were so willing to lead you in the direction you wanted to go in. I'm so excited I got to experience my life here first, otherwise I'm not sure where I would be." Jenn was awarded a grant from the Methuselah Foundation and is now doing research.



TONI JONES

Communication Studies and Humanities + Social Sciences

SHARON HILL

Human Services

Sharon and Toni are mother and daughter who earned their college degrees on the same day. Sharon is the 58-year-old mom who came to OCC after her job was outsourced. Toni is the 36-year-old daughter whose shy personality was transformed when she joined the College's History Club. "When I was younger I wasn't involved in school outside of class. Once I had the opportunity to get involved it led to other things. It really improved my public speaking." Sharon and Toni both plan to pursue master's degrees.



JOHN GOULD

Alcohol & Substance Abuse Counseling

John started taking classes at OCC in 2010 at age 48. "I was nervous because I had never been to college. The faculty and staff were wonderful about accepting me." He became a leader on campus by serving as president of the Student Association for two consecutive years. John plans to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees in social work. "I thank OCC for the opportunity it gave me. The relationships with students, faculty and staff were great!"

Class of 2016