

a Science on a Sphere National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration display globe, and a Foucault Pendulum. The pendulum — which will be powered by an electromagnet and used to demonstrate the rotation of the earth — will be one of only a few in the state, and will be the only Foucault Pendulum in Orange County.

After seeing a brochure detailing plans for the facility, McChesney knew that she wanted to contribute.

“When I joined the faculty of Orange Coast College in 1950, I became a part of brother and sister scholars who loved to teach — that was the best decision I ever made,” she says. “The College is now building a Planetarium, which will be a center of scientific studies for college students as well as the surrounding community. I have grown old, but my love for this college is very much alive. Here is the promise for an exciting future.”

OCC Chamber Singers Perform ‘Songs of the Slave’ at Carnegie Hall in New York

When Orange Coast College’s Chamber Singers — along with five other choruses from California — took part in a performance of Kirke Mechem’s “Songs of the Slave” at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 24, the atmosphere was electric.

Perhaps it was the fact that OCC’s top choir had spent months preparing for the 35-minute cantata, which focuses on Frederick Douglass and communicates a powerful message about freedom, justice and equality. Or perhaps it was the fact that the composer of the stunning piece was sitting in the audience with 40 of his closest family and friends. In any case, it was clear that the singers on stage poured their hearts into the music, and the audience responded in kind.

“We spent two and a half days rehearsing the work in New York, then presented it to a nearly full audience who gave us a lengthy standing ovation afterward,” said Director of Choral and Vocal Activities Eliza Rubenstein. “The staff members of

Retired Professor Mary McChesney Gifts \$1 Million to OCC Planetarium

The Orange Coast College Foundation has received a gift of \$1 million from retired Spanish Professor Mary McChesney. The donation will fund a Foucault Pendulum for the College’s Planetarium, which is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2018.

McChesney, 91, is making the donation in honor of her late partner, Adelyn Bonin, who passed away in January of this year. Bonin — also a professor who taught German — retired from OCC in 1983 after 24 years of teaching.

“I know Lyn would be happy to do this. This is half hers,” says McChesney. “I like to think she sees what we’re doing, and she approves.”

OCC’s Planetarium will be the first of its kind in Orange County, serving as a premiere science center for both college and grade school students. The facility will include a state-of-the-art theatre and presentation room with a 40-foot dome and theater style seating for 125. Construction on the concrete dome began earlier this summer.

The Planetarium also will include an exhibit hall featuring

OCC's flower bloomed late Wednesday evening, and remained open on Thursday and Friday. Hundreds of visitors came to campus to view the plant, which was on display on the pFo



"[We] performed this work a year ago, and its gripping music and unforgettable text quickly stamped it in our hearts and minds as a favorite," explained Rubenstein. "The opportunity to bring it to a national stage was one we couldn't resist."



Corpse Flower Viewing Fundraiser Raises Money for Three Scholarships

Orange Coast College's Classified Senate raised \$1,500 — enough money for three student scholarships — during a Corpse Flower viewing event held on June 28-30.

The event was organized after the College's horticulture department announced it had an *Amorphophallus Titanum*, better known as a "Corpse Flower," set to bloom.

OCC's flower was named "Little Dougie" after Foundation Director Doug Bennett, and was grown from seed provided by the Huntington Botanical Gardens in 2003.

Corpse Flowers are known for their pungent odor, which many people liken to rotting flesh. The plant can take many years to bloom and has the potential to grow more than 10 feet tall. The College's Classified Senate organized a viewing event with a suggested donation of \$3 for visitors hoping to catch a whiff of the endangered plant.

