



Museum of Coastal Carolina Ingram Planetarium

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For immediate release

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What is the Ocean Isle Museum Foundation?

Ocean Isle Beach, NC – The nonprofit Ocean Isle Museum Foundation, Inc. (OIMF) is responsible for managing two facilities: the Museum of Coastal Carolina in Ocean Isle Beach and Ingram Planetarium in Sunset Beach. OIMF's Board of Trustees for 2020-2021 currently consists of Stan Barwikowski (Board Secretary), Allen Bryant, Ken Dunbar, Tim Eckert, Bob Forrester (Vice Chair), Ken Krause, Dick Ludden, Dianne McRaney (Treasurer), Rod Meadows, Lisa Mosca, Jerry Rothenberg (Chairman), Jerry Thrift (Emeritus), and Scott Walters. OIMF's Executive Director of both facilities is Terry Bryant.

The history of the museum and planetarium dates back to the 1980's when Stuart Ingram was fishing on Ocean Isle Beach. Many years later, Ingram recalled that it was a young boy's question ("What kind of fish is that, mister?") that gave him the idea to create a museum on the beach. The Museum of Coastal Carolina opened in May of 1991. But Ingram wasn't done. His continuing fascination with the night sky led him to dream of a planetarium where others could share his interest. Ingram Planetarium opened in May of 2002, shortly after Ingram's death.

With the first donation from his mother-in-law, the encouragement of a steering committee, the generosity of numerous friends, and the support of his wife, Louise, the local business community, and the citizens of Brunswick County, Ingram's vision of the Museum of Coastal Carolina and Ingram Planetarium is a reality today. The Ocean Isle Museum Foundation is proud to continue to support Ingram's mission.

The Museum of Coastal Carolina is located at 21 East Second Street in Ocean Isle Beach, NC. Ingram Planetarium is located at 7625 High Market Street in Sunset Beach, NC. Admission is free for members. Regular admission rates apply to nonmembers. The museum and planetarium are closed during the month of January but will reopen in February, 2021. For more information, call 910-579-1016 or visit www.MuseumPlanetarium.org.