



Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Sharing Success Stories

Greetings from Monmouth University

Student: Vanessa Tobia

OCVTS Program: Audio Engineering for Electronic Media

Instructors: Dennis Bourke, Bill Bourke and Frank Fotusky

Post-Secondary School: Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ

Class of: 2011

Center: Navy Lakehurst

In Vanessa's own words... I have always felt that enrolling in this program was one of my best decisions. I learned from three talented engineers and creative musicians who shared their knowledge, experiences, and passion for audio and love of music with me. Not only did they inspire my interest, but also encouraged and supported my growth and knowledge of this field. I worked on many recording sessions with them and also began assisting Mr. Bourke with the live theatre performances at the Performing Arts Academy. I also became involved in audio at my high school and mixed many musicals at Southern Regional and the Stafford Township Arts Center. These experiences helped my growth and opened up doors to more local opportunities to mix for other local theatre companies and bands.

Recently, I was a part of the audio team for the Super Bowl 50 pre-game, half time, and post-game shows in San Francisco. I worked for ATK Audiotek which runs the audio for NFL events, Grammys, CMAs, the Emmys, and many other events. For halftime, our crew had only six minutes to set up 18 carts of speakers, the stage with mics, instruments, moving light fixtures etc., and to get all of the talent in place for the 12 minute halftime performance. After the show, we had another six minutes to break everything down and clear the field for the 3rd quarter to begin. To be a part of such a large production was really amazing. It was awesome to see all of the crews work so well together and make the production flow so seamlessly. It was also very humbling to be in the presence of many industry professionals, such as Hamish Hamilton (the director of the show as well as the Grammys, Academy Awards, Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, VMAs etc.) and to see what my possible future could be by pursuing a career in audio full time.

I am currently choreographing the spring musical at Monmouth University, *The Addams Family*, and finishing my last semester there. I am excited to see what the future holds for me after graduation. OCVTS helped me grow in many ways as an individual, and the training I received there will stay with me forever. I am extremely grateful to the audio program at OCVTS.

Bill Bourke was quick to add, "Vanessa's grades were among the top in her class. She was continually given extra opportunities because of her commitment in class. Her positive attitude and skills in audio technology will land her much success!"

