

President's  
*Report*  
Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.



**TO:** Members, OCC Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.  
President

**SUBJECT:** Items of Interest for the **May 29, 2007, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** May 23, 2007

**Financial Aid Presentation**

Norma Betz, Executive Director of Financial Aid, will present a report detailing the national inquiry into student loan practices. OCC has submitted its response to Attorney General Radner's subpoena on time, in electronic format, comprehensively answering all the questions raised in the statewide inquiry sent to all institutions of higher education. As you know, we sent copies of the report to you for your review, which we hope you found to be complete and professional. We are proud of the work of our Financial Aid staff and pleased to discuss these issues with you at the Board meeting on May 29, 2007.

**Security Task Force**

The College's Security Task Force held its first meeting on Tuesday, May 8. The task force includes a number of our administrators, faculty, and security staff along with an impressive collection of public officials. Included in this group are:

Board of Trustee members, Bruce Greenfield & Linda Novak  
Chief Mastronardy of the Toms River Police Dept.  
Thomas Kehaher, Ocean County's Prosecutor  
William Malast of the Prosecutor's Office  
Jim Romer, from Kimball Hospital's Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services  
Frank Rodgers, Director of NJ State Park Police  
Ron Naffy & Scott Kish, from our local Homeland Security office

And a soon to be named representative from the Sheriff Polhemus' Office

To more efficiently and expeditiously complete their charge, the task force established four (4) working groups:

- ◆ Security Plan – to review, update and expand what is already a relatively extensive document to fill any gaps and to address any tragic scenario like what occurred at Virginia Tech. The group will also recommend training and practice scenarios that will involve appropriate agencies and the campus community.
- ◆ Intervention – to establish a plan that addresses actions that might be taken to prevent an incident and to assist a troubled student in receiving needed help, to establish clear assistive guidelines that are applied prior to, during, and following an incident, to establish training procedures for students, faculty, and staff. As a part of their charge, this group also will look into the competing legal concerns surrounding individual privacy and community safety.
- ◆ Technology – to review the technologies we currently have available and insure that we are using their maximum capabilities and to investigate other technologies, both high & low technologies, which could improve our readiness.
- ◆ Grants and Funding – to investigate funding sources and partnership opportunities that can assist in our acquiring any new or upgraded technologies that may be needed.

The Task Force's intends to bring a final report to the Board of Trustees at their September meeting.

### **Robert J. Novins Planetarium**

The **Ocean County College Foundation** held the **Reach for the Stars Campaign Kick-Off** on **Friday, May 4** at 10:00 a.m. at the Robert J. Novins Planetarium on Ocean County College's Main Campus, College Drive, Toms River, NJ. "Reach for the Stars" is a fundraising campaign to support the renovation and renewal of the Novins Planetarium.

Through the "Reach for the Stars" campaign, headed by Trustee Stephan Leone, the outdated equipment will be replaced and the facility renovated in order to provide for rich astronomical, scientific, and cultural learning opportunities on a par with those available in today's world of digital technology.

Information about the campaign and how to make a donation are available through the Ocean County College Foundation at 732.255.0492, and on the OCC Web Site at [www.ocean.edu](http://www.ocean.edu).

## OCC Nursing Program

The results of the **National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX- RN)** were recently received for the period **October 2006 to March 2007**. Of the **71 OCC Nursing Program graduates** who sat for the exam during that timeframe, **66, or 93%**, were **successful**. Those who took the exam **graduated** in either **May or December 2006**.

We are **quite pleased** with this rate of **success**, which was an **increase** from the **90%** success rate of the graduates who sat for the examination **between April and September 2006**. **Congratulations and appreciation** are extended to **Dr. James Brown, Dean of Science, Engineering, Allied Health, and Human Performance, Ms. Sandra Kearns, Administrator of Nursing and Allied Health**, and the **faculty and staff** who work with our students in the very demanding Nursing Program.

## Educational Opportunity Fund

The **New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund** hosted its annual **Professional Association's Student Day Conference** on **March 20<sup>th</sup>** to recognize **outstanding achievement and leadership by EOF students**. The following **awards were presented** to OCC students:

- ◆ **Outstanding Academic Achievement Award** – presented to EOF students whose cumulative **grade point averages are 3.50-3.99**:

Rachael Bolton, A.A. General Education, grade point average of 3.5  
Regina Briggs, A.A. Liberal Arts, grade point average of 3.48  
Mary Campos, A.A. Liberal Arts, grade point average of 3.75  
Vincent Centamore, A.A. General Education, grade point average of 3.5  
Calvin Cheung, A.A. Liberal Arts, grade point average of 3.5  
Betsabe Jusino, A.A. Liberal Arts, grade point average of 3.73  
Edward Kraftmann, A.S. General Education, grade point average of 3.77  
Omar A. Kurdi, A.S. Business Administration, grade point average of 3.49  
Christian M. Liga, A.S. Engineering, grade point average of 3.8  
Bilkis A. Saliu, A.A.S. Nursing, grade point average of 3.67  
Jana C. Walchakk, A.S. Business Administration, grade point average of 3.62

- ◆ **Academic Achievement Award** – presented to EOF students whose cumulative **grade point averages are 3.2 to 3.4**:

Vellus Campbell, A.S. Business Administration, grade point average of 3.29  
Heather Coyle, A.A. Liberal Arts, grade point average of 3.3  
Larbi Kandil, A.S. Engineering, grade point average of 3.38  
Guner Kangal, A.A.S. Civil/Construction Technology, grade point average of 3.33  
Brian A. Wadsworth, A.S. General Education, grade point average of 3.25

- ◆ **Outstanding Achievement** – presented to **one graduating EOF student** from each campus who is considered by the EOF Director and staff to **best exemplify the spirit and intent of the EOF Program**, with consideration being given to **leadership skills, contributions to the program, and personal obstacles** that were necessary to overcome to succeed and attain his/her graduation goal:

The **New Jersey EOF Board of Directors** also recognizes **EOF Champions**, campus administrators, faculty, and staff, who, while not directly employed by the program, have **served as strong advocates and supporters of EOF** over the years. This year's EOF Champion at OCC is Ms. Eileen Burdge. Ms. Burdge is a former EOD Managerial Technician, who now works in Financial Aid. ....

### **OCC Athletics**

Ocean County College's **Scott Defibaugh** (Lacey) birdied the first playoff hole Tuesday **to win** the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division III **Region XIX Golf Championship** at Cape May National Golf Club in Erma. Defibaugh, who finished the final round with a 75, advances to the **NJCAA Division III national tournament**, which will be held June 4, 2007, at Chautauqua Golf Course in Chautauqua, N.Y.

### **June Board of Trustees Meeting Date**

Because I will be **traveling to Japan** with a delegation of academic leaders from **Ocean County College and Kean University** on June 24, 2007, I am requesting that our very important **June meeting of the Board of Trustees be moved** ahead from June 25, 2007, **to the prior Friday, June 22, 2007**. Although it is unusual to have a Friday Board meeting, the final meeting of the fiscal year is critical to our beginning of the year FY08 operations when many spending authorizations are approved, so moving the meeting to a later date in July is not feasible.

As an alternative, we could schedule the meeting on Monday, June 18, 2007, but that is a rather brief less-than-three-week interlude between our May 29, 2007, meeting and the June meeting. Several members of our staff have requested that we not hold the June meeting that soon after the May meeting.

Therefore, **provided this alternative date is one a majority of members can attend**, we will have ready a plan to meet on Friday, June 22, 2007 for your discussion at our May meeting.