



# 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 **March 23, 2009, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** March 18, 2009

## Ocean County College Swim Teams – National Winners

For the **first time** in the history of the college, the men's and women's swimming teams won the **Non-Scholarship Division** of the **National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Swimming and Diving Championships**. They accomplished this **outstanding achievement** at **Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York**, during the competition which took place from **Wednesday to Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Our swimmers were **extremely successful**, with many achieving **personal best times** and **best times** for the season:

### ◆ Personal best times:

- ◆ **Bethany Wozniak**, women's 500 freestyle, 5:45.19
- ◆ **Bethany Wozniak**, women's 1650 freestyle, 20:02.72
- ◆ **Erin O'Connor**, women's 200 individual, 2:34.93
- ◆ **Pat Solan**, men's 1650 freestyle, 18:58.39
- ◆ **Anthony Porzio**, men's 1650 freestyle, 17:53.10
- ◆ **Jason Jennings**, men's 50 freestyle, 22.38

### ◆ Season best times:

- ◆ **Jenny Lo, Kristina Laureigh, Bethany Wozniak, and Marion Burke**, women's 400 medley relay, 4:34.53

- ◆ **Brian Mahoney, Rich Maier, Chris Lombardo, and Jordan Centofanti**, men's 400 medley relay, 3:38.93
- ◆ **Lauren Ashman, Brittany Nycz, Sarah Gallini, and Erine O'Connor**, women's 800 freestyle relay, 9:19.71
- ◆ **Jenny Lo, Bethany Wozniak, Marion Burke, Erine O'Connor**, women's 200 freestyle relay, 1:51.38
- ◆ **Brian Mahoney, Jason Jennings, Chris Lombardo, and Jordan Centofanti**, men's 200 freestyle relay, 1:29.06, a time that **broke the school record**
- ◆ **Jordan Centofanti**, men's 50 freestyle, 22.25, which **broke the school record**
- ◆ **Jenny Lo, Marion Burke, Bethany Wozniak, and Erine O'Connor**, women's 200 medley relay, 2:04.85
- ◆ **Brian Mahoney, Rich Maier, Chris Lombardo, and Jordan Centofanti**, men's 200 medley relay, 1:39.09, which **broke the school record**
- ◆ **Jenny Lo, Marion Burke, Bethany Wozniak, and Erine O'Connor**, women's 400 freestyle relay, 4:03.67
- ◆ **Jason Jennings, Chris Lombardo, Brian Mahoney, and Jordan Centofanti**, men's 400 freestyle relay, 3:19.64, a **new school record**

We are so very proud of our men's and women's swim teams and their excellent representation of Ocean County College in Buffalo. Hearty congratulations are extended to the swimmers and Coach Steve Stout, Assistant Athletic Director AJ Trump, and Athletic Director Ilene Cohen.

#### Ocean County College Woman Athlete of the Year

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Seton Hall University was the host site for all New Jersey women athletes who were honored by their schools, from high school to two-year colleges to four-year institutions. Ocean County College selected Jenny Lo for its 2008 Woman Athlete of the Year.

In spring 2008, Jenny was named to the NJCAA All-American Swim Team. She is a liberal arts major and NJ STARS student, who plans to become an elementary school teacher. She has worked as a lifeguard throughout Ocean County and volunteered for the Island Beach State Park Beach Cleanup. Jenny has been an invaluable addition to the Ocean County College athletic program.

#### League for Innovation – Faculty Innovation Winner

The League for Innovation in the Community College is an international organization dedicated to serving community colleges through conferences and institutes, research, publications, initiatives, and Web resources. Each year the League honors outstanding innovations which have been recognized by member institutions as Innovations of the Year. These innovations represent capstone achievements and the continuing renewal of the spirit of innovation and experimentation.

This year, **Thomas Lesniak, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Science**, has received **Ocean County College's Innovator of the Year Award** for his **development and implementation** of multiple internal and external **crime scene locations** for the **Criminal Justice Program**. The crime scenes **integrated evidence** into several scenarios requiring students to demonstrate **critical thinking** and **analytical deduction**. The multiple scenes involved the **collection of furniture, clothing, and weapons** (nonfunctioning). In addition to the critical thinking and analytical deduction activities, the students had the **experience** of a **life-like evidence collection**, including **photographic evidence**. Professor Lesniak's efforts were **coordinated** with members of the **Criminal Justice faculty**.

**Congratulations to Professor Lesniak on this well-deserved recognition, which will be acknowledged on the League for Innovation website.**

### **Bookstore Rewards Program**

The **Ocean County College Bookstore** recently **implemented** a new **rewards program** to allow our students to **earn Viking Bucks**, which can be **redeemed** on **future purchases** in the Bookstore.

This **Viking Bucks rewards program** works much like the **major credit cards** wherein **points** can be used to **purchase various items**, such as airline tickets, merchandise, or gift cards. The student earns **one Viking Buck for every dollar spent** at the Bookstore. These **Viking Bucks** can be **converted to Bookstore gift cards** for **future purchases** of **books, classroom supplies, clothing, or other incidentals**. The only **exceptions** for the use of Viking Bucks are **nursing uniforms and computer equipment**.

This is a **wonderful opportunity** for our students to **save money on textbooks**, the prices of which continually increase. This program is also **available to college staff**.

**Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services**, will attend **Monday's meeting** to tell you more about this **exciting new program**.

### **2008 Best Practices Conference**

The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges 2009 Best Practices Conference**, "**Advancing New Ideas through Best Practices**," is scheduled for **Thursday and Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**. This year, the event is being **hosted by Hudson County Community College** at its **Culinary Center in Jersey City**.

**Sponsoring the conference this year are SSP Architectural Group, USA Architects Planners and Interior Designs, The College Board, and The New York Times.**

**Thursday evening** begins with a **networking reception** and **keynote presentation** by **Dr. Idahlynn Karre, Associate Director of the Leadership Academy in Mesa, Arizona**, and renowned international speaker, consultant, and coach, on "**Our Community College Journey from Good to Great in Challenging Times**." **Friday**

features a number of **best practices presentations from colleagues and peers, vendor tables, and networking**. I have been selected to present the featured session on Friday; my presentation is titled **“Entrepreneurial Perspectives: Bringing Entrepreneurial Perspectives to the Academy.”**

The **Best Practices Conference** is always an **interesting and informative event**. If you are **interested** in attending, please let me know.

### **Ocean County College Foundation Golf Outing**

The **Ocean County College Foundation’s 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**, at the **Eagle Ridge Golf Club** in **Lakewood**. In the **first seven years** of the outing, **over \$375,000** has been raised to **support our students**.

**Registration and lunch** will begin at **11:00 a.m.**, with **driving range practice** from **11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The **shotgun start** is at **12:30 p.m.**, and the **awards/cocktail reception** will take place from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Please **join us** if you can.

### **Mathematics Awareness Month**

Since **1986**, **Mathematics Awareness Month** is recognized in **April** each year to increase public **understanding of and appreciation for mathematics**. It is sponsored by the **Joint Policy Board for Mathematics**, which is a **collaborative effort** of the **American Mathematical Society, American Statistical Association, Mathematical Association of America, and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics**.

The **theme** this year is **Mathematics and Climate** in recognition of one of the most **important challenges** of our time, **modeling global climate**. Some of the **fundamental questions** researchers are currently **addressing** are:

- ◆ How long will the summer **Arctic sea ice pack** survive?
- ◆ Are **hurricanes** and other **severe weather events** getting stronger?
- ◆ How much will **sea level** rise as **ice sheets** melt?
- ◆ How do **human activities** affect **climate change**?
- ◆ How is **global climate** monitored?

**Calculus, differential equations, numerical analysis, probability, and statistics** are just some of the areas of mathematics used to **understand the oceans, atmosphere, and polar ice caps** as well as the **complex interactions** among these vast systems. **Analyzing feedback effects** is a **crucial component** of **global climate modeling** and often a **significant factor** in **long-term predictions**.

It is respectfully requested that the Board adopt a resolution proclaiming April as **Mathematics Awareness Month** at **Ocean County College** to remind the college community of the **importance of mathematics** in our **daily lives**.

### National Poetry Month

**National Poetry Month** was established in 1996 by the **Academy of American Poets** as a **month-long, national celebration** of poetry. The goals of **National Poetry Month** are to:

- Highlight the **extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement** of **American poets**
- Introduce more Americans to the **pleasures of reading poetry**
- **Bring** poets and poetry to the **public** in **immediate and innovative ways**
- Make poetry a more **important part** of the **school curriculum**
- **Increase the attention** paid to poetry by **national and local media**
- Encourage increased **publication, distribution, and sales of poetry books**
- Increase **public and private philanthropic support** for poets and poetry

A **number of events** are planned to **celebrate National Poetry Month** at Ocean County College, including **visiting poets**, a **film series**, an **“open mike” poetry session** for students, and student **workshops for creative writing**.

I respectfully request that a **resolution be adopted** by the Board to **proclaim** the month of **April as Poetry Month** at **Ocean County College** to **encourage the study of poetry** by our **students and participation** in the **various events** offered on campus to **celebrate National Poetry Month**.

### Commendation

The most recent essay co-written by **Dr. Martin Novelli, Dean of Humanities, Fine Arts, and Media Studies**, and **Dr. Frank Wetta, Professor of History at Kean University**, was published in a collection, **Why We Fought: America's Wars in Film and History** (University of Kentucky Press, 2008). Their essay is titled **"On Telling the Truth about War: World War II and Hollywood's Moral Fiction, 1945 - 1956."**

**Why We Fought: America's Wars in Film and History** was named by **CHOICE** magazine as one of the **top 15 books on film** published in 2008. It has also won the **Ray and Pat Browne Award** for the **best edited collection in popular and American Culture Studies** for 2008. An entire session at the **January 2009 meeting** of the **American Historical Association** in **New York City** was devoted to the book.

**Congratulations to Dr. Novelli and Dr. Wetta.**



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** since 1986, as a result of a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan, April has been designated nationally as Mathematics Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Mathematics Awareness Month is sponsored by the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics for the purpose of increasing public understanding of and appreciation for mathematics; and

**WHEREAS,** the theme this year for Mathematics Awareness Month is “Mathematics and Climate” because mathematics is required to solve the fundamental questions about the earth’s climate, particularly those concerning global warming; and

**WHEREAS,** mathematics is central to the development of both traditional and alternative energy sources and to the evolution of other strategies for mitigating the effects of climate change;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the month of April 2009 be proclaimed as Mathematics Awareness Month at Ocean County College; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the college community be reminded of the importance of mathematics to our daily lives as well as encourage the study and utilization of mathematics by our students.

*Adopted: March 23, 2009*

---

Linda L. Novak  
Secretary



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** each year since 1996 April has been designated by the American Academy of Poets as National Poetry Month in order to achieve an increasing visibility, presence, and accessibility of poetry in our culture; and

**WHEREAS,** National Poetry Month is recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English as a fundamental occasion for increasing the awareness of poetry; and

**WHEREAS,** poetry, as an essential part of the arts and humanities, affects every aspect of life in America today, including education, the economy, and community pride and development; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the goal of National Poetry Month to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the month of April 2009 be proclaimed as Poetry Month at Ocean County College; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the college community be reminded of the importance of poetry in our daily lives, promote the study of poetry by our students, and encourage participation in the various events offered on campus for National Poetry Month.

*Adopted: March 23, 2009*

---

Linda L. Novak  
Secretary