



# 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 **February 28, 2011, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** February 23, 2011

## Ocean County College Athletics

Ms. Ilene Cohen, Director of Athletics, and Mr. AJ Trump, Assistant Director of Athletics, will join us at Monday's meeting to share information on the following good news:

- ◆ Ms. Robynn Frank was selected as the **OCC Woman Athlete of the Year** and was recognized through the **Garden State Athletic Conference** at the **National Girls and Women in Sports Day** at **Seton Hall University** on **Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. Robynn was a **standout in women's basketball**, having over **600 rebounds** and just less than **600 points**, and in **softball**, earning the distinction of **Most Valuable Player** as a **freshman**. She is a **NJ STARS student** who has excelled in the **classroom** and in **athletics**. She is now attending **Kean University** on our campus in pursuit of a **teaching degree**.
- ◆ Ms. Cohen was also recognized at the **National Girls and Women in Sports Day** at **Seton Hall**. She was presented with the **2011 Honor Award** for her **outstanding achievements in athletics** and her **contributions to girls and women in sports**. Ms. Cohen accepted her award with over **800 people** from around the state in attendance at the event.

On Monday, Ms. Cohen will also update you on the status of winter season tournaments.

## Ocean County College Veterans Affairs and Veterans Club

Since the arrival of Mr. Mike Sparrow as OCC's Coordinator of Veterans Affairs in September 2010, there has been a renewed effort to support Ocean County veterans.

Mr. Sparrow, who served eight years in the U.S. Navy with sea time aboard the U.S.S. Constellation, has developed an integrated, proactive outreach approach to veterans services based on national best practices for college campuses.

OCC's veterans now have an active Veterans Advisory Committee, a group advising/orientation program that is specific to veterans, a one-stop veteran's service center in the Academic Advising/Planning Department, and close community support through the local American Legion and specialized business and social services for veterans. Ongoing professional development has been developed for faculty and staff regarding the needs of veterans as they return home to re-integrate their lives, work, and learning into the fabric of the community. Additionally, a Veterans Club that is closely linked to all Student Life social events and community service projects is available for our veterans.

The Ocean County College Veterans Club is a national fraternity that brings together students who served in the United States Armed Forces. The members seek to examine matters of common educational, financial, and social significance as well as assist new veteran students in the transition to academic life.

Col. Alan Smith, OCC Adjunct Instructor of History and Training Director for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, serves as OCC's Veterans Club Advisor. He will join us on Monday to provide some information to you on the club's activities and the upcoming fundraising dinner scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Toms River American Legion. He will also share with you the ways in which the OCC veteran's experience is changing.

### Grant Award

At Monday's meeting, a recommendation is being made to accept a \$7,500 grant award from the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority through the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education to support the Opening Pathways to Education Now (OPEN) program. This is the third year the College has received this Federal College Access Challenge Grant, the primary purpose of which is to assist families with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).

Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid, will make a brief presentation on Monday regarding the number of families who have been assisted as a result of this grant in the last two years as well as to explain the importance of the assistance to at-risk students.

### New Jersey Council of County Colleges

On Monday evening, following the Board meeting, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges is presenting a seminar for New Jersey county college trustees entitled, "Foundations of Excellence: Innovative Strategies so New Students Succeed," from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township. Trustees are invited to stay for dinner following the seminar.

**Dr. John Gardner, Policy Center on the First Year of College, will be the guest speaker at the seminar. Dr. Gardner will share strategies to support and foster the success of new students.**

**As you recall, in 2008, Ocean County College was selected to participate in Dr. Gardner's *Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year*, a comprehensive, guided self-study and improvement process that enhances an institution's ability to realize its goals for student learning, success, and persistence. At the seminar on Monday, Mrs. Linda Novak and I will highlight the value of working with *Foundations of Excellence* and its impact on first-year students. Accompanying us will be Ms. Maureen Reustle, Dean of Academic Services, Vice President Don Doran, and Executive Vice President Richard Strada, who will continue discussions with their colleagues from throughout the state after the seminar.**

**If you are interested, please let me know if you would like to join us at the seminar.**

### **Community College National Legislative Summit**

**Mr. Dave Wolfe, Mr. Bray Barnes, and I met with Congressmen Chris Smith, Jon Runyan, and Rodney Frelinghuysen when we were in Washington, D.C., during the 2011 Community College National Legislative Summit from February 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. We discussed with them four Ocean County College initiatives:**

- ◆ **The establishment of a Homeland Security Education and Training Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**
- ◆ **The establishment of an Ocean County College-Barnegat Bay Partnership EnviroCenter**
- ◆ **A partnership with the U.S. Naval Air Force, Specialty Systems, Inc., and Ocean County College for the development of an Aviation Data Management and Control System (ADMACS), a shipboard management program that will support the planning, execution, and readiness/assessment for tactical ship operations**
- ◆ **The Ocean County College School of E-Learning**

**We had interesting and productive visits with all of the Congressmen, who expressed their support for our programs.**

### **Arts and Community Center**

**Two events are being planned for the grand opening of the Ocean County College Arts and Community Center. A traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on Friday afternoon, April 8, at the front of the building. On Saturday, April 9, there will be a very special grand opening performance by "The Three Phantoms in Concert," with music by the Garden State Philharmonic, a 55 piece orchestra, conducted by its Artistic Director Anthony LaGruth.**

**"The Three Phantoms in Concert" highlights the individual talents of three artists who have all played the Phantom, featuring solo numbers from the shows that made them the stars that they have become. The concert features solos, duets, and trios from *Les Misérables*, *Miss***

*Saigon*, and *The Phantom of the Opera* as well as numbers from *Guys and Dolls*, *Company*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Most Happy Fella*, *The Secret Garden*, *Nine*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Sweeney Todd*, and many more musical productions.

Theatre-goers will have the opportunity to attend a high-end cocktail party prior to the concert at the ticket price of \$150, and proceeds from this fundraising event will benefit the Arts and Community Center. Invitations will be mailed in March.

We are extremely excited to be presenting this exceptional level of performance on our campus. Special appreciation is expressed to Ms. Carol Kaunitz, Director of Auxiliary Services, for her coordination of this very fine event.

### Ocean County College Senior Living Expo

Ocean County College will host its first annual Senior Living Expo on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the College Gymnasium. Through a creative funding model, with sponsorship by the Saint Barnabas Health Care System and Harrogate and revenue being generated from over 30 vendors, admission to the Expo is free.

Businesses, community organizations, and civic nonprofit agencies will have informative displays as well as interactive exhibits. Additionally, OCC will be well represented by the Planetarium, the Bookstore, TV 20, and other College departments. Community Medical Center will host health and wellness screenings for such things as cholesterol, blood pressure, and memory. Through advertisements and marketing in all of the Ocean County senior communities, in publications, and on the radio, it is anticipated that hundreds of seniors will attend the Expo.

Ms. Gina Suriano, Director of Resource Development, and Ms. Joanne Padrone, Manager of Resource Development, are coordinating this first-ever event.

### Ocean County College Surplus Sale

Ocean County College has moved its surplus sale to a government auction website, GovDeals, which is a more efficient way of advertising surplus items. The items were listed on the site this past Wednesday, and the auction concludes on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

A surplus sale advertisement will be placed in the Asbury Park Press on Friday in accordance with State statute. The ad will reference the GovDeals website, and a link to GovDeals will be included on the OCC Purchasing Department website.

### Board of Trustees Retreat

Please note that the next Board of Trustees Retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Technology Building Conference Room. If there are any specific issues you would like to discuss, please let me know.