



# 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 November 4, 2013, Board Meeting

**DATE:** October 30, 2013

## Veterans Day

The Ocean County College Veterans Day Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, November 11, at 12:00 noon at the Veterans Memorial on campus.

I am delighted that Brigadier General Martha A. Meeker, Vice Commander, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, will be our guest speaker. The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center is the Air Force's Center of Excellence for advanced expeditionary combat support training and education.

Brigadier General Meeker earned her commission as a graduate of the Air Force Officer Training School. Her assignments include duty as an instructor navigator and evaluator within Strategic Air Command and NATO. She has commanded at the squadron and wing level and has served as an Air Officer Commanding at the United States Air Force Academy, a Deputy Group Commander, a Vice Wing Commander, and, most recently, as Commandant, U.S.A.F. Expeditionary Center. She is a Senior Navigator with over 1,900 flight hours.

In addition, a Veteran's Day Event will be held at the Southern Education Center in Manahawkin on Tuesday, November 12, at 9:30 a.m. Retired Marine Colonel and decorated war veteran Alan Smith, an adjunct instructor of History, will present "Veterans: Yesterday and Today" in the Student Lounge.

The OCC Veterans Day activities are always moving tributes to our veterans. They will have even more meaning since, as reported to you last month, Ocean County College has been named to the 2014 Military Friendly Schools list as one of the top 20% of

colleges in the country that embraces and supports military service members and veterans.

Two veterans will attend Monday's meeting to share their experiences and the ways in which Ocean County College has helped them: Robert Mathers, who was an OCC student and is now working as a Financial Aid Specialist in Veterans Services, and George Galeski, who is currently attending OCC.

Please join us for our Veterans Day ceremonies if you can.

### Academic Affairs

- ◆ On October 25, Dr. Sheldon Drucker, President of Fairleigh Dickinson University, and I signed an Ocean County College-Fairleigh Dickinson University Scholars Program Agreement. The Agreement provides a 40% tuition discount for all OCC transfer students who have completed associate degrees. Additional incentives are also provided to PTK graduates, NJ STARS graduates, and graduates with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The incentives also apply to students who wish to pursue master's degrees at Fairleigh Dickinson.
- ◆ Academic Affairs worked very closely with the Grants Office and submitted a grant for Cyber Security and GIS programs at the College, although the proposed programs will be developed regardless of whether the grant funding is received. These programs will involve collaboration among three academic disciplines: Computer Studies, Homeland Security, and Engineering. The proposed programs also have a very strong component of community service.
- ◆ Academic Affairs actively sought faculty input in classroom technology design and layout through a recent survey, and more than 69% of the faculty responded. Their feedback is being incorporated in the final planning document.
- ◆ By way of another survey, faculty were asked for recommendations in the program design for the Faculty Center for Excellence and Innovation; 61% of the faculty responded with programming ideas.
- ◆ The OCC Library has experienced a great deal of change in recent years. Erin Cartwright, Interim Director of the Library, has been invited to Monday's meeting to share with you a summary of the trends which have influenced change in the Library.

### Ocean County College Athletic Hall of Fame

Five outstanding alumni-athletes, coaches, and others of distinction will be honored at the Ocean County College Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner on Wednesday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Health and Human Performance Center. The Master of Ceremonies is Kevin Williams, Sports Director at WOBB Radio.

The five distinguished honorees, who have made a significant impact on the OCC athletic program, are:

- ◆ Dom Alagia, who has been a Public Address Announcer for OCC sporting events since the 1990's. He is an actor and voice over artist in TV, movies, radio, and videos.
- ◆ Robert Czarniewski, a Scoreboard Operator for OCC sporting events since 1972. He teaches physical education at Island Heights Elementary School.
- ◆ Mary Bellezza Gibson, a 2002 OCC graduate. She played on the Viking Women's Basketball team from 1996-1998. Ms. Gibson works as the County Municipal Alliance Coordinator for the Ocean County Health Department and is an adjunct instructor for Health Science at Richard Stockton College.
- ◆ Michael J. Kavanagh, an OCC graduate in 1978, who played on the Viking Men's Basketball team from 1976-1978. He is a trial attorney with GEICO (Government Employees Insurance Company).
- ◆ Karen Geiger Trump, a graduate from OCC in 1999. She played on the Viking Women's Soccer and Basketball teams from 1997-1999. In addition, Ms. Trump was the Viking Women's Head Soccer Coach (2003-2010). She currently serves as the Director of the Micro Program for the Beachwood Soccer Club.

OCC alumni-athlete nominees must be two-year participants in the OCC athletic program, have made a significant impact in the sport, and maintained a 2.0 or higher grade point average while at OCC, with eligibility for recognition beginning the seventh year after departure. OCC coaches must have been an outstanding coach for three or more years; be retired as a coach for at least one year; hold state, regional, or national achievements; and have been an employee in good standing while coaching.

#### Ocean County College Athletic Team Success

Men's Soccer - The Men's Soccer team compiled an impressive 12-3 regular season record on its way to fourth seed in the Region XIX Tournament. The team finished third in the Garden State Athletic Conference and was nationally ranked throughout the season. Additionally, Kevin Istvanditsch, Justin Pfeiffer, Bill Bartels, Ben Osei, and Pablo Bedoya were named to the All-Region Team.

First-year coach Sal Colino and Vasili Foukarakis, his assistant, are preparing the team for the Regional Playoffs. The Vikings defeated Bergen in the Regional Quarter-Finals on Tuesday, October 29, with a score of 2-0, and the team is competing against Camden on Thursday, October 31, for a chance at the Region Championships and a return trip to the NJCAA National Championships.

**Women's Soccer** - The Women's Soccer team compiled an impressive 12-3 regular season record and earned third seed in the Region XIX Tournament. The team finished third in the Garden State Athletic Conference and has been nationally ranked throughout the season. Additionally, Marykate Sullivan, Jacki Wolf, Hailey Neluna, and Maeve Burg were named to the All-Region Team.

The team began regional play on October 23, defeating Union 4-1 in the semi-finals. The Vikings fell to Gloucester in the Regional Final on Saturday, October 25, by the score of 1-0. OCC defender Marykate Sullivan was named Defensive Most Valuable Player during the game.

**Women's Tennis** - Women's Tennis had an excellent season, finishing second in the Garden State Athletic Conference and third in the Region XIX Tournament. Allison Dennis was named to the All-Garden State Athletic Conference Team and Casi Callahan, Heather Kaba, and Cynthia Vitolo each earned All-Region XIX honors as well.

Based on their excellent team finish, the Viking Women's Tennis team qualified for and participated at the NJCAA National Tennis Tournament from October 22 to 25 at the Billy Jean King Tennis Center in New York City and finished ninth in the nation.

**Cross Country** - The Cross Country team has had an excellent season. The men are currently ranked sixth, and the women are in second place in the NJCAA National Polls. The team ran in the Region XIX Championship meet on Sunday, October 26, at Thompson Park. The Men finished as Region XIX Champions and the Women finished second. Keith Charette, Kevin Charette, Brandon Eldershaw, Liz Kowalski, Meghie Weinberger, and Paige Fisk each earned All-Region XIX First-Team Honors. The Vikings will now travel to Holyoke, Massachusetts, for the NJCAA National Championship Meet on November 9.

**Champions of Character** – Ocean County College and Brookdale Community College were recently honored as co-recipients of the 2012-2013 National Junior College Athletic Association's Region XIX Institutional Champions of Character Award. The award is given annually to the athletic department that best embraces community service and athletic competition as a means of character development through sport.

Student-athletes, coaches, and administrators took part in a number of community service events aimed at helping the recovery efforts after Hurricane Sandy devastated the Jersey Shore, including making a considerable donation to the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. This is the second time that both Brookdale and Ocean have been recognized for their commitment to reflecting the NJCAA's core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership, and sportsmanship. Brookdale and Ocean student-athletes maintain a standard of excellence both on and off the field as they recognize that there is more to the college experience than athletics. A few of the initiatives by members of the athletic department over the past year include collecting gifts for Toys for Tots, hosting numerous youth athletic clinics, and cleaning up residential neighborhoods devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

## Instruction

e-Learning - On November 21, Jeff Harmon, Director of e-Learning, and Marc Labella, Associate Professor of Biology, will individually present at the keynote address at the New Jersey Edge Digital Reality Conference in Plainsboro, New Jersey. Mr. Harmon will present “So You Want to Go Online: A Model for Successful Rapid Distance Education Infusion,” and Professor Labella will present “Ocean Does Online” relating to the success of the online Anatomy and Physiology courses offered by OCC.

Pat Fenn, Executive Director of e-Learning and Continuing and Professional Education, will be participating at the annual meeting of the Western Cooperative for Educational Technology (WCET) as a member of the Steering Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors. WCET is a subsidiary of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). WICHE fosters collaborative projects, information sharing, and networking among some of the most established postsecondary providers of e-Learning in the country. She will be attending the November 13-15 meeting in Denver to facilitate discussions focused upon e-Learning and the State Authorization Project.

Dr. Maysa Hayward, Dean of the e-Learning Faculty, continues her academic involvement in Arabic Studies through the publication of her chapter entitled: *Identity, Transformation and the Anglophone Arab Novel*. Her chapter is part of The Edinburgh Companion to The Arab Novel in English: The Politics of Anglo Arab and Arab American Literature and Culture, which was edited by Nouri Gana and published by the Edinburgh University Press, 2013.

Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) – Pat Fenn has been very busy working with the State of New Jersey Labor and Workforce Development Department (LWD) through both our Network Grant (NJ Recovery) and her position with the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Last week, Ms. Fenn hosted the Strategic Planning Committee meeting of the WIB on our campus. In December, the LWD will hold a regional meeting on our campus.

Under Pat Fenn and Kathryn Caro, Administrator of Nursing and Allied Health, Continuing and Professional Education has increased its programming in the health field, which has served the needs of our community while providing an increase in the annual revenue for the College. Ms. Caro will be presenting an in-depth report at Monday’s meeting on our CPE Health Care Programming; some of the highlights include:

- ◆ CPE has received national recognition for educational excellence.
- ◆ OCC’s programs are based upon industry standards leading to employment for our students.

- ◆ Ms. Caro established the first online certificate programs in Medical Billing, Coding, Electronic Health Records, and Health Information Management for over 250 students.

**Southern Education Center (SEC)** – Vivian Lombardo, SEC Administrative Assistant, and Jeff Kurz, Assistant Director of Academic Outreach (SEC), have reported a very successful blood drive at the Southern Education Center on October 29. A total of 49 students, staff, faculty, and community members registered for the drive and 39 were able to donate, which will help as many as 147 patients needing blood.

Additionally, the Southern Education Center will be holding **Operation Christmas Card: Holiday Mail for Our Military Heroes**. Individuals are asked to stop by and sign holiday cards for veterans and active-duty service members in hospitals and locations around the world. These cards, which will be distributed by the American Red Cross, will provide a warm message for our troops during the holiday season. The holiday card collection was initiated by Terese Strada, Writing Skills Tutor, and Jeff Kurz, and it is sponsored by OCC's Writing Center and SEC's Student Activities.

Interested individuals can drop in to sign a card at the Southern Education Center from November 18-22.

These are only two of the many activities that Jeff Kurz, Eileen Schilling, Executive Director of Academic Outreach, and the SEC staff have been organizing to make the SEC a more prominent member of the southern Ocean County community.

### **Finance and Administration**

**Transfer Fair and College Admissions Panel** - On October 3, the Advising Center hosted a Transfer Fair, and over 90 colleges and universities participated. For the first time, the fair was held outdoors on the campus mall, and it was very well attended. Over 430 students took advantage of the opportunity and spoke with at least one representative. Anna Regan, Director of Advising, and Laura Wills, Transfer Coordinator, did an excellent job organizing this event.

Following the Transfer Fair, the Advising Center hosted for the first time a College Admissions Panel. Admissions representatives from Rutgers, Stockton, TCNJ, University of Maryland, and Kean spoke with students about transfer. Dr. Beth Brierley, Associate Professor of Communications, moderated the panel.

**Advisor Training and Professional Development** - On October 16, the Advising staff participated in an all-day professional development and training workshop. The staff received training in the following areas:

- ◆ CLEP testing
- ◆ Records and Registration Department
- ◆ English as a Second Language
- ◆ The Completion Agenda

- ◆ NJ Transfer
- ◆ Center for Student Success
- ◆ Allied Health

**Faculty Advisor Training and Manual** - The Advising Center conducted several faculty advising training sessions during the fall semester. The sessions touched on many topics including the importance of academic advising, helping students select classes and programs, and advising special populations. The Advising Center created a Faculty Advising Manual to assist faculty advisors. The manual provides an overview of the advising process and is intended to serve as a resource for faculty.

**Human Resources Department Offers New Benefit** - Preferred Behavioral Health, OCC's Employee Assistance Program provider, is offering a new service to OCC employees. A new website has been launched that provides a wide range of resources regarding work and life topics. The site also includes legal forms, medical encyclopedias, financial calculators, a savings center, self-search provider databases for a variety of resources, and helpful articles and links to information. Employees may take advantage of this free service by accessing the Preferred Behavioral Health website and entering OCC identifying information.

**New OCC Website** - College Relations and IT are happy to announce that the new and improved College website is now live. For more than 18 months, we have worked together to update and redesign the website and make it more user-friendly. The redesigned website's layout and navigation have been specifically crafted to reflect the needs of our faculty, staff, students, and community members. It also builds upon technology that is capable of addressing future needs of the campus community and prospective students. While the content has been updated, the URL remains the same – just visit [www.ocean.edu](http://www.ocean.edu).

Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations, and Maureen Conlon, Manager of Web Services, will present the website at Monday's meeting.

**Fiscal Year 2013 Audit** - The FY 2013 Audit is being presented for approval at Monday's meeting. The audit process went smoothly, and there are no findings to report. The Accounting Department team was led by Mary Lancaster, Director of Financial Reporting, who prepared the financial statements. Ms. Lancaster is commended for a job well done.

**1098T Update** - The IRS recently assessed a penalty to OCC and many other colleges and universities nation-wide in regard to the 2012 1098T process. The IRS identified incorrect student social security numbers on 1098T forms and applied a penalty of \$100 per student. In order to mitigate the penalty, OCC followed the advice of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) and submitted a letter to the IRS requesting relief. The IRS has agreed to waive the penalty. Moving forward, a new procedure has been established to comply with the newly revised IRS regulations.

All students registered in 2013 received an email to give them an opportunity to have their 2013 1098T made available electronically, which will result in a cost savings to the College. Last year, OCC issued 16,877 forms.

**Tuition Payment Plan Update** - For the 2013 fall semester, the Cashier's Office processed 1,866 payment plans. These plans help students pay for College without incurring debt. The Accounting Office is working with Ellucian as a Beta Client for the improved functionality of the payment plan, which will allow students to self-serve and sign up for a payment plan online. The current software requires students to set up a payment plan through the Cashier's Office; the improved process will eliminate the need for manual set-up. The process is currently in the testing phase. With Ellucian, we will work toward completing the testing so the new process will be available to students next calendar year.