

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 **April 23, 2007, Board Meeting**

DATE: April 18, 2007

Robert J. Novins Planetarium

As announced at last month's Board meeting, a **fundraising campaign** was established to support the **renovation and renewal** of the **Robert J. Novins Planetarium**. Through the efforts of **Mr. Stephan Leone**, who is serving as **chair** of the **campaign**, the Board's **Ad Hoc Committee on Planetarium Fundraising and Publicity**, which is **chaired** by **Judge Robert Fall**, the **Ocean County College Foundation**, and the **College Advancement team**, the **campaign kick-off** has been scheduled for **Friday, May 4th**, at **10:00 a.m.** at the **Planetarium**.

This event will **officially begin** the aptly-named "**Reach for the Stars**" campaign to raise the funds needed to **replace** outdated **equipment** as well as to **renovate** the **facility** to provide rich **astronomical, scientific, and cultural learning opportunities** that will be equal to the **best available** in today's world of **digital technology**. **Invitations** to attend the kick-off are being **extended** to **legislators, community leaders, county organizations, educational administrators and teachers, and media outlets**.

Mr. Leone will keep the trustees **informed** on the **progress** of this **exciting and challenging campaign**.

40th Annual Commencement Week Activities

The **Nursing Pinning Ceremony** will take place on **Tuesday evening, May 22nd**, at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Fine Arts Theatre**, and the annual **Awards Ceremony** will follow on **Wednesday evening, May 23rd**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Fine Arts Theatre**. OCC's **40th commencement ceremony** will take place on **Thursday, May 24th**, at **6:00 p.m.** If we are faced with **inclement weather** that evening, the ceremony will be moved to the **Ritacco Center** in Toms River.

The **Ocean County College Distinguished Alumni Award** was established last year to recognize the achievements of our graduates. This year's recipient is **Mrs. Priscilla Oughton**, who graduated from Ocean County College with an **associate in science degree**. She continued her education to earn a **bachelor of social work** from **Monmouth University** and a **master's in social work** from **Fordham University**. Mrs. Oughton has enjoyed **professional success** as a **social worker, businesswoman, and entrepreneur**. Through her **generosity**, Ocean County College recently **acquired additional acreage** bordering the campus.

Mrs. Oughton will be **presented** with her **award** during the **commencement ceremony**. The presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award to Mrs. Oughton will be a **testament** to the **value** of an **OCC degree** and the **dynamic role** it can play in one's **future successes**. We are delighted that Mrs. Oughton will attend commencement to **accept this award** and address our graduates with **brief comments**.

A **reception** will be held for members of the college community prior to commencement from **4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** on **Thursday** in the **Library**. **Trustees** and other **platform members** will gather in the **Boardroom** at **5:30 p.m.** to **robe for the ceremony**.

One-Stop Enrollment Services Center

Under the leadership of **Mr. Don Doran, Vice President of Student Affairs**, the previously envisioned **One-Stop Enrollment Services Center** is becoming a **reality**. The **integration** of **existing resources** with **new online programs** allows **students** to assume more **responsibility** for their **educational planning** in an atmosphere of **support** and **encouragement**. Students are **embracing** this **new technology**, which **improves** both the **advising** and **registration** processes.

Ms. Mary Lee Keller, Director of Academic Planning, and **Ms. Elaine Schardien, Enrollment Services Specialist/NJ STARS**, will be with us on **Monday** to provide a **demonstration** on the use of **WebAdvisor** and other **online tools** to **facilitate** online **advising** and **registration**.

Board of Trustees Retreat

The **Board of Trustees Retreats** have been **rescheduled** for:

Friday, May 11, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.
Friday, September 14, 2007, at 12:00 noon
Friday, November 30, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.

All of the retreats will be held in the **Conference Room** of the **Technology Building** on campus.

The **May 11th** retreat will include a **discussion** on the “**AGB Statement on Board Accountability**,” which was **recently adopted** by the **Board of Directors** of the **Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges**. As noted in my report to you last month, this statement **encourages** all **governing boards** and **chief executives** to **examine** the **clarity, coherence, and appropriateness** of the institution’s **governance structures, policies, and practices**. I will share the AGB Statement with you prior to the May 11th retreat.

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

The next **educational seminar** sponsored by the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** for community college **trustees** is scheduled for **Monday, April 30th**, from **5:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at **Forsgate Country Club** in **Monroe Township**. Dinner will follow the seminar.

The title of this seminar is “**Community Colleges and High Schools Working Together to Improve Student Success: Aligning Public School Standards with College Readiness**.” **Ms. Lucille E. Davy**, **New Jersey Commissioner on Education**, and **Dr. Kenneth Ender**, **President of Cumberland County College** and **Chair of the New Jersey Community College Presidents Association**, will provide an **overview** of the **American Diploma Project** and the work of the **High School Redesign Steering Committee**. The purpose of this committee is to **align** the **outcomes** of **high school education** with the **expectations** of **work/college** to promote a **workforce** that can meet **21st century expectations** while **reducing** the need for college **remediation programs**.

Phi Theta Kappa

Six members of the **Executive Committee** of **OCC’s Tau Iota Chapter** of **Phi Theta Kappa** and **faculty advisor Dr. Joaquin Rolon**, **Professor of English/Literature**, attended the **Phi Theta Kappa International Convention** held in **Nashville, Tennessee**, from **April 12th to 14th**. This **multinational event**, the world’s **largest gathering** of community college **honor students**, featured **three days** of **education, information, instruction, and fellowship**. **Phi Theta Kappa faculty advisors, alumni, and administrators** also attended the convention.

I am **delighted** to inform you that **OCC’s Tau Iota Chapter**, for the **first time** in the **history** of the **college**, was the recipient of a **Distinguished Chapter Award**, which was presented to **only 25** of the **1,200+ member chapters** located in all **50** of the **United**

States, U.S. territories, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Germany, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, United Arab Emirates, and Palau.

To be considered for a Distinguished Chapter Award, a chapter must submit **applications** and **extensive essays** for **Scholarship, Leadership, and Service Hallmark Awards**. The **scores** in each of these categories are **averaged** to determine a chapter's **overall ranking**.

We are extremely **proud** of **Tau Iota** and its **accomplishments**. I have asked the **PTK Executive Committee** members and the **PTK faculty advisors** to be at **Monday's meeting** to receive **recognition** for their success. The **Executive Committee** members are:

Nicole Foy, President
Sue Taylor, Vice President of Leadership
Erin Marie Celentano, Vice President of Scholarship
Corey Hrubash, Vice President of Service
April Wennlund, Vice President of Fellowship
Glen Kliemisch, Vice President of Communication
Heather Muser, Vice President of Administration

PTK faculty advisors are:

Dr. William Rickert, Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Joaquin Rolon, Professor of English/Literature
Mr. William Scott, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics
Ms. Carolyn Showalter, Dean of Mathematics
Ms. Robin Weitz, Professor of Computer Studies

Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is the time to **thank** one of our most **valuable assets**, **volunteers**, and call attention to all they do to **improve** our **communities**. Sponsored by the **Points of Light Foundation** and the **Volunteer Center National Network**, National Volunteer Week **began** in **1974** when the **President** signed an **executive order** establishing the week as an **annual celebration** of volunteering.

This year, the week of **April 15th** through **April 21st** was proclaimed as **National Volunteer Week**. The continuing theme of **"Inspire by Example"** reflects the **power** volunteers have to **encourage** the people they help as well as to **inspire** others to serve.

I **respectfully request** that the Board **adopt a resolution** to proclaim the **month of April** as **National Volunteer Month** at **Ocean County College** in recognition of the **exceptional support** provided by **volunteers** in many areas of the college.