

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

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

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for **April 25, 2005, Board Meeting**

DATE: April 20, 2005

Reception for Mr. Joseph A. Citta

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, May 25th**, for a **special reception** to honor and recognize **Mr. Joseph A. Citta**, who recently retired from the Board of Trustees. A **cocktail party** will take place from **4 to 6 p.m.** on the campus mall. A **special committee** met on Wednesday, April 20th, to plan the **reception program**.

Mr. Citta served as a **trustee for 31+ years** following his **initial appointment** by the County Freeholders in **1973**. Simultaneously, he served the college as a member of the **OCC Foundation** since **1970**. He was honored with the **OCC Distinguished Service Award** in **1972 and 1991** and was named the **Foundation's Humanitarian of the Year** in **1986 and 2004**. He has been a **steadfast supporter** of OCC through his generous contributions in **time, energy, and financial resources**.

38th Annual Commencement Week Activities

The **Nursing Pinning Ceremony** will take place on **Tuesday evening, May 24th, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Fine Arts Theatre, and the annual **Awards Ceremony** will follow on **Wednesday evening, May 25th, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Fine Arts Theatre. OCC's **38th commencement ceremony** will take place on **Thursday, May 26th, 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.

This year our **guest speaker** will be **Ms. Gwen Fragomen**, an **international attorney** who, with her **husband Austin**, has been a **strong supporter** of the **OCC Sailing Program** since its inception. Ms. Fragomen is an **outstanding role model** for our students. The selection of the student speaker is currently in progress.

A **reception** will be held prior to commencement from **4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday** in the **Library** to provide an opportunity for trustees to mingle and socialize with College faculty and staff. Trustees will then **rope in the Boardroom** prior to the procession.

Board of Trustees Retreat

The **Board of Trustees retreat**, which is scheduled for **Monday, May 9th**, will be held at the **Tuscany House** at the **Renault Winery Resort** in **Little Egg Harbor**. It will **begin at 3:00 p.m.** and will **conclude by 7:00 p.m.** following dinner.

Discussions and presentations will include plans for the **College Advancement Office**, **fundraising activities**, **enrollment trends**, and **college insurance**. At this time, I anticipate that **Ms. Tara Kelly**, **Dr. Richard Parrish**, and **Ms. Sara Winchester** will be joining us to share information on these topics. If you have other topics you would like to add to the retreat agenda, please let me know.

These retreats provide an excellent opportunity for the trustees to become **more familiar** with current **college issues** and to focus on specific areas of the college. Recent retreats have proven to be quite **successful and valuable** to the trustees.

Ocean County College Foundation Golf Outing

The **4th annual OCC Foundation Golf Outing** is being held at the **Sea Oaks Golf Club** in **Little Egg Harbor** on **Monday, May 2nd**. The **rain date** is **Wednesday, May 4th**. The outing begins with **registration and lunch at 11:00 a.m.** The driving range is available from 11:00 a.m. until the **shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.** The **awards ceremony** and **dinner** will take place from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

Proceeds from the outing will again be dedicated to the continued growth of the **Athletic Scholarship Program**. In the outing's **first three years**, over **\$150,000** has been raised in support of **50 student-athletes**.

If you are unable to play in the golf outing, we would be delighted to have you attend the **Awards and Dinner Reception** at 5:30 p.m. I have attached a copy of the outing brochure for your information.

Institutional Development

The college was recently informed of **three grant awards**:

- ◆ The **South Toms River community**, in partnership with Ocean County College, is the recipient of a **\$700,000 grant award** from the **New Jersey Department of Education** for a **21st Century Community Learning Center**. OCC will receive funds to **assist the school system** in helping **disadvantaged and disenfranchised fourth through twelfth graders and adults** to develop **self-esteem** by providing **support, remediation, and enrichment activities** to address both academic and life skills.
- ◆ A **\$950 grant** was awarded to the college from the **Ocean County Tourism Council** to be used for **advertising** of the **OCC Planetarium**. **Ms. Gloria Villalobos, Director of the Planetarium**, submitted this grant request to the county.
- ◆ A **\$13,200 corporate grant** was received from the **Bank of America** to support a **K-12 Fitness for Life Program** wherein **economic education** will be integrated into **classroom instruction** as part of the revised **New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards**. This instruction will be presented to teachers through OCC's **Office of School Relations**.

The college also recently **hosted two state monitoring visits** to ensure that it is **compliant** with the **goals, objectives, and budgets** of approved grant awards. Representatives from the **New Jersey Department of Education** were on campus on **March 31st** to monitor the progress of the **\$400,116 Perkins grant award**. Documentation was provided for the following Perkins programs: Nursing, Visual Communications, Business Studies, Computer Studies, and Media Services.

The second visit took place on **April 6th** with Department of Education personnel reviewing the documentation for the **21st Century Community Learning Center grant award**, a partnership grant with the **Lakewood School System**. OCC is receiving **\$25,000 per year for five years** to expand the **Camp Viking Program** to address the remedial and enrichment needs of **Hispanic children in Lakewood**.

I am extremely pleased to report that both monitoring visits went very well. I **commend Ms. Sandy Carine, Director of Institutional Development**, and all those involved with these grants for their **accurate and thorough management** of the grant activity.

Phi Theta Kappa

Two Ocean County College students, **Amy Farina** and **Patricia Sherman**, were recently named by the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** as members of the **Phi Theta Kappa New Jersey All-State Academic Team**. These students are among **37 New Jersey Phi Theta Kappa students** who are recognized for their **outstanding academic achievements** and **exceptional service** to their communities as members of PTK at their local community colleges.

The Council is honoring the members of the New Jersey All-State Academic Team at its **11th annual Phi Theta Kappa celebration on Thursday, April 21st**, at the **Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel in Trenton**. The celebration is being **sponsored by PSE&G**. It is impressive to note that **22 of New Jersey's four-year colleges and universities** are offering over **\$2 million in scholarships** to Phi Theta Kappa community colleges students **transferring to their institutions**.

Planning and Budgeting Council

On **Monday, April 18th**, we were pleased to welcome to our campus a group of **nine faculty and administrators** from **Orange County College/SUNY**. The purpose of their visit was to learn more about our **planning and budgeting process**. A **series of meetings** were scheduled throughout the day for them to talk with **key campus people**, and they also attended a meeting of the **Planning and Budgeting Council** on Monday afternoon.

The group's leader, **Dr. Florence Hanna**, who leads Orange County College's new Planning, Budgeting, and Assessment initiative, had attended a presentation by Ocean County College at the **Middle States Commission on Higher Education's Annual Conference in December 2004**, which was presented by **Dr. Richard Parrish, Ms. Sara Winchester, Mr. Don Doran, and Ms. Janet Hubbs**. After the presentation, Dr. Hannah felt very strongly that OCC's model was responsive to many of her college's needs. Her request to bring an Orange County College team to OCC **to observe and to learn** about our planning and budgeting process resulted in a **very productive day** for all concerned.

Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies

The **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council** has designated the week of **May 1st through May 8th** as **Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust**, with this year's theme being **"From Liberation to the Pursuit of Justice."** It is during this week that those who **suffered**, those who **fought**, and those who **died** in the Holocaust are especially **remembered**.

In recognition of this week, the **OCC Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies** has planned several activities on campus on **Thursday, May 5th**. At **9:30 a.m.** in the Solar Lounge of the College Center, the **film, *The Boys of Buchenwald***, will be presented with a discussion by **Mr. Abe Chapnick, a Buchenwald survivor**. Following the film, a **candlelight ceremony with Holocaust survivors** will be led by **Rabbi Robert E. Fierstein** from **Temple Beth Or** in Brick Township. Finally, **Mr. Fred Spiegel** will be available to discuss his **book, *Once the Acacias Bloomed***. The trustees are cordially **invited to join us** for these recognition activities.

It is **respectfully requested** that the Board of Trustees **adopt a resolution** in recognition of the **importance of Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust** and to **reaffirm** the need to foster an **understanding** of the **history, literature, and social context** and **consequences of genocide and the Holocaust**.

Academy for Lifelong Learning

The **month of May** has been designated as **Older Americans Month** by the **United States Administration on Aging**. This year's theme for Older Americans Month, which was **established in 1963**, is **“Celebrate Long-Term Living”** to recognize and honor the **valuable contributions** of older persons to their community as they age.

OCC's **Academy for Lifelong Learning** is celebrating Older Americans Month as part of its **mission** to provide **quality educational programs** for adults 55 and older by offering programs and activities to the more than **160,000 older citizens** of **Ocean County**. In support of this celebration, it is **respectfully requested** that the Board **adopt a resolution** proclaiming the **month of May** as **Older Americans Month at OCC**.

Employee Recognition

- ◆ **Ms. Sandra Kearns, Professor of Nursing**, was the **guest speaker** for the **Dean and Director Luncheon** at the **53rd Annual Convention** of the **New Jersey Nursing Student, Inc.** (NJNS) held at the Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City in March. At the convention, Ms. Kearns was presented with the **Director of Nursing Education of the Year Award for 2005**, an outstanding honor in that she was selected from among all directors and deans of nursing throughout New Jersey.

Professor Kearns has served as the **Presidential Advisor** for two consecutive years for the **past and present state presidents** of NJNS, both of whom are OCC nursing program graduates. She has again been asked to be the Presidential Advisor for the newly elected president.

Professor Kearns serves as a **role model** to her students and is considered a **strong student advocate**, especially when students experience stress and conflict as a result of our rigorous Nursing Program. She **encourages her students** to **persevere** through the program to **reach their goal** of becoming **registered nurses**. In recognition of her commitment to and motivation of her students, Professor Kearns was recently **interviewed for an article** in *The Nursing Spectrum*, a tri-state nursing publication.

- ◆ **Mr. John Nawn, Dean of Science and Engineering**, was recently the **guest speaker** at the **Maryland Defense Contract Management Agency** during its **Engineers Day Observance Program**. This agency is an **arm of the United States Department of Defense**, and the engineers are involved with all of the **government's contracts**. Dean Nawn's speech, entitled **“The State of Engineering Education Today,”** explained that engineers graduating from colleges in other countries are so much more successful than graduates in the United States. Mr. Nawn spoke as a member of the **National Academy of Engineers** and from his personal observations and experiences as an engineer. His speech was **video-conferenced** to other engineering **personnel in Washington, D.C.**