



# 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 28, 2008, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** April 23, 2008

## **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Commencement Week Activities**

The **Nursing Pinning Ceremony** will take place on **Tuesday** evening, **May 20<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Gymnasium**, and the annual **Awards Ceremony** will follow on **Wednesday** evening, **May 21<sup>st</sup>**, at **7:00 p.m.**, also in the **Gymnasium**. OCC's **41<sup>st</sup> Commencement** ceremony will take place on **Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at **6:00 p.m.** on the **college mall**. In the event of **inclement weather**, the ceremony will be **moved** to the **Ritacco Center** in Toms River.

I am delighted that **Ms. Lisa Jackson, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**, has **accepted** our **invitation** to be our **Commencement guest speaker**. Commissioner Jackson will extend **best wishes** to our **graduates** and share with them **DEP's efforts** to **improve** the **quality of life** in **New Jersey** through the **protection** and **enhancement** of our **environment** and **natural resources**.

The trustees previously discussed awarding **two honorary degrees** this year. I respectfully request that the trustees **adopt** the attached **resolutions** at Monday's meeting for the **award** of these **degrees**:

- ◆ An **Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree** to **Congressman Jim Saxton** for his **distinguished legislative career**, his **exceptional representation** of **New Jersey's Third Congressional District**, and his **support** of **Ocean County College**. Unfortunately, Congressman Saxton's **schedule** will **not allow** him to be with us at **Commencement**.
- ◆ An **Honorary Associate in Arts Degree** to **Mr. Kevin Williams** for his continuing **promotion** of **Ocean County College** and for his **efforts** with the college's **Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner** and the **WOBM Christmas Classic**, which has provided almost **\$50,000** in **college scholarships** and **support** to local **non-profit organizations**. Mr. Williams will attend the Commencement, and the **degree** will be **presented to him** during the **ceremony**.

On Commencement day, a **public signing ceremony** will take place in the **Technology Building Atrium** from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** to **reaffirm** our **commitment** to the **Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program**. In attendance at the ceremony will be **Mr. Alan J. Steinberg, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari, Director of the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders; Dr. L. Stanton Hales, Jr., Program Director; and representatives from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.** Please **join us** for this important event.

**Members of the college community** will gather prior to commencement from **4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** in the **Library**. **Trustees, other platform members, and invited guests** will have the opportunity to meet **Commissioner Jackson** during a **reception** in the **Boardroom** beginning at **4:30 p.m.** At **5:30 p.m.**, the **trustees and platform party** will **robe for the ceremony**.

### New Jersey Council of County Colleges

At the **annual Trustee Conference** on **Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**, the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** will host **“Best Principles and Best Practices,”** a conference for **presidents, trustees, and foundation board members**, at the **Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard**. This conference will feature a presentation of **“best practices”** by **three community college boards** as well as a **new trustee orientation** and **brief remarks** by **legislative leaders** from **various districts** throughout the state.

Other **upcoming events** sponsored by the Council include:

- ◆ **Trustee Seminar** on **Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**, at **Forsgate Country Club** in **Monroe Township** on **“Community College Boards: Fulfilling the Fiduciary Role,”** from **5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**, with **dinner following**.
- ◆ **Phi Theta Kappa Day** on **Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, at the **Trenton Marriott** in **Lafayette Yard** from **9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

### Phi Theta Kappa

**Representatives** from **Ocean County College’s Tau Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa**, the **national honor society of two-year colleges**, attended the **joint conventions** of the **21<sup>st</sup> Phi Theta Kappa Annual Middle States Regional Convention** and the **90<sup>th</sup> Phi Theta Kappa International Convention** in **Philadelphia** from **April 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>**. Participants included five PTK members, **Glenn Kliemisch, Heather Muser, Molly Rose, Tiffany Manzo, and Maria Pipitone**; PTK Advisor, **Dr. William Rickert**; and an alumna, **Ms. Lois Rickert**.

The **Middle States Region** consists of **79 PTK chapters** in **New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland**. The **International Convention** brings together almost **4,000 PTK members**, the **largest gathering of community college honor students**.

I am **very proud** to **report** that **Tau Iota** received **outstanding recognition** at both the **regional and international levels**:

- ◆ **Regional**

- ◆ Tau Iota received the **2008 Award of Excellence**, making it one of the **two top chapters** in the region in accomplishing the **Hallmarks of PTK**. This is the **second year** that Tau Iota received this **prestigious award**.
- ◆ Tau Iota was recognized as a **five-star chapter**, the **highest level of achievement** for a chapter.
- ◆ The chapter was recognized in receiving the **Four Leaf Clover Award** for its participation in “**Operation Green**,” which included **planting** of **90 trees** as part of its **beautification project**, the **Citta/Sambol Gardens**.
- ◆ Tau Iota was recognized with the **Chapter Fellowship Award** for its **fellowship spirit**.
- ◆ The chapter received the **Red Ribbon Appreciation Award** for participation in **events** dealing with **cancer**.

#### ◆ International

- ◆ Tau Iota was recognized as **one of the top 100 chapters**, for the **second year** in a row, which is quite **an honor** considering the approximately **1,500 chapters** around the world **attempting to achieve this honor**.
- ◆ Tau Iota was one of **25 chapters** to receive the **Leadership Hallmark Award**. This is **quite impressive** since, again, **all international chapters compete** for the award.

In addition, PTK member **Molly Rose** was **nominated** for the **2008 All-USA Academic Team for Community Colleges** in recognition of her **scholarly achievements**. The **All-USA Academic Team Competition** is sponsored by **USA Today**, the **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society**, and the **American Association of Community College**.

Ocean County College’s **Tau Iota Chapter** is **exceptional**. I have asked **Dr. Rickert** and several **PTK students** to attend **Monday’s meeting** so we can express our **appreciation** and **congratulations** to them for their **accomplishments**.

#### Interpreter Training Program

**Two Interpreter Training Program graduates** have achieved **significant success**:

- ◆ **Ms. Shelly Tursi** has passed the **Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) test**. She is currently working as an **educational interpreter** for an **Ocean County school district**. Her success brings the number to **17 graduates** who have taken and **passed the EIPA**.
- ◆ **Ms. Tracy Maltby** has passed the **written portion** of the **Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf national test**, which brings the total who **passed** this test to **six**. When they pass the **performance test**, they will achieve **national certification**.

These **successes** are **continuing testimonials** to the **excellence** of the **Interpreter Training Program**.

#### Ocean County College Athletics

**Two players** from the Ocean County College **men’s and women’s basketball teams** have been selected as **National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-Americans** for the **2007-2008 season**:

- ◆ **Ms. Oriana Smith** was selected to the **Division III NJCAA All-American Honorable Mention Team**. She was voted the **number three player** in **Region XIX**.
- ◆ **Mr. Anthony LaBruno** was selected to the **Division III NJCAA All-American First Team** and was ranked the **top player** in **Region XIX**.

**Congratulations** are extended to these **two superb athletes** for their wonderful achievements.

### 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

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 remind the college community of the **importance** of **poetry** in our lives as well as to encourage the **study of poetry** by our **students**.

### Promotional/Recruitment Video

The **College Advancement Office**, led by **Vice President Tara Kelly**, has produced a new **Ocean County College promotional/recruitment video** that will be utilized for **marketing purposes** and **attracting students**. I have asked Ms. Kelly to present the video at **Monday's meeting** and to give a **brief report** on the many **talented people** who assisted in the **production** of this very **fine video**.

### Events to Remember

Please **join us** for the following events:

- ◆ The **Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders** and the **Ocean County Shade Tree Commission** have scheduled an **Arbor Day Celebration** honoring the **memory of H. George Buckwald**, former **Trustee, Ocean County Freeholder, and Lakewood Township Mayor**. The event will take place on **Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**, at **3:00 p.m.** at the **rear of Parking Lot #2** off **Buckwald Drive**.
- ◆ The official **Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony** for the recently constructed **OCEAN, Inc., Child Development Center** is scheduled for **Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, from **5 to 7 p.m.**
- ◆ The **Annual Spring Student Dinner Dance** is being held on **Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**, at **7 p.m.** at **The White Sands** in **Point Pleasant Beach**.

- ◆ The **7<sup>th</sup> Annual OCC Foundation Golf Outing** will take place at the **Eagle Ridge Golf Club** on **Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**. The **rain date** is **June 25<sup>th</sup>**.
- ◆ The **OCC Foundation Gala** will be planned for **Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**, at **6 p.m.** on the **campus mall**. This year's honoree is **OceanFirst Foundation** in recognition of its **outstanding commitment** to the **OCC Foundation** and the **Ocean County community**.