

**TO:** Members, OCC Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Items of Interest for **August 22, 2005, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** August 17, 2005

### **Kean University Partnership**

**Our relationship** with Kean University **continues to advance**. Kean's Board of Trustees, at a recent meeting, formally **expressed support** for its **partnership with OCC**. This fall semester, **Kean's presence** at OCC will **increase**, with **baccalaureate and graduate course offerings** in several disciplines. Kean's Nursing **RN to BSN Program** has been offered on our campus for several semesters, and the university will now offer **criminal justice courses** that will lead to a **2 + 2 bachelor's degree program**, as well as **graduate courses in education** that will prepare area teachers for supervisory positions in educational institutions. **Additional program offerings** are planned for the **spring semester**.

### **Israel Institute for University Presidents**

My recent **trip to Israel**, from July 10<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, was **extremely enjoyable** and **quite productive**. Overall, it was a **wonderful experience** traveling as a participant in the **Israel Institute for University Presidents**, which was sponsored by the **Jewish Federation of Ocean County, the United Jewish Communities, and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs**. We were busy from morning to night with tours, roundtable discussions, meetings with government officials and university presidents, and visits to various significant Israeli sites.

Some of the outcomes of my visit include:

- ◆ The arrangement of a **study abroad site agreement** with the **University of Haifa** for OCC students
- ◆ The possibility of an **archeological summer institute** at the **Dead Sea** through **Haifa's School of Archeology**

- ◆ The **collaboration** of **OCC's Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies** with the **Arab/Israeli Institute** of the **University of Haifa** on **peace issues** that have some prominence in Israeli relations
- ◆ Through the **Interdisciplinary Center at Herzilya**, the opportunity for a **summer homeland security institute** for local **police professionals**, with coordination accomplished by our Criminal Justice Department
- ◆ Re-establishment of **professional development** **summer visits to Israel** that were offered years ago, which are again possible as a result of improved relations between Palestinian authorities and the Israeli government

All of these possibilities will be pursued by the appropriate divisions of the college. In addition, I have asked **Dr. William Lavundi, Professor of English and former International Education Director**, to assist in the **coordination** of these activities.

### Colloquium

The fall semester **Colloquium** is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**. The **opening session** will take place in the **Fine Arts Theatre**, beginning with a **continental breakfast** from **8 to 9 a.m.** At **9 a.m.**, I will present my **annual state of the college address**, as well as **introduce new employees**, and present the **Employee of the Year award**.

Following the opening session, **professional development programs** will be offered for **full-time faculty**: “Critical Thinking in the College Classroom: Excellent Teaching/Engaged Learning,” “Classroom Assessment Techniques: A Practical Guide to Enhancing and Assessing Student Learning in the Classroom,” “How to Create a Frankenstein Learning Community: Connecting the Novel to Various Disciplines to Enhance Learning and Student Persistence,” and “Using PowerPoint to Enhance Learning: Practical Classroom Strategies and Applications.”

A **similar program** will be offered in the evening for **adjunct faculty**. Refreshments will be served at 5:30 p.m., and I will address the group at 6:00 p.m.

It should be noted that **workshops, seminars and professional development activities** are offered for **all other employees** on a **year-round basis** through the **OCC Management Institute**.

### Board of Trustees Retreat

We have tentatively scheduled a **trustee retreat** on **Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. There are several **subjects under consideration** for the retreat, among them the annual **Board self-evaluation, contract issues, and trustee expectations**. If you have any other suggestions for the retreat, please let me know.

My office will contact you regarding your availability and the time and location for the retreat.

## OCC Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies

During the **2004-05 academic year**, the **OCC Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies** sponsored or cosponsored **13 different programs**. Lectures included such topics as **Genocide in Sudan, Peace and Conflict Resolution, and Teaching about War and Peace**. As part of **Holocaust Remembrance Day** in May, the Center showed the film *The Boys of Buckenwald*. The program included a presentation by a Buckenwald survivor who currently lives in Howell.

The Center recently announced its **schedule of events** for the **fall semester**. On **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**, in recognition of the **United Nations International Day of Peace**, a Toms River native and former Peace Corps volunteer will give a presentation on campus about her **experiences** while serving in **Madagascar**. On **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the Center will co-sponsor, with the Department of Continuing and Professional Education, a **bus trip** to the **Holocaust Museum** in Washington, D.C. Another bus trip is planned to the **United Nations** on **Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**. The Center's calendar of events for spring 2006 will be available later this year.

## New Jersey STARS Program

On **August 5**, the **Governor** signed a bill that **revised the criteria** for continued **receipt of a scholarship** under the **NJ STARS Program** after the student's first year of enrollment at a community college.

Previously, NJ STARS students had to be **ranked in the top 20 percent** of their **entering freshman class** to be eligible for the scholarship in their sophomore year. Now, the bill provides that NJ STARS students will retain their scholarships if they **achieve a 3.0 grade point average** by the start of the student's **second year of enrollment**. If a student has **less than a 3.0 grade point average** at the start of the second semester of the first year, the student will be required to participate in an **enrichment program** during the second semester of the first year. **Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Dan Duffy** and his staff are currently in the process of **designing an enrichment program** for the NJ STARS students who need assistance in **increasing their grade point average**.

## High School Enrollment

The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** reported that **5,193 New Jersey high school students** enrolled for **college-level courses** at **community colleges** this past academic year. These students are part of a **growing trend**; nationally, approximately **813,000 high school students** attended **postsecondary institutions** during **2002-2003**, according to a study released recently by the **National Center for Educational Statistics**, with **75 percent** of these students enrolled at **public two-year colleges**.

**Community colleges** take the **lead** in the number of **high school students** attending their institutions. **Ninety-eight percent** of **public two-year colleges** had **high school students** taking college credit courses during 2002-2003 as compared to **77 percent** of

**public four-year colleges, 40 percent of private four-year institutions, and 17 percent of private two-year institutions.**

The **New Jersey Department of Higher Education** enthusiastically supports these **dual enrollment programs** that address the varying academic and developmental needs of high school students. The **Department's Commissioner William Librera** encouraged community college presidents to **develop more options** for high school students, realizing that these opportunities make the **final high school years** more **productive and challenging** for the students as well as allow them to make **substantial progress** toward completing their **associate degrees** prior to graduating from high school.

As noted in the attached chart, **520 high school students** enrolled at **OCC** for college courses in **fall 2004**. We anticipate attracting many more high school students as this trend continues throughout the nation.

### **Frankenstein Exhibit**

The **Ocean County College Library** is **one of just 80 libraries** from across the **United States** that has been **selected to host** the traveling exhibition **Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature**. This remarkable exhibit offers a **fresh look** at author **Mary Shelley's life** and the evolution of her classic novel, *Frankenstein*, since its publication in **1818**.

The exhibit will be on display in the OCC Library from **September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>** and can be viewed **Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.** and **Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The exhibit is **free and open to the public**.

In addition to the exhibit itself, OCC has planned a **number of events** during the month, beginning with an **Opening Reception** on **Saturday, September 10th**, at which the **guest speaker** will be **Dr. Susan E. Lederer**, exhibit curator, author of *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*. Other activities include the **OCC Bookstore Festival of Frankenstein Favors and Café Treats** featuring a book display, literary texts, and related biographies; **various readings** and **interdisciplinary presentations** by OCC professors, a **dance performance**, and **tours of the exhibit**.

Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature was developed by the **National Library of Medicine** in collaboration with the **American Library Association**. It has been made possible by **major grants** from **The National Endowment for the Humanities**, Washington, D.C., and the **National Library of Medicine**, Bethesda, Maryland. The traveling exhibition is based upon a major exhibition produced by the National Library of Medicine in 1997-1998.