

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 **August 27, 2007, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** August 22, 2007

**Ocean County College Foundation**

The **Ocean County College Foundation Gala, "An Evening Under the Stars,"** will take place on **Saturday evening, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.** on the college campus. This year, the Foundation is **honoring Stephan and Judith Leone as Humanitarians of the Year** in recognition of their **unwavering support of Ocean County College** and their **outstanding contributions to the Ocean County community.**

The **OceanFirst Foundation** has for **many years** been a **major sponsor** of the Gala, continuing this year with a **\$55,000 donation.** **Ms. Kathy Durante, Executive Director of the OceanFirst Foundation,** and **Mr. Michael O'Brien, OceanFirst's Senior Vice President of Trust and Asset Management,** will be at Monday's meeting to **present a check to Mr. David Wintrode, OCC Foundation Chair; Ms. Sandy Broughton, Executive Director of the OCC Foundation; and me.**

**Sincere appreciation** is expressed to the **OceanFirst Foundation** for its role in ensuring the success of the Gala. **All proceeds** from this year's Gala will **benefit the "Reach for the Stars" Campaign** for the **Robert J. Novins Planetarium.**

I do hope you will be able to **join us on September 8<sup>th</sup>** for the Gala. It will be a **wonderful evening** paying tribute to **Mr. and Mrs. Leone** for the benefit of the **Planetarium.**

## **“Reach for the Stars” Campaign**

The “**Reach for the Stars**” Campaign is in **full swing** and is well **on its way** to its **\$1.5 million** goal thanks to many **contributions** from our **community**, including several **major pledges** from:

**Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Leone - \$100,000**

**Mr. and Mrs. Dave Wintrode - \$100,000**

**The Citta Foundation - \$100,000**

**Anonymous Friend of OCC - \$100,000**

**Mr. Harvey York, Novins York Pentony & Pagano - \$50,000**

**Mr. Anthony Graziano - \$25,000**

**Dr. and Mrs. Jon Larson - \$25,000**

**Special thanks** are extended to our **Campaign Chair**, **Mr. Stephan Leone**, **Trustee Committee Chair Judge Robert Fall**, our **volunteers**, and the **fundraising staff** for their **efforts and dedication** to the “**Reach for the Stars**” Campaign.

And, we especially note with **gratitude** the **generous support** of Planetarium Building **renovation expenses** provided by our **County Freeholders**.

## **Colloquium**

The **campus community** will gather together to **begin** the **2007-2008 academic year** at the **Fall Colloquium** on **Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**, in the **Fine Arts Theatre**. The morning will **begin** with a **continental breakfast** and **meet and greet** at **8:00 a.m.**, with my **State of the College Address** beginning at **9:00 a.m.** The **theme** of the **Colloquium** is *Writing Within the Disciplines: The Impact on Learning*.

The **featured speaker** this year is **Dr. Renata Engel**, **Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies** of the **College of Engineering** and **former Executive Director of the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence** at **Pennsylvania State University**. Following her presentation, concurrent **faculty workshops** will take place from **11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in the **College Center**.

**Lunch** will be available for **faculty** at **12:30 p.m.** in the **Cafeteria**. An **additional workshop** has been added to the Colloquium at **1:30 p.m.** on **Student Intervention**, at which a **panel** will **discuss procedures** for handling **student situations** in the **classroom**. **Panel participants** will be **Ms. Carol Crawford, Director of Health Services**; **Ms. Nancy Polonitza, Counselor**; **Ms. Kate Pandolpho, Director of Career Employment and Counseling Services**; and **Mr. Carey Trevisan, Dean of Special Services**.

## New Jersey Student Loan Code of Conduct

As you know, the **New Jersey Attorney General** and the **Division of Consumer Affairs** began an **investigation** some months ago into **student lending practices**. While the investigation is **still ongoing**, the Attorney General believes it is **appropriate** for all colleges in New Jersey to **voluntarily agree** to follow a **Student Lending Code of Conduct**.

**Attached** for your review is the **New Jersey Student Loan Code of Conduct for Institutes of Higher Education**. As requested by the Attorney General, I will be returning a **signed copy** of the Code. Although a number of **questionable practices** in the **student loan industry** have come to the **attention** of the **Attorney General** as a result of the ongoing investigation, **Ocean County College** has always been and will continue to be **in compliance** with **all federal and state regulations** regarding student loans.

## Middle States Commission on Higher Education

A **letter** was recently **received** from the **Chair of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education** as a **reminder** that the Commission is **expecting** a **progress letter** from Ocean County College by **October 1, 2007**, as a result of **action** by the **Commission on June 22, 2006**. Specifically, the Commission's action was:

- ◆ **To accept the monitoring report and the progress letter submitted by the institution; to request a progress letter, due October 1, 2007, that documents further progress in the implementation of a comprehensive plan for student learning outcomes assessment and evidence that results are being used to improve teaching and learning. The Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2009.**

I am pleased to report and document **continued and marked progress** in the **implementation** of our college's **learning assessment plan** for **student learning outcomes assessment** and for the **improvement of teaching and learning**. Our **progress letter** is based on the **four criteria** identified in the Commission's publication, *Assessing Student Learning and Institutional Effectiveness: Understanding Middle States Expectations*:

- ◆ **Clear statements of key goals, including expected student learning outcomes;**
- ◆ **An organized and sustained assessment process;**
- ◆ **Assessment results demonstrating that students are achieving key goals; and**
- ◆ **Uses of assessment results to improve student learning.**

I would be happy to **share** our **progress letter** with you when it is submitted to the Commission.

### **Board of Trustees Retreat**

Please note that the next **Board of Trustees Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**, at **9 a.m.** in the **Technology Building Conference Room**. Several **ideas** have been suggested for discussion at the retreat, two of which are **planned giving** and **long-term goals** of the college.

If you have **other suggestions** for the retreat, please **let me know**.

### **International Educational Partnerships**

I have asked **Dr. Jim McGinty, Dr. Martin Novelli, and Dr. Frank Wetta** to join with me at Monday's meeting to **report** on our recent **trip to Japan**. As you know, **Dr. Dawood Farahi, President of Kean University, and Dr. Robert Cirasa, Kean's Director of Kean@Ocean**, accompanied us on our **twelve-day visit** as **guests** of the **Government of Japan** and the **Government of the Kumamoto Prefecture**.

From an **educational standpoint**, our trip was very **successful**. We had the opportunity to discuss with **Japanese educators** our **Global Education Initiatives**, including the possibility of **faculty and student exchanges** and the **development of courses** in **Japanese language, history, culture, literature, film, and visual and performing arts**. An **educational partnership** would provide outstanding **academic opportunities** for **OCC, Kean, and Japanese students**.

On a more **personal note**, our trip allowed us to **experience aspects** of **Japanese life** that are **rarely available** to visitors. Our **itinerary** included **stops** in **Tokyo, Kyoto, Himeji, Takamatsu on Shikoku Island, Shodoshima, and Kumamoto**. Our **host and guide** on the trip, **Mr. Ken Takenaga**, was **most gracious, informative, and accommodating**, as was everyone else we encountered. In fact, we were quite **impressed** with the **courtesy, respect, and discipline** displayed by all **Japanese citizens** to **visitors** and to **each other**.

### **Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program**

**Dr. L. Stanton Hales, Jr.**, the new **Director of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program**, will be **introduced** by **Dr. Richard Parrish** at Monday's meeting. Dr. Hales, whose **main focus** will be the **implementation** of the Program's **Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan**, will brief the trustees on his **activities** since he **joined the program** on **July 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

### **Math/Science Advisory Board**

For many years, there has been a **steady decrease** in **student interest** in the areas of **math and science education**. In an effort to address this concern, a **Math/Science Advisory Board** is being **established** to focus on **developing programs and events** to **generate enthusiasm** for these areas of study, particularly at the **elementary school level**.

**Individuals** from the **campus** and the **larger community** have been **invited to serve** as members of this new board to **share their knowledge** to identify ways to **reach elementary school children, communicate with their parents, and develop training and incentive programs.**

The **first meeting** of the Math/Science Advisory Board is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**. **Dr. William Eventoff, founder of ESTM Associates, Inc.,** has agreed to serve as **chair of the board**. I am delighted that **Ms. Lucille Davy, Director of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education,** has agreed to be a member and is planning to attend the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Employee Commendation**

In June, **Ms. Gina Suriano, Grants Coordinator,** successfully **completed a yearlong practicum** for **The Chair Academy,** a **worldwide leadership training program** for **post-secondary leaders.**

**The Academy for Leadership and Development** offers opportunities to **acquire and understand major research and theoretical developments in leadership.** It is built upon a **foundation of leadership research, theory, skills, and best practices** that leads to **individual and organizational transformation.** Ms. Suriano's class included **39 community college representatives** from **New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Guam,** and the **Middle Eastern state of Qatar.**

### **Student Scholarship**

Since 2000, the **Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation** has committed **\$400,000 annually** in the form of **scholarships to students attending two-year degree granting institutions.** This year, **Ms. Cori Vallo, an Ocean County College student,** was **selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship** from the **Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholars Foundation.** This award is quite an **honor** in that Ms. Vallo is among **only 400 recipients nationwide** who were selected.

All recipients demonstrated **academic success** and participated in **community service** within the past twelve months. Ms. Vallo has **completed 30 credits** and has a **grade point average of 3.729.**

The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program is made possible with **funding** from the **Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation; Mr. Whitehead** was one of the **original bottlers of Coca-Cola.** Now in its **eighth year,** the Foundation has provided **\$3.25 million in scholarship awards** to students attending **two-year degree granting institutions.**

**Dr. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid** and the college's **designated coordinator** for the **Coca-Cola Scholars Program**, assisted Ms. Vallo with her **application**. **Congratulations** are extended to Ms. Vallo for this **wonderful honor**.

### **Academy for Lifelong Learning Travel Programs**

Two **study abroad travel seminars** are again being offered in **January** by the **Academy for Lifelong Learning**:

- ◆ For the **twenty-ninth year**, **Professor of Humanities and Fine Arts Arthur Waldman** is leading a trip to **England**, *Inside Theatre: The British Stage*, from **January 9 to 21, 2008**.
- ◆ **Professor of Social Science Christine Kitchin** is again guiding students through *The World of the Maya* from **January 10 to 21, 2008**.

These two programs are extremely **popular** and **successful**. I am **attaching information** for both trips for your information.

### **Electronic Recycling Program**

The college's **electronic recycling program** was **extended** to members of the **campus community**. During the **week of August 20<sup>th</sup>**, an **electronic recycling container** was placed in the Facilities Management Warehouse parking lot for **old scrap electronic and computer components**. The scrap will be **recycled and demanufactured** by **Supreme Computer and Electronic Recycling, Inc.**