



# 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 **January 28, 2013, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** January 23, 2013

## Legislative Visits

Each year, the **Association of Community College Trustees** holds its **Community College National Legislative Summit** in **Washington, D.C.** The **2013 Summit** is scheduled from **Sunday, February 11, to Wednesday, February 14.** I have traditionally **traveled to Washington** during the **Summit** to **meet with legislators**, who make themselves **available** during this conference. This year, **Assemblyman Dave Wolfe, Special Assistant to the President**, and I will visit **Washington** on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday.** **Mr. Wolfe** has **scheduled meetings** for us to **visit** with **Congressmen Chris Smith** and **Jon Runyan** to discuss **issues** important to **community colleges** in general and to **Ocean County College** specifically.

The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** also coordinates a number of **activities** during the **Summit**, such as **receptions** and **meetings** with **legislators** and **national media members.** **Mr. Wolfe** and I will be attending the **NJCCC special reception** on **Tuesday, February 13.**

## OCEAN VIEWS

*Ocean Views* is the College's **bi-annual newsletter** for **OCC alumni**, our **College family**, and the **community.** The **Winter 2013 edition** was recently **mailed** to nearly **17,000 alumni** households as well as throughout the **county.** I will share copies of *Ocean Views* with you on **Monday**; it can also be **viewed** on the **College's website.**

The **feature article**, "**From Campus to Kabul and Back Again,**" highlights the **experience** of **Mr. Ben Castillo, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice**, in **Afghanistan** last year. This edition also focuses on **Hurricane Sandy**, the **impact** it had on our **coastal community**, and the **College's efforts** to assist **faculty, staff, and students** in **recovering** from the **traumatic effects** of the **storm.** In addition to many other interesting articles, the **Alumni Spotlight** highlights **Mr. Michael Palmerson, Class of 2012**, this year's **Student/Alumni Representative** on the **Board of Trustees.**



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.*

Appreciation is expressed to **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations**, **Ms. Joanne Padrone, Project Director and Director of Resource Development**, and our outstanding editorial team who worked diligently to produce this newsletter: **Ms. RoseAnn D'Urso, Editor and Manager of Promotional Programming**; **Ms. Juliet Kaszas-Hoch, Public Relations Writer**; and **Mr. Scott Bruinooge, Coordinator of Publications**, who was responsible for the newsletter's exceptional design.

## Academic Affairs Initiatives

- ◆ **Program development and improvement** — At the **Spring 2013 Colloquium** on Friday, January 18, six workshops/focus groups/open forums were presented by faculty members:
  - ◆ **Achieving Success through Service**
  - ◆ **OCC Honors Program: A Listening Forum for Feedback and Improvement**
  - ◆ **Faculty Development**
  - ◆ **A Brush-Up Course for Accuplacer Test Takers**
  - ◆ **Global Education at OCC: Paradigm Shift to a Global Community – Implementation through Infusion**
  - ◆ **Internships: OCC's Best Kept Secret**

The attached **Colloquium flyer** provides additional **information** on each of the **sessions**.

Following the presentations, all **faculty** gathered together and each group **shared** the **results** of their **discussions**, **outlined** their **plans** for **moving forward**, and **solicited feedback**. The **ideas** identified at Colloquium will be **fully developed** during the **spring semester**.

Other **program endeavors** include:

- ◆ The development of a **new concentration** in the **A.A.S. Business Degree** that will **combine business** with **technology**. It will be called **Business and Web-Based Technology**.
- ◆ Working with the **Monmouth-Ocean Development Council**, **internship opportunities** will be sought for **new** and **existing programs**.
- ◆ A **timeframe** has been identified for the **development** of the **BSN program** with **Kean University**, which is attached.
- ◆ As a result of a meeting with a team from **Monmouth University**, the **A.A.S. degree** in **Homeland Security** is being **strengthened** and a **joint information session** will be held in **spring**.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.*

- ◆ **Academic Leadership Team (ALT)** – In order to achieve **greater transparency**, the **ALT weekly agenda** will be **publicized** in advance of each meeting, inviting those who are interested to **attend** the **meetings** to provide **input** in the **process**. An **invitation** is also being extended to the **Student Government Association** to **participate**.
- ◆ **Instructional Technology – Academic Affairs** has begun the preparation to work with the **Information Technology Department** in developing a **long-term plan** for **instructional technology**. The goal is to take **full advantage** of the **technology** already acquired by the College as well as to **consider** the **future technology needs** that will better serve the **existing** and **new academic programs**. A **timetable** will be developed to outfit the **basic technology** in all **instructional facilities**.
- ◆ **Academic Scheduling** – The current **scheduling practices** are being **examined** by **ALT**. After initial discussions with students and representatives from other departments of the College, a **special committee** is being formed consisting of **students, advisors, faculty, and student intake representatives** to develop **recommendations** for change with the **goal** of producing **class schedules** that **better serve** our **students** while, at the same time, **maximizing classroom space**.

## Black History Month

February is designated **nationally** as **Black History Month**. The **Association for the Study of African-American Life and History**, the **founder** of **Black History Month**, has dedicated the **2013** theme as “**At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington**” to celebrate the **anniversary** of **two** important **African-American turning points** – the **1863 Emancipation Proclamation** and the **1963 March on Washington**.

In recognition of **Black History Month** at **Ocean County College**, the following **events** are **sponsored** by the **Organization for Black Unity (OBU)** and the **Office of Student Life**:

- ◆ **Friday, February 1, at 12:00 noon**, the **Opening Ceremony and Raising of the Black Flag** will be held at the **Flag Pole**. From **12:30 to 2:00 p.m.**, a **Soul Food Tasting, African Drumming, and Open Mic Read-In** will take place in the **College Center Solar Lounge**.
- ◆ **Friday, February 8, at 2:00 p.m.**, an **Open Forum Discussion, “What is Black?”** will be held in the **Solar Lounge**. This presentation will explore the **possible answers** and how they affect **viewpoints** and **opinions**.
- ◆ **Monday, February 11, at 1:00 p.m.**, a **Film and Workshop** will be held in the **Black Box Theatre** of the **Arts and Community Center**. A look at the **stereotypes** of **African-American men**, using



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.*

the award-winning short film *The Negro Zone*, will be followed by an open forum entitled, "The Hot Seat."

- ◆ **Saturday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m.**, the **13th Annual Gospel Show**, an evening of **song, dance, and gospel music**, will be held in the **Arts and Community Center Theatre**. Admission is **\$7 for adults and \$5 for students, seniors, and children**. A portion of the **proceeds** will be donated to **OCC's Disaster Relief Fund**. Tickets can be purchased at the **Student Life Office**.
- ◆ **Thursday, February 28, at 12:00 noon**, the **Closing Ceremony and Lowering of the Black Flag** will be held at the **Flag Pole**. From **12:30 to 2:00 p.m.**, a **Soul Food Tasting, African Drumming, and Open Mic Read-In** will take place in the **Solar Lounge**.

Coordinating these events are **Dr. Henry Jackson, Interim Dean of Language, Humanities, and Fine Arts and OBU Advisor**, and **Ms. Sarai Simpson, Student President of OBU**.

## Ocean County College Chess Team

The **Ocean County College Chess Team** competed for the **first time** in an **international event**, the **Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championships**, at **Princeton University** from **December 27-30**. This event attracts **four-year institutions** from **North and South America**. **OCC** was **one of a very few number of community colleges** to participate.

Competing against institutions like **Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell**, and the **University of Chicago**, the **OCC team** did **well** but was **unable to win any matches**. However, this **experience** has **solidified** the **OCC Chess Team** as a **competitive unit**. The team is currently making **plans to compete** in the **United States Amateur Team East Chess Tournament** scheduled from **February 16-18** in **Parsippany**.

**Congratulations** to the **members** of the **Chess Team** for their **resourcefulness** and **wonderful representation** of **Ocean County College**.

## Faculty Success

**Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig, Assistant Professor of English and Literature**, authored a **new book**, "**Last Waltz on the Danube: The Ethnic German Genocide in History and Memory, 1944-1948**." Her book recently won an **award, Finalist** in the **2012 USA BookNews Best Book Awards** in the category of **History**. **Dr. Botein-Furrevig** will attend **Monday's meeting** to share her **book** with you.





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.*

## College Activities

- ◆ On Wednesday, January 16, OCC hosted the monthly meeting of the New Jersey College and University Public Safety Association (CUPSA), the organization comprised of security professionals who are responsible for public safety at New Jersey higher education institutions.

The main focus of the meeting was active shooter training, and there was discussion about various safety training seminars that each of the colleges and universities will be conducting. Interestingly, at least four other institutions will be utilizing the “Shots Fired on Campus” video that was presented to the College community at the Colloquium. This video will be shown again next week for staff who were not able to see it at Colloquium; and, if requested by faculty, the video will also be made available in the classroom for students.

If you would be interested in viewing this very important video, please let me know.

- ◆ As a community outreach activity, the Southern Education Center in Manahawkin opened its doors to the Stafford Township Police Department on January 7, 8, and 9, for examinations and evaluations of promotion applicants. Classrooms were utilized all day for three days as 18 Stafford Township police officers underwent intense testing and interviews with members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in their efforts to earn promotions. This was a successful event for both the College and the Stafford Township Police, one which strengthened our already positive relationship with the Police Department.