



**OCEAN**  
COUNTY COLLEGE

# 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 **July 28, 2008, Board Meeting**

**DATE:** July 23, 2008

## Planetarium

**Prior to the renovation and upgrade of the Robert J. Novins Planetarium, the current equipment must be dismantled and removed. The current Minolta Star Projector, purchased and installed in 1974 when the Planetarium opened, is in need of repair and is considered technologically obsolete.**

**A recommendation will be presented to you on Monday to adopt a resolution to transfer ownership of the Star Projector, for a nominal consideration of \$1, to the Planetarium Projector and Space Museum in Big Bear Lake, California. This museum, whose mission is "Preserving our Planetarium Past for our Future," provides a venue for the public to study the history, design, construction, and evolution of Planetarium projectors. It purchases worn out projectors for preservation and display for future generations.**

**The Museum is working to create a traveling exhibit for science centers featuring these projectors, their development, and their long history of educating millions of people over the years. They are currently working on a NASA grant to help achieve that vision. This transfer would also be considered being "green," as reusing the projector keeps it out of the waste stream. The Museum will absorb all costs and liability associated with moving the equipment.**

**Transferring the Star Projector to the Planetarium Projector and Space Museum is a wonderful solution for the fate of this venerable machine. The projector will be able to continue its 34 year history of educating the public and will serve to promote Ocean County College and the Novins Planetarium to those not only in our own community but across the nation.**

## Facilities Assessment

**Last fall, a contract was awarded to Entech Engineering to conduct an assessment of the condition of college facilities. All 19 campus buildings were evaluated to identify areas that require improvement**



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in order to reflect an **image of quality**. Entech has **completed** its work with a **report**, accompanied by a **computer database**.

The buildings were surveyed to **evaluate the existing conditions of major components**, such as **foundations, superstructure, roofing, plumbing systems, HVAC, electrical systems, fire protection systems, interior finishes, and stairways**, as well as **ADA and building code compliance**.

The **facility condition assessment** resulted in a list of **320 proposed projects** aimed at **eliminating or significantly reducing** existing **deferred maintenance and maintaining facility operations**. These projects were defined with **deficiencies and solutions** and were **ranked in priority order**. Already, the **Facilities Department** is **addressing projects** that require **immediate attention**.

**Mr. Matthew Lloyd, President of Entech Engineering**, will attend **Monday's meeting** to **summarize the study** and **present the findings** from the assessment.

## Groundbreaking Ceremony

A **Groundbreaking Ceremony** for the new **Academic Building** will take place at **2:00 p.m.**, immediately following Monday's Board meeting, on the **college mall** directly across from the OCC Veterans Memorial. A **dessert reception** will follow.

The new Academic Building, a **\$12 million project** funded by the **County of Ocean** and the **State of New Jersey**, will be a **much needed addition** to the campus. It will house **13 regular classrooms, 1 large classroom, 3 computer laboratories, student and staff lounges, and faculty and administrative offices**. It is scheduled to be completed in **fall 2009**.

## Interpreter Training Program

I am pleased to bring you **more good news** about the **Interpreter Training Program**. **Ms. Kathleen Basilotto, Assistant Professor**, who was a **major force** in the **establishment** of this **program**, has been **approved** to become a **Local Test Administrator** to administer the **New Jersey Educational Interpreting Proficiency Assessment (EIPA)** performance test. This test must be **successfully completed** before interpreters can work in **New Jersey schools**. In addition, Ms. Basilotto has been **approved** to become a **proctor** for the **written portion** of the **assessment test**.

As an EIPA test administrator, Ms. Basilotto will be able to **establish** an **Educational Interpreter Professional Development Center** here on **campus**, probably through our **Continuing and Professional Education Department**, in which **classes** can be offered for interpreters who are **preparing** for the **EIPA test**. This center will provide the **impetus** for the **development and implementation** of the additional **four courses** needed to **procure a standard certification**.



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These **professional development** and **certification services** are in **great demand** by interpreters. The approval of Ms. Basilotto as a Local Test Administrator will **benefit many students and graduates**.

## Fall 2008 Colloquium

The **Fall 2008 Colloquium** is scheduled for **Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**, in the **Health and Physical Education Center**. The **theme** of this Colloquium is **“Media Bias and the Political Process,”** a **timely subject** considering the **increased attention** to and **enthusiasm** about this year's **presidential election** and the **media's role** in the **process**.

The **guest speaker** will be **Mr. Richard Lee, Director of Communications** at the **Hall Institute of Public Policy - New Jersey**, in Trenton. The Institute is a **non-partisan, not-for-profit organization** that **explores issues of social, economic, educational, and cultural importance** to New Jersey and is dedicated to **fostering solutions** to the **challenges and problems** facing the **state**. Its **mission** is to **improve** the overall **understanding** of the **issues** that **impact** our daily **lives** by **encouraging dialogue** from **diverse perspectives**.

**Mr. Richard Lee** has **30 years** of **professional experience** in **journalism** and **public relations**. Prior to joining the Hall Institute, he was a **Deputy Director of Communications** in the **New Jersey Governor's Office**. As a journalist, Mr. Lee worked at **daily and weekly newspapers**, and his **freelance articles** appeared in a variety of publications. He is **pursuing a Ph.D. in Media Studies** at **Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**, and holds an **M.A. degree** from **Montclair State University** and a **B.A. degree** from **Saint Bonaventure University**. He has served as an **adjunct instructor** at **Rutgers University** and **Mercer County Community College**, teaching courses in **media, government, and communication**.

The **schedule of events** for the day is:

<b>8:00 to 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
<b>9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>President's State of the College Address</b>
<b>10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Mr. Richard Lee's Presentation</b>
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch and Discussion</b>
<b>12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Faculty Workshops</b>
<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Reception</b>

I would be delighted if you would **join us** for this **important event** to begin the fall semester.



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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ The **OCC Foundation Gala - 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**.
- ◆ The **Arts and Community Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**, following the Board meeting on the **campus mall**.
- ◆ The **Sambol/Citta Gardens Dedication Ceremony - Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**, at **9:30 a.m.** on the **campus mall**.
- ◆ The **Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame – Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**, at **6:00 p.m.** in the **Health and Physical Education Center**.