

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 **June 18, 2007, Board Meeting**

DATE: June 13, 2007

Ocean County College Foundation Gala

The **Ocean County College Foundation Gala, "An Evening Under the Stars,"** is scheduled for **Saturday, September 8th**, at **6 p.m.** on the college **campus mall**. This year's **Humanitarians** are **Mr. Stephan Leone** and his wife **Judith**.

The **OceanFirst Foundation** continues to be a **major sponsor** of the Gala, once again donating **\$55,000** to support this year's event. The OceanFirst Foundation will **present** this **gift** at the Foundation's **July 11th Executive Committee meeting**.

The **proceeds** of the **2007 Gala** will benefit the **Robert J. Novins Planetarium** through the **"Reach for the Stars"** fundraising campaign. We are **deeply grateful** to the **Foundation** for its **support** of this effort to **renovate** and **update** the **Planetarium**.

Fall 2007 Colloquium

The **Fall 2007 Colloquium** is scheduled for **Thursday, August 30th**, in the **Fine Arts Theatre**. This year's **theme** is **"Writing Across the Curriculum: The Impact on Learning."** **Ms. Renata Engel**, **Associate Dean of Undergraduate Study** in the **Engineering Department** at **Pennsylvania State University**, will be the **keynote speaker** at the Colloquium.

The tentative **schedule of events** is:

- ◆ 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Meet and Greet for Continental Breakfast**
- ◆ 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **My State-of-the-College Address**
- ◆ 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Keynote Speech by Dr. Renata Engel**
- ◆ 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Faculty Workshops**
- ◆ 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

New **adjunct faculty** will be offered an **orientation program** in **late August**. That program is currently being developed.

Enrollment

FY 2007 Enrollment – The total number of **full-time equivalent students** for the **2006-2007 fiscal year** is **up 7.3%** over the last fiscal year, which is a **record high** for the college. The total **number of students, 12,911**, who attended the College during **FY 2007**, is the **highest number** in **OCC's history**.

Summer 2007 - For the first three summer terms, the **first five-week** session, the **ten-week** session, and the **twelve-week** session, the total **headcount is up 0.9%** and the total number of **credit hours is up 4.5%** as compared with last summer. **Registration** is still **ongoing** for the **remaining three summer terms**, the second five-week, the six-week, and the three-week post session. However, **preliminary data** shows that both **headcount** and **credits** have **increased** compared with last year at this point in time.

New Jersey Council of County Colleges

The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** is sponsoring another **trustee development presentation, *Board Leadership and Advocacy—A Winning Combination, A Conference for Community College Trustees, Foundation Board Members, and Presidents***, on **Thursday, June 21st**, at **4 p.m.** at the **Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard** in Trenton. **Dinner** will follow at **5:30 p.m.**, and the Council will hold its **business meeting** at **6:30 p.m.**

This **special conference** will feature a session by **Dr. Noah Brown, President and CEO of the Association of Community College Trustees** the **national association** representing community college trustees. Dr. Brown **specializes in public policy, legislative advocacy, and strategic planning**. Key **legislators and representatives** from the **Governor's office** will also attend the session.

I'm pleased that the Council has presented the opportunity for community college **trustees and Foundation members** to **join together** for this development seminar. I hope you will be able to attend.

Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program

Dr. L. Stanton Hales, Jr., is the new **Director of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP)**. Dr. Hales, who will **officially begin** his position on **Monday, July 2nd**, most recently served as a **Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist** in the **New Jersey Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**. Prior to that, Dr. Hales was the **Assistant Director of the Coastal Conservation Research Program** and **Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology and Marine Science Programs** at **Richard Stockton College**. His **research and teaching background** provide a **broad technical and administrative foundation** to support the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program. His **main focus** after joining OCC will be the **implementation** of the Program's **Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan**.

On **Sunday, June 3rd**, the **Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program** sponsored the **Barnegat Bay Festival** in **Island Heights**. I want to **acknowledge and commend** the staff of the Program for their **great work in organizing and managing** the **Festival**, specifically **Ms. Jeanine Cava, Public Outreach Coordinator**, and **Ms. Mary Judge, Program Assistant**, who were quite **instrumental** in ensuring the **festival's success**. It was very well attended, **informative**, and **enjoyable**.

OCC Athletics

On **June 4th**, OCC's **Scott Defibaugh** captured the **National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Gold Championship** at **Chautauqua Golf Club** in Chautauqua, New York. Scott played **rounds of 85, 84, 82, 80**, for a **four-day total of 331**, which placed him among the **25 members of the Gold Team**. Scott had qualified for the **national championship** by winning the **Division III Region XIX Golf Championship** at **Cape May National Golf Club** in May.

Congratulations are extended to **Scott** for this **outstanding achievement** as well as to **Mr. Brandon Bencivenga, OCC's Golf Coach**, and **Ms. Ilene Cohen, Director of Athletics**.

Communications Systems

The **procedure** accompanying **Policy #2530, Administration, Communication Systems, Use of the Internet and Ocean County College Email**, is currently being **revised** in light of recent college campus **security concerns**. The procedure will be **comprehensive**, offering information on individual **employee responsibilities**, **acceptable use and restrictions**, **security priorities**, and **storage** issues.

Ocean County College International Education

At Monday's meeting, **Ms. Christine Kitchin, Assistant Professor of Anthropology**, will report to the trustees on the **OCC Native American Travel Seminar** which she led to the **Four Corners** region of the **American Southwest** from **May 12th** through

May 21st. This **educational seminar** visited four states, **Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico**, and several **Indian Nations**, including the **Navajo, Zuni, Acoma Pueblo, and the Jicarrilla and White Mountain Apache reservations**. Seminar participants also explored a variety of ancient **Anasazi cliff dwellings and archaeological sites** and participated in a **"Gathering of Nations"** on the **Apache Reservation**, which included traditional **Native American music, dance, and singing competitions**. Members of the travel seminar included **OCC students, faculty, and community members**.

Astronomy Class Offerings

Two new science courses are being recommended for approval at Monday's meeting, **Physics 181, Astronomy I: The Solar System, and Physics 182, Astronomy II: Stars and Galaxies**.

This expanded, **two-semester astronomy course sequence** will provide students with another **alternative** for satisfying OCC's **laboratory science requirement**. It will also allow recent exciting **discoveries** on the **nature, origin, and evolution** of the **planets** to be **explored** in much **greater depth** than in a one-semester course. The **level and academic rigor** will be similar to the **algebra-based physics sequence**, with a full complement of **laboratory exercises in astronomy and optics**. The **Planetarium** will also play an **integral role** in these courses when it is reopened.

In addition, an **online version** of the current **one-semester astronomy course, SCIE 103, Introduction to Astronomy**, is being **developed**, with the expectation that it will be offered in **Spring 2008**. This course will appeal to **OCC students** who need a **one-semester science course** or an elective, to **science elementary and secondary teachers** who want to **enhance their knowledge** with recent developments in astronomy, and to **high school seniors and juniors** who want a taste of college science prior to enrolling through the **OCC Jump Start Program**.

At Monday's meeting, **Dr. James Brown, Dean of Science, Engineering, Allied Health, and Human Performance**, will introduce **Dr. Ken Garrison, Assistant Professor of Science**, who **developed** the two new **astronomy courses**, and **Mr. Rich Brady, Adjunct Instructor of Science**, who is working on the **online Astronomy offering**.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Mr. Ron Bogota, Physical Plant, will briefly address the trustees at Monday's meeting to express his **appreciation** for their **generosity in supporting our troops**. Mr. Bogota used the **donations** collected at the last Board meeting **for postage to mail care packages** to the **soldiers** who are serving with his son, **Army Specialist Dan Bogota, 1-4th Infantry Regiment, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan**.

Fine Arts Center

It had been anticipated that the **Fine Arts Theatre** would be **dark** this **summer** to prepare for the **renovation** of the building. However, when the facilities **project** was **delayed**, we were delighted when **Ms. Bobbi Krantz, Director of the Fine Arts Center**, was able to develop a **full summer schedule** on such **short notice**. Productions this summer include:

- ◆ **The Heat is On! - Saturday, July 14th, at 8:00 p.m.** This **critically acclaimed** tour-de-force performance will examine the **life, loves, and career** of one of Hollywood's most electrifying sirens and stars, **Rita Hayworth**.
- ◆ The **Yates Musical Theatre's** version of **Pinocchio - Thursday, July 19th, at 1:00 p.m.** This **musical story** takes audiences from the puppet's creation by **Gepetto**, to his encounters with the **fox and cat**, along with his adventures in "**Wonderfield in Owl Country**" and "**Playland.**"
- ◆ The **Community Chorus of Ocean County College** presents **The Music of Cole Porter and George Gershwin - Saturday, July 21st, at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, July 22nd, at 2:00 p.m.** Hits will include "**Anything Goes,**" "**Night and Day,**" "**I Love Paris,**" "**I Got Rhythm,**" "**Summertime,**" "**Embraceable You,**" and many others.
- ◆ **Xiayin Wang** performs as part of the **Fine Arts Center's Sunday Classics - Sunday, August 5th, at 2:00 p.m.** A native of **China**, Xiayin Wang has garnered an **enviable record of first prize awards** throughout China. She commands an **eclectic repertoire**, ranging from **Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt** to later masters as **Ravel and Rachmaninoff**.
- ◆ The summer will bring hot **Jazz** back to Ocean County College when **MidWeek Jazz** returns on **Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.** at the Fine Arts Center. **MidWeek Jazz** brings **acclaimed artists** playing **classic jazz** to the Jersey Shore:
 - ◆ "**Boogie Bob**" **Seeley** makes a **rare East Coast visit** on **June 20th**. Seeley is **acclaimed** around the world as the greatest **Boogie Woogie player** traveling to Europe, where he is popular with young people.
 - ◆ **Robbie Scott's New Deal Orchestra** takes the stage on **July 11th**. This premier **Jazz and Swing band** possesses both tight arrangements and accomplished musicians. The orchestra has played the **White House, Tavern on the Green**, and other NYC **nightspots**.
 - ◆ **Dan Levinson's Palomar Quartet Returns** on **August 22nd** with a **tribute** to **Benny Goodman** and the **Swing Era**. **Clarinetist Dan Levinson** captures the Goodman sound and has led **sellout tributes** in **Manhattan** and many cities in **Europe**.

Commendations

- ◆ **Dr. Frank Wetta, Vice President of Academic Affairs**, has been honored by the **Society for Military History** by being appointed to the **Graduate Awards Committee**. The committee provides **financial support** for **graduate student research**.
- ◆ **Ms. Andi Mulshine, OCC's Part-Time Director of Student Media (Acting)** and a **journalism teacher** at **Communications High School** in **Wall Township**, has been selected as the **2007 New Jersey High School Journalism Teacher of the Year** by the **New Jersey Newspaper Foundation**. She will be the Foundation's **nominee** for the **2007 National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year** sponsored by the **Dow Jones Newspaper Fund**, which has honored the **nation's top high school teachers** for **47 years**.