

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

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

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for **June 27, 2005, Board Meeting**

DATE: June 22, 2005

Foundation Gala

The **Ocean County College Foundation Gala** will be held on campus on **Saturday evening, August 20th, at 5 p.m.** This year's Gala is honoring **Mr. David C. Wintrode** as its **Humanitarian of 2005**. **Mr. Joseph Coronoto** is serving as the **Chair of the Gala**.

Mr. Wintrode is currently serving as **Vice Chairman** of the **Foundation**. He has been an **avid supporter** of the Foundation and the College during his **23 years of service**, and it is fitting that he is being recognized for his **contributions in time, effort, and resources**.

As always, **proceeds** from the Summer Gala will support the continuing development of the **Foundation's scholarship fund**. Over the years, **thousands of deserving students** have **furthered their education** through financial assistance from the Foundation.

Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program

The **9th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival** was held on **Saturday, June 25th**, from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** on the college campus. The Festival, hosted by the **Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program** and the College, was also sponsored by the **Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders**, the **Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation**, **Gangi Graphics**, and the **Ocean County Utilities Authority**. It featured **booths and activities** for adults and children, and free **guidance documents** and **fact sheets** were available.

The **Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation, Inc.**, is a not-for-profit organization that was established in Ocean County during the **early 1990's**, originally as the **Barnegat Bay Watershed Association**. The **mission** of the Foundation is to promote a **healthy ecosystem** throughout the Barnegat Bay Watershed. The Foundation accomplishes this through conducting **educational seminars**, distributing information at various **fairs and festivals**, and producing and distributing its **newsletter**.

The Foundation is sponsoring a **demonstration garden** on campus that will be situated at the **intersection of College Drive and Buckwald Drive**. The **purpose** of the demonstration garden is to create an area that will **demonstrate** the types of **plants, grasses, shrubs, and small trees** that can be used in the watershed to **minimize, or eliminate**, the uses of **herbicides and pesticides**. The garden area will also **illustrate** that an **attractive area** can be established using **low maintenance and low water consumptive plant material**. The garden will contain **signage** indicating the **plants and grasses** being utilized and the ways in which it fits into the **natural Pine Barrens** landscape. Upon completion of the project, information will be **distributed to the public** at libraries and other public facilities to **encourage** people to **visit the garden** at Ocean County College. The **funding** for this project was made possible through the generous support of **The William Penn Foundation**, which is administered by **The Conservation Fund**.

Mr. Rich Bizub, a representative from the **Foundation**, will be at Monday's Board meeting to make a **brief presentation** on the demonstration garden. Accompanying him will be **Ms. Shannon Shinault, Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program Outreach Coordinator**.

Kean University Partnership

The college is extremely enthusiastic about **extending its partnership** with **Kean University**. For the past **five years**, Kean has successfully offered **graduate courses in education** on our campus. Courses for completion of the **nursing degree** have recently been offered. We are now **formalizing an agreement to expand Kean's offerings** at OCC to include **both undergraduate and graduate degree completion** in several other programs.

This week, the **university's board of trustees** approved **expending the funds** to finance the **renovation of three classrooms** in our **Instructional Building** that will be **dedicated for Kean's use**. Although the renovations will take several months to complete, Kean will have **exclusive use** of a **classroom** beginning in the **fall semester**.

Ultimately, our **mutual goal** is for Kean University to **construct a building** on OCC's campus to provide the opportunity for Ocean County residents to **complete upper-level courses** here in Toms River.

Travel Abroad

The **OCC International Education Program** is planning the following trips:

- ◆ The very popular and successful **Theatre in London Seminar** is scheduled for **January 4th to 16th**. Participants will have the opportunity to see and discuss **10 to 12 plays**, from the **experimental Fringe** to the major plays of the **Royal National Theatre**, the **Royal Shakespeare Company**, and the **West End**. Also included will be trips to **Stratford-Upon-Avon** and **Maritime Greenwich**. The seminar leader is

Mr. Arthur Waldman, Professor of Humanities, who is in his 27th year as the leader of this trip. Aply assisting him for the 20th year is **Dr. Judith Icklan, Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development**.

- ◆ Travel to **Mexico** is being offered through the **World of the Maya: Archaeology, Anthropology, and Ecology**, from **January 6th to 17th**. Participants will study the **Maya people**, their **archaeology**, and **culture**, as well as the **tropical ecology** in the **Yucatan region**. Also being visited are several **Spanish colonial towns**, a traditional Maya village, and the ruins of the ancient cities of **Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Tulum, and Ed’Balam**. **Ms. Christine Kitchin, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences**, is the leader of this offering.

Of particular interest is that the **OCC Foundation** is supporting the International Education Program through the availability of **12 scholarships** for **OCC students** who register for the trip to Mexico.

In addition, the **OCC Academy for Lifelong Learning** is sponsoring travel to **Germany** from **December 3rd to 10th**. This trip will feature a **Bavaria Arts and Crafts Christmas Market tour**. Munich’s Christmas market, or **Christkindlmarkt**, dates back to the **14th Century** and offers a fascinating array of decorations, craftwork, candles, toys, and culinary delights. Also included in this trip are tours of **Munich, Rothenburg, Nuernberg, the Medieval Crime Museum, and Prince Ludwig’s “Neuschweinstein” castle**.

Israel Institute for University Presidents

I am very excited about my **upcoming trip** to **Israel** from **July 10th to 18th** as a participant in the **Israel Institute for University Presidents** sponsored by the **Jewish Federation of Ocean County, the United Jewish Communities, and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs**. The Institute will focus on Israel’s **reality on the ground**, the prospects for **peace between Israelis and Palestinians**, issues related to **higher education**, and exploring **long-term relationships** with educational institutions in Israel. I am particularly looking forward to meeting with the President of the **University of Haifa** and other Israeli college presidents to discuss possible **exchange partnerships**.

Others who will be **participating** in this Institute include presidents from **Kean University, Old Dominion University, Manchester Community College, Muhlenberg College, Swarthmore College, the University of Bellarmine, and Wheelock College**, as well as several representatives from the sponsoring organizations.

Visiting Professor

I have invited **Ms. Wei Zhang, Associate Professor at Xi’an International Studies University in China**, to be a **Visiting Professor** at OCC during the **2005-2006 academic year**. Professor Zhang will **teach two courses each semester** in our **Business and English** departments and will be given the opportunity to **attend two OCC courses**. She

will also be able to **participate** in various college **social, cultural, and professional development opportunities**.

Ms. Zhang has a **visa**, and we are currently attempting to **assist her** in obtaining the other **necessary approvals** for travel to the United States. This process may take somewhat **longer than anticipated**, but, hopefully, she will be here for the **fall semester**.

This **educational exchange** with Xi'an University is an **innovative** and **exciting** program. **Professor Karl Kleiner**, a member of our **Business faculty**, has been **teaching in China** during the past **spring semester** and is expected to return the beginning of July. His communications have expressed a **deep appreciation** for this opportunity, which he found to be **fascinating, rewarding, and challenging**. I will ask Professor Kleiner to join us at a future Board meeting to share his experiences.

Employee Recognition

Dr. Frank Wetta has been invited by the **Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation**, which is sponsored by the **Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**, and the **Association of American Colleges and Universities** to participate on a **panel discussion** at its **Summer Institute** in **Orlando, Florida**, from **July 24th to 27th**. This three-day conference will highlight **quality enhancement initiatives** that focus on **student learning** and the **academic environment**. The panel will discuss, among other items, the **OCC Academic Master Plan**, which will receive **wide exposure** at this well attended conference.