



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 **March 22, 2013, Board Meeting**

DATE: March 22, 2013

Phi Theta Kappa

The **Twenty-Sixth Annual Phi Theta Kappa Middle States Regional Convention** was held in **Baltimore, Maryland**, from **March 1 to 3**. **Dr. William Rickert, Professor of Mathematics and PTK Advisor**, accompanied **six current members** of our **Tau Iota Chapter** and **one alumna**: **Colin Brearley, Mary Foley, Jenna Gantner, Kathryn Nogalo, Nicholas Prascsak, Mallorie Visser, and Lois Rickert**.

Many **learning opportunities** were made available to convention participants through **lectures, workshops, and informal interactions** with **members** and **advisors** from other **chapters** throughout the **region**. **Fellowship** was experienced through participation in **chapter cheers, formal dinners, and discussions**. **Leadership skills** were strengthened through the **election process** for new **Middle States officers**, which involved **candidate speeches, caucuses, and voting**.

Again, Ocean County College's **Tau Iota Chapter** received **outstanding recognition** at the convention:

- ◆ **Kathryn Nogalo** and **Mallorie Visser** were **inducted** into the **Regional Hall of Honor for Chapter Officers**.
- ◆ **Colin Brearley** was **inducted** into the **Regional Hall of Honor for Chapter Members**.
- ◆ **Tau Iota Chapter** was recognized as a **Five-Star Chapter**, the **highest level of achievement** possible for a chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.
- ◆ **Tau Iota Chapter** received **Third Place** for the **Spirit Award**, which was based on its **Chapter Cheer** at the convention.



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- ◆ **Tau Iota Chapter** was named a **Gold Chapter** based on the **contributions** to the **Oberndoft Scholarship**.
- ◆ **Tau Iota Chapter** was **one of only five chapters** to receive the **College Project Award** based on its efforts to **assist victims of Hurricane Sandy**.

I am also pleased to report that **Mary Foley** and **Kathryn Nogalo** have been named to the **2013 New Jersey All-State Academic Team** for their **outstanding accomplishments** as community college students. The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** is hosting a **program** on **Thursday, May 2**, at the **Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel** in **Trenton** for all of the **New Jersey Phi Theta Kappa students** on the **All-State Team**. **Representatives** from the **Governor's Office** and the **State Legislature** have been **invited** to join the students to **honor their accomplishments**.

In addition, **Mary Foley** was selected as a **2013 Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar** based on **scores earned** in the **All-USA Community College Academic Team competition**. Over **1,800 applications** were received this year. This **program** is **sponsored** by the **Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation** and is **administered** by the **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society**. Mary will receive a **\$1,000 scholarship** and a **Bronze medallion** provided by **Coca-Cola**.

All of the **members of Tau Iota Chapter** are **congratulated** for their **enthusiasm** and **hard work**, as well as for their **success, individually and collectively**. Also very much **appreciated** is the **dedication** of our **Chapter's Advisors**; **Dr. Rickert**; **Dr. Jennifer Dellner, Professor of English and Literature**; **Ms. Carolyn Showalter, Professor of Mathematics**; and **Ms. Robin Weitz, Professor of Computer Studies**.

Financial Aid and Veterans Benefits

On **August 2, 2011**, **Congress** passed the **Budget Control Act of 2011**, which put into place an **automatic process** of across-the-board **Federal budget cuts**, known as the **sequester**, to take effect if **Congress failed to enact legislation** to **reduce the Federal deficit**. As **Congress was unable** to do so, a **sequestration** was entered on **March 1**, and the following **cuts/actions** to **students' educational benefits** are now taking place:

- ◆ The **Pell grant** is **safe** for **2013-2014**, but it is subject to **cuts** as a result of **sequestration** for years **2014-15 through 2022-23**.
- ◆ The **Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Actual Tentative Allocation** for **2013-2014** is **cut** from **\$142,435** to **\$128,685**, for a **reduction** of **\$13,750**.



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- ◆ The **Federal Work Study Actual Tentative allocation** for **2013-2014** is **cut** from **\$161,622** to **\$150,335**, for a **reduction** of **\$11,287**.
- ◆ The **2012-2013 Stafford loan origination fees** increased from **1.0%** to **1.05%** for loans first **disbursed** after **March 1, 2013**.
- ◆ The **2012-2013 Parent PLUS Loan for Dependent Students origination fees** increased from **4.0%** to **4.20%** for loans first **disbursed** after **March 1, 2013**.
- ◆ **Tuition Assistance Programs** have been **suspended** by the **Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force**.

These **cuts** will have a **significant impact** on our **students** who are in **need** of **financial support** to continue their education. The **Financial Aid Office** will be **monitoring** this **situation** closely and will **assist students** as best they can.

Hay Group Status Update

In **August 2012**, the **Hay Group**, a **management consulting firm**, was contracted to **undertake** a **compensation and job classification study** at **Ocean County College**. During the last several months, **Mr. Leslie Cohen**, **Assistant Vice President of Human Resources**, has been working with the **Hay Group** to create an **overarching communications strategy**, develop a **schedule** for **employee interviews** to gather data, and undertake a **benefits analysis**. The **next step** by the **Hay Group** will be to **draft documentation** for **positions** that will be **studied**, which should be **completed** by the **middle** of **April**. **Immediately following** the **validation** of **job documentation**, the **Hay Group** will begin its **evaluation** for **position classifications**.

This **important process** is **progressing well** and within the **anticipated timeframe**. The **continued cooperation** of the **campus community** is **appreciated** as the **Hay Group** completes its work.

Academic Affairs Initiatives

- ◆ The **Business faculty, full-time and adjuncts**, are working together to develop a **new concentration** of **Tourism and Hospitality** in the **A.A.S Degree in Business**.
- ◆ The **Computer Science and Communications faculty**, again both **full-time and adjuncts**, are **revising** our current **Computer Science Option of Gaming Development** into a **new option**, possibly named **Gaming and Animation**. This change will take advantage of an already **very active** student **Gaming Club** that meets once every week and is **supervised** by **Mr. Jack Kelnhofer**, **Lecturer II in English and Literature**.



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- ◆ The **School of Math, Science, and Technology** is in the process of **modifying** its existing **A.S. Degree in Environmental Science** into an **A.S. Degree in Environmental Studies** in an effort to **attract more students**.
- ◆ The **first information session** for our two **new allied health degrees** in **Dental Hygienist** and **Physical Therapy Assistant** attracted **65 attendees**. A **second information session** will be held on **April 8**.
- ◆ The **School of Language and the Arts** and the **OCC Arts and Community Center** received a **grant** of **\$8,500** from the **Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission**. The grant will be used as **seed money** for developing the **Ocean County College Repertory Theatre Company**, which will hold **four shows** a year (**two** in the **fall** and **two** in the **spring**). **Students** from **OCC** and the **Ocean County Vocational and Technical School's Performance Arts Academy**, as well as **local performers**, will participate in the productions. This **summer**, both **OCC** and **OCVTS** students will have the opportunity to participate in **OCC's Theatre Workshop** course as well as to **audition** for the **summer production** of the "**Spelling Bee**."
- ◆ Approximately **one** of **every three students** attending **OCC summer classes** are from **four-year institutions**, and those students have come from more than **350 institutions** in the **last two summers**. **Academic Affairs** is currently in the process of **re-evaluating** the **summer courses** to determine those that are **more attractive** and **more appropriate** for the students. The **summer course offerings** will then be **adjusted accordingly**.

Holocaust Remembrance Week

Congress established the **Days of Remembrance** as the **annual commemoration** of the **Holocaust**. This year, **Holocaust Remembrance Week** is **April 7 to 14**. The **Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies** at Ocean County College has planned **several events**, with the **theme** of "**A Week of Reflection: Holocaust Remembrance**."

- ◆ **Memorial Service and Survivor Story**—**Monday, April 8, 12:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre**—Renowned New Jersey **Cantor David Wisnia** will conduct a **memorial service** accompanied on **piano** by his **grandson, Avi Wisnia**, an **award-winning singer and composer**. **Cantor Wisnia** will discuss his **personal and compelling story** of **losing his family, surviving Auschwitz, and immigrating** to the **United States**.
- ◆ **Degenerate Art: The Nazi Vilification of the Avant Garde and Their Attack on Modern Culture**—**Tuesday, April 9, 2:00 p.m., Conference Rooms A and B**—**Dr. Martin Novelli**,



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Professor of Humanities, will lead an **enlightening presentation** with **excerpts** from a **rare documentary** about the **Nazi assault** on **modern art** popularized at the infamous and popular **Entartete Kunst (Degenerate Art)** exhibit.

- ◆ **Recovering Stolen Art and Restoring a Cultural Identity—Wednesday, April 10, 11:00 a.m., Black Box Theatre**—Veteran **Harry Ettlinger** will speak about his **experiences** during **World War II** in a **squadron** called **“The Monument Men,”** charged with the task of **locating** and **protecting monuments**, **priceless works of art**, and other **cultural treasures** **stolen** by the **Nazis**.
- ◆ **Film and Discussion—Friday, April 12, 9:30 a.m., Room A223, Arts and Community Center**—The film, **“Inheritance: A Nazi Legacy and the Journey to Change It,”** will be presented, followed by a **discussion** led by **Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig, Professor of English and Literature**. The emotionally charged film chronicles the **recent meeting** between **Monika Hertwig, daughter of Nazi leader Amon Goeth**, and **Helen Jonas Rosenzweig, a New Jersey resident**. During the Holocaust, **Ms. Rosenzweig** was **enslaved** as **Commandant Goeth’s servant** for two years.
- ◆ **German-Jewish Writers in Exile: Metaphors of Loss and Persecution in the Works of Margarete Kollisch, Ilse Blumethal-Weiss, and Vera Lachmann—Friday, April 12, 1:00 p.m., Room A223, Arts and Community Center**—**Dr. Gert Niers**, a published scholar, translator, and retired **OCC Professor of German and French**, will discuss his **research** on this subject.

The **events** are being **coordinated** by **Dr. Botein-Furrevig**, whom I have **invited** to **Friday’s meeting** to provide you with **additional information** on **Days of Remembrance** at Ocean County College.

National Poetry Month

Inaugurated by the **Academy of American Poets** in **1996**, **National Poetry Month** is now held every **April**. The **Ocean County College Department of English and Literature** is celebrating by sponsoring **three events** on campus:

- ◆ **Monday, April 15, 12:30 p.m., Solar Lounge, College Center**—An **Open Mic Poetry Reading** will allow **faculty, staff, and students** to share their verses.
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 16, 12:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre**—**Poet, translator, and teacher Ellen Dore Watson** will present a **Poetry Reading** of her works. She has received the **New York/New England Award** for **“Ladder Music,”** a **Massachusetts Cultural Council Artists Grant**, a **Rona Jaffe Writers Award**, and the **NEA Translation Fellowship**.



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- ◆ **Wednesday, April 17, 11:00 a.m., Room 102, Television Studio**—There will be a **screening** of the film “**Melancholia**,” an apocalyptic drama **written and directed** by **Lars von Trier** and starring **Kirsten Dunst and Kiefer Sutherland**. **Von Trier** developed his **story** to **examine** the **human psyche** during a **disaster** after learning from **therapy** that **depressed people** act more **calmly** under **pressure**.

Additional information may be obtained from **Professor of English and Literature Heidi Sheridan**, who was **instrumental** in the **planning** of these **events** or from **Dr. Henry Jackson, Interim Dean of Language and the Arts**.

Ocean County College Open House

An **Ocean County College New Student Open House** will be held on **Thursday, April 11**, from **5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** in the **Arts and Community Center** and the **Gymnasium**. **Registration** and **campus tours** begin at **5:00 p.m.**, and the **program** begins at **6:00 p.m.** **Prospective students** and their **parents** will have the opportunity to **meet** with **faculty, staff, coaches, and current OCC students**.

An **Academic and Activities Fair** will promote **academic programs** and **club and co-curricular group activities**. The **Director of Financial Aid** will host a **workshop** to provide useful information about the **programs available** to **assist students financially**, and information on the **NJ STARS Program** will be available, with a **panel** of current **NJ STARS students** explaining the **benefits** of the **program** and answering questions.

Mr. Art Criss, Interim Director of Recruitment, is **coordinating** the **Open House** under the leadership of **Ms. Jan Kirsten, Executive Director of College Relations**. In the **future**, the **Open House events** will be scheduled for **Saturdays** so the program can be **expanded** to **maximize presentations** and, hopefully, **attract more participants**.

Commendations

- ◆ **Ms. Sarah Salter**, a **2010 Ocean County College graduate**, who is soon completing her **bachelor's degree** from the **Kean Ocean Program**, recently learned that she has been **accepted** to **two prestigious institutions** to continue her studies:
 - ◆ **Harvard University** has extended **admission** to Sarah in its **School of Public Health** as a candidate for the **two-year Master of Science Degree Program** in **Biostatistics**.



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- ◆ The **Johns Hopkins Department of Biostatistics** has approved Sarah for **admission** in its **Doctor of Philosophy degree program**, offering her a **five-year research/teaching assistantship** that includes **full tuition and fees, living expenses, and health insurance**.

Sarah is the **daughter** of **Ms. Deanne Gatta-Salter**, who works in our **Financial Aid Office** as a **Specialist/Federal Work Study Coordinator/Veterans Liaison**. Our **heartiest congratulations** are extended to **Sarah** and her **proud Mom**.

- ◆ **Congratulations** are also in order for **Ms. Nechama Florans**, who **graduated** from **Ocean County College** in **December 2010**. She will be completing her **bachelor's degree** in **math sciences** from **Kean University** in **May**. She has received a wonderful offer from another **outstanding institution**, the **University of Pennsylvania**, to enroll in its **five-year doctoral program** in **mathematics**. **Nechama** was awarded the **Benjamin Franklin/Fontaine Fellowship**, which pays **tuition, fees, health insurance, and an annual stipend**.

I have invited both **Sara** and **Nechama** to **Friday's meeting** so we can **commend** them for their **achievements**.

- ◆ **Alumni Trustee Michael Palmerson** continues to be an **engaged student**. He is currently a **candidate** for the position of **Vice President** of the **student body**. The **Vice President** is **responsible** for determining ways in which the **student organization** can **better serve** its **constituents' needs** and subsequently work to make **activities, programs, and services** available to them. The **Vice President** is also **responsible** for **bridging the gap** between the **main Kean University campus** in **Union** and the **Kean Ocean Program** on our **OCC campus**.

The **election** will be held from **Tuesday, April 2, through Wednesday, April 3**. Good luck, **Michael**.