

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 26, 2007, Board Meeting**

DATE: March 21, 2007

NJ STARS

The College is hosting a **reception** for all Ocean County College **NJ STARS students** and their **families** on **Thursday, March 29th**, at **6:00 p.m.** in the Health and Physical Education Center **Gymnasium**. This special reception will **acknowledge** and **commend** these students for their **high academic achievements** first in **high school** and now in **college**. You are **invited to attend** the reception to meet the students and their families.

At the last **Council of County Colleges' meeting**, **Ms. Elaine Schardien, Director of Enrollment Services**, and **Ms. Jaclyn Rodemann, Director of Recruitment and Registration**, gave a **presentation** to the **presidents** and **trustees** on the College's efforts to **recruit** and **retain NJ STARS students**. As you know, OCC has the **highest number** of **NJ STARS students** in the state. I have asked Ms. Schardien and Ms. Rodemann to **share** their **presentation** with you at **Monday's meeting**. **Others** who will **attend** the meeting to talk about the work they have done as members of the College's **NJ STARS Committee** are **Ms. Laura Rickards, Director of EOF**; **Ms. Norma Betz, Director of Financial Aid**; **Mr. Mark Mehlmann, Admissions Advisor**; and **Ms. Anna Maria Harrison, Financial Aid Specialist**.

Board of Trustees Retreat

A **Board of Trustees Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday, March 30th**. It will begin at **9:00 a.m.** in the **Conference Room** of the **Technology Building**. The **agenda** will include a **discussion** on the "**AGB Statement on Board Accountability**," which was

recently adopted by the **Board of Directors** of the **Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges**. This **cogent statement of principles** encourages all governing boards and chief executives to **examine** the **clarity, coherence, and appropriateness** of the institution's **governance structures, policies, and practices**.

If you have additional **recommendations** for **discussion** at the retreat, please let me know.

Ocean County College Foundation

Annual Gala – The **OCC Foundation** has announced that **Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Leone** will be the **recipients** of the **2007 Humanitarians of the Year Award** at the **September 8th Foundation Gala**. I extend my **congratulations** to the **Leones**, whose **recognition** is **very much deserved**. I **encourage** your **attendance** at the Gala, which will be held on the **campus mall**. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Annual Golf Outing - The **OCC Foundation 6th Annual Golf Outing** will be held on **Monday, May 7th**, at the **Sea Oaks Golf Club** in **Little Egg Harbor**. In the event of **rain**, the outing will take place on **Tuesday, June 5th**. The day begins with **registration and lunch** at **11:00 a.m.**, followed by a **shotgun start** at **12:30 p.m.** The **Awards and Dinner Reception** is scheduled for **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

The Foundation is currently in the process of obtaining **sponsors, foursomes, and donations** to the **Prize Board** to support this event. Over the last **five years**, the golf outings have raised almost **\$300,000**, and the Foundation hopes to raise an **additional \$75,000** this year. The **proceeds** from the outing, as always, will support the Foundation's **scholarship program**.

If you are available, please **join us**. If you do not golf, we would be pleased to see you at the **Awards and Dinner Reception**.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education Activities

I have been invited to **chair** a **Middle States Commission on Higher Education evaluation team** that will visit **Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville, Pennsylvania**, during the **spring 2008 semester**. I am currently in **consultation** with the **President of Lehigh Carbon** to determine the **dates** for my **preliminary visit** to the college **this fall** and for the **full team visit next spring**. I am looking forward to **participating** with the team on this **very important evaluation process**.

Dr. Richard Parrish, Vice President of Planning and Administration, recently served on a **Middle States evaluation team** at **Genesee Community College** in **Batavia, New York**. His **primary assignment** was to review the **college's progress** as it related to **Middle States Standard II, Planning, Resources Allocation, and Institutional Renewal**, and he **assisted** with the review of **Standard III, Instructional Resources**. In

recognition of his **outstanding work**, the **President of Genesee Community College, Dr. Stuart Steiner**, commended **Dr. Parrish** in a letter to me.

Phi Theta Kappa

Ocean County College's **Tau Iota Chapter** of **Phi Theta Kappa**, the **national honor society of two-year colleges**, attended the **20th Annual Middle States Regional Convention** held in **Valley Forge, Pennsylvania** from **March 2nd to 4th**. Members of Tau Iota participated in **meetings and workshops** and were **recognized** for their **hard work and dedication**:

- ◆ **Tau Iota Chapter** received the **2007 Award of Excellence**, making Tau Iota one of the **top three chapters** in the **region** in **accomplishing the Hallmarks of PTK**. This award includes a **full scholarship** for the **International Convention**.
- ◆ **Tau Iota Chapter** was recognized as a **Five-Star Chapter**, the **highest level of achievement**.
- ◆ **Tau Iota Chapter** received the **2006 Pinnacle Platinum Chapter Award** for an **outstanding membership campaign**.
- ◆ **Tau Iota Chapter** was recognized as a **2006-2007 Chapter Champion**.
- ◆ **Nicole Foy** was inducted into the **Chapter Presidents Regional Hall of Honor**.
- ◆ **Susan Taylor** was inducted into the **Chapter Officers Regional Hall of Honor**.
- ◆ **April Wennlund** was inducted into the **Chapter Member Regional Hall of Honor**.

In addition to these many chapter and student honors, the **Executive Director and Chair** of the **Board of Directors of Phi Theta Kappa's Center for Excellence** has recognized **Dr. William J. Rickert**, **PTK Advisor and Professor of Mathematics**, for his **30 years** of service as an **advisor** of the Tau Iota Chapter. The **success of Tau Iota Chapter** is due, in large part, to **Dr. Rickert's consistent, encouraging, and dedicated leadership** throughout the years.

2007 New Jersey All-State Academic Team

Two OCC students, **Nicole Foy** and **Heather Wombough**, have been named by the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** to the **2007 New Jersey All-State Academic Team** for their **outstanding accomplishments** as community college students.

The students have been invited to be **guests of honor**, with **35 other exceptional students** from throughout the state, at a **special program** on **Monday, May 14th**, at the **Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel** in Trenton. **Representatives from the Governor's**

Office and the **State Legislature** will attend the program and join in honoring the students' accomplishments.

Last year, **Donald Burke**, our **Student/Alumni Board of Trustees Representative**, was one of two students from OCC selected for the **All-State Academic Team**.
Ocean County College 2006-2007 Winter Sports

The **Men's Basketball Team** ended the season with a **21-10 record** under the **new coaching staff** of **Ryan O'Rourke** and **Rory Caswell**. As a **qualifying team** for the **Garden State Athletic Conference**, OCC achieved a **7 win, 1 loss record**, as did **Gloucester County College**, earning the title of **Garden State Athletic Conference Champions of the South Division**. The team's success was led by **All-Conference** and **All-Region** players **Justin Conroy**, **Kevin Waldron**, and **Anthony LaBruno**.

OCC's **Women's Basketball Team** came on **strong** towards the **end** of the season, earning a **fourth seed** in the **National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIX Tournament**, led by the **strong playing** of **Jackie Kline**, **Oriana Smith**, and **Kelly McDonald**. The team was **defeated** by **Middlesex County College** in the **quarterfinal** game.

The **OCC Men's and Women's Swim Teams** competed hard all season, **qualifying 16** swimmers for **Nationals**. **Eight men** and **eight women** participated at the **National Junior College Athletic Association tournament** held in **Buffalo, New York**, which **ended on March 10th**. Both the **Men's** and **Women's teams** finished in **6th place** in the country, the **best finish** for the teams under the helm of **Coach Steve Stout**.

Swimming is a sport that has between **16 to 20 teams** competing **nationally** each year. NJCAA considers **swimming and diving** to be **one division**, with both **scholarship** and **non-scholarship teams** competing **together** at the **national level**. OCC finished **2nd** in the **non-scholarship level**.

Interpreter Training Program

Ocean County College's **Interpreter Training Program Sign Language Society** will present an **American Sign Language Rock and Roll Fundraiser Show** on **Friday, April 13th**, at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Fine Arts Center**. This is an **excellent event** that draws **families and friends** of the participants as well as **many members** of the **deaf community**. It is an evening enjoyed by all.

National Public Health Week

The **first week of April** is designated as **National Public Health Week** by a coalition coordinated by the **American Public Health Association** for the purpose of **educating** the **public** about issues important to **improving** the **public's health**. This year's **theme** is **"Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations."**

I respectfully request that a resolution be adopted to support this important effort and to proclaim the week of April 2 to 8, 2007, as National Public Health Week at Ocean County College.