



# 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, 2012, Board Meeting**  
**DATE:** March 21, 2012

## New Jersey Council of County Colleges' Best Practices Conference

Each year the **New Jersey Council of County Colleges** presents the **Best Practices Conference**. This event brings together **academic** and **administrative staff** from all **departments** throughout New Jersey's **19 community colleges**. The **conference** presents the "**best of the best**" **teaching** and **institutional practices** that are driving the **success** throughout the **sector**. The **2012 Best Practices Conference** will be held on **Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**, at the **Middlesex County College Conference Center** in **Edison**. The **theme** for this year's conference is **Student Success**.

A **proposal** submitted by **Vice President Richard Strada** was selected for **presentation** at the conference. *Redesigning Faculty Evaluation from Scratch* will focus on the **process** initiated by **Ocean County College** for **redesigning faculty evaluation**. In the **fall semester**, a **task force** of **volunteers** was assembled to reconsider the **current process** for **evaluating** all members of the **teaching community**. **Volunteers** were drawn from the **full-time faculty**, **adjunct faculty**, **college lecturers**, and **administrators**. This presentation will discuss the **reasons** for the **change**, the **involvement** by the entire **college community**, and the **pilot** that resulted from this **unique opportunity** to achieve a **more effective** means of **evaluation**.

## National Poetry Month

In recognition of **National Poetry Month** in **April**, the **Ocean County College Department of English and Literature** will **sponsor** a number of **events** on **campus**. The events are **free** and **open** to the **public**.

- ◆ On **Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**, at **11:00 a.m.**, **poet/critic/activist Alicia Suskin Ostriker** will **read** from her works in the **Black Box Theatre**. A **special reception** will follow in the **Library Tower Room** at **12:30 p.m.**, and she will then **lead a poetry workshop** at **2:00 p.m.** **Ms. Ostriker's poetry and criticism** focuses mainly on **Jewish identity**, **personal growth**, and **social justice**.

**Ms. Ostriker** is **Professor Emerita** at **Rutgers University** and is a **faculty member** at the **New England College Low-Residency Poetry MFA Program**. She also **taught** in the **Princeton**



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University Creative Writing Program and in Toni Morrison's Atelier Program, as well as has presented Midrash writing workshops in the United States, Israel, England, and Australia.

Twice nominated for a National Book Award, Ms. Ostriker has received awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, Judah Magnes Museum, National Endowment for the Arts, New Jersey Arts Council, Poetry Society of America, Rockefeller Foundation, and San Francisco State Poetry Center.

Ms. Ostriker is also a contributor of poems and essays to literary reviews and magazines, including *American Poetry Review*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, *The Nation*, *Tikkun*, and *The New York Times Book Review*.

Ms. Ostriker is considered to be one of the top living American poets. We are delighted she will visit Ocean County College. Invitations were extended to the trustees to attend the reception and have the opportunity to meet and talk with Ms. Ostriker. I hope to see you there.

- ◆ On Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., there will be a film screening in the Television Studio of *Willem de Kooning: Artist*. Willem de Kooning is one of the most celebrated artists of the Abstract Expressionist painters. His abstract style of painting drew together Cubism, Surrealism, and Expressionism; he may be best known for his paintings of women.
- ◆ On Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., an Open Mic Poetry Jam will allow faculty, staff, and students, to share their verses. This event will be held in the Solar Lounge.

Ms. Heidi Sheridan, Instructor of English and Literature, has coordinated the events for Ocean County College's Poetry Month Celebration.

## Ocean County College Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies

The Ocean County College Center for Peace, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies will present *You Are the Future with Naomi Miller* on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. in the Solar Lounge. This event is free and open to the public. Ms. Miller, acclaimed international cabaret singer, actress, and recording artist, presents this program of hope and remembrance.

This inspirational program will feature song interspersed with acting, mesmerizing personal narrative, and storytelling. Ms. Miller will honor and remember the culture and people who perished during the Holocaust in Eastern Europe. A candle lighting ceremony and prayer will follow. Light refreshments will be served.

Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig, Assistant Professor of English and Literature, is coordinating this event.



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## NJ STARS Seminar

A **NJ STARS Seminar** is being offered for **students** and their **families** on **Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in the **Ocean County College Theatre**. **Students** have expressed **concerns** about **future career opportunities** given the **current economic environment**. In **response** to those concerns, the seminar, "**Future Job Trends**," will focus on **professions** that are **anticipated** to have an **increased workforce demand** in the years ahead, **job searching techniques**, **networking skills**, and the **need** to be **open** to new career choices.

**Vice President Don Doran** and **I** will **address** the **students** and **family members**. A **presentation** will be made by **Mr. Robert Grimmie**, **Director** of the **Center for Occupational Employment Information**, **New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development**. The **Center** is the **entity** designated to carry out the **State-level career information activities** in cooperation with the **New Jersey Department of Education** and the **Commission on Higher Education**. Following the presentation, there will be a **panel discussion** by **OCC NJ STARS graduates** who are now successfully **employed**.

This event is **sponsored** by the College's **NJ STARS Club**, the **Advising Office**, and the **Office of College Relations**.

## 100 Years: Titanic Survivors and Their Stories

To mark the **100<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of the **sinking** of the **Titanic**, the **Traveling Literary Theater** will present the **world premiere** of *100 Years: Titanic Survivors and Their Stories* at the **Ocean County College Arts and Community Center** on **Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**, at **2:00 p.m.**

**Costumed actors** will share **stories** of **survivors** of the **disaster** set to the actual **music** performed by **Titanic's legendary band** to **comfort** the **passengers** as the ship **slowly sank**. Prior to the show, a **recreation** of the **final Titanic first-class luncheon menu** will be **served**, prepared by **Chef Michael Dunn**, a **graduate** of the **Culinary Institute of America**.

**Attached** is an **article** that appeared in **The Wall Street Journal** on **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. We are very **pleased** to present this **one-of-a-kind production** on the **OCC campus**.



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## Senior Living Expo

The **Second Annual Senior Living Expo** was held on **Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**, in the **Ocean County College Gymnasium**. The Expo provided **area businesses, community organizations**, and the **College** with the opportunity to **showcase products and services** to **area senior citizens**.

For the second year, **Community Medical Center** was the Expo's **major sponsor** and provided **special displays, screenings, and informational handouts** on many of its services. In addition, **New Jersey Natural Gas** and **Harrogate** co-sponsored the event.

More than **80 vendors** exhibited at the Expo, **up from 60 last year**. In addition, there was an **increase in community visitors**; more than **600 senior citizens, 200 more than last year**, attended the **four-hour event**.

The **highlight** of the Expo was a wonderful array of **food vendors** who provided **free samplings** of their **specialties**. **Entertainment** was provided by the musical group **"Pizazz."** A presentation on **"Your Heart and You: Tips on Staying Healthy"** was given by **Dr. John Merlino** and **Donna Bonacurso, RN**, from **Community Medical Center**. **Vendors** also provided **gift baskets and prizes** for the event's drawing.

**OCC staff** received many **positive comments** from both the **vendors and senior citizens**. **Resource Development** is very pleased to report that this event was **self-sustaining**; there was **no cost** to the **College**.

## Ocean County College Arts and Community Center Gallery

The **Ocean County College Arts and Community Center Gallery** will host **several exhibits** this **spring**. **Admission** to the **Gallery** is **free**.

### ◆ **April 2 to 27: Photography of Hutch Martin: "Still Celebrating Our Times at the Shore and More"**

**Mr. Hutch Martin** celebrates the **shore** with **stunning pictures** of **lighthouses, seascapes, and nature**. His work depicts the **Jersey Shore, Maryland, Delaware, California, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and American Heroes**. During the exhibit, **artwork** will be available for **purchase** at a reasonable price, and **20 percent** of the **proceeds** from all **purchases** will go to the **Ocean County College Scholarship Fund**.

### ◆ **May 7 to 31: Artist Judi Gilden and Her Students**





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**Ms. Judi Gilden** is an award-winning New Jersey artist. Using traditional transparent watercolor, she creates a sensitive blend of art and spirituality in her paintings. Images of Gilden's paintings are archived in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian Institution, the Archives of American Art, and the National Museum of Women, as well as at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the Nawa Archives at Rutgers University.

◆ **June 8 to 27: The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Citizens Art Show**

Original artwork created by talented Ocean County residents age 60 and older will be on display. Both professional and non-professional artists will bring artwork spanning many categories - acrylic, craft, computer imagery, drawing, mixed media, oil, pastel, photography, print, watercolor, and sculpture. This event is co-sponsored by Ocean County College, the Senior Art Advisory Committee, the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

## Commendations

- ◆ The Ocean County Personnel and Guidance Association (OCPGA) has selected **Ms. Megan Springsted**, Ocean County College Recruitment Coordinator, to receive its **2012 Counselor of the County Award**. Ms. Springsted is responsible for strengthening relationships with high school guidance departments and facilitating the College enrollment process. She has successfully accomplished this through her creativity, professionalism, attention to detail, effectiveness, and follow-up. Ms. Springsted also advises non-traditional students, making each one feel comfortable and important.

This award is presented each year by the OCPGA in conjunction with the New Jersey School Counselors Association. School counselors are nominated by their colleagues and are selected by their own county's School Counselor Association (OCPGA). Ms. Springsted will receive the Counselor of the County Award at the OCPGA end-of-the-year dinner on May 31<sup>st</sup> at Aquablue in Toms River.

- ◆ Vice President Sara Winchester served as a member of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education team for the evaluation of Clinton Community College in Plattsburg, New York, from February 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. I received a letter from Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, President of Cumberland County College and Chair of the Visiting Team, expressing his appreciation for Ms. Winchester's participation on the team and for the significant contribution she made in reading the Self-Study documents, interviewing college staff, and then writing an evaluation report on the assigned Middle States Standards. Dr. Isekenegbe commended Ms. Winchester for her thoughtful and professional manner as she accomplished her responsibilities.