



# 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 28, 2011, Board Meeting**  
**DATE:** March 23, 2011

## Ocean County College Athletics

Ocean County College's **athletic teams** and **their coaches** deserve our **congratulations** for an **outstanding winter season:**

**Men's Basketball** – The team finished the season as **Region XIX Champions** and played at the **National Championship** at **Sullivan County Community College** in **New York** from **March 10-12**. In the **first championship game**, **OCC defeated Massachusetts Bay County College** with a score of **61-59** in a very **exciting game**. The team moved to the **national semi-finals** but was **defeated 77-71** by **Mountain View County College, Texas**, the eventual national champions. The **OCC Vikings** finished as the **fifth place team nationally**.

**JaMario Clayton** was named **Region XIX Player of the Year**, **Steve Salley** was recognized as the **Region XIX Tournament MVP**, and **Darnell Braggs** was named to the **National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-National Tournament Team**.

**Women's Basketball** – The team finished **fourth** in the **Garden State Athletic Conference** and **fifth** in **Region XIX**. **Elizabeth Lawler** was named **NJCAA Player of the Week** for the week of **February 16**. She was among the **top ten** in **scoring average** and was **second** in the **nation** in **rebounding**. As a result, she was named to the **All-Region and All-Conference Teams**.

**Men's and Women's Swimming** – The teams represented the College well at the **NJCAA National Championship** games in **Buffalo, New York**. The **women** finished in **6<sup>th</sup> place (13<sup>th</sup> overall)**, and the **men** in **3<sup>rd</sup> place (9<sup>th</sup> overall)** in the **non-scholarship division**. **William deRouville** set **four school records** this season, breaking the **800 free relay, 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, and 200 freestyle** previous records.

**Mr. AJ Trump, Assistant Director of Athletics**, will join us at **Monday's meeting** with several of our very **successful players**.



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## Phi Beta Lambda

Again this year, Ocean County College's **Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Chapter** attended the **New Jersey PBL State Leadership Conference** in **February** at **Mercer County College** and was extremely successful. **Professor Katherine Dillon**, who serves as **PBL's Advisor**, **Professor Barbara Napolitano**, **Professor Henry Schwartz**, and **Adjunct Professor Michael Forcella** accompanied the students to the conference. Although unable to attend the competition, **Dr. Virginia Reilly** serves as the group's **Co-Advisor**, and **Dean Dean La Bollita** is a **Professional Member**.

Competing against students from **15 other New Jersey colleges** in **35 events**, **OCC's PBL members** achieved the following **awards and honors** at the **state leadership conference**:

**2011 – 2012 NJ State PBL President – Frank Gorman**  
**Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit**  
**Outstanding Chapter Award**  
**Outstanding Advisor Award – Professor Katherine Dillon**  
**Business Professional of the Year – Dr. Virginia Reilly**  
**Business Person of the Year – Dean Dean LaBollita**  
**Who's Who in PBL – Frank Gorman**  
**Outstanding Officer Award – Kathryn Trachta**  
**Outstanding Member Award – Trevor Woolley**  
**Ocean County College Scrapbook – Kathryn Trachta**

Other **individual awards** went to:

**Frank Gorman - Mr. Future Business Executive (1<sup>st</sup> Place), Small Business Management Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Place)**  
**Kathryn Trachta - Small Business Management Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Place)**  
**Trevor Woolley - Accounting Principles (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**  
**James Lennon - Business Communication (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Project Management (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**  
**Nekiesha Hatch - Client Services (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**  
**Chris Marzella - Computer Concepts (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**  
**Breanna Burns - Hospitality Management (1<sup>st</sup> Place)**  
**Rebecca Tray - Hospitality Management (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Job Interview (1<sup>st</sup> Place)**  
**Alex Daudier - Impromptu Speaking (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Small Business Management Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Place)**  
**Constantine Siampos - Sales Presentation (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**  
**Kristina Dugan - Job Interview (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Ms. Future Business Executive (1<sup>st</sup> Place)**  
**Edward Day - Management Concepts (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Marketing Concepts (1<sup>st</sup> Place)**  
**Raymond Brophy - Public Speaking (1<sup>st</sup> Place)**



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The **outstanding performance** by OCC's **PBL members** certainly deserves our **accolades**, as do the **advisors** and the **many faculty** who **work with** and **encourage** these students. We expect that the **PBL members** will represent Ocean County College very well at the **national PBL competition** that is scheduled in **Florida** in **May**.

Members of **PBL** will attend **Monday's meeting** to share with you their **excitement** as well as provide you with an **overview** of their **fundraising activities** to support their **trip to Florida**.

## Ocean County College Nursing Program

Ocean County College students continue to **demonstrate** the **quality education** they receive. Again, our **Nursing Program** graduates have achieved very **impressive results** on the **National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)**. The **Council report** recently received for **OCC graduates** who sat for the exam during the period **April through September 2010** shows that **69 of 70, or 99 percent, passed the test**. This follows a **100 percent pass rate** during the **last examination period** from **October 2009 through March 2010**.

The **success rate** of our **graduates** attests to the fact that **OCC's Nursing Program** continues to be one of the **best in the country**. The **students** leave OCC **well prepared** to pursue their **nursing careers** because of the **commitment** and **dedication** of our **faculty, clinical instructors**, and **Ms. Coleen Manzetti, Assistant Dean of Nursing**.

## National Poetry Month

**Inaugurated** by the **Academy of American Poets** in **1996**, **National Poetry Month** is now held every **April**. During the month, **publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools and poets** around the **country** band together to **celebrate poetry** and its **vital place** in **American culture**. Thousands of **businesses** and **non-profit organizations** participate through **readings, festivals, book displays, workshops**, and other events.

The **College** is **sponsoring** its **tenth annual Poetry Festival** in recognition of **National Poetry Month** with the following events:

- ◆ **Thursday, April 7 – Poet Khaled Mattawa** in the **Solar Lounge** at **11:00 a.m.**
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 12 – Open Mic** in the **Solar Lounge** from **12:30 to 1:45 p.m.**
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 13 – Film Screening: *Journey from the Fall***, by **Ham Tran** in **Room 117** of the **Arts and Community Center** at **9:00 a.m.**



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- ◆ **Friday, April 15 – Poet Kevin Clark** in the **Black Box Theatre** of the **Arts and Community Center** at **12:30 p.m.**

**Ms. Heidi Sheridan, Professor of English and Literature**, will attend **Monday's meeting** to extend an **invitation** to you to attend these **poetry events**.

## Ocean County College Writing Center

**Ms. Christine Kephart, Writing Skills Coordinator**, will attend **Monday's meeting**. Last year, she reported to you that **efforts** were being made to **extend** the **Center's reach** throughout the **campus community**. As a result of these efforts, there has been **increased usage** of the **Writing Center** by students in disciplines other than English. She will report to you about the **Center's activities** during the **past academic year**, some of which are:

- ◆ The **College Reading and Learning Association** held a **one-day conference** on campus in March for **professional development**, attended by peer and Kean-Ocean tutors;
- ◆ A **Facebook page** was created for additional awareness of the Writing Center;
- ◆ A **new column**, "**Scribbles**," was introduced in **The Viking News**, which is written by the Writing Center staff. The column will offer thoughts on **poems, books**, and other **reflections** and **whimsical expressions**; and
- ◆ Continued **student assistance** as part of the **Writing Across the Curriculum** initiative.

## Arts and Community Center

I hope you will be able to be with us at the **ribbon-cutting ceremony** for the **Arts and Community Center** on **Friday, April 8, at 2:00 p.m.**, with a **dessert reception** following, as well as the **special grand opening performance** in the **Theatre** on **Saturday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m.** Accompanied by the **Garden State Philharmonic**, led by **Artistic Director and Conductor Anthony LaGruth**, "**Three Phantoms in Concert**" will perform many songs from **Broadway musical productions**.

**Theatre-goers** will have the opportunity to attend a **5:00 p.m. cocktail party** prior to the concert at the **ticket price** of **\$150**, and **proceeds** from this **fundraising event** will benefit the **Arts and Community Center**. **Invitations** will be **mailed** in **March**.



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## Noteworthy News

I had the pleasure of **participating** again this year in **Read Across America Day** on **March 2**. This year I visited a **second grade class** at the **East Dover Elementary School** here in Toms River, bringing them **two books**, “**Dogs Don’t Do Ballet**” and “**I Wanna New Room**,” both of which the students very much **enjoyed**. Attached is an **article** that appeared in **The Toms River Times**.