



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 April 23, 2012, Board Meeting

DATE: April 18, 2012

Ocean County College Commencement Week

Ocean County College's 45th Commencement will be held on Thursday, May 24th, at 6:00 p.m. on the College mall. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved to the Pine Belt Arena on Old Freehold Road in Toms River. I am delighted that our guest speaker will be the Honorable Bob Martin, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The Nursing Pinning Ceremony will precede Commencement on Tuesday evening, May 22nd, at 7:00 p.m., and the annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday evening, May 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. Both events will be held in our Theatre in the Arts and Community Center.

Members of the College community will be invited to a reception prior to commencement from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Arts and Community Center Atrium. At 5:30 p.m., the trustees and platform party will robe for the ceremony in the Boardroom.

Environmental Stewardship

In 2008, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) established the Environmental Stewardship Initiative, a recognition program developed for entities regulated by the Department for compliance issues. Environmental stewardship is defined as activities that go beyond the minimum requirements for environmental compliance, and participation in the program is voluntary.

Following an on-campus water quality inspection on March 6th, the NJDEP recognized Ocean County College as an Environmental Steward for having completed several activities for improving the environment in the Outreach Program, Green Building Implementation, and Renewable Energy Use categories. As a result of that visit, the Department formally acknowledged the proactive measures taken by Ocean County College to better the environment.

I have invited Mr. Jule Raichle, Manager of Safety and Environmental Compliance, to Monday's Board meeting to provide you with additional information on the Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

Displaced Homemakers Month

Since 2007, Ocean County College has been the recipient of a grant from the New Jersey Division on Women for the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County. The program provides services to women to become economically self-sufficient after the loss of their primary source of income due to divorce, separation, death, or disability of a spouse.

Ms. Eileen Burdge serves as the Coordinator of the Displaced Homemakers Program, and Dr. Kathryn Pandolpho is the Program Director. The Program has had a very productive year, with 83 clients currently participating. Seventeen clients are enrolled in higher education, 13 of whom are registered at OCC for a total of 127 credit hours. Two of the clients are members of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society. Two clients are enrolled in the Kean-Ocean program, and two clients are enrolled at Stockton State University. Since last July, six clients found full-time employment and four secured part-time positions.

At Monday's meeting, I will offer a resolution to proclaim the month of May 2012 as Displaced Homemakers Awareness Month at Ocean County College. Additionally, Ms. Burdge and Dr. Pandolpho will attend the meeting to share with you the success of the program and the ways in which it is having an impact on the lives of its participants.

Ocean County College Viking Cheerleaders

The Ocean County College Viking Cheerleaders won 1st Place in their division at the 32nd Annual National Cheerleaders Association/National Dancers Association Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship, which was held from April 11th through 14th in Daytona Beach, Florida. Performing twice in two days in the Intermediate All-Girl II Division, the Vikings outscored teams representing four-year universities in North Carolina, Massachusetts, Georgia, and Texas, earning the coveted title of National Champions. This was OCC's second time competing at the National level, the most prestigious competition for college teams.

The Cheerleading Club, led by Coach Maureen Williams, worked hard this year to prepare for and make this dream a reality. In addition to exhaustive practices, choreography, and fundraising efforts to support their trip, these students are required to maintain their grades,

and, in many cases, their outside work schedules. For these students, cheerleading is a very important part of their college experience. The Cheerleading Club is funded and supported by the Student Union and the Office of Student Life.

Congratulations to Coach Williams and the members of the Cheerleading Club for their success at the National competition.

Faculty Recognition

Dr. Jennifer Dellner, Associate Professor of English and Literature, has been selected to receive a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to attend a summer seminar for college and university teachers. Participants in this five-week seminar, which will be held in Dublin, Ireland, from June 18th to July 30th, will study James Joyce's Ulysses: Text and Contexts.

Dr. Dellner was one of 16 people selected for the seminar; two graduate students will also attend. Although the exact number of applicants is not known, the seminar director said there was strong competition for the fellowship. Professor Dellner was the only community college professor selected to participate.

Dr. Dellner has also authored a chapter in Two Thousand Years of Solitude, which was recently published by the Oxford University Press. The title of her chapter is "Children of the Island: Ovid, Poesis, and Loss in the Poetry of Eavan Boland and Derek Mahon."

We extend our congratulations to Professor Dellner for these notable achievements.

Student Recognition

Ms. Elizabeth Lawler, who scored over 1,000 points in her basketball career at Ocean County College and earned All-American honors from the National Junior College Athletic Association, has been selected to have her OCC Viking jersey hang in the Ring of Honor section of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tennessee. The Ring of Honor consists of over 100 jerseys hanging from rafters. The jerseys represent the top high school and college players from each season. Elizabeth's jersey will be displayed from June 2012 through May 2013.

Elizabeth is the first OCC athlete to receive this honor, and we again congratulate her on yet another recognition of her outstanding accomplishments.

The Ocean County College Foundation

The Ocean County College Foundation's 11th Annual Golf Outing is taking place at the Pine Barrens Golf Club in Jackson on Tuesday, May 1st. In the ten years since the inception of the golf outing, the Foundation has raised over \$450,000 to support the students of Ocean County College.

The entry fee is \$295 per player, which includes lunch, the use of the driving range for one hour before the shotgun start, greens fees, a golf cart, and a golf gift. An Awards and Cocktail Reception will immediately follow the tournament in the Club House. The fee for the Cocktail Reception alone is \$100. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

If you are not a golfer, please consider joining us for the Reception. It is a terrific day and evening.

Gateway Building Tour

The trustees are invited to take a brief tour of the Gateway Building and the Combined Heat and Power Plant following Monday's Board meeting. The Gateway Building is not yet fully enclosed, so it can be quite windy and cool on the upper levels; please be prepared for the weather. The building is impressive, and the view from the top floor is magnificent.



Board of Trustees

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Displaced Homemakers Act was signed into law by Governor Brendan Byrne in 1979; and

WHEREAS, the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County, funded by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women, has been at Ocean County College since 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Program currently provides services to many women who have lost their primary source of income, due to divorce, separation, death, or disability of a spouse, assisting them to become economically self-sufficient through career counseling, training, educational opportunities, and information/referrals to community resources and social services; and

WHEREAS, the Displaced Homemakers Program of Ocean County significantly impacted the lives of nearly 300 Ocean County women by helping them reach their full potential, gain self-confidence, and enhance their employability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the month of May 2012 be proclaimed as Displaced Homemakers Awareness Month at Ocean County College; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the college community recognize the importance of the Displaced Homemakers Program as it provides women with the skills necessary to meet the challenges of the labor market so they can provide for themselves and their children.

Adopted: April 23, 2012

Carl V. Thulin, Jr.
Chair