

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

FROM: Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.
President

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for the **April 25, 2016, Board Meeting**

DATE: April 20, 2016

Phi Theta Kappa

Tau Iota, OCC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, received wonderful recognition at the Combined Regional and International Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention held at the National Harbor, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C., from Thursday, April 7, to Sunday, April 9, 2016. Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious honor society recognizing students pursuing two-year degrees. More than 3 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918.

Nine Tau Iota officers and three advisors attended the convention. Ocean County College was recognized as follows:

- ❖ Katarzyna Wac and Brianna Badami were each inducted into the Regional Chapter Officers Hall of Honor**
- ❖ Steven Jones was inducted into the Regional Members Hall of Honor**
- ❖ Steven Jones was named Distinguished Chapter Member for the Middle States Region**
- ❖ The Tau Iota Executive Board was named the Outstanding Chapter Officer Team for the Middle States Region**
- ❖ Tau Iota received first place in the Fellowship Chapter Cheer competition based on a video made on the Ocean County College campus, which was presented at the convention**
- ❖ Dr. William Rickert received a Recognition Award for serving forty years as a Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Advisor**

All who attended the convention agreed it was an exciting and stimulating experience. **Dr. Rickert** and several students have been **invited** to attend **Monday's meeting** to share **Tau Iota's award-winning video** and talk about their **trip** to the **convention**.

Finance and Administration

➤ EACUBO Annual Workshop

Ms. Sara Winchester, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration, attended the **Eastern Association of College and University Business Officers annual workshop** in **Boston** on **March 10 and 11, 2016**. **Ms. Winchester**, accompanied by **Mr. Manal Meseha** from **Sussex County Community College**, presented a session entitled **"Building Win/Win e-Learning Partnerships."** The session described the **successful partnership** between **Ocean and Sussex**, which allowed **Sussex** to take **advantage** of **OCC's e-Learning capacity** and leapfrog into the **online learning environment** quickly with **minimal up-front cost**.

➤ Ellucian Live 2016

Ms. Winchester attended the **Ellucian Live 2016** conference in **Denver, Colorado**. **Mr. Chuck Keeler, Ellucian General Manager, Ms. Chrissy Coley, Ellucian Consultant, and Ms. Winchester** presented a session entitled **"Building Business Partnerships to Enhance Student Success."** The session focused on **strategies to leverage** existing **business partnerships to improve student success** and **explore new opportunities** for establishing **effective business partnerships to enhance institutional effectiveness and student success**.

➤ College Relations

- **Grants - April** has been an **active month** for **grant submissions**. The **Grants Office administrated support** to **various departments** across the campus to **successfully submit proposals** that will **expand OCC's programming and service to students and the community**.

The following **grant proposals**, totaling **\$1,611,358**, have recently been **submitted** by the College:

- **TRIO Talent Search (\$1,200,00)** - To provide **academic, career, and financial counseling** to **500 middle and high school students** and encourage them to **graduate from high school** and continue on to and **complete postsecondary education**. OCC proposed to **serve students** at the following schools: **Barnegat Township School District (High School and Middle School), Lacey Township School District (High School), Pinelands Regional School District (High School), and Toms River School District (High School South and High School East)**.

- **UBTech/Harman Innovation Award (\$25,000)** - To **combat** the problem of **faculty isolation in online learning**, OCC's **application** highlighted the **creation** of an **online faculty community** by leveraging **AV technology** in **FlipGrid** to support and inspire **faculty exchanges** in the online environment.
- **University of Washington (\$4,000)** - To **develop** an **onsite, online course** titled, *Philosophy of Asian Studies*.
- **State of New Jersey, Department of Education (\$377,358)** - To increase the **academic achievement** of **students** in **mathematics** and **science** by enhancing the **content knowledge** and **teaching skills** of **classroom teachers**.
- **Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation (\$5,000)** - To **offset** the **cost** of providing **world class classical entertainment** and **educational outreach** for the **students** at **OCC** and the **surrounding communities** during **month-long programming** on **Global Education for Girls**.
- **Alumni** - On **April 21, 2016**, the **Alumni Office** and **Career, Employment, and Counseling Services** hosted **"If You're Not Digital, You're Invisible,"** an **interactive workshop** for structuring a **resume** that gets **noticed**, focusing on **effective strategies** for **advancing professional networks** using **social media** and **best practices**. The **presenters** for the workshop featured **OCC alumni** from the fields of **digital marketing** and **career coaching**. This event was offered **free** to **OCC students** and **alumni** as well as **Kean Ocean students** and **alumni**.
- **Veterans Initiatives** – Through a **promotional/recruitment campaign**, an **investment** was made in **GI Jobs**, a **Veterans online** and **print magazine**; already this year, there have been **1,675,999 page views**. Through this campaign, OCC is able to **reach veterans** across the **county** and has an opportunity to **highlight OCC's veteran students** and their **stories**. The **profile** of one our students, Mr. Joe Dai, a **current full-time Criminal Justice student** who recently **returned home** from **deployment** in **Afghanistan** as part of a **combat support sustainment battalion**, can be read at this **link** to the magazine:

<https://www.gijobs.com/veteran-profile/ocean-county-college/joseph-dai/>
- **TV Studio**
 - Work continues on the **Ocean County Prosecutor's anti-drug campaign**. The **finalists** were **selected** and the Prosecutor's Office will **begin production** of the **anti-drug messages**.
 - **Comcast** successfully **completed** its **second taping** of **Comcast's Newsmakers**. Featured on the program was **Dr. Marilyn Kralik, College Lecturer II of Humanities and Fine Arts**, who talked about the **College's Study Abroad program**. **Linda and Jay Grunin Center for the Arts**

- The Grunin “Salute to Ocean County” show was provided with **technical support** and **broadcast television production** in the **Grunin Center** on **April 7**. The **program** was **aired live** on **Ocean TV 20** and **streamed live** on the **internet**. As part of the **TV test drive initiative**, students from **OCC, Jackson Liberty High School, and Lacey High School** participated on the **production crew** for this very successful event.
- Production is complete on a **promotional video** for the new **Veterinarian Technician Program** for **Continuing and Professional Education**. The program will air on **TV20** and **OCC’s website** as well as be sent to **high schools** for their **municipal channels**.
- **Planetarium** - On **April 12, 2016**, **Amanda Boyle** was featured on the *Wake Up with Jeremy* show with host **Jeremy Grunin** on **WOBM-AM**. It can be seen at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r18sgcSz_Qk

- **Facilities** - On **Thursday, March 31, 2016**, **Facilities** hosted its first **Powered Industrial Forklift Truck training** at the **Facilities Management Warehouse** building using both **electrical** and **gas-powered vehicles**. **Mr. John Salapka, Facilities Central Receiving Stock Assistant**, has been **certified** as a **Train-the-Trainer instructor**. He instructed the class for **five hours** using **PowerPoints, videos, demonstrations, and personal one-on-one tutorials** with each employee in **operating the forklift**.

Each **participant** was required to undergo a **Safety Awareness Assessment** to receive a **certificate of completion**, which requires **updating** every **three years**. Every employee **successfully completed** the **assessment**.

➤ **Human Resources**

- On **April 7, 2016**, **Leadership Academy cohort members** participated in the first of **four personal coaching sessions** with **Ms. Janice Coleman** (of **Janice Coleman Corporation**). In addition to individual leadership growth goals, **results from 360 feedback reports** were **discussed**. This effort is part of the **Leadership Academy**, which aligns with **Strategy Three of Strategies for Success, Strengthen Leadership at All Levels**.
- A **workshop** titled “**Emotional Intelligence**” will be held on **April 21**. Facilitated by **Corporate Strategies/SkillPath**, members of this year’s **Leadership Academy** and **others** will learn about the **core competencies** of **Emotional Intelligence: Self Awareness, Self- Regulation, Social Awareness and Relationship Management**. There is a growing **body of research** that has shown the **correlation** of **emotional intelligence** and **professional success and effectiveness**. Participants have been given a **pre-workshop book reading** assignment, **Emotional Intelligence**, by **Mr. Daniel Goleman**. A **second workshop** on this topic will be offered in **June** to enable **more employees** to develop their **skills** in this **critical area**. This effort is designed to meet

goals in two strategic areas, **Strategy Three, Strengthen Leadership at All Levels**, and **Strategy Five, Create a Challenging and Supportive Work Environment**. Additionally, it is expected that it will **strengthen the culture of civility at OCC**.

- **Ms. Jacqueline D'Amore, Human Resources Specialist**, and **Ms. Debbie Humphreys, Employee Benefits Supervisor**, attended a **half-day employment law update on April 14**. The event was **sponsored** by the **Jersey Shore Association for Human Resources**, an **affiliate** of the **Society of Human Resources Management**. Topics covered were managing **leaves of absence**, proposed revisions to the Department of Labor's **overtime regulations**, and the anatomy of **depositions**.

Ms. Humphreys also attended the **New Jersey Council of Community Colleges' Labor Relations/Human Resources Affinity Group meeting on April 15**. Along with normal agenda items, a **special presentation on "Managing Leaves Under the ACA"** took place.

- **The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts**

Upcoming events include:

- **The Bronx Wanderers, May 7, 2016, at 8:00 p.m.** – With **superlative vocals and musicianship**, a **father and two sons** exude **dynamic enthusiasm** and a **genuine love of the rock 'n roll music** they perform. The **Bronx Wanderers** recreate the **magic** of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and the **music of today** by building an **energetic bond** with their **audience**.
- **A Tale of Two Cities, May 15, 2016, at 8:00 p.m.** - **Justice, sacrifice, class, love, and duty** are put to the **test** as **leaders are beheaded** and a **people rebel**. As **blood flows** in the streets, is **anyone truly innocent?** As **America's longest running touring company**, **National Players** has **traveled America** for **65 years**, presenting **classic plays** interpreted in **fresh and invigorating ways**.
- **Neville Dickie, May 18, 2016, at 8:00 p.m.** – The **great British pianist, Neville Dickie**, will return to perform a very special "**History of the Jazz Piano: The First 50 Years.**"

The College will be the **host site** for the **2016 New Jersey Teen Arts Festival on June 1, 2, and 3, 2016**. Many **high schools students** will share their **talents** in the **visual and performing arts**. A list of **workshops and student performances** can be found on the **New Jersey Teen Arts Festival website**.

➤ **Information Technology**

- The **Office of Information Technology (OIT)** began its **training efforts** for the new **Learning Management System** on **April 4, 2016**, for face-to-face faculty, with classes being held on the **Toms River campus** and the **Southern Education Center campus** during the **week**, as well as **WebEx online training** on the **weekends**.
- **OIT** continues to **investigate** a **new solution** by **Ellucian “Cloud Analytics,”** a **“Software as a Service” (SaaS)-based solution** that will:
 - Provide a **better value** by **reducing** the **total cost of ownership**
 - Provide **tighter integration** with **Ellucian Colleague**
 - Utilize a **larger data model** with more **Analytics domains defined**
 - Match our **vision** of the **Colleague system**, which will be **migrated** to an **SaaS model** within a **consortium** of other **New Jersey community colleges**.

The **first module** of this **Analytics solution, Recruiter Analytics**, is currently in **beta testing**; **OCC** would like to become a **beta test site** for **Recruiter Analytics**. As this project moves forward, other College departments will need to assign the necessary resources to participate in the evaluation and testing.

Student Affairs

➤ **Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame**

The **Ocean County College Sailing Program** and **Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame** are sponsoring the **6th Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** on **Saturday, October 1, 2016**, in the **Health and Human Performance Center Gymnasium**. The **first Sailing Hall of Fame ceremony** was held in **September 2004** with more than **200 people** in attendance; that number continues to **increase every year**.

The **Barnegat Bay Sailing Hall of Fame** promotes the area’s **maritime heritage** by **recognizing individuals** whose **accomplishments** on the **water** and/or **shore** have **significantly enhanced** the **Barnegat Bay’s character** and **strengthened** its **status** as a **maritime center**.

➤ **Ocean County College Athletics**

- **Ocean County College Viking Athletics** is sponsoring the **2016 Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** on **June 29, 2016**, at **6:00 p.m.** in the **Health and Human Performance Center Gymnasium**. **Ocean County College** has been **consistently ranked** as one of the **top ten two-year college athletic programs** in the **nation**, and our **student achievement** in the **classroom** is **second to none**. **OCC’s Hall of Fame**

consists of not only **tremendous student-athletes**, but also **role models** who have made **contributions** to their **communities**, **work forces**, and many **public programs**.

- For the **first time** in a **long while**, the **Ocean County College Baseball and Softball teams** traveled for a **spring training trip** during **spring break**, **March 20 to 26**, to **Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**. The **baseball team** competed in **nine games** against very **tough competition** and finished with **three wins and six losses**. **Softball** finished with **six wins and two losses** and **defeated** some very **strong competition** which earned them a **national ranking** by weeks end. **Softball Coach Bob Mazanec** also won his **200th game** during the trip. **Both teams** were extremely **happy** that they had the opportunity to compete in **beautiful weather** at the **Ripken Experience** and **Ned Donkle Complex** and get in much needed **game repetitions** earlier than they ever have before. Games were played against **NJCAA Division II and Division III teams** as well as **club four-year programs** from **New York, Illinois, Maryland, South Carolina, and West Virginia**.

A **special thank you** to the **Ocean County College Foundation** for **sponsoring a large portion** of the **trip costs**. **Appreciation** is also expressed to the **sponsors** and **others** who went out of their way to **assist the teams** with **raising funds**. Due to this enormous generosity, **85% of the trip** was **entirely funded** through our **fundraising efforts** with only **15%** coming from **player contributions**.

➤ **Displaced Homemakers Program**

Since its **inception** in **2007**, the **Displaced Homemakers Program** has **significantly impacted** the **lives** of over **730 Ocean County women**, helping them move to **economic self-sufficiency**. **This year** has been an **exciting** and **busy** year for the Program, with **117 clients**. In **fall 2015**, **22 clients** were enrolled in **credit classes**, for a total of **246 credits**; in **spring 2016**, **19 clients** are registered for a total of **194 credits**. **Three clients** who **graduated** from OCC are **continuing** their education at **Kean Ocean**, and **one client** is working on her **master's degree**. The Program anticipates **four graduates** this **May**, and **one client** was **accepted** into **Alpha Beta Gamma**, the **national business honor society**.

As a result on continued federal **Superstorm Sandy Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funding**, **19 clients** are enrolled in **Continuing and Professional Education training programs**, such as **Pharmacy Technician, Medical Billing, Dental Assistant, Physical Therapy Aide, Medical Office Specialist, Certified Medication Aide, and Home Health Aide**. One of the clients, **Ms. Patricia Cannon**, who is presently taking **Medical Billing** will tell her **story** at the **Board meeting** on **Monday**.

In addition, with the **help** of **generous volunteers**, we distributed **food gift cards** were distributed to **15 new clients** and their **families**.

The **second annual pizza party** with **Santa** was held in **December**. In addition to enjoying pizza, the **children** received **small gifts** from Santa and the **parents** received **gift cards**. This event is **organized** by a **former employee** and her **family**.

- **Klever Goracy** - Despite **never finishing high school, family turbulence, housing issues, balancing employment and school, and even the birth of his son, Klever Goracy defied odds and expectations** in every way. **Klever is truly remarkable.** He is both **humble and kind**; always **working hard**, always **willing to help**. He is **resilient, bright, determined, and focused** and **most deserving** of Ocean County College's EOF Spotlight Student nomination.

While his **first semester** was **challenging**, **Klever's intellect** and **grit** propelled him forward, and **each semester** was met with **success**. On top of his family and work responsibilities, **Klever** achieved **stellar grades**, always maintained **excellent progress** in our **program**, and **never missed** an **appointment** or **event**, despite his **busy schedule**. A **business major** with a **3.33 GPA**, **Klever** is a **member of Phi Beta Lambda**, OCC's **business honor society**, and made the **President's List** for **academic honors** for **three semesters**.

Klever made terrific **connections** during his time at OCC. He built a professional rapport with his **accounting** and **business professors**, evident in his **glowing progress reports**. He was a constant figure in EOF, **volunteering** his time to assist the **office** weekly while we have been **without administrative support**. Since the **birth** of his son in **February 2013**, **Klever** has **worked full-time** to support the needs of his child. His **energy** and **passion to work hard** to **complete his degree** are **inspirational**.

Klever is **destined** to do **great things** in life, and, while it is **bittersweet** to see him leave our campus, we know he will make strides to **reach his goals** and continue **improving his life** and the lives of his loved ones.

Holocaust Remembrance Events

The **Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education** at **Ocean County College** is inviting the community to attend its **2016 Holocaust Remembrance Program** from **May 2 to May 6**. Events are free and open to the public.

- **Monday, May 2, Candle Lighting and Memorial Service** at the **Flagpole** on the **campus mall** at **2:30 p.m.** - **World Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day**. known as *Yom ha Shoah*, is the **day of commemoration** for the **approximately six million Jews** and **five million others** who **perished** in the **Holocaust** as a result of the **actions** carried out by **Nazi Germany** and for the **Jewish resistance** in that period. It was **inaugurated** in **1953**, anchored by a **law signed** by the **Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion** and **President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi**. Join our annual remembrance program with **Rabbi Moshe Gourarie** of **Chabad House, Toms River**; **Mordechai Grubin**, **Alumni Representative to the OCC Board of Trustees**; and **Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig**, **OCC Associate Professor of English** and **Director of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education**.

- **Tuesday, May 3, A Survivor's Odyssey and Legacy** in the **Lecture Hall, Room 104**, of the **Gateway Building** at **12:30 p.m.** – This year's **keynote speaker** is **Manny Lindenbaum**. In **October 1938**, the **Lindenbaum family** was part of a **mass deportation** from **Germany to Poland** with **one day's notice** because, although German citizens, they were of **Polish descent**. In **1939**, just **days before the Nazi invasion**, **Manny and his brother** escaped from **Poland to England** as **refugees** on the famous *Kindertransport*. In **2014**, at the age of **83**, **Manny retraced his refugee journey backwards**, from **Poland to Germany**, on a **bicycle**. He made the **journey**, along with **his grandchildren**, to **raise money for HIAS programs in Chad** in honor of **World Refugee Day**. In **2015**, **Manny** was invited to **speak** at a **reception** at the **White House** and, along with his **granddaughter Lauren**, participated in the **lighting** of the **Hanukkah menorah** alongside **President and Mrs. Obama**.

- **Wednesday, May 4, Two Women, Two Scars** in **Room 203, Bartlett Hall** at **8:00 a.m.** – A **film viewing** and **discussion** of *Inheritance*, the award-winning **PBS documentary** chronicling the **1994 meeting** in **Poland** between **Monica Hertwig**, daughter of **Nazi commandant Amon Goeth**, and **Monmouth County resident Helen Jonas Rosenzweig**, who lived **enslaved** under **Goeth's roof** as his **servant** and **prey** for **nearly two years** during the **Holocaust**. This is the **story of two women** whose **sorrows and angers intersect** in the **haunting memory of one man**. **Discussion** led by **Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig**.

- **Thursday, May 5, Only a Number: A True Story of the Struggle to Survive, to Love, and to Remember** in **Room 203, Bartlett Hall** at **12:30 p.m.** – **Hamilton, New Jersey**, filmmaker **Steven Besserman** tells the story of **his mother, Aranka**, a **Holocaust survivor**, through **her own words**. **Aranka** grew up in **Hungary** during **WWII** and relates the **horrors she witnessed and endured** at the **hands of the Nazis**. **Besserman** visits the **sites** where his **parents grew up**, the **camp** where they **first met**, and he discusses the **lasting impact** the **Holocaust** had on **victims and later generations**. The **film** is not only a **true documentary** but a **love story**: **Aranka and Josef** met in a **concentration camp** separated by a **barbed wire fence**, **without** the aid of a **common language**, and ravaged by **torture, starvation, and brutality**. They **fell in love** and gave each other the **strength to survive** their **final weeks of captivity**. **Discussion** led by **Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig**.

- **Friday, May 6, From Communism to Camps to America: My Mother's Story** in the **Lecture Hall, Room 104**, of the **Gateway Building** at **12:30 p.m.** – **Lecture** by **Dr. Amy Gilley**, **OCC Dean of School of the Arts and Humanities**. Towards the **end of WWII**, many **refugees fleeing communist regimes** in the **Baltic region** found themselves in **Nazi occupied Germany** where they were **forced to work in factories** alongside **camp inmates**. When the **camps were liberated**, these **non-German refugees** were considered **displaced persons**. **Dr. Gilley's talk** focuses on **her mother's experiences, fleeing Estonia** in **1944**, spending the **remainder of the war in Germany**, before eventually finding her way to **America**.

- **Friday, May 6, Nazi Propoganda and the Holocaust** in the **Lecture Hall, Room 104**, of the **Gateway Building** at **2:00 p.m.** – **Ernie Arian**, **OCC graduate** and **former intern** for **OCC's Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education**, is currently at

Rutgers University majoring in **History and Genocide Studies**. Using **lecture and film**, this presentation will cover how, following the **Nazi seizure of power in 1933**, **Hitler** established a **Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda** headed by **Joseph Goebbels**. The **Ministry's aim** was to **ensure** that the **Nazi message** was successfully communicated through **art, music, theater, films, books, radio, educational materials, and the press**.

Academic Affairs

➤ School of the Arts and Humanities

- The **Irish Heritage Festival** continues to offer **many activities** and will **culminate** with a **closing ceremony** on **April 25**.
- The **Public Relations class** employed a **survey** regarding the **presidential election** that will be the **subject** of a **Viking news article**. The class **surveyed faculty, staff, and students**.
- The **music faculty** hosted a very well attended **faculty recital**.
- **Dr. Jayanti Tamm, Assistant Professor of English and Literature**, wrote a **short play, "Black Friday,"** that was **selected** to be **staged** by the **Luna Stage Theatre Company** for its **New Play Festival** in early **May**.

➤ School of Business and Social Sciences

- **Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) - Ocean County College** has officially received **National Fire Academy FESHE (Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education initiative)** recognition for our newly revised **Fire Science program**. **Mr. Chad Sexton, Professor of Sociology**, was **instrumental** in **updating the curriculum** to meet **national accreditation standards**.
- **Hotel Impossible** – **Mr. Anthony Melchiorri**, the **host** of **Travel Channel's "Hotel Impossible,"** spoke to **high school students** from **Lacey High School**, as well as **OCC students**, about **careers in the hotel and hospitality industry**. The program was **moderated** by **Ms. Jennifer Evans, College Lecturer II of Business Studies**.
- **Rutgers University/Eagleton Institute of Politics** – **Mr. Jason Ghibesi, College Lecturer II of Political Science**, was invited to **participate** in a **panel discussion** at the **annual meeting** of the **New Jersey Political Science Association** at **Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics**. The **panel discussion** was titled **"New Jersey Strong: Building a Bridge between Two and Four Year Programs."** The discussion was **moderated** by **Dr. William Field, Undergraduate Program Director at Rutgers University- New Brunswick**. The **panel** consisted of **Dr. Ray Caprio, Undergraduate Program Director, Rutgers University-Bloustone**, and **Dr. Danielle Gougon, Professor of Political Science at Rowan University**. **Mr. Ghibesi** discussed

the study of **Political Science** from a **community college perspective** and touched on various themes that included: the **rigor of course work**, **student access** in terms of **open-enrollment**, **transferability**, Ocean County College's **political science offerings**, as well as **OCC's Global Studies Degree Program**.

- **United Nations/ Color Purple** – Mr. Ghibesi also led a group of **40 students** and **community members** to the **United Nations** on **April 12**. The group was accompanied by **Professor of Social Sciences Lynn Kenneally** and participated in **guided tours** of the **United Nation's main divisions**, including the **General Assembly** and **Security Council**. Following the visit to the United Nations, the **group** attended the **production** of *The Color Purple* on **Broadway**.
- **Voter Drive** – OCC's **Political Science club**, *Students Learning about Politics*, and their **advisor, Mr. Ghibesi**, organized a **Voter Registration Drive** that took place on **March 14 and 15**. **Faculty** from **across campus** volunteered to **assist students** in the **registration process**. Approximately **250 students** **registered to vote** as a result of the drive, and many more **benefitted** from having their **questions answered** in regards to what to do on **Election Day**.
- **Political Visitors** – As part of the **OCC Political Science Institute**, **Ms. Jennifer Barnes, College Lecturer II of Political Science**, arranged for **New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno** and **Ocean County Freeholder Ginny Haines** to address the **OCC community** on **March 15** to speak about their **personal experiences** as **women** in the **political arena**.
- **Phi Beta Lambda (PBL)** - OCC had a **very successful showing** at this year's **Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference** held on **April 2** in **Edison**. An estimated **135 students** participated. The students placed in **14 competitions**, winning **6 first place awards**, **6 second place awards**, and **2 third place awards**. They also won a **number of New Jersey State individual recognition awards**, which included **largest professional division**, **Who's Who (Danielle Wittman)**, **Outstanding Member (John Lauria)**, **Outstanding Office (Nichols Leight)**, **Most Dedicated Service (John Lauria)**, **Chapter Business Professional (Prof. Jen Evans)**, and recognition of **Leadership and Service as New Jersey Membership Director (Danielle Wittman)**.

For the **first time** in **OCC's history**, the College **competed** in **Hospitality Management**, and **Amanda DeSombre** earned **second place**. One of our **Accounting Supplemental Instruction Leaders**, **Nicole Murphy**, placed **second** in **Accounting Analyzation and Decision-Making**.

OCC students were the **only community college students** to **participate**; they **competed** against schools such as **Rutgers**, **The College of New Jersey**, **Rider University**, and **Rowan University**. **Danielle Witman** was **victorious** in **Public Speaking**, while **two Rider students** took **second and third place**. The **second place winner**, **Frank Kellog**, is an **OCC graduate** and **current Rider University student**. **Leticia Adames** won **first place** in **Client Services**, while **two Rutgers University**

students took second and third places. Gaberiel Bolyayev was victorious over a Rutgers University student in the Business Law competition.

List of winners:

Largest Professional Division - Ocean County College

Who's Who - Danielle Wittman

Outstanding member - John Lauria

Outstanding Officer - Nichols Leight

Chapter professional - Professor J. Evans

Most Dedicated, Service - John Lauria

Recognition for Leadership and Service as 2015-2016 New Jersey State Membership

Director - Danielle Wittman

Third Place Winners

Accounting Principles - Sam Toll

Job Interview - Leticia Adames

Second Place Winners

Accounting Analyzation & Decision Making - Nicole Murphy and John Lauria

Impromptu Speaking - Kenneth Raspas

Entrepreneurship Concepts - Matt Yostpille

Human Resource Management - Amanda DeSombre

Hospitality Management - Amanda DeSomber

Job Interview - Nicholas Zbrieic

First Place Winners

Sales Presentation - Nicholas Leight

Integrated Marketing Campaign - Nicholas Leight, Nina Rogers and Danielle Wittman

Public Speaking - Danielle Wittman

Entrepreneurship Concepts - Evans Swartley

Client Services - Leticia Adames

Business Law - Gabe Belyayev

➤ **School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**

➤ **Dr. Catherine Murphy's Honors by Contract student, Mr. Fabrizio Galindo, has completed his project on Isolation of Antibiotic Producing Bacteria from Soil Samples.**

➤ **Dr. Mary Ellen Rada's Honors students did a research project on water quality and environmental contaminants. He presented a PowerPoint presentation to the class which initiated an in-depth discussion on the quality and properties of water and drinking water choices.**

➤ **Dr. Rada participated in OCC's Irish Heritage Celebration. She conducted a presentation on *Science and the Irish* in which she discussed leading topics in Genomic**

Research and other **impressive major science contributions** by **Irish scientists** to their respective disciplines.

- **Professor Eric Antonelli** and **Dr. Angel Camilo** received **one of two awards** for their presentation on *The Use of Cell Phone Digital Media in Science Labs* at the **NJEdge conference**. Both **Professor Antonelli** and **Dr. Camilo** will receive **free passes** and **hotel lodging** at the **NJ Edge Annual Conference** in **November**.
- **Professor Antonelli** submitted an **abstract** to the **New Jersey Academy of Science** on *Substrate Colonization Preferences by Fungi*. This included **work** from two OCC students, **Mr. Steven Jones** and **Ms. Shivani Patel**, and **Dr. Camilo**.
- **Professor Antonelli** is **advising** OCC student **Steven Jones** on **researching fungi** and **glyphosate toxicity testing**.
- **Professor Antonelli's** **Honor's by Contract student**, **Mr. Alix Coughin**, is conducting **research** on the **measuring rates of photosynthesis**.
- **Professor's Michael Pezzimenti** and **Theodore Gordon** participated in the **Phi Theta Kappa Honor's Society Mathematics Lecture Series**. **Professor Pezzimenti** lectured on **Recursion**, and **Professor Gordon** lectured on **Fractals**.
- **Professor Neil Schiller** worked with representatives from **six area school districts (Toms River, Brick, Manchester, Southern Regional, Jackson and Manasquan)** to submit an **application** for an **NJ MSP grant**. The grant can provide an **award up to \$380,000 a year for two years to fund K-12 teacher training, assessment and research** on the **Next Generation Science Curriculum** at OCC.
- **Professor Duane Grembowicz** received a **Life Time Achievement recognition for 30 years of service** as a **Commissioner on the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission**. **Recognitions** from **U.S. Congressman Thomas MacArthur**, **New Jersey State Legislatures**, and the **Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders** were presented at the annual **Salute to Ocean County** event held in the **Grunin Center** on **April 7**.
- **Mr. Scott Farrell** led **OCC's Science Club** to participate in the **New Jersey State Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competition** held at **Stockton University**. **OCC won first place in Job Seeking and Biotech Skills**, beating out **four-year universities**, such as **Rutgers University** and **NJIT**.
- The **Science Club** is **teaming up with HOSA** for a **Blue Claws game fundraiser** to raise money to attend the **HOSA National Competition** in **Nashville, Tennessee**, from **June 22 to 25**. Also, on **April 22, 2016**, the **Science Club** will host a **"Star Gazing Night" fundraiser** next to the **Planetarium (Pad)** with **telescopes** set up.

- **Mr. Vijay Ramdeen** chaperoned three students from **OCC's Ocean Pride student club** to attend the **Northeast LGBT Conference** held at **SUNY Stony Brook** on **Long Island, New York**.

- **Library**

- The **OCC Library** is working on the **final stages** of some **exciting projects** as well as **beginning new projects**. The **Chess Collection team** has finished its **proposal** for **refurbishing the room** in which the **collection** will be **housed** and has presented its **recommendation** to **Associate Vice President of Facilities Matthew Kennedy** for his review and **his team's assistance** in determining **vendors** from whom to **order furniture**. Most of the **metadata records** that **describe the resources** have been **created**, and the **books** have been **processed** to allow for their **use**. The **Chess Collection team** will be **moving the collection** to **temporary shelving** in the **Chess Collection Room** in the near future so that people can **begin** to **use the collection**.

Ms. Caitlyn Cook, the **Librarian in charge** of the **team** and the **Library's liaison** to **STEM**, is working with other **members** of the **OCC community** to **plan events** with the **Chess Collection** as the **focal point**. **Ms. Cook** and her **colleagues** will be working with **local high schools** to **invite Chess Club members** to **visit OCC** and experience the **Chess Collection Room** and its **resources**. The **Chess Collection team** created an impressive **Chess display** on the **main floor** of the **Library**, and **Mr. Chris Graham** developed a **chess-based scavenger hunt** that utilizes **QR codes** that **students** can **read** using their **smartphones**. **Several students** are enthusiastically **working** their way **through the hunt**.

- The **Librarians** have recently taught **information literacy sessions** to groups of **high school students** who **visited the campus**. **Mr. James Marshall** reported that the **students** were **interested** and **highly engaged** in the sessions. Outreach to high school groups will be expanded to increase campus visits as well as to potentially visit the schools to partner with their librarians for related programs.
- **Mr. James Marshall** prepared a **Program Map** of the **Library's electronic resources** and analyzed the **cost per use** for **each database**. The **Librarians** are **using this map** to make **collection development decisions** for **FY 2017**.
- **Searches** are **underway** for several **key Library personnel**, and **many staff members** are participating on the **search committees**. **Training programs** are being **designed** for the **new staff members** and **cross-training** is being **emphasized** in our **ongoing effort** to bring **transparency** and **cooperation** to the **work processes** within the **Library**.
- **Several members** of the **Library staff** are creating a **program** for the **children** who will be **visiting campus** on **Bring Your Child to Work Day** on **April 28, 2016**. **Children's literature, graphic novels, and manga collections** will be **showcased**, and the children will be provided the **opportunity** to **find books** in the collection and **check them** out to a patron using the **Library's database**.

➤ **School of Nursing and Health Sciences**

- The **Student Nursing Organization (SNO)** held a **blood drive** on **April 14, 2016**. **Students** and **SNO advisors** assisted in the **planning** and **implementation** of the drive, **collecting** a total of **39 pints of blood** from **40 donors**. The **blood drive** was **sponsored** by the **New Jersey Chapter** of the **New York Blood Center**.
- **Kean Ocean Traditional BSN Program – Representatives** from **Kean University** and **OCC** will meet with the **New Jersey State Board of Nursing Educational Committee** on **May 6, 2016**, to endorse the **proposal** supported by **Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks** for a **joint degree**.

➤ **e-Learning and Learning Enterprises**

- **New Partnerships** - On **Monday, April 11**, a **partnership agreement** was **signed** between **OCC** and **Ahram Canadian University (ACU)** in **Cairo, Egypt**. This **fourth partnership agreement** between **OCC** and **international partners**, under **Learning Enterprises**, serves as another achievement for **OCC**. This particular partnership agreement **paves the way** for the **training** of **ACU faculty**, an endeavor that **Dean of e-Learning Jack Kelnhofer** is currently **undertaking on-site** in **Cairo**, as well as the **development** of a **bridge program** for **ACU students**. The **bridge program** would cover any **developmental mathematics** and **English needs**, **academic success**, and generally provide an **introduction** to **American higher education methods** for **ACU students** who wish to **pursue their education** in the **United States**.
- **Domestic e-Learning Initiatives** - The **e-Learning team** continues to make **forward progress** in **implementing** the new **LMS Canvas** and in **transitioning** all **recruitment, retention, and marketing initiatives** from **Pearson** to **new vendors (Inside Track, etc.)**. The **complete transition** will occur between **March and August 2016**. Ongoing **faculty and student trainings** have **begun** and will persist **throughout the year**. A significant effort is currently underway to **engage non-academic units** of the **College** with **Canvas**, such as **Student Life, Human Resources, Athletics, and others**.

e-Learning is also currently developing the online certificate in the **recently accredited Fire Science program**.

- **International Initiatives** - On **April 15, 2016**, **OCC** enrolled its **third cohort** of **students** through our **partnership** with **IMI International (Cairo, Egypt)**. This project continues to be a **source of revenue** for **OCC** and also serves to **open future opportunities**, many of which are being **explored now**.

On **April 19, 2016**, **OCC** was **approved** as the **first community college institutional member** of the **Middle East Studies Association (MESA)**. This **membership**, and the fact that **OCC** is the **first community college member**, reflects **OCC's innovative and mold-breaking philosophies**. **Capitalizing** on this **membership**, and in **conversation** with **Essex County College**, **Essex** will be submitting a **grant application** with **OCC** in

the **fall**, utilizing **OCC's UISFL grant administration model**. **Essex** will essentially attempt to **reproduce OCC's model** and **jointly**, with **OCC**, develop a **network of study abroad partners**, in which **OCC** will **serve** as the **hub** and **central agency**.