



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 success throughout the sector. The 2012 Best Practices Conference will be held on Friday, April 20th, 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 School of Language and the Arts will sponsor several events on campus. The events are free and open to the public.

- ♦ On Tuesday, April 10th, 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 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 for this special event.

- ♦ On Wednesday, April 11th, at 11:00 a.m., there will be a film screening in the Television Studio of "Willem de Kooning: Artist." Mr. 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 12th, 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 17th 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.

NJ STARS Seminar

A NJ STARS Seminar is being offered for students and their families on Wednesday, April 4th, 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 100th 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 15th, 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 re-creation 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 1st. We are very pleased to present this one-of-a-kind production on the OCC campus.

Senior Living Expo

The Second Annual Senior Living Expo was held on Thursday, March 15th, 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

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 36th 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 31st 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 26th to 29th. 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.

March 1, 2012, 7:20 a.m. ET

100 Years: Titanic Survivors and Their Stories

World Premiere to Feature Music and Memories of Doomed Voyage

TOMS RIVER, N.J.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--March 01, 2012--

A moment in history. A quote from the Director of the White Star Line follows:

April 15, 1912: "Deeply regret advise you TITANIC sank this morning after collision with iceberg, resulting in serious loss of life. Full particulars later."

When J. Bruce Ismay, Director of the White Star Line sent that horrifying message by wireless after being rescued from the frigid Atlantic, the worst maritime disaster in history began. The world's fascination with the doomed ship continues to this day.

To mark the 100(th) anniversary of the sinking, the Traveling Literary Theater(TM) presents the world premiere of "100 Years: Titanic Survivors and Their Stories" at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at The Arts and Community Center at Ocean County College in Toms River, N.J. The one-of-a-kind production includes beautifully costumed actors sharing riveting stories of actual survivors of the disaster -- set to the actual music performed by Titanic's legendary band.

Prior to the show, Chef Michael Dunn, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, will present a recreation of the final first-class luncheon menu served aboard Titanic. The meal will include mouthwatering delights such as Salmon Mayonnaise, Potted Shrimps, Veal & Ham Pie, Galantine of Chicken, Chicken la Maryland, imported cheeses, unique soups, salads and desserts.

A stunning component of "100 Years" will be internationally acclaimed Dan Levinson and His Cafe Parisien Band -- with special guest arranger and musician Vince Giordano of Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, which recently won a Grammy for the soundtrack of HBO's "Boardwalk Empire." The musicians will perform songs from the era of the disaster, evoking the drama and courage of the Titanic band as it kept playing to comfort the passengers as the ship slowly sank.

"Vince Giordano and Dan Levinson are among the greatest living artists and experts in this music genre," says Tom Worsdale, executive director of Traveling Literary Theater. "The image of the band playing as the ship sank foot by foot makes an indelible impression and this re-enactment of such special and haunting music will beautifully honor these brave musicians who played to the very end."

Show tickets are \$30 and the luncheon is \$70. Tickets are available at tickets@ocean.edu.

For more information, visit www.travelingliterarytheater.com.

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SOURCE: Traveling Literary Theater