

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 in Buffalo, New York. The women finished the season in 6th place

(13th overall), and the men in 3rd place (9th 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.

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 Community 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 New Jersey 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 (1st Place), Small Business Management Plan (1st Place)

Kathryn Trachta - Small Business Management Plan (1st Place)

Trevor Woolley - Accounting Principles (2nd Place)

James Lennon - Business Communication (3rd Place), Project Management (2nd Place)

Nekiesha Hatch - Client Services (2nd Place)

Chris Marzella - Computer Concepts (2nd Place)

Breanna Burns - Hospitality Management (1st Place)

Rebecca Tray - Hospitality Management (3rd Place), Job Interview (1st Place)

Alex Daudier - Impromptu Speaking (3rd Place), Small Business Management Plan (1st Place)

Constantine Siampos - Sales Presentation (2nd Place)

Kristina Dugan - Job Interview (2nd Place), Ms. Future Business Executive (1st Place)

Edward Day - Management Concepts (2nd Place), Marketing Concepts (1st Place)
Raymond Brophy - Public Speaking (1st Place)

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.
- ♦ 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

Dr. 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.

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 the class 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.

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Morning Star Welcomes New Members

OCEAN COUNTY - Nine newcomers have been received into membership of The Morning Star Presbyterian Church after completing The Stargazing 101 membership class.

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Special Guests Bring Love Of Reading To East Dover

By Judy Smestad-Nunn

The students at East Dover Elementary School celebrated Read Across America Day in a big way this year, when over 20 local members of the community read at least one book to each class.

The annual reading motivation and awareness program calls for every child in America to celebrate reading on March 2—the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.

The day fell during School Spirit Week, and Read Across America Day fell on the same day as Wear Your Pajamas to School Day, so it felt like the students were being read a bedtime story.

Toms River Council President Gregory P. McGuckin was shown into Eileen Jemison's fourth grade classroom by Principal Linda Downing, and he was give a choice of four books to read.

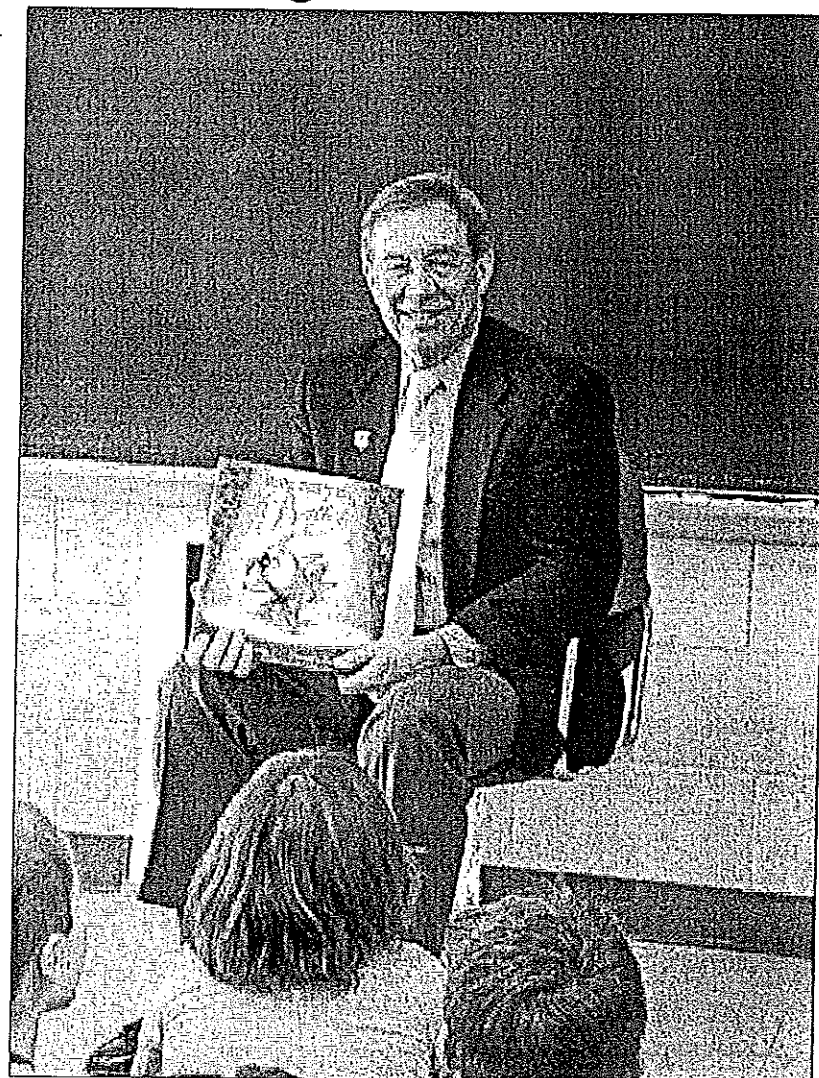
"I was a big reader as a kid," McGuckin said. "My mother was a reading teacher," he said as he sat down to read "Oh the Places You'll Go."

"The children were so excited," said Jemison. "They thought (McGuckin) was the president, so I had to explain."

Jemison was dressed in Dr. Seuss pajamas that she said she "breaks out once a year." After McGuckin read, one of the student's grandmothers was coming in to read "Green Eggs and Ham."

Ocean County College President Jon Larson brought two of his own books to read, and he donated them to Mrs. Michelle Gullace's second grade class.

Larson said he chose "Dogs Don't Do Ballet" because he



—Photo By Judy Smestad-Nunn

Ocean County College president Jon Larson reads to Mrs. Michelle Gullace's second grade class.

thought it was entertaining; and "I Wanna New Room," which was about a little boy who had to

move out of his bedroom because the family had a new baby. "How many of you have a baby

sister or a baby brother at home?" Larson asked, and nearly half the

students raised their hands.

"Where are all of you going to college?" he asked the second graders.

"I've done this lots of times before—it's always fun. They asked a lot of good questions, and they're all going to OCC," he joked.

Councilwoman Maria Maruca read two Dr. Seuss books to Elizabeth Laird's second grade class: "Oh the Things You Can Do That are Good for You" and "Green Eggs and Ham."

Laird made ham and green egg salad for the class, and said that the Toms River Educational Association gave each class a Dr. Seuss book to add to their class library, and each child received a Dr. Seuss pencil.

Dennis Holzapsel, 7, said he liked the first book Maruca read to the class best. "I like non-fiction books because I like to read about animals. I have two dogs and one cat," he said.

Maria Fernicola, 8, said she knows Maruca's nephews. "Green Eggs and

Ham' is one of my favorite Dr. Seuss books, but I don't have a favorite; I like them all," she said.

"Today is fun—and we get to wear our pajamas," she added.

Principal Downing said that all the classroom doors were decorated with a Dr. Seuss book or their favorite story.

"Over the years we've gotten a warm reception from the Town Council and the Board of Education members. We invite them in for our big Career Day in May, and we ask people from that list if they'd like to come in and read," she said.

"Some years we have more people than others. This year we had a very good response, and it goes on all day," Downing said.

The next big event at the school will be a Reading Rodeo in June, which is now in the planning stages.

"That's all I can say for now," Downing said. "There's going to be a big surprise."

Last year, Downing went airborne in a hot-air balloon on the school property at the end of a reading incentive.