Congressman Lowenthal Visits Coast Colleges

On Monday, Coast Colleges welcomed our newest Congressman, Alan Lowenthal (47th District), and his staff, Helene Ansell. Due to redistricting, Congressman Lowenthal now represents a portion of our district. Congressman Lowenthal visited Coastline’s Garden Grove Center, gave a lecture during a political science class at Orange Coast College and had lunch with district student council representatives. Thank you to student trustee Kolby Keo for setting this up.

Orange County Legislative Task Force

I attended an Orange County Legislative Task Force meeting on Thursday, along with Trustee Mary Hornbuckle and Martha Parham. We were given an update on State and Federal issues and reviewed legislative bills. The task force was asked to provide input on a Student Veterans Issues Bill by Rep. Chu. Each of our colleges provided feedback which was shared during our meeting with Rep. Chu in Washington, D.C. Because of our feedback, the bill will undergo an extensive rewrite to clarify language before it is officially introduced. The task force was pleased to see the positive impact of participating in consortium.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Board Meeting Reminders

April 17 – Service Awards/Regular Meeting
May 1 – Regular Meeting
May 15 – Regular Meeting

Chancellor’s Calendar

Week of April 8, 2013

Monday – Wednesday AM
In the Office

Wednesday PM - Friday
CCLC Conference, Temecula
2,500 Plants Go on Sale at OCC on Fridays, April 12-26

Thursday, April 4, 2013

Backyard gardeners will find a plentiful selection of vegetable seedlings and flowering pots at Orange Coast College’s spring plant sales on Fridays, April 12th through April 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Horticulture Garden Nursery near the campus’ Adams Parking lot.

Plants include 25 varieties of tomatoes, including heirlooms; bell and chili peppers; squash; eggplant; herbs; and chive and parsley bowls. The sale also will offer mixed geranium baskets, mixed-color baskets and specialty items. More than 2,500 plants will be on sale. OCC’s Horticulture Department has sponsored the annual spring plant sale for more than 30 years. Plants are produced by the college’s plant propagation class. Proceeds support student projects and scholarships. For more information, visit the event website at www.occhorticulture.com.

Steve Goetz to Share Adventures in Antarctica

April 16

OCC counselor emeritus Steve Goetz will share his adventures in Antarctica with the Friends of the Library on Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the OCC Library community room.

Goetz, who retired after 22 years at OCC, dreamed of visiting Antarctica since he first read about Amundsen and Shackleton when he was a student in his early 20s. When OCC colleagues Dennis Kelly and Mike Olds described their visits to Antarctica, Steve and his wife, Peggy, followed their lead.
Traveling took three days, one by plane and two crossing the Drake Passage by ship. Goetz describes the experience as “one of the most breathtaking adventures we have ever had. Antarctica is a pristine wilderness the scale of which is almost inconceivable.” He describes precautions to protect Antarctica’s environment that include vacuuming clothing and disinfecting boots before going ashore.

Admission is free for OCC students and FOTL members. Others are asked to bring a $5 donation or a gently used book. Please RSVP by calling (714) 432-5087.

Books will be available for purchase by Lido Village Books, and extra credit vouchers will be available for students.

**Accreditation Team Gives Campus Positive Feedback**

The team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) visited campus last week, and OCC President Dennis Harkins reported that results of the exit meeting were positive.

Team members commended OCC’s efforts to make improvements based on previous accreditation reviews, and they praised Coast for “enviable student success and transfer rates,” Harkins said.

The campus also scored well for efforts to encourage a “culture of openness and campus involvement of constituents in planning,” for training and support on Student Learning Objectives (SLO) and Program Review, the recent voter support for Measure M, and the college’s comprehensive student leadership program.

The accreditation team noted two areas of concern: a need to clarify program closure policy and policy for the use of SLO as part of faculty evaluation, Harkins said.

The president will receive a draft report next month, and in June the Commission will review the final report and make a recommendation on the status of OCC’s reaccreditation. In July the Commission will notify the college of the Commission’s decision. “This information will be shared with all campus members once it is available,” Harkins said.

The president thanked campus administrators, faculty and staff members who worked on the 2012 Self-Evaluation as well as staff members who provided campus support for the accreditation team visit.

**OCC Rep to Perform ‘Meeting of the Absurd’**

Orange Coast College’s Repertory Theatre will present “A Meeting of the Absurd,” a collection of short plays, on April 12, 13 and 14 in the intimate Drama Lab Studio on campus at Fairview Road and Merrimac Way, Costa Mesa. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Featured plays, “Line” by Israel Horovitz and “The Lesson” by Eugene Ionesco. The works portray the off-kilter universe of Absurdist Theatre recommended for mature audiences.

Tickets are $5 in advance at the OCC Bursar’s Office, 714-432-5880, and online at occtickets.com. Admission will be $7 at the door.