We are now in the scoring phase of the 2008-09 Essay Competition. In total 104 essays were submitted which is up slightly from last year. Winners will be announced on Monday, April 27. Thanks to everyone who assisted students as they prepared their papers and to those who helped promote the contest.

Several SOAC members (Mays, Maze, Orlowski, Roberts, Stanbrough) continue participation in the larger Student Learning Academy Project, designed as a result of OCC’s participation in the HLC Assessment Academy. Some highlights there include the board should receive an annual report illustrating issues of student learning, thus providing greater transparency within and external to the college. The College Senate Chair will give the board an annual report on student learning. Other pertinent student learning information will be developed for different audiences. The HLC’s “Six Fundamental Questions for Conversations” on student learning document will be presented at the May College Senate. A refined version of project information will be presented to faculty on staff development day and/or discipline day(s) in 2009-2010.

Faculty Assessment Days continue. 58 faculty attended the Friday, March 20 event; 40 are expected at the Saturday, March 28 event at AH this Saturday, 9-1. It’s not too late experience first-hand how assessment activities produce interesting conversations about student learning.

The first Program Assessment Day originally proposed for May, 2009, will be moved to Fall, 2009 to allow more time for planning the most effective agenda and activities.

Leslie Roberts 2/26/09