



EYE ON ESSEX

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2011

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

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PTK TAKES ON ECC'S COMPLETION PROJECT



THE END CAN BE THE BEGINNING

Throughout the last two months of 2011, Essex County College stayed true to its year-long theme of "Engage, Empower, and Excel."

Our Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor students really embraced this theme by **empowering** themselves and all ECC students to graduate from ECC within a three-year period. Inside, you will learn not only about PTK's Completion Project, but also about how faculty and staff are **engaging** our students in the teaching and learning enterprise, and about students who are **excelling** here at Essex and in our community. There are many examples of their generosity and commitment to themselves and others within this newsletter. I thank you all for your exceptional efforts!

Now that 2011 is officially behind us, let's look to find new opportunities for us to be **engaged** and **empowered**, so we can all **excel** in 2012. Happy New Year!



THEY'RE COMMITTED, ARE YOU? PTK students show off their "I'm Committed" wristbands in front of a tower representing the 1,000 diplomas that ECC will award to students that signed on to the Completion Project. The students joined by (at right of the display) PTK Advisor **Sean O'Connell**, Assistant Dean **Marva Mack**, President **Edythe Abdullah**, and Trustee **Dr. Lawrence Feinsod** unveiled the diploma display at a rally in the 2nd floor forum on November 2.

With the high energy of a pep rally, students of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society formally kicked off their local

portion of the national project, *Community College Completion Challenge* at the main campus November 2.

The project, developed at the national level by the Community College Completion Corps (C4), sends a simple, yet powerful message: "Students sign the commitment document pledge to earn their associate degree or professional certificate from a community college within three years of enrollment."

ECC's PTK students embraced this project whole heartedly and collected signatures of fellow students, faculty, administrators and staff throughout October. Participants received a green wristbands emblazoned with "I'm Committed - ECC." which became very popular on campus.

"Having served as superintendent at both the municipal and county levels, I am extremely impressed by both the determination of these honor students who have shown such drive in

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DIVERSITY EVENT SPOTLIGHTS EDUCATION

The American Conference on Diversity asked President Edythe Abdullah to be a key presenter at the 11th Annual Statewide Conference on "Diversity Issues in Higher Education." The conference was held November 18 at nearby Rutgers-Newark.

"Dr. Abdullah's experience and expertise were invaluable to the conversation which brought together 250 faculty, administrators and students from colleges and universities around

MEETING OF THE MINDS: (pictured left to right) **President Abdullah** and **Dr. Clement Price**, Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History of Rutgers-Newark, were panelists at the 11th Annual Conference on Diversity Issues in Higher Education held at Rutgers-Newark on November 18.



the state to discuss this issue," said Diane Schwartz, President & CEO of the American Conference on Diversity.

The theme of this year's conference, *A Dream Deferred?* -

Black and Latino Males in College and the Workplace, centered on barriers this group faces in society, including college and high school completion rates.

ECC STUDENTS IN THE NEWS:



DIRECTLY FOR STUDENTS: Two female students join ECC Professors Dr. Nathan Himelstein (3rd from left) and Harry Bernstein (far right) on an excursion to the Direct Marketing Conference in New York City on November 4.

ECC MARKETING STUDENTS GO ON ROAD TRIP: Professors Harry Bernstein and Dr. Nathan Himelstein, former recipients of the Educators of the Year Awards by the Direct Marketing Educational Fund, led ECC students to the Direct Marketing Conference in New York City at Microsoft Advertising on November 4. Students were introduced to the possibilities

of careers in Direct and Interactive Marketing fields.

ECC NURSING STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS: Two Nursing students are the recipients of scholarships from a pair of state nursing associations. Second year nursing student **Durand Dormelus** is the first male to receive the \$500 Mid-State Black Nurses Association scholarship. Durand, is looking to transfer to Rutgers-Newark after graduating from ECC's Nursing program.

Meanwhile, first year nursing student **Rahmat Ajagbe** earned the \$1,400 scholarship from the Northern New Jersey Black Nurses Association. With another year and a half to go at Essex, Rahmat is exploring her specific nursing options.

RUNNING FOR A CAUSE: What does it take to run a 26.2 mile

marathon? If you asked anyone that ran the ING New York City Marathon on November 6, you would most likely get a different answer. When sophomore Biology, Pre-Medicine major Renata Martin was asked why she participated in this year's Marathon, she said she was helping those suffering from cancer.

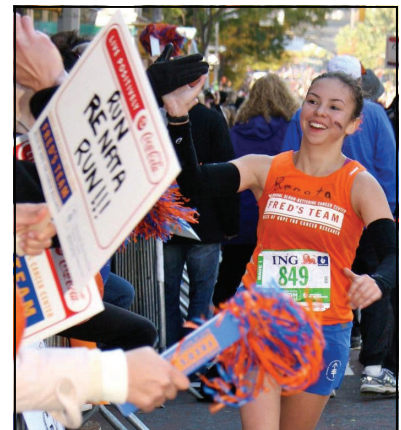
"I want to help change someone's life for the better," said Martin, an ECC Lady Wolverine distance runner.

Renata signed up to be part of Fred's Team, a group created in memory of Fred LeBow, founder of the marathon which helps raise money for cancer research.

In addition to raising over \$5,300 for the Cancer Center, Renata finished the 26.2 mile marathon through New York's five boroughs in a little over four hours. She placed 12th out of 48 runners in the 18 to 19 age group.



NURSING SCHOLARS: Nursing students **Durand Dormelus** (left) and **Rahmat Ajagbe** (right) both received nursing scholarships to support their educational goals.



YOU'RE ALMOST THERE! ECC honor student Renata Martin gets encouragement from the crowd during the 26.2 mile ING New York City Marathon on November 6.

ECC NAMES CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



CONGRATULATIONS TIMES TWO: ECC veteran Comptroller Louis Genovese (pictured left) announced his retirement after 40 years of service to ECC. Dr. Sherry Hawn (at right) was appointed as ECC's new CFO at its November Board of Trustees meeting.

Sherry Hawn joined the ECC team as Vice President/Chief Financial Officer on November 15. Dr. Hawn oversees the day-to-day operations of the Assistant Comptroller, Accounting,

Accounts Payable, Bursar's Office, Payroll and Financial Operations. Most recently, she served as Deputy Executive Budget Director for the New York City Department of Education.

"I adore education. Community colleges are so important in this economy," said Hawn. "My ability to manage ECC's resources wisely to benefit current and future students is my way of paying it forward."

She has advanced degrees from Golden State University, John F. Kennedy University and Saint Mary's College, all in California. She also has degrees from Brooklyn College (Master of Arts in Education) and Hunter College (Bachelor's in Business). She is a Certified

Public Accountant and has her law degree.

Dr. Hawn says she did not initially plan to attend college, but after working for a few years, that changed.

"I see myself as an example of how education can completely change the trajectory of a person's life," said Hawn.

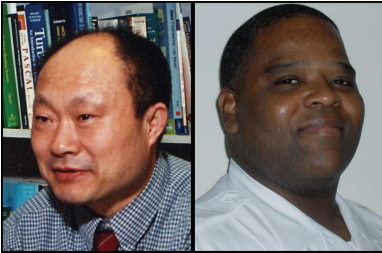
Dr. Hawn will fill the void created by the retirement of Louis Genovese, who held several finance positions at ECC over his 40 years at the College. He already has some definitive ideas on what he plans to do in retirement.

"I have several long-deferred projects at home that I will now have time to do," said the retiree. "And, I plan to volunteer at our local animal shelter."



ECC ALUM ARE ANGELS: The ECC Alumni Association held its Annual Angel Tree program in which the ECC community donated over 200 gifts to area children during November and December. The gifts were delivered to local homeless shelters in Newark. Above (from the left), **Olatomiwa Salako**, **Lola Akiwowo**, and **Angela Robinson** wrap the donated toys.

ECC REMEMBERS DR. JIANPING YUE AND ANDRE GILLIS



ECC MOURNS TWO DEDICATED STAFF: Dr. Jianping Yue (pictured left) and Lieutenant Andre Gillis (right) passed away unexpectedly in the last two months of 2011.

The ECC family was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of two long-time colleagues, engineering professor Dr. Jianping Yue on November

15 and Lieutenant Andre Gillis on December 7.

Yue was a member of the ECC family for 15 years. He taught Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology in the Center for Technology on the main campus.

In 2003, he became the first two-year college faculty member to participate in the NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program at the Langley Research Center in Virginia. He was also a mentor for FIRST Robotics, and cherished the opportunity to introduce young-

sters to the joy of engineering.

Andre served as a Lieutenant of the ECC Campus Police. He was part of the ECC family for 26 years.

Lt. Gillis always focused on his main priority—the security of the Newark campus. He always sought out new methods of keeping the students and staff safe on campus.

“ECC mourns the loss of Dr. Yue and Lieutenant Gillis,” said President Edythe Abdullah. “They were truly caring and highly dedicated individuals and will be greatly missed by all of us.

ECC LEADERS LAUDED BY FREEHOLDERS

“My motivation is to expand the reach of the College’s mission to all of the residents of Essex County.”

- Charles Lovallo,
Executive Dean

The Essex County Board of Freeholders issued special commendations to two ECC leaders at its December 14 meeting. The resolutions were presented after each were honored at separate ceremonies held by local organizations.

President Emeritus A. Zachary Yamba was honored December 3 by the East Orange Education Foundation during its Torchbearer for Education Awards luncheon. Dr. Yamba retired in March 2010 after serving 29 years as President of ECC. Under his leadership, the College grew to a fulltime enrollment of 13,000 in associate degree programs and thousands more in community and continuing education courses.

Later in December, Executive Dean Charles Lovallo received the 2011 Community Service Award for Education from the Giblin Association of NJ on December 11. Dean Lovallo oversees Continuing Education and the West Essex campus.

Dean Lovallo has been instrumental in extending ECC’s outreach to over 12,000 county residents each year through credit and non-credit course offerings at both the Newark and West Essex campuses.

“My motivation is to expand the reach of the College’s mission to all of the residents of Essex County,” said Dean Lovallo, a resident of Fairfield. “We work hard to create an open-access environment dedicated to academic excellence.”

STUDENTS GET THE INSIDE EDGE ON JOBS

The ECC Student Development Center hosted an employer panel on November 9 in Smith Hall. The panel was a precursor for November’s Career Fair.

The panel included participants from Saint Barnabas, the Urban

League of Essex County, the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office, MOET City of East Orange, and Newark Liberty International Airport. Each member of the panel shared their insight with students on how to get the job that they want and that is

aligned with their degree and/or certificate program.

“Always use the slogan of the four P’s: *Preparation prevents poor performance*,” said workforce development instructor Edna Bailey Woody.



GRADUATION DAY: May is not the only time ECC hosts graduation ceremonies. Above, graduates of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program take the Nightingale Pledge during the pinning ceremony held in the Mary Burch Theater on November 11. The nursing pins were awarded to nine students who received their LPN certificates.



ECC STUDENTS GIVE A HOLIDAY HELPING HAND: The holidays were a little brighter for nine ECC students living at Newark’s Covenant House, thanks to the generosity of their classmates. The Campus Activities Board (CAB) held a spaghetti dinner in November, and used the event proceeds to purchase food and personal items for their fellow students in need. Above, CAB members (pictured from left), **Dan Gutierrez**, **Derrick James**, and **Quinn McLean** help to pack the presents for the students.

Over 60 students received help in resume clinics. Close to 500 student attended the Career Fair at which over 45 employers conducted on-the-spot interviews for openings at their companies.



ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

WE ARE ESSEX:
CHANGING LIVES. BUILDING FUTURES.

EYE ON ESSEX

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Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome and must be received by the 15th of the month to be considered.

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MEET ECC'S SOCCER STARS



ECC'S SOCCER PLAYERS REACH NEW GOAL: The ECC men's and women's soccer teams are celebrating after NJCAA named five of their own to its All-Region XIX Team, including from left to right: **Musa Sackoon, Anatoliy Sen, Frantzicia Francois, Katherine Viana, and Jonathan Mensah.**

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) has named five members of ECC's women's and men's soccer teams to this year's All Region XIX first team.

Sophomore Katherine Viana and freshman Frantzicia François represent the Lady Wolverines on

the first team. On the men's side, sophomores Jonathan Mensah and Anatoliy Sen, and freshman Musa Sackoon were recognized by the region.

All five players made first team All Garden State Athletic Conference as did Lady Wolverine sophomore Deborah Quayle.

The Lady Wolverines, under the guidance of first-year head coach Monique Edouard, advanced to the Region XIX finals for the first time since winning the 2004 championship title.

The men's team, led by Coach Hugo Pierre, finished their season 7-4-3.



ECC EVENTS JANUARY 2012

All programs are free and open to the public. Events are held at the main Newark campus, unless otherwise noted:

Jan. **ECC Basketball VS Anne Arundel**
14 GYM from 3PM–7PM

Jan. **MLK Memorial Lecture**
17 Mary Burch Theater from 11:30AM–1:00PM

Jan. **ECC Basketball VS Manor College**
21 GYM from 3PM–7PM

(More events are listed on the "EVENTS" section on our website at essex.edu)

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motivating their fellow students to complete their college degrees," said ECC Board of Trustees member Dr. Lawrence Feinsod, who works as Essex County Executive Superintendent of Schools.

PTK International is heading the C4 student-led initiative to raise awareness of the importance of college completion. The ECC project was cosponsored by the Office of Student Success.

ECC GOES RED FOR A WEEK

As part of the December 1 observance of World AIDS Day, ECC's Urban Issues Institute devoted the week of November 28 to educational programming for students and the community on the impact of the disease.

Held at the main campus, the week's events included a series of short films on HIV/AIDS, an

AIDS Awareness Walk, a town hall/panel discussion, and free HIV tests. Over 100 free HIV tests were administered during the week-long activity.

"Through education, we hope to reduce the misery created by AIDS-related illnesses," said Institute Director Margaret Stevens.

EOF CLUB GIVES BACK

The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Club held a food drive just in time for a Thanksgiving delivery. The EOF Club was able to successfully collect well over 100 items by strategically placing boxes throughout the Newark campus.

"The food drive fits perfectly with their caring nature and desire to give a little something back to their community," said Joanna Romano, Director of EOF. "Many of our students come from low income families, so this is one of

THANKS FOR GIVING: ECC students Dorothy Veillard (left) and Jorge Valenzuela (right), both members of ECC's EOF Club, helped to organize a Thanksgiving food drive for the Salvation Army Center in Newark.



their ways of helping those who are less fortunate,"

The canned and dry goods were donated to the Salvation Army Center in Newark that was able to distribute the items prior to Thanksgiving Day.