



EYE ON ESSEX

OCTOBER 2011

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

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ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE GOES HOLLYWOOD

With so many spotlights on Essex County College in October, you would think we were in Hollywood. From honors for our President Emeritus, to "props" for our honor students, ECC was certainly in the limelight.

Heartfelt congratulations goes out to Dr. Zachary Yamba who was duly recognized by NJPAC at its 2011 Spotlight Gala. Dr. Yamba and his lovely wife, Trish, received the Ryan Award for their stalwart leadership in the City of Newark.

The media lens caught up with ECC's Police Academy at a press conference to launch 3CP2 (Community College Citizen Preparedness Program), a FREE continuing education training for Essex County residents. Then, the camera turned on our Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society students who were highlighted in the *Star Ledger* for their anti-bullying initiative.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Inside you will read about our success stories on campus as well as in the communities we serve.

NJPAC HONORS ECC'S DR. ZACHARY YAMBA



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: President Emeritus Dr. Zachary Yamba and his wife Trish were among the honorees at the NJPAC Gala hosted by entertainer **Kristin Chenoweth**.

President Emeritus Dr. Zachary Yamba and wife Trish Morris Yamba received "high honors"

when they were recognized by the Women's Association of NJPAC at their 2011 Spotlight Gala in Newark on October 1.

The couple received The Ryan Award for their commitment to NJPAC and leadership in the City of Newark.

The longest serving college president in state history, Dr. Yamba is known as a persistent booster for education. He has served on the boards of the Victoria Foundation, Newark Downtown Core Redevelopment Corporation and the American Conference on Diversity.

Similarly, Mrs. Yamba, Director of Newark Day Center, shares her husband's passion for community service. She served as an advocate for children and youth throughout her career.

The night's gala was hosted by Emmy- and Tony Award-winner Kristin Chenoweth, who performed tunes from the Broadway show *Wicked* and her latest album, *Some Lessons Learned*.

Other honorees included Robert C. and Mary Ellen Waggoner of Mountain Lakes, who received the Chambers Award for their service to the community and the arts.

ECC LAUNCHES 3CP2 TRAINING INITIATIVE

In recognition of National Preparedness Month, Essex County College Police Academy (ECCPA) hosted a press conference in Millburn on October 21, at which it announced the launch of the "Community College Citizen Preparedness Program" (3CP2) training initiative. The 3CP2 program increases awareness among citizens concerning the impact of natural and technological disasters, man-made events, or acts of terrorism.

The press conference was held in collaboration with the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr., the Essex County Sheriff's Office and the Township of Millburn. ECC is one of 125 community colleges in the U.S., and one of two community colleges in New Jersey to receive the grant.



TAKING THE PLEDGE: Several community organizations agreed to be among the first to host a 3CP2 training in their community. Pictured above from left to right; **Millburn Mayor Sandy Haimoff**, ECC Staff member **Julette Cherrington**, **William Lee** of Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, **West Orange Fire Chief Peter Smeraldo** and **County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr.**

ECC has committed to training 4,000 residents over the next year. The training is provided at no cost to attendees and consists of two hours of instruction on threat awareness and assessment; sheltering and

evacuation; and recovery and resources.

"We are fortunate that our community college is so closely linked with the Essex County

ECC STUDENTS IN THE NEWS:



ECC STUDENTS GET “REAL WORLD” EXPERIENCE: A group of ECC students (from left) **Jose Azcona, Tainah Torres, Pingowende Nikiema, and Sofia Ruales** meet **NJ State Senator Robert Singer** (center) at the NJ Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Convention in late October.

ECC STUDENTS JOIN NJ HISPANIC CHAMBER FOR A DAY: Four ECC students and Business Division Assistant Professor Carlos Rivera attended the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey Convention Expo and Career Fair on October 21 in Teaneck.

“The conference gave the students a good overview of business in the

state, and they attended several of the workshops, giving them more insight into areas in which they are most interested,” said Rivera.

The workshops included Business Development, Financial Literacy, Labor and Workforce Development.



NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED: A new “class” of honor students were welcomed by current members and faculty at the Honors Brunch held on October 6 in the Essex Room. Seventeen students were inducted, bringing the current number of students participating in the program to 52. During the ceremony, Co-Director of the Honors Program David Berry presented Dr. Ladylease White with the Distinguished Achievement Award for her dedication to the Honors Program.

PTK TAKES STAND AGAINST BULLYING



WALKING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES: ECC student **Raymond Jackson** reads the story of a person who met a tragic end due to a form of bullying.

The Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society initiated a discussion entitled *Bullying: the Social Nuclear Bomb*, during which they shared information on types of bullying,

how to recognize it and how to prevent it via a series of anti-bullying forums the week of October 17.

Activities included reading student essays and listening to panels of students, staff, and guest speakers. The week culminated with a poignant plea

from the founder of David's Shoes, Elaine Lane, whose son, David was a victim of a “bully.” Lane urged everyone to take control of their lives even in the face of harassment.

“You can't take control of anything if you are six feet under,” emphasized Mrs. Lane. “I beg of you to think not only of your life, but the lives of those around you.”



ECC ALUMNI HONOR DONOR: Alumni scholarship recipients **Kietta Baker** (left) and **Robin Arubaker** (far right) shared their appreciation with **John Gambro** (center), President of the Leo Foundation, at ECC's Fourth Annual Alumni Association Scholarship Luncheon on October 26.

Gambro generously provides an annual scholarship of \$5,000 for academically strong economically disadvantaged ECC students, which has helped to pave the way for students' academic success. Over forty alumni employees and non-members attended ECC's Alumni Association Scholarship Luncheon.

This year six ECC students were recipients of the Alumni scholarship. The Alumni Association hopes to increase the number of scholarship awards in the coming year.

ECC HAS A COACH FOR YOUR CAREER

Essex County College (ECC) is the only college in New Jersey to offer the Career Coach software, a free online tool that allows students and community members to explore potential careers. Through the College website, there is a link to the Career Coach software, which is a portal to an integrated job search.

Powered by ZIP code-level labor market data and real-time job postings, Career Coach was designed to help jobseekers find a career by providing the most current data on wages, employment, career trends, job postings, as well as associated education and training in a specific

region. Potential jobs can also be searched by mileage from a set ZIP code starting point. The site allows people to search for a specific job or select a major and see what Associate degree programs at ECC correlate with that specific job.

“Career Coach gives the user a 360-degree view of potential careers. With all of this employment data at your fingertips, a user can reference lots of general information about a career, or specific information about

a job very quickly,” said ECC's Dean of Workforce Nerur Satish.

One link provides information on building a resume that will be noticed by prospective employers. Available jobs are frequently updated from a comprehensive database.

A short video tutorial makes navigating the already user-friendly site even easier. For more information, contact Pam Maynard, ECC Student Development Center Director at 973-877-3350.

ECC CELEBRATES THE ARTS IN NEWARK



ART NEAR THE PARK: Newark high school students took to the streets of Newark to show their creative side in the fourth annual Creation Nation Art and Peace Parade.

Essex County College celebrated National Arts & Humanities Month in October with its participation in two art events — the *Creation Nation Art and Peace Parade* and *Harlem Book Fair*.

The College supported the Barat Foundation's fourth annual *Creation Nation Art and Peace Parade* on October 23, at which Newark high school students marched with their original

“Animodule” sculpture creations depicting visions of community, unity, and peace. The event attracted approximately 300 people.

Later in the month, ECC’s Africana Institute held its *Third Annual State of Black Writers: Caribbean Connection* on October 27 and 28 in Smith Hall. The event was the prelude to the Harlem Book Fair/Newark Event held October 29 with a trib-

ute to the late Gil Scott-Heron at Rutgers-Newark.

Keynote speaker and award winning author Dr. Elizabeth Nunez enlightened students with passages from her book, which explores the cultural tensions between Caribbean immigrants and African Americans.

“We are trying to understand how all of us who are of African American descent are connected,” said Institute Director Akil Khalfani.

ECC STUDENT “TEES UP” FOR FUTURE



THANKS “FORE” THE SCHOLARSHIP! ECC Business Administration Student **Jannace Murchison** (left) pictured with her mother **Gwendolyn** had the opportunity to say thank you to attendees of the 13th Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament on October 3 at Maplewood Country Club.

Jannace Murchison is an excellent example of whom ECC’s Golf & Tennis Tournament scholarship is designed to assist. Jannace was an invited guest to the October 3 golf and tennis scholarship tournament reception, where she was able to meet some of the scholarship’s donors.

“I started taking classes here in the late 1990s,” said the now-30-year old Business Administration major. She soon left school to work but then got caught in the economic downturn and lost her job two years ago.

“That job loss experience inspired me to return to school and prepare for some-

thing better,” said the Newark resident.

Her scholarship essay caught the eye of Dr. Susan Mulligan, Executive Dean of Institutional Advancement.

“While Jannace’s specific situation was unique, her financial struggles are faced by so many of our students,” said Dean Mulligan.

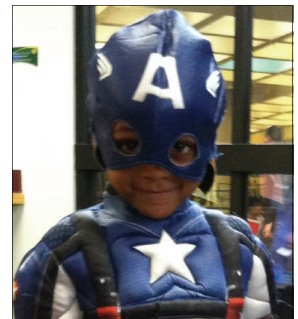
This year’s Golf & Tennis Tournament raised \$16,000 for scholarships. Due to the generosity and commitment of ECC supporters, more students like Jannace will be able to pursue their educational goals.



ECC STUDENTS “MAKE STRIDES” IN THE COMMUNITY: Members of the Essex County College cheerleaders, Fashion Entertainment Board, and women’s basketball team participated in the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on October 16. The funds raised go to continue the fight against breast cancer and increase awareness of the need for early screening and treatment.



ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDER APPLAUDS ECCPA’S FIRST FIREFIGHTER CLASS: Freeholder Leonard Luciano awarded proclamations from the Essex County Board of Freeholders to the members of Essex County College Police Academy first *Basic Firefighter I* class at its Board meeting on October 12 in Maplewood. Freeholder Luciano, who recently was a victim of a house fire, commended the team of volunteers for their service to their community. Pictured from left, Freeholder Leonard Luciano, David Eucker, Darren Sinclair, Darin Keepers, and Jared Hoholick.



WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN? Ghouls, goblins, superheroes and princesses from ECC’s Child Development Center got an early start on Halloween by trick-or-treating in the halls of ECC.



ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

WE ARE ESSEX:
CHANGING LIVES. BUILDING FUTURES.

EYE ON ESSEX

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ECC EVENTS DECEMBER 2011

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

Dec. 1 & 15 **College Open House**
2nd Floor Forum
4:00pm–7:00pm

Dec. 1 **World AIDS Day**
HIV Testing
Student Center
1:00pm–7:00pm

Dec. 7 **ECC Annual Tree Lighting**
2nd Floor Forum
11:00am

Dec. 7 **West Essex Tree Lighting**
Student Lounge
11:00am

Dec. 8 **Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration**
Mary Burch Theater
5:00pm –7:00pm

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

3CP2 TRAINING INITIATIVE
(Continued from page 1)

Office of Emergency Management through our Police Academy, so we can collaborate and provide training programs such as the 3CP2 training. The program has the potential to save lives in our community," said President Edythe Abdullah.

3CP2 trainings will be held by Belleville's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) on December 13, and Essex County College-Newark on February 2, 2012. Bethany Baptist Church in Newark and the Millburn Library also will hold trainings. West Orange's CERT team, the Essex County Executive's Office, and the Essex County Sheriff's Office held trainings earlier this month.

ECC received the grant to offer the 3CP2 program from Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE). For more information on these training sessions please contact the ECCPA at 973-877-4350.

ECC TRACK TEAM IS ON TOP



ECC FINISHES FIRST: ECC Women's track team stand proudly with their Division I Region XIX Cross Country title. From left, **Samiyah Salih, Tineika Toussaint, Teneisha Davis, Alicia Ross, and Renata Martin.**

The Essex County College cross country team swept the competition as both the men and women captured the 2011 Division I Region XIX Cross Country titles at Thompson Park in Lincroft on October 22.

Sophomore Teneisha Davis led the way for the women's team, finishing first in the field with a time of 19 minutes, 32 seconds in the 5K race. She is ranked fifth

nationally among all National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) women.

Coach Michael Smart's squad also had sophomores Tineika Toussaint, Yanique Malcolm, and Renata Martin finishing second through fourth, respectively. Freshman Samiyah Salih finished sixth. The women also captured the Garden State Athletic Conference Cross Country championship.

Freshman Christopher Rose paced the men's victory with a second place time of 30 minutes, 46 seconds in the 8K run. Sophomore Elhadji Mbow came in third, followed by freshman Jonathan Henry (fifth), freshman Shamid Parker (sixth), and sophomore Christian Brown (seventh).

"Although ECC usually only participates in the Region XIX race in cross country, this year the teams competed in several other multi-team meets," Smart said. "They prove Essex is a force to be reckoned with."

ORPHANED PETS GET HELPING HAND FROM WEC

Essex County College's West Essex Campus (WEC) in West Caldwell held a three-week pet supply drive to benefit the animals in the foster care of *Orphaned Pets*, located in West Caldwell. The non-profit organization lost 95% of their supplies in the flooding following Hurricane Irene this past August.

"My office was immersed with donations, the community really pulled together to help these animals," said Dennia M. Rentzis, Coordinator of Admissions at WEC.

The generous donations included pet food, toys, and cleaning products for the furry pets.

Orphaned Pets is an all volunteer organization. Animals are fostered by the volunteers, in their homes, until a suitable home becomes available. The organization relies heavily on donations



DID SOMEONE SAY TREATS? *Orphaned Pets* Volunteer **Donna M. Dispenzere** and two furry friends were a few of the recipients of ECC's recent pet supply drive.

and fund-raising activities to support their efforts.

If you would like to volunteer or get more information on pet adoption call 973-865-6421.