



EYE ON ESSEX

SEPTEMBER 2011

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

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TRADITIONS: OLD AND NEW

"Tradition" is the handing down of beliefs and customs from one generation to another. Here at Essex County College, we embrace tradition.

Inside, our former and current students share how they believe in our long-held tradition of community service. We acknowledge ECC alum, NJ Senator Ronald Rice, for his impressive commitment to our community for over three decades, and we introduce our new Student Government Association President who outlines the new traditions he would like to start.

We salute our track record of athletic excellence with an update on our Olympians. And, we celebrate a new tradition with the graduation of our first volunteer firefighting class.

By reading these pages or by visiting our campuses, I invite you to learn and experience the old and new treasured traditions of Essex County College.

ECC NOMINATES SENATOR RICE FOR NATIONAL AWARD



WOLVERINE PRIDE: NJ Senator Ron Rice at ECC's recent scholarship golf and tennis tournament

Essex County College is honoring one of its proud graduates by nominating State Senator Ronald Rice, a member of ECC's Class of 1975, for the American Association of Community Colleges 2012 Outstanding Alumni Award. The award winners will be announced at the end of the year.

As part of the eligibility criteria, the award seeks to recognize those individuals who have spe-

cific philanthropic or public service activity that supports the community and/or college. Other criteria include achieving recognition at a national level, as well as providing inspirational impact.

After graduating from ECC with a 3.78 grade point average, Rice attended Howard University and John Jay College. He then earned his master's degree from Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice and his law degree from Rutgers University Law School.

Over the years, the senator has been active in the College's Alumni Association, serving a stint as alumni president.

After his election to state gov-

ernment in 1986, he approached ECC about establishing a nursing program.

Today, the Nursing Program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, and includes an associate degree component as well as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Certificate Program.

His areas of interest include healthcare, seniors, housing and youth education. As a result, he serves on several national and local non-profit boards that focus on these areas.

Senator Rice has dedicated his career to public service and always remains an avid supporter of community colleges, and particularly his alma mater.

NEVER FORGET: ECC REMEMBERS SEPTEMBER 11

ECC's annual September 11th memorial service, dubbed the National Day of Service & Remembrance, attracted several hundred students, faculty and staff to the College Plaza on Friday, September 9.

"Ten years ago our lives were forever changed," President Edythe M. Abdullah said to the crowd. "The terror attacks claimed the lives of 3,000 people, of those 57 were Essex County residents. The resiliency and strength shown by people after the attack clearly demonstrated what makes us Americans."

Prior to the tolling of the bells at 8:45 a.m., in remembrance of the time of impact when the first hijacked airliner struck the

World Trade Center, a moment of silence was held, then Rev. Canon Dr. Sandye A. Wilson shared a few words from the Jewish Book of Prayers.

"We remember them" in referring to the 9/11 victims. "Too often we forget September 12, when people came together and we started to get our lives back together. Life is too short for hate and anger."

Student Michael Ortiz performed the National Anthem, while a duet of fellow students — Denise Jackson and Laurel Pryor — sang beautiful renditions of *Let There be Peace on Earth* and *Heal the World*. Music Professor Richard Alston played the recessional *God Bless America*.



ECC REMEMBERS: President Abdullah addresses ECC community during the September 11 memorial held on the college plaza, as **Reverend Canon Dr. Sandye A. Wilson** looks on.

ECC STUDENTS IN THE NEWS:



NEW SEMESTER, NEW SGA LEADER: Our new SGA President shares his positive outlook on the coming year.

MEET ECC'S NEW SGA PRESIDENT:

Student Government Association (SGA) President Alton Drummond shares a similar start to college as many of his fellow ECC students.

"When I started here in 2009, I was taking remedial English and math," said the 25-year-old from Irvington.

Alton quickly adjusted to the academics at ECC and continued to thrive. Elected as the 2011-2012 SGA president, the sophomore in Business Administration, is currently in the Honor's program with a 3.89 grade point average.

He credits the Honor's Program with showing how much ECC has to offer.

"ECC is where students can easily identify with each other and I am trying to get them more involved in campus life," said Alton. "I have a great team of SGA officers and I look forward to accomplishing great things together."

Pointing out ECC is "Putting Students First," Alton noted, "We want to elevate that theme as high as we can."

The SGA provides representation in the planning, execution, and evaluation of actions

affecting the ECC student body.

To be a part of SGA students must earn a 2.5 GPA, and officers are elected each year. As SGA President, Alton provides SGA reports at the Board of Trustee meetings.

The SGA office is located on the Second Level of the Clara E. Dasher Student Center and in the Student Lounge at the West Essex Campus.

CONSTITUTION LAW DAY: AN ECC ANNUAL EVENT

It was standing room only on September 21 when award-winning journalist Juan Gonzalez visited ECC. He was the keynote speaker for the 7th Annual Constitution Law Day, sponsored by ECC's Division of Social Sciences.

A *New York Daily News* reporter, Mr. Gonzalez began his presentation by recalling the 2006 protests by Latinos opposed to proposed U.S. immigration law changes.

"While those demonstrations did not lead to immigration reforms," said the journalist, "it did franchise large numbers of Latinos whose voices were heard in subsequent elections."

He then outlined four major areas in the U.S. Constitution dealing with immigration and minorities that have impacted American history.

"I want you to think about these issues and, as our future leaders, decide how you might deal with them in the future," he charged the audience.

Mr. Gonzalez estimates that by 2050, if not earlier, the Caucasian population will no longer be the majority in the U.S. He further speculated the population in 2050 will be at least 25 percent Latino and another 25 percent African-American and Asian.

"It was a pleasure to be able to listen to Mr. Gonzalez provide his perspective on the Constitution," said Nuvia Martins of Harrison, a Paralegal Studies major. "When Mr. Gonzalez said there is nothing in the Constitution that designates English as the official language of the United States, that was a new and interesting information to me."

"The students really appreciated the historical significance Mr. Gonzalez brought to the event," said Patrice Davis, J.D., Associate Professor in the Social Sciences Division.



OVER THE RIVER: Award-winning journalist **Juan Gonzalez**, left, meets with Assistant Professor **Linda Carter, Esq.**, middle, and Associate Professor **Patrice Davis, J.D.**, right, both of the Division of Social Sciences, after his keynote presentation on Constitution Law Day held on September 21.

ECC'S SINGLE STOP: THE "GO TO PLACE" FOR MANY SERVICES



GOT HELP? ECC student **Lisa Latimer** says she benefitted from the services available through Single Stop USA.

The Single Stop USA Student Resource Center on the Newark campus may not have brought Lisa Latimer to ECC, but its invaluable services are certainly making it

easier for her to stay enrolled and concentrate on her studies.

"Since there are so many services right here, I can take care of my business between classes," said Lisa, a second-year Business Administration student at the Newark campus.

Lisa began her studies in 2009 after entering the College's Next Step program

where she learned of the opportunities available through Single Stop USA.

Lisa has received campus-based assistance through the program in such diverse areas as legal aid, tax preparation assistance, help in regard to receiving prescription drugs, along with assistance for housing problems and securing student loans.

Like the other services Lisa

has been utilizing, all ECC students can meet with a Single Stop Coordinator for a free benefits screening, which will identify any public benefits program for which they may be eligible, including Food Stamps, General Assistance, Medicaid, and other social services.

The Single Stop office is located in Room 3175 in the Green Area.

AFRICANA INSTITUTE HOSTS "ONE MORE TIME" EXHIBIT

Tony Graves, Artist-in-Residence for ECC's Africana Institute, had an opening reception in the Institute on September 15 for his exhibition entitled *One More Time*.

The Africana Institute was filled to capacity with onlookers who had the additional benefit of being entertained by internationally renowned trumpeter James Gibbs, III.

"We are so fortunate to have Mr. Graves share his artistry through this exhibit and add to the diverse

programs that are offering through the Africana Institute," said Dr. Akil Kokayi Khalfani, Institute Director.

Tony Graves has an affinity for photographing the essence of musicians, particularly jazz artists. A great deal of his work is done in black and white. His work has appeared in numerous magazines including *Savoy*.

The *One More Time* exhibit is part of the NJ Art Council's

Open Doors Studio tour which will be able to be viewed at various venues throughout the city of Newark from October 20–23.

Meanwhile, the exhibit here at the Newark campus will be on display until November 30th.



APPRECIATING ART "ONE MORE TIME": ECC Artist-in-Residence Tony Graves provides commentary to students who are viewing the "One More Time" exhibit in the Africana Institute that runs through November 30.

ECC: A CARING PARTNER IN THE COMMUNITY

ECC is continuing its commitment to assist the Newark community by providing a series of programming at the Weequahic Park East Training- Recreation-Education Center. The facility will be constructed soon thanks to a federal \$5 million grant that the Newark Housing Authority will use to build the facility.

"The City of Newark is richer as a result of all these groups coming together for the common good," said Karen McLane Torian, Chief

Asset, Development & Preservation Officer for the Newark Housing Authority.

"We believe that there is a specific need in Newark for adult education and job training, and we are ready to have an active role in our community," said Charles Lovallo, Executive Dean of Continuing Education and West Essex Campus.

"Essex County College works cooperatively with community

groups such as the Newark Alliance, Newark Workforce Investment Board, the Newark Public Schools, and Regional Business Partnership," added ECC President Dr. Edythe Abdullah.

She continued, "We look to innovative ways to leverage funds that will enhance the educational opportunities offered at community sites, such as this soon-to-be-built training facility."

ECC has proposed offering a number of programs at the Center, including computer literacy, short-term and entrepreneurship training, college readiness activities, and on-line and hybrid courses. The courses would be offered at an affordable fee based on the needs of the residents.

In addition, ECC will provide technical support during the planning and construction process.



ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE: FIRST CLASS: Lt. Michael Tomich, left and Rocco Miscia, far right, director of the Essex County College Police Academy, stand proudly with the first graduating class of the ECCPA volunteer firefighter training course held September 8 at the Police Academy in Cedar Grove. The graduates represented departments from Caldwell, Cedar Grove, Verona, Bloomfield and Roseland.



ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

WE ARE ESSEX:
CHANGING LIVES. BUILDING FUTURES.

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PRESIDENT TAKES INVESTITURE MESSAGE ON THREE CAMPUS TOUR



AND THE BEAT GOES ON: President Abdullah set aside time to talk with a group of students from West Essex campus in early September.

To “engage” the students of ECC in her inauguration, President Edythe Abdullah shared the key concepts of her Investiture message by addressing students at events in three locations in September. The tour included speaking at student barbecues during “Welcome Week” at the Newark and West Caldwell campuses,

and to cadets at ECC’s Police Academy.

The official Investiture ceremony was held August 29 on the Newark campus. In her inaugural address, Dr. Abdullah introduced her vision of ECC student-centered goals that revolve around the letter “E”: Engage, Empower and Excel.

In speaking with the students she emphasized the importance of student engagement to help them reach their goals, and increasing the number of need-based scholarships.

“By empowering the staff and faculty with the right tools, we can elevate the students to the next level in their education,” said the President. “Through engagement, you are empowered to excel to reach your full potential.”

ECC EVENTS OCTOBER 2011

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

Now thru Nov 30 “One More Time” Art Exhibition
Africana Institute—2nd floor

Oct. 27 Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony
6PM Smith Hall

Oct. 27 - 10AM 3rd Annual State of Black Writers Forum
Oct. 28 - 9:30AM Smith Hall

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

ECC ALUM EXCEL ON WORLD STAGE

ECC alumni continue to excel on the world stage in track. Five grads received hard earned Silver medals in August at the World Track and Field Championships held in Daegu, South Korea.

Melaine Walker placed second in the 400 meter hurdles. A member of the ECC Class of 2004, Melaine won a Gold medal in the same event at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Kerron Stewart (Class of 2005), finished second place in the 4x100 meter relay. She also finished fifth in the 200 meters and sixth in the 100 meters. At the 2008 Olympics, she won the Silver in the 100 meters and Bronze in the 200 meters.

Novlene Williams-Mills (Class of 2002) finished second for the Silver in the women’s 4x400 meter relay. She has a Silver medal from 2008 in the 4x400 meter relay and a Bronze from the Athens, Greece 2004 Summer Olympics in the same event.

Riker Hylton, a member of the College’s Class of 2010 and currently a student at LSU, also earned a Silver medal completing in the men’s 4x400 meter relay.



GOING THE DISTANCE: ECC Alum **Kerron Stewart** ('05) competes on the world stage alongside fellow ECC alumni competing for Jamaica.

Kenia Sinclair (Class of 2001) placed seventh in the 800 meter run.

All of the alumni competed for their native country of Jamaica.

