



WILLIAM J. HUGHES CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



June 2010

Message from the Executive Director



Both the current economic and political environments in New Jersey emphasize the importance of fostering the engagement of our citizenry, faculty and students with policy makers of all levels of

government. Through media commentary, our Lecture Series, polling and other events and activities, we strive to open avenues of communications. As you read through this latest edition of the Center's newsletter, you will see editorial synopses of these activities. The real "meat" lies on our Web site where we house the details of surveys and videos of the Lecture Series and events.

Our opinion columns have been published statewide and in Philadelphia and address

In This Issue (*scroll down for full stories*)



Jersey Shorecast Calls for Sunny Tourism Season: Experts discussed the importance of the weather and the value of tourists' experiences to the Jersey Shore this season.



Steering Committee Spotlight: Dr. Edward H. Salmon, Chairman, Salmon Ventures, Ltd.



Nuclear Power: Good for New Jersey: Former Gov. Christie Whitman and PSEG Power President William Levis discussed the benefits of using nuclear power in New Jersey.



The Pros and Cons of Public Service: Discussed by Assemblyman Jay Webber and William Castner, Jr.

Upcoming Hughes Center Events



Tuesday, September 14, 2010, *A Revealing Look at 9/11*: Former Gov. Thomas H. Kean, co-chairman of the 9/11 Commission, will interview John Farmer, Jr., senior counsel to the 9/11 Commission, on his book, *The Ground Truth: The Untold Story of America Under Attack on 9/11*. This event will be held at 6 p.m. in Alton Auditorium

timely topics in a manner that provides information to readers that enables an understanding of issues affecting them. We are fortunate to have Stockton's Dr. Michael Busler - a Hughes Center Fellow - and former press secretary to Governors Kean and Whitman and Carl Golden, a senior contributing analyst to the Center, researching and writing commentary. Click through and read these on our Web site.

The Center continues to have the complete and enthusiastic support of the College's leadership, President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., and Provost and Executive Vice President David L. Carr. Dr. Carr will be transitioning from this position and a portion of his new efforts will be to join the Hughes Center as Senior Research Fellow and enhance the Center's efforts. At the same time we look forward to working with incoming Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Harvey Kesselman.



Major Endowments

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Chazen

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Hughes and Family
South Jersey Industries

Please click [here](#) to find out how to register for Hughes Center events.

Steering Committee Spotlight



Dr. Edward H. Salmon

The Center's Steering Committee is chaired by Dr. Edward H. Salmon, who also was a member of the Center's founding advisory board. Dr. Salmon has more than 30 years experience serving the southern New Jersey region as a mayor, freeholder director, assemblyman, member of the Governor's Cabinet, and President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities. As an assemblyman, he worked to make New Jersey a competitive force by sponsoring legislation such as the Jobs, Education & Competitiveness Bond Act (1988), Urban Enterprise Zones, tourism initiatives, agricultural and commercial fisheries financial assistance programs, the Water Resources Development Bond Act (1987), and the Housing & Jobs Bond Act (1991). For his service as an assemblyman, he was awarded "Legislator of the Year" from six different state-wide organizations.

As President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), Dr. Salmon was responsible for creating, implementing and overseeing public policy that

Atlantic City Electric Company
 Exelon Corp
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Batzer
 New Jersey American Water Company
 Public Service Enterprise Group
 Salmon Ventures Limited
 Thomas H. Heist Family
 Tribhuvan & Nandita Singh
 Verizon

Steering Committee

Dr. Edward H. Salmon, *Chairman*
 Ambassador William J. Hughes
 Steve Batzer
 John Bigelow
 Yvonne Bonitto-Doggett
 Noah Bronkesh, Esq.
 Hon. Fred Butler
 Keith Dawn
 Edward Graham
 Dr. Anne Harlan
 George Lynn
 Vincent Maione
 Richard Mroz, Esq.
 Hon. Steven P. Perskie
 Charles Pessagno
 Albert Ruggiero
 Trib Singh
 Richard Tolson
 Michael Tuosto
 Dr. Brian Tyrrell
 Helen Walsh
 Jennifer Young
 Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., *Ex Officio*

affected all of New Jersey’s investor-owned utilities. Included in these utilities were telecommunications, cable, electric, gas, water and wastewater.

Currently, Dr. Salmon serves as the Founder and Chairman of Salmon Ventures, Ltd. a national firm providing professional consulting to utilities, industry, government and education. His company has contributed to the success of the Hughes Center by being one of the original endowers of the Hughes Center. Personally, Dr. Salmon has been married to Marilyn for 45 years, and has two married children and eleven grandchildren.

Recent Columns and Publications

<p>Carl Golden - Senior Contributing Analyst</p>	<p>"Obama administration's clumsiness allowed Sestak story to fester" - June 7 "Government shutdown another line in the sand." - May 24 "The hammer in the Governor's tool kit" - May 18 "Christie's style in the first 100 days: 'Not one step back'." - May 10 "A message delivered in spite of the media on budgets, Christie spoke directly to voters." - May 6 "Wallace renomination a test for governor" - April 19 "Christie and Sweeney lay their markers down" - April 13 "N.J. school budgets read like a Stephen King horror novel" - April 1 "Can--or will-- Obama help Adler?" - March 26 "Is horse racing headed for final stretch?" - Feb. 25 "Raising gasoline tax would benefit New Jersey" - Feb. 15 "Boards, commissions under scrutiny" - Feb. 6</p>
<p>Michael Busler, PhD - Hughes Center Fellow</p>	<p>"Revoltors want public payrolls reduced" - June 6 "Gov. Christie's plan doesn't go far enough" - May 12 "Fix N.J. budget mess with 10-70 plan: A 10 percent public worker pay cut and a new retirement age of 70" - March 31</p>

Dr. David L. Carr, *Ex Officio*
Evelyn Ingargiola, *Student Representative*

["N.J public workers just charge too much for their services"](#)
- March 17
["The tax revolters are watching the lawmakers"](#) - Feb. 2
["N.J. could see a tax revolt"](#) - Jan. 24

Jersey Shorecast Calls for Sunny Tourism Season



The Shorecast panel discussed this year's tourist season.

New Jersey shore business leaders and economists predicted a "banner" summer season with visitors lured to resort towns by sandy beaches, family-friendly boardwalks, casinos and world-class entertainment. This was the general sentiment at the Hughes Center's 2nd Annual Jersey Shorecast, which brings local experts together to discuss the upcoming summer tourism season.

"Last June was extremely difficult because of bad weather, but we picked up significantly in July and August, despite all the dire warnings about the economy. We're looking at a brighter picture this year," said Diane Wieland of the Cape May County Department of Tourism. In addition to the emphasis on the weather, Wieland emphasized the importance of businesses providing customers with more value for their dollar. "While good weather is key," Wieland said, "it is also important for businesses to provide customers with more value for their dollar, including discounts and other promotions."

Jay Gillian, owner and operator of Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City and Gillian's Funland in Sea Isle City and Mayor of Ocean City, said his businesses were fortunate enough to escape any downturn last year despite the nation's economic woes and the area's bad weather.

"The biggest single factor for us is the weather," said Gillian. "If somebody is thinking about spending a few thousand dollars and the weather people are calling for (bad weather), it is going to impact you."

The panelists said that lower tourism can drastically affect area employment -- especially in the service sector. According to Dr. Oliver Cooke, a Stockton College economics professor and author of the *South Jersey Economic Review*, the 2009 summer season had some general characteristics:

- Overall employment was down four percent
- Casino employment was down eight percent
- Restaurant and bar employment was down five percent
- Retail employment remained flat

However, Cooke, added, several factors came into play. "In '09 it was the weather, and the year before gas prices spiked sharply and reduced tourism numbers," he said.

Israel Posner, Executive Director of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism, said that Atlantic City's casino revenue numbers have dropped but that the city's re-invention, with increased non-casino attractions, could play a significant role in making up the difference.

"It's certainly no secret that gaming revenues have dropped, but what is not well-known is that non-casino revenues have reached 20 percent and are growing each year," Posner said. "Casinos are evolving more into entertainment venues. Visitors are more likely to seek value for their dollars in taking in a show, shopping or hitting the beaches than spending it at the gaming tables."

The Shorecast was moderated by Dr. Michael Busler, Associate Professor of Finance, Finance Track Coordinator, and a Fellow of the William J. Hughes Center.

Nuclear Power: Good For New Jersey



Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., Ed Rodgers, Former Gov. Christie Whitman, William Levis, Ambassador William J. Hughes and Sen. William Gormley.

Former New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman told a group of political and business leaders that the state should look to nuclear power to meet some of its future energy needs. This was the opinion of the former governor and William Levis, President of Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) Power at a recent Hughes Center Lecture Series event that was attended by Stockton faculty and staff, local politicians, and other members of the general public.

Whitman, speaking at Atlantic City's Carnegie Library on April 29, is a former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is currently the co-chairwoman of a nonprofit group called the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition. The former governor said that most people are simply not adequately informed on the issues surrounding nuclear power, which is why many people believe it to be unsafe.

“ ‘The Simpsons’ isn't the best place to get information on nuclear power,” said Whitman, referring to the Fox network series that often satirizes nuclear power facilities.

In an effort to overcome this challenge, Levis said that PSEG has built an information center next to one of the currently operating facilities to assure the public that nuclear power is safe, reliable and clean.

PSEG is preparing to ask the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to relicense the company's three Salem County nuclear plants, Salem1, Salem 2 and Hope Creek in Lower Alloways Creek Township.

According to both Whitman and Levis, nuclear power has not been embraced by the public in the United States since the mid 1980's. Subsequently, no new plants have been built here in more than 20 years. But public opinion about nuclear power is shifting in recent years.

“Fifteen years ago I didn't think we could have this conversation about the future of nuclear power,” said Levis, who had been invited to speak by the Hughes Center for Public Policy, which sponsors public forums on political, environmental, economic and social issues.

Whitman said that nuclear power might not be the best option for every state, but New Jersey has good reason to turn to it. Nuclear power is safe and is more reliable than

other alternative energy sources. The former governor also indicated that although nuclear energy is not the "silver bullet," it should be part of a variety of renewable energy sources that New Jersey utilizes.

The discussion was moderated by Ed Rodgers, an environmental reporter and producer of two NJN news and public affairs series.

To view this event, click [here](#).

The Pros and Cons of Public Service



Brian Jackson, William Castner and Jay Webber.

New Jersey Republican State Committee Chairman and Assemblyman Jay Webber and William J. Castner, Jr., former chief counsel to Governor Jon S. Corzine, spoke to an audience of students, faculty, staff and community members about the advantages, disadvantages, sacrifices and rewards of public service at an event that was part of the Hughes Center Lecture Series this past March.

Castner explained that although public service takes personal sacrifice and the ability to navigate the current political atmosphere, public service can be socially rewarding and personally fulfilling.

Discussion moderator Brian K. Jackson, Stockton's Chief of Staff, asked the speakers whether the deterioration in government and political civility has resulted in fewer people entering public service.

"In the 18th century, Jefferson and Adams savaged each other. There's been a long history of negative politics," said Webber. "However, Lincoln never had to check

Facebook, so there is a new element in today's politics. Politicians need to disagree without being disagreeable."

Both speakers acknowledged that anyone thinking about entering into government service needs to be passionate and have vision. Additionally, Castner explained that internships are a good way both to observe government and gain valuable experience.

The speakers also discussed the "new" media and its impact on people entering public service. Both acknowledged that information is consumed a great deal differently than it once was, and that the speed at which information is distributed to the general public has some serious advantages and disadvantages.

"Internet blogs, YouTube, Facebook and other forms of social media have become challenges because of their intrusive nature," said Webber, adding that information has become "infotainment." Because of this trend there is a large concern about the quality of information that is made available to the public and the context in which the information is presented.

"Good public servants are thoughtful about what they say," Webber said. This way media outlets are less likely to manipulate an individual's words to fit their own purposes.

Both Webber and Castner emphasized that people entering into public service need direction, a purpose and the passion to accomplish their goals. They said students can succeed through a combination of good writing skills, promptness and professionalism, which are all skills that they should seek to acquire in their college careers.

For more information on the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy or to make a contribution:

WWW.STOCKTON.EDU/HUGHESCENTER

609.626.3542