

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

will see editorial synopses of these activities.

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 (

timely topics in a manner that provides information to readers that enables an understanding of issues affecting them. We

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

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

time we look forward to working with incoming Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Harvey Kesselman.

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

Steering Committee Spotlight

Dr. Edward H. Salmon

Steering Committee is chaired by Dr. Edward H. Salmon, who
Dr. Salmon has

more than 30 years experience serving the southern New Jersey region as a mayor, freeholder director, assemblyman, member o 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

Major Endowments

**Mr. & Mrs. Stephen
Chazen**

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

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

"N.J

"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

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](#).

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

