

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton's William J. Hughes Center Adds Another Panelist to the Jersey Shorecast

Jay Gillian Will Discuss the Jersey Shore's Economic Outlook

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Tim Kelly
Susan Allen
Office of Public Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08240
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4950

Galloway Township, NJ- The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has added Jay Gillian, owner and operator of Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City, New Jersey, to the Jersey Shorecast's panel. The Jersey Shorecast will be held on **Friday, March 19, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in the Alton Auditorium, located on the College's main Galloway Township campus.

The Jersey Shorecast will make predictions for the 2010 tourist season along the Jersey Shore. The featured panelists include Dr. Oliver Cooke, Assistant Professor of Economics; Diane Wieland, Director for the Cape May County Department of Tourism; Dr. Israel Posner, Executive Director of the Stockton Institute for Gaming Management; and the newest addition, Jay Gillian. Dr. Michael Busler, Associate Professor of Finance at Stockton, will serve as the moderator for the event.

Sharon Schulman, Executive Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, said, "Last year's Shorecast provided accurate indicators for the season and provided a dialogue on a critical segment of the state's economy. We've purposely picked the spring equinox as a great time for us to look out over the entire tourism season."

Panelist Dr. Oliver Cooke received his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He now teaches macroeconomics, urban economics, U.S. economic history, and political economy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Dr. Cooke's first book, *Rethinking Municipal Privatization* (Routledge), was published in 2008, and he also authors the *South Jersey Economic Review*, a biannual electronic publication that analyzes economic conditions in South Jersey.

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Panelist Diane Wieland has worked for the Cape May County Department of Tourism for 35 years and has been the director since 1996. The department is tasked with marketing Cape May County as a destination to domestic and international travel markets, including the coastal resorts of Ocean City to Cape May as well as Cape May County's mainland communities. Under her direction, the Department of Tourism has received numerous state, national, and international awards for marketing and promotion. Wieland also serves as Chairwoman of the Southern Shore Regional Destination Marketing Organization, which consists of Cape May and Cumberland Counties.

Panelist Dr. Israel Posner has been a professor and administrator at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey since 1973 and currently heads the Stockton Institute for Gaming Management. The Center has conducted numerous studies of the gaming industry and has trained over 15,000 casino employees. Dr. Posner did his undergraduate work at Brooklyn College in New York City and received his doctorate from Temple University in Philadelphia. He has more than 30 years of experience as a management consultant serving dozens of private and public sector organizations throughout the country. He and his colleague Dr. Brian Tyrrell recently published a highly touted book *Casino Gaming in Atlantic City: A Thirty Year Retrospective*.

Panelist Jay Gillian is the owner and operator of Gillian's Wonderland Pier of Ocean City, NJ and Gillian's Funland of Sea Isle City, NJ. Mr. Gillian is the President of the Ocean City Board of Education. Other roles include Shore Memorial Hospital Board Chairman, First Night Ocean City Board of Directors, Miss New Jersey Pageant Board of Directors, New Jersey Amusement Association Board of Directors and Shore Tomorrow Campaign Co-Chair. Some previous leadership roles he held include Ocean City Boardwalk Merchants past president, Ocean City Business & Neighborhood Development past vice president and Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce past board of directors. Mr. Gillian was the proud winner of the 2009 Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds, 2008 Bailey Award presented by *The Press of Atlantic City* and the 1999 Ocean City Citizen of the Year Award.

The moderator, Dr. Michael Busler, is an Associate Professor of Finance, Finance Track Coordinator, and a Fellow at the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. He teaches undergraduate courses in finance and game theory as well as managerial economics and corporate finance in the MBA program. He has been published in eight different academic journals and has presented his research in nine countries, as far away as Bahrain and UAE. In addition he has worked as a financial analyst for Ford Motor Company and FMC Corporation, and he has been an entrepreneur having owned several businesses mostly in the real estate development field. He earned his doctorate at Drexel University.

For the most up-to-date information regarding the Jersey Shorecast and future events, please visit the Hughes Center website www.stockton.edu/hughescenter. Space is limited, so please register by e-mail for the event at hughescenter@stockton.edu or call 609-626-3542.

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