

Office of Public Relations
Galloway Twp., NJ 08240

Stockton to Dedicate Holocaust Center Expansion, Naming

**Facility to Double in Size; Will be Re-named
in Honor of Sara and Sam Schoffer**

For Immediate Release

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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Galloway Twp., NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will dedicate a major expansion of the Holocaust Resource Center and formally mark the re-naming of the facility as the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center in ceremonies to take place on May 27. The Holocaust Resource Center, one of the first of its kind at a public college in the United States, is a joint project of the College and the Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

The event is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27 in the F-Wing Atrium of the Galloway Twp. campus. It commemorates the start of construction of the expanded Center and celebrates three recent significant gifts that total \$850,000 in support of the Holocaust Resource Center.

Last year, the College received a \$500,000 gift from Leo B. Schoffer to re-name the Center in honor of his parents, Holocaust survivors Sara and Sam Schoffer. It was the largest single gift in the history of Stockton College. The College also received a \$250,000 gift from The Azeez Foundation of Egg Harbor Township, to name a room in the Holocaust Resource Center in honor of the memory of Liviu Librescu, a former professor at Virginia Tech.

Professor Librescu, a Holocaust survivor, performed heroic actions during the shooting rampage at the Blacksburg campus last spring. Professor Librescu blocked the door of his classroom as the shooter attempted to enter. He held off the gunman as his students escaped through the windows. Librescu, who was a professor of engineering, was shot to death, “but all the students lived – because of him,” said Virginia Tech student Asael Arad.

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Holocaust Resource Center Dedication / page 2

A third gift of \$100,000 has also been donated by Mr. Jack Koopman of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, who has been a strong benefactor of the College's program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. "For some time, Jack has been very excited about the fine work of the Center and its students," said Jan Colijn, Dean of General Studies and a native of the Netherlands who has been Mr. Koopman's friend since they were both children. Mr. Koopman already generously supports the College with an annual gift of \$50,000 for student scholarships in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

The gifts are unrelated to the expansion project at the Center, which had been previously planned. The gifts will enhance the Center's ability to educate Stockton students about the Holocaust and other genocides, serve as a resource for K-12 education, and train teachers in Holocaust education, among other activities.

Some of the planned improvements include:

- Enhanced areas for study and research
- "Smart classroom" technology
- Donor recognition wall
- New entrance memorializing historical figures

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