

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

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***Stockton Receives Largest Gift in its History;
Additional Gifts Honor Memory of Virginia
Tech Professor, Recognize Excellence at
Holocaust Resource Center***

***\$850,000 in Gifts to Name Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust
Resource Center, Establish Room Honoring Professor Liviu
Librescu of Virginia Tech, and Recognize Excellence***

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GALLOWAY TWP., NJ – The President of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey announced today at its Board of Trustees' meeting three significant gifts to support its Holocaust Resource Center totaling \$850,000 – including the largest single gift in the history of the College.

A \$500,000 gift from Leo B. Schoffer and Family will name Stockton's Holocaust Resource Center in honor of Leo Schoffer's parents. The gift will name the facility, one of the nation's first at a public college in the United States, as the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.

Leo Schoffer, a successful developer and businessman with offices in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, is also an attorney specializing in environmental law. He serves on the Board of Governors of the Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation and is a member of the Board of Overseers of the Rutgers University Foundation.

"Mr. Schoffer has long been a friend of the College, serves on the Board of one of the two hospitals on our campus, and is dedicated to higher education," Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. said. "We are delighted that his parents' names will be commemorated in association with our Center."

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Stockton gifts/page 2

Sam and Sara Schoffer, Holocaust survivors and natives of Vilna, Poland, were married in a forest following their escape from a Jewish ghetto in their hometown. They immigrated to the United States in 1949 and raised their children, Lynda and Leo, on the memories of their experiences. As a result, involvement and support of the Jewish community became a central theme in the Schoffers' lives.

"Our family wishes to express their appreciation to Stockton for the special opportunity to name this Resource Center to honor two survivors who are loved and respected in our community," Leo Schoffer said. "My parents favorably symbolize and represent the many survivors of the Holocaust who settled in southern New Jersey and made an important impact on this community."

The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center is a joint project of the College and the Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties. It serves as a resource for the study of the Holocaust and its significance for the past, present and future. The Center supports academic programs at the College.

The President also announced a \$250,000 gift from The Azeez Foundation of Egg Harbor Township, to name a room in the Holocaust Resource Center honoring the memory of Liviu Librescu.

Professor Librescu, 76, was a Holocaust survivor and professor at Virginia Tech who sacrificed his life and saved the lives of his students during the recent massacre on the Blacksburg campus. Without hesitation or regard for personal safety, 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. The Israeli, who was a professor of engineering, was shot to death, "but all the students lived – because of him," said Virginia Tech student Asael Arad.

Jane B. Stark, who represents Mr. Michael Azeez and the Azeez Foundation, said that Professor Librescu's actions represented the resilient human spirit and were a beacon of hope in the face of unspeakable tragedy. "This man, who endured so much during the Holocaust, thought of his students' safety before his own in a time of crisis," she said. "He deserves to be remembered for these heroic actions."

Christian Fry of the New Jersey Chapter of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association said he was gratified to hear of the gift. "I think it is a wonderful thing that Stockton is doing," he said. "I can't think of a more fitting memorial."

A third gift of \$100,000 has been donated by Mr. Jack Koopman of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, who has been a strong benefactor of the college's program in Holocaust

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Stockton gifts/page 3

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 scholarship in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Stockton's Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center is one of the first centers of its kind at a public college in the United States. It was dedicated in October 1990 and contains books, films, videos, Holocaust artifacts, and hundreds of oral and video histories of Holocaust survivors, many of whom have since passed away.

Stockton is home to the nation's first Master's degree program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, established in 1997, and is noted for incorporating Holocaust education across the curriculum. The Center hosts teacher training programs in Holocaust education and workshops and training sessions for schools throughout New Jersey and the Northeastern region.

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