

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## **Stockton's Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center to Conduct Opening Ceremony and Reception**

**Renovated and Expanded Center Will Dedicate  
Classroom in Honor of Professor Liviu Lebrescu**

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will formally commemorate the opening and naming of the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Alton Auditorium, located in A-Wing on the Galloway Twp. Campus. Parking on campus will be available in lots 1 and 2.

Tours of the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center will be available after the ceremony.

In 2007, Leo Schoffer, developer, businessman and attorney specializing in environmental law with offices in Egg Harbor Twp., made a \$500,000 donation— the largest single gift in the history of the College at that time. The gift named its Holocaust Resource Center, one of the first of its kind at a public college in the United States, in honor of Schoffer's Holocaust survivor parents, Sara and Sam Schoffer.

Natives of Vilna, Poland, Sara and Sam Schoffer 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.

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## **Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center Commemoration/ page 2**

At the time of the Schoffer donation, the College also announced it had received a \$250,000 gift from The Azeez Family and Foundation of Egg Harbor Township, to name a room in the Holocaust Resource Center honoring the memory of Liviu Librescu. Professor Librescu, a Romanian Holocaust survivor and professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, sacrificed his life to save others during the April 16, 2007 campus massacre. Professor Librescu obstructed the door of his classroom as the shooter attempted to enter. He blocked the gunman enabling all but one of his students to escape through the windows. Professor Librescu was a resilient spirit and beacon of hope in the face of an unspeakable tragedy.

Jane B. Stark, who is Executive Director of the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage, said "This man, who endured so much during the Holocaust, thought of his students' safety before his own in a time of crisis," "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."

Also at the time of the Schoffer and Azeez Family and Foundation gifts, a third gift of \$100,000 was donated by Mr. Jack Koopman of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, who has been a strong benefactor of the college's program in Holocaust education. "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 to the Koopman van de Kar fund for student scholarships in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The fund is named in memory of his paternal and maternal grandparents who died in Sobibor death camp.

For more information on the event, please contact Ms. Gail Rosenthal by phone at 609-652-4699 or by e-mail at [gail.rosenthal@stockton.edu](mailto:gail.rosenthal@stockton.edu).

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