



Stockton College Foundation Elects New Officers, Presents Awards

For Immediate Release; with photos of Walker and Gomes attached

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Foundation has elected Richard H. Walker Jr., Esq., as chairman and welcomed Barbara Gomes to the board, which focuses on providing Stockton students with scholarships and financial aid.

The foundation was established in 1972 to provide philanthropic support for the financial needs of Stockton. As of this year, the foundation has nearly \$25 million in assets made possible by donors who are alumni, friends, faculty/staff, area businesses, parents and even student groups. This year the foundation awarded over \$500,000 in student scholarships.

Walker is an attorney with Cooper Levenson and co-chairman of the firm's Utility and Energy practice group.

Walker came to the firm upon retirement from South Jersey Industries (SJI) where he was vice president and general counsel, overseeing legal, environmental, human resource and strategic governance issues.

He is a graduate of Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA and Rutgers School of Law, Rutgers University, Camden.

Walker is also on the board of directors of the Arc of Atlantic County.

Gomes, of Margate, has been active in many civic and cultural groups and currently serves on the boards of Siloam in Philadelphia, the Atlantic City Ballet and IOA External Advisory Board at the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

She also served two terms on the Board of Saint Augustine College Preparatory in Richland, New Jersey.

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Gomes had an extensive career in dance, and began her professional dance career in Las Vegas at age 20. Gomes was featured in many network television reviews and specials, in Broadway shows, and also spent six years as prima ballerina with the Nevada Ballet Theatre.

After retiring from performing, Gomes served on the board of the Nevada Ballet Theatre, was president of the NBT Guild, and a founding member of the Las Vegas Philharmonic.

When Barbara and her husband, Dennis Gomes, the co-owner of Resorts Casino Hotel and casino industry icon who died last year, first moved to New Jersey, she became a founding member of Gilda's Club South Jersey. Gomes has raised five children, which she said she considers her most rewarding achievement.

This year's other new foundation officers are: Richard S. Dovey, Stockton '75, first vice chair; Dr. Johanna R. Johnson, second vice chair; Michael C. Epps, Esq., secretary; and David R. Hughes Stockton '86, treasurer.

At its Sept. 19 meeting, the board also thanked Anthony J. Coppola Sr. for his service as foundation chairman. Coppola, partner in the Historic Town of Smithville, Inc., has served on the board since 2005.

Dr. Philip Ellmore, chief development officer for the college and executive director of the foundation, said: "Tony has chaired the foundation for the last two years and done a terrific job." Ellmore said some highlights included the college receiving its first \$5 million gift and receiving gifts and pledges of \$10,257,182 during Coppola's leadership.

Several former board members were honored for their years of service.

Dr. Jo Frances Stow, who served on the Foundation Board of Directors for 32 years and who continues to chair the scholarship selection committee, was awarded Emerita status.

"During Dr. Stow's dedicated services to the Foundation Board she was instrumental in helping to establish the first Stockton Scholars program campaign, the first fund-raising benefit and numerous endowments," said President Herman Saatkamp. He noted that Stow's husband, the late Col. Kenneth R. Stow, worked for Stockton for 13 years as an assistant to the vice president for Administration and Finance.

Mac and Kay Seelig were each awarded Emeritus status for their service. Mac Seelig served on the board for nine years and Kay for four years. Their son, Jeffrey, has been on the board since 2009.

"The Seeligs have been honored for their work and dedication by dozens of organizations, recognition which is well-deserved," said President Saatkamp. "Their leadership and service as chairs of the Scholarship Benefit Gala significantly increased the level of visibility for the Gala and for Stockton College in the community."

Board members Donna Buzby, Debra DiLorenzo and Cookie Till were each recognized for five years of service; Dr. Peter Caporilli was recognized for 15 years of service.

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