
Story

on Jimmie Leeds Road for \$3.25 million to house administrative, finance and accounting offices.

April 2006: Trustees approve a bachelor of science degree in hospitality and tourism management.

October 2006: A new homeland security concentration is developed in the criminal justice master's degree program.

May 2007: Leo B. Schoffer and family donate \$500,000 to the Holocaust Resource Center, which is renamed for his parents, Sam and Sara Schoffer, both Holocaust survivors. The Azeez Family Foundation donates \$250,000; the William J. Hughes Public Policy Center is established.

January 2008: \$29.8 million Housing V apartments open, adding 256 beds in four buildings.

February 2010: The college enters an agreement to sublease the Noyes Museum of Art.

April 2010: The Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism is established.

August 2010: Trustees approve the purchase of Seaview — A Dolce Resort from LaSalle Hotels LLC for \$20 million.

September 2010: A new college master plan is approved by the state Pinelands Commission.

May 2011: New \$65 million Campus Center opens.

June 2011: An anonymous donor gives a \$1 million endowment for financial aid, the college's first million-dollar donation; the college reaches an agreement with St. Michael's Church to run Dante Hall theater in Atlantic City through May 31, 2014.

September 2011: Stockton celebrates its 40th anniversary of teaching and kicks off its first capital fundraising campaign; Michael Azeez donates to the college the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage, along with a \$5 million endowment from the Azeez Foundation to help run and preserve it.

January 2012: Darryl G. Greer, retired CEO of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, joins Stockton to found the Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance Center at Stockton.

September 2012: Stockton establishes its own Polling Institute at the Hughes Center, focusing on South Jersey issues; a new instructional site opens

an entrepreneurial president who would take Stockton to the next level, and Saatkamp has more than done so. But there are still fiscal and space challenges for the future as Stockton maxes out its allowed developable land in the Pinelands and seeks to expand while controlling tuition costs.

"I really don't know for sure where we will go," Jacobson said. "But the college is crucial to the economy of South Jersey."

Saatkamp is adamant that his tenure not be defined by buildings but by people, programs and their impact on the community. He is proud that the first project students undertake every September is a Day of Service, going into the community to help others. He is optimistic about the future of the tech park, and said he expects to announce partnerships and plans for the first building by summer.

"I think that will escalate in a significant way," he said, acknowledging the problems and delays that have kept the former NextGen park stagnant for years.

Assets for the College Foundation were less than \$3 million when Saatkamp was hired but were at more than \$27 million as of Dec. 31, according to an unaudited financial report. He views the growth as thousands of people investing in Stockton's future and the future of its students.

"I think in terms of generations," he said.

Some of those "investors" have also committed their names to programs at Stockton, something, they said, they did with high expectations that are being met.

Former U.S. Rep. and Ambassador William J. Hughes said it is a pleasure and an honor for him to be associated with Stockton through the Public Policy Center that bears his name. He has taught at the college and said he and his family are committed to its future.

"It is one of the greatest resources we have in South Jersey," he said.

Lloyd Levenson brought the idea of a gaming and tourism institute to Saatkamp after being annoyed that the only gaming experts he ever saw quoted were at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Lloyd D. Levenson Institute for Gaming, Hospitality & Tourism already has an international reputation, he said, thanks to the expertise of people at Stockton.

"I had no interest in just having something named after me," Levenson said. "I wanted something that would give value to Stockton and to the tourism and gaming industries. I had confidence that Herman would support it in a meaningful way."

Saatkamp said he would like to be known as someone who can get things done, but in a collaborative way that involves all parties. He recognizes that the decisions he makes today will affect the college long after he is gone, and he doesn't want to make mistakes others will pay for. It is why he will jump at the chance to create a campus in Atlantic City, but only if the circumstances are right.

"I have to be convinced that what we do there is financially feasible and can last," he said. "But I love helping a city come alive."

Contact Diane D'Amico:

609-272-7241

DDamico@pressofac.com