

## THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

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Office of Public Relations  
Pomona, NJ 08240

# Stockton College Awards Berkman-Chipkin Scholarships to Six Graduate Students

*Recipients Include Three New Jersey and Three Out-of-State Students*

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

Thursday, August 23, 2007

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**GALLOWAY TWP., NJ** – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has named the awardees of six Berkman-Chipkin Scholarships, established to honor the memory of Sarah and Michael Chipkin and Joseph Berkman, victims of the Nazis during World War II and the Holocaust.

Stockton is home of the nation's first Master's program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, a program that is attracting students from throughout the country. The students who were selected for these scholarships are all enrolled in this program.

Stockton integrates Holocaust and Genocide Studies into its undergraduate curriculum, and provides teacher training in Holocaust and Genocide Education each year through its Holocaust Resource Center.

The scholarships honor Joseph Berkman who was murdered by the Nazis in 1942 in the "Killing Fields of Ponary", in Lithuania. The late Sarah and Michael Chipkin were Holocaust Survivors. They immigrated to the United States following the war and established a successful business.

The Berkman-Chipkin Scholarships for 2007-2008 were awarded to outstanding graduate students who plan to or are currently pursuing teaching careers.

The recipients include Patricia Chiappine of Hammonton, NJ; Jessica Hickman of Gloucester, NJ; Renee Meshach of Phillipsburg, NJ; Erica Psaltis of Olympia, Washington; Andrea Szkil of Ellicott City, Maryland and Trinity Rufus of Bellefontaine, Ohio.

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## **Stockton's Berkman-Chipkin Scholars/ page 2**

**Patricia Chiappine** is a second-year student in the MA program in Holocaust & Genocide Studies. She is currently employed as a Claims Examiner for GEICO while attending graduate school part time. Ms. Chiappine completed her undergraduate degree here at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in May 2006. In addition to working, she is a member of S.T.A.N.D. (Students Take action Now – Darfur). Ms. Chiappine lives in Hammonton, NJ. She is a recipient of the Joseph Berkman and Michael and Sara Chipkin Holocaust/Genocide Studies Award.

**Jessica Hickman** is a first-year, full-time student in the MA program in Holocaust & Genocide Studies. She completed her undergraduate degree in criminal justice in May 2007 here at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Ms. Hickman lives in Gloucester, NJ. She is a recipient of the Joseph Berkman and Michael and Sara Chipkin Holocaust/Genocide Studies Award and also the Harry Kejzman Scholarship.

**Renee Meshach** is a second-year student in the MA program in Holocaust & Genocide Studies. She is a full-time student and plans to graduate in May 2008. Ms. Meshach completed her undergraduate degree in history at Eastern University in May 2005. Ms. Meshach's hometown is Phillipsburg, NJ. She is a recipient of the Joseph Berkman and Michael and Sara Chipkin Holocaust/Genocide Studies Award.

**Erica Psaltis** is a first-year student in the MA program in Holocaust & Genocide Studies. She comes to Stockton from Olympia, Washington and completed her undergraduate degree at Washington State University in May 2005. She will be a full-time student in the MA program in Holocaust & Genocide Studies. She is a recipient of the Joseph Berkman and Michael and Sara Chipkin Holocaust/Genocide Studies Award and also the Harry Kejzman Scholarship.

**Andrea Szkil** is a second-year student in the MA program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. She is a full-time student who plans to graduate in May 2008. Ms. Szkil completed her undergraduate degree at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Ms. Szkil is also employed by the Office of Events Services here at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Her hometown is Ellicott City, Maryland. She is a recipient of the Joseph Berkman and Michael and Sara Chipkin Holocaust/Genocide Studies Award and also the Harry Kejzman Scholarship.

**Trinity Rufus** is a first-year student in the MA program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. She, too, will be a full-time student. Ms. Rufus completed her undergraduate degree at Wittenberg University in Bellefontaine, Ohio in May 2007. She recently returned from working on an archeological dig in Egypt with students and faculty from Wittenberg University. She is a recipient of the Joseph Berkman and Michael and Sara Chipkin Holocaust/Genocide Studies Award and also the Harry Kejzman Scholarship. Before enrolling at Stockton, Ms. Kelman was Interim Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. She is currently in her third semester in the Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies program.

Since the program's founding just nine years ago, the MA program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies now has more than 70 graduates. For further information, contact the Office of Graduate Studies at The Richard Stockton College of NJ, PO Box 195, Pomona, NJ 08240-0195 or call 609-652-4298.