

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Stockton College Celebrates the Distinguished Life of Dr. Franklin H. Littell

Remembrance Scheduled for Oct. 18

### For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will celebrate the life of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Holocaust and Genocide Studies Franklin Hamlin Littell in a special remembrance program on Sunday, October 18, 2009 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Townsend Residential Life Center (TRLIC) on the Galloway Township campus.

The program will feature the following speakers: Dr. Michael Berenbaum, Dr. Henry Knight, Dr. Hubert Locke, Dr. Richard Rubenstein, Stockton's President, Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., and others.

Franklin H. Littell, regarded as "the Father of Holocaust Studies in America," is remembered as a world citizen, scholar, theologian, educator, moral ethicist, and a dynamo of creative energy and inspiring humanist visions. Dr. Littell was educated at Cornell College, Union Theological Seminary, and he received his Ph.D. from Yale University.

Dr. Littell devoted his entire career to promoting and defending religious, academic, and political freedom around the globe. After spending nearly ten years in post-war Germany as Chief Protestant Religious Adviser in the High Command assigned especially to the task of de-Nazification during the occupation, he was deeply affected by the atrocities that had been committed during WWII, and thus dedicated his life to researching the Holocaust and bringing its tragic lessons in human rights to widespread public attention. In public meetings, on campuses and in churches, he raised one of the first voices of conscience in the post-war period, talking about the lessons of the Holocaust. In 1959, Dr. Littell taught the first Holocaust course in America.

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Dr. Littell saw the Holocaust as a signal event, the plumb line for assessing the moral, political, and religious state of human society in the twentieth century. He referred to the Holocaust as “the Watershed Event in Western Civilization.” In his books, articles, and public lectures across the United States and throughout Europe, he raised questions, shared knowledge, and offered profound insights into the meaning of the Holocaust and the lessons to be learned from the barbarous genocidal killing of six million Jews.

Dr. Littell constantly reminded his students that questions can be more significant than answers. Without the right questions, responses are insignificant and even misleading. It might be said that Franklin Littell’s life has been in pursuit of the proper questions.

Dr. Littell is survived by his wife of 30 years, Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell (herself an educator at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and his partner in all of his conferences and Holocaust work), four children and three step children, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

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