"Jersey Sting" Authors Entertain, Inform at The Richard Stockton College of NJ

Margolin, Sherman Regale Audience with Anecdotes About State's Biggest Corruption Bust

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Galloway Township, NJ- First-time authors Ted Sherman and Josh Margolin discussed their new book, *The Jersey Sting* during an entertaining and lively program Tuesday at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

A discussion on the book about the biggest corruption bust in New Jersey history was the latest political engagement event hosted by Stockton's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. More than 180 students, faculty, staff and community members were regaled by tales of the case, which gained national headlines for its unusual elements including three mayors, a retired burlesque queen, two New Jersey assemblymen, the president of the Jersey City council, real estate developers and five Orthodox rabbis. The event, moderated by New Jersey Network reporter Michael Aron was also taped for national broadcast by C-Span's popular "Book TV" series.

"This is not a novel, you just can't make these things up," said Sherman, a reporter with the Newark Star-Ledger. "We were working on this case for the newspaper and as more revelations came out, we realized there were the makings of a pretty good book."

The discussion ranged from details of the case, to the role of investigative journalism in bringing it to light. It was at times penetrating and other times humorous.

"Shortly after we made the deal for the book we were walking over to a pizza joint in Newark," said Margolin, who now works for the New York Post. "I looked at Ted and asked him 'Do we even know how to write a book?' As it turns out, yes we did."

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Margolin praised the access provided to the reporters by the offices of former Governor Jon Corzine and the U.S. Attorney at the time, Chris Christie.

"We knew how the case began, with a bad check written for \$25 million, and how it ended, with dozens of arrests," Margolin said. "What we didn't know was where the investigation would take us. The book idea began because we wanted to make the case understandable."

Afterwards, both authors answered questions and signed books for members of the audience.

"This is the type of program the Hughes Center has earned a reputation for presenting," said Sharon Schulman, the Center's Executive Director. "It was fascinating to obtain an insider's perspective on such a high profile case."

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