

**HOWARD
UNIVERSITY**

NEWS

Office of University Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Howard Alum James Silcott Gives Howard Another \$1 Million

Successful Architect Gives Second Gift in Less Than a Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 26, 2002)—Los Angeles architect James E. Silcott recently presented a second \$1 million gift to his alma mater, Howard University, to establish an endowed chair and the naming of the School of Architecture and Design exhibit gallery in honor of his late brother T. George Silcott.

Earlier this year, Silcott, an ardent Howard supporter, gave a \$1 million gift in the form of an irrevocable trust (planned gift). For a number of years, he has added to the James E. Silcott Fund, a \$200,000 scholarship aid fund for architectural students. Silcott's total donations to the University now stand at \$2.2 million.

“In James Silcott, we have a man who cherishes the memory of family and community by crystallizing his life's work through the support of the future work of others,” said Howard University H. Patrick Swygert. “We commend him for his foresight and philanthropy--we thank him for his generous support of alma mater.”

Silcott commented on his relationship with his brother, “The two of us were very close. This donation is my way of commemorating not just my brother, but a great man.”

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In honor of Silcott's brother, Howard University will name the current exhibit gallery in the Howard Mackey Building the T. George Silcott Gallery.

Although born on the island of Montserrat, British West Indies, James Silcott and T. George, his younger brother, were raised in Boston, Massachusetts. Both enjoyed successful careers: James as an architect--the first African American project architect for Los Angeles County and the University of California--and T. George as a sociologist and entrepreneur. T. George Silcott retired from his teaching career after 20 years and established himself as a successful New York businessman. With the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, he created Urban Home Ownership, a non-profit organization that renovated and managed abandoned tenements in New York City.

T. George Silcott was appointed by then President Jimmy Carter to the Juvenile Justice Commission. Shortly before his death, he received the American Civil Liberties Union's Myron S. Isaacs community service award for being a "longtime activist and tireless champion of social causes, especially the needs of youth." T. George Silcott is survived by his wife Kathleen and seven children.

Presently, James Silcott is a board member of the Kennard Design Group, the largest African American architectural firm west of the Mississippi. Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn has re-appointed him to the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission, and in March 2002, Silcott received a Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in Architecture and Public Service at Howard University's 135th Charter Day observation.

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